

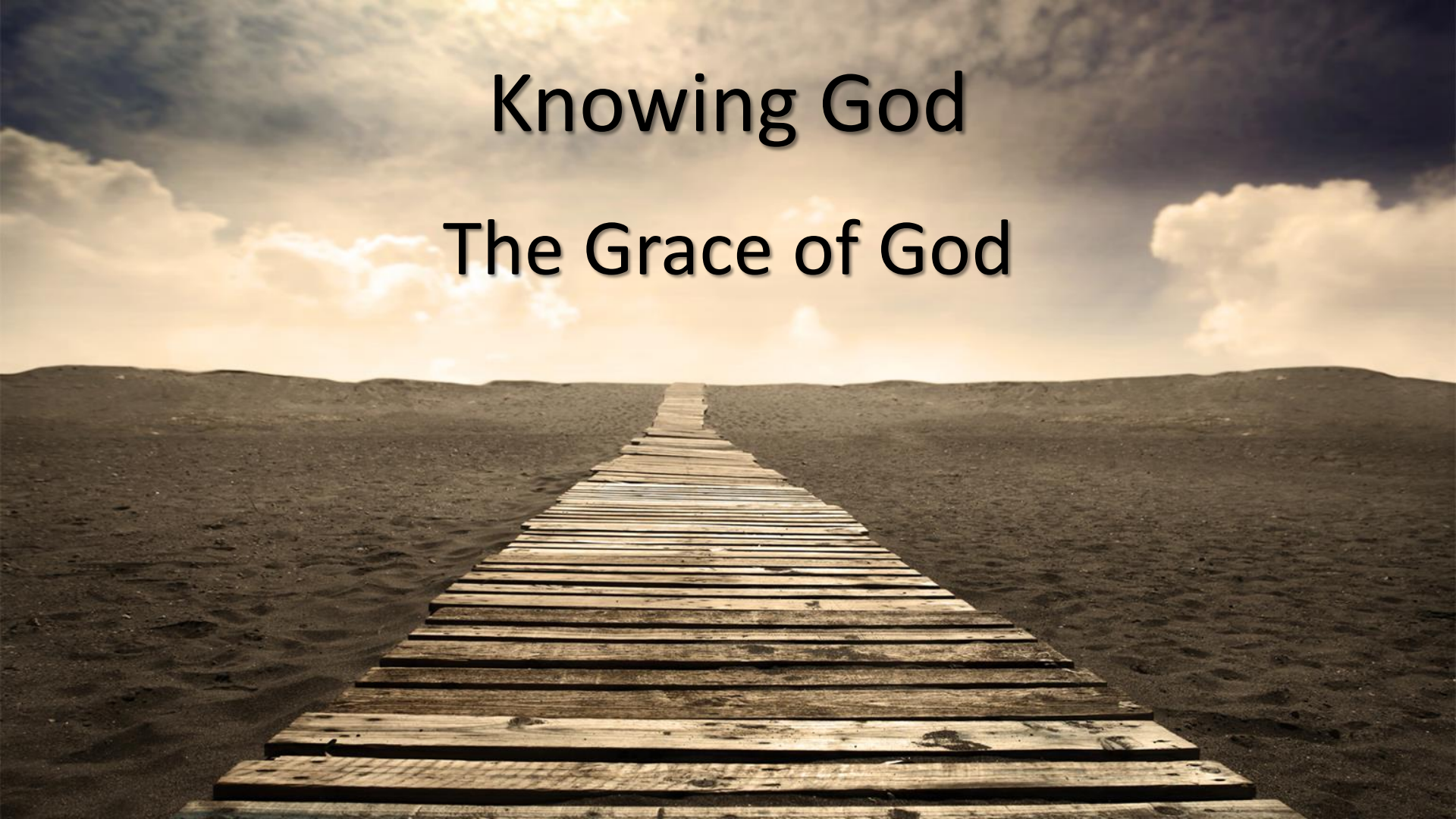


Knowing God



Knowing God

The Grace of God



Knowing God

- *God's unmerited favor*



Knowing God

- *God's unmerited favor*
- *God's enabling power*



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All of grace

Grace – Who Needs It?



