

Navigating God's Assignments

A Field Guide to Facing Giants
and Impossible Odds.



Reference: Numbers 13-14

Based on "There Be Giants" by Peter Foxwell (May 3, 2026)

Part 12 of Foundations 260 - OT

The Reality of the Assignment

The Disneyland Expectation

- ➔ **Characteristics:** An adventure, a journey full of quests, constant excitement.
- ➔ **Feeling:** Thrilling and predictable.



The Survivor Reality

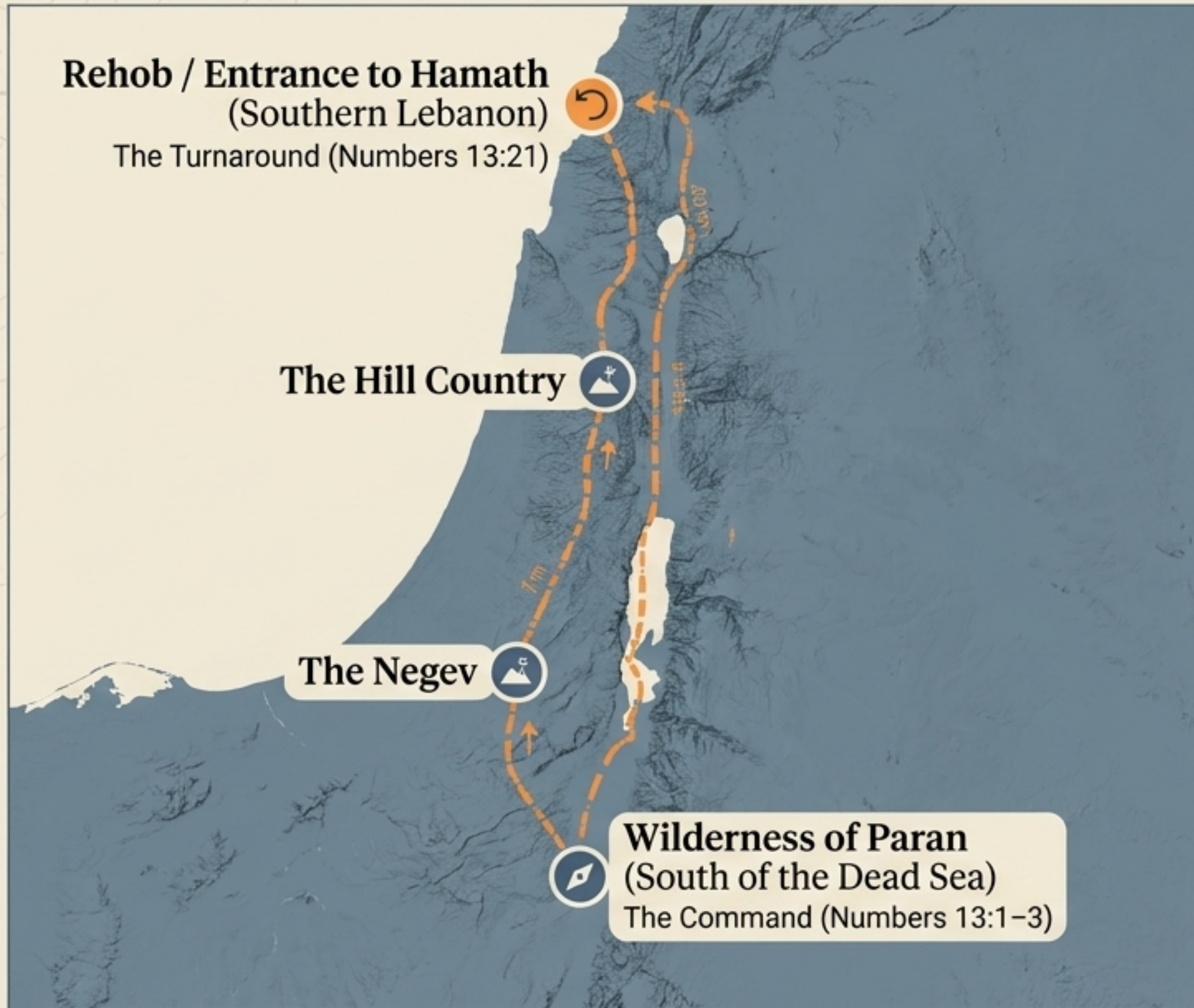
- ➔ **Characteristics:** Extreme challenges, exhaustion, fighting for spiritual survival.
- ➔ **Feeling:** Hard, taxing, with distinct high and low points.

