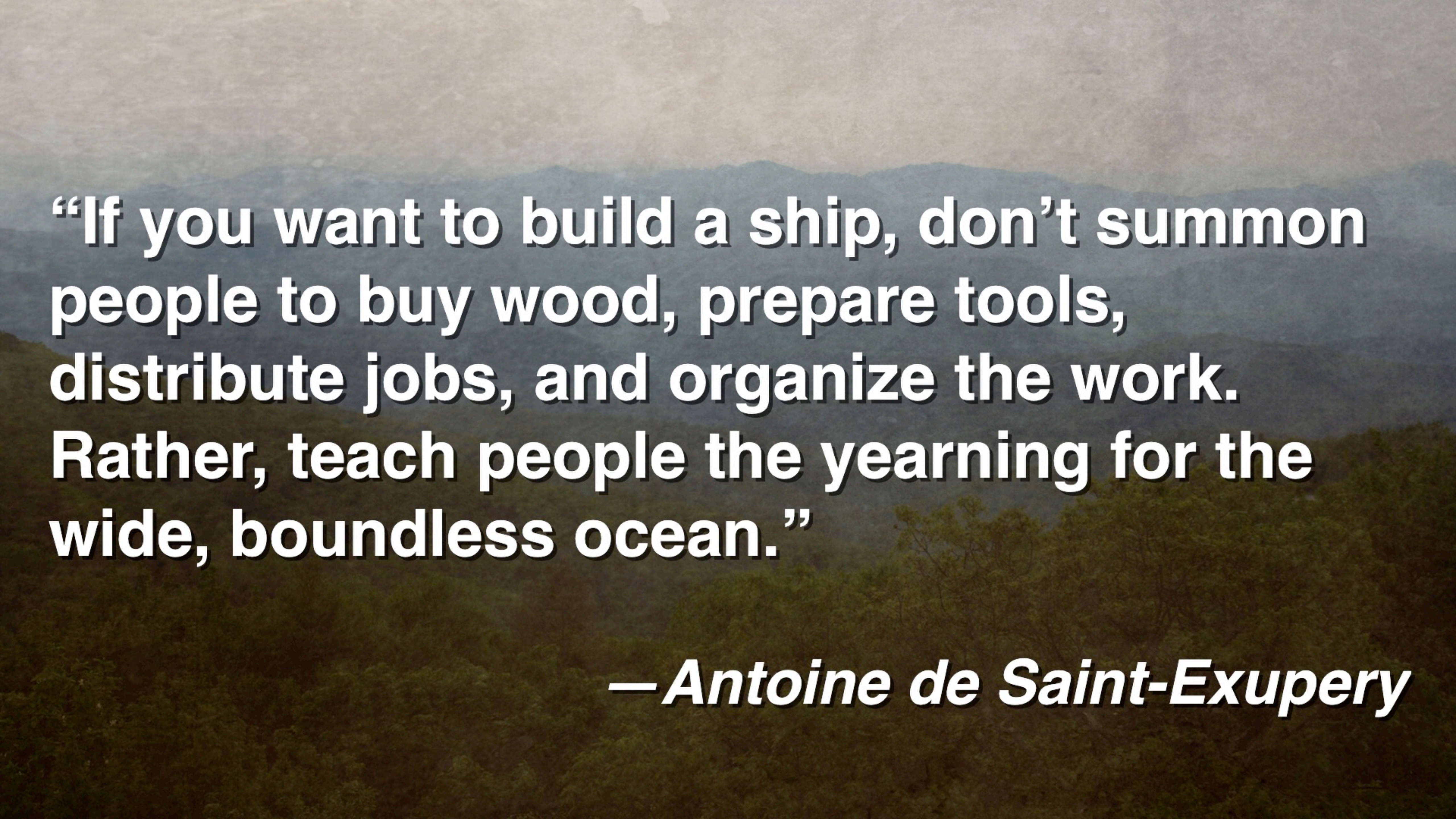


"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8

Acts 1:8—Called to Explore

- **Jerusalem:** where Jesus has placed you to present Him.
- **Judea and Samaria:** the unexpected places where scattered disciples live intentionally in response to the Gospel.
- **End of the earth:** wherever Jesus sends us when we cease and say, “Let the will of the Lord be done.”



“If you want to build a ship, don’t summon people to buy wood, prepare tools, distribute jobs, and organize the work. Rather, teach people the yearning for the wide, boundless ocean.”