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Luke 15



A. Sheep and Coins (1-10)



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1. Setting (1-2)



Luke 15:1-2

¹ Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

A. Sheep and Coins (1-10)

1. Setting (1-2)
2. Lost Sheep (3-7)



Luke 15:3-7

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’

Luke 15:3-7

⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

A. Sheep and Coins (1-10)

1. Setting (1-2)
2. Lost Sheep (3-7)
3. Lost Coin (8-10)



Luke 15:8-10

⁸ “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?

⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)



B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)

1. Younger Brother (11-24)



B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)

1. Younger Brother (11-24)

a. Sinned against his father



Luke 15:11-20a

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

Luke 15:11-20a

¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

Luke 15:11-20a

*¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’
²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.*

B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)

1. Younger Brother (11-24)

- a. Sinned against his father
- b. Received grace



Luke 15:20-24

²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

Luke 15:20-24

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:24

*For this son of mine was dead and is alive again;
he was lost and is found.'*

B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)

1. Younger Brother (11-24)
2. Older Brother (25-32)



Luke 15:25-32

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.

²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

Luke 15:25-32

²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

Luke 15:25-32

³¹ “ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”

B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)

- a. Younger Brother (11-24)
- b. Older Brother (25-32)
 - a. “Served” his father



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v. 27 – your brother has come.

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 - b. Received grace

v. 27 – your brother has come.

v. 30 – this son of yours.

v. 32 – this brother of yours.

C. Two Ways to Be Lost



C. Two Ways to Be Lost

a. Younger Brother – *irreligion*



C. Two Ways to Be Lost

- a. Younger Brother – *irreligion*
- b. Older Brother – *religion*



D. Two “Righteous” Sinners

Older Brother ~ Jonah



LUKE 15:11-32

JONAH

The father was **gracious** to his sinful younger son.

LUKE 15:11-32

The father was **gracious** to his sinful younger son.

JONAH

God was **gracious** to the sinful Ninevites.

LUKE 15:11-32

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God was **gracious** to the sinful Ninevites.

The older brother was **angry** because God was gracious to his sinful younger brother.

LUKE 15:11-32

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LUKE 15:11-32

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The older brother was **angry** because God was gracious to his sinful younger brother.

“Righteous” older brother was **insolent** to his father. *Look!*

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Jonah was **angry** because God was gracious to the sinful Ninevites.

“Righteous” Jonah was **insolent** to God. *I told you so!*

LUKE 15:11-32

JONAH

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Jonah was **angry** because God was gracious to the sinful Ninevites.

“Righteous” older brother was **insolent** to his father. *Look!*

“Righteous” Jonah was **insolent** to God. *I told you so!*

The father responded with **grace** and **patience** to the older son.

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Grace – Who Needs It?

