



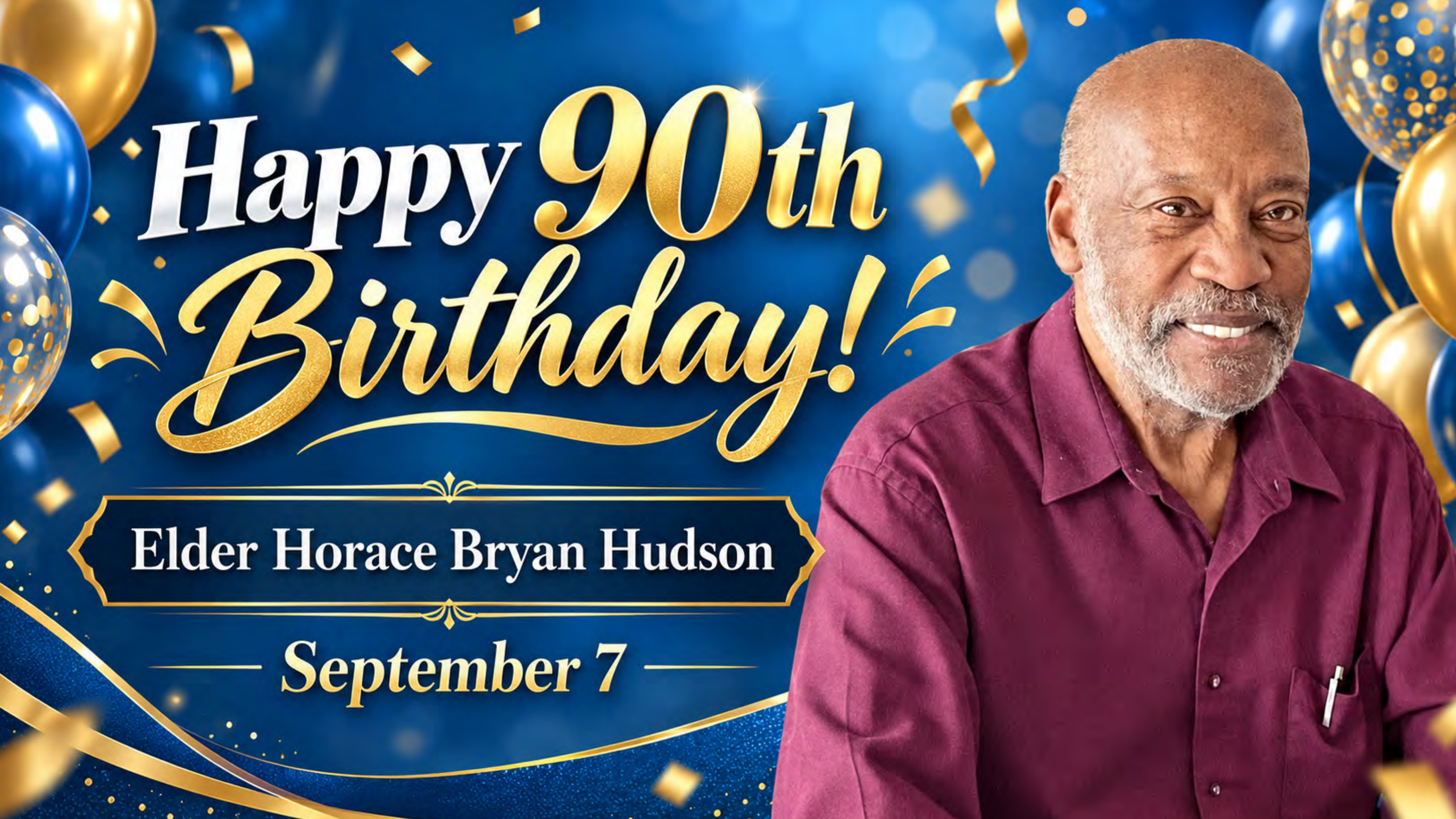
NEW COVENANT CHURCH

Pilgrim or Traveler?

*How to Go From
Strength to Strength*

Pastor Bryan Hudson, DMin

*Blessed is the man whose strength is in You,
whose heart is set on pilgrimage. As they
pass through the Valley of Baca, they make
it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools.
They go from strength to strength, each one
appears before God in Zion." Psalms 84:5-7*



