



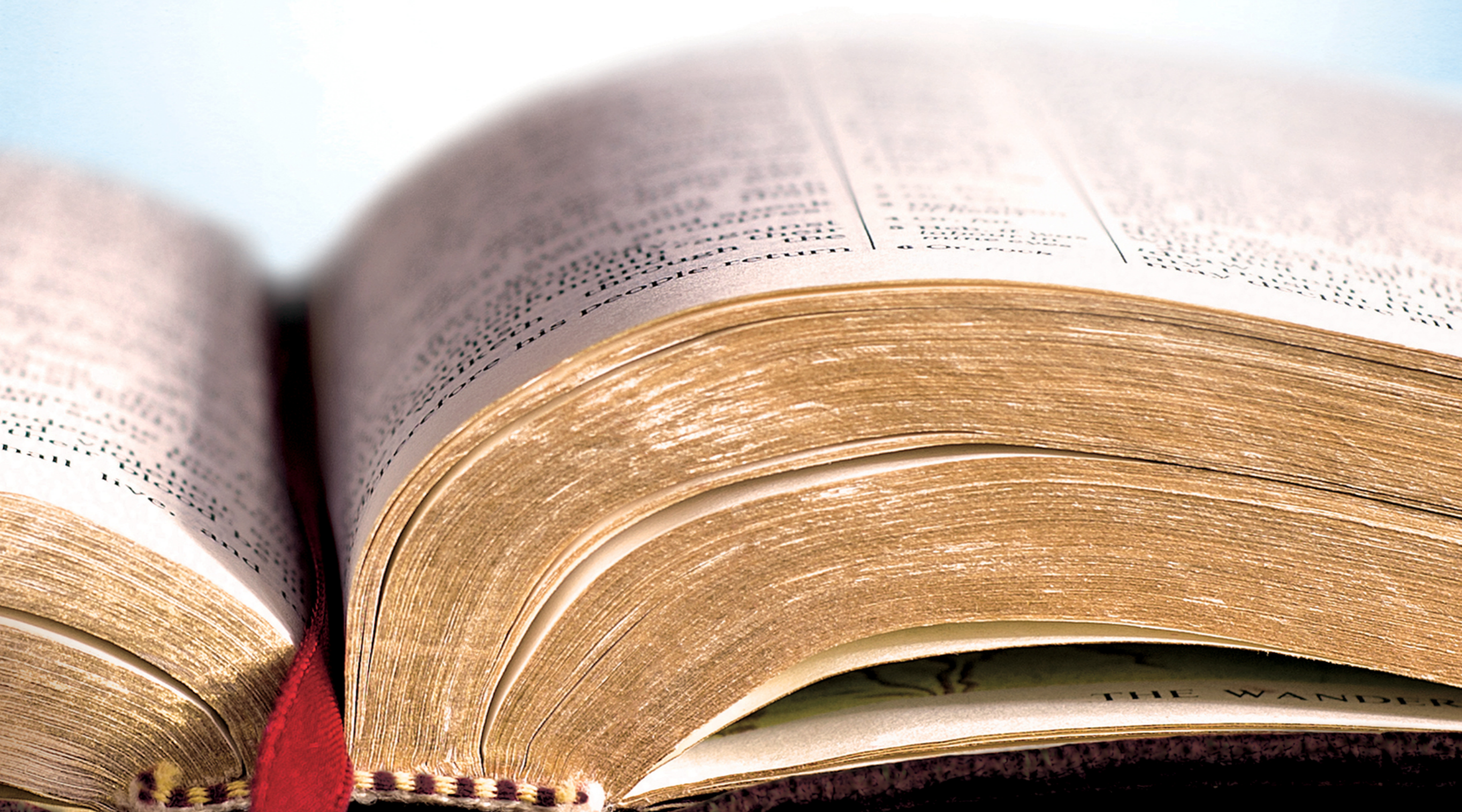
VBS at TSF

July 10th-13th

Jenny Lane

July 24th-27th

The Good Book



The Good Book Recap:

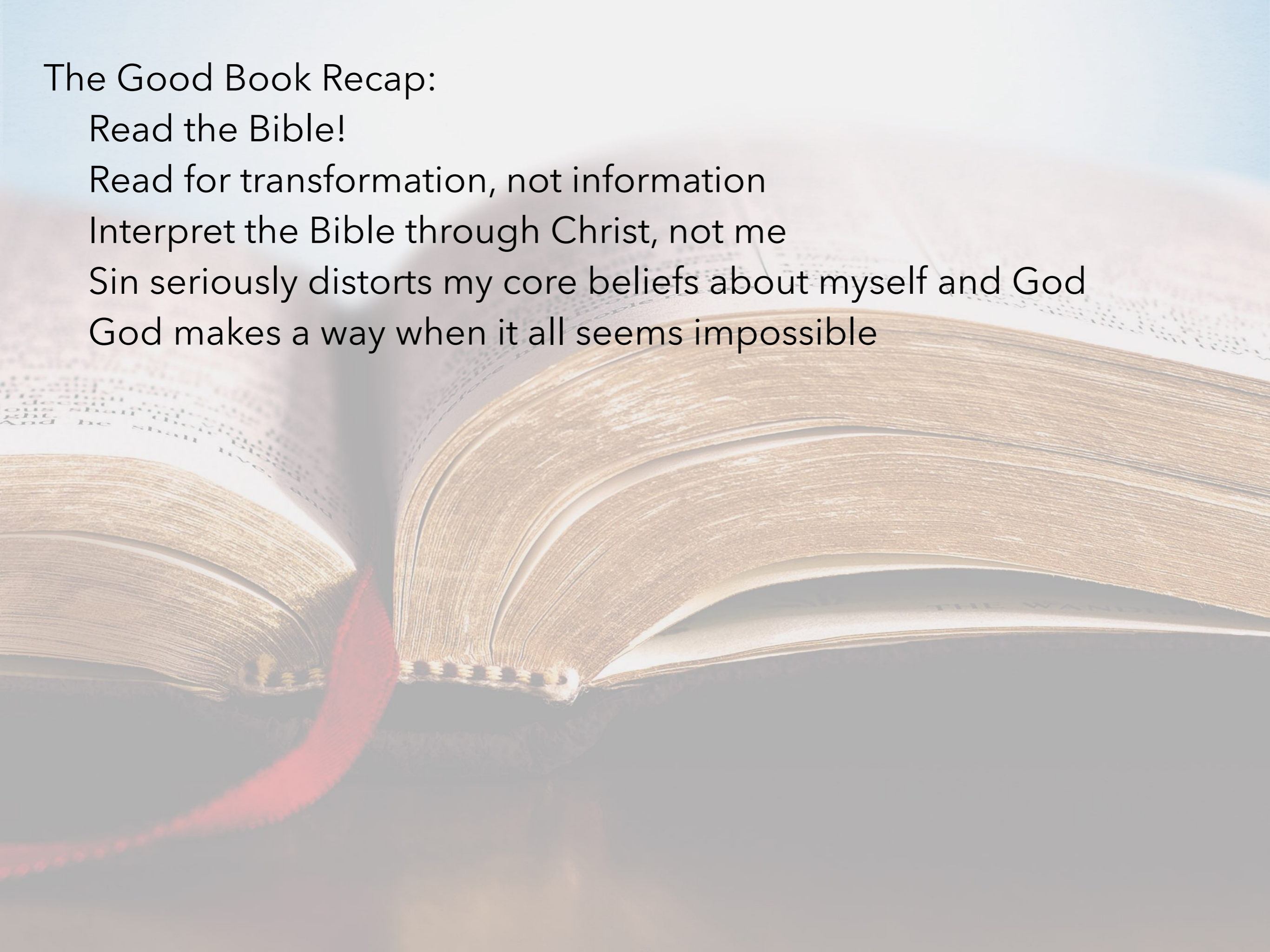
Read the Bible!

