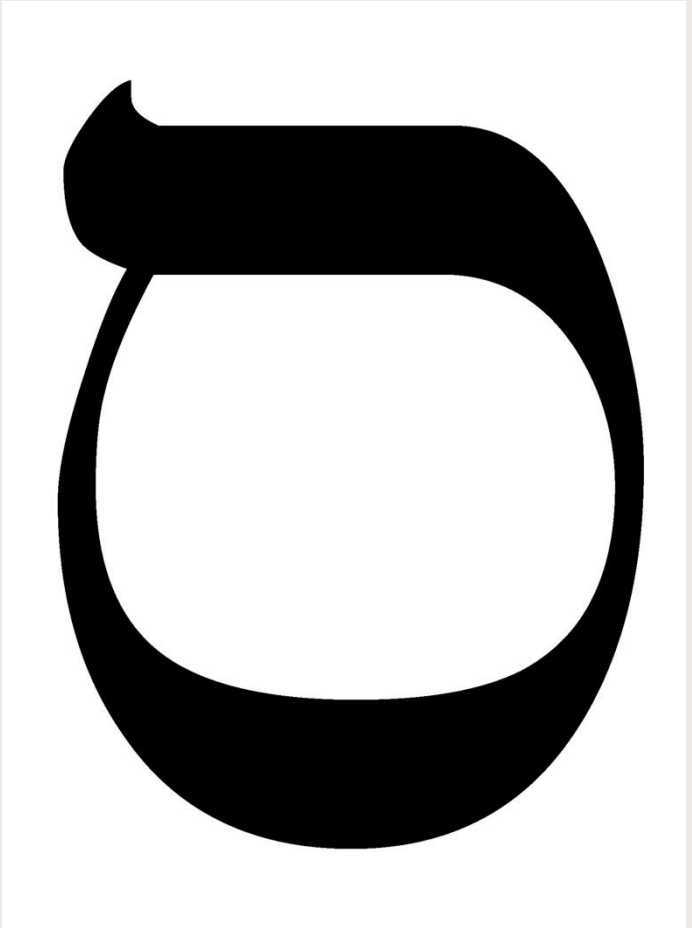

Sweet Dreams
“When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.”
(Pro 3:24, NASB)

# A MONTH OF SLEEP, DREAMS, AND HIDDEN LIFE

- **Month**: Nine, darkest month of the year
- **Name**: Kislev, meaning trust, security, hope
- **Tribe**: Benjamin
- **Tribal Banner**: Wolf
- **Sense**: Sleep
- **Mazel**: Sagittarius/Keshet (Bow)
- **Organ**: Belly/Stomach/Loins
- **Letter**: Samekh (60)
- **Themes**: Light in Darkness (Chanukah); Month of Dreams

# SAMEKH

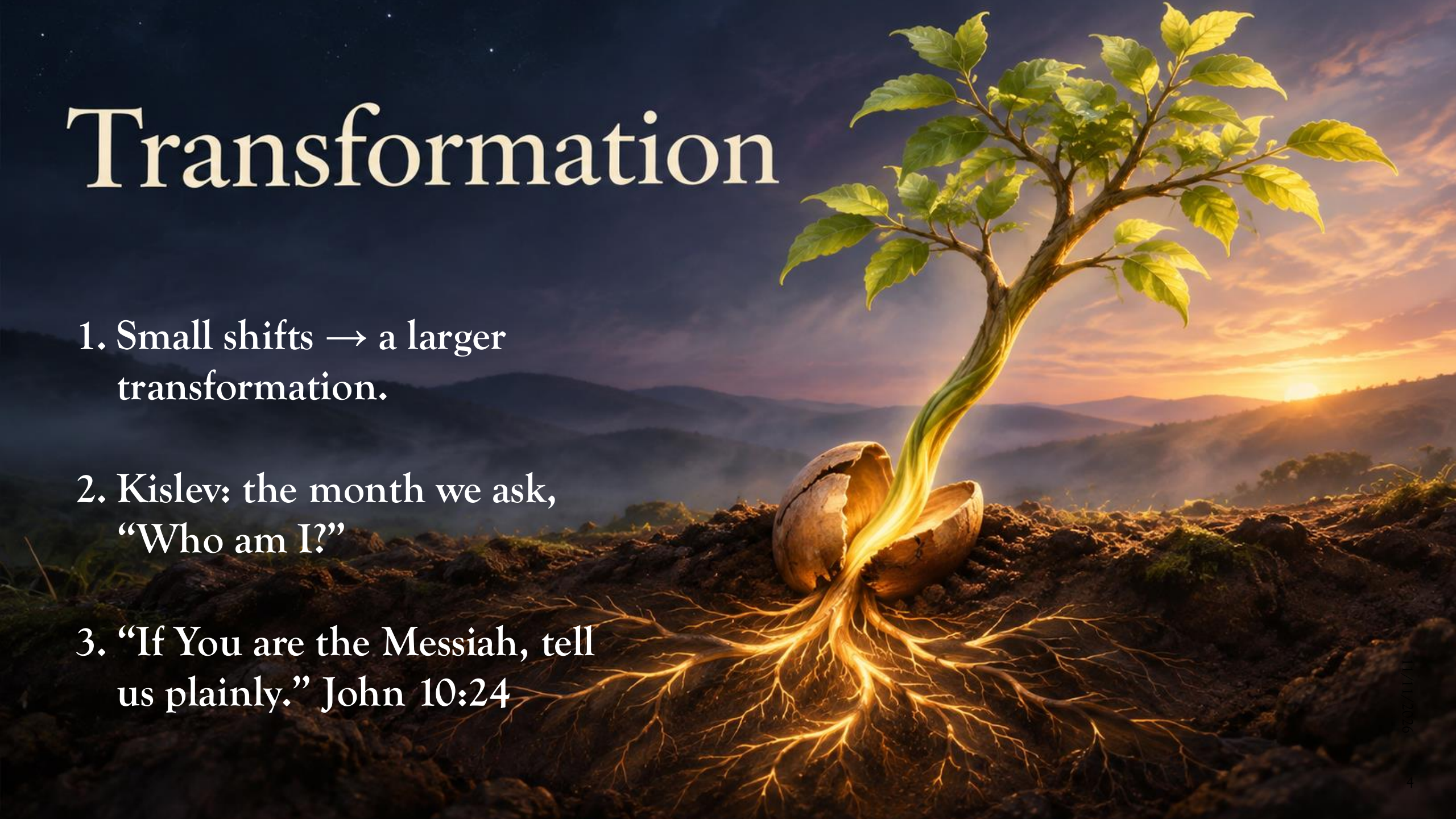
- Samech = to lean, rest, support, uphold
- Shape = a **circle,** surrounded, held



