



James

“Great Expectations”

James 1.1-8

**“God let me down...**  
**...so I left God.**

# Book of James

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  - Faced poverty & persecution
  - Murdered for His witness to Jesus

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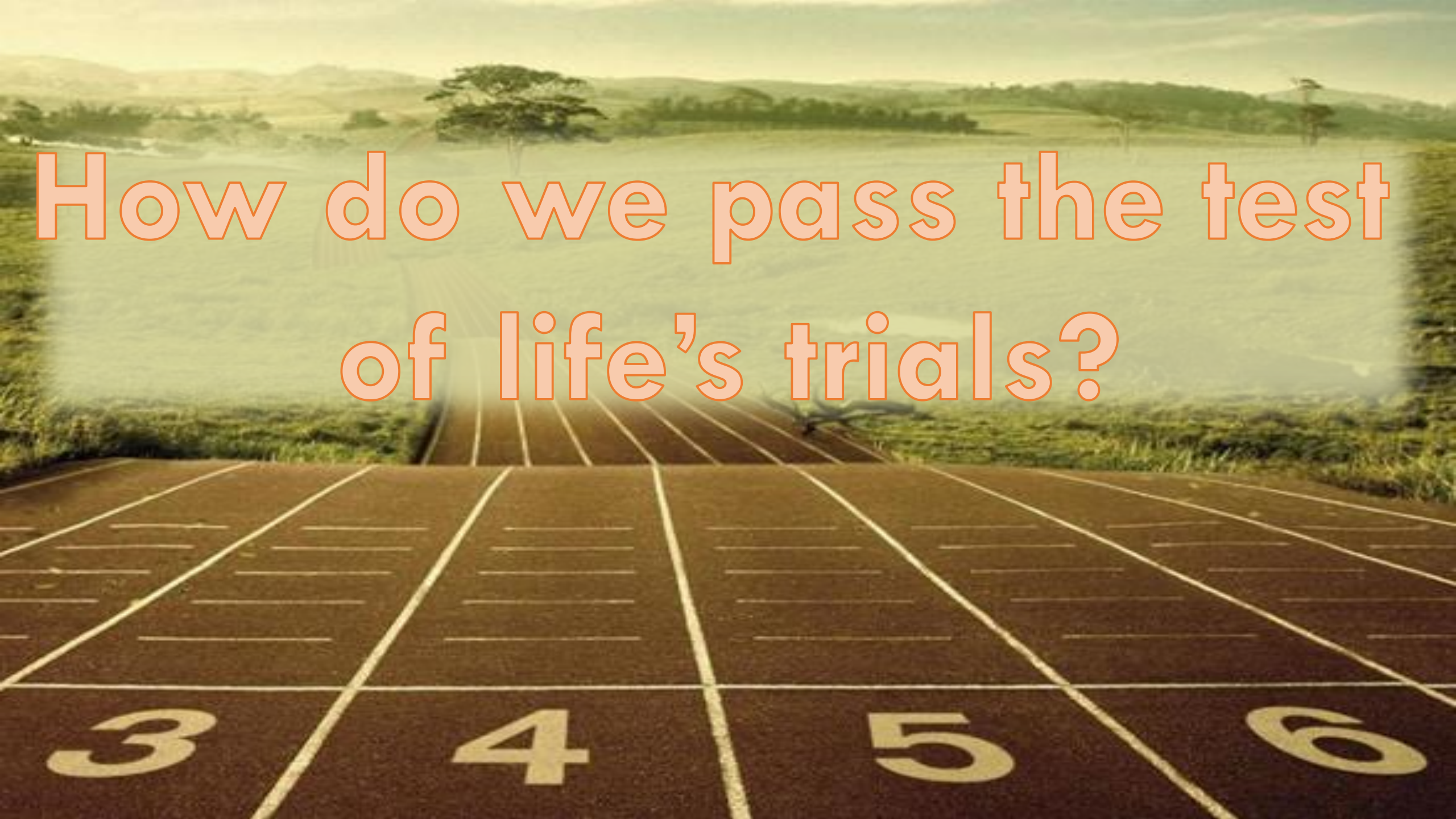
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  - Perhaps scattered Christians post-Stephen being martyred (Acts 8)
- Purpose: summary of wise living
  - Remix of Sermon on Mount & Proverbs



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  - “God let me down... so I left God.”

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  - John 16.33 You will have suffering in this world.
  - John 15.20 If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.
  - 2 Timothy 3.12 In fact, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

<sup>20</sup> And the one sown on rocky ground—this is one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy.

<sup>21</sup> But he has no root and is short-lived. When distress or persecution comes because of the word, immediately he falls away.

Matthew 13



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  - A completely integrated life = our actions are always consistent with our beliefs and values

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  - <sup>2</sup> Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials,
  - <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith



<sup>6</sup> You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials <sup>7</sup> so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1

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  - And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.



