

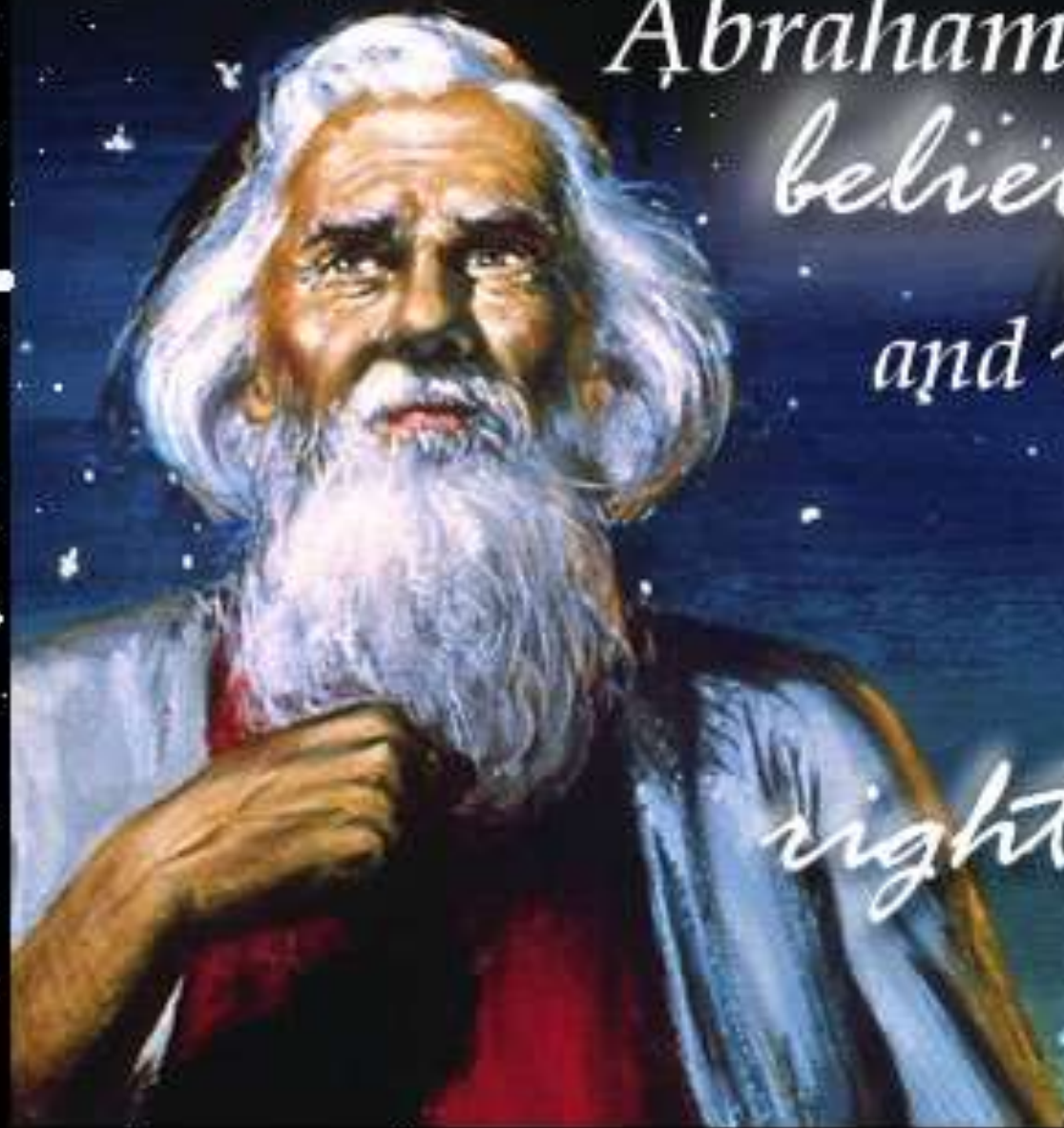


faith

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it's all about faith

Romans 4:1-4, 13-25



Abraham  
believed God,  
and it was  
counted  
to him  
as  
righteousness.

-Romans 4:3





Faith...

*Every area of our life  
is affected by our faith in God*

A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains under a dramatic sky. The sky is filled with clouds, transitioning from deep blue on the left to bright yellow and orange on the right, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The mountains in the foreground are dark and silhouetted against the lighter sky, while the background shows more distant, hazy mountain ranges.

