

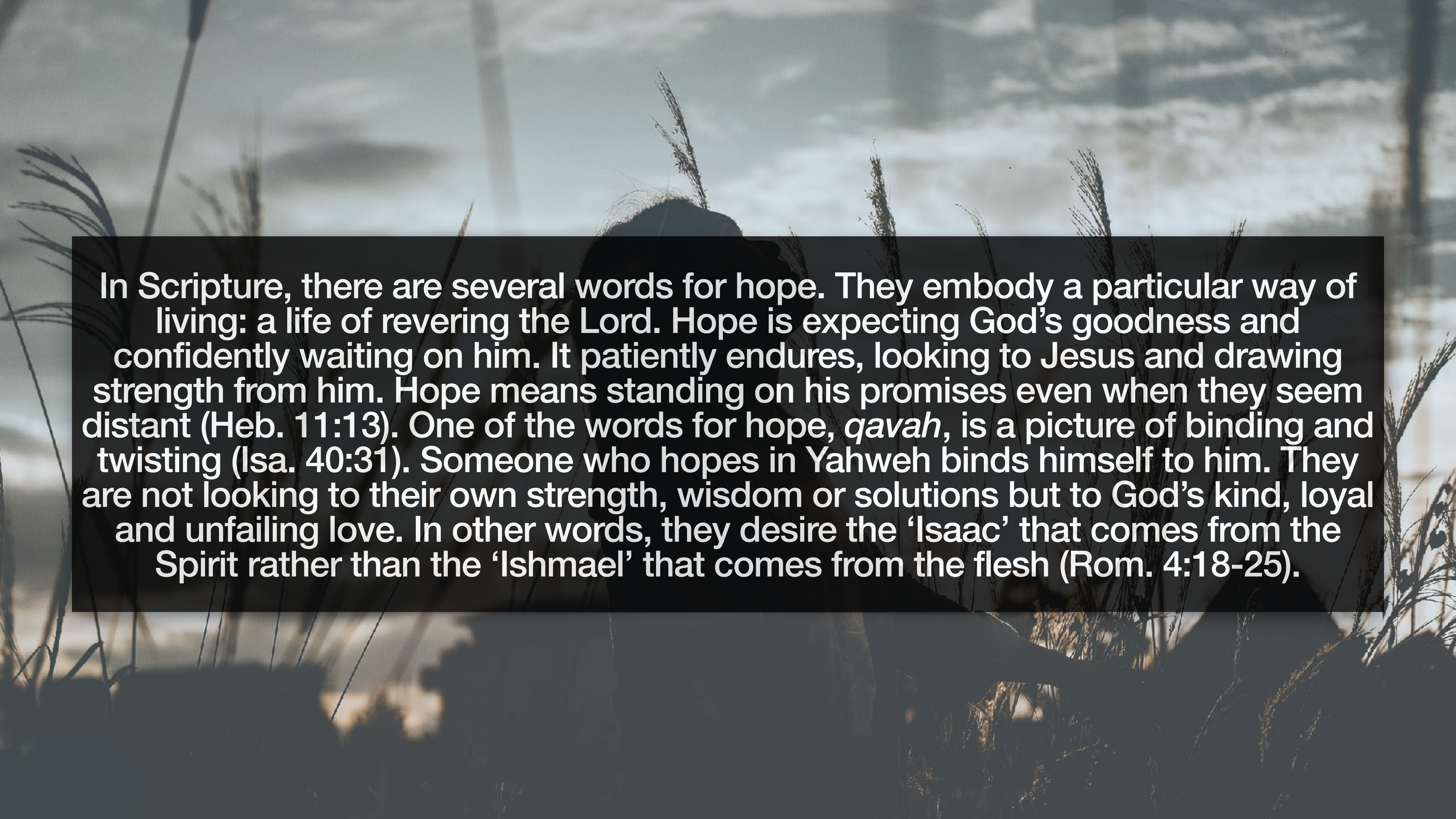
# EYES OF EXPECTANCY

04 - The Right Way to Grow a Healthy Church

**“Behold, Yahweh’s eyes focus on those who revere him, who expectantly wait for his kind, loyal and unfailing love.”**

**Psalm 33:18, IT**

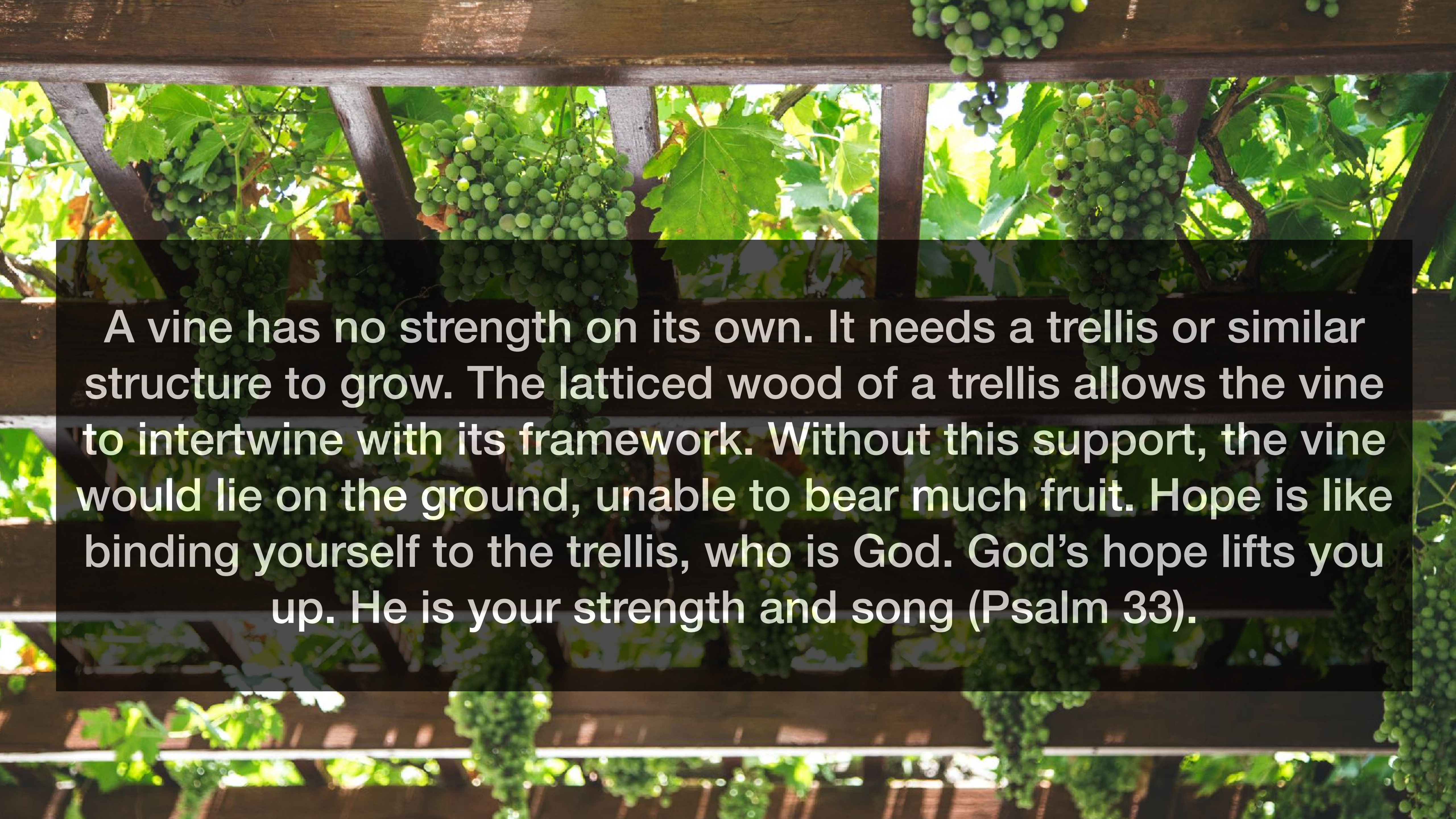
**Live in expectancy. Live in hope.**

A person is shown in silhouette, looking out over a field of tall grasses. The background is a soft, hazy sky, likely during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light. The person's head is tilted slightly upwards, and their arms are resting on the grass. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