The Mixed Bag

Following Jesus is both. We might feel excited or stressed, full of faith or struggling. The question is: **How do we follow Jesus when the assignment is hard?**

- ➔ **Examples of Hard Assignments:**
 - Loving a spouse like Christ loves the church
 - Speaking encouragement over gossip
 - Inviting a friend into faith

The Case Study: A 350-Mile Expedition



Setting the Scene: 12 scouts.
4th consecutive rebellion of
Israel. Late summer.



The Reality: This was not
a quick walk. It was a
demanding 350–500 mile
journey on foot to scout the
borders of Canaan in
preparation for an invasion.

The Scout's Required Mindsets

Numbers 13-14 is often read as a warning of what not to do. But read carefully, it provides a three-part framework for how to embrace God's assignments when the odds seem impossible.



**1. An Obedient
Attitude**



**2. A Promise-
Driven
Mindset**



**3. A Maverick
Spirit**

Pillar 1: An Obedient Attitude

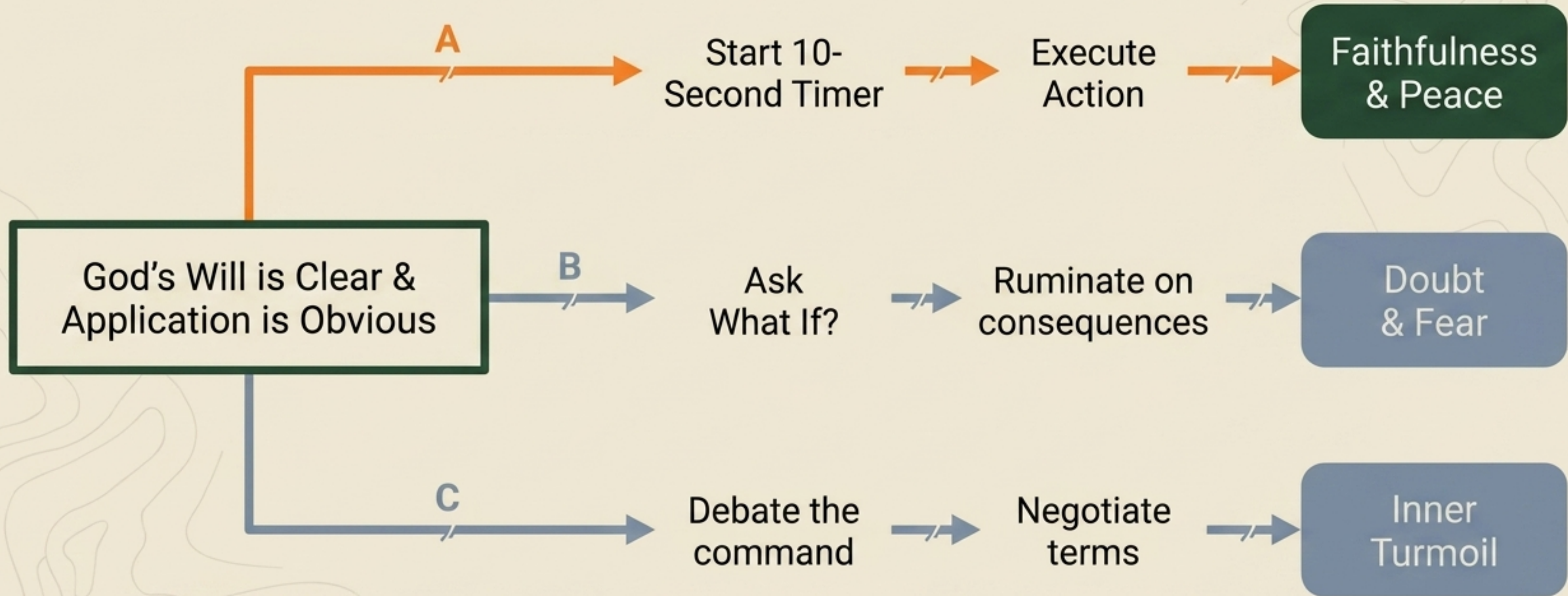
The first stage in embracing God's assignment is a default reply of, "OK, yes, Lord." Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey my commands" (John 14:15).