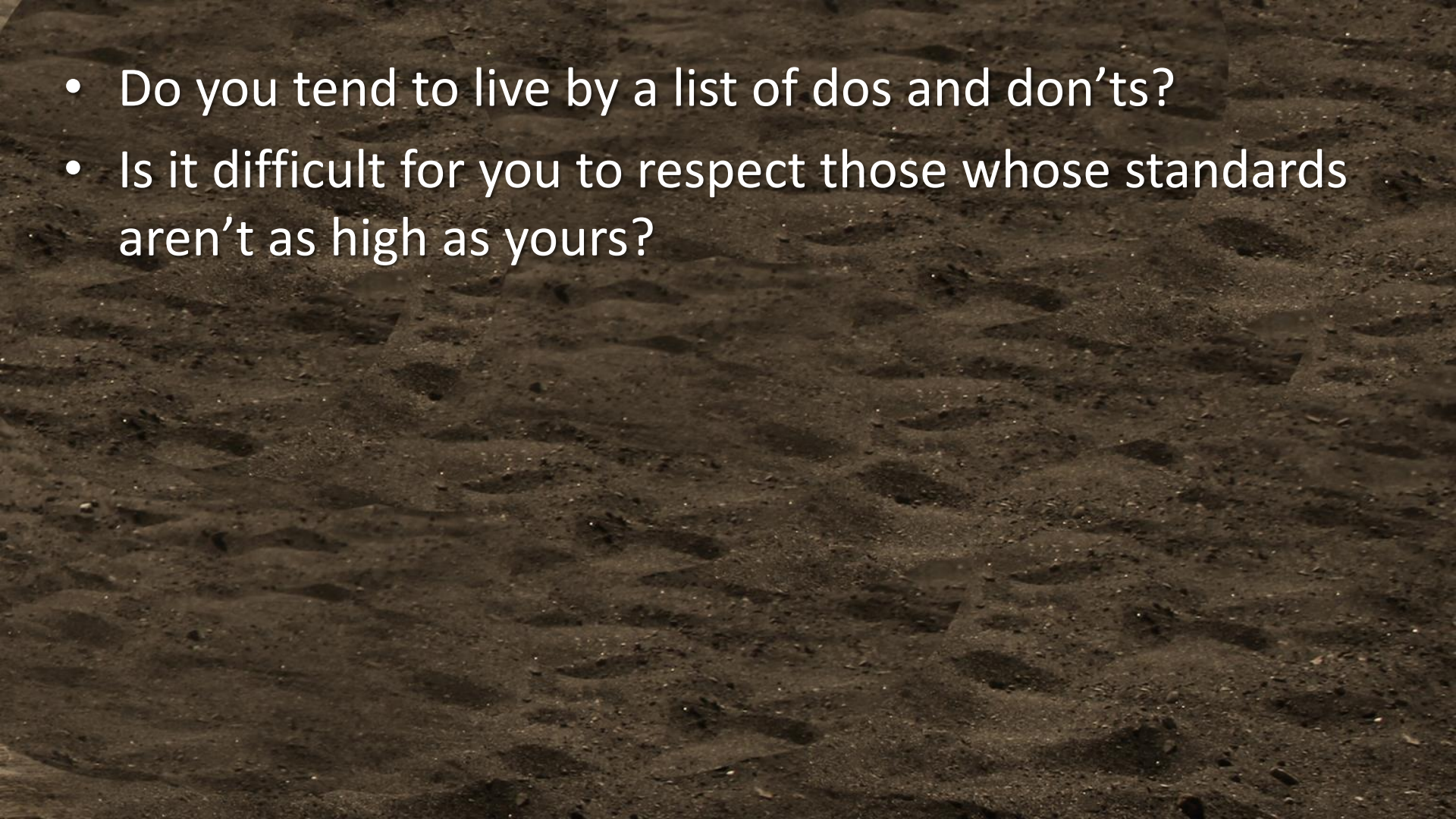
Personal Reflection

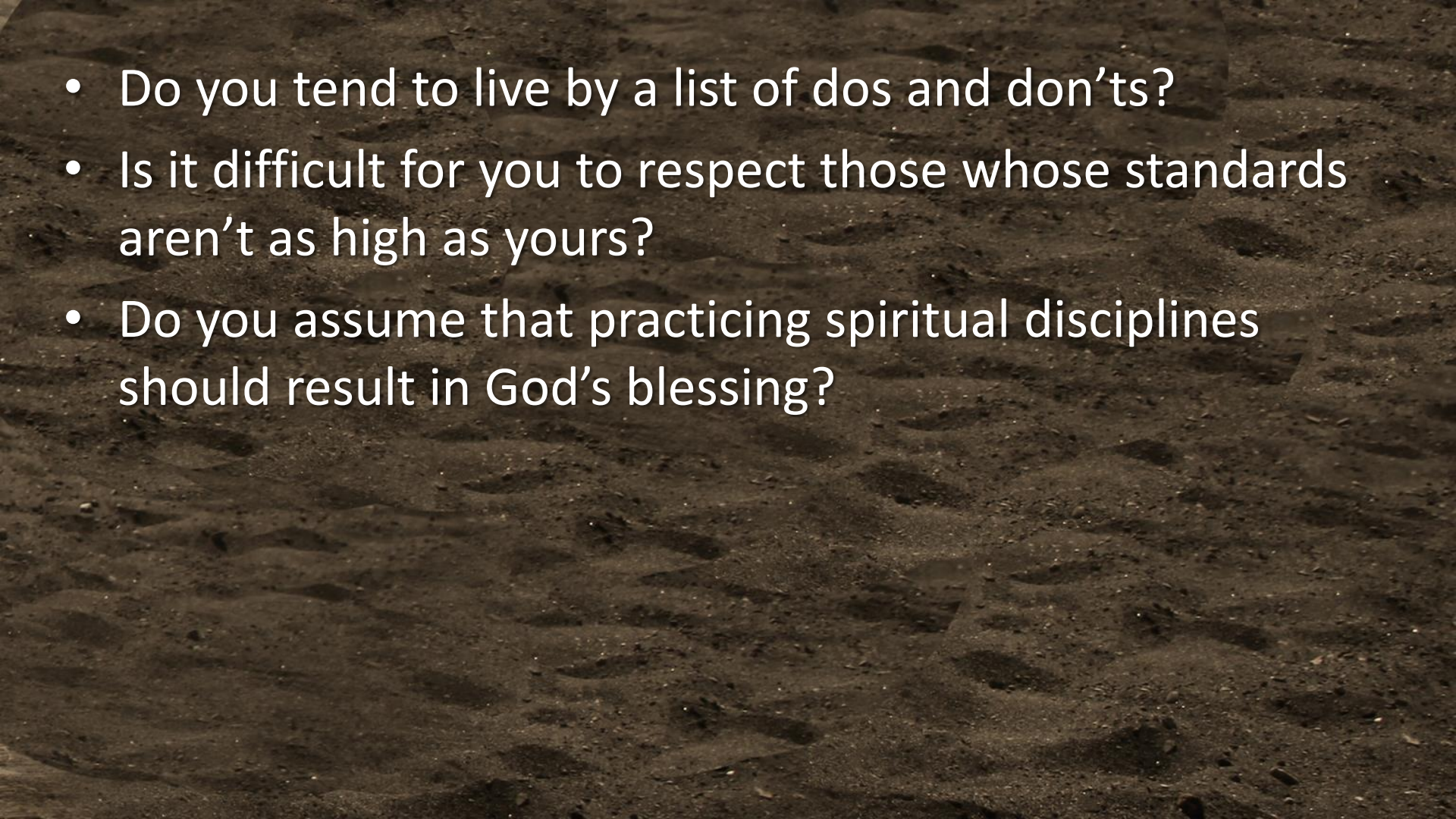