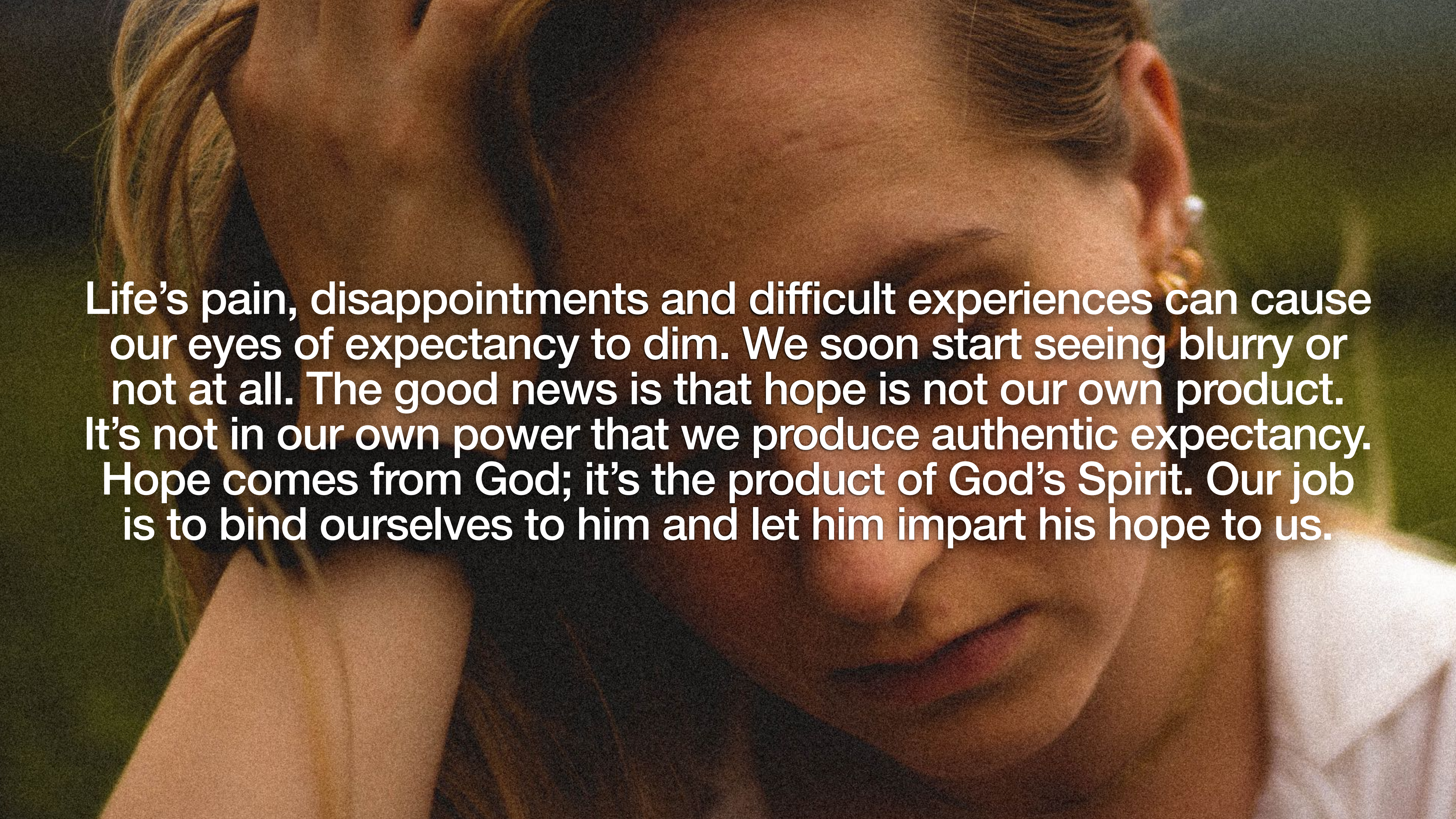
In Scripture, there are several words for hope. They embody a particular way of living: a life of revering the Lord. Hope is expecting God's goodness and confidently waiting on him. It patiently endures, looking to Jesus and drawing strength from him. Hope means standing on his promises even when they seem distant (Heb. 11:13). One of the words for hope, *qavah*, is a picture of binding and twisting (Isa. 40:31). Someone who hopes in Yahweh binds himself to him. They are not looking to their own strength, wisdom or solutions but to God's kind, loyal and unfailing love. In other words, they desire the 'Isaac' that comes from the Spirit rather than the 'Ishmael' that comes from the flesh (Rom. 4:18-25).

An aerial photograph of a large, crescent-shaped pink sand beach. The beach is surrounded by dense green vegetation. In the bottom left corner, a white sandy beach meets clear turquoise water. The word "espoir" is written in a white, elegant cursive font across the center of the pink sand. In the background, the deep blue ocean stretches to the horizon under a clear sky, with a small island visible in the distance.

*espoir*

A photograph of a vineyard with green grapes hanging from a wooden trellis structure. The image shows several bunches of green grapes on the vine, supported by a dark wooden trellis. The background is filled with green leaves and more grapevines, creating a lush, natural setting. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

A vine has no strength on its own. It needs a trellis or similar structure to grow. The latticed wood of a trellis allows the vine to intertwine with its framework. Without this support, the vine would lie on the ground, unable to bear much fruit. Hope is like binding yourself to the trellis, who is God. God's hope lifts you up. He is your strength and song (Psalm 33).



Life's pain, disappointments and difficult experiences can cause our eyes of expectancy to dim. We soon start seeing blurry or not at all. The good news is that hope is not our own product. It's not in our own power that we produce authentic expectancy. Hope comes from God; it's the product of God's Spirit. Our job is to bind ourselves to him and let him impart his hope to us.

# THE RIGHT WAY TO **PLANT & GROW**

A HEALTHY CHURCH

By Glen Gerhauer



## **1. Put Intimacy Above Ministry**

No matter how close your phone is to the outlet, it will not charge unless connected. Intimacy with God is connecting with him. It's the power behind authentic ministry (John 15:5).



## **2. Stay on the Way of Worship, Prayer & the Word**

Stick to God's way. "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death" (Prov. 14:12, NIV).

## **3. Keep Centered on Jesus & His Love**

When we become weary of doing good, let's remember it's all about Jesus and his love (Gal. 6:9). Our purpose does not revolve around us but around him.



## **4. Expect God to Cause the Growth**

Our Father is the source of growth. He causes us to grow according to his will, timing and way. He prioritizes quality over quantity (1 Cor. 3:6-9).