Read for transformation, not information

Interpret the Bible through Christ, not me

Sin seriously distorts my core beliefs about myself and God

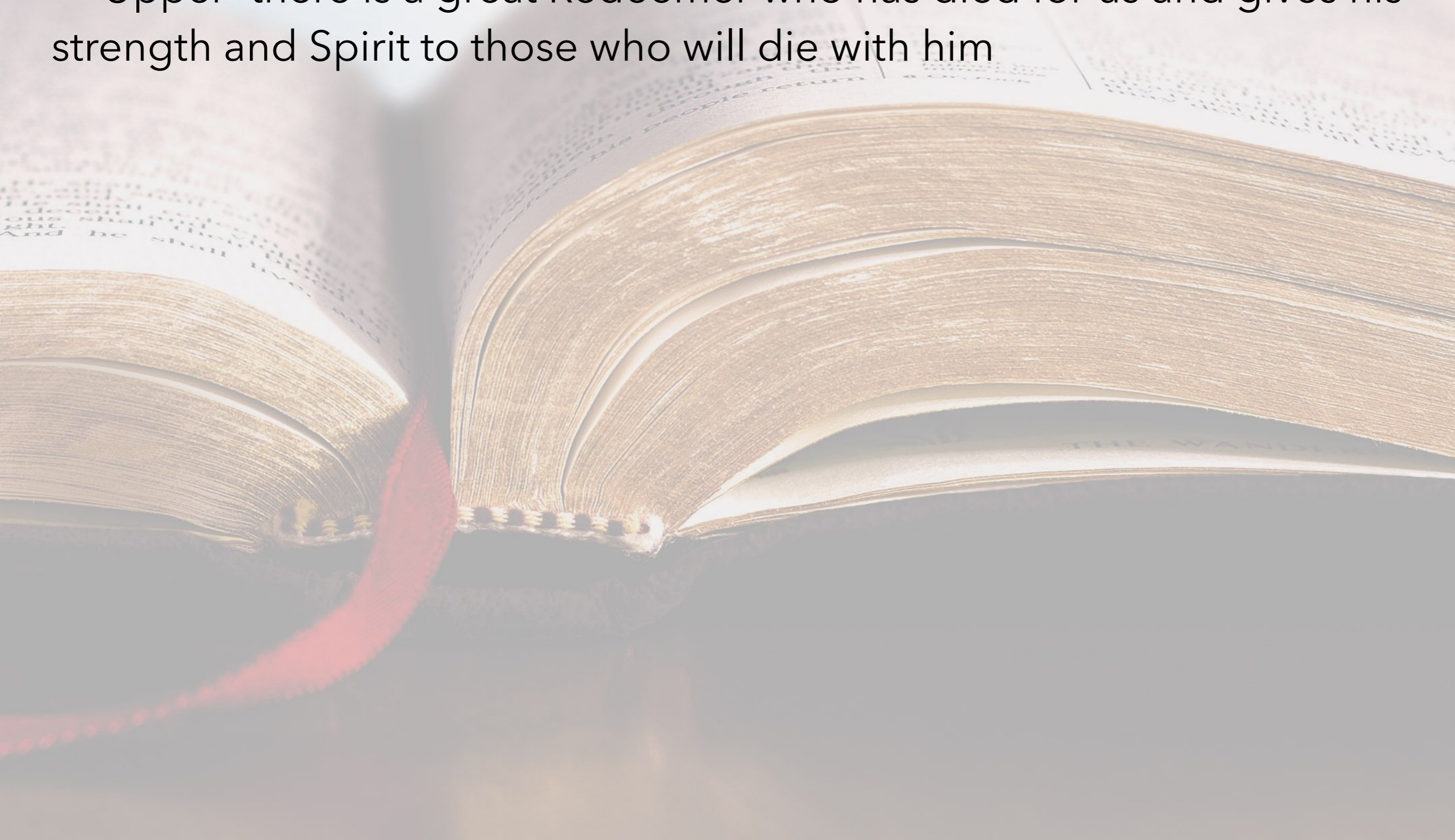
God makes a way when it all seems impossible



There is a lower and upper story in Scripture

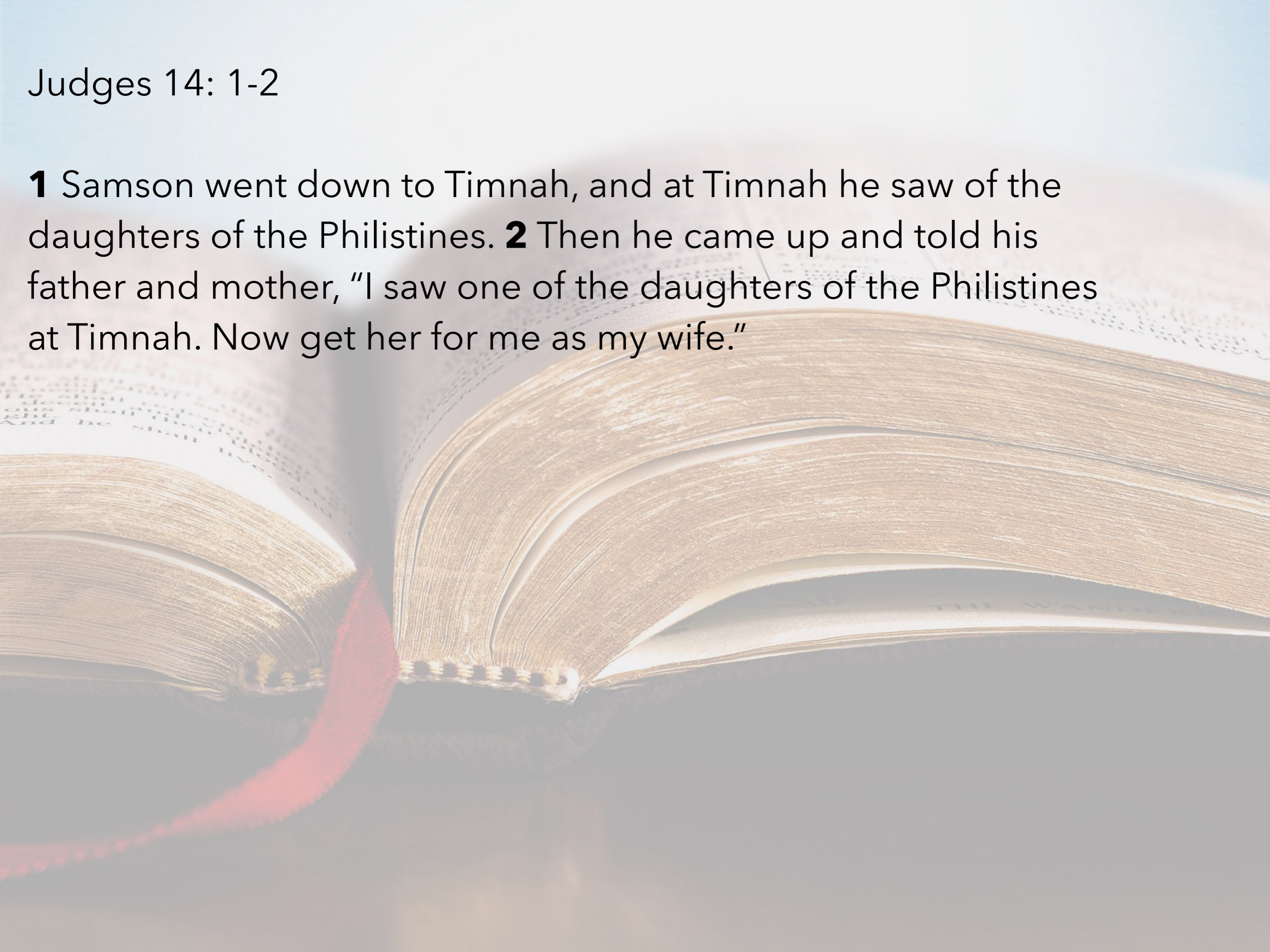
Lower- Samson represents Israel; Samson represents us