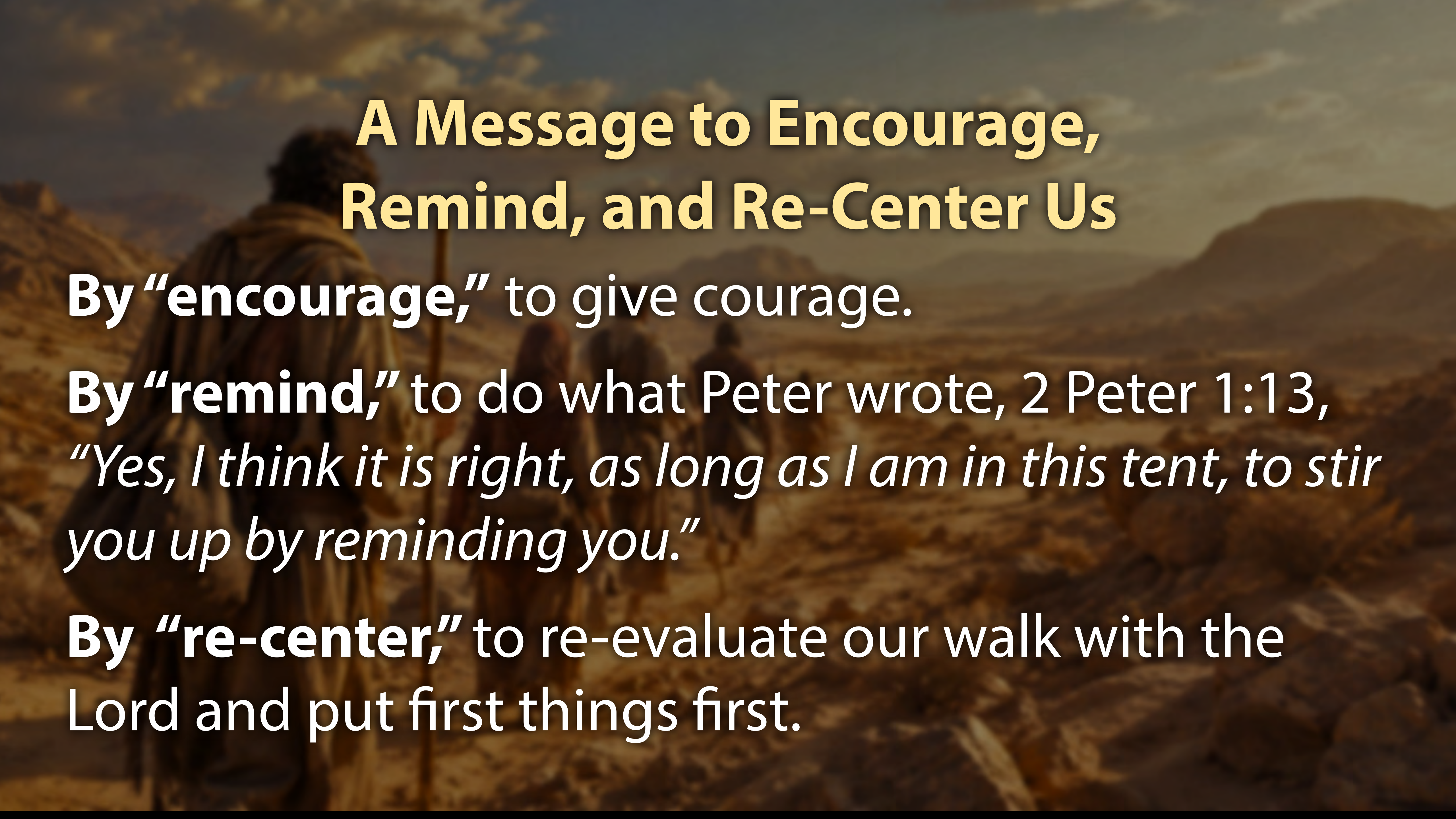
Happy 90th Birthday!

Elder Horace Bryan Hudson

— September 7 —

Psalms 84:5-7

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The rain also covers it with pools. They go from
strength to strength, each one appears before
God in Zion.*

A person is seen from behind, wearing a long, light-colored robe and a head covering, standing in a vast, arid desert landscape. In the distance, there are rolling hills and mountains under a hazy, orange-tinted sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

A Message to Encourage, Remind, and Re-Center Us

By “encourage,” to give courage.

By “remind,” to do what Peter wrote, 2 Peter 1:13,
“Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you.”

By “re-center,” to re-evaluate our walk with the Lord and put first things first.

Faith Requires Hope

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.*

You cannot have strong faith without strong hope.

