



# THE CALL TO COMMUNE

RIGHT POSTURE.

RIGHT PLACE.

RIGHT RELATIONSHIP.

# Barna Research Study Results (May 2013)

- The average Christian spends one minute a day in prayer.
- The average Christian leader spends around five minutes a day in prayer.

A silhouette of a person standing on a mountain peak with arms outstretched against a sunset sky. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right. The background is a gradient of blue and orange, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm glow. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

THE CALL TO  
COMMUNE  
RIGHT POSTURE.  
RIGHT PLACE.  
RIGHT RELATIONSHIP.

- The need to spend time in the presence of God.
- How to spend time in His presence.
- The need to fast and pray.


## Psalm 103:7 (NKJV)

He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.



# Deuteronomy 34:10 (NKJV)

But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom ***the Lord knew face to face.***

A silhouette of a mountain range is visible at the bottom of the image, set against a dark, gradient background that transitions from a deep blue at the top to a dark brown at the bottom.

# 1 Samuel 4:1-11 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> And Samuel's word came to all Israel. Now the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines at Aphek. <sup>2</sup> The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield.

# 1 Samuel 4:1-11 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the Lord bring defeat on us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the Lord's covenant from Shiloh, so that he may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies."



# 1 Samuel 4:1-11 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the covenant of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim. And Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

# 1 Samuel 4:1-11 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> When the ark of the Lord's covenant came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook. <sup>6</sup> Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, "What's all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?" When they learned that the ark of the Lord had come into the camp,

# 1 Samuel 4:1-11 (NIV)


<sup>7</sup> the Philistines were afraid. "A god has[a] come into the camp," they said. "Oh no! Nothing like this has happened before. <sup>8</sup> We're doomed! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? They are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness.

# 1 Samuel 4:1-11 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> Be strong, Philistines! Be men, or you will be subject to the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Be men, and fight!" <sup>10</sup> So the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated and every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers. <sup>11</sup> The ark of God was captured, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

# Background of 1 Samuel

- Israel's spiritual state was going downhill.
- Israel started adopting many religious practices of the Canaanites.
- Israel lacked good political and spiritual leaders.
- The Israelites did what was right in their own eyes. (Judges 21:25)