Faith...

*“Fides” meaning trust or confidence*



GREAT

FAITH



*Faith...*

*Our faith is not in faith,  
but, in GOD*



A photograph of a person standing on a rock in a sunset landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. In the background, a hill features three crosses. The person's silhouette is reflected in the water in the foreground. The text "I surrender all" is written in a white, cursive font across the middle of the image.

*I surrender all*

**“FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL  
SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.”**

**ROMANS 3:23**





# John 8:32



**Then you will know the TRUTH,  
and the TRUTH will set you free!**



*Faith*

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A GIFT OF GOD

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**14**But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? **15** And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”



**Romans 10:14-18 (NLT)**

**<sup>16</sup> But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, “LORD, who has believed our message?” <sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. <sup>18</sup> But I ask, have the people of Israel actually heard the message? Yes, they have: “The message has gone throughout the earth, and the words to all the world.”**



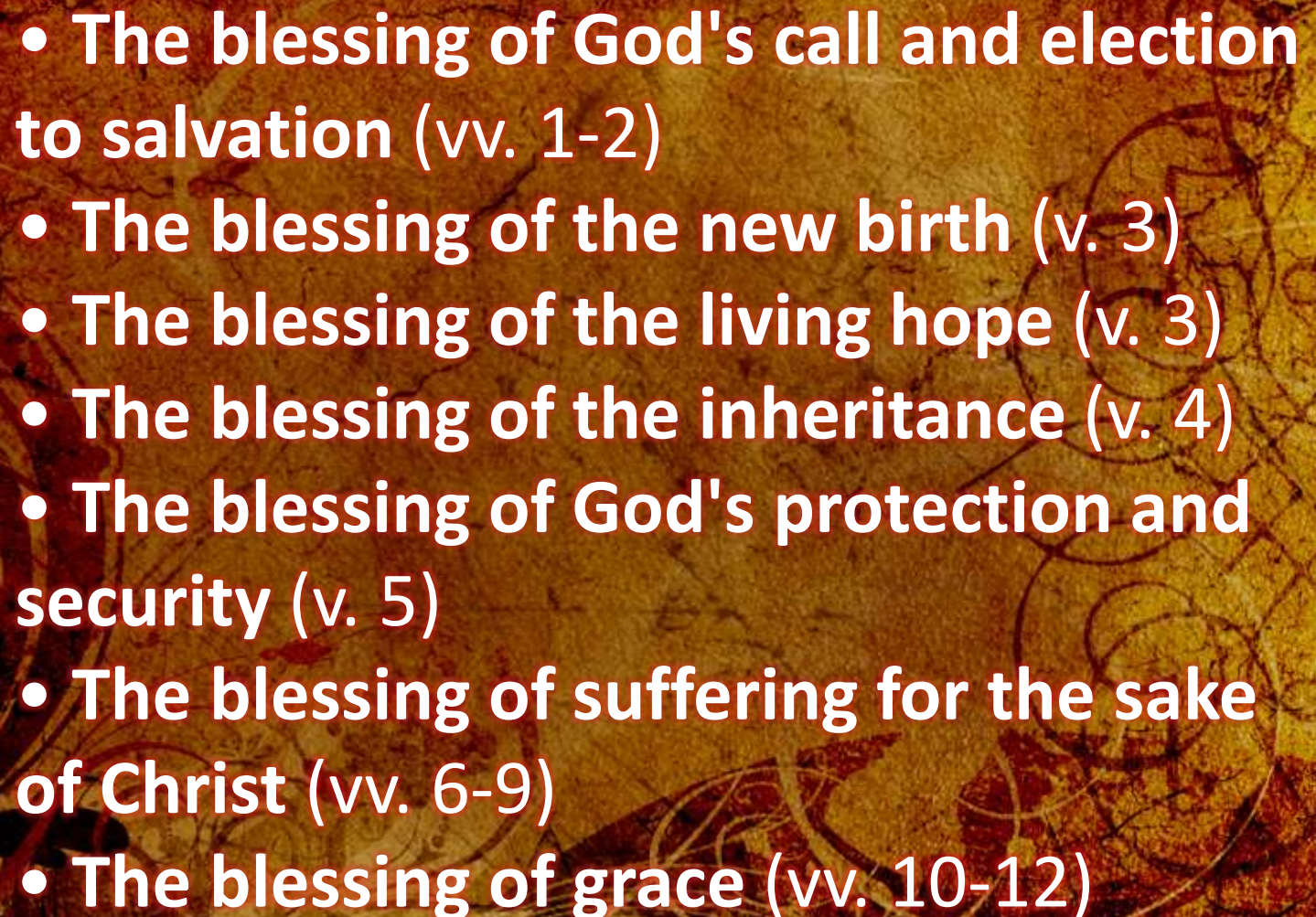
**Romans 10:14-18 (NLT)**




A person's hands are visible holding a dark blue rectangular sign. The sign features the text 'GRATITUDE CHANGES EVERYTHING' in a bold, sans-serif font. The word 'GRATITUDE' is in green, while 'CHANGES' and 'EVERYTHING' are in white. The background is a blurred bokeh of red and orange lights.

**GRATITUDE**  
**CHANGES**  
**EVERYTHING**



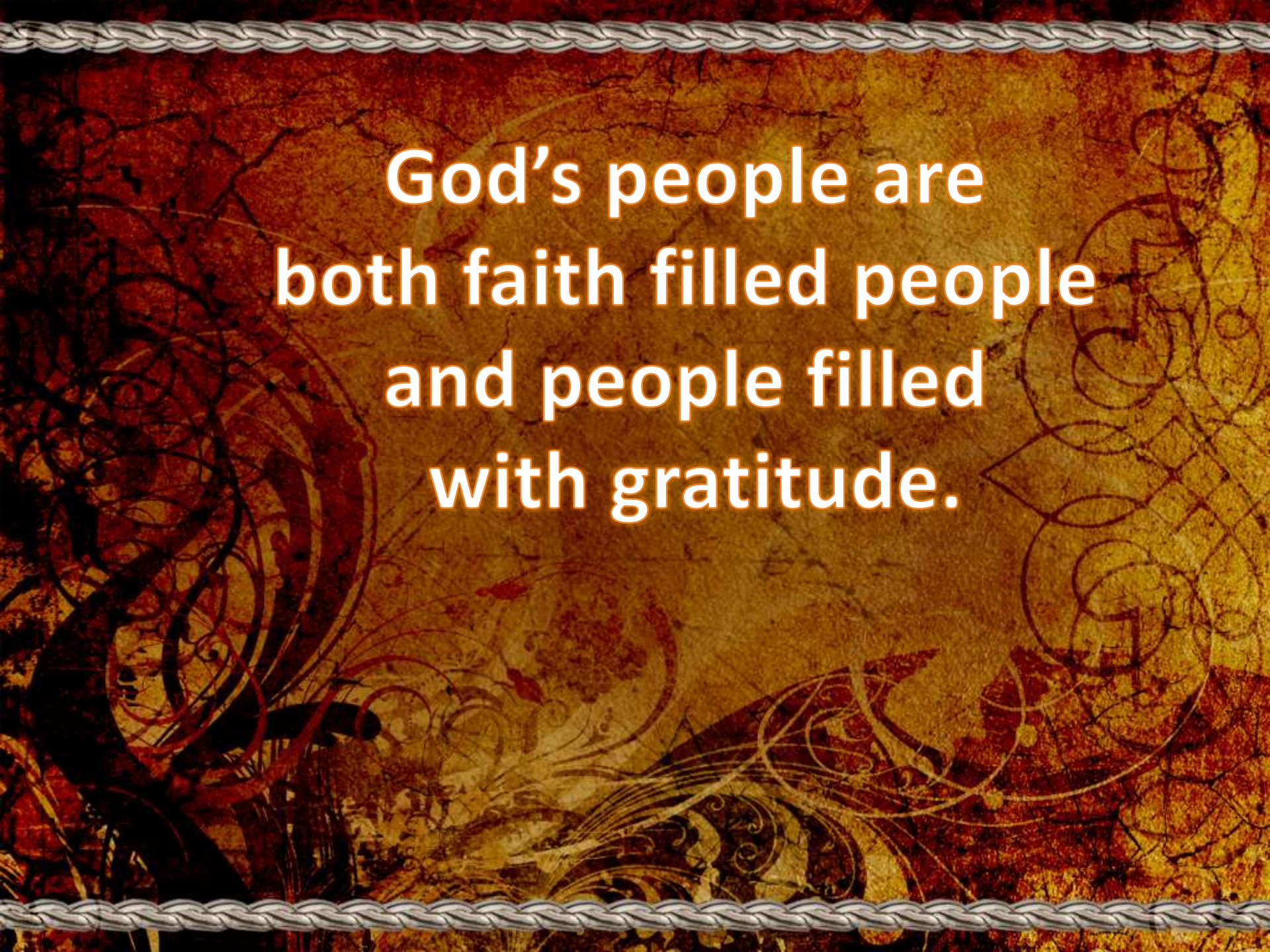
- 
- The blessing of God's call and election to salvation (vv. 1-2)
  - The blessing of the new birth (v. 3)
  - The blessing of the living hope (v. 3)
  - The blessing of the inheritance (v. 4)
  - The blessing of God's protection and security (v. 5)
  - The blessing of suffering for the sake of Christ (vv. 6-9)
  - The blessing of grace (vv. 10-12)