Strength in God

Psalms 84:5, *Blessed is the man whose strength is in You,*

TLB (The Living Bible), *Happy are those who are strong in the Lord, who want above all else to follow your steps.*

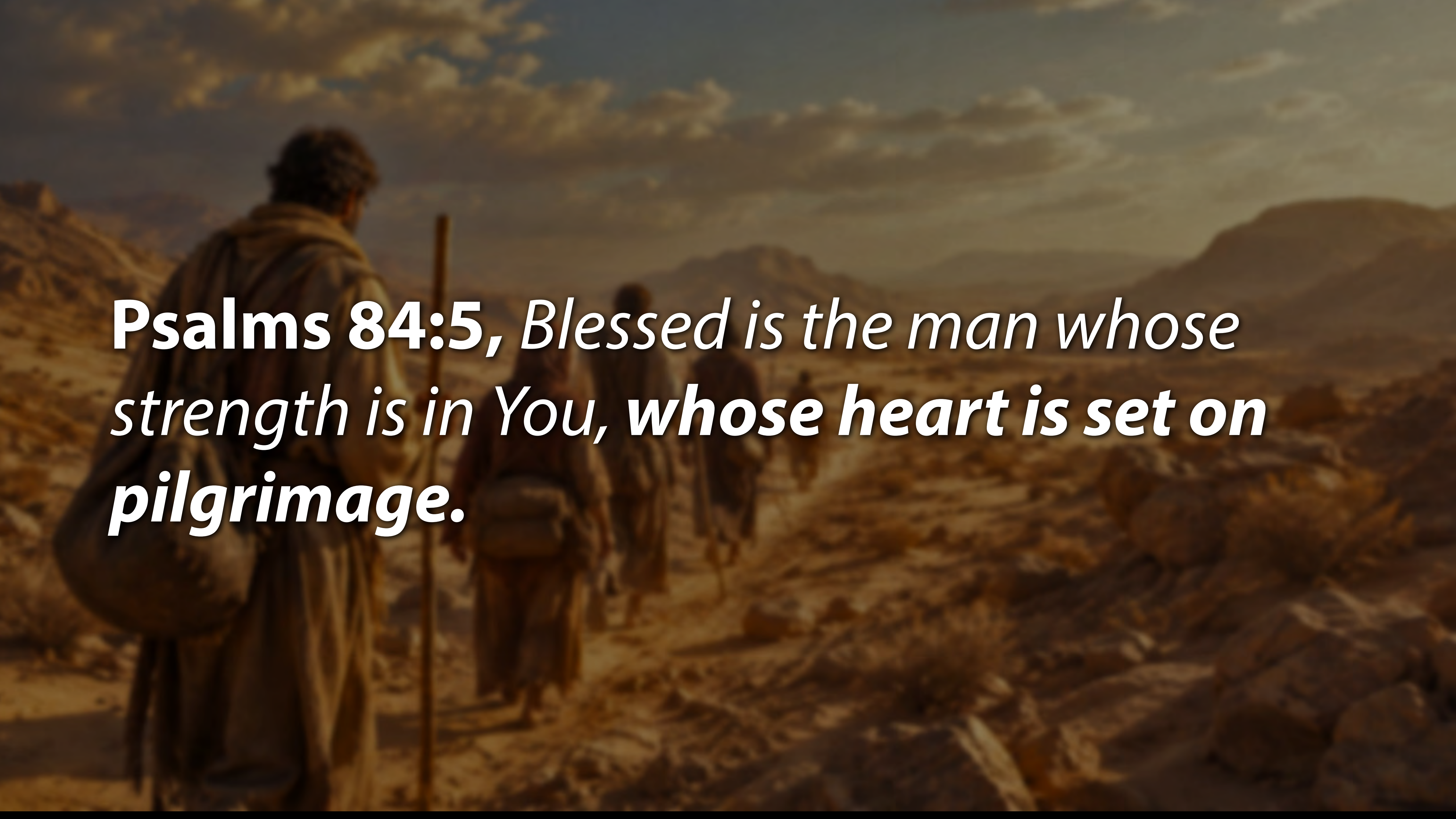
Strength in God

NOG (Names of God Bible), *Blessed are those who find strength in you. Their hearts are on the road that leads to you.*

AMP (Amplified Bible), *Blessed and greatly favored is the man whose strength is in You, In whose heart are the highways to Zion.*

Two Realities

- 1) Your strength is in God, not in self.
- 2) Your heart is set on pilgrimage, not mere travel.

A group of people, likely pilgrims, are walking through a vast, arid desert landscape. In the foreground, a man is seen from behind, wearing a long, light-colored robe and carrying a staff. He is looking towards a group of other people who are walking away from him into the distance. The terrain is rocky and uneven, with low hills in the background under a sky filled with soft, golden clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of a long, arduous journey.

