



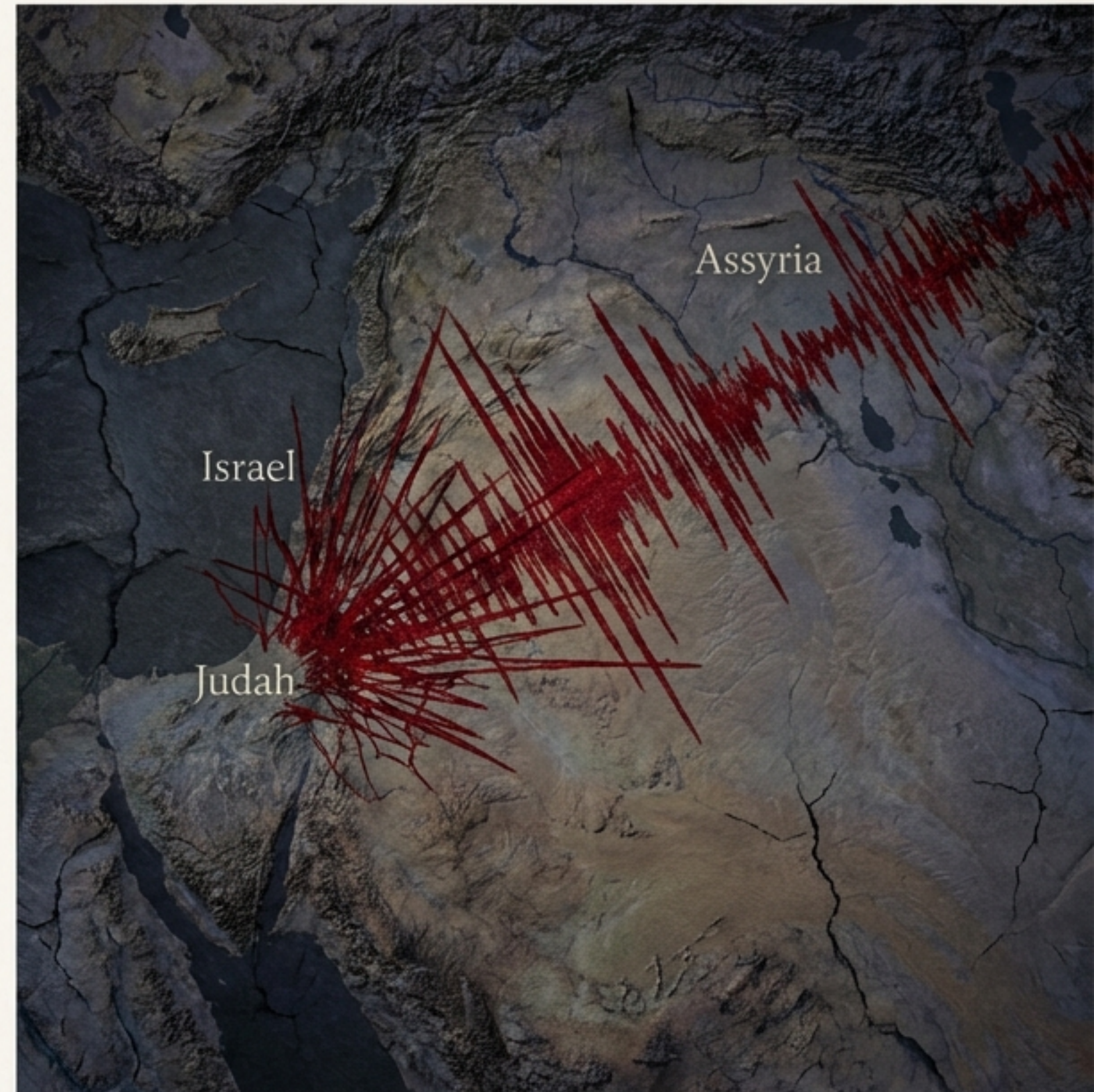
Walking as Children of Light

A Guide to Navigating
a Dark World, based
on Isaiah 8

The World is in Crisis. It Always Has Been.

The sermon's context begins in a time of national **panic**. Threatened by enemies, King Ahaz of Judah rejected God's help and turned to the human power of Assyria. This choice, born of fear, set the stage for disaster.

'This threat has caused the **king** of Judah to **panic**, King Ahaz... And in that panic, rather than going to God for his help and deliverance, he looks to the **king of Assyria**.'





