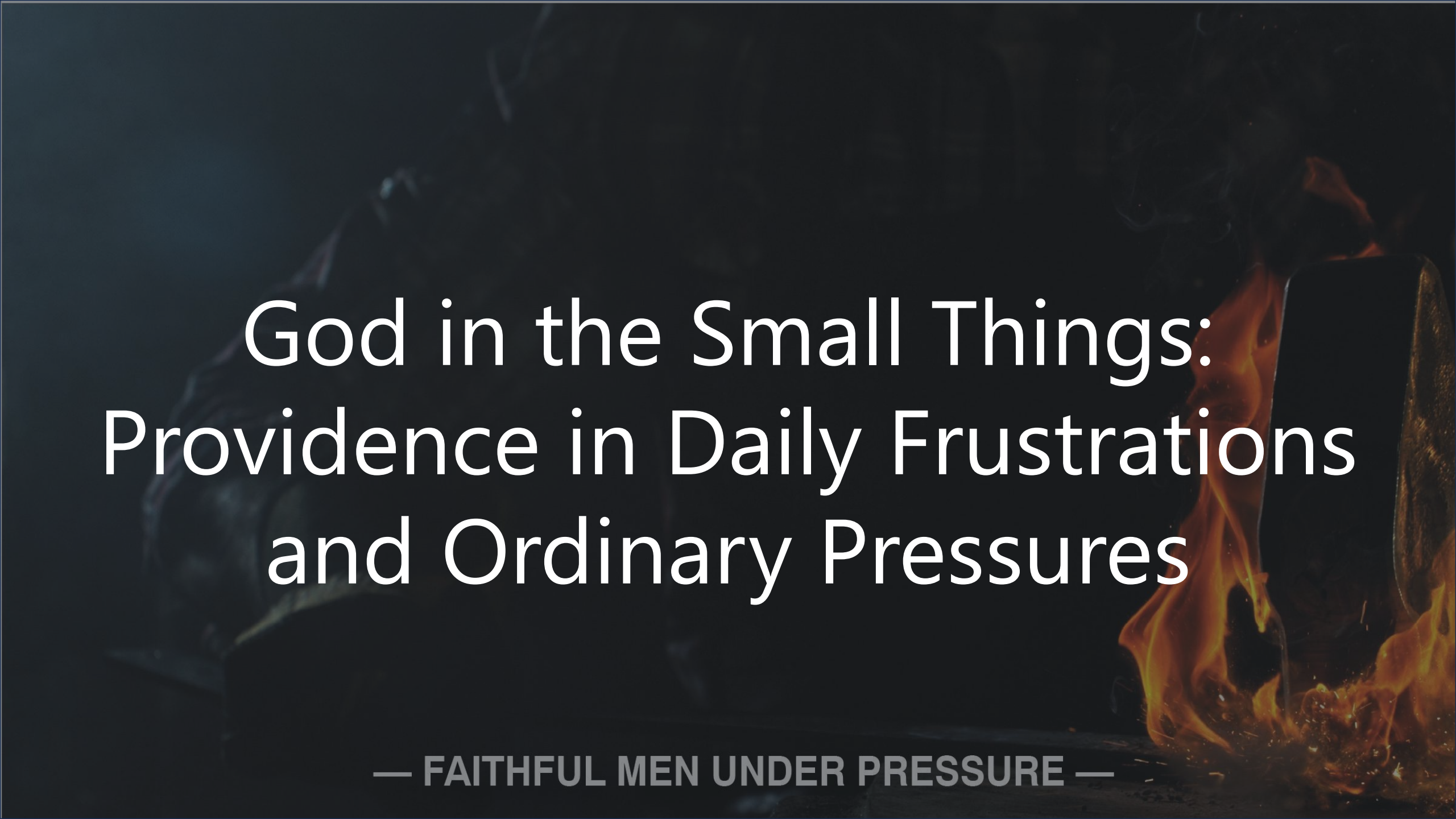




FAITHFUL MEN — UNDER PRESSURE

HOW GOD USES TRIALS, FRUSTRATIONS,
AND WEAKNESS TO FORM CHRISTLIKE MEN



God in the Small Things: Providence in Daily Frustrations and Ordinary Pressures

— FAITHFUL MEN UNDER PRESSURE —



I. No Frustration is Outside God's Wise Rule

No Frustration is Outside God's Wise Rule

- The topic covers everything from the minor frustrations that enter your mind but are never spoken to the critical pressures that we all face as men.

No Frustration is Outside God's Wise Rule

The mind of a person plans his way,
But the LORD directs his steps.

Proverbs 16:9

Many plans are in a person's heart,
But the counsel of the LORD will stand.

Proverbs 19:21



No Frustration is Outside God's Wise Rule

27

What is God's providence?

