JOSHUA
Making Good Decisions
Joshua 9:1-21

Don’t Confuse Convincing Evidence With God’s Direction

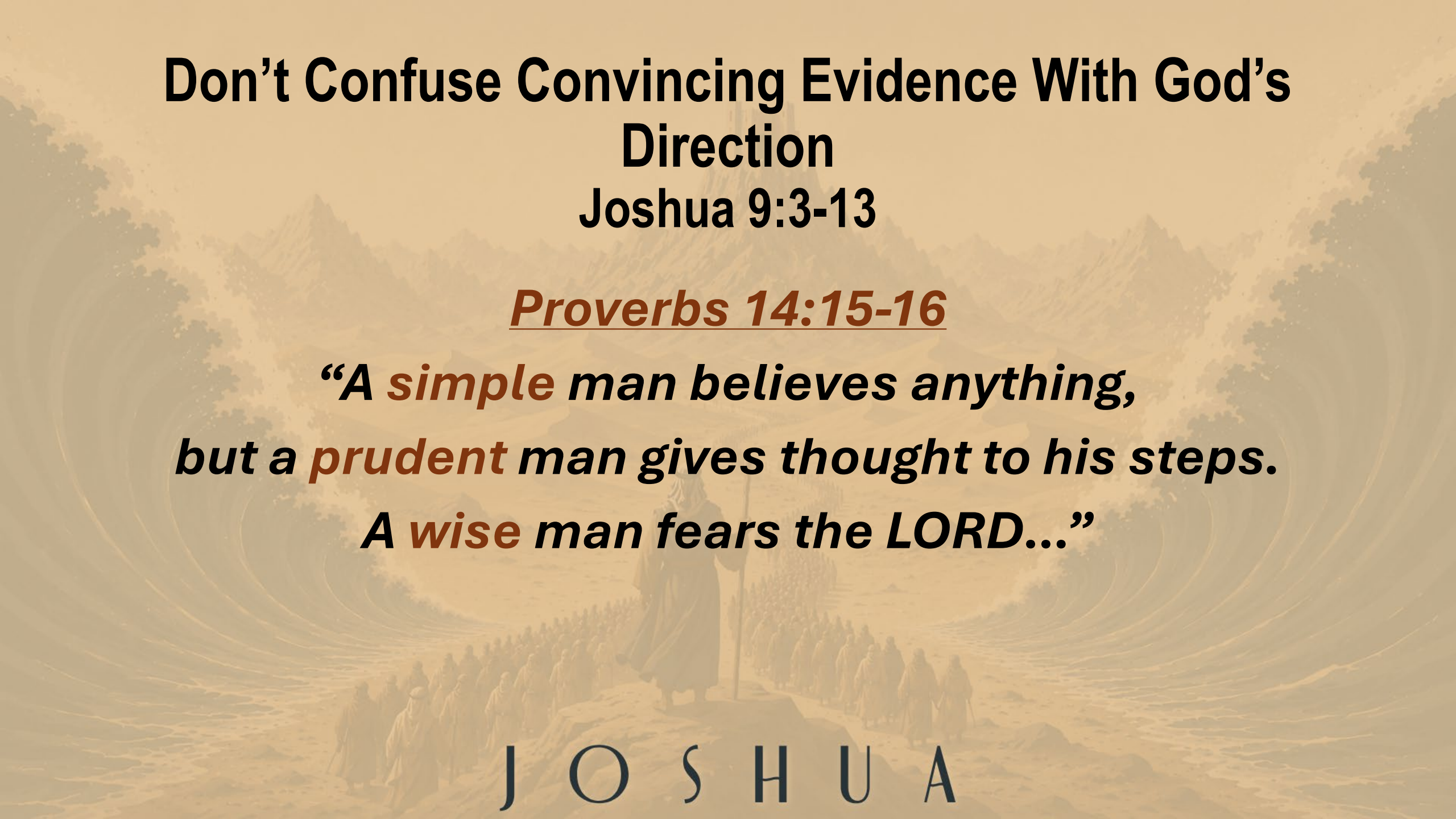
Joshua 9:3-13

Proverbs 14:15-16

“A simple man believes anything,

but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.

A wise man fears the LORD…”