**Why was the Ark of the Lord's Covenant  
so important to the Israelites?**



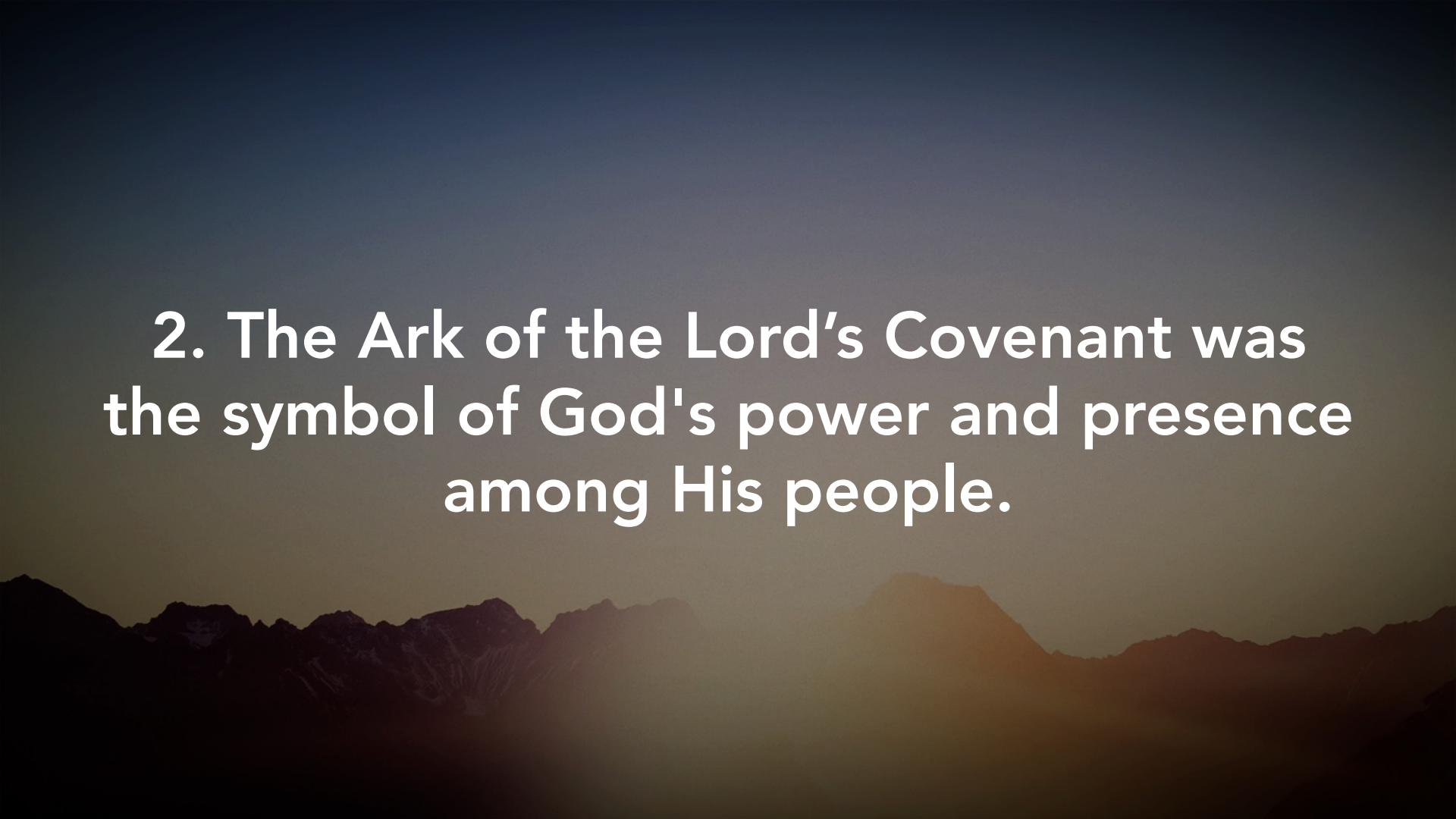
**1. The Ark of the Lord's Covenant was  
the symbol of God's divine guidance  
to His people.**

**Exodus 25:22**

**Exodus 30:26**

**Joshua 7:6**





**2. The Ark of the Lord's Covenant was the symbol of God's power and presence among His people.**

## 1 Samuel 4:21-22 (NIV)


“She named the boy Ichabod, saying, “The Glory has departed from Israel”— because of the capture of the ark of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband. She said, “The Glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.”

# 1 Samuel 7:3-5 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> So Samuel said to all the Israelites, "If you are returning to the Lord with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the Lord and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."

# 1 Samuel 7:3-5 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> So the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashtoreths, and served the Lord only. <sup>5</sup> Then Samuel said, "Assemble all Israel at Mizpah, and I will intercede with the Lord for you."



# 1 Samuel 7:10-13 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the Lord thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites.

