

You CHOOSE

With Bishop Ronald Powell

Our Text

- Galatians 6:8 (ESV)
- 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Introduction

- In all our daily choices, we either “sow to the flesh” or “sow to the Spirit”.
- With our actions and thoughts, we plant seeds that affect what kind of person we’re growing into and the level of impact our life will have for God.

The “flesh”

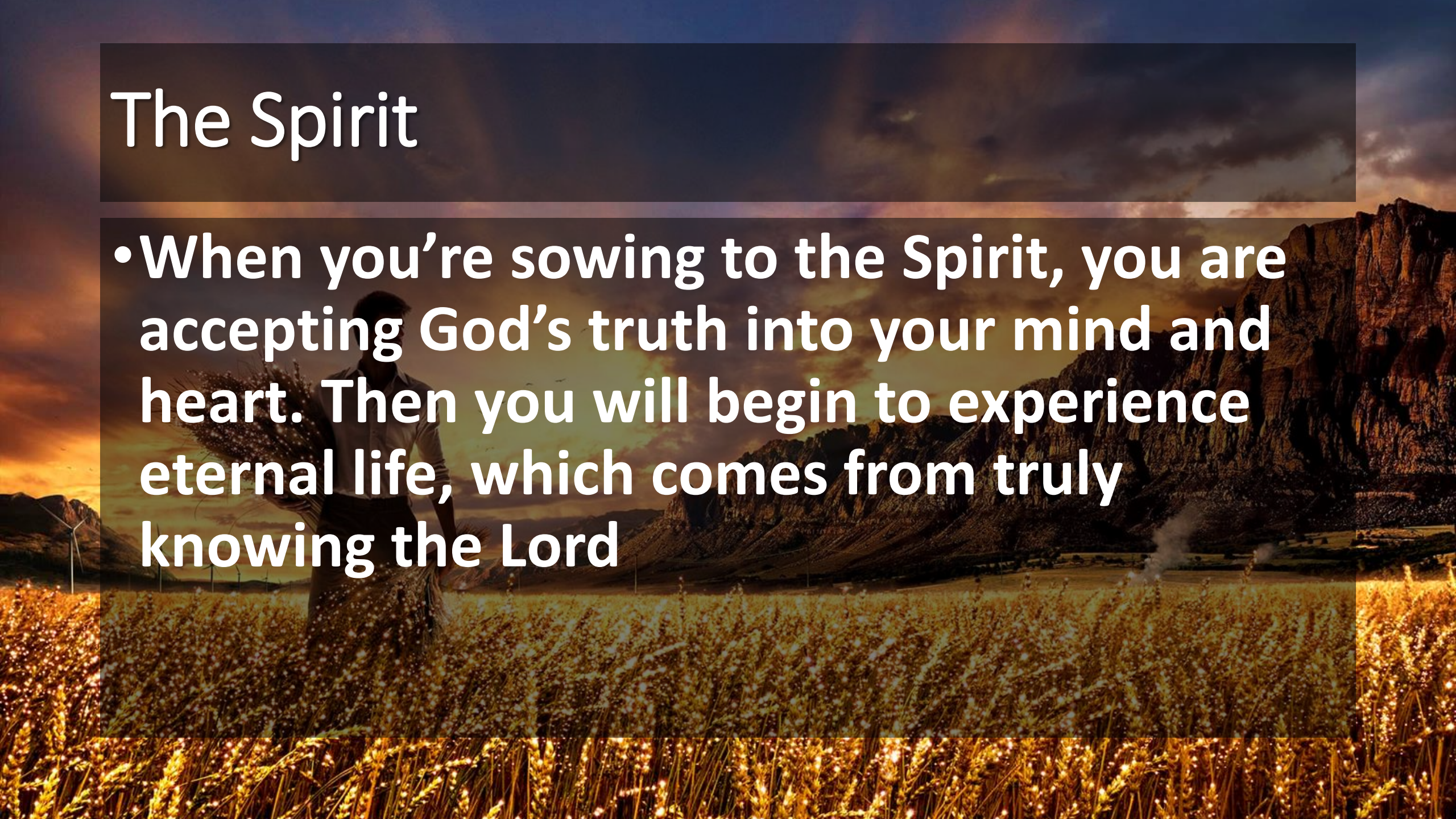
- The “flesh” is the part of us that wants to live and act independently of the Lord. As humans, all of us have to deal with the pull of this attitude; we don’t lose it automatically when we’re saved. However, the Holy Spirit frees us from slavery to the flesh.