**To be thankful  
is to be cognizant  
of God's grace.**





**God's people are  
both faith filled people  
and people filled  
with gratitude.**







**Adults who frequently feel grateful have more:**

**energy**

**optimism**

**social connections**

**happiness**



**Adults who feel grateful are less likely to be:**

**depressed**

**envious**

**greedy**

**alcoholics**





**Adults who are grateful are more likely to:**

**earn more money**

**sleep more soundly**

**exercise more regularly**

**have greater resistance to viral infections**





**Kids who feel and act grateful tend to:**

**be less materialistic**

**get better grades**

**set higher goals**

**complain of fewer headaches and stomach aches**

**feel more satisfied with their friends, families and**

**schools than those who don't.**



A landscape photograph featuring a vast field of golden-brown crops, likely corn, in the foreground. A single, vibrant green tree stands prominently on the left side of the field. The background is a wide, open sky filled with soft, white and grey clouds, suggesting an overcast or slightly hazy day. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Gratitude

changes the way we look at the world.



COUNT YOUR  
BLESSINGS,  
NOT YOUR  
PROBLEMS



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# Journal of Happiness Studies

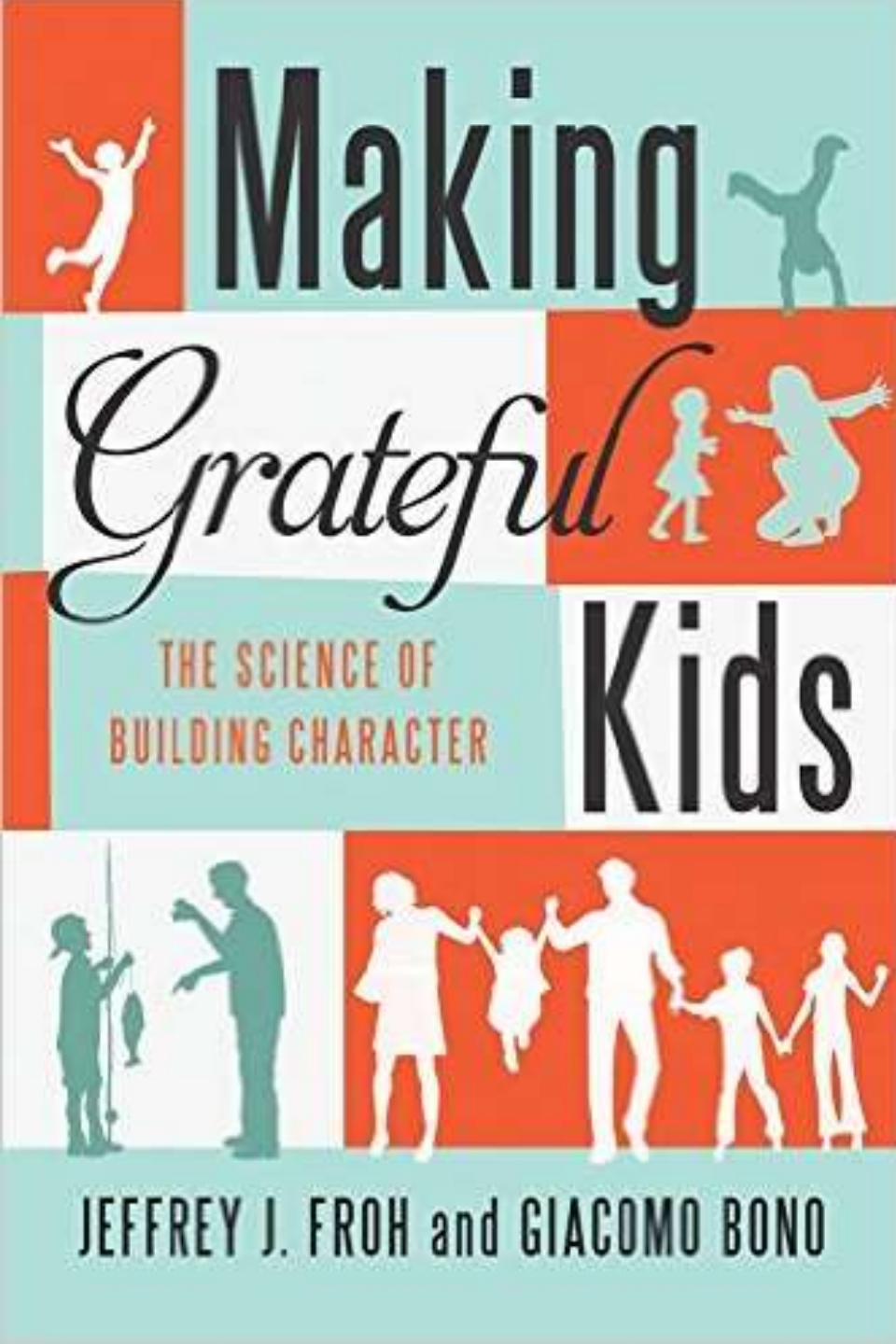
An Interdisciplinary Forum on Subjective Well-Being