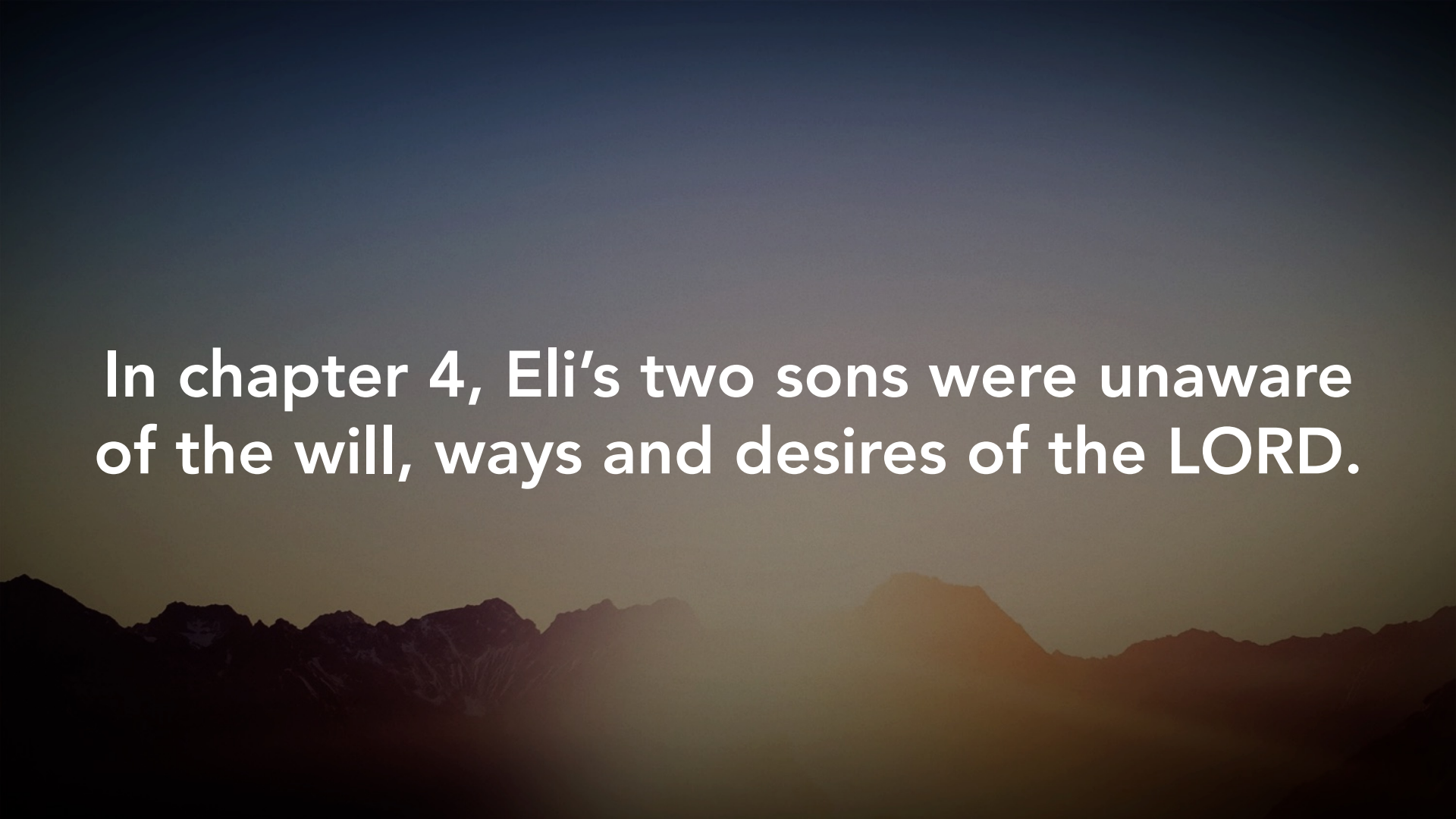
<sup>11</sup> The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Kar.

# 1 Samuel 7:10-13 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." <sup>13</sup> So the Philistines were subdued and they stopped invading Israel's territory. Throughout Samuel's lifetime, the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines.