A Life of Obedience — Obey God and leave all the consequences to him. When we choose to obey God, we take the way of wisdom... He asks us to submit ourselves to Him and leave whatever happens to His loving care.

— Charles Stanley (Life Principle #2)

Questioning His will produces doubt, fear, and inner turmoil. An obedient attitude bypasses the turmoil.

The 10-Second Rule



“There is no way to go wrong if you place your hope and trust in God.” — Charles Stanley

Pillar 2: A Promise-Driven Mindset

Faith isn't a blind leap into the void. It is a calculated trust in God's character—His power, sovereignty, goodness, and faithfulness.

The Ancient Anchor

God had already promised Canaan to Abraham's descendants (Genesis 12:7, 15:18–21).

Moses sent the scouts knowing the land was already a guaranteed gift.

How to build this mindset:

- 1. Meditate on His Greatness.**
(e.g., Isaiah 6; recognizing the holiness of God).
- 2. Learn & Lean on His Promises.**
The Apostle Paul found contentment while cold, hungry, and chained in prison because he leaned on promises of provision (Philippians 4:13).

**Attempt great things for God,
expect great things from God.**

— William Carey (1792)

The Lens of Unbelief vs. Faith

The Grasshopper Complex (The 10 Spies)

The Giant



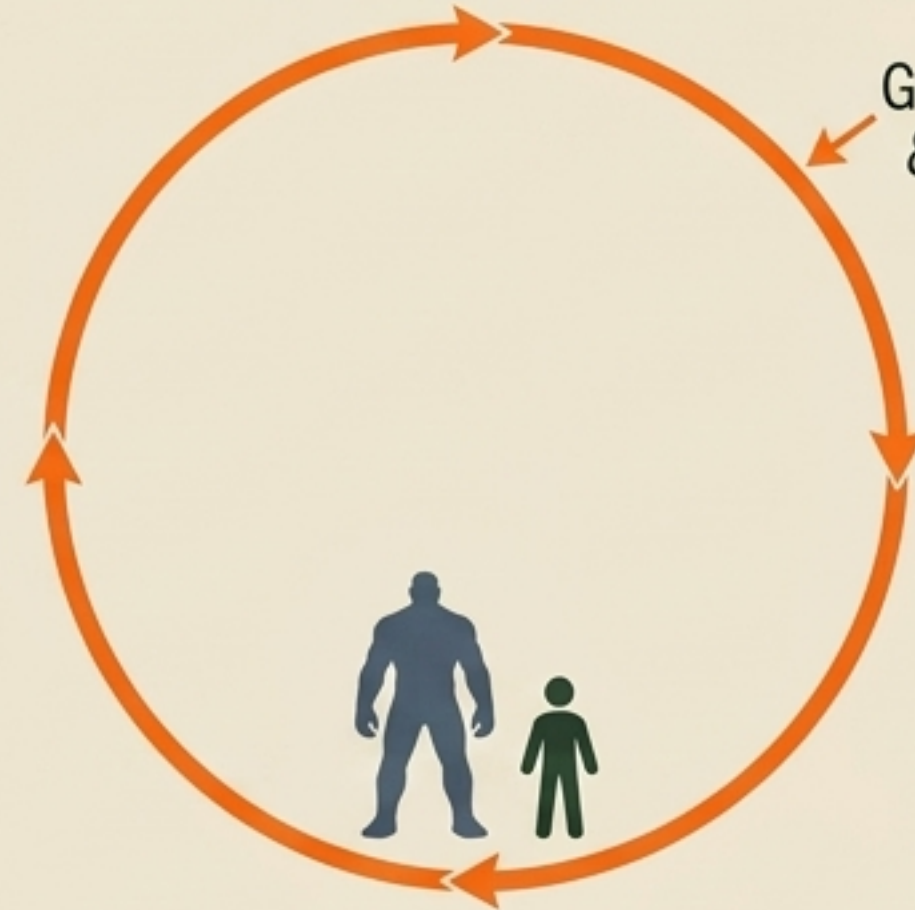
Self

“To ourselves, we seemed like grasshoppers, and we must have seemed the same to them.” (Numbers 13:33)

Sees circumstances and fear as greater than God’s power.