—Antoine de Saint-Exupery

“A proper hearing of the Abraham-Sarah texts depends upon the vitality of the metaphor of barrenness...”

**— *Walter Brueggemann*
*Genesis***

“A proper hearing of the Abraham-Sarah texts depends upon the vitality of the metaphor of barrenness. It announces that this family begins its life in a situation of irreparable hopelessness.”

**— *Walter Brueggemann*
*Genesis***

“But barrenness is not only the condition of hopeless humanity. The marvel of biblical faith is that barrenness is the arena of God’s life-giving action.”

**— *Walter Brueggemann*
*Genesis***



Genesis 12:1-3

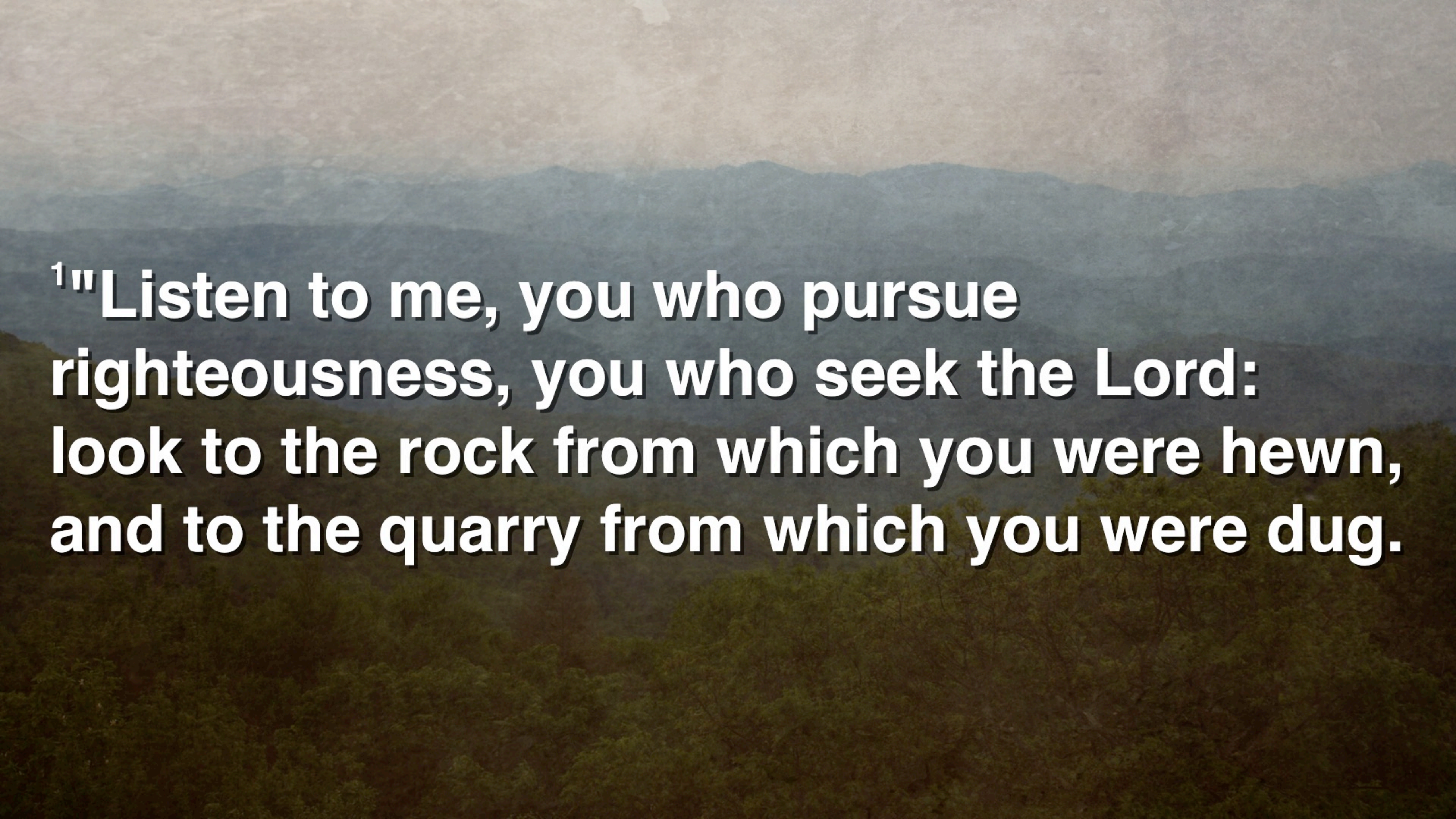
“I” in reference to God 5x

“Three nuances of blessing—prosperity (Gen. 13:2), fertility (Gen. 1:22), victory (Gen. 1:28): Blessing brings the power for life, the enhancement of life, and the increase of life.”