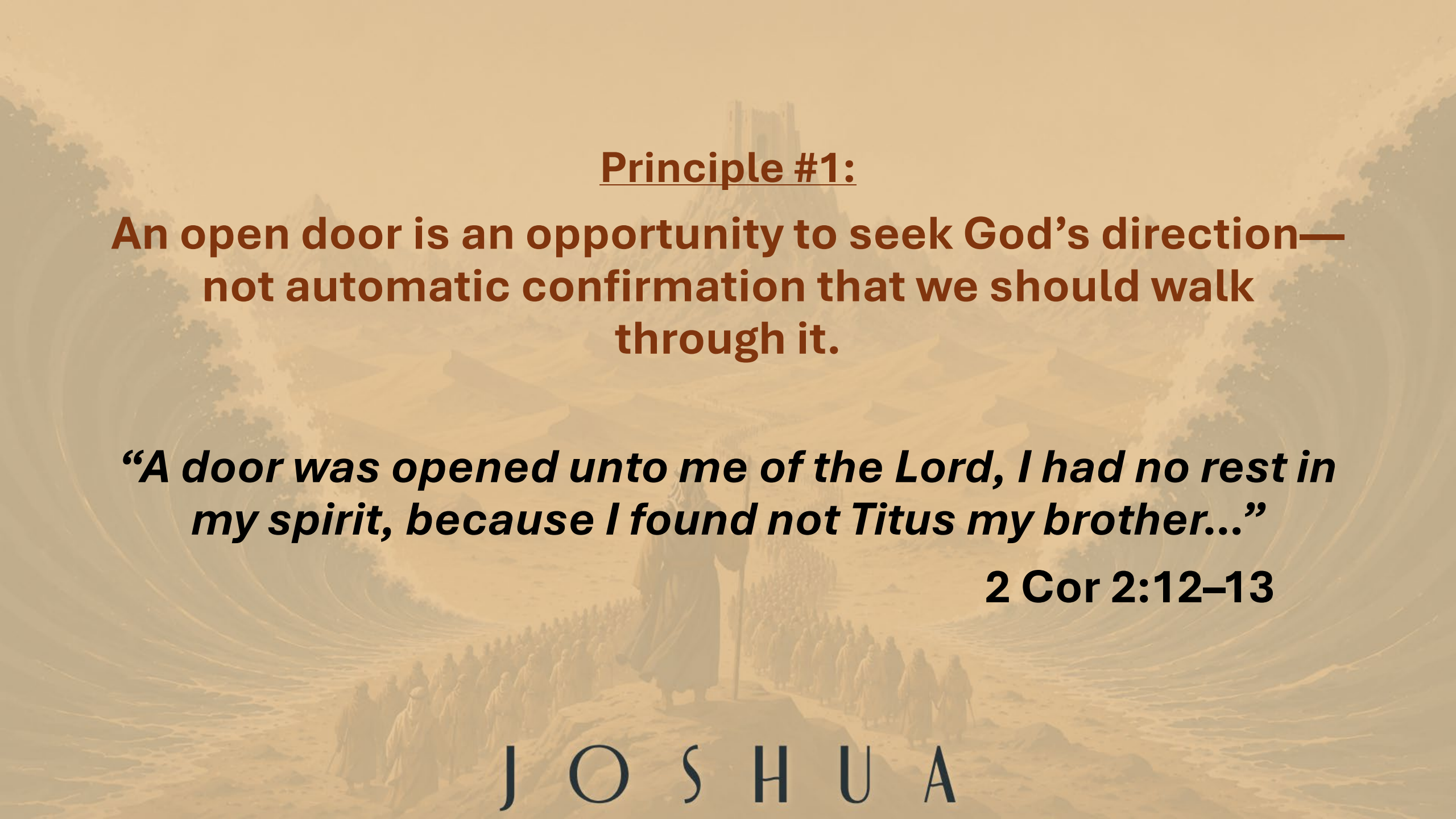


Principle #1:

An open door is an opportunity to seek God's direction—not automatic confirmation that we should walk through it.

"A door was opened unto me of the Lord, I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother..."