The Promise-Driven Lens (Joshua & Caleb)

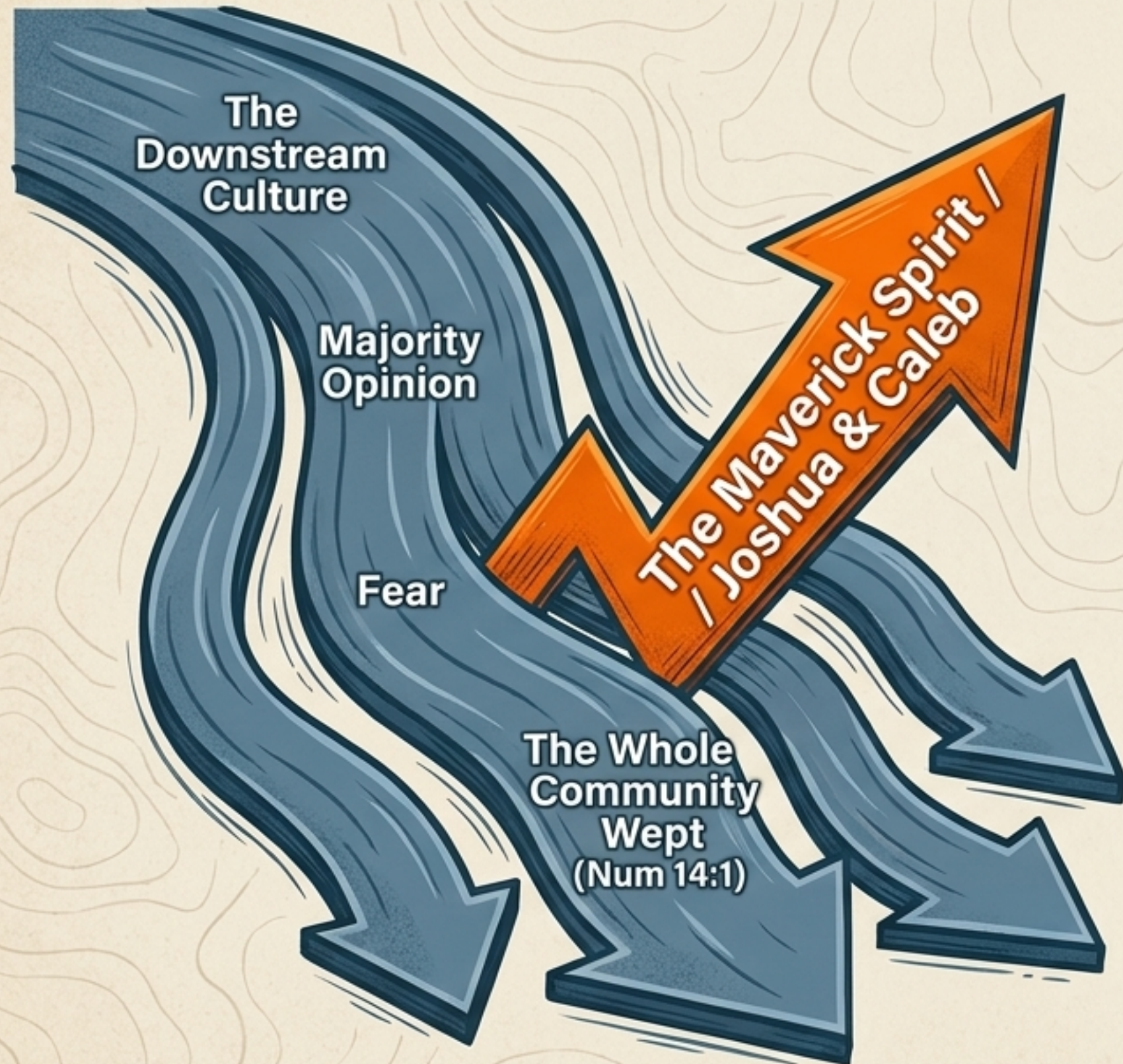
God's Power & Promise



“Their protection has been removed... the LORD is with us. Don’t be afraid!” (Numbers 14:9)

Believes that where He guides, He also provides.