—*Bruce Waltke*

A landscape photograph showing a vast expanse of rolling hills and mountains. The foreground is filled with dense, dark green trees. The middle ground and background consist of layers of hills and mountains that become increasingly hazy and blue as they recede into the distance. The sky is a pale, overcast grey. The overall mood is serene and expansive.

Abraham believes God in the face of barrenness.

A scenic landscape featuring rolling hills and mountains in the distance, with a dense forest of green trees in the foreground. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The text is overlaid on the middle of the image.

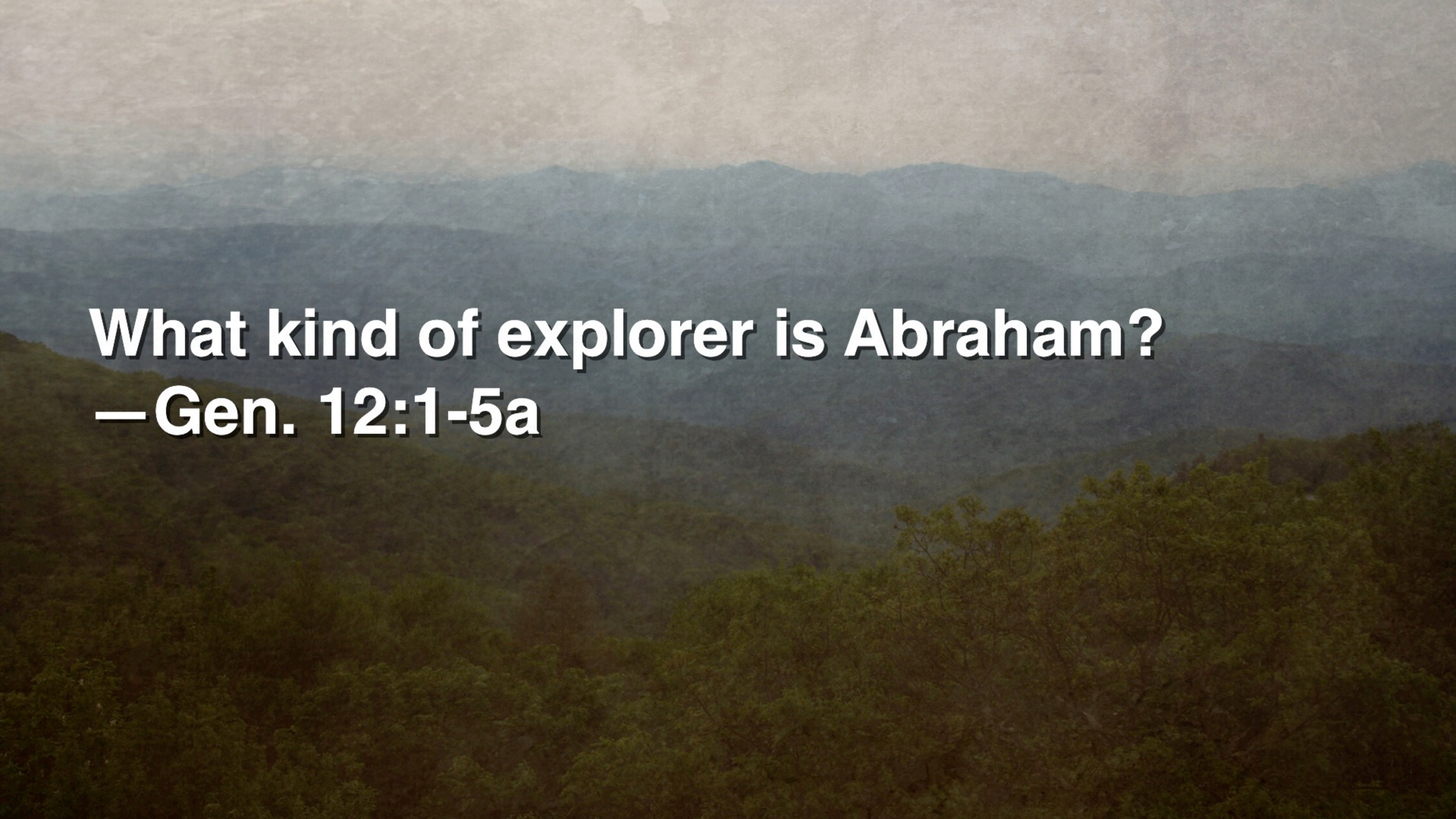
**¹"Listen to me, you who pursue
righteousness, you who seek the Lord:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.**

²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him."