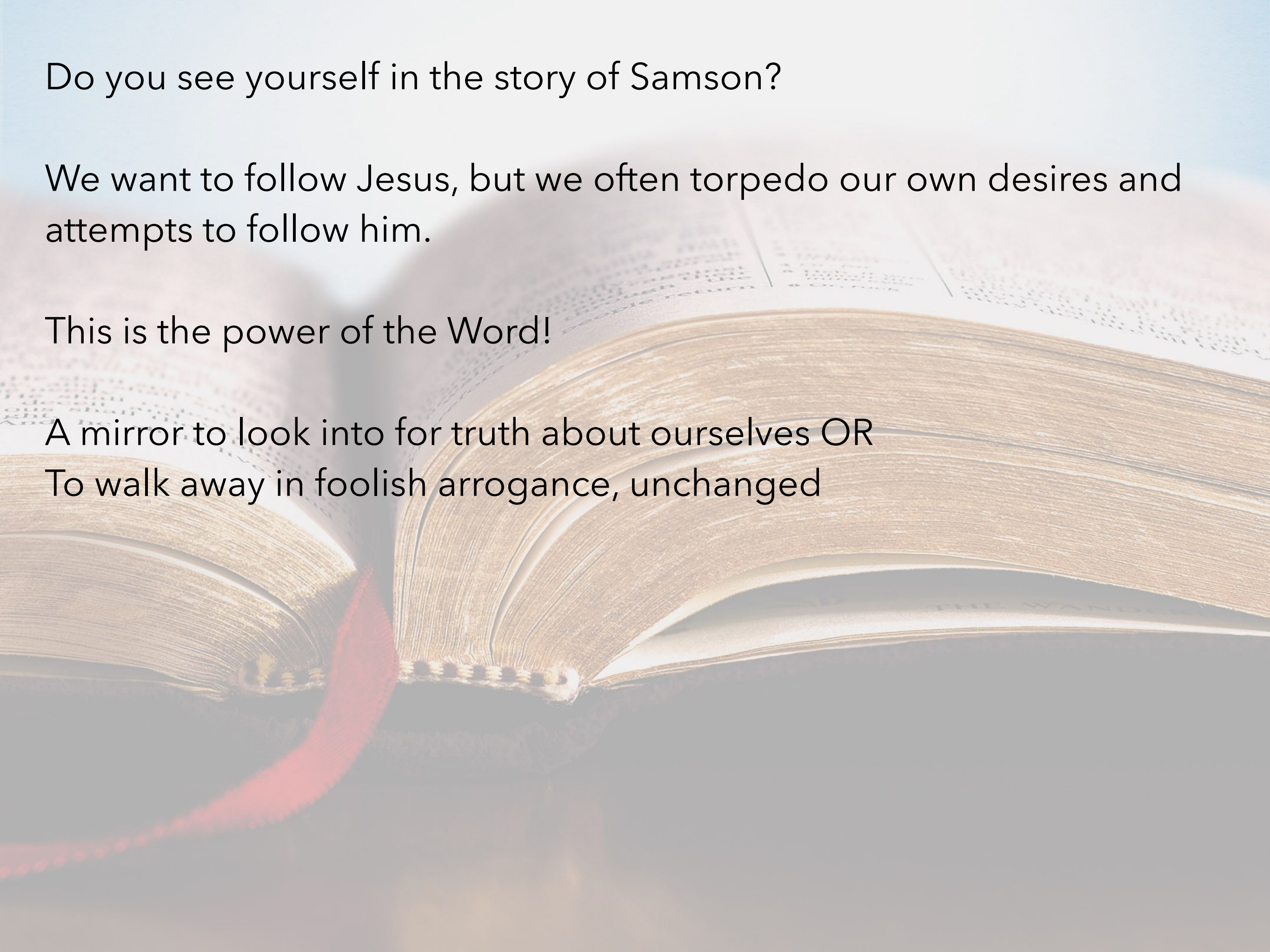
Upper- there is a great Redeemer who has died for us and gives his strength and Spirit to those who will die with him



Judges 14: 1-2

1 Samson went down to Timnah, and at Timnah he saw of the daughters of the Philistines. **2** Then he came up and told his father and mother, "I saw one of the daughters of the Philistines at Timnah. Now get her for me as my wife."





Do you see yourself in the story of Samson?