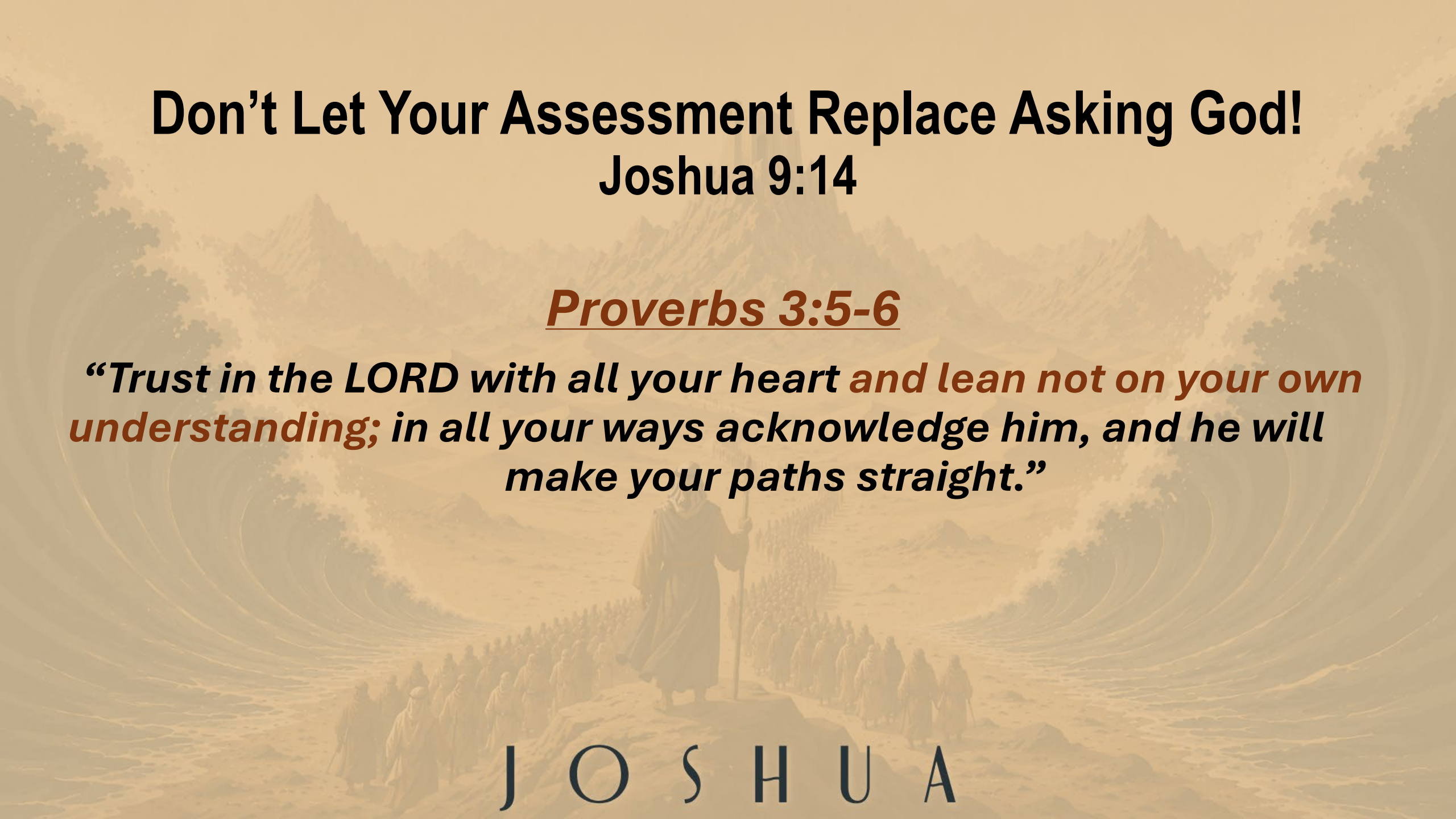
2 Cor 2:12–13



Don’t Let Your Assessment Replace Asking God!
Joshua 9:14

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

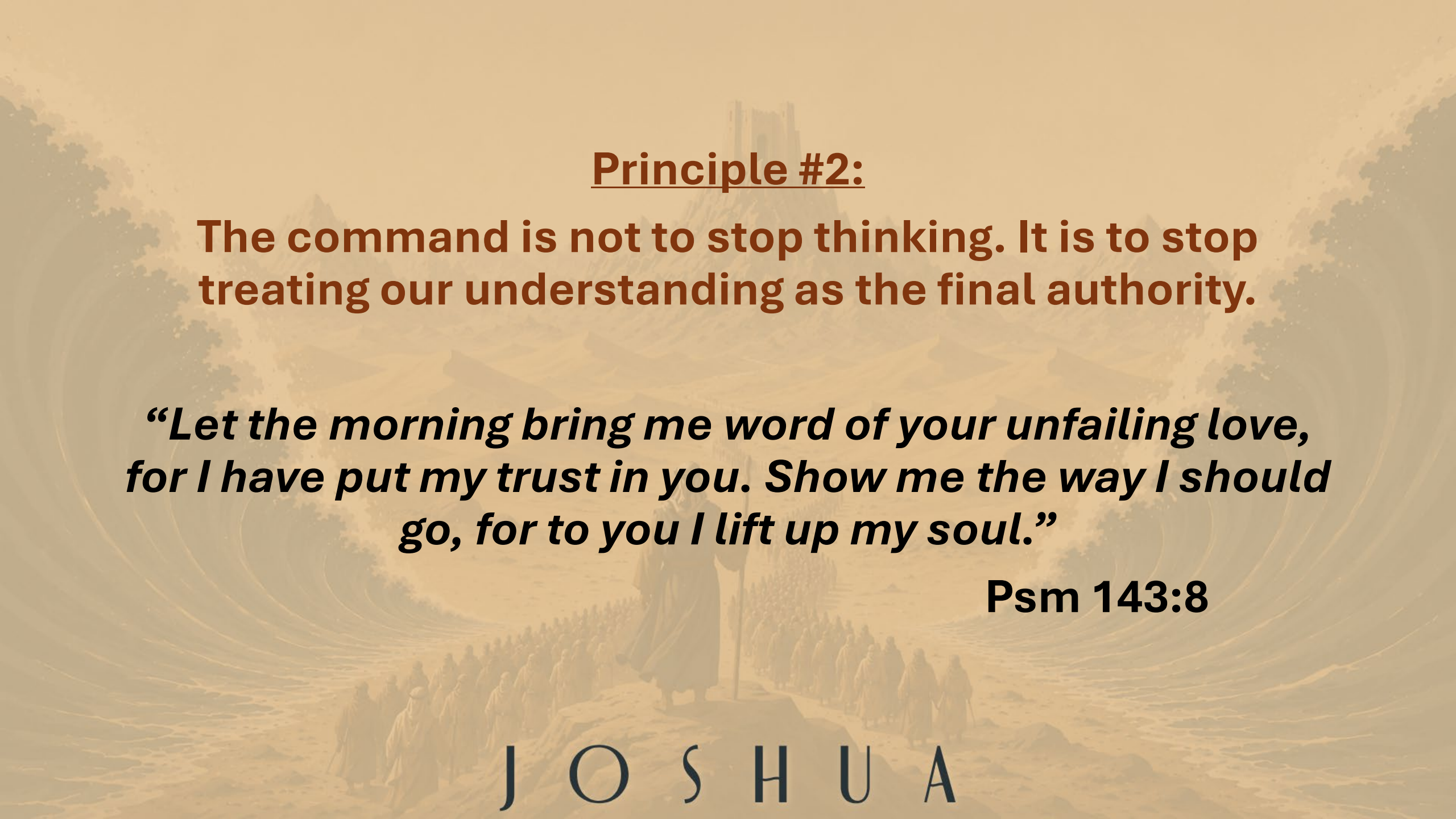


Principle #2:

The command is not to stop thinking. It is to stop treating our understanding as the final authority.

"Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul."

Psm 143:8



Remember Today's Decisions Create Tomorrows Obligations

Joshua 9:16

Consequences

- ***The Gibeonites became a permanent presence in Israel, and contributed to Idolatry and intermarriage***
- ***Israel had to fight to defend the people who had deceived them***