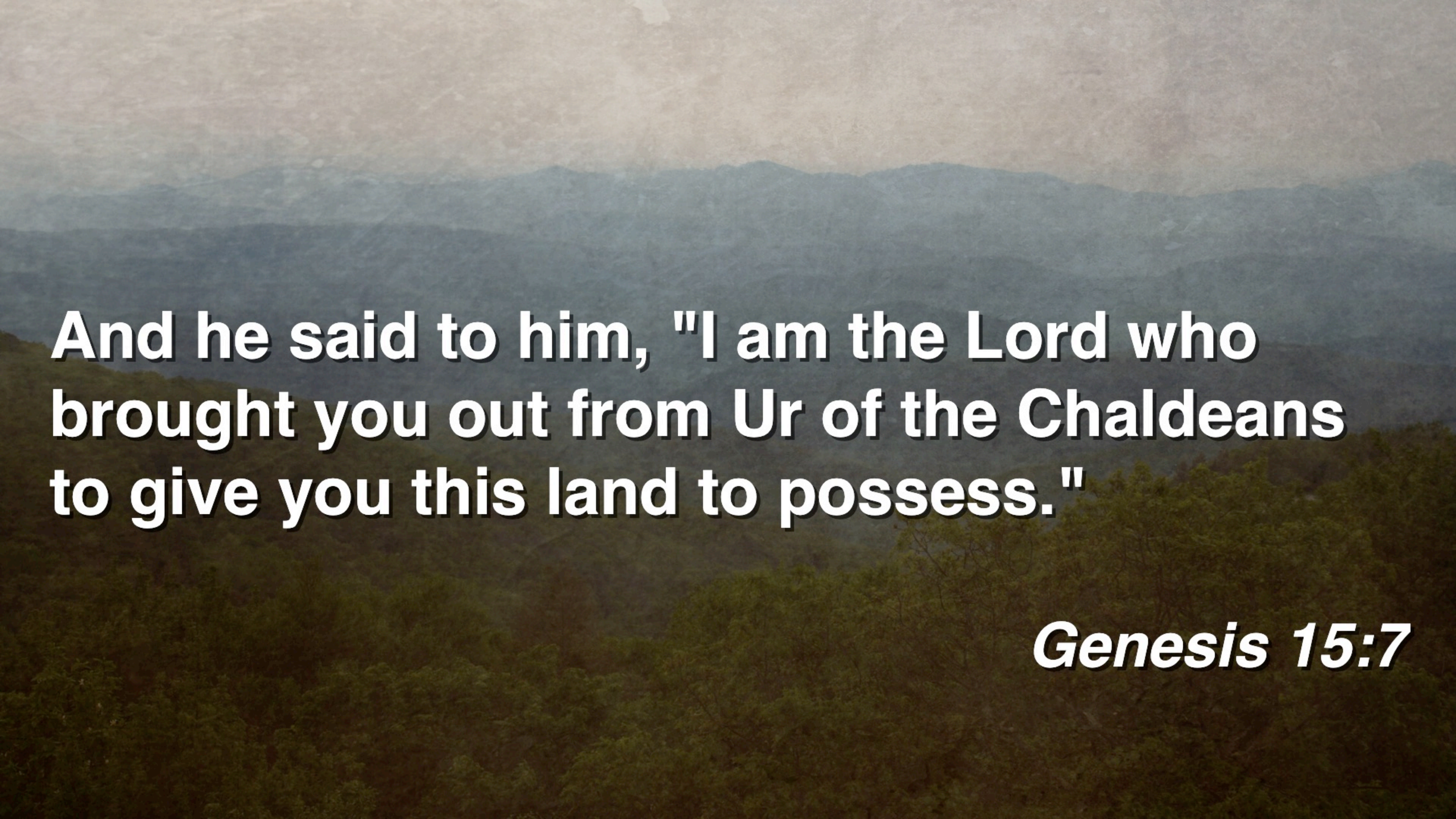
Isaiah 51:1-2

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Hebrews 11:8



What kind of explorer is Abraham?
—Gen. 12:1-5a

A landscape photograph showing a range of mountains in the background under a hazy sky, with a dense forest of green trees in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image.