The “flesh”

- The Spirit begins to change us so we can turn from the deceptive lure of living for self and instead start to live according to the truth.
- The choices we make contribute to the process of transformation, and when they're in alignment with the Spirit's work, they plant good seeds that result in even more new growth.

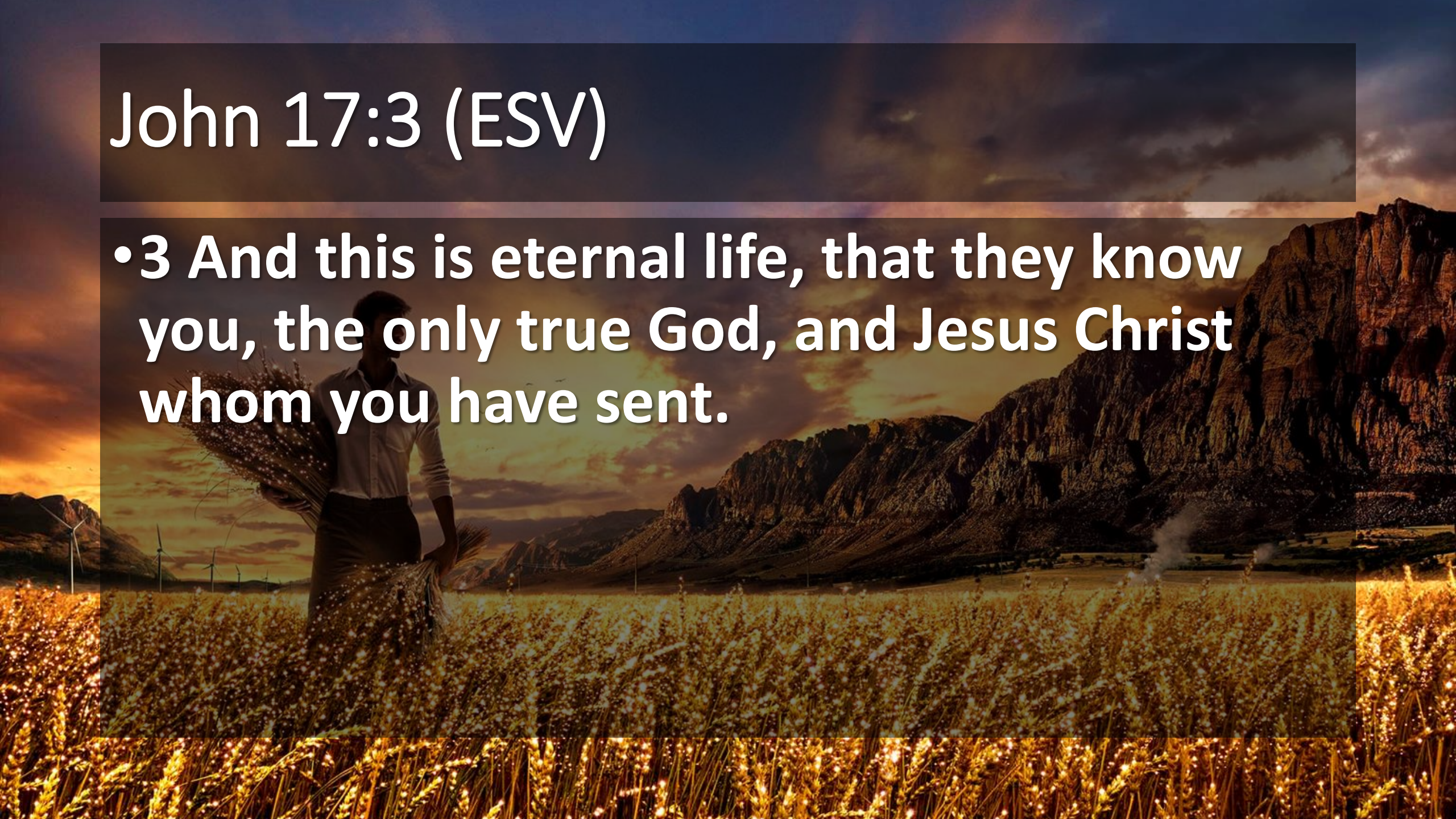
The Spirit

- When you're sowing to the Spirit, you are accepting God's truth into your mind and heart. Then you will begin to experience eternal life, which comes from truly knowing the Lord



John 17:3 (ESV)

- **3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.**



The fruit of the Spirit


- The fruit of the Spirit grows naturally from these seeds of godly truth and influences every aspect of your life. When you feed your spirit with the things of God, you're going to become stronger, more Christlike, and more full of His life in your thoughts and actions.