- ***The decision created trouble in the community: Leaders vs people***
- ***The decision ultimately led to judgment: Saul and famine***

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Principle #3:

A decision made without seeking God can create obligations that outlive the people who made it!

"During the reign of David, there was a famine for three successive years; so David sought the face of the LORD. The LORD said, "It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death."

2 Sam 21:1

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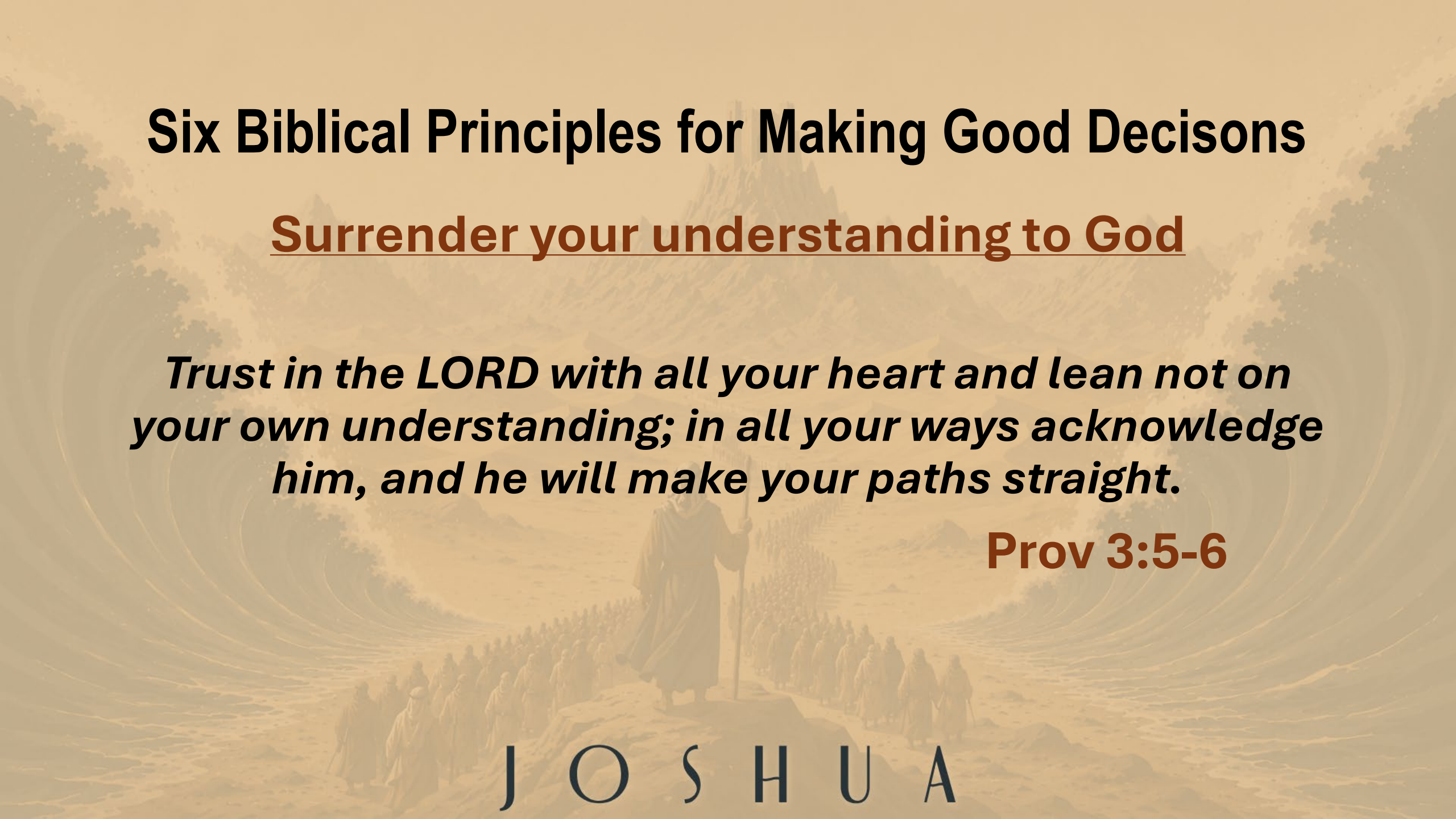
Six Biblical Principles for Making Good Decisons