Colossians 4:5-6

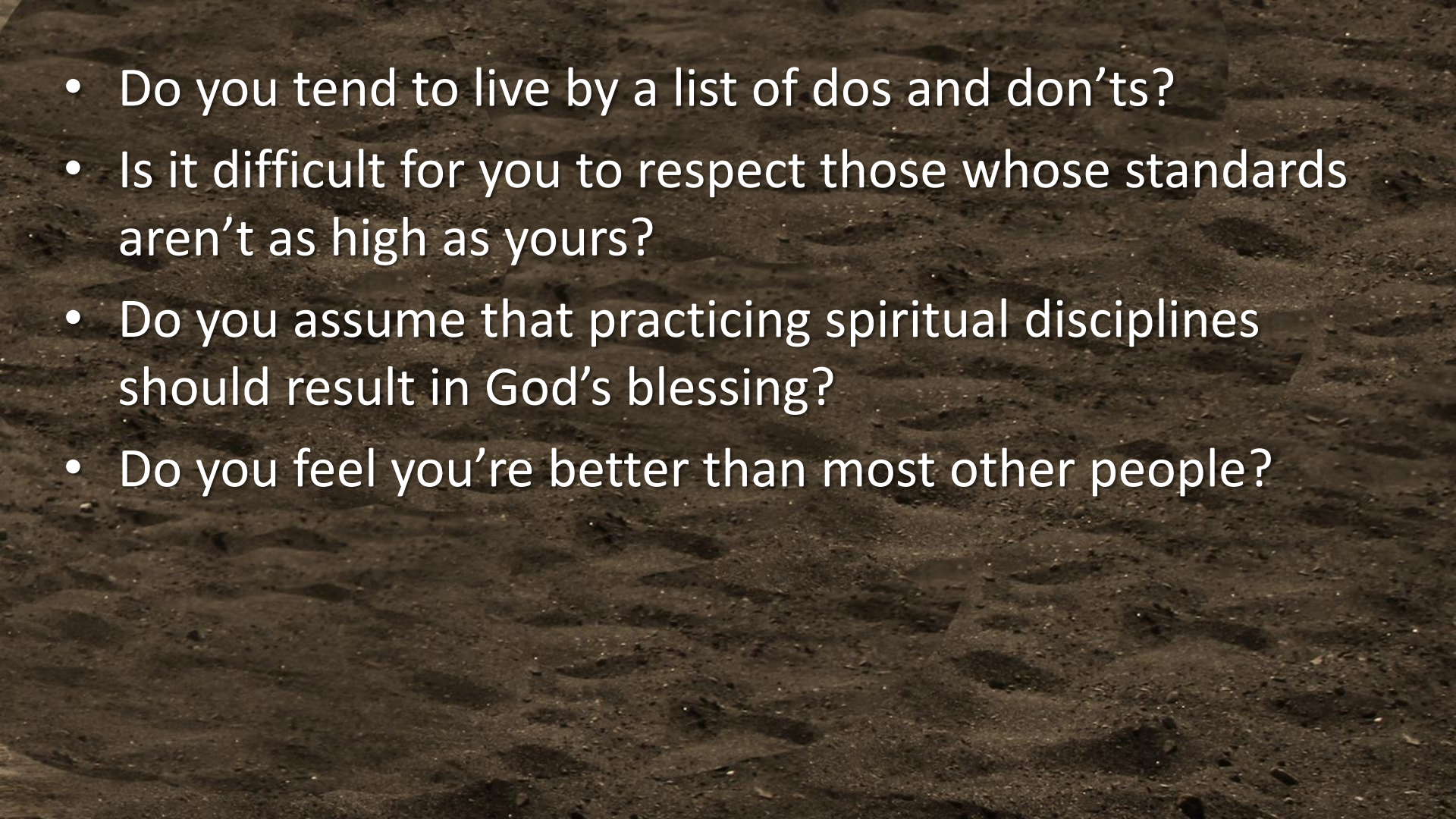
⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