God's providence is *His most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing of all His creatures and all their actions, to His own glory.*

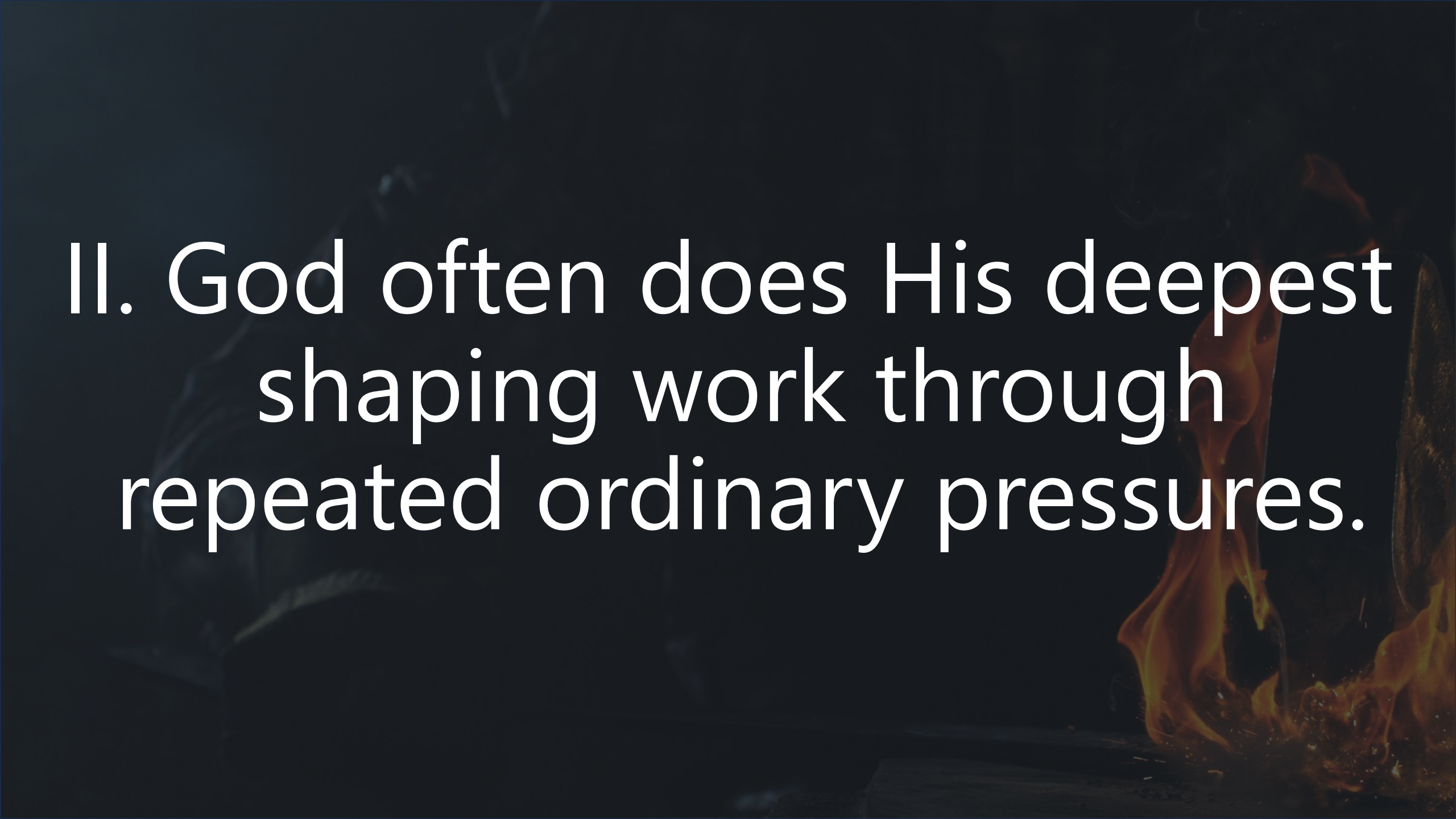
(Adapted from the Westminster Shorter and Larger catechisms, Qs. 11, 18)

Providence. Think of the word, provide. Providence concerns all that God provides for His creatures; their circumstances, sustenance, preservation, government, abilities, successes, failures, usefulness, etc.