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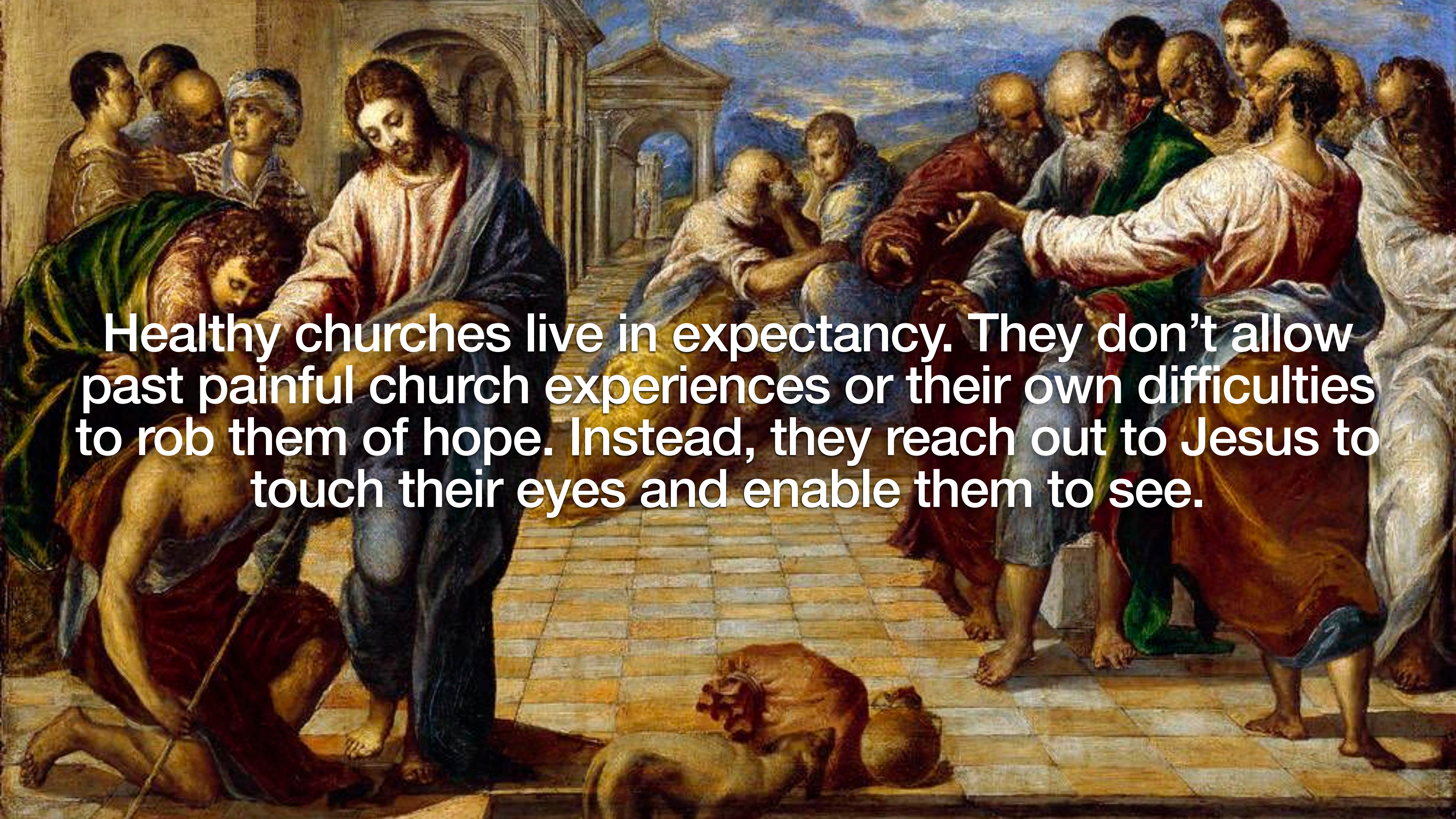
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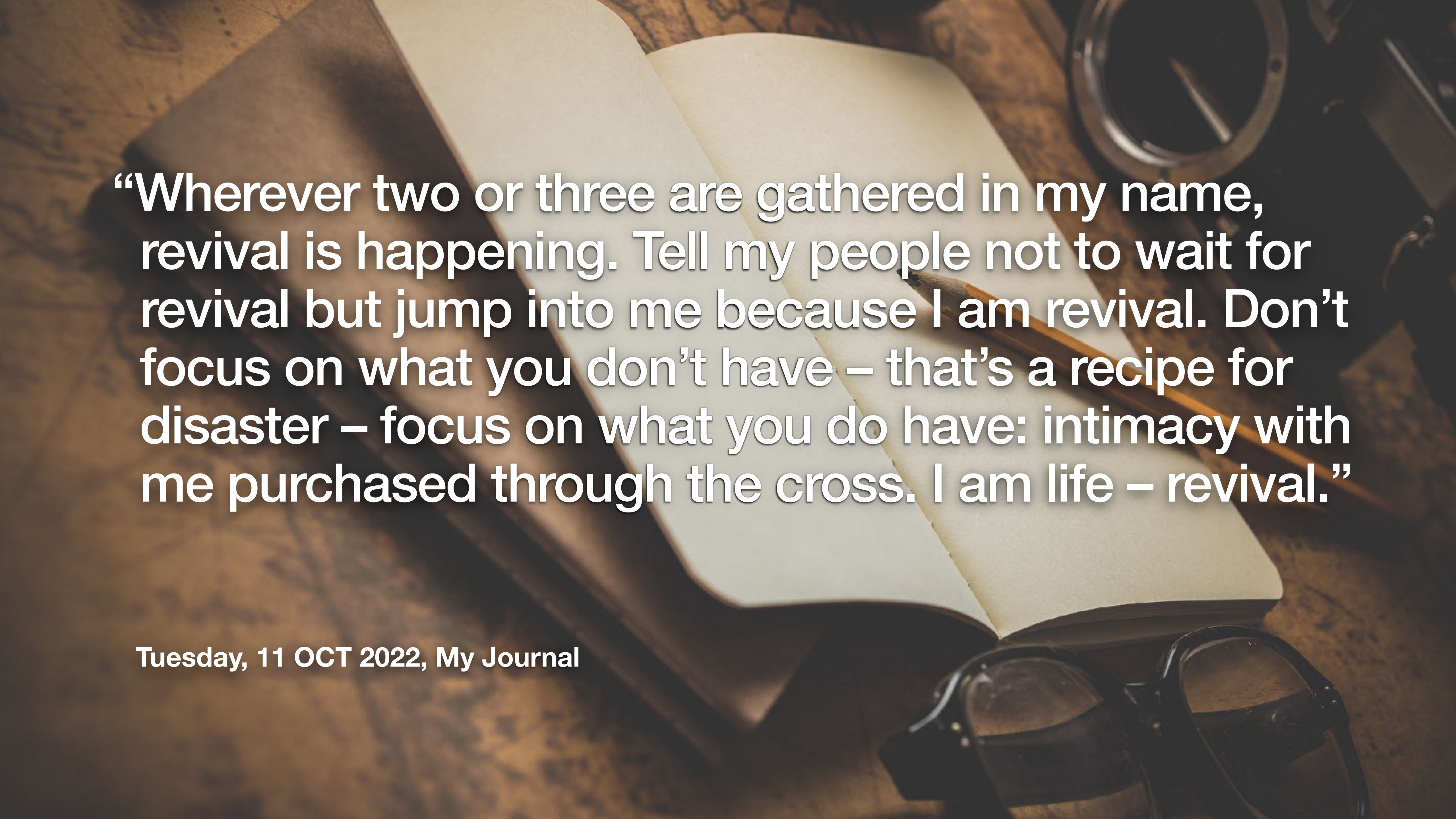
Healthy churches live in expectancy. They don't allow past painful church experiences or their own difficulties to rob them of hope. Instead, they reach out to Jesus to touch their eyes and enable them to see.