**What was the main difference  
between chapters 4 and 7?**



**In chapter 4, Eli's two sons were unaware of the will, ways and desires of the LORD.**

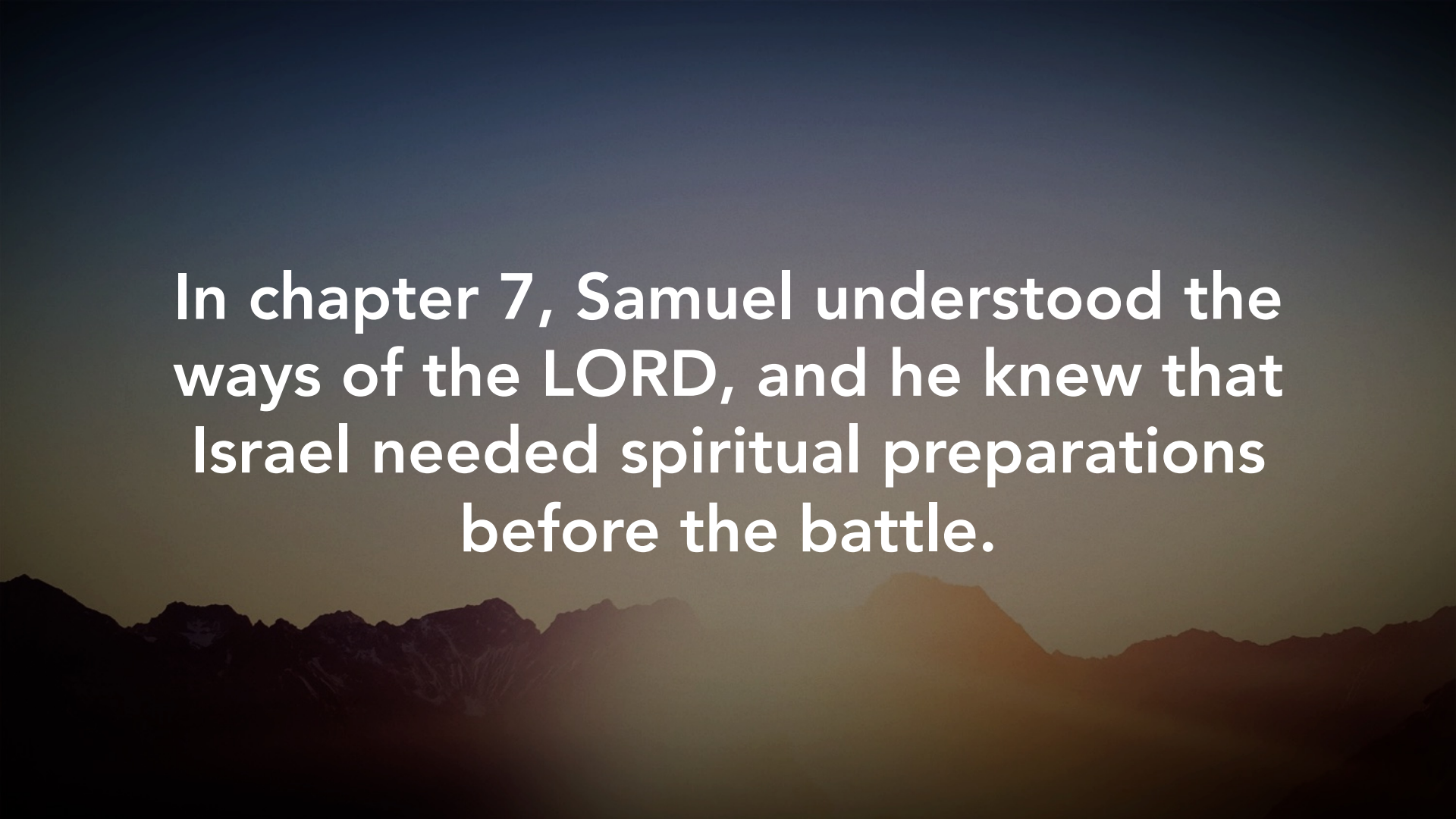


# Israel's Experience

- The Ark of God was the symbol of God's mighty presence.
- The Ark of God played a significant role in the crossing of the Jordan river (Joshua 3-4).
- The Ark of God played a huge part in the fall of the walls of Jericho (Joshua 6).

One of the side effects of losing intimacy with God is that at some point we stop doing ministry out of imagination and we begin doing it out of memory.