- Do you tend to live by a list of dos and don'ts?

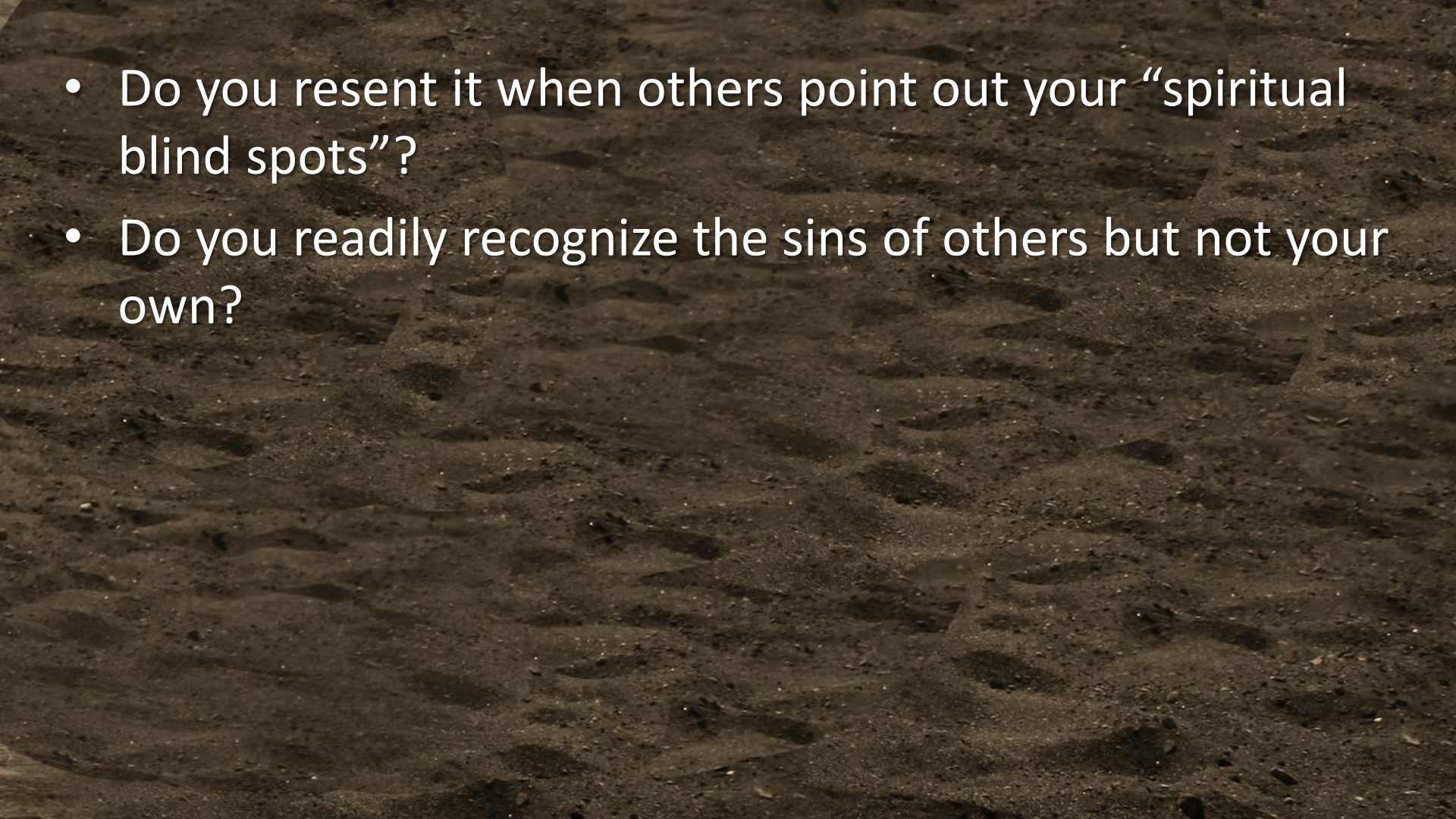
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 - Is it difficult for you to respect those whose standards aren't as high as yours?