The World's Solutions Can Become a Devouring Flood

The Assyrian alliance that seemed to solve the immediate crisis became a judgment from God. The Assyrian "flood" kept rising until it nearly wiped out Judah itself. Turning from the true Light leads not to safety, but to deeper gloom.

Judah

"Then they will look to the earth and see trouble and darkness, gloom and anguish, and they will be driven into darkness." (Isaiah 8:22)

In the Midst of Fear, a Different Path is Commanded.

God's instruction to the prophet Isaiah and his followers was clear: do not follow the crowd.

Do not adopt their **conspiracies** or their **fears**. Instead, consecrate your fear to God alone.

This is the fundamental choice for the children of light.



"The **Lord** spoke thus to me... "that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying, 'do not say a conspiracy...' nor be afraid of their threats... The **Lord of hosts**, him you shall **hallow**.

Let him be your fear."
(Isaiah 8:11-13)



The Lure of False Guidance

The people of Judah were tempted to seek guidance from mediums and wizards—sources strictly forbidden by God. Today, the temptation may be more subtle:

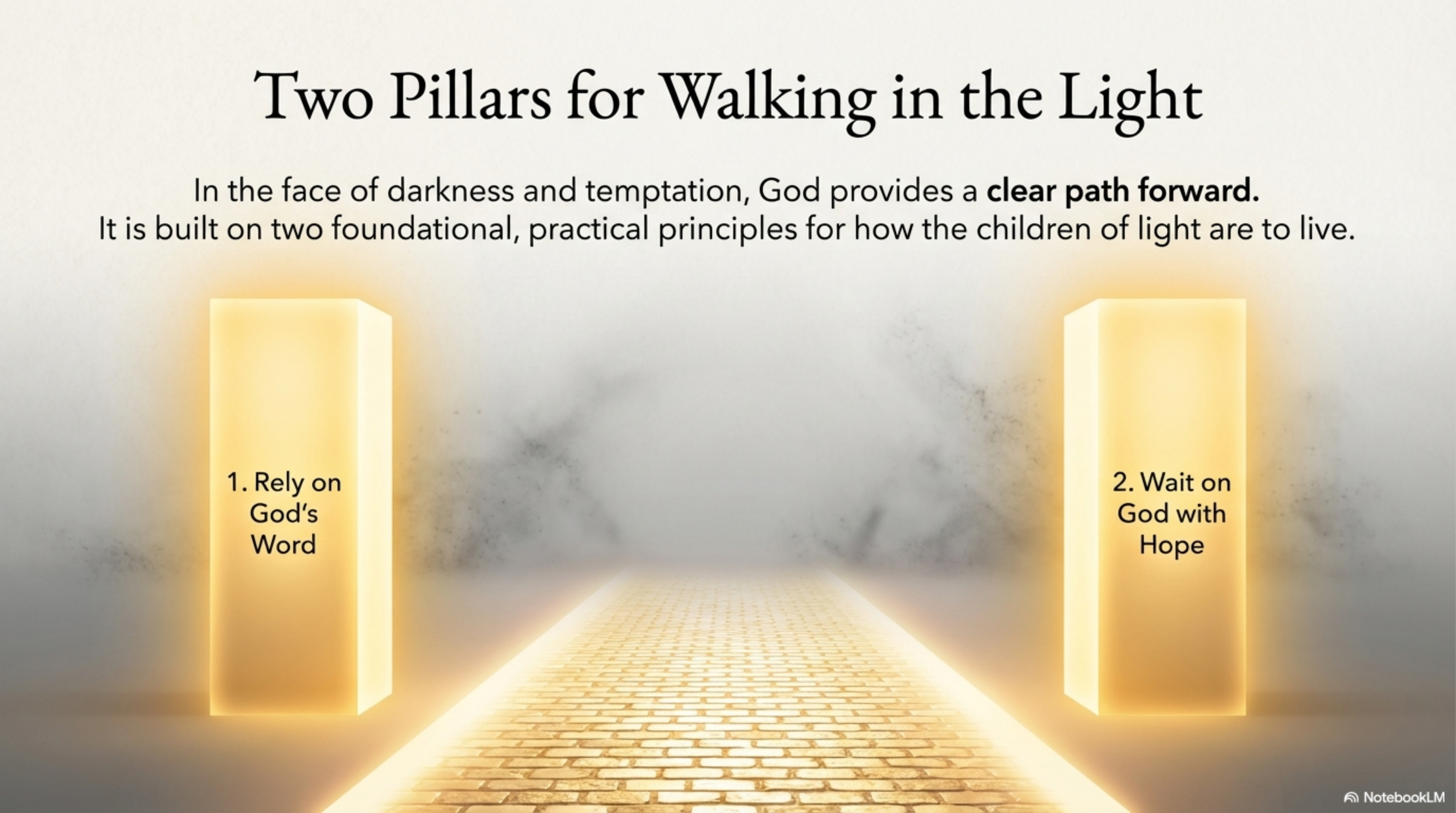
- A practical disregard for the Word of God in daily life.
- Allowing other books, media, or influences to become our primary source of truth.
- A simple loss of appetite for Scripture.