Surrender your understanding to God

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Prov 3:5-6

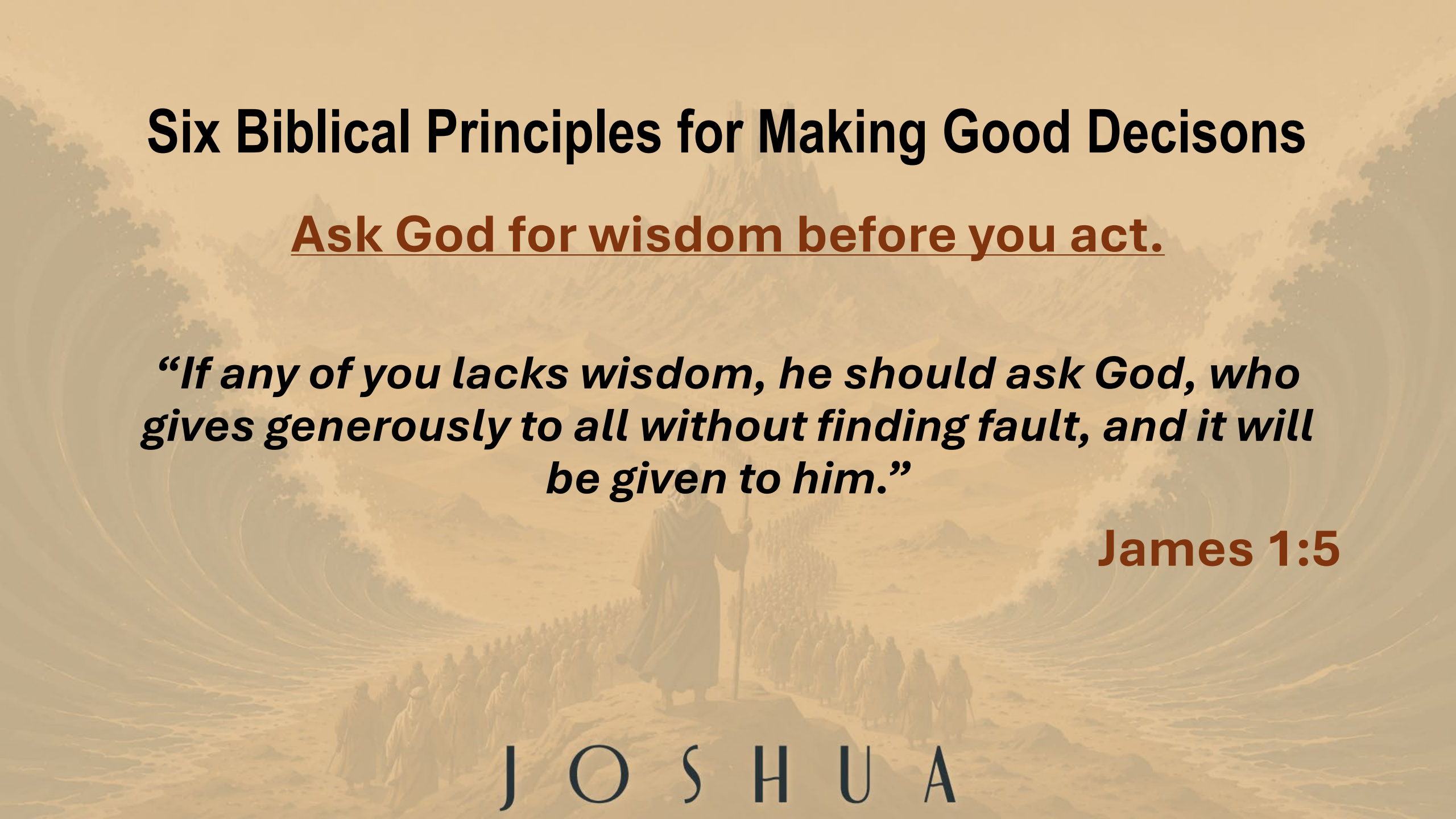


Six Biblical Principles for Making Good Decisons

Ask God for wisdom before you act.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

