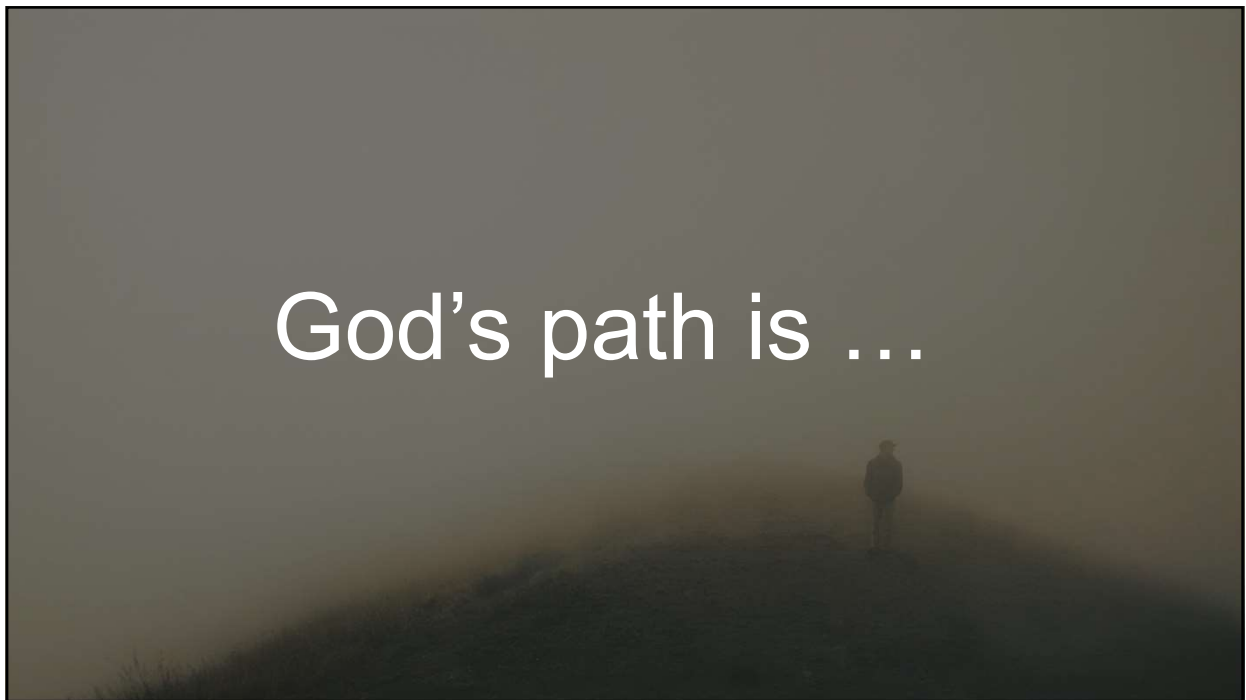
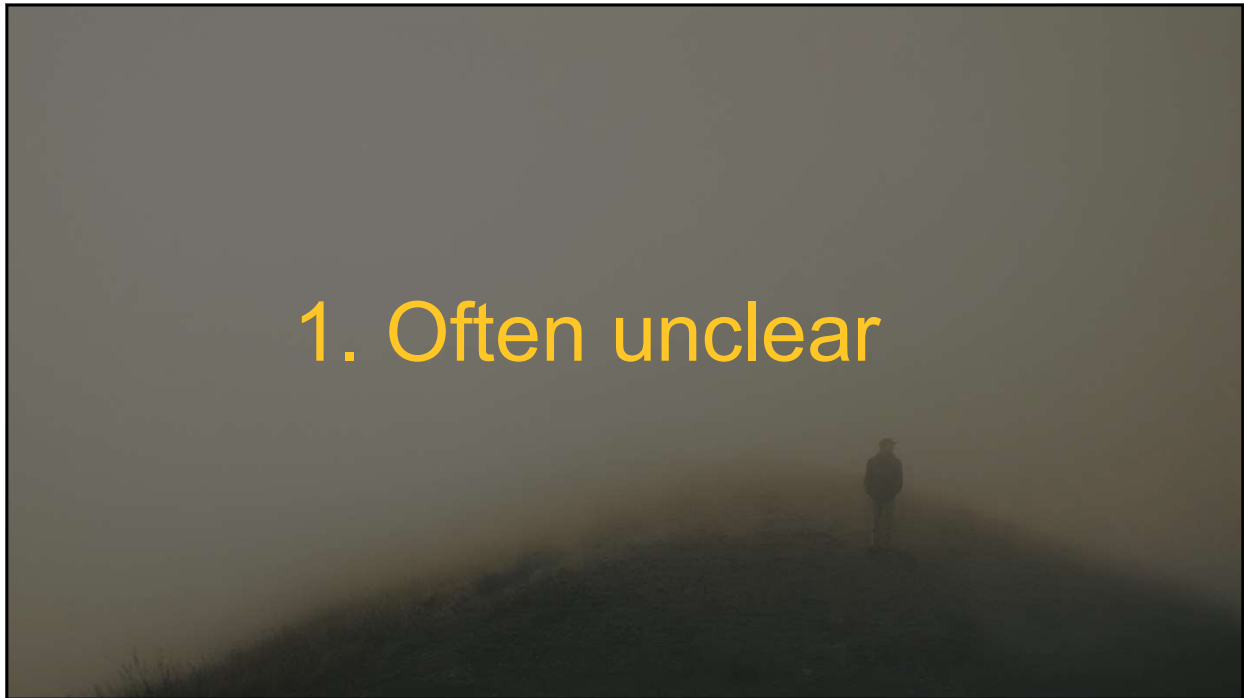