"I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD **sustains** me." Ps 3:5

"The LORD **sustains** all who fall and raises up all who are bowed down." Ps 145:14

# Transformation



1. Small shifts → a larger transformation.

2. Kislev: the month we ask, “Who am I?”

3. “If You are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” John 10:24

Transformation reaches deep into our identity and completely shifts our understanding of who we are. As that understanding changes, so can the future we dream about and the way we live out our calling.

# BENJAMIN

- Rachel names him **Ben-oni**, often translated “son of my sorrow”
- Jacob names him **Benjamin**, “son of the right hand” — Genesis 35:18
- He was the 12th son of Israel.
- The story preserves both names: the grief surrounding his birth, and the name by which he and his tribe will be known.
- The new name doesn’t erase the sorrow; it means sorrow doesn’t have to be the only word in his story.



“Benjamin is a ravenous wolf;
in the morning he devours
the prey, and in the evening
he divides the spoils.”

Gen 49:27, NASB



# WOLF STRENGTHS

- Loyal to the pack; fiercely protects and defends.
- Cunning hunters who communicate well and work as a team.
- Can see very well in the dark – to fend off other predators or provide spoil for the pack.
- Extremely resilient even in harsh environments.
- Older wolves are the keepers of knowledge that has accumulated over generations within a family pack. Led by a patriarch & matriarch couple.
- Elderly and young are protected and cared for.





“Now these are the men who came to David… They were among the warriors who assisted him in battle. **They were armed with bows, and could use both the right hand and the left to sling stones and shoot arrows from the bow**. They were Saul’s kinsmen from **Benjamin**.”

1 Chronicles 12:1-2, TLV

# IDENTITY FORMATION (PSYCHOLOGY & COACHING)

- **Experiences & Interpretations of them**
- **Relationships** (Other's words, expectations, acceptance, and rejection)
- **Beliefs** (What we believe about ourselves due to the above)
- **Roles and Labels** (We confuse what we do or how others describe us with our identity.)
- **Repetition and Rehearsal** (In the mind & imagination)
- **Internal Stories** (The stories we believe about what is and isn't possible and what our experiences mean.)
- **Actions and Habits**: (What we do reinforces what we believe)

Dreams, whether sleeping or waking, also give shape to the stories and possibilities we carry within us.