James 1:5

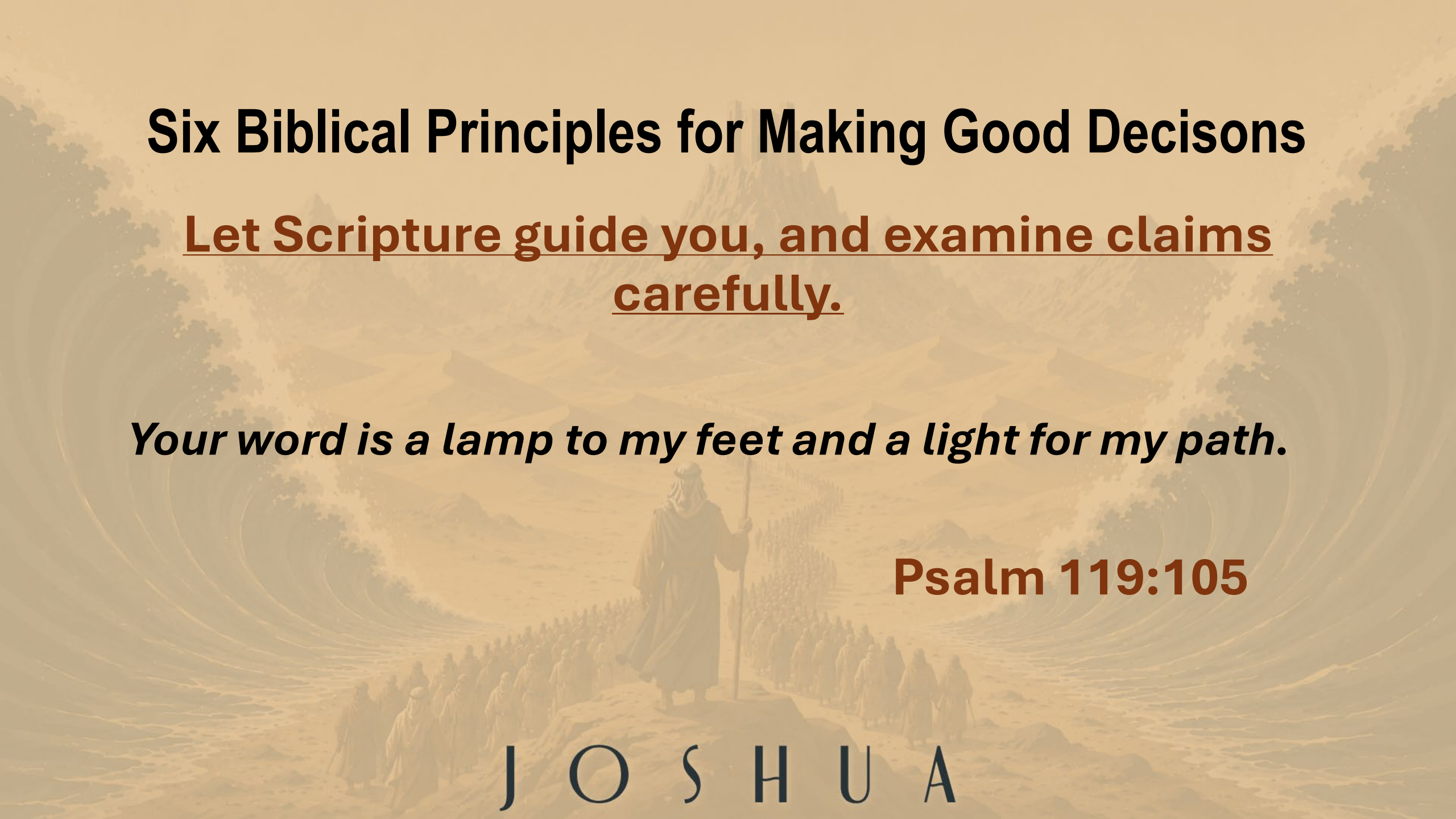


Six Biblical Principles for Making Good Decisons

Let Scripture guide you, and examine claims carefully.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:105