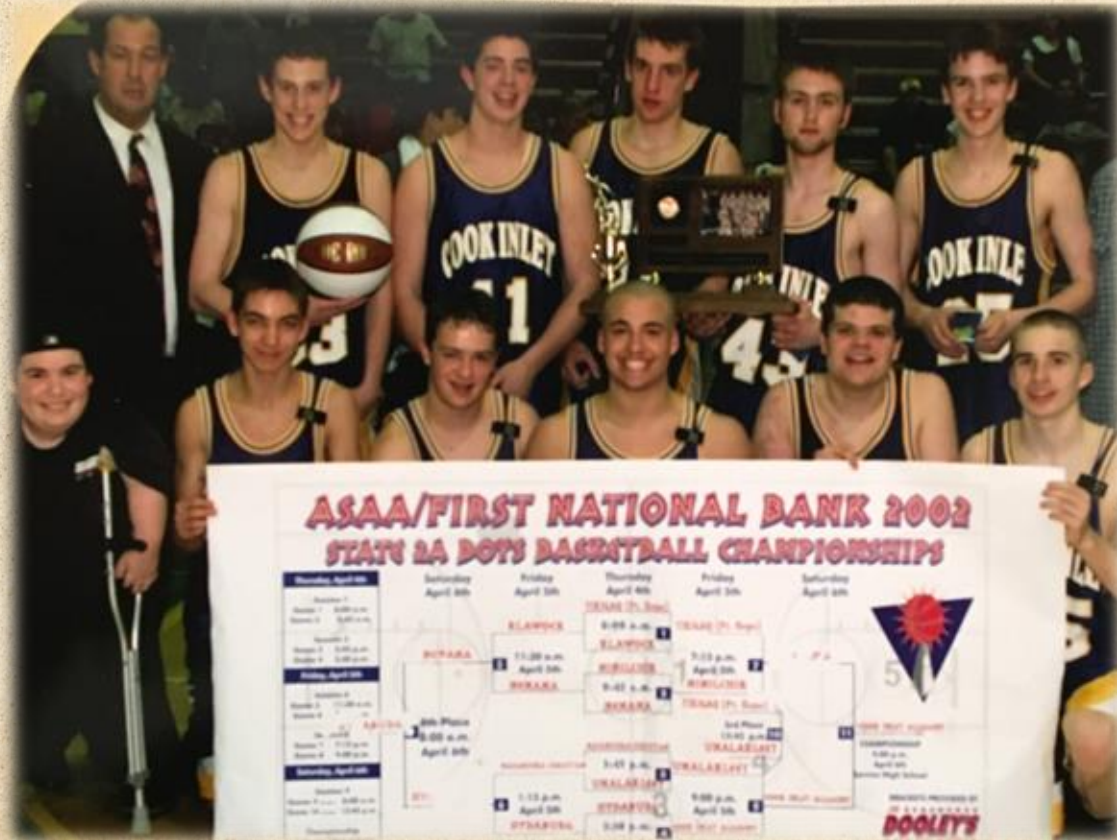
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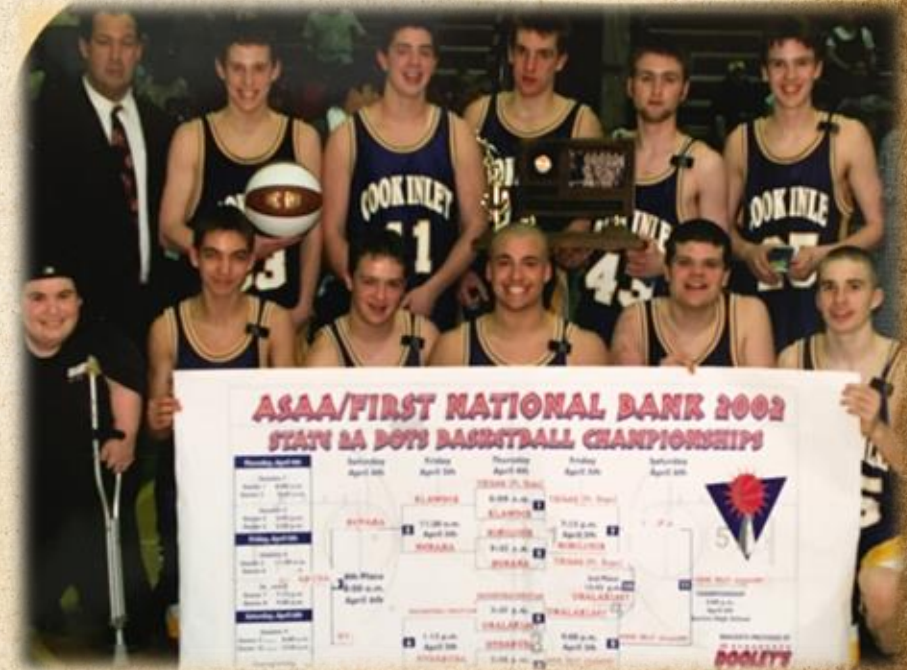
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