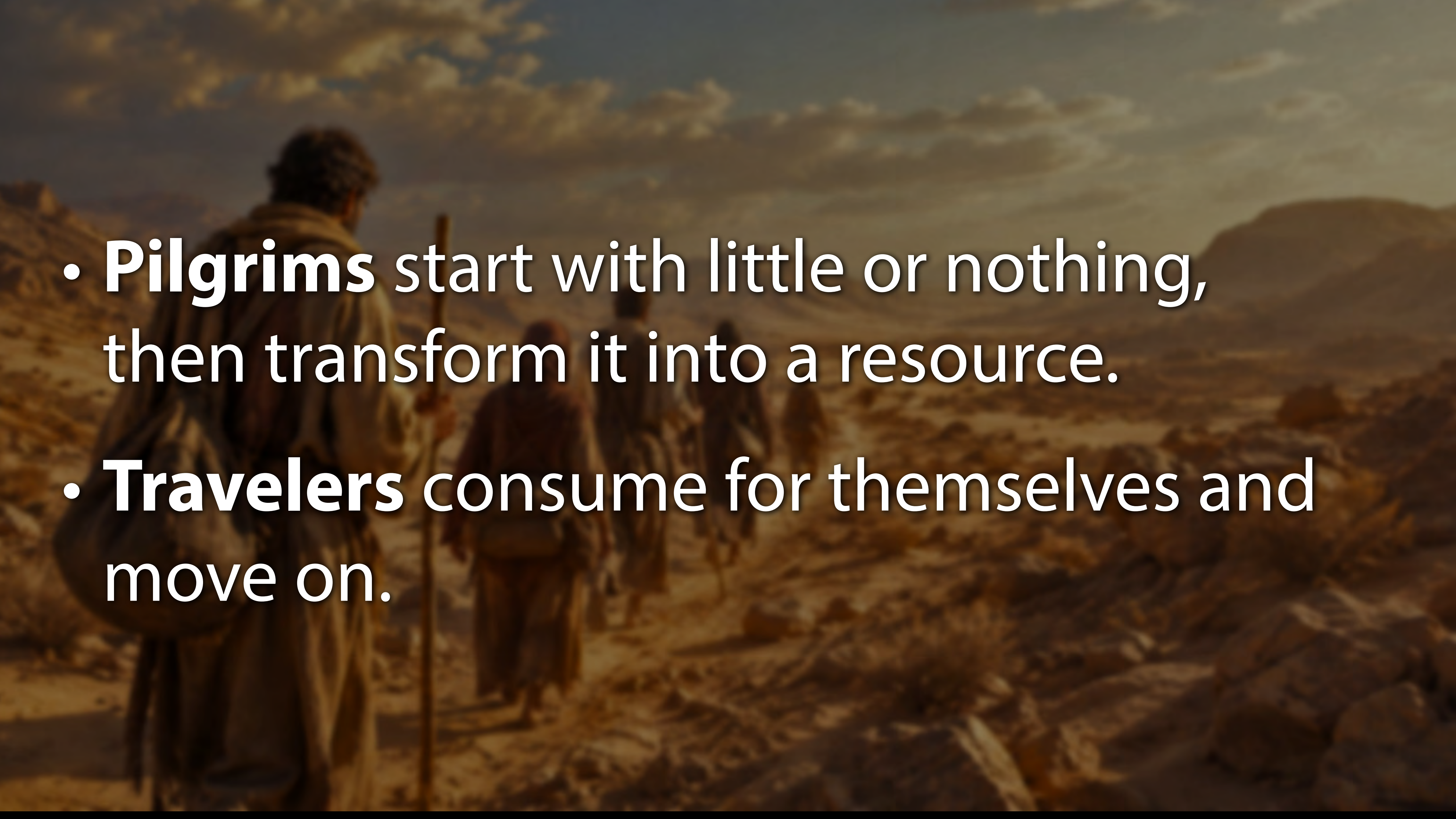
Psalms 84:5, *Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage.*

What Pilgrims Do

- A pilgrim moves with purpose to sacred places, not physical places today, but places of purpose, service, communion, and fulfillment of the will of God.
- This happens within a covenant community.

What Pilgrims Do

- The traveler seeks satisfaction in the moment. The pilgrim's heart seeks purpose for a lifetime.
- Pilgrimage is a long journey of purpose.
- It is not only a destination, but a journey.

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- A group of pilgrims, dressed in traditional robes and carrying staffs, are walking away from the viewer across a vast, arid desert landscape. The terrain is rocky and uneven, with distant hills visible under a sky filled with soft, golden clouds. The overall tone is warm and historical.
- **Pilgrims** start with little or nothing, then transform it into a resource.
 - **Travelers** consume for themselves and move on.

The Valley of Baca (Tears)

- The Bible does not clearly identify Baca as a specific valley on a map.
- The Hebrew word “Baca” is associated with weeping. It may describe a difficult, dry, sorrowful stretch of the pilgrims’ journey.
- Could represent *balsam* or *baka* trees, that grow in dry places.

Non-Baca Valley

But do not mistake **pilgrimage for problems** we create for ourselves, things not connected to the purpose of God.