A young child with blonde hair, wearing a dark patterned long-sleeved shirt and blue pants, is watering plants in a wooden garden bed. The child is holding a silver watering can with a black handle and a black showerhead. The garden bed contains several green plants, including a large clump of chives and a small purple plant. The background shows a stone wall and trees.

**If we do our part, God will do his part. Our part is to sow and water – to love God’s people and our neighbors. God’s part is to cause the growth; he brings the increase (1 Cor. 3:5-9).**

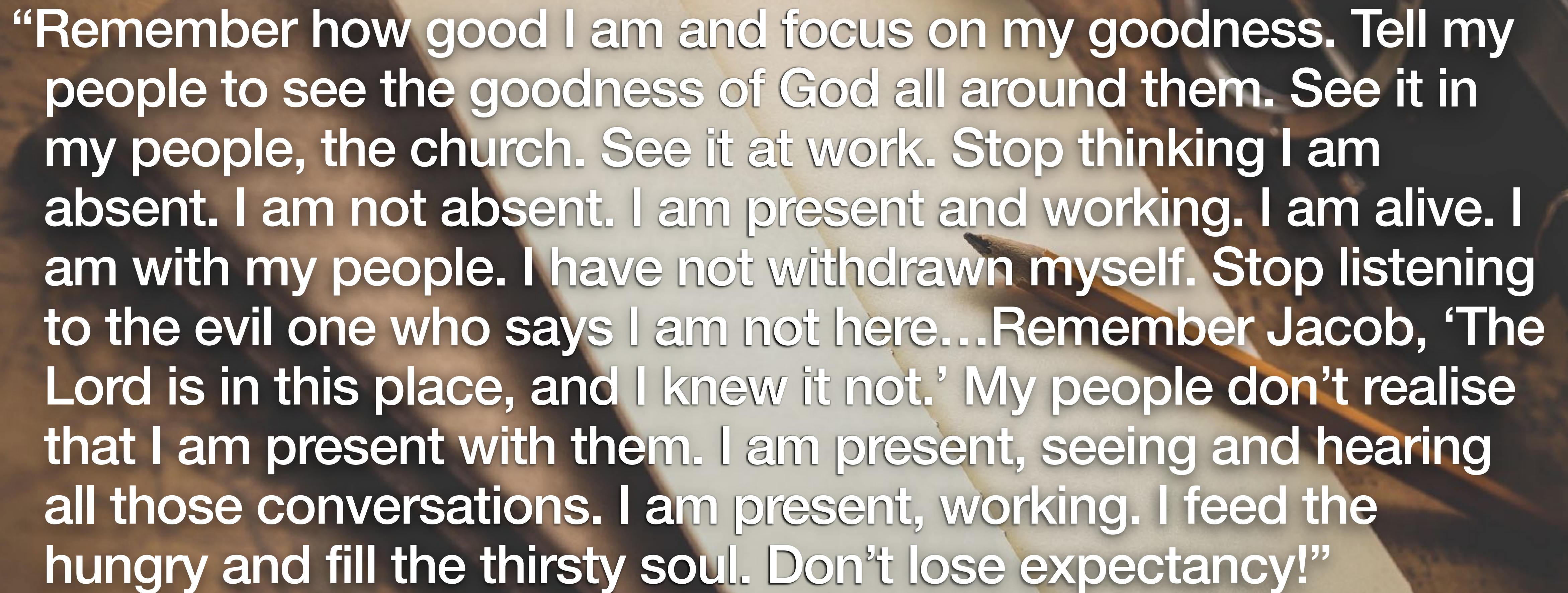


**We must take the pressure of growth off of ourselves and trust God for expansion to happen in his time and way.