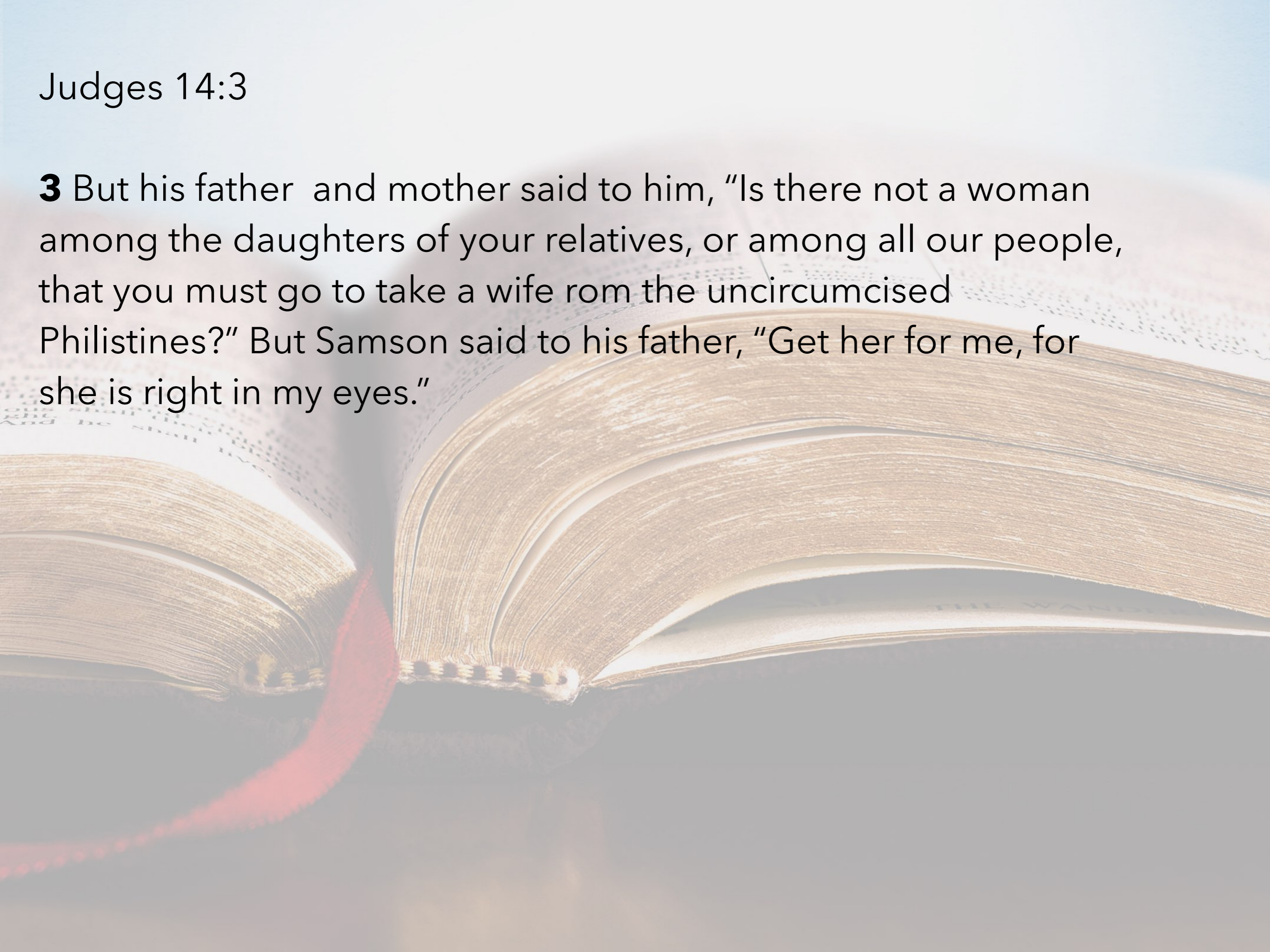
We want to follow Jesus, but we often torpedo our own desires and attempts to follow him.

This is the power of the Word!

A mirror to look into for truth about ourselves OR
To walk away in foolish arrogance, unchanged

Judges 14:3

3 But his father and mother said to him, "Is there not a woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you must go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she is right in my eyes."



What is motivating Samson? What is his primary motivator?

What pleases him?

What is your primary motivator?

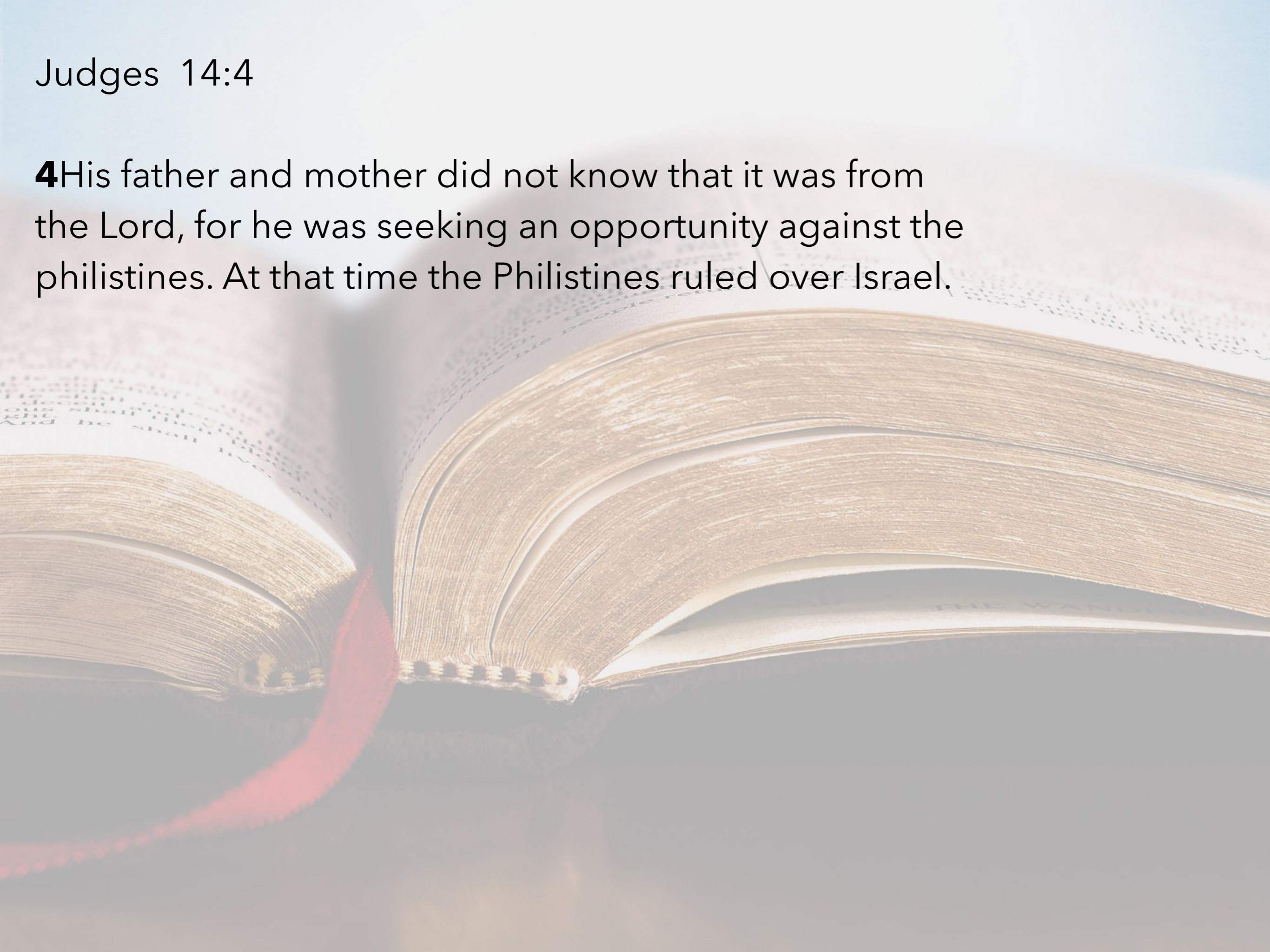
This is why we don't need the Bible to be a bunch of moralistic stories/rules

We need our primary motivations changed- would you pray toward that?