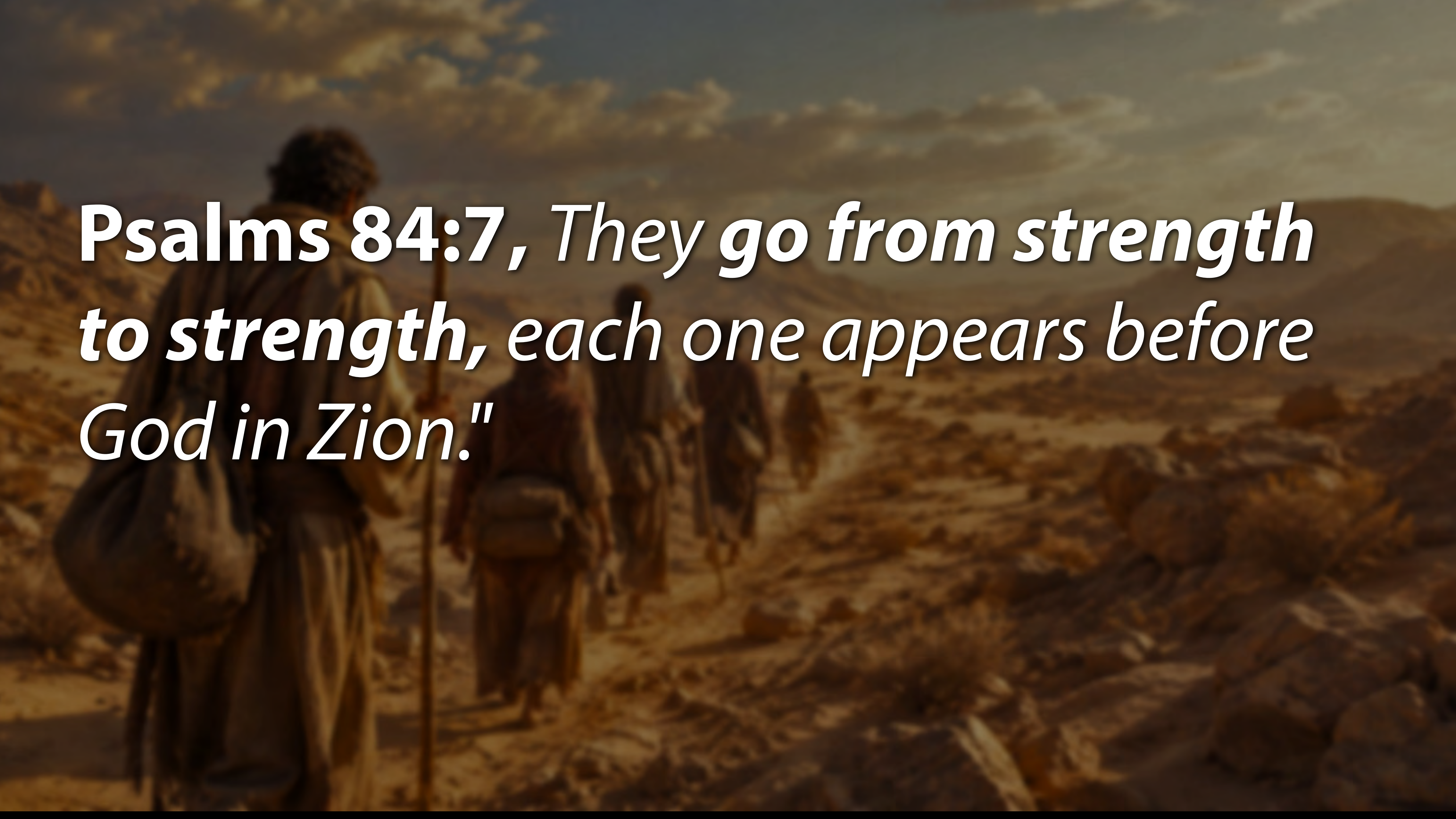
1 Peter 2:20, *For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.*