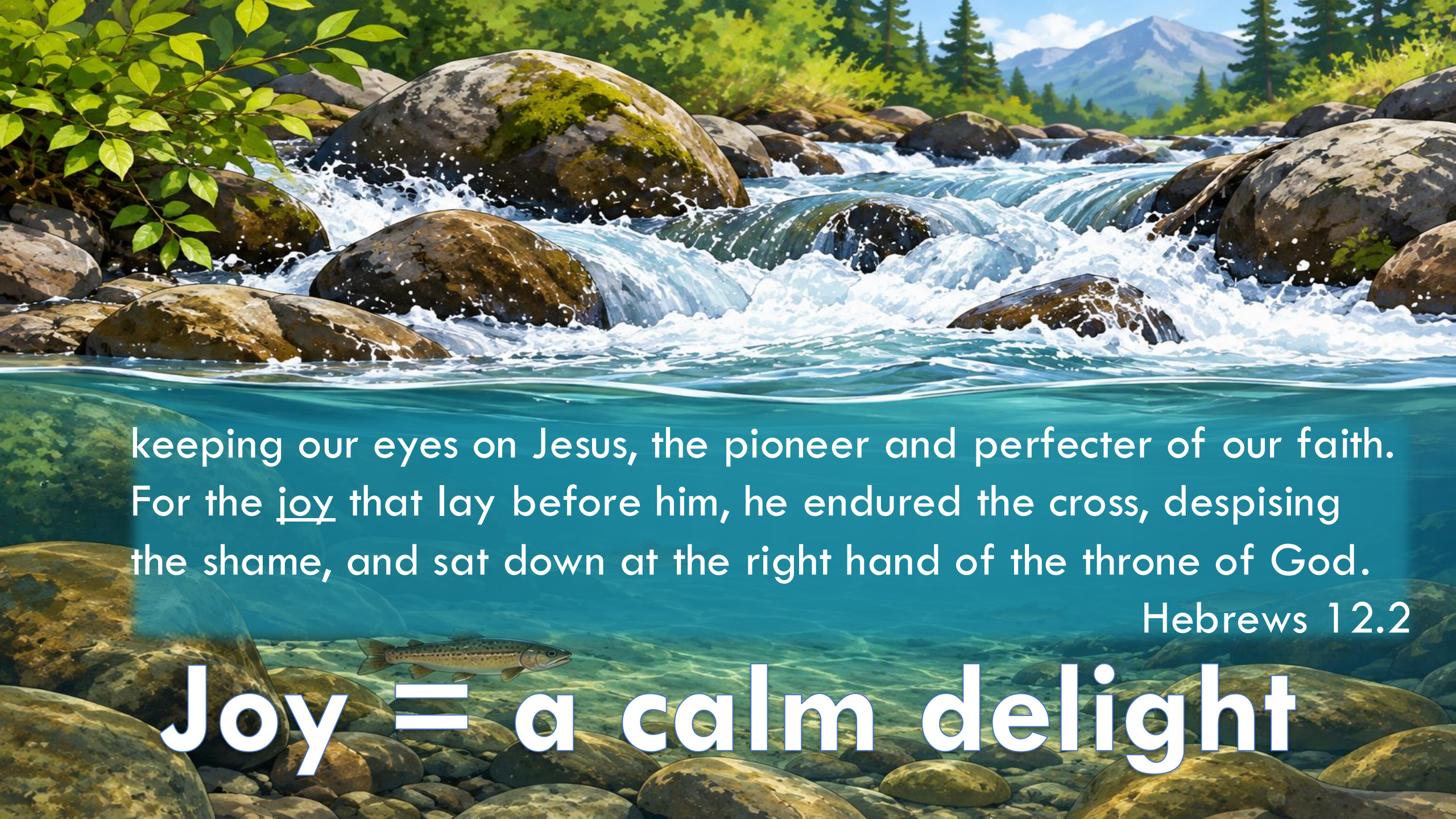
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  - James 1.2
  - Consider it a great joy...