**

An open notebook with a pencil and glasses on a wooden desk. The notebook is open to a blank page, and a pencil is resting on it. A pair of glasses is visible in the bottom right corner. The background is a wooden surface.

**“Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, revival is happening. Tell my people not to wait for revival but jump into me because I am revival. Don’t focus on what you don’t have – that’s a recipe for disaster – focus on what you do have: intimacy with me purchased through the cross. I am life – revival.”**

**Tuesday, 11 OCT 2022, My Journal**

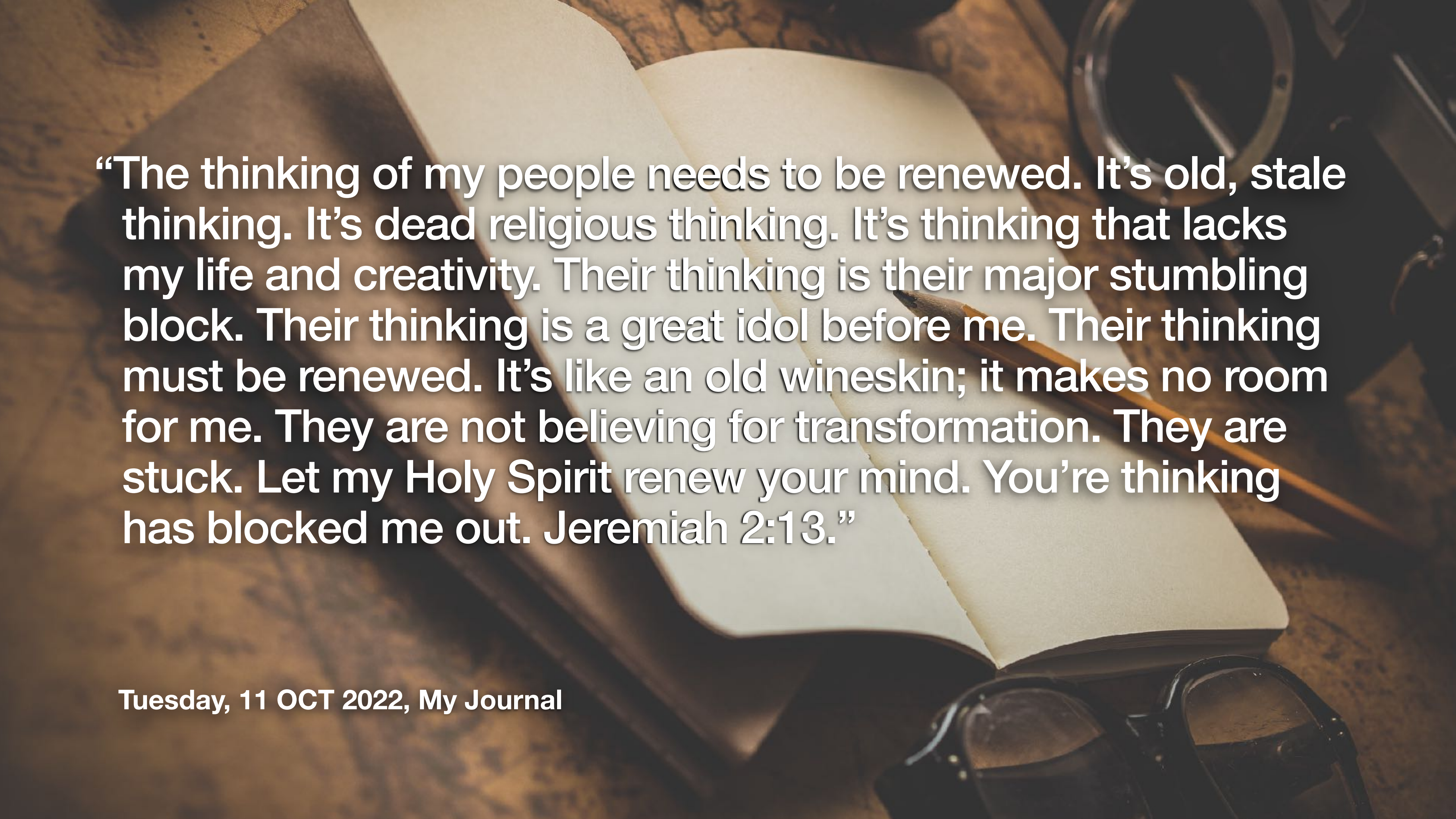
An open notebook with a pencil and glasses on a wooden desk. The notebook is open to a blank page, and a pencil is resting on it. A pair of glasses is visible in the foreground. The background is a wooden surface.