Pillar 3: A Maverick Spirit



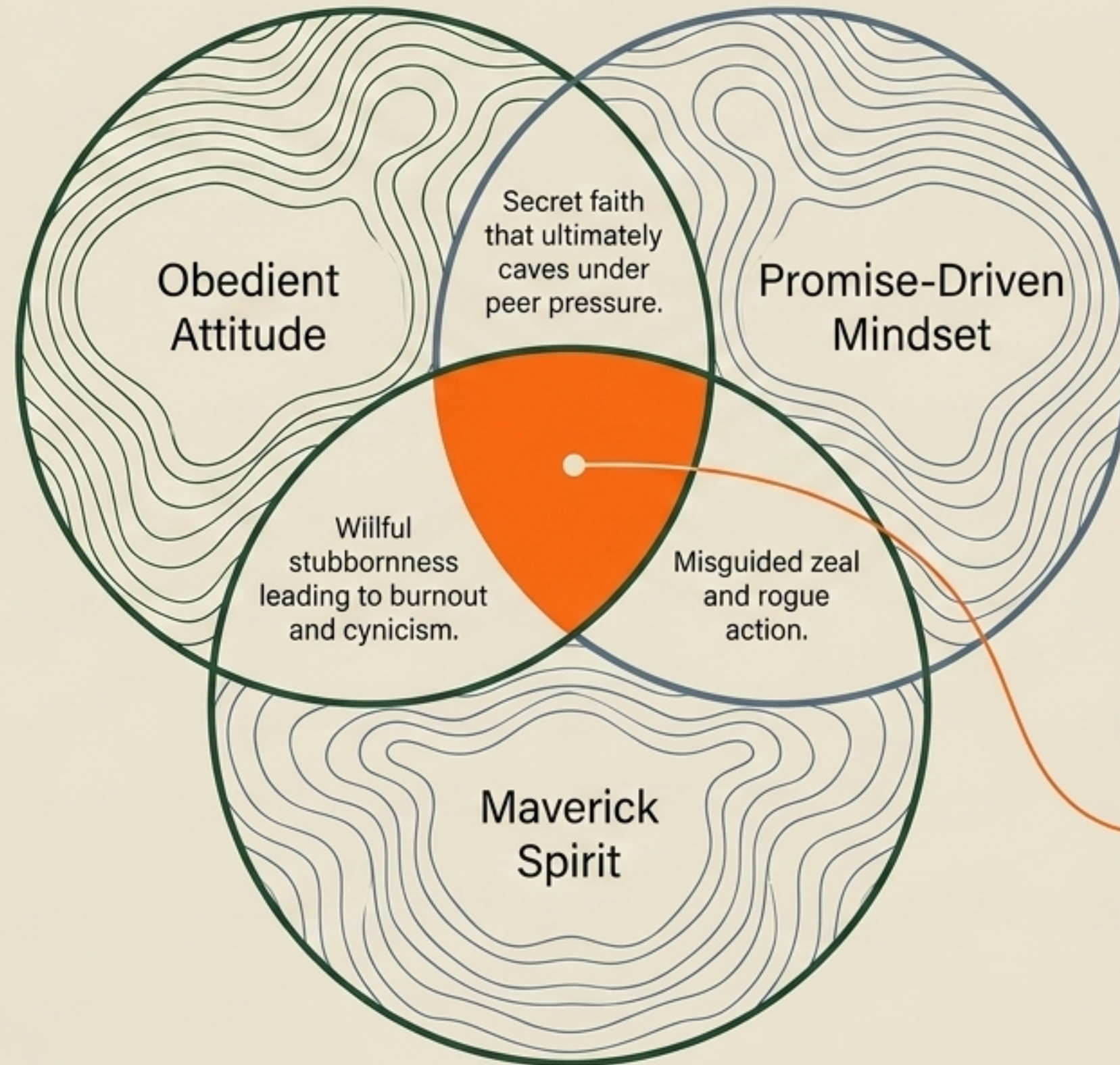
When the 10 spies gave a negative report, fear gripped the camp. If Moses were a people-pleaser, he would have relented. But God doesn't entrust His assignments to conformists. Doing God's will often means swimming upstream in a downstream culture. God gives assignments to nonconformists who refuse to cave to the pressure to give up.