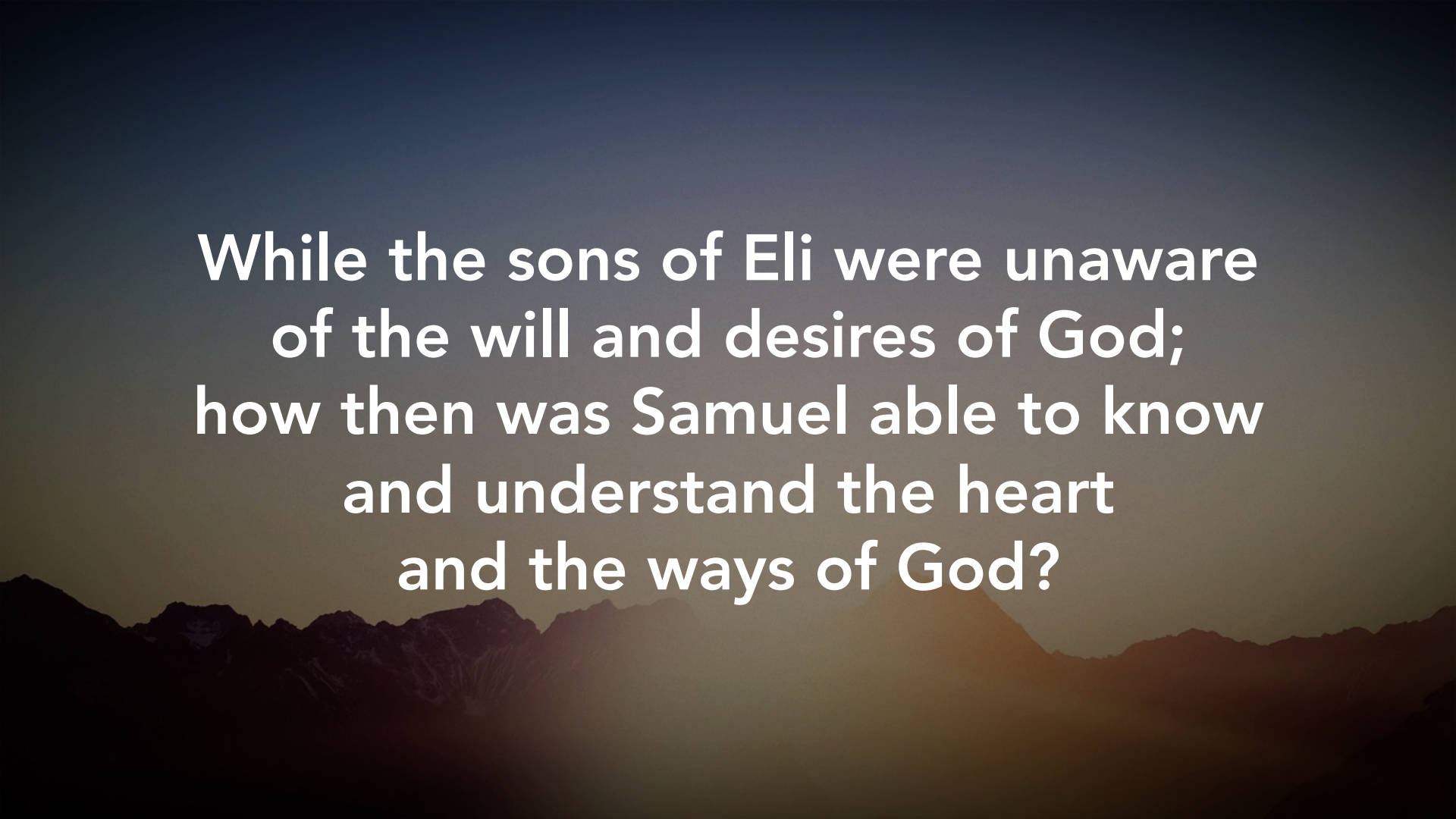
*Bill Johnson*



In chapter 7, Samuel understood the ways of the LORD, and he knew that Israel needed spiritual preparations before the battle.

# What Did Samuel Do?

- Instructed the people to get rid of all idols. (v2-4)
- Led them to confess their sins. (v5-7)
- Offered sacrifices to God. (v10)
- Erected a memorial stone after the victory. (v12)



**While the sons of Eli were unaware  
of the will and desires of God;  
how then was Samuel able to know  
and understand the heart  
and the ways of God?**