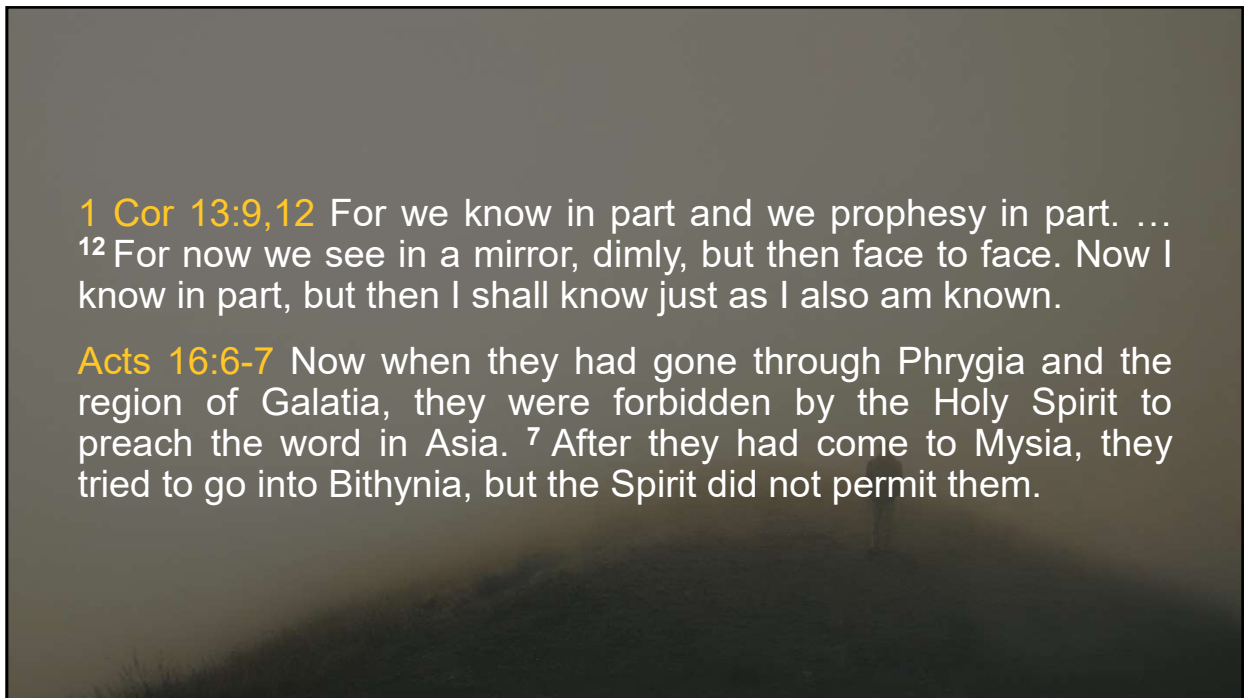
1



2



3



4

A person is walking away from the viewer on a path through a field of tall grass, shrouded in a thick, grey fog. The person is a small silhouette in the distance. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

2. Hardly ever easy

5

Mt 7:14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Lk 14:26-33 “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ... ³³ So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Jn 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

6

Moses – “if I have found favor in Your sight, please kill me here and now” (Num 11:15)

Elijah – “It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!” (1 Kings 19:4)