“Remember how good I am and focus on my goodness. Tell my people to see the goodness of God all around them. See it in my people, the church. See it at work. Stop thinking I am absent. I am not absent. I am present and working. I am alive. I am with my people. I have not withdrawn myself. Stop listening to the evil one who says I am not here...Remember Jacob, ‘The Lord is in this place, and I knew it not.’ My people don’t realise that I am present with them. I am present, seeing and hearing all those conversations. I am present, working. I feed the hungry and fill the thirsty soul. Don’t lose expectancy!”

Tuesday, 11 OCT 2022, My Journal



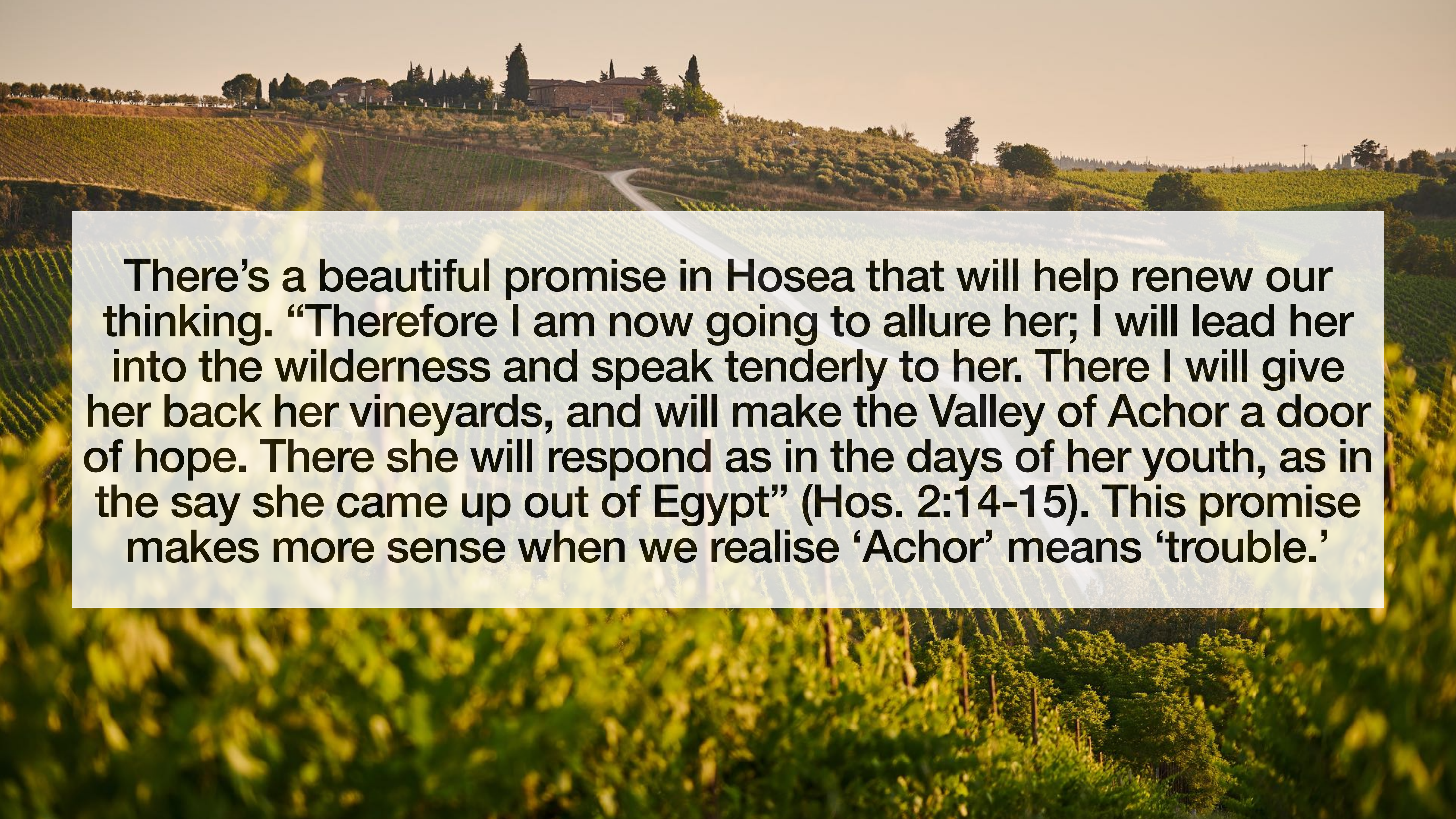
**WARNING:**  
The next part can be hard to digest

An open notebook with a pencil and glasses on a wooden desk. The notebook is open to two blank pages. A pencil lies across the right page. A pair of glasses is visible in the bottom right corner. The background is a wooden surface.