# 1 Samuel 2:12-17 (NIV)

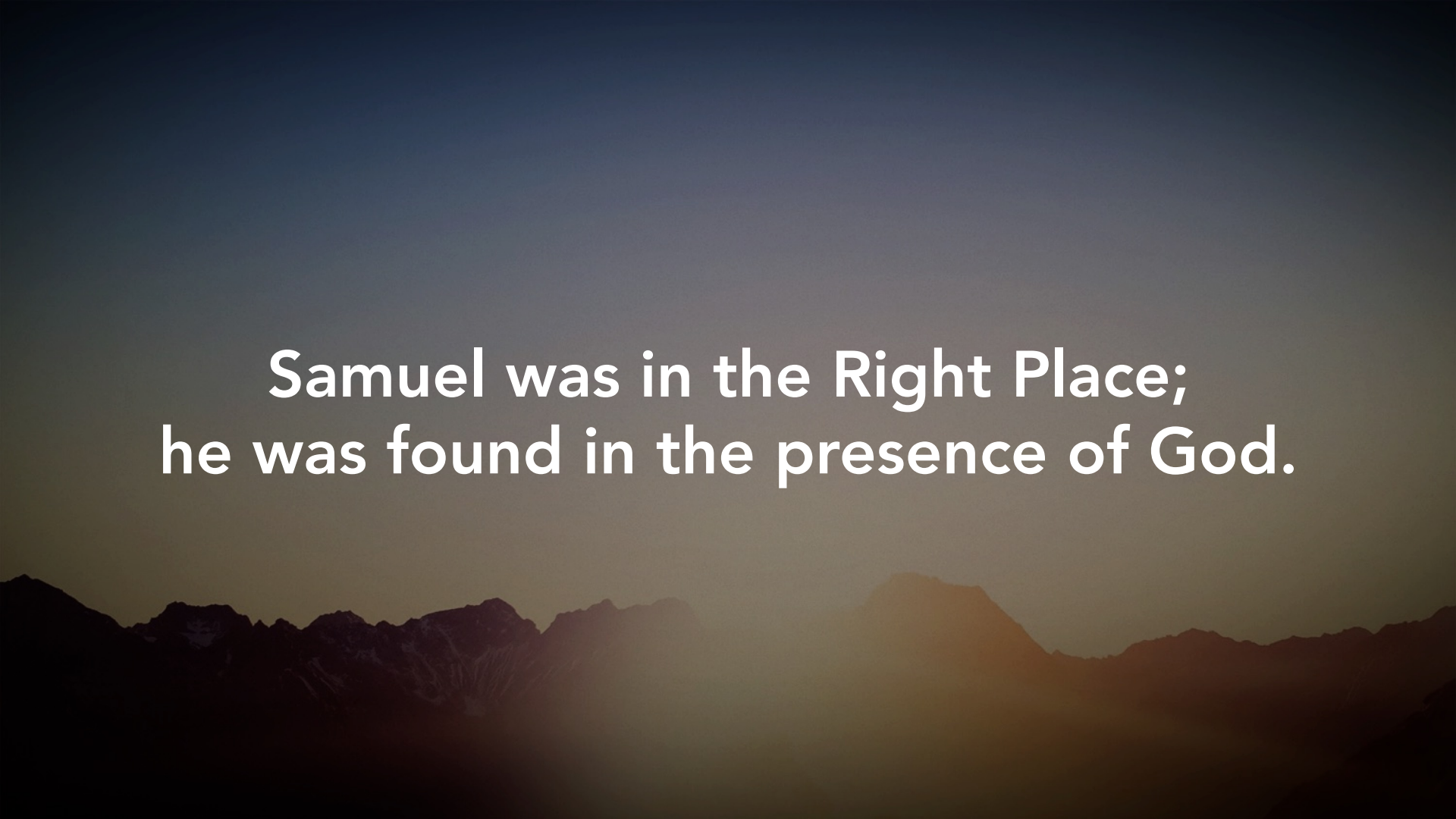
(v12) "Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the Lord."

(v17) This sin of the young men was very great in the Lord's sight, for they were treating the Lord's offering with contempt.

# 1 Samuel 2:18 (NIV)

But Samuel was ministering before the Lord...





**Samuel was in the Right Place;  
he was found in the presence of God.**





**Samuel had the Right Posture;  
he was ministering to God.**



**Samuel was after the Right Relationship;  
he desired God.**

# The Upper Room In Acts

- The disciples had the Right Posture; they were worshipping, praying and fasting in the upper room.
- The disciples were in the Right Place; they were in the presence of God.
- The disciples were after the Right Relationship; they were seeking God.

# 1 Samuel 2:21b

Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.



# The Effects Of Being In The Right Place

- Samuel grew in stature and in favor with the LORD and with people. (1 Samuel 2:26)
- God honored him. (1 Samuel 2:30)
- Samuel knew what was in the heart and mind of God. (1 Samuel 2:35)
- Samuel could hear God's voice. (1 Samuel 3:4 & 10)

# 1 Samuel 3:1-4 (NIV)

“The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

(v4) Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.”

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## When is enough?

When I can't read the Bible anymore, I worship.

When I can't worship anymore, I go and pray.

When I can't pray anymore, I read my book.

When I know I can't do any of the above anymore,  
that's when I know is enough.

*Unknown*



## Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV)


Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

## 1 Samuel 30:6 (ESV)

And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.