"And when they say to you, 'Seek those who are mediums and wizards...' Should not a people seek their God?" (Isaiah 8:19)

Two Pillars for Walking in the Light

In the face of darkness and temptation, God provides a **clear path forward**.
It is built on two foundational, practical principles for how the children of light are to live.



1. Rely on
God's
Word

2. Wait on
God with
Hope

Anchor Yourself in Divine Revelation.

Core Principle: 'If we are to walk as children of light, we must be instructed and guided constantly and increasingly by by the light of divine revelation.'

Explanation: Isaiah prays for God to 'bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.'" (Isaiah 8:16). This is a prayer for God to secure His truth in the hearts and minds of His people, making it their unshakeable guide. Proclamation of the Word requires prayer for its reception.



To the law and to the testimony!

(Isaiah 8:20)

This is our unwavering cry. For salvation, for knowing God, for how to live, for how to worship—we have no other light. The Holy Scripture is the 'only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule.' Any voice that does not speak according to this Word has 'no light in them.'



Cultivate an Expectant Dependence on God.

Core Principle: 'If we're to walk as children of light, we need to cultivate an expectant dependence on God and on His Word.'

Explanation: Isaiah declares, 'I will wait on the Lord, who hides his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him.' (Isaiah 8:17). Even when God seems distant and judgment has come, the faithful remnant waits with expectant hope. Faith is made for the dark day.

Waiting on the Lord is Not Inactivity. It is an Active Pursuit.

Biblical waiting is not passive idleness. It is a dynamic state that involves:

- **Faith:** Trusting God's character and promises.
- **Patience:** Enduring through trials without giving up.
- **Hope:** Confident expectation of God's action.
- **Seeking:** The two go hand-in-hand. Waiting without seeking will cease.