And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."

Genesis 15:7

²And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, ³and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.'

⁴Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living."

Acts 7:2-4

A scenic landscape featuring rolling hills and mountains under a hazy, overcast sky. The foreground is filled with dense green foliage, while the background shows layers of blue-toned mountains receding into the distance.

What kind of explorer is Abraham?

—Gen. 12:1-5a

I. Delayed


II. Guarded

What kind of explorer am I?

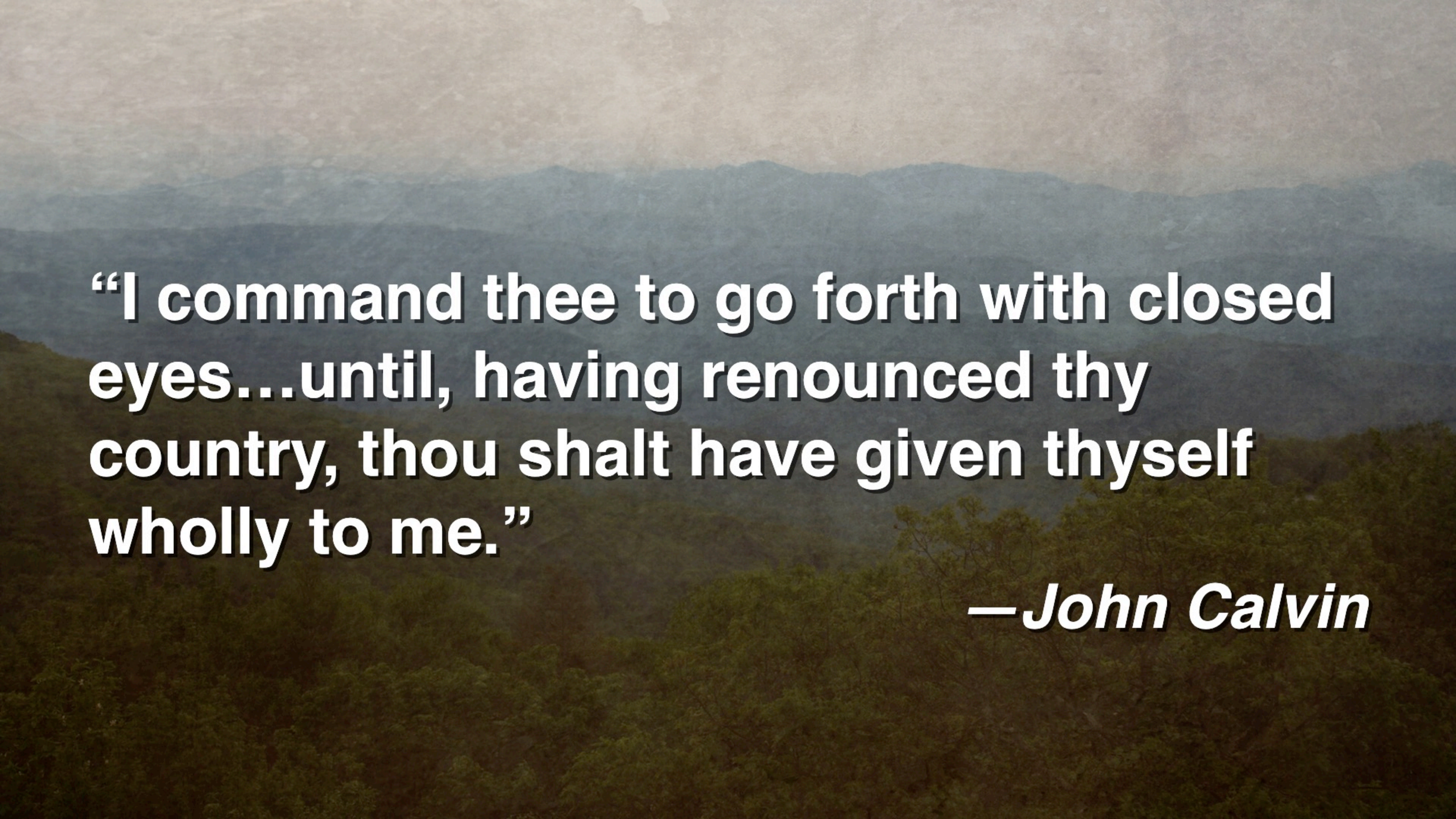
- **Where do you know God has asked you to go, and yet you have not gone?**
- **What do you know God has asked you to do, and yet you have not done?**

What kind of explorer am I?