Psalms 84:5-7

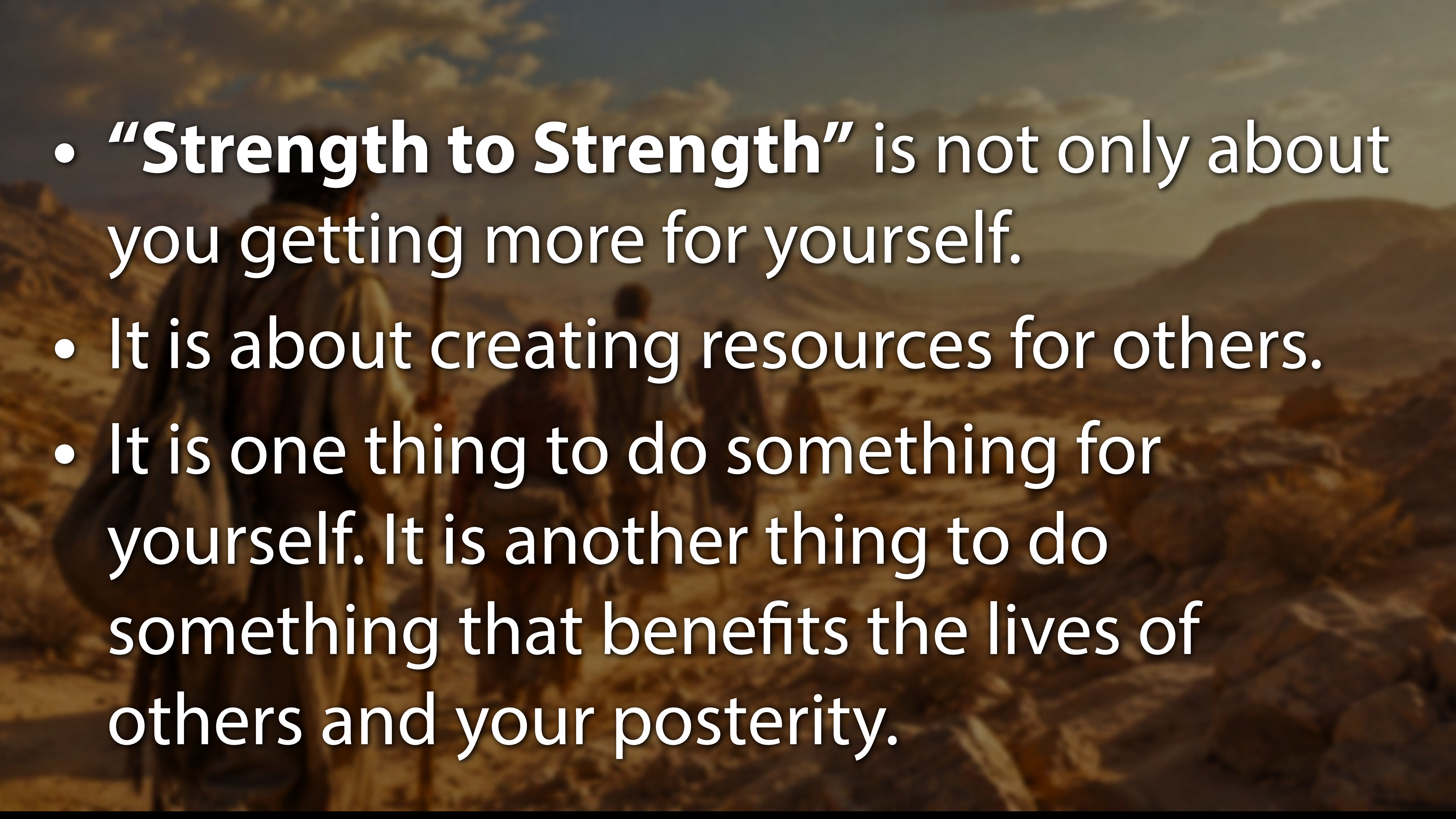
*As they pass through the Valley of Baca,
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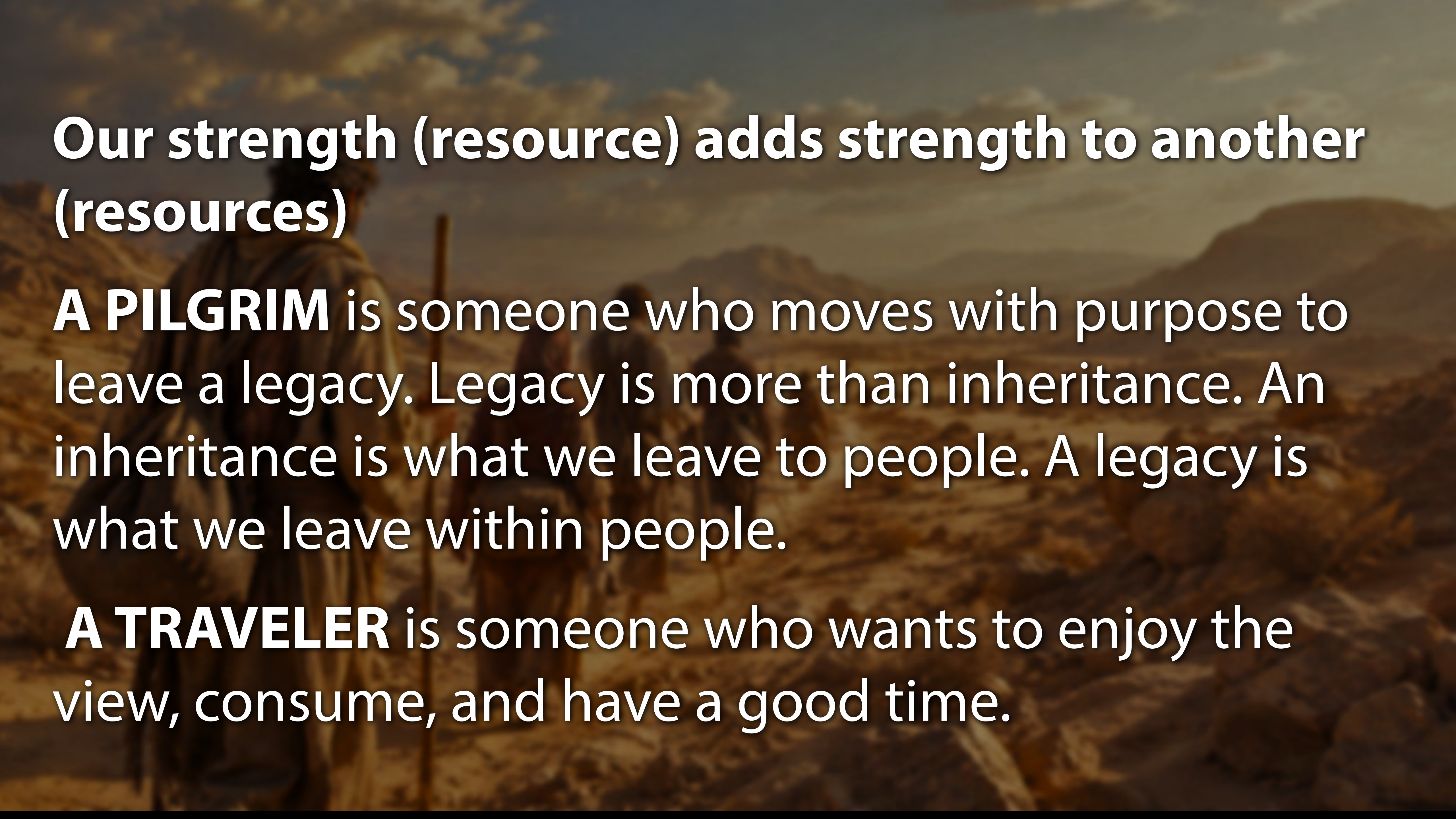
“...They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools.”