Diagnostic: The Conformist vs. The Maverick

	The 10 Spies (Conformists)	Joshua & Caleb (Mavericks)
Focus	The Giants & Obstacles	The Promises ("Milk and honey")
Attitude	Fear & Panic	Trust & Courage ("God is pleased with us")
Influence	Spread discouragement & complaints	Spread courage & perspective
Outcome	Rebellion against God	Unwavering Obedience

Joshua and Caleb weren't arrogant. They simply valued God's approval above the crowd's approval.

The Anatomy of a Faithful Scout



The capacity to accomplish Impossible Assignments.

Men and women so entranced by God's greatness that they do whatever He commands.

The Ultimate Scout

Every follower of Jesus is on an assignment. We all have something we dread doing—like forgiving someone who hurt us deeply. In those moments, we look to the ultimate example of the Obedient, Promise-Driven Maverick facing an impossible assignment.



“Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me — nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

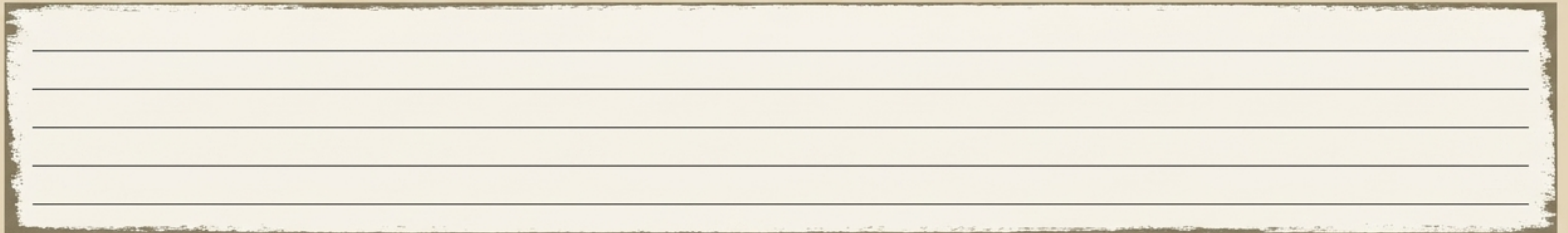
— Luke 22:42 (CSB)

Let's all pray the same.

Field Notes: Self-Reflection Diagnostic (Part I)

Prompt 1: The Reality Check

If someone new to faith asked you, "Is following Jesus worth it when it's this hard?" how would you honestly answer from your own experience?



Prompt 2: The 10-Second Audit

Where do you most often argue with, delay, or "negotiate" with Jesus instead of simply obeying?