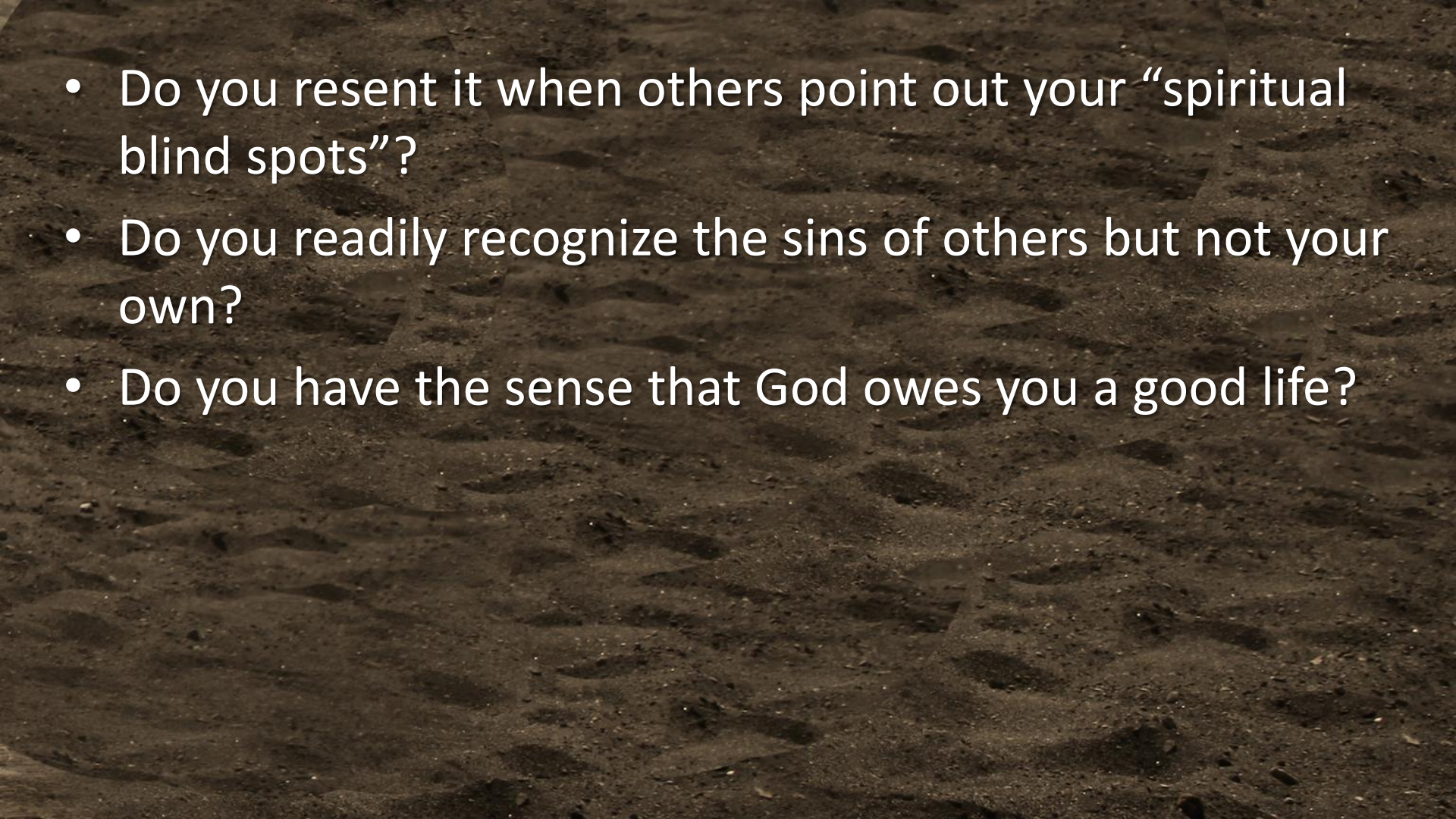
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 - Do you assume that practicing spiritual disciplines should result in God's blessing?