We are what we eat?

- Are you feeding your spirit and the wellspring of your life, or are you feeding the part of you that wants to act independently of God? Do your choices sow seeds that are building you up, making you different, and letting streams of living water flow from you to nourish others?

John 7:37-39

- 37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as[a] the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

A man in a light-colored shirt and dark pants stands in a field of golden wheat, holding a large bundle of harvested wheat. The background features a dramatic sunset with orange and yellow light, dark mountains, and several wind turbines on the left. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark rectangle containing white text.

You have a choice to make.

- You can decide to sow to the flesh or to the Spirit.
- In the planting season a farmer decides what kind of crop he wants to harvest and chooses the appropriate seeds.



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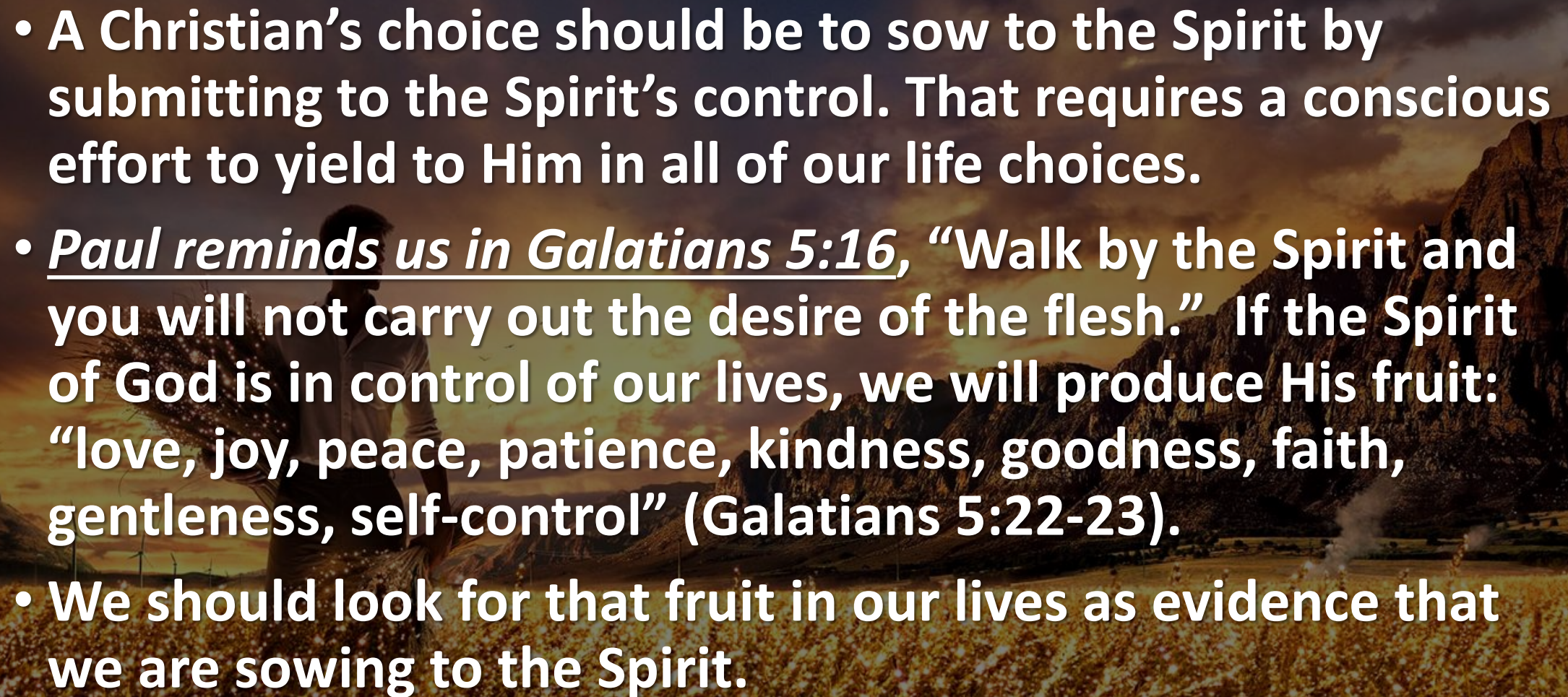
- Each Christian begins their planting season when they're born again through faith in Christ.
- Then they must choose what kind of spiritual crop they want to produce.