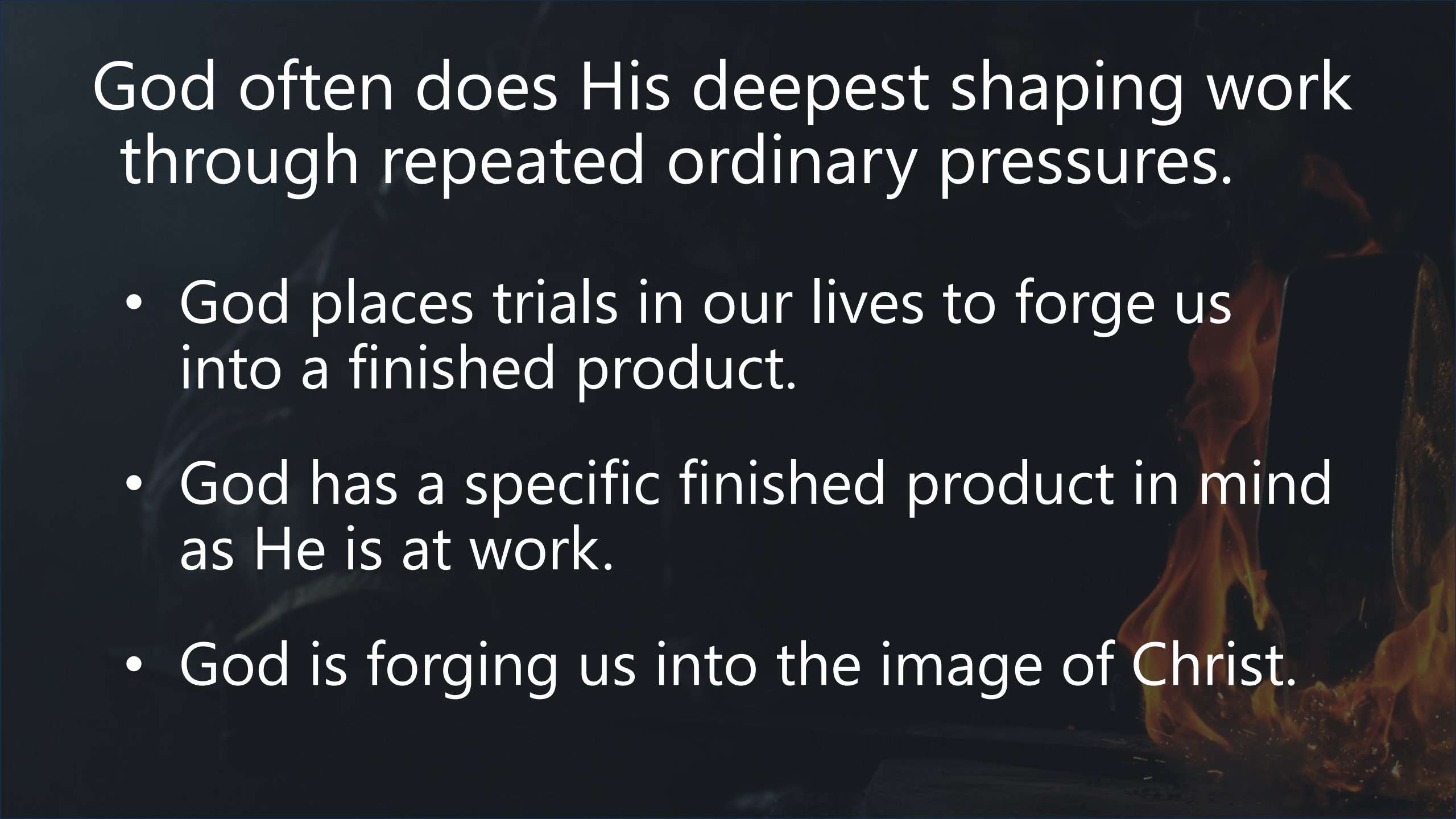
As Christians, we know that God is complete control of everything.

No Frustration is Outside God's Wise Rule

- God has a specific plan for my life.
 - How do we “feel” about God’s plan for us?
 - Do we resent God’s placement of trials in our lives?
 - We must turn away from distrust and place our thoughts upon what we “know” to be true about God.