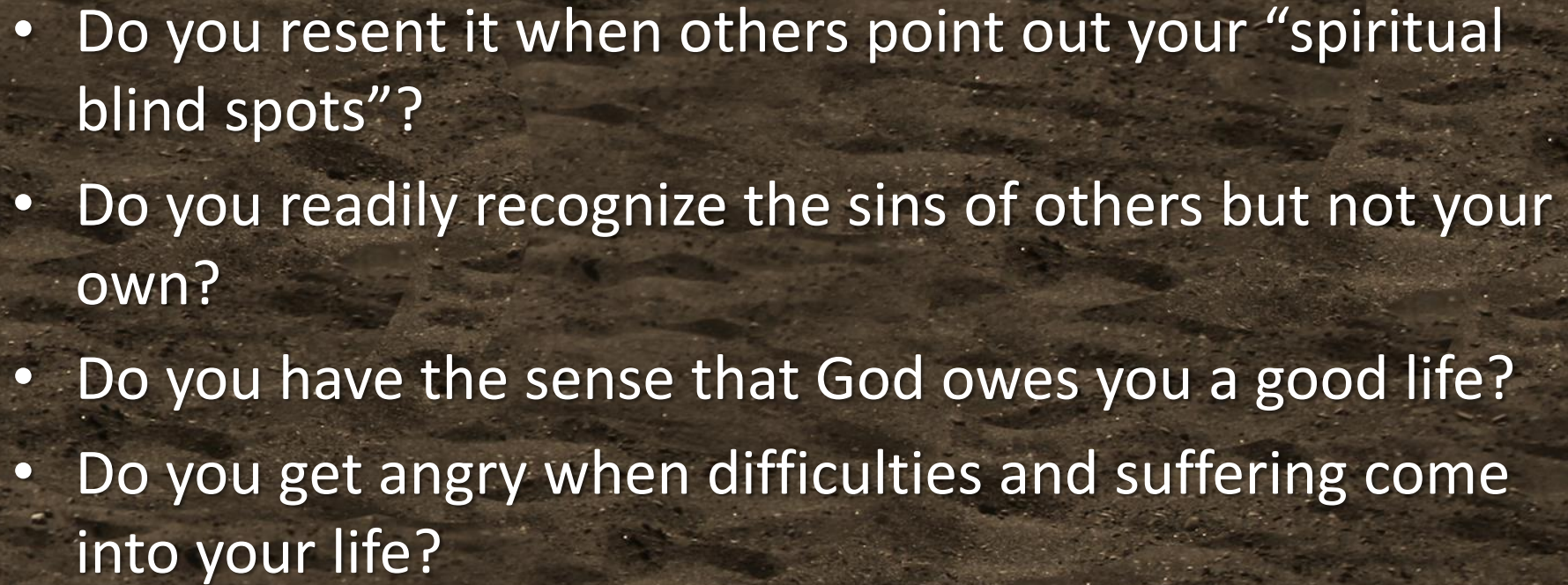
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- Do you assume that practicing spiritual disciplines should result in God's blessing?
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- Has it been a long time since you identified a sin and repented of it?

- Do you resent it when others point out your “spiritual blind spots”?

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- Do you readily recognize the sins of others but not your own?
- Do you have the sense that God owes you a good life?
- Do you get angry when difficulties and suffering come into your life?
- Do you seldom think of the cross?

(Bridges and Bevington, *The Bookends of the Christian Life*, 49)

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Personal Reflection



Got Grace?

- *We will **not experience and enjoy** God's **grace** until we come to the place where we recognize our **own desperate need**.*

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- *We will **not experience and enjoy** God's **grace** until we come to the place where we recognize our **own desperate need**.*
- *We will not be **channels of God's grace** to others until we recognize our **own desperate need**, and then **regularly revel** in the marvelous grace of God.*