2 Cor. 5:14, 17; Ps. 16:11; Phil. 3:13-14; 2 Cor. 3:17-18; Ps. 27:4

Judges 14:4

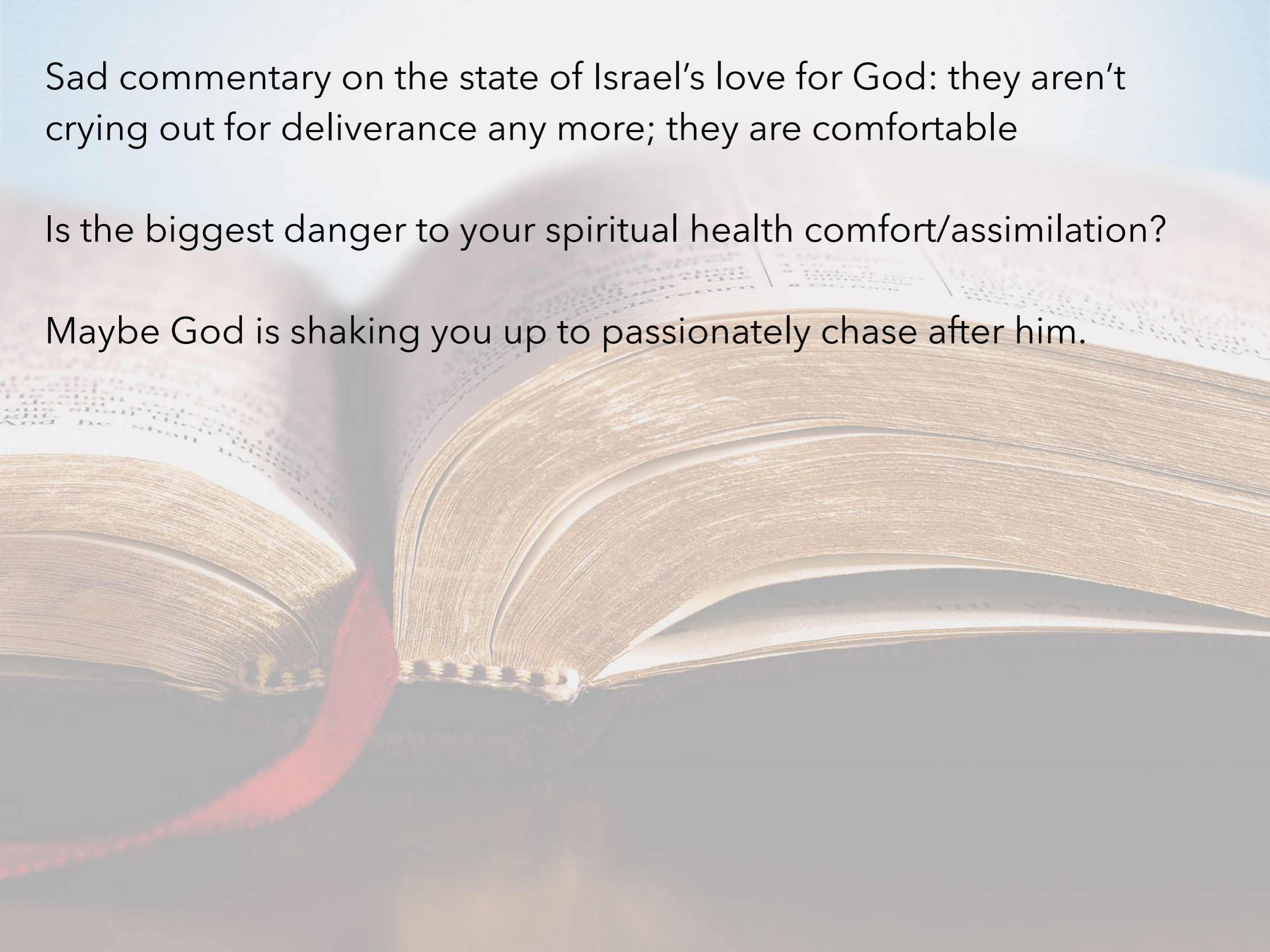
4His father and mother did not know that it was from the Lord, for he was seeking an opportunity against the philistines. At that time the Philistines ruled over Israel.



Sad commentary on the state of Israel's love for God: they aren't crying out for deliverance any more; they are comfortable

Is the biggest danger to your spiritual health comfort/assimilation?

Maybe God is shaking you up to passionately chase after him.