A group of people, likely the Israelites, are walking away from the viewer towards distant hills under a cloudy sky. They are carrying large bundles on their backs and holding long wooden staffs. The landscape is arid and rocky, with a warm, golden-brown color palette. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Psalms 84:7, *They go from strength to strength, each one appears before God in Zion.*

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- A group of people, likely nomads, are seen in a vast, arid desert landscape under a hazy sky. In the foreground, a person is seen from behind, carrying a large, light-colored bundle or animal on their back. Other figures are visible in the mid-ground, some standing and others moving. The terrain is rocky and uneven, with distant hills or mountains visible on the horizon.
- **“Strength to Strength”** is not only about you getting more for yourself.
 - It is about creating resources for others.
 - It is one thing to do something for yourself. It is another thing to do something that benefits the lives of others and your posterity.

A group of pilgrims, seen from behind, are walking through a vast, arid desert landscape. They are carrying long wooden staffs and wearing traditional robes. In the distance, there are rolling hills and mountains under a hazy, golden sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is contemplative and historical.

Our strength (resource) adds strength to another (resources)

A PILGRIM is someone who moves with purpose to leave a legacy. Legacy is more than inheritance. An inheritance is what we leave to people. A legacy is what we leave within people.

A TRAVELER is someone who wants to enjoy the view, consume, and have a good time.

Example of creating a resource for others

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Applied Behavior Analysis – The Mindful way

Applied Behavior Analysis – The Mindful way

Mindful Pieces Behavior Therapy in Indianapolis is dedicated to providing exceptional early childhood ABA programs designed to