Galatians 5:19-21 (ESV)

- 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

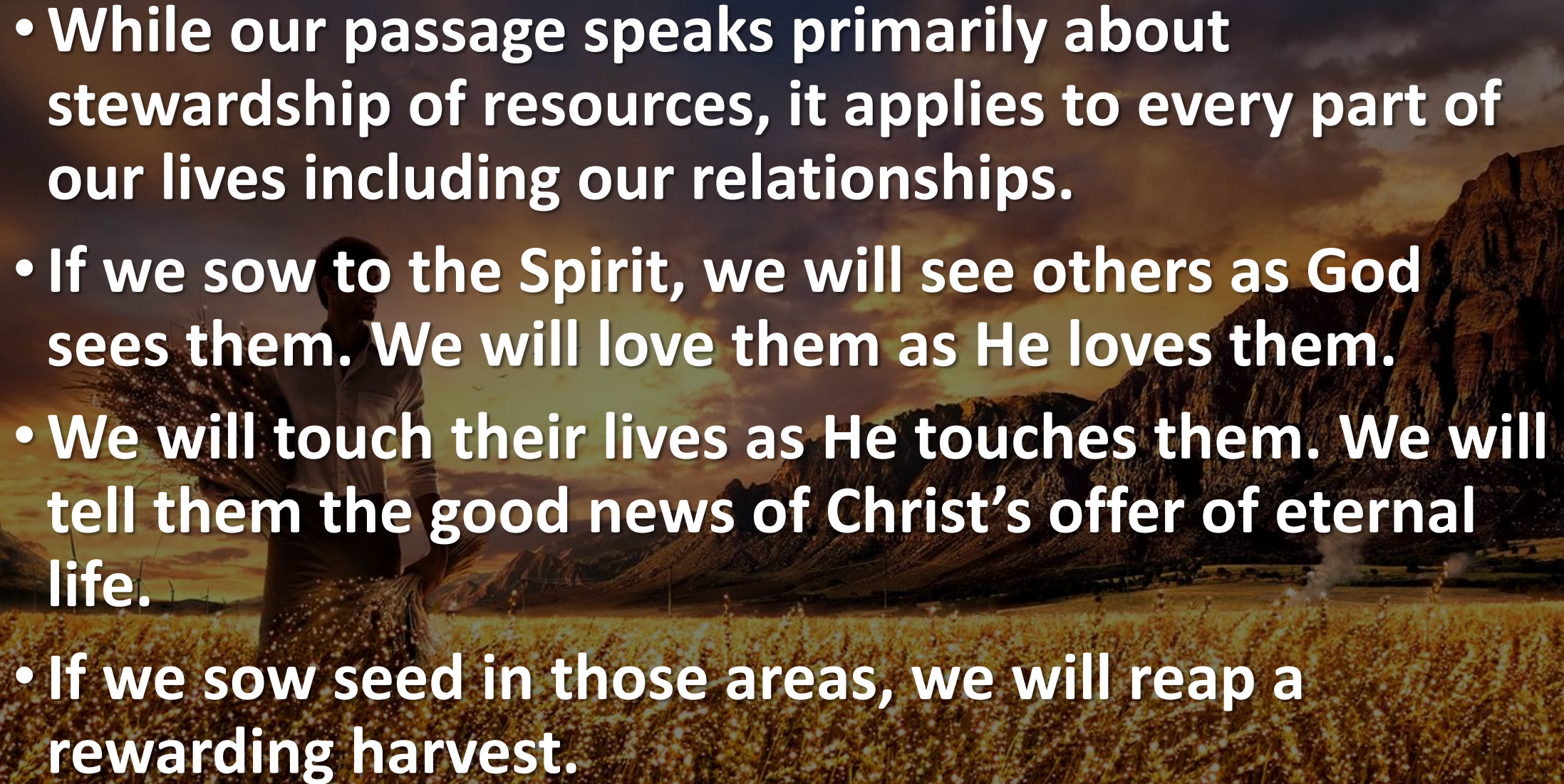
If we choose to sow to the flesh

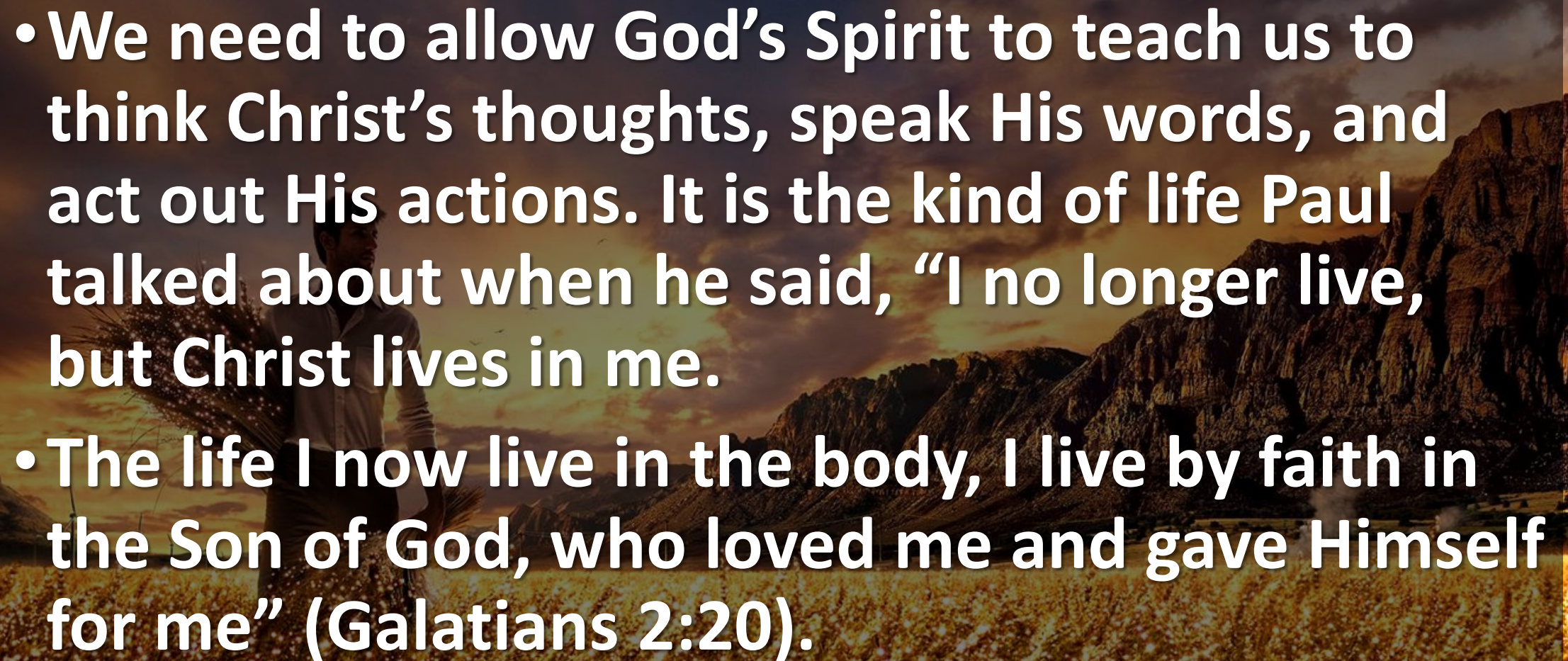
- If we choose to sow to the flesh, we will harvest, “corruption from the flesh” (vs. 8).
- We are not to be deceived, because “God is not mocked” (vs. 7).
- We sow to the flesh when we reject God and choose to satisfy our own desires.