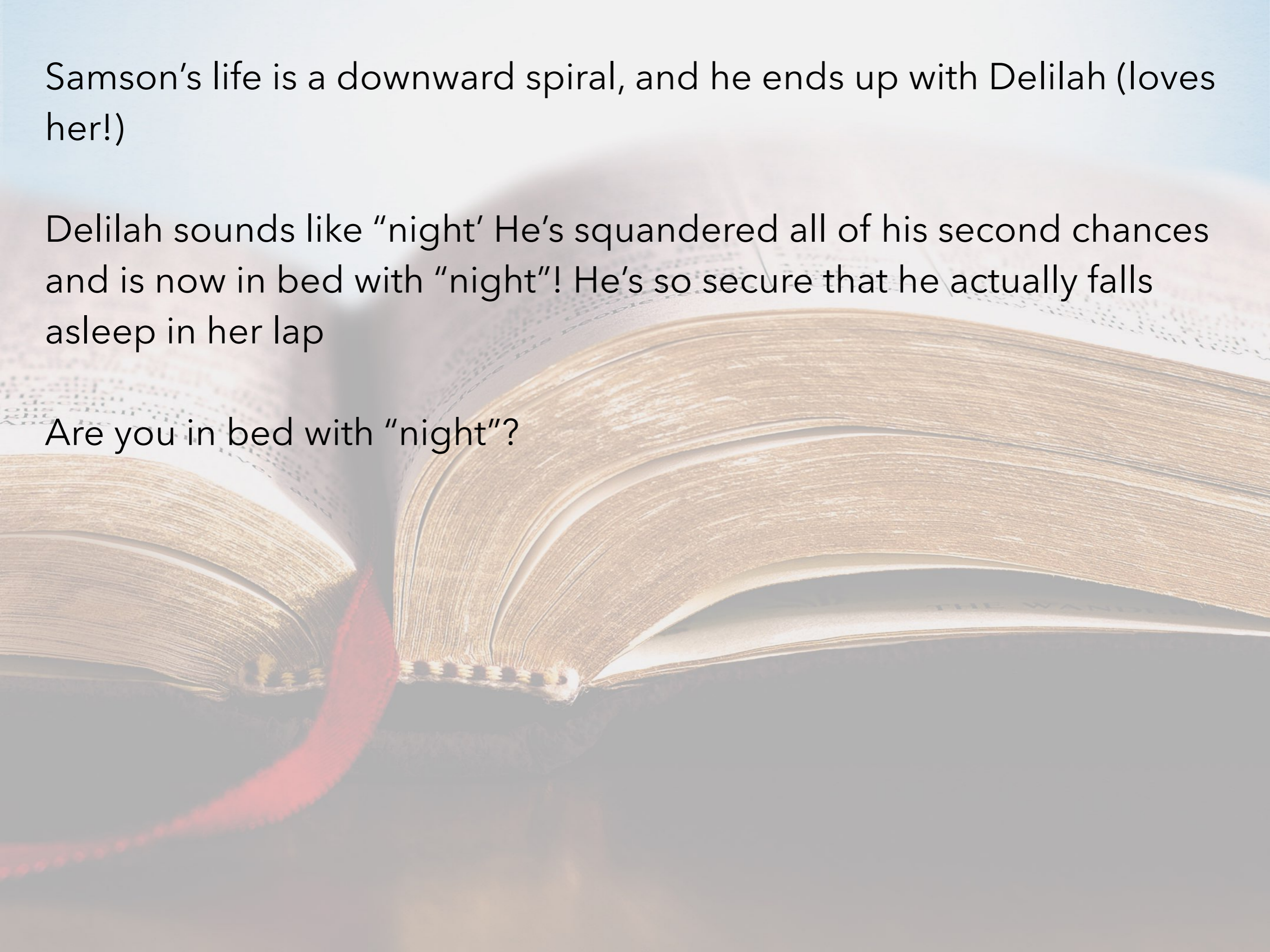
Judges 16:1-4

1 Samson went to Gaza, and there he saw a prostitute, and he went in to her. **2** The Gazites were told, "Samson has come here." And they surrounded the place and set an ambush for him all night at the gate of the city. They kept quiet all night, saying, "Let us wait till the light of the morning; Then we will kill him." **3** But Samson lay till midnight, and at midnight he arose and took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two posts, and pulled them up, bar and all, and put them on his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that is in front of Hebron. **4** After this he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

Samson's life is a downward spiral, and he ends up with Delilah (loves her!)

Delilah sounds like "night" He's squandered all of his second chances and is now in bed with "night"! He's so secure that he actually falls asleep in her lap

Are you in bed with "night"?



Judges 16:4-5

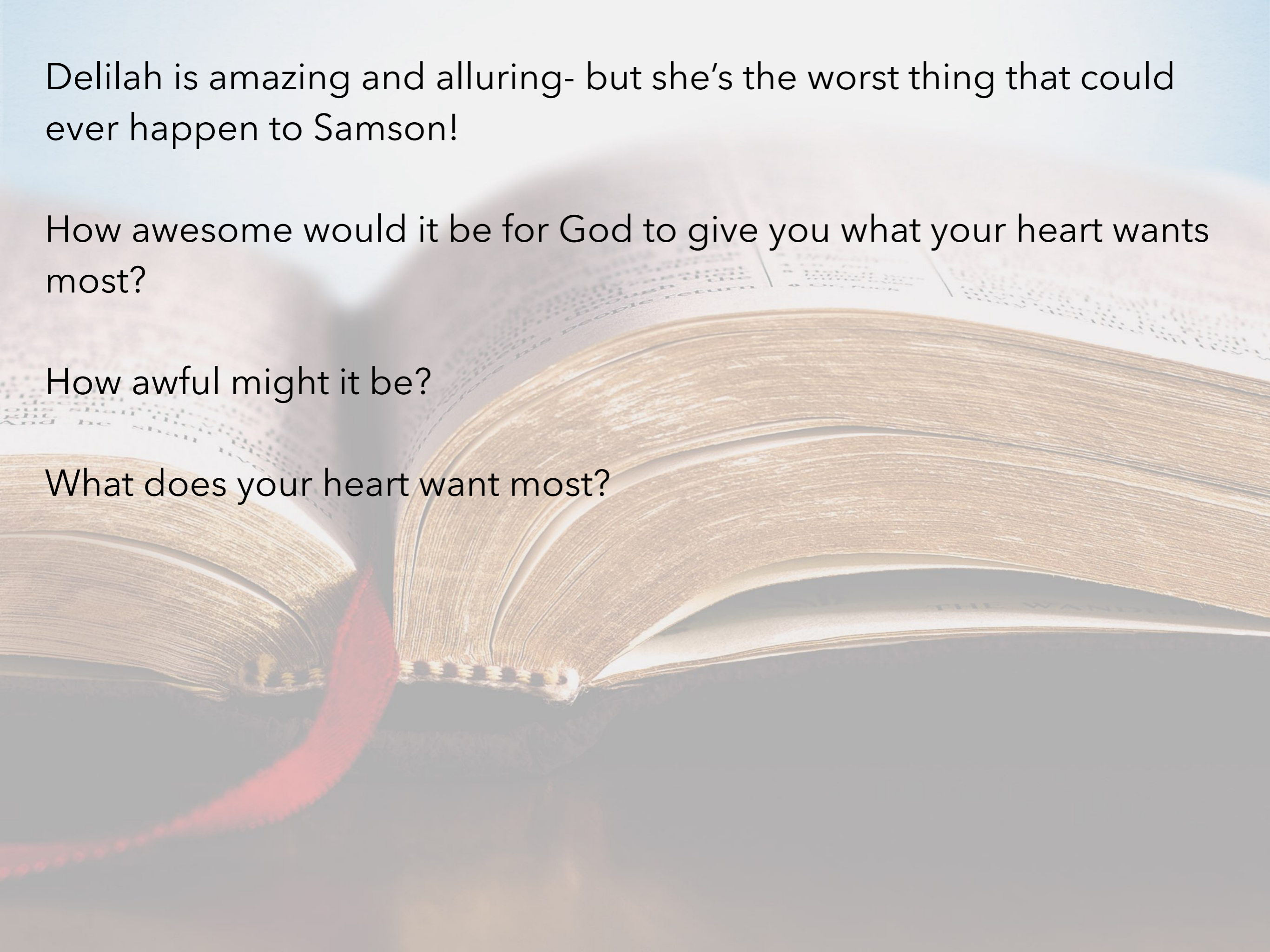
4After this he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. **5** And the Lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Seduce him, and see where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to humble him. And we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver."

Delilah is amazing and alluring- but she's the worst thing that could ever happen to Samson!

How awesome would it be for God to give you what your heart wants most?

How awful might it be?

What does your heart want most?