**Joy = a calm delight**

A vibrant illustration of a river flowing over mossy rocks, with a fish visible underwater. The scene is set in a lush, green forest with mountains in the background. The water is clear, showing the rocky riverbed and a single fish swimming near the bottom. The rocks are large and covered in green moss, and the water is splashing as it flows over them. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.  
For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising  
the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12.2

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  - Trials are joy when God is our goal



God doesn't prevent suffering,

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but He does redeem it. ALL of it.

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- But let him ask in faith without doubting.



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- What is wisdom?
- The wisdom God promises to give is not all the information on the planet, but the ability to know how to live well regardless of my circumstances



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Paul's Prayer: Colossians 1

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<sup>10</sup> so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,

<sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father...

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- Doubt: “making up one’s mind between alternatives”



No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

MATTHEW 6.24



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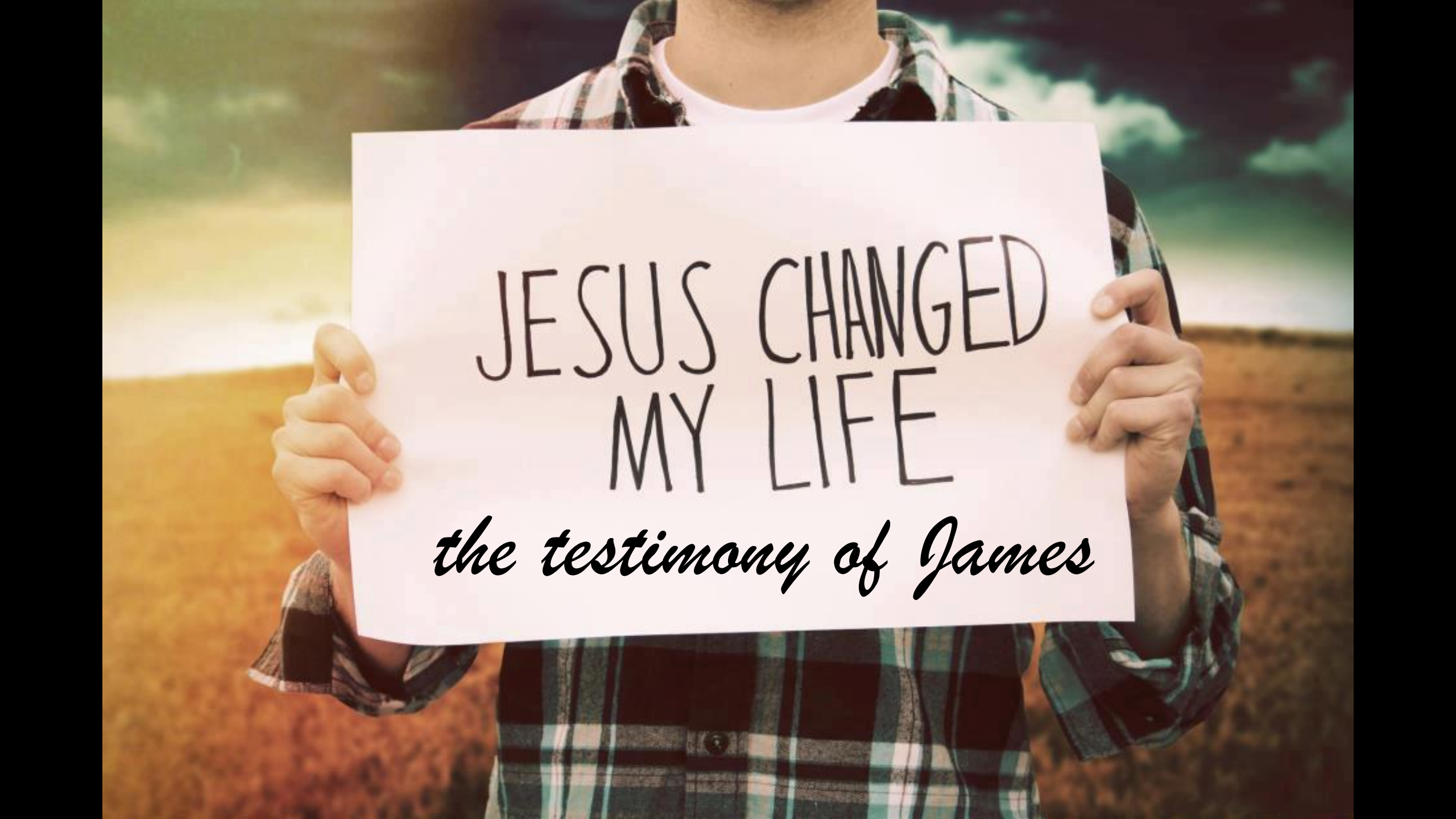
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you are in Christ Jesus,  
who became wisdom from God for us

1 Corinthians 1.30

A person wearing a plaid shirt is holding a white sign in front of their chest. The sign has the text "JESUS CHANGED MY LIFE" written in a black, hand-drawn, sans-serif font. Below this, the words "the testimony of James" are written in a black, cursive script. The person is standing in a field of tall, dry grass. In the background, there is a body of water and a sky with clouds, illuminated by the warm light of a sunset or sunrise.

JESUS CHANGED  
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*the testimony of James*