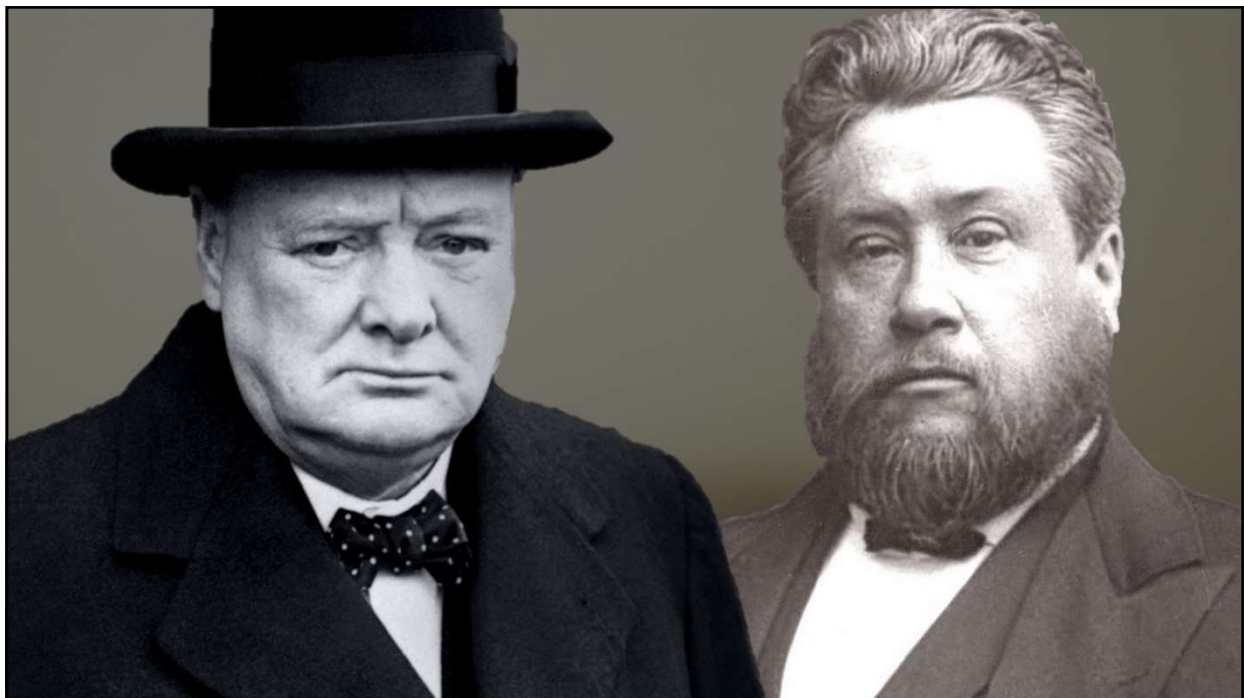
Jonah – “Now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!” (Jonah 4:3)

David – “Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me?” (Ps 42:5)

John the Baptist – “do we look for another” (Mt 11:2-3)

Paul – “we despaired of life” (2 Cor 1:8)