Judges 16:23-26

Now the lords of Philistines gathered to offer a great scarce to Dragon their and to rejoice, and they said, "Our God has given Samson our enemy into our hand." **24** And when the people saw him, they praised their god. For they said, "Our god has given our enemy into our hand, the ravager of our country, who has killed many of us." **25** And when their hearts were merry, they said "Call Samson, that he may entertain us." So they called Samson out of the prison, and he entertained them. They made him stand between the pillars. **26** And Samson said to the young man who held him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that i may lean abasing them."

Samson is at the very, very bottom of life

Some of us limped in here today- you're just looking for a pole to lean on; can't get any lower

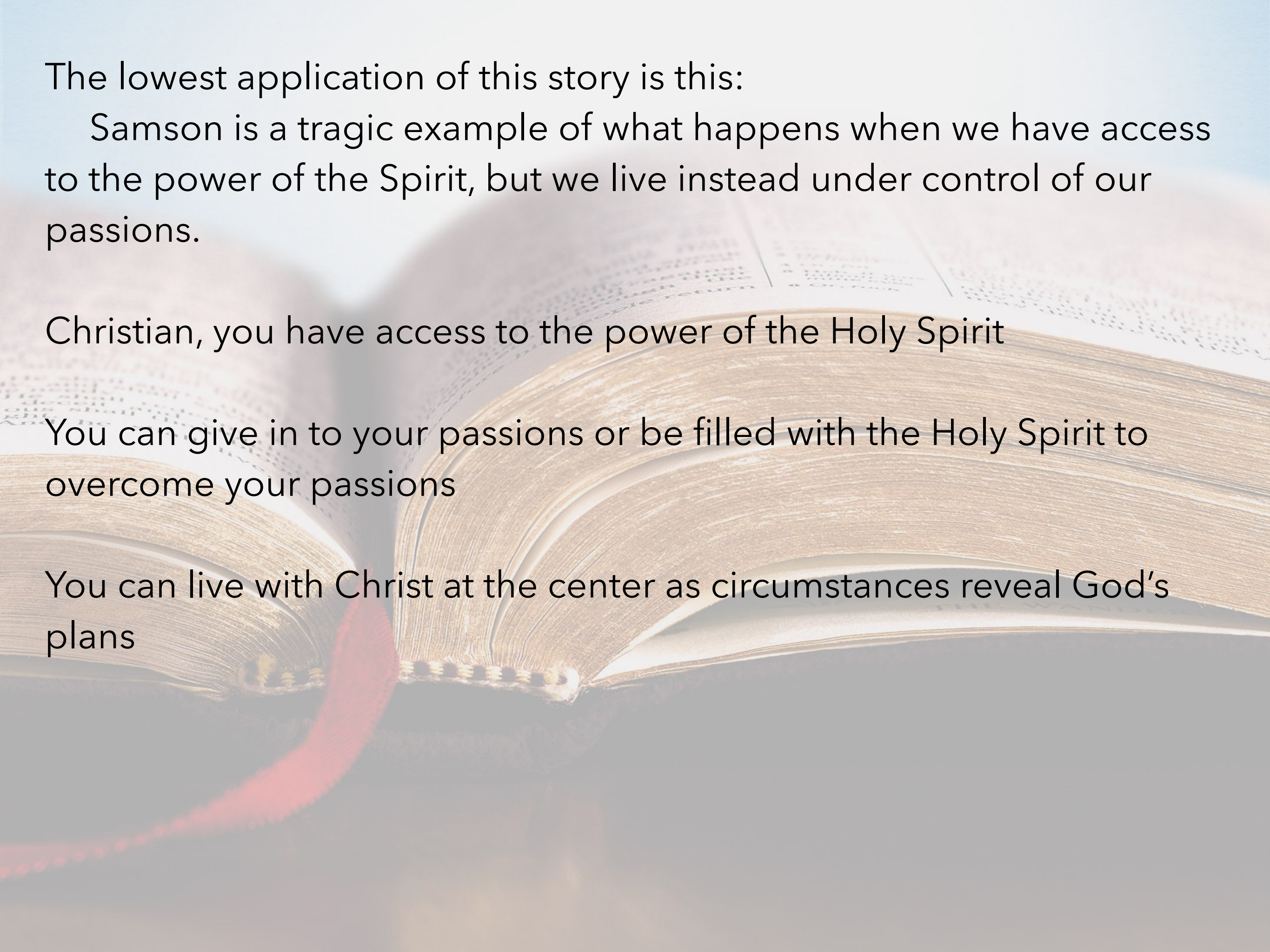
v. 22- however/but, his hair began to grow

What is God doing here?

"I'm at the bottom- my passions have led me to my enemies- I'm on the edge of the END"

Believer!! Stop!! Talk to God!!

Trust that he's making hair grow, pillars fall, enemies flee, and pulling your heart closer to himself



The lowest application of this story is this:

Samson is a tragic example of what happens when we have access to the power of the Spirit, but we live instead under control of our passions.

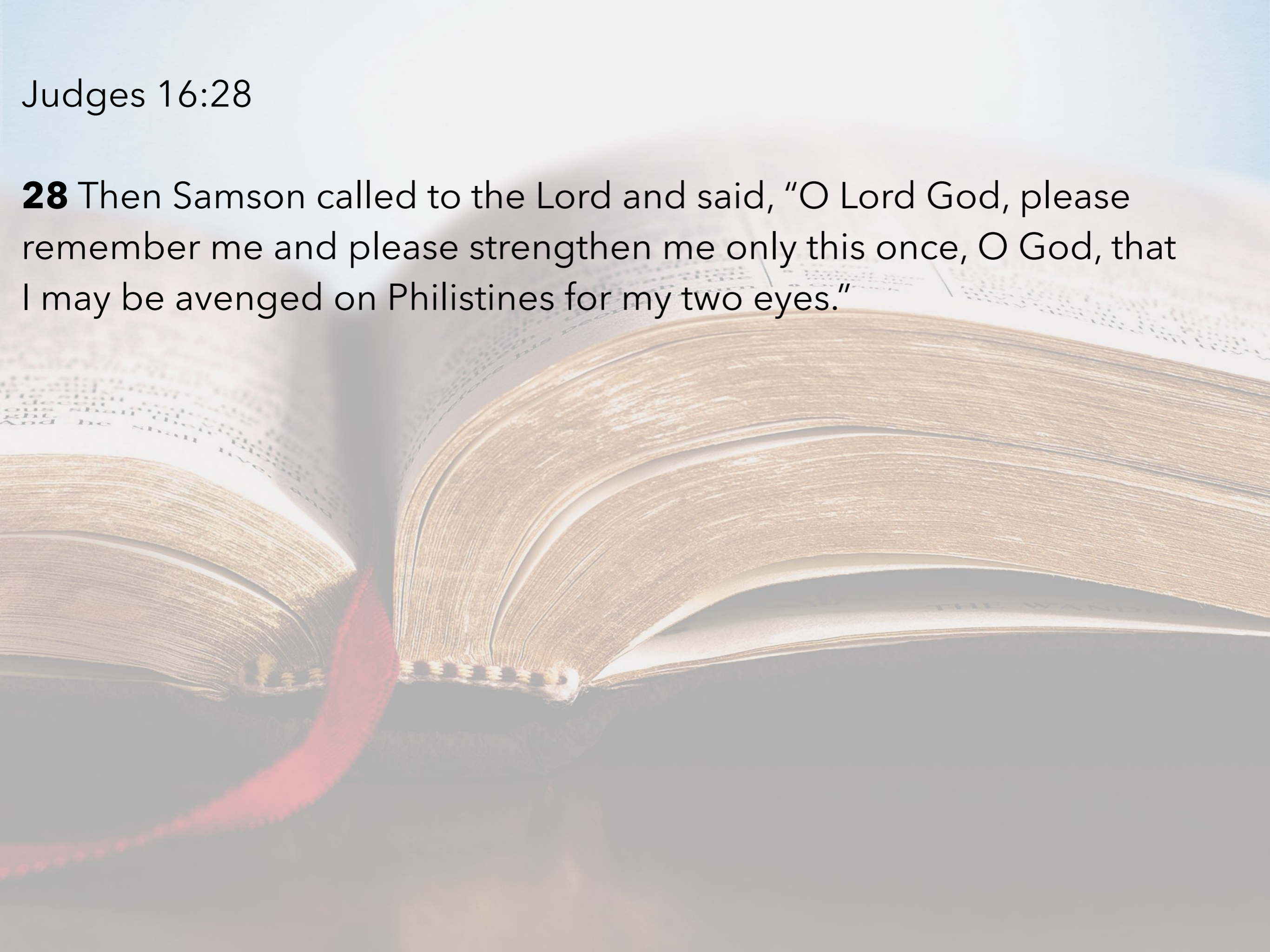
Christian, you have access to the power of the Holy Spirit