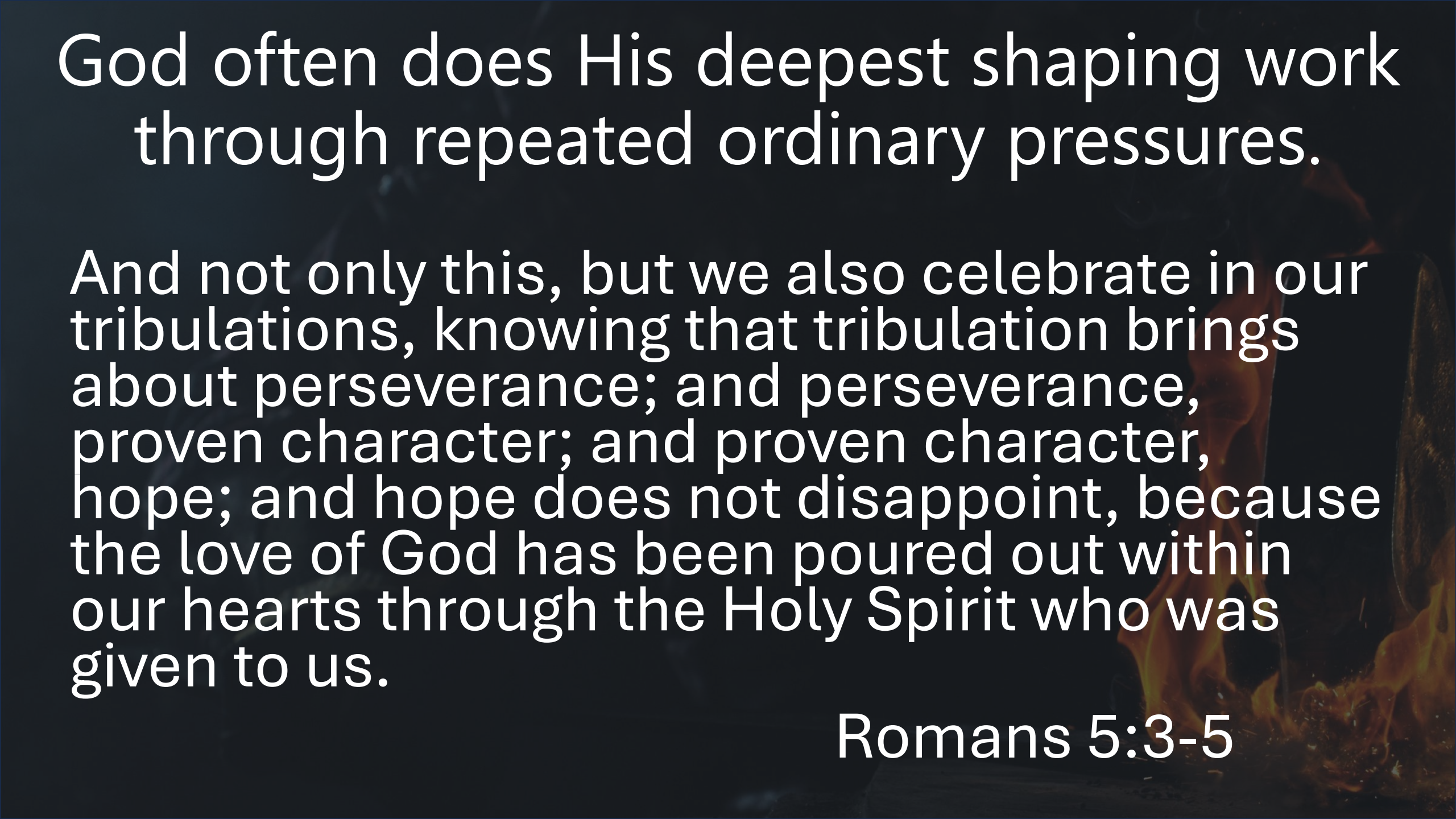


II. God often does His deepest
shaping work through
repeated ordinary pressures.



God often does His deepest shaping work through repeated ordinary pressures.

- God places trials in our lives to forge us into a finished product.
- God has a specific finished product in mind as He is at work.
- God is forging us into the image of Christ.



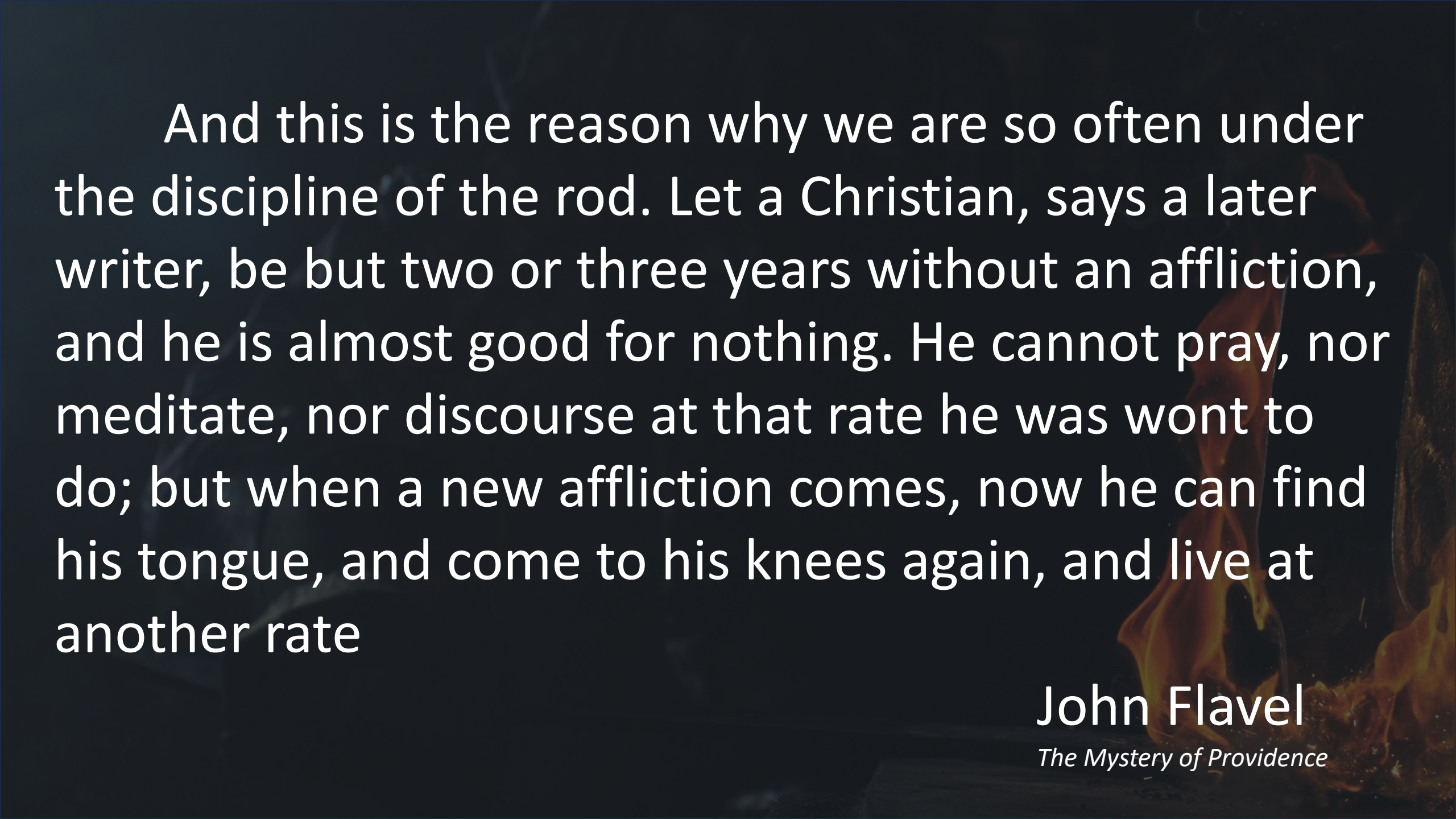
God often does His deepest shaping work
through repeated ordinary pressures.