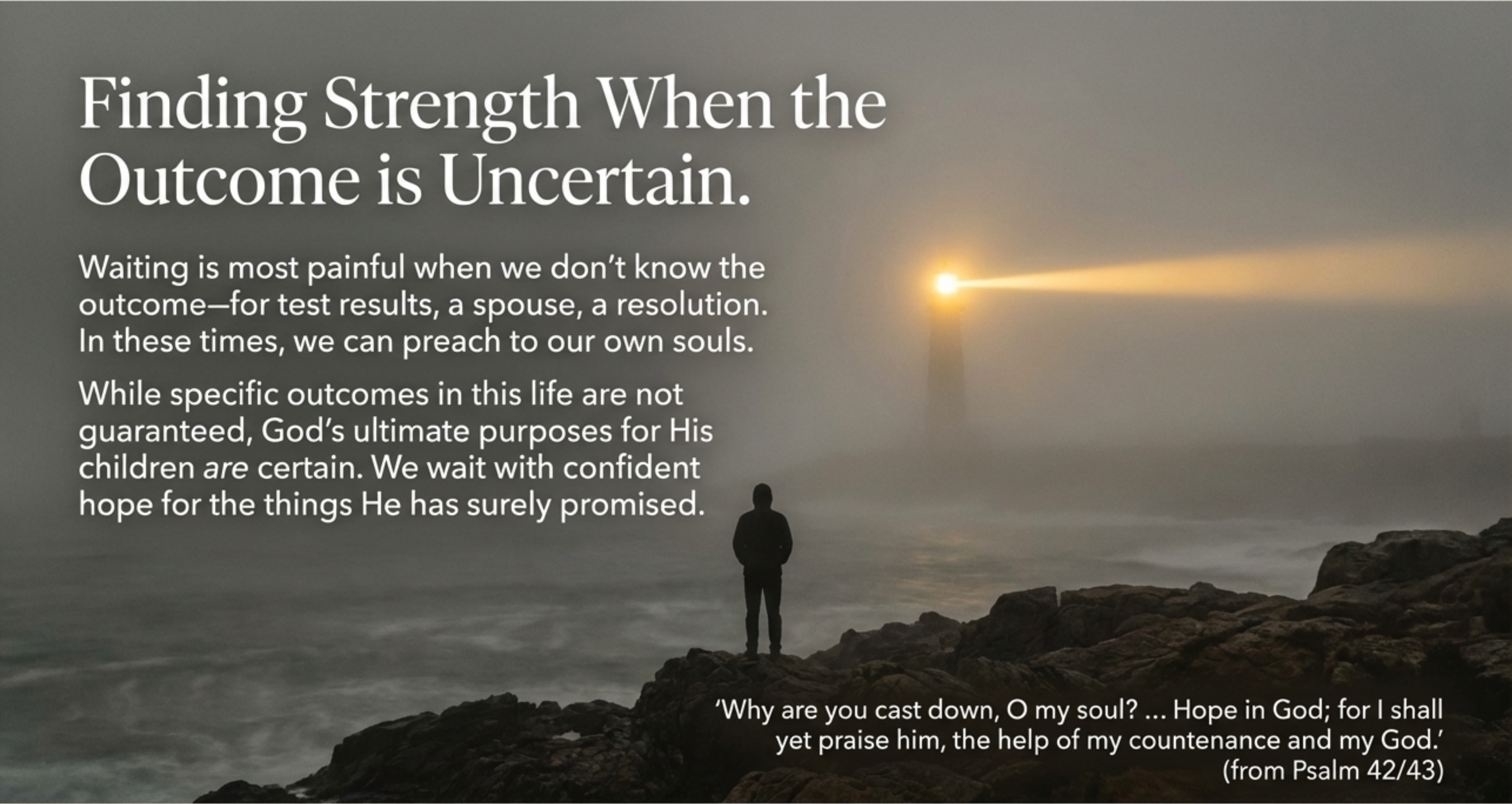
'The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks Him.' (Lamentations 3:25)



Finding Strength When the Outcome is Uncertain.

Waiting is most painful when we don't know the outcome—for test results, a spouse, a resolution. In these times, we can preach to our own souls.

While specific outcomes in this life are not guaranteed, God's ultimate purposes for His children *are* certain. We wait with confident hope for the things He has surely promised.

A person stands in silhouette on a dark, rocky cliff. In the background, the ocean stretches to the horizon under a dramatic sky. A bright sun is low on the horizon, creating a long, horizontal lens flare that spans across the upper right portion of the image. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

'Why are you cast down, O my soul? ... Hope in God; for I shall yet praise him, the help of my countenance and my God.'
(from Psalm 42/43)

The Promise That Anchors All Hope: Emmanuel



Isaiah's confident waiting was not abstract; it was grounded in a specific, world-altering promise. Against the raging nations, the faithful remnant held to this word:

"Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing. Speak the word, but it will not stand, for **Emmanuel.**" (Isaiah 8:10)

God is with us. This promise was the firm foundation on which they could wait, even as God hid his face from the nation at large.

The Ultimate Light Has Come.

The New Testament gives Isaiah's words a messianic interpretation. The Spirit of Christ who spoke through the prophet now reveals that Isaiah and his children were a shadow of the ultimate reality: Jesus and the children God has given Him.

The author of Hebrews places Isaiah's words directly into the mouth of Christ:

> *'And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."' (Hebrews 2:13)*



We Are The Children God Has Given to Christ

If we trust in Jesus, we are among the spiritual offspring given to Him by the Father. He is the ultimate "Light of the World," and He is not ashamed to call us brethren. Our identity is secure in Him.



'Jesus, King of kings, is not ashamed to call us, you and me who are trusting in him... brethren.'

'Once we were darkness, but now we are light in the Lord. We are the children of light.' (Ephesians 5:8)

Therefore, We Walk.

The call remains. In this dark world, we walk as children of light. We do this by anchoring ourselves in the testimony of God's Word and by waiting with expectant dependence on our faithful God. We walk with our eyes fixed on the destination.

“All the while looking unto Jesus, who is the author and finisher of our faith, and also... the light of the world.”