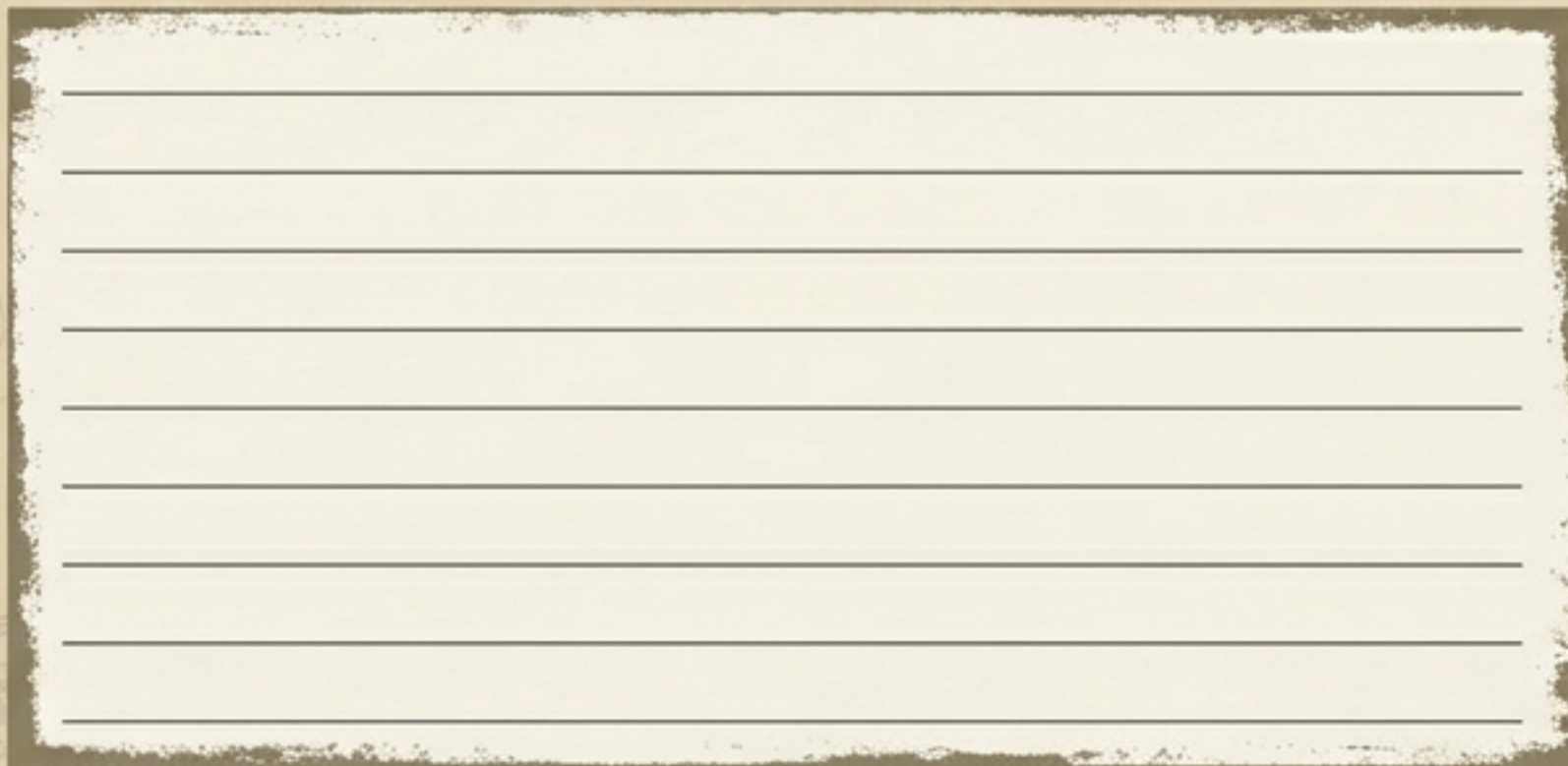
Forgiveness Marriage Money Purity Serving Speaking up

Action: How can you apply the 10-Second Rule to this area today?

Field Notes: Self-Reflection Diagnostic (Part II)

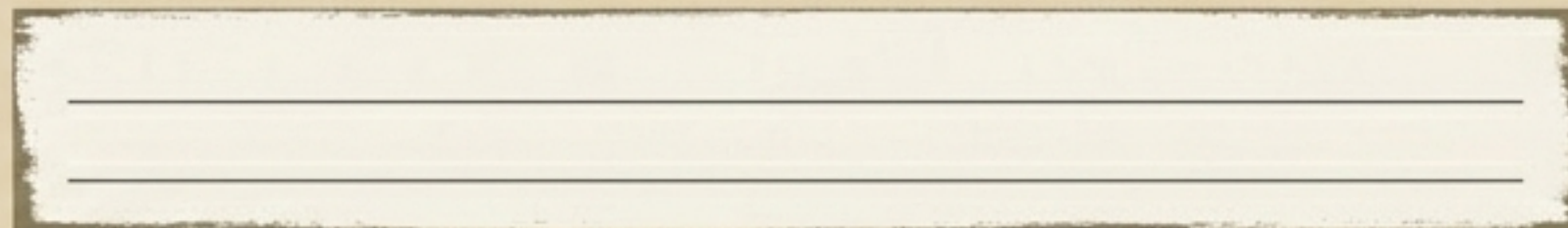
Prompt 3: The Promise Inventory

Identify concrete promises of God you already know (e.g., presence, provision, forgiveness, wisdom). How might clinging to one of those promises change the way you tackle a current impossible assignment?



Prompt 4: The Maverick Cost

Think of a time you obeyed Jesus even when others disapproved. What did it cost you, and how did God meet you in it?



How do you overcome the fears of being a “maverick” (fear of rejection, losing comfort, being misunderstood)?

Prayer Focus

247: *“Lord, please add daily to the Cornerstone those who are being saved.”*