And not only this, but we also celebrate in our
tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings
about perseverance; and perseverance,
proven character; and proven character,
hope; and hope does not disappoint, because
the love of God has been poured out within
our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was
given to us.

Romans 5:3-5







And this is the reason why we are so often under the discipline of the rod. Let a Christian, says a later writer, be but two or three years without an affliction, and he is almost good for nothing. He cannot pray, nor meditate, nor discourse at that rate he was wont to do; but when a new affliction comes, now he can find his tongue, and come to his knees again, and live at another rate

John Flavel

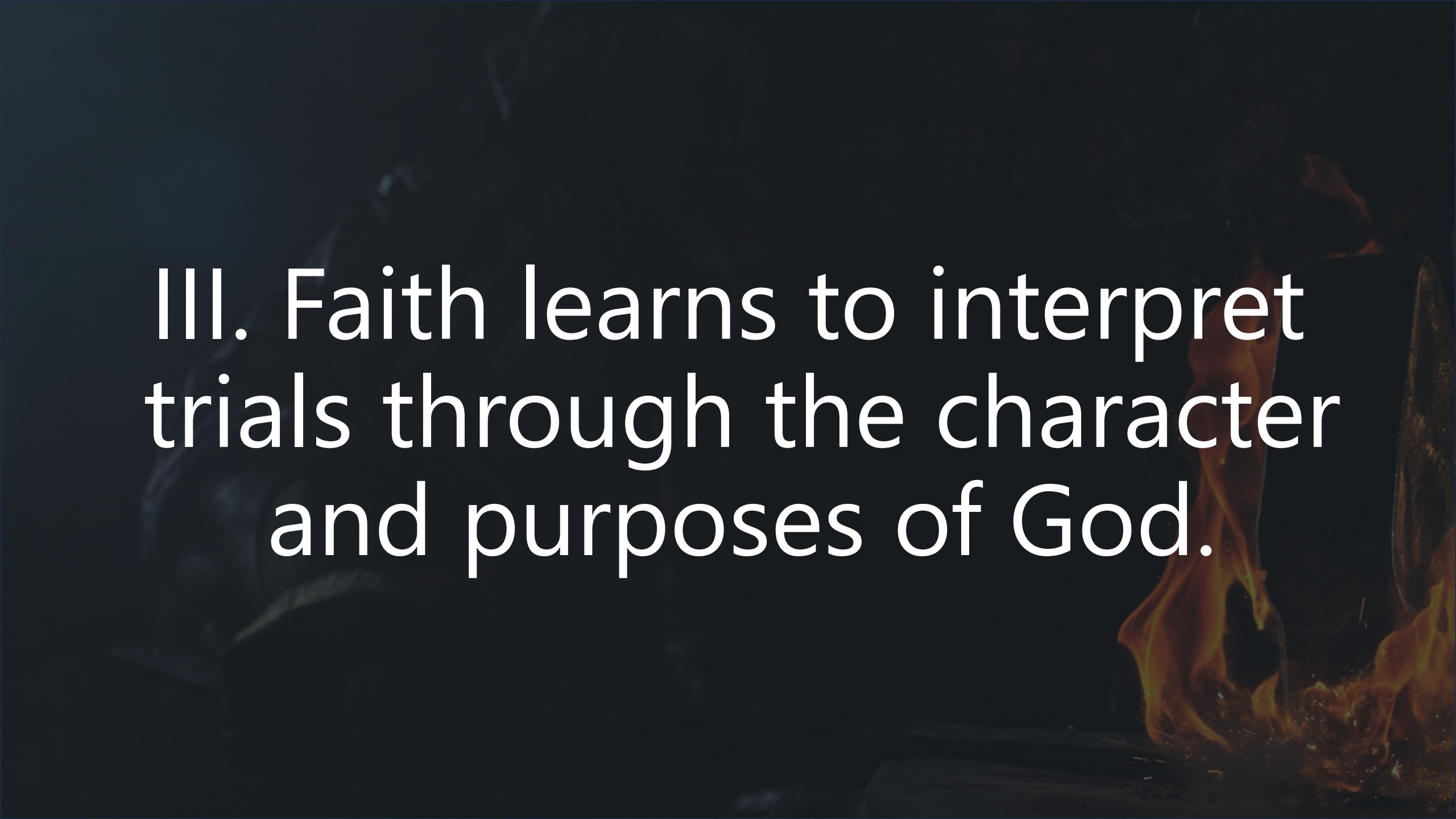
The Mystery of Providence

God often does His deepest shaping work through repeated ordinary pressures.

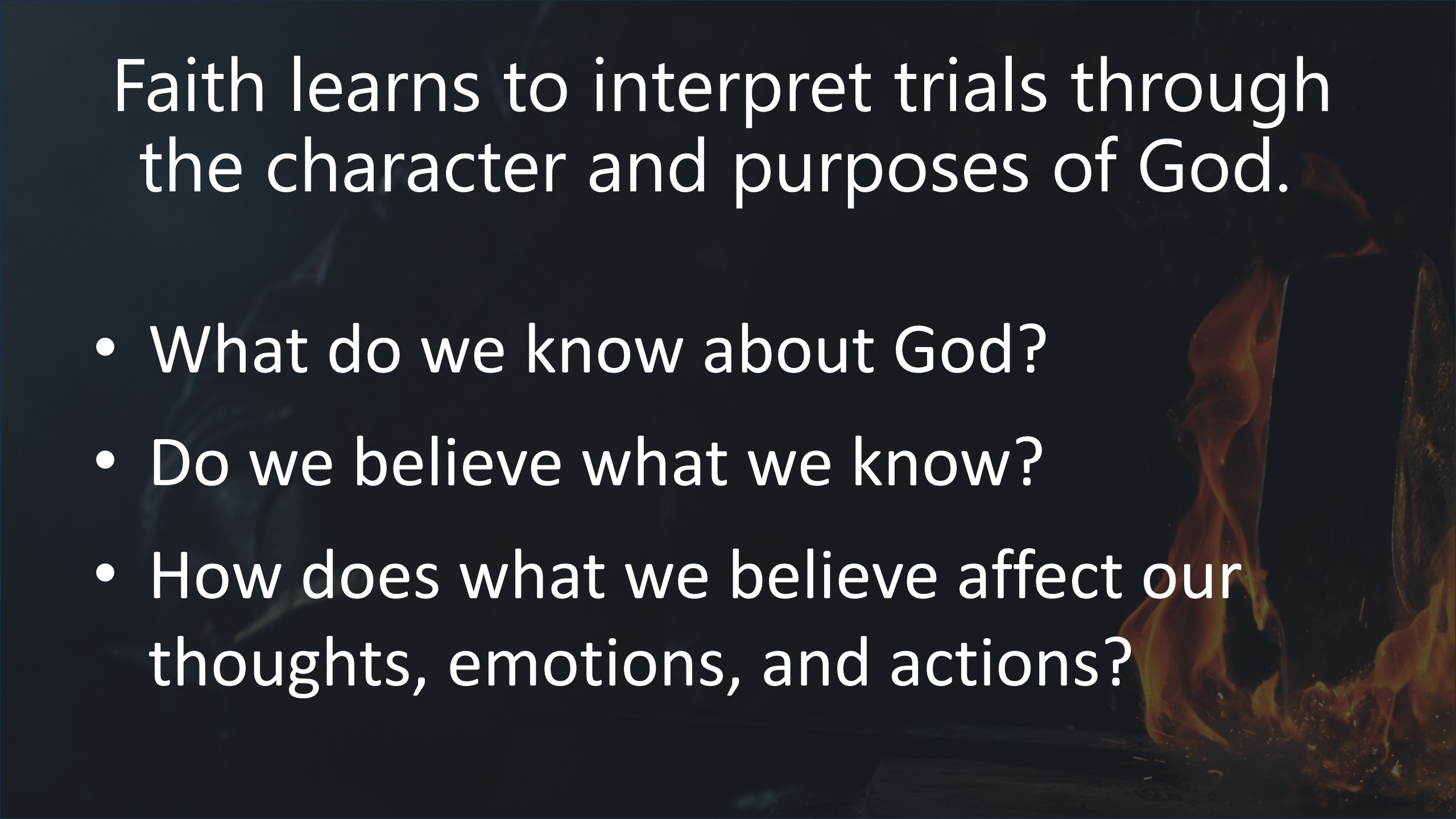
The Craftsman's Tools:

- People
- Events
- Delays
- Unmet Expectations



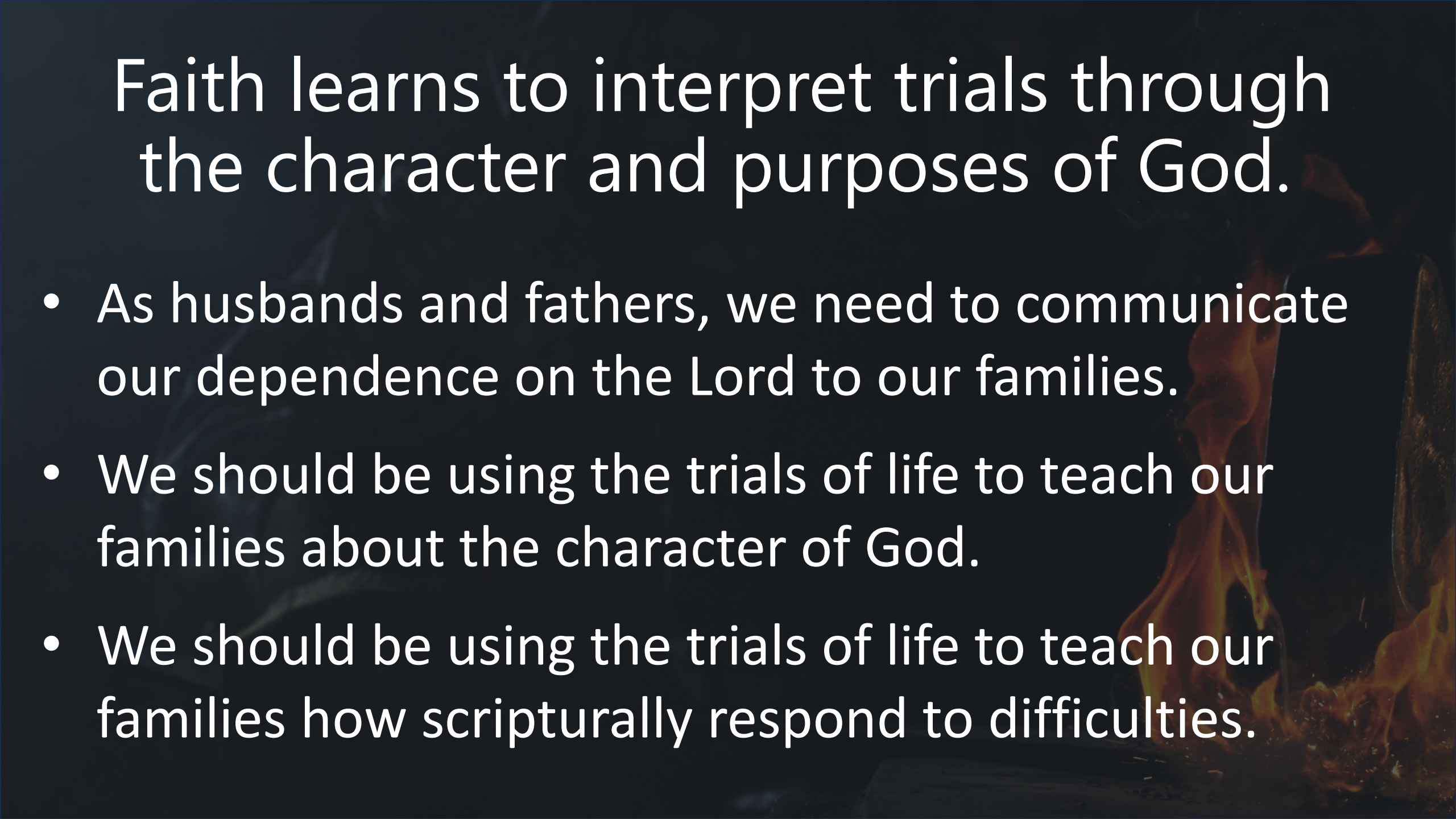


III. Faith learns to interpret
trials through the character
and purposes of God.

A dark, textured background with a vertical streak of fire on the right side, extending from the bottom towards the top. The fire is bright orange and yellow, contrasting with the dark background.