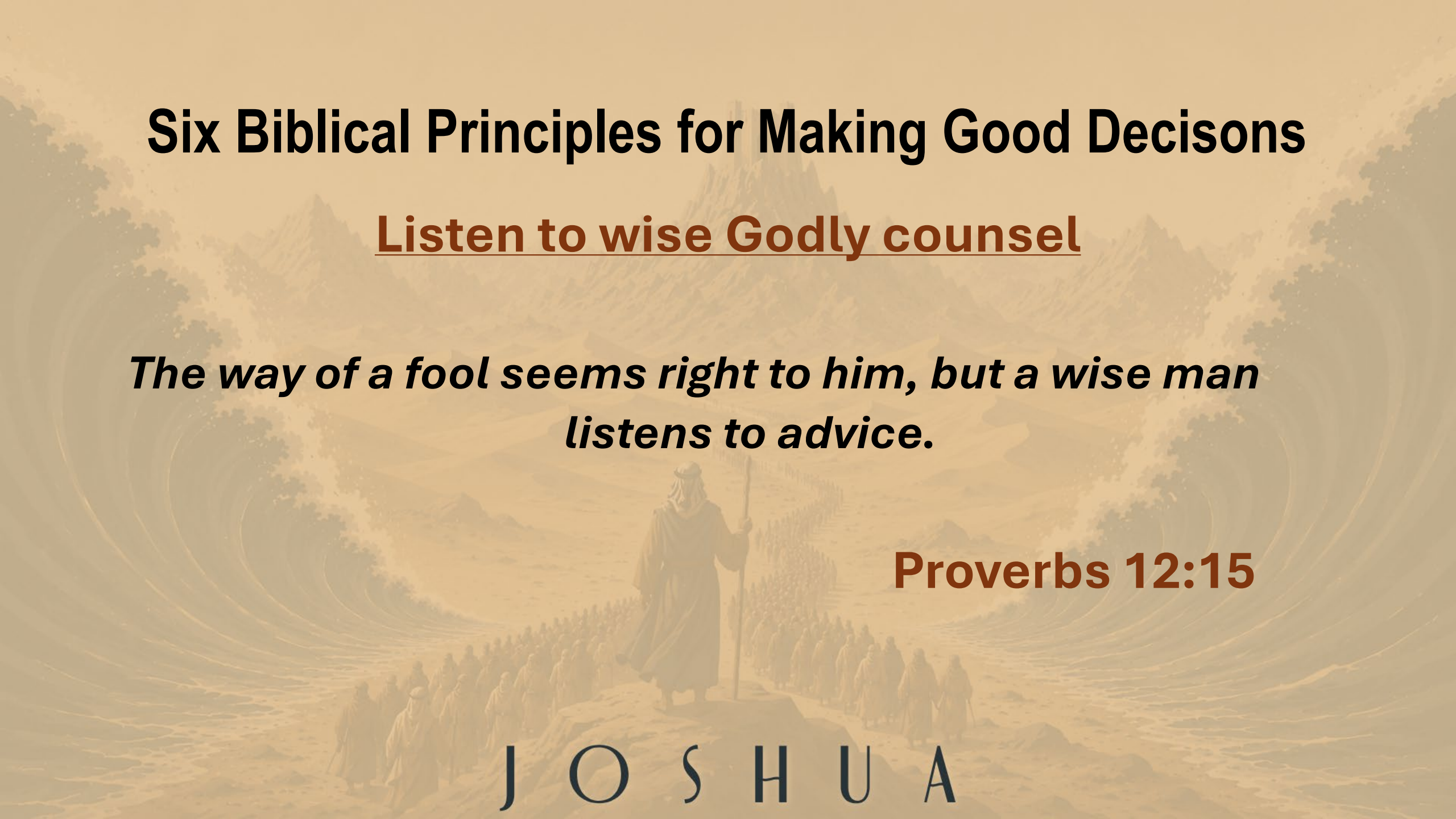


Six Biblical Principles for Making Good Decisons

Listen to wise Godly counsel

The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

Proverbs 12:15

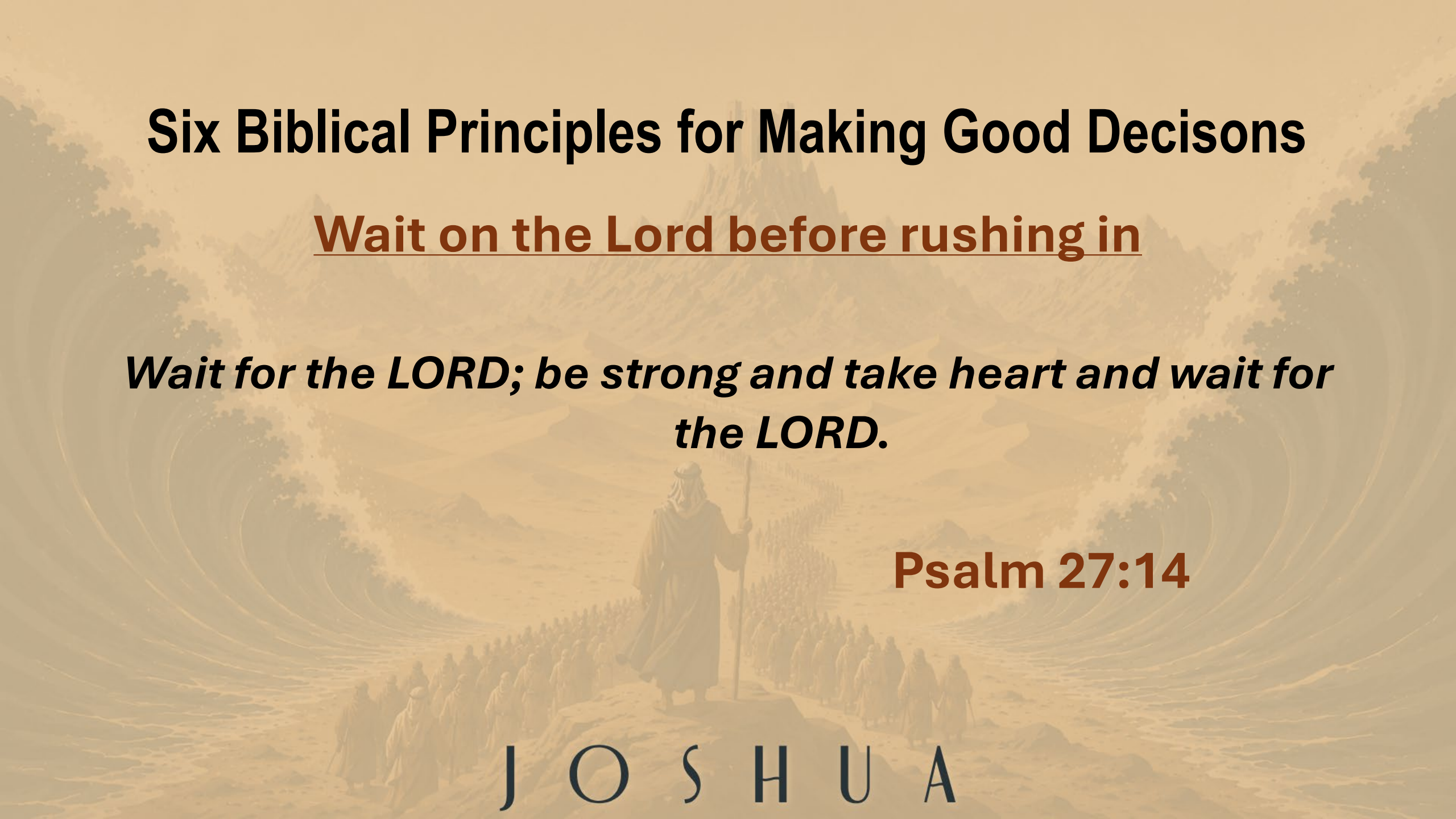


Six Biblical Principles for Making Good Decisons

Wait on the Lord before rushing in

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Psalm 27:14