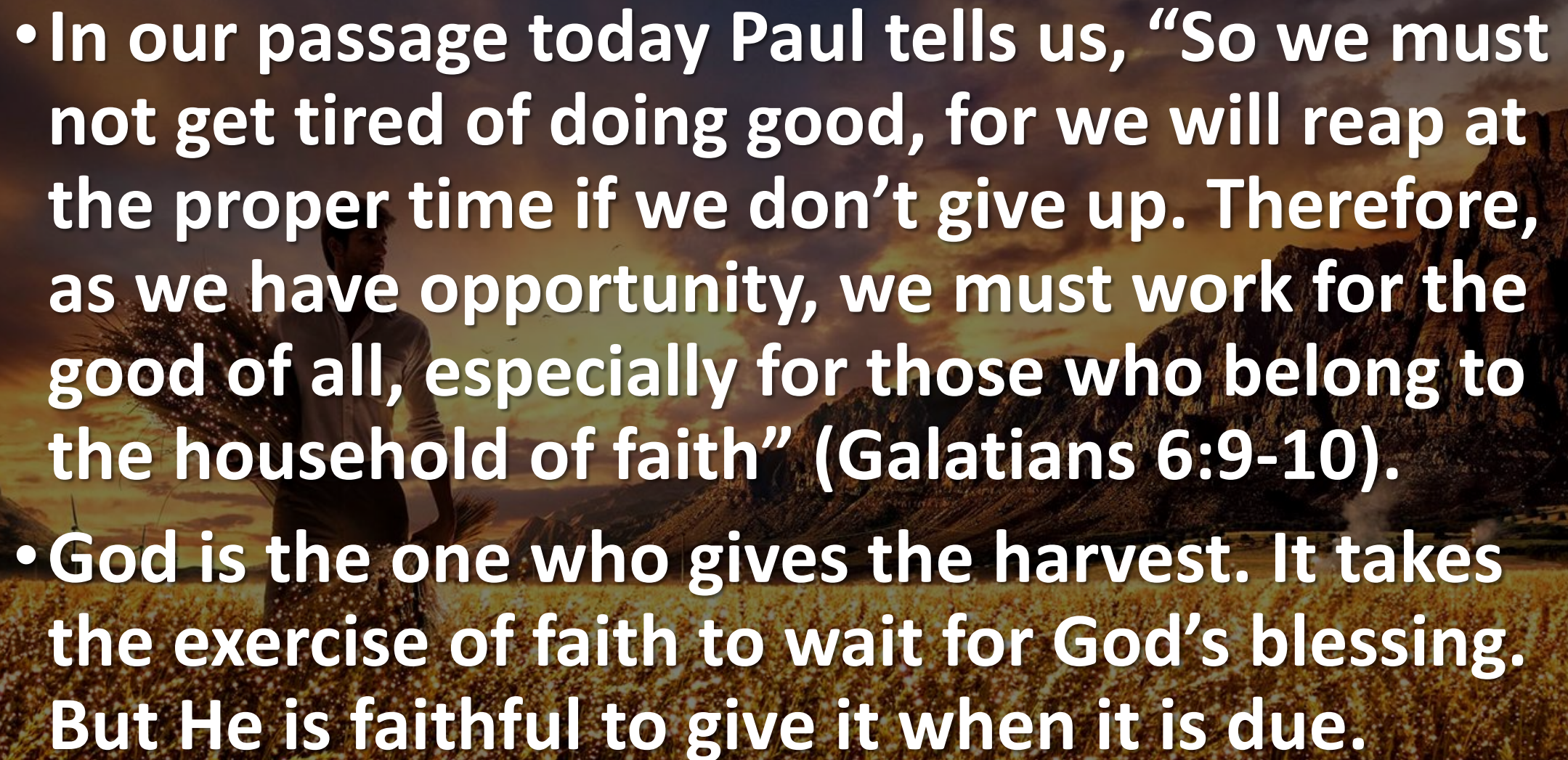
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- A person is seen from behind, standing in a field of tall, golden wheat. The sun is setting, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. In the background, there are dark, rugged mountains under a cloudy sky. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.
- A Christian's choice should be to sow to the Spirit by submitting to the Spirit's control. That requires a conscious effort to yield to Him in all of our life choices.
 - Paul reminds us in Galatians 5:16, "Walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." If the Spirit of God is in control of our lives, we will produce His fruit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).
 - We should look for that fruit in our lives as evidence that we are sowing to the Spirit.

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- While our passage speaks primarily about stewardship of resources, it applies to every part of our lives including our relationships.
 - If we sow to the Spirit, we will see others as God sees them. We will love them as He loves them.
 - We will touch their lives as He touches them. We will tell them the good news of Christ's offer of eternal life.
 - If we sow seed in those areas, we will reap a rewarding harvest.

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- We need to allow God's Spirit to teach us to think Christ's thoughts, speak His words, and act out His actions. It is the kind of life Paul talked about when he said, "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."
 - The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

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- In our passage today Paul tells us, “So we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don’t give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, we must work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith” (Galatians 6:9-10).
 - God is the one who gives the harvest. It takes the exercise of faith to wait for God’s blessing. But He is faithful to give it when it is due.

Closing

- Most of our homes would be more joyful and fulfilling places if we practiced restoration rather than ridicule. If we sow to the Spirit we will become selfless rather than selfish in all our relationships. If we think those in our relationships do not deserve our responding to them like Christ, remember we do not deserve Christ's response to us. The key in beginning to sow to the Spirit rather than to the flesh is the daily release of our lives to the Spirit's control. Decide today to sow where the harvest is "eternal life" (vs. 8).