Editor-in-Chief:  
Robert Cummins

Editors:  
Ed Diener  
Alex Michalos  
Ruut Veenhoven

 Springer

In a paper in the *Journal of Happiness Studies*,  
Dr. Froh and  
colleagues surveyed  
1,035 high-school  
students and found  
that the most grateful  
had more friends and  
higher GPAs,



**while the most materialistic had lower grades, higher levels of envy and less satisfaction with life.**





**Richard Dawkins**

**"Like successful Chicago gangsters our genes have survived . . . in a highly competitive world, . . . [and so] a predominant quality to be expected in a successful gene is ruthless selfishness. . . . We are survival machines - robot vehicles programmed to preserve the selfish molecules known as genes"**  
(from his book *The Selfish Gene*, quoted in a review by Phillip Johnson, *First Things*, No. 97, Nov. 1999, p. 70).

# THEOLOGY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

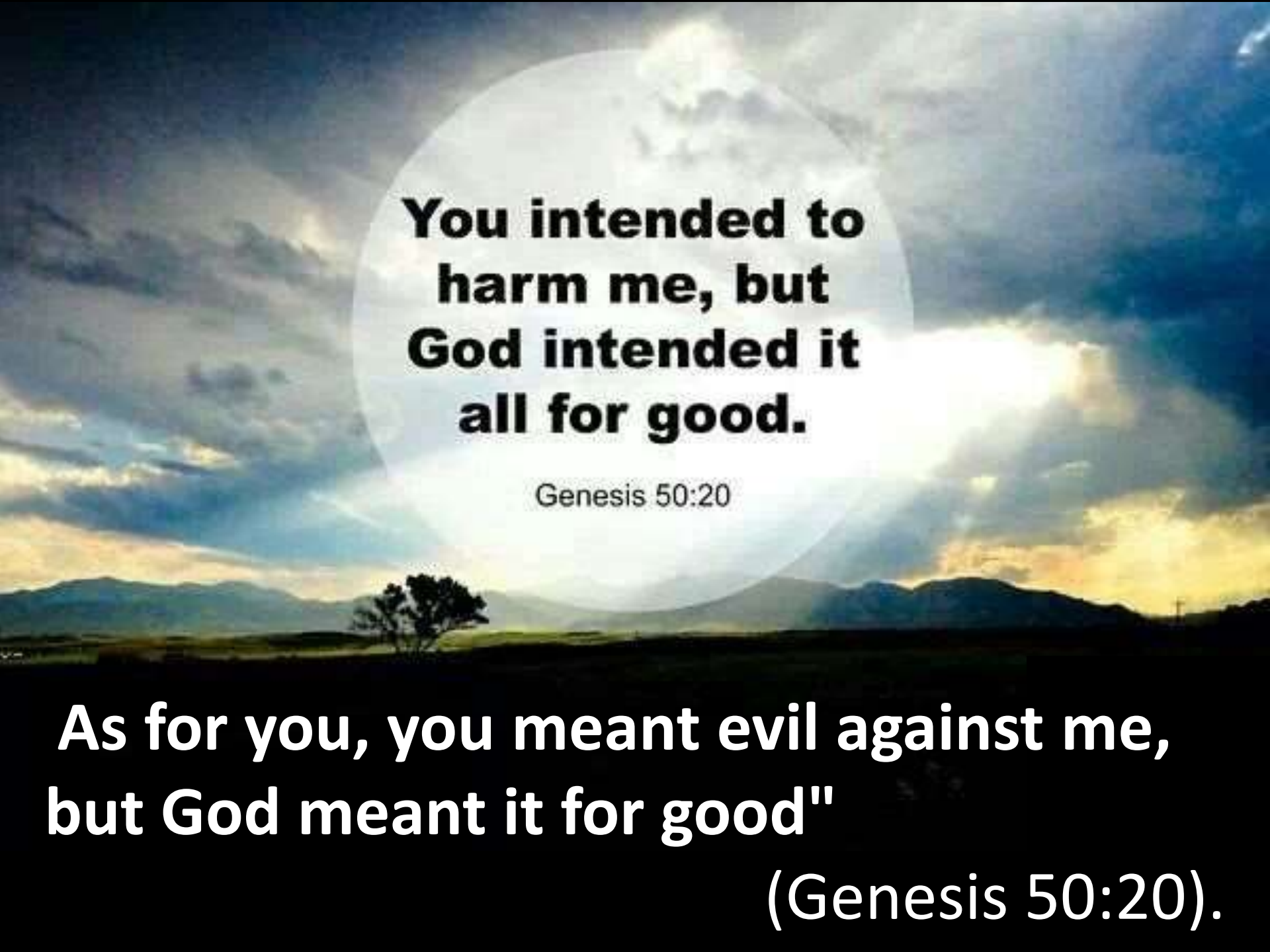
EDITOR, GUSTAV FRIEDRICH  
1912-1972



**"It is clear that the Old Testament teaches a providence which embraces everything. . . . No sphere of chance exists in the Old Testament. . . . Even what men call accidental death is under God's direction [Exodus 21:12-13]"**

(Theology of the Old Testament [Minneapolis, MN: Klock and Klock Christian Publishers, 1978], p. 122).



A dramatic landscape with a cloudy sky, mountains, and a tree, with a large white circle containing text.

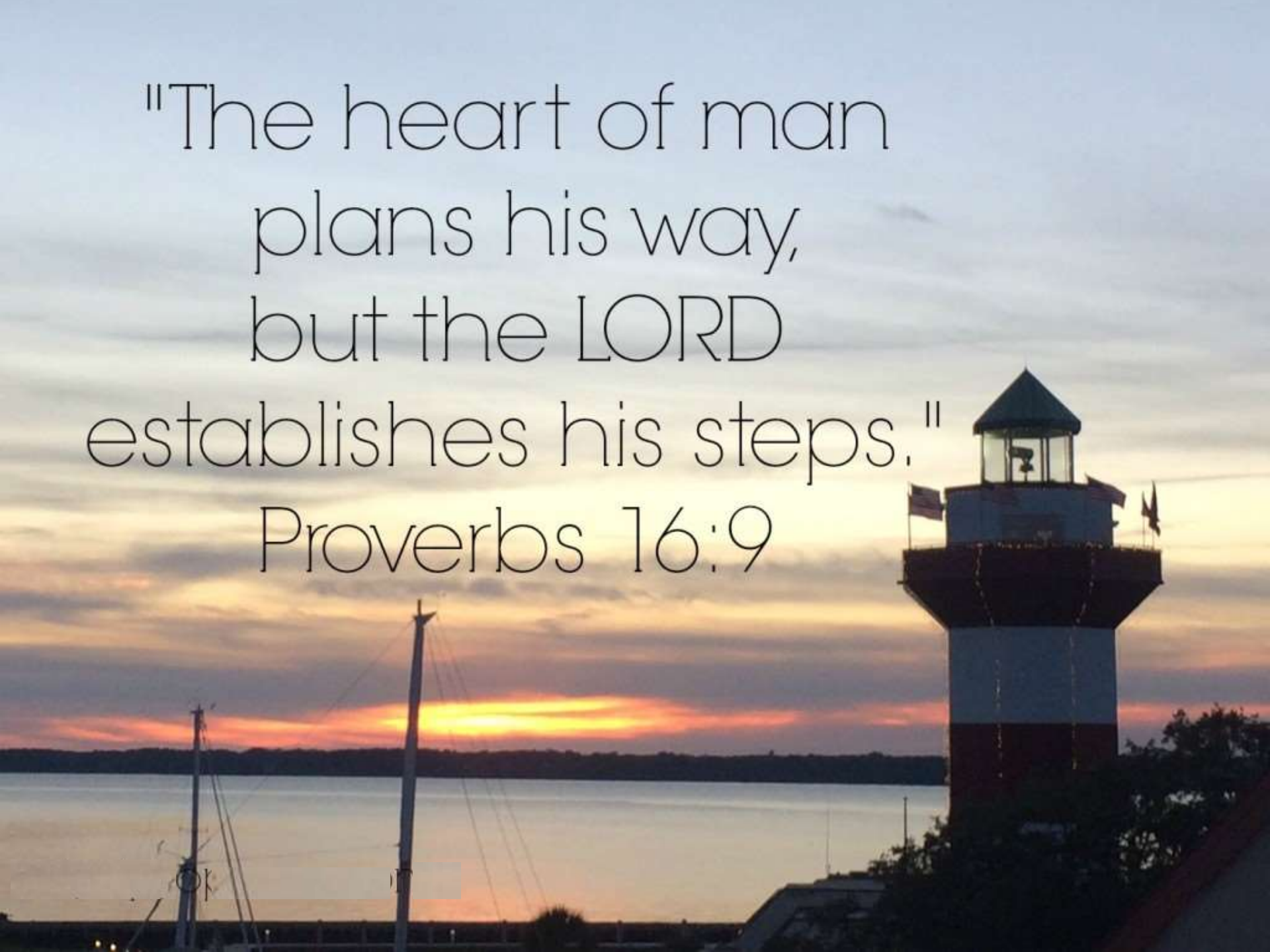
**You intended to  
harm me, but  
God intended it  
all for good.**