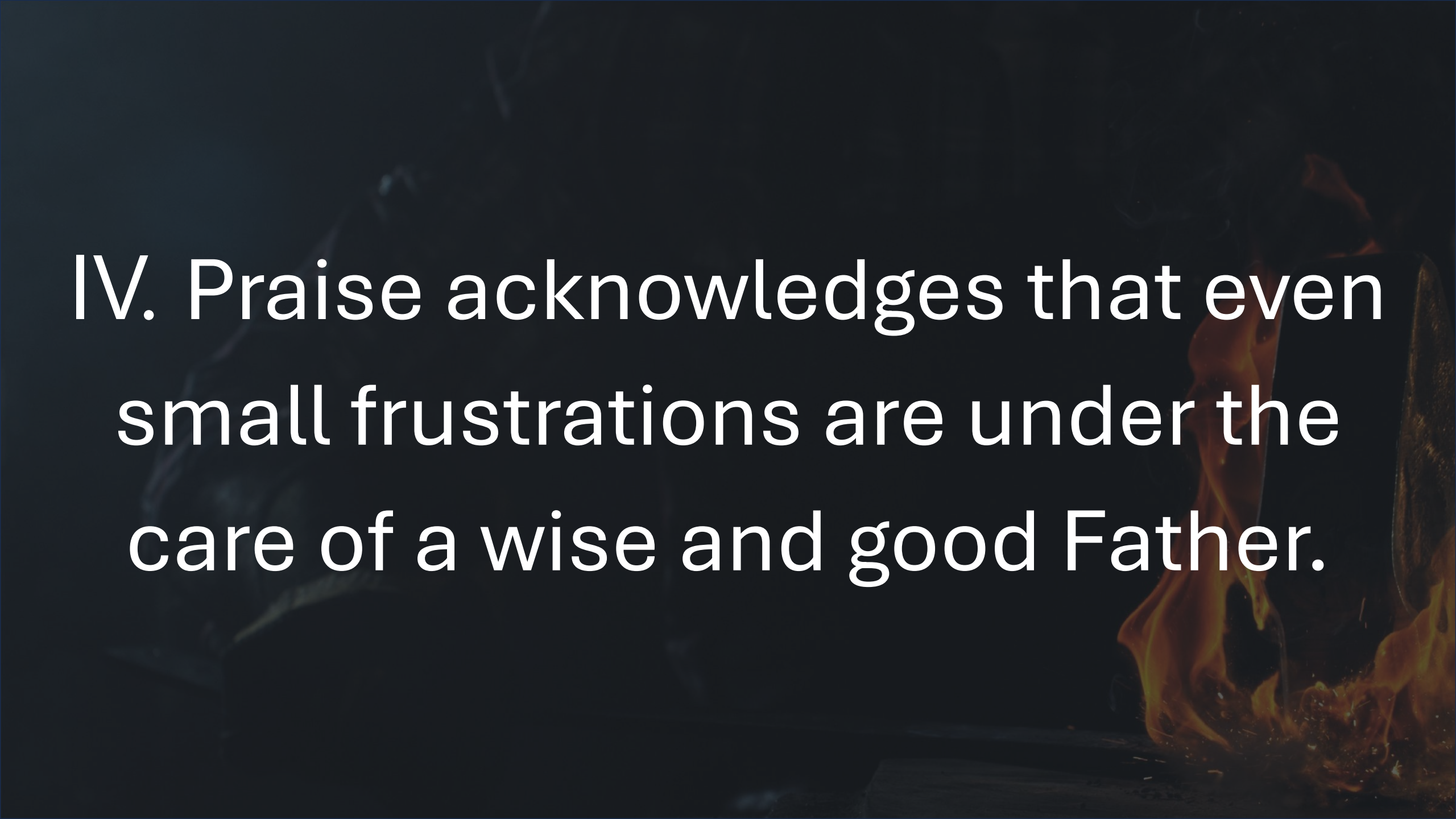
Faith learns to interpret trials through the character and purposes of God.

- What do we know about God?
- Do we believe what we know?
- How does what we believe affect our thoughts, emotions, and actions?



Faith learns to interpret trials through the character and purposes of God.

- As husbands and fathers, we need to communicate our dependence on the Lord to our families.
- We should be using the trials of life to teach our families about the character of God.
- We should be using the trials of life to teach our families how scripturally respond to difficulties.

The background is dark and atmospheric, featuring a fire on the right side. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with flames rising from a dark base. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

IV. Praise acknowledges that even
small frustrations are under the
care of a wise and good Father.

Praise acknowledges that even small frustrations are under the care of a wise and good Father.

- Trials and difficulties in life drive us to seek our refuge in the Lord.
- When we learn to find our refuge in the Lord, then we will find true peace and joy.

This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him,
And saved him out of all his troubles.

Psalm 34:6

I sought the LORD and He answered me,
And rescued me from all my fears.

Psalm 34:4

I waited patiently for the LORD;
And He inclined to me and heard my cry.

But certainly God has heard;

Psalm 40:1

He has given heed to the voice of my prayer.

Psalm 66:19

In the day of my trouble I shall call upon You,
For You will answer me.

Psalm 86:7

Praise acknowledges that even small frustrations are under the care of a wise and good Father.

- We need to be vocal about what the Lord did for us.
- We should be recounting to our families and holding fast to the memories of God's deliverance.
- We should be eager to praise God for the work he is doing in our lives.

Psalm 57:9-10

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among
the peoples; I will sing praises to you
among the nations.

For your steadfast love is great to the
heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

Praise acknowledges that no frustration is insignificant to God. Because our heavenly Father is wise, good, and attentive to every detail of our lives, we can thank Him even in small inconveniences, trusting that He is working through them for our growth and His glory.