- **Where do you know God has asked you to go, and yet you have not gone?**
- **What do you know God has asked you to do, and yet you have not done?**
 - **What is preventing you from going or doing?**

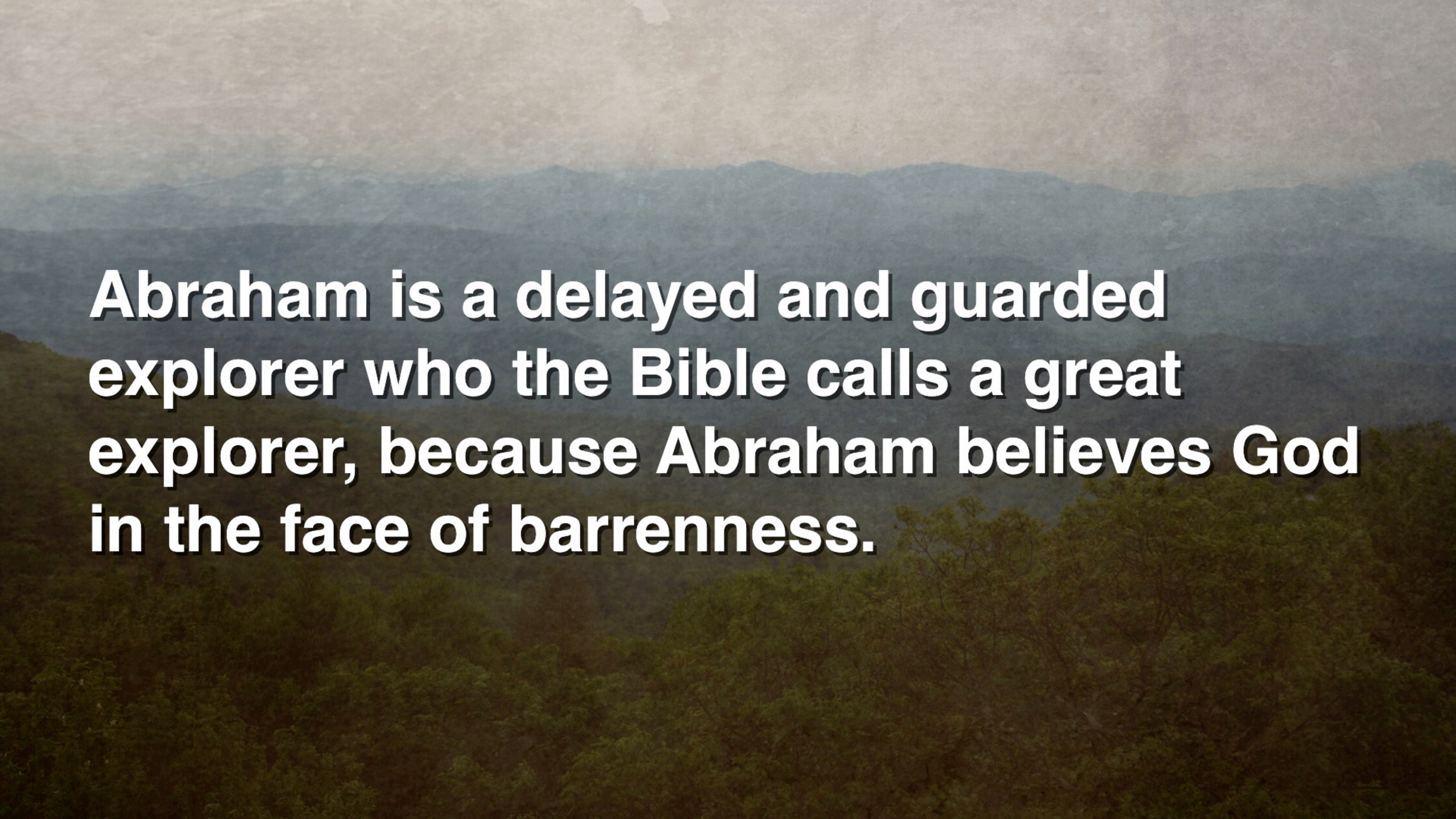


wcchapel.org/next40



“I command thee to go forth with closed eyes...until, having renounced thy country, thou shalt have given thyself wholly to me.”

—*John Calvin*



Abraham is a delayed and guarded explorer who the Bible calls a great explorer, because Abraham believes God in the face of barrenness.