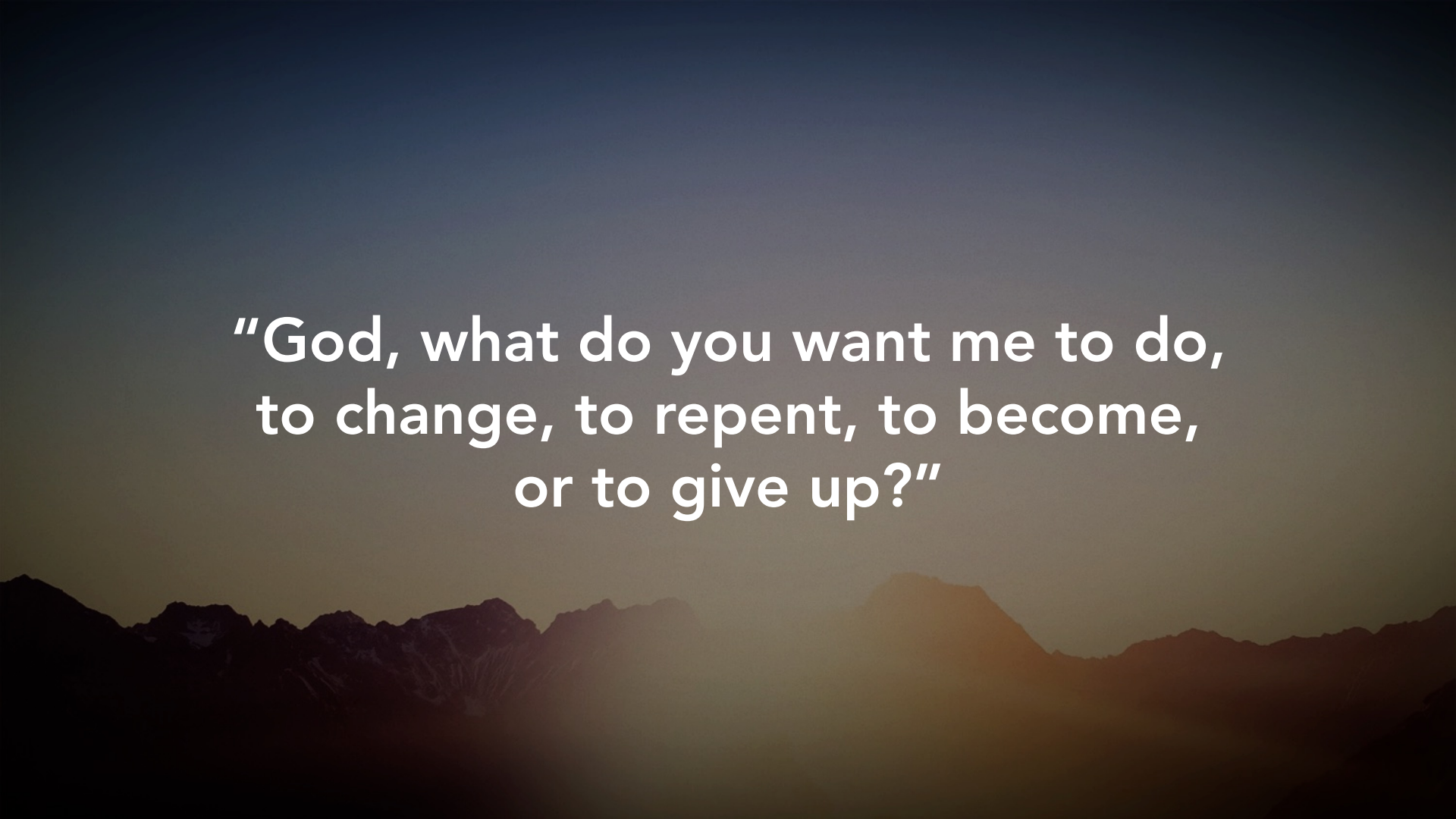
# Application: The Call To Commune

1. Spend time with God in prayer.
2. Attend weekly Wednesday night prayer meetings.
3. Take the 40 Days Fast.

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1. Fasting gives us a RESET.
  2. Fasting teaches and trains us to focus on Jesus.
  3. Fasting increases our spiritual hunger for God.
  4. Fasting sharpens our spiritual ears and fine tunes our hearts to discern and hear the voice of God.

**Fasting helps a Christian receive direction  
and power from the Holy Spirit**

*Derek Prince*



**“God, what do you want me to do,  
to change, to repent, to become,  
or to give up?”**