7



8

Heb 11:33-38 ... stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

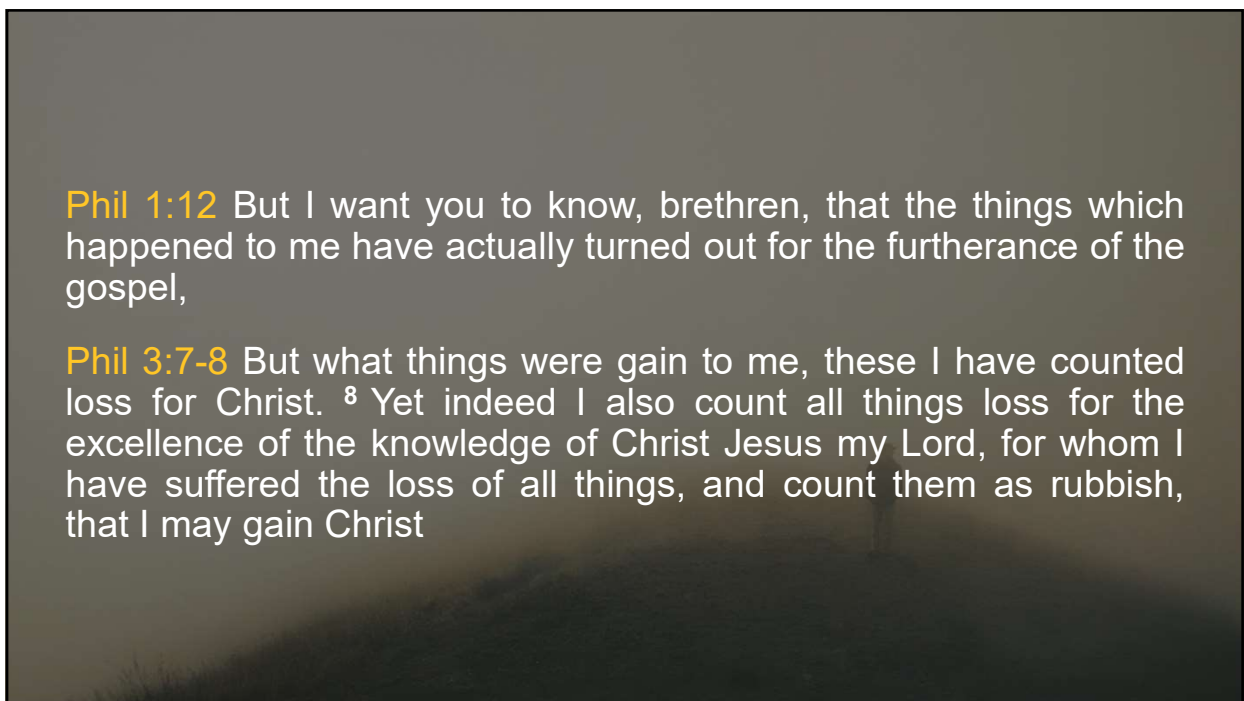
9

2 Tim 4:10-17 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica ... ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. ... ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. ¹⁵ You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. ... ¹⁷ Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

10



11



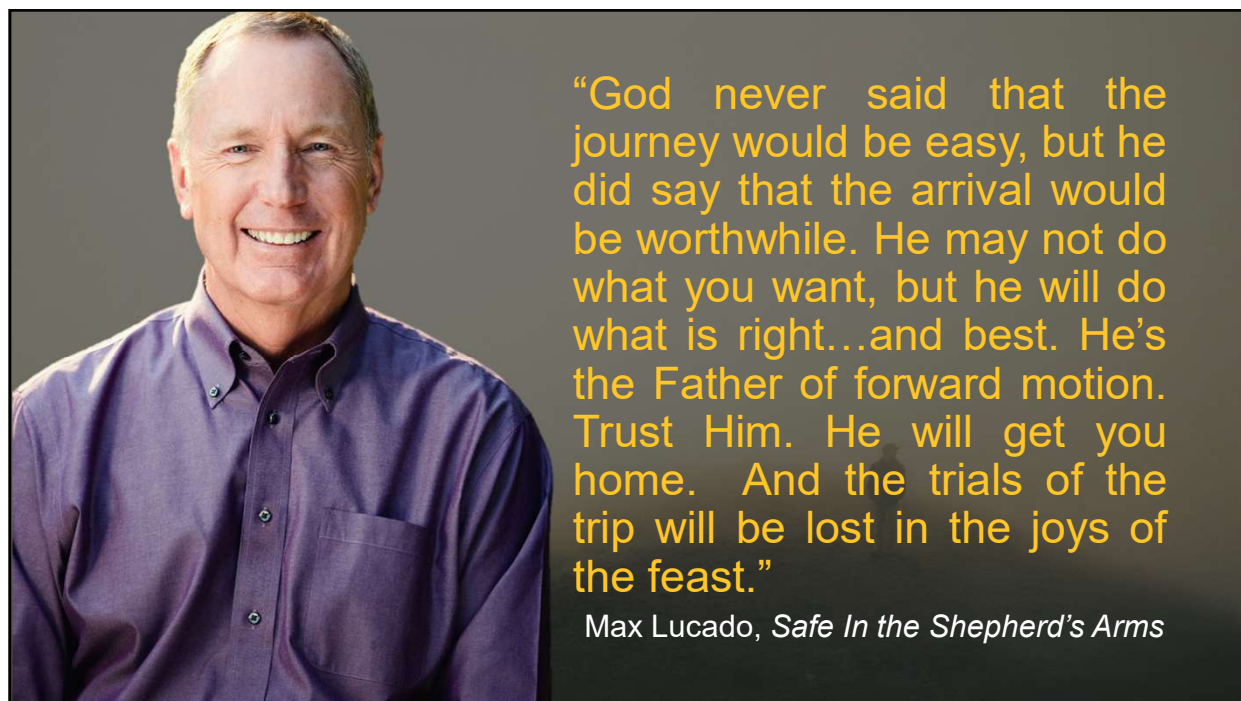
12

2 Cor 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

1 Pet 4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

13



14