“The thinking of my people needs to be renewed. It’s old, stale thinking. It’s dead religious thinking. It’s thinking that lacks my life and creativity. Their thinking is their major stumbling block. Their thinking is a great idol before me. Their thinking must be renewed. It’s like an old wineskin; it makes no room for me. They are not believing for transformation. They are stuck. Let my Holy Spirit renew your mind. You’re thinking has blocked me out. Jeremiah 2:13.”

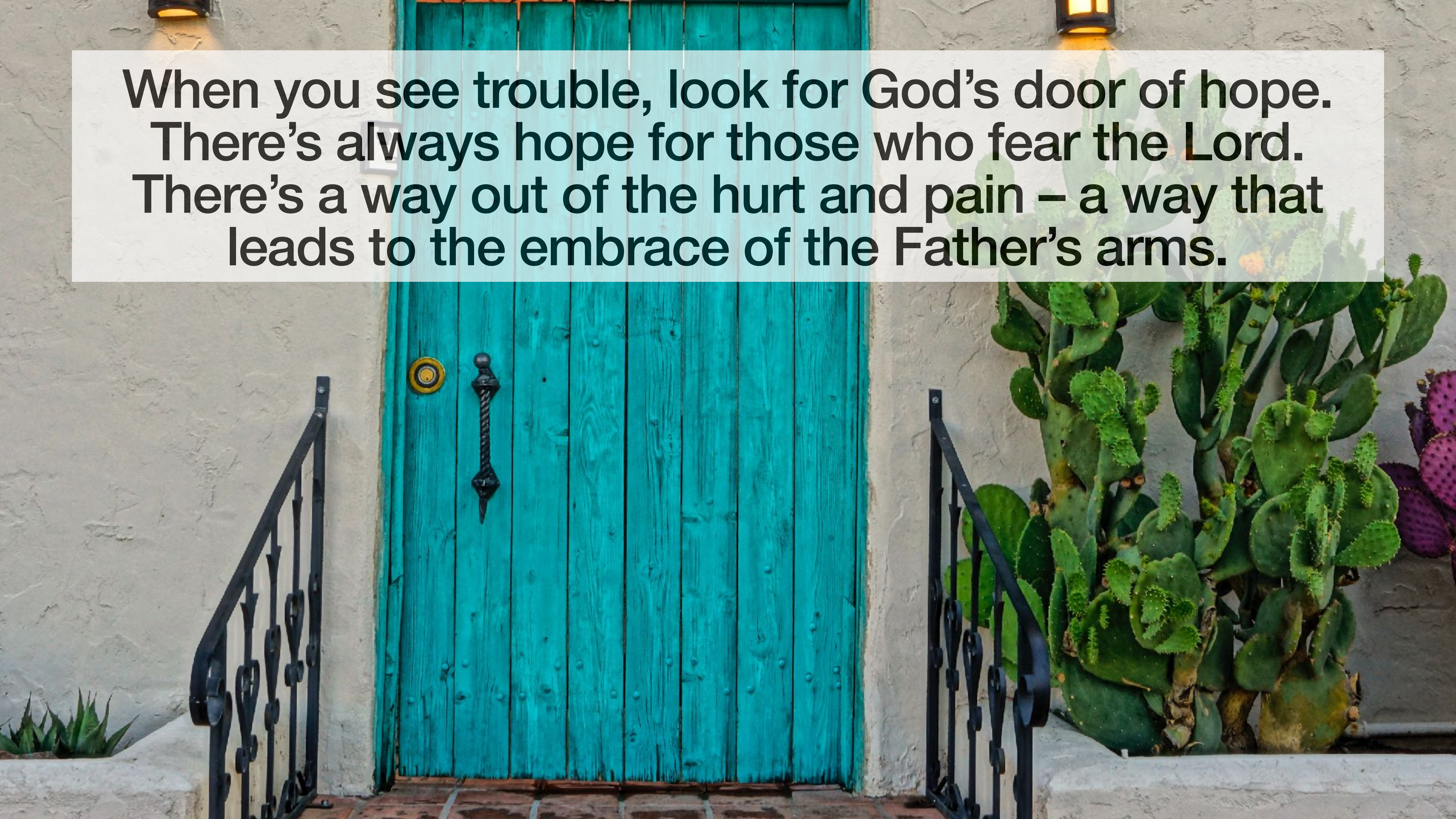
Tuesday, 11 OCT 2022, My Journal





**There's a beautiful promise in Hosea that will help renew our thinking. "Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt" (Hos. 2:14-15). This promise makes more sense when we realise 'Achor' means 'trouble.'**

**When you see trouble, look for God's door of hope.  
There's always hope for those who fear the Lord.  
There's a way out of the hurt and pain – a way that  
leads to the embrace of the Father's arms.**



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