Six Biblical Principles for Making Good Decisons

Remember that seeming right does not make something right

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 14:12

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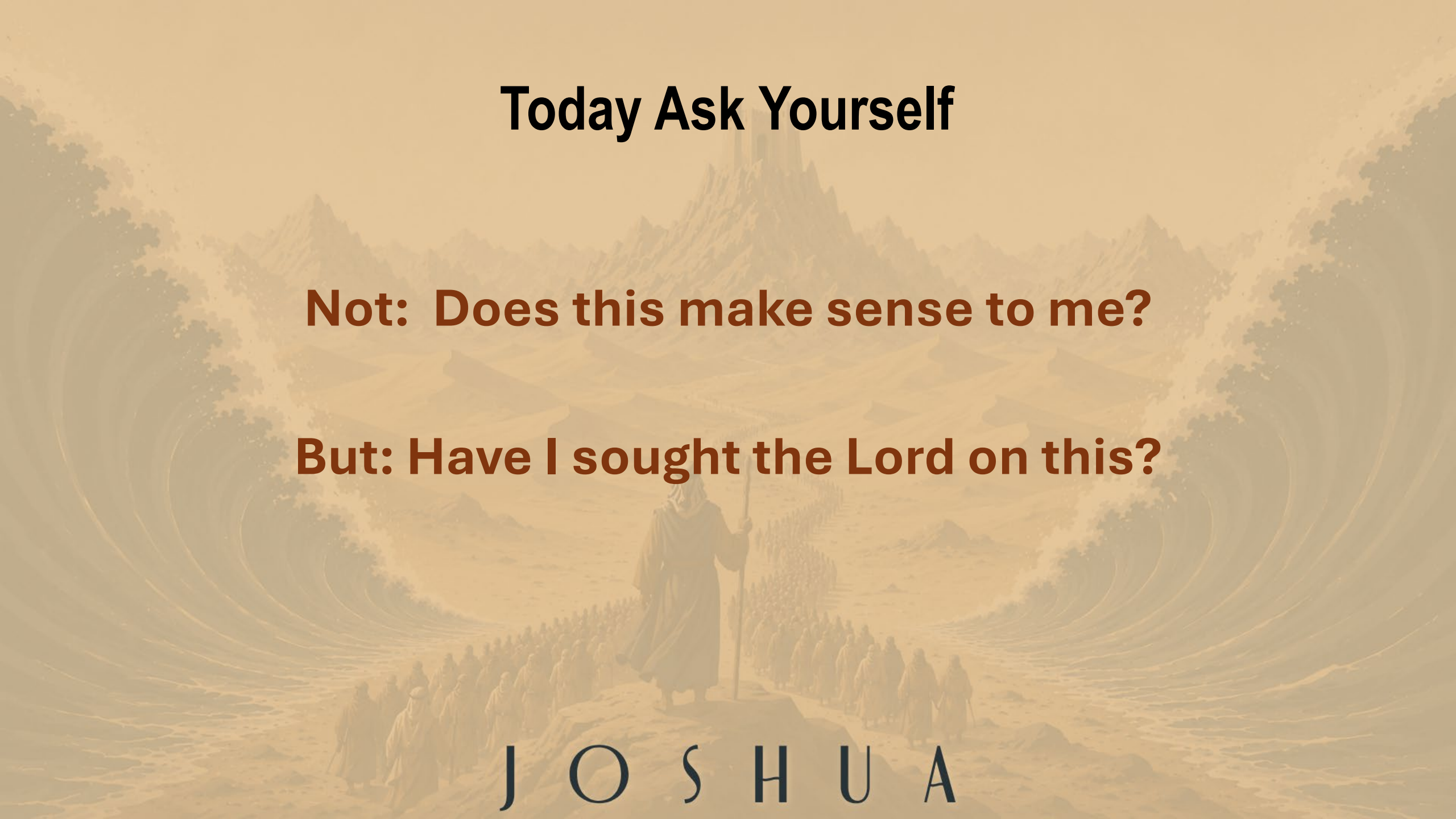
Today Ask Yourself

Not: Does this make sense to me?

But: Have I sought the Lord on this?