You can give in to your passions or be filled with the Holy Spirit to overcome your passions

You can live with Christ at the center as circumstances reveal God's plans

Judges 16:28

28 Then Samson called to the Lord and said, "O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on Philistines for my two eyes."



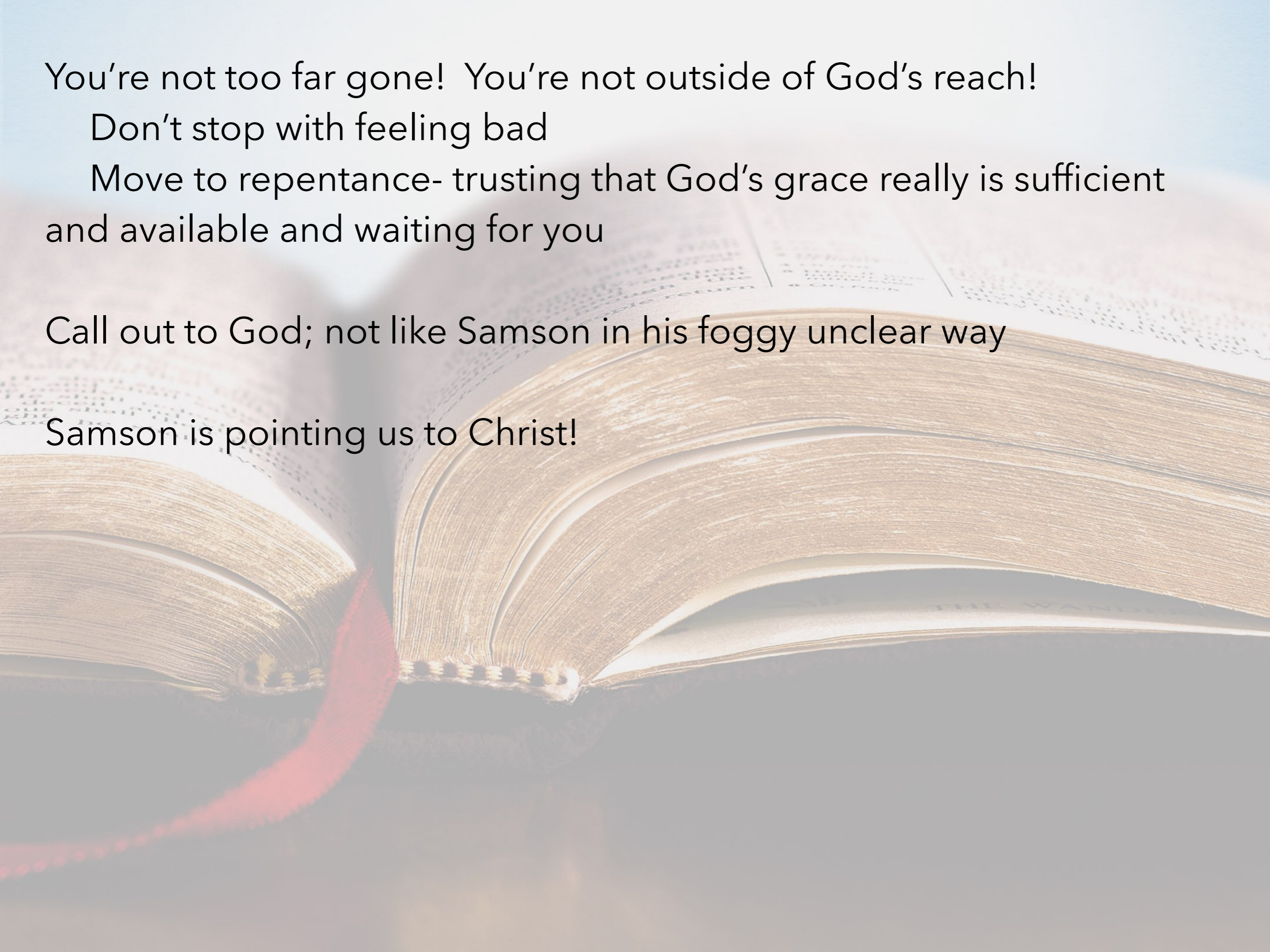
You're not too far gone! You're not outside of God's reach!

Don't stop with feeling bad

Move to repentance- trusting that God's grace really is sufficient and available and waiting for you

Call out to God; not like Samson in his foggy unclear way

Samson is pointing us to Christ!





Are you reading the Bible for yourself or for Christ?

Samson's story doesn't point toward Samson, but to Christ!

We marvel at Samson's strength; we should be in awe of the power of the wounded, dying Savior on the cross

Not "look how much I've done to be like Jesus" but "thank you God for all you've done to make me like Jesus"

There are morals and warnings and encouragements in Samson's story

But they are fulfilled in Christ; we are empowered through the work of Christ and the indwelling of the Spirit to live it out!



Are you ruled by your passions?

Are you comfortable with things that would oppress you and you're not calling out to the Lord for deliverance?

Are you in danger of being absorbed into what's around you?

Would you pray that God would change your primary motivations?

Are you weak?

Would you pray that God would work through you powerfully now?

Are you looking for answers and immediate results?

Ask God to show you how Jesus is sufficient for you wherever you are
"God, give me another chance!"