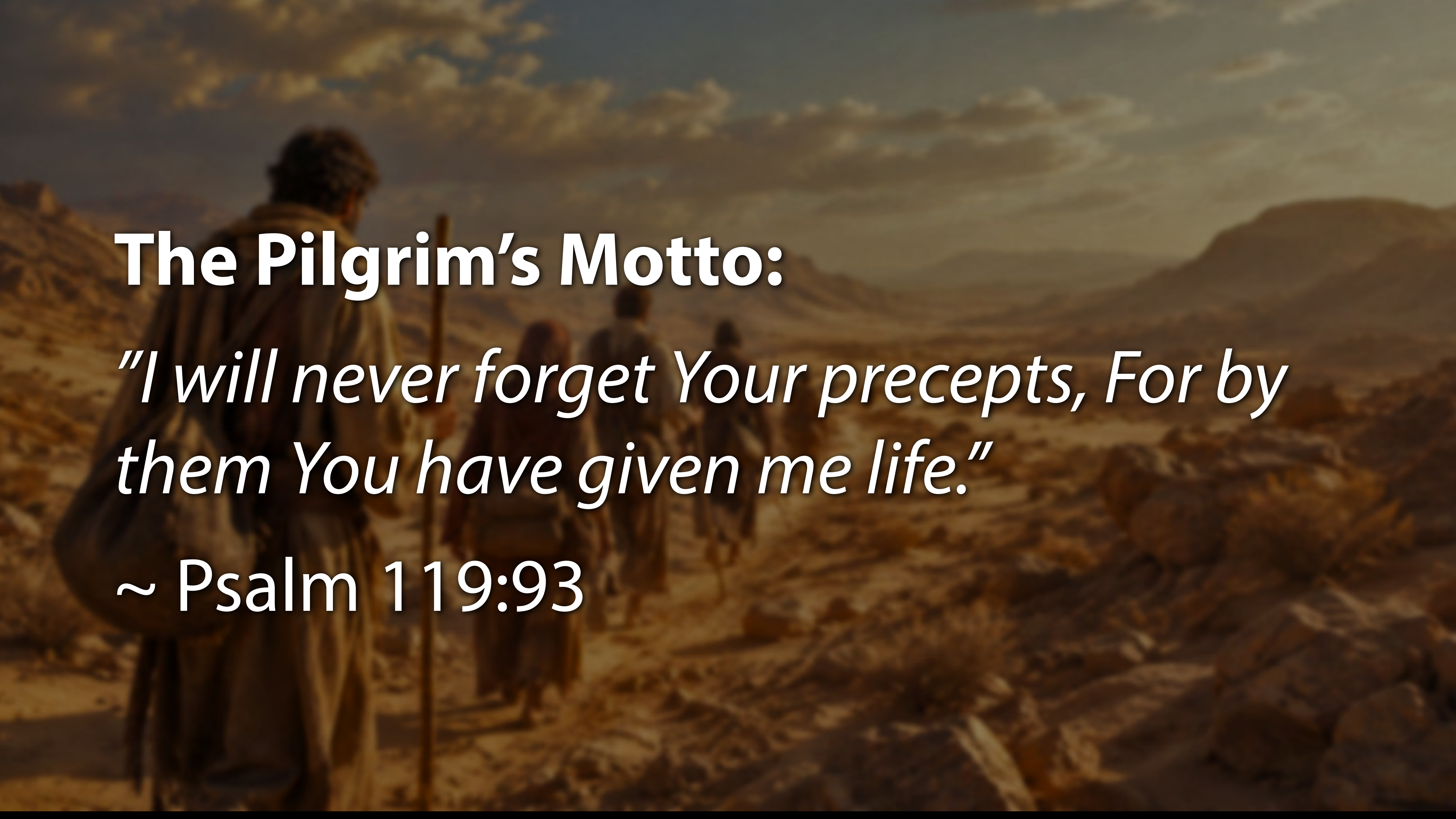
ed and compassionate
sonalized care plans
Through structured,
growth and
eir full potential.
ices and how our early
ce in your child's life.

Jasmine Smith

Co-Founder, M.A., BCBA

Jasmine is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, who has 8 years of experience with all age groups of children up to young adults. She has worked in school, clinical, and home settings. Jasmine has worked as an Instructional aide in an inclusive Autism classroom, Program manager at an ABA therapy center, clinical assistant, and now as a Certified Behavior Analyst. Jasmine has a passion for social skill development, feeding interventions, and building communication skills, and she looks forward to continuing her skills training in sign language, and science-based Augmentative communication devices, and attending conferences to gain knowledge. "The smallest difference I can make in a client's life is what matters the most in mine."





The Pilgrim's Motto:

"I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have given me life."

~ Psalm 119:93

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I am a Pilgrim, not only a traveler. My heart is set on pilgrimage, moving with purpose to places of purpose, service, communion, and fulfillment of the will of God. I do not travel alone, but within covenant community.

I am not a traveler who seeks satisfaction in the moment. I am a pilgrim whose heart seeks purpose for a lifetime. Pilgrimage is a long journey of purpose. It is not only a destination, but a journey.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

When moving through a valley of Baca, God helps me transform the difficulty into a resource for others.

By the grace of God, I go from strength to strength, not only gaining more strength for myself, but creating springs and pools as resources that add strength to others.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

As a pilgrim, I move with purpose to leave a legacy. Legacy is more than inheritance. An inheritance is what we leave to people. A legacy is what we leave within people.

My example is the pilgrimage of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who makes every good thing possible.