Genesis 50:20

**As for you, you meant evil against me,  
but God meant it for good"**

**(Genesis 50:20).**

"The heart of man  
plans his way,  
but the LORD  
establishes his steps."  
Proverbs 16:9






Are not two *sparrows* sold for a penny?

Yet *not one of them*  
will fall to the ground  
apart from the will of  
*your Father.*



*Matthew 10:29*



Surely **goodness** and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life, and I shall **dwell**  
in the house of the Lord my whole life long.



If you see the world in this biblical way by faith in God, then every moment will be a point of gratitude toward the past and faith toward the future.





*Faith is like a seed...*



LET YOUR  
ROOTS  
GROW  
DOWN

INTO  
HIM,

AND

LET  
YOUR  
LIVES  
BE BUILT ON  
HIM.

THEN  
YOUR

FAITH  
WILL GROW  
STRONG IN THE

TRUTH YOU  
WERE  
TAUGHT,

AND YOU WILL OVERFLOW WITH  
THANKFULNESS.



A large tree with a thick trunk and a full canopy of green leaves is centered in the upper half of the image. Its roots are visible, extending downwards into the ground. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with a blue sky and a yellowish ground. The text is overlaid on the tree and the background.

How to Increase  
Your Faith

**INCREASE  
OUR FAITH**





How to Increase  
Your Faith

**INCREASE  
OUR FAITH**

1. Feed your faith. . .through the Word



taste

and see

that the

LORD

is

*good*



BUT THE  
HELPER,

*the Holy Spirit,*

WHOM THE FATHER  
WILL SEND IN MY NAME,

*he will teach you all things*



BRING TO YOUR REMEMBRANCE  
ALL THAT I HAVE SAID TO YOU.

*John 14:26*



How to Increase  
Your Faith

**INCREASE  
OUR FAITH**

**2. Exercise your faith. . .by your actions**





Faith If it is not  
accompanied by

*Action*

is Dead.

James 2:17

The background of the image shows three black silhouettes of crosses on a hill. The sky is a gradient of colors from dark purple at the bottom to bright orange and red at the top, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The crosses are arranged in a line across the horizon.

John 13:15

I have set you an example  
that you should do as I  
have done for you





How to Increase  
Your Faith

**INCREASE  
OUR FAITH**

**3. Free your faith. . .from doubt**

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

## **JAMES 1:5-8**





Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7




How to Increase  
Your Faith

**INCREASE  
OUR FAITH**

**4. Share your faith with others**



 magnify **the LORD**  
with me,  
and let us exalt his  
name **together.** Psalm 34:3