# WHY STORIES MATTER

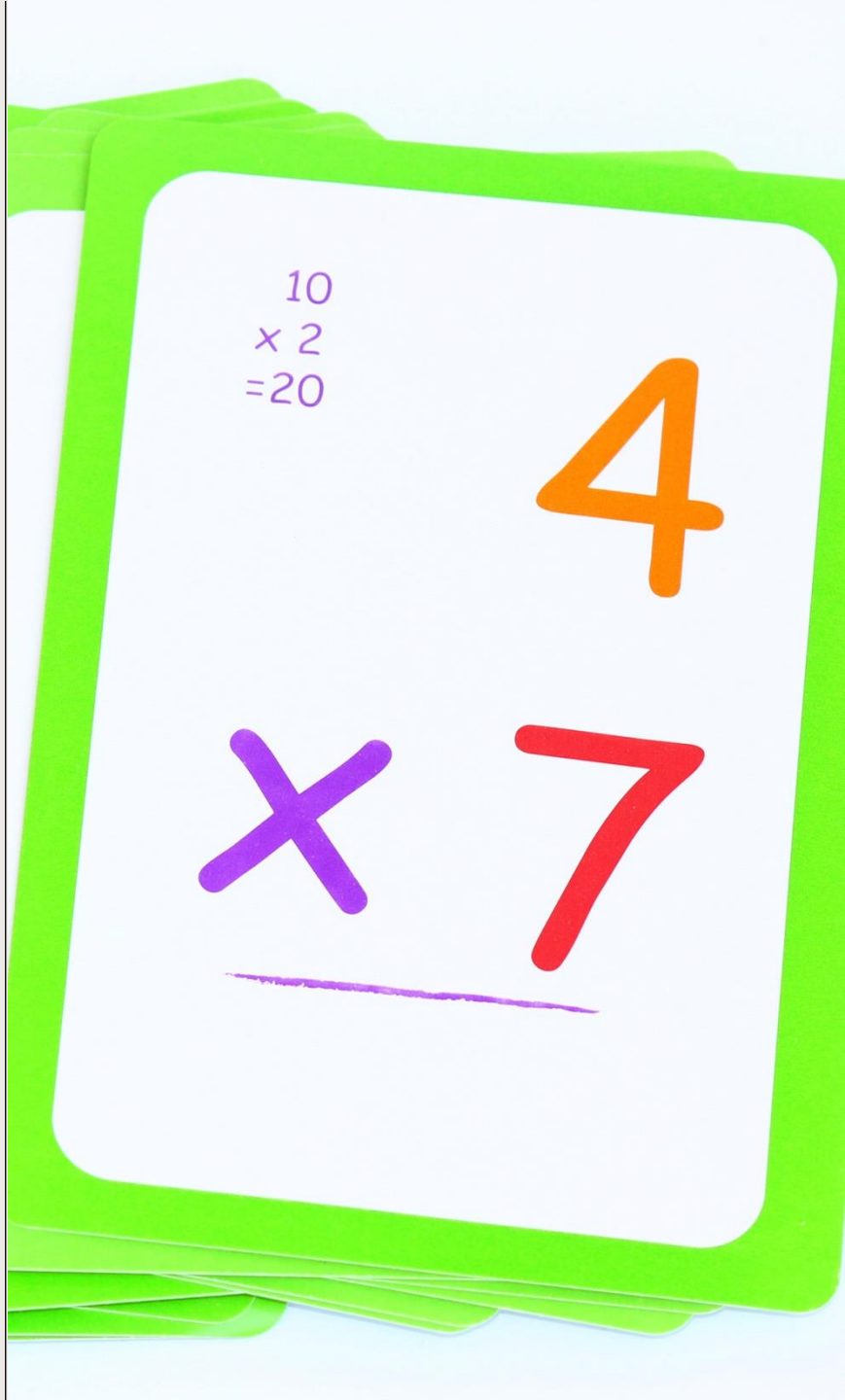
- God's Word teaches us through story.
- Stories are the most powerful medium for learning. The brain engages with story and remembers it better than facts.
- Stories engage the brain's neuroplasticity.
- We take on a story's beliefs. The more absorbed people are, the more they adopt what it implies.
- Stories make us feel real emotions because the brain doesn't fully distinguish between experiencing an event and vividly imagining one.



# TIMES TALES

I'm stupid. I can't learn. This is too hard.

Those were the thoughts my dyslexic son kept expressing. Because rote memorization did not match the way his brain processed information, he began forming a false internal narrative about his intelligence and what was possible for him.





Imagine a woman who has become the reliable one. Her family and community count on her, and she is skilled at noticing what needs to be done. Over time, she begins to live by an inner rule: *"I'm valuable because people need me. If I stop, I'll disappoint them."* She may know that she is loved in Messiah, yet still feel guilty when she rests or says no.

She's a classic Martha.

Imagine another woman who has learned to measure her worth by how well she performs. She works hard and wants to do things well, but mistakes and criticism can leave her feeling as though she has failed as a person.

As she comes to understand that her identity is rooted in being created by God and belonging to Messiah, she can receive correction and keep growing without letting one outcome define her. Her diligence remains, but it begins to flow from purpose and love rather than the need to prove her worth.



When our understanding of ourselves begins to shift, it can feel as though the ground is trembling. Even familiar patterns that have never served us well can be hard to release. Sometimes that shaking is a sign that something is being reordered. And I can tell you, it is worth every tremor.

We already bear God's image. In Messiah, we are learning to live from that truth, and to loosen the chains that tell us our worth has to be earned.

# A BENJAMITE OF BENJAMITES

**Paul's story gives us a vivid picture of how our understanding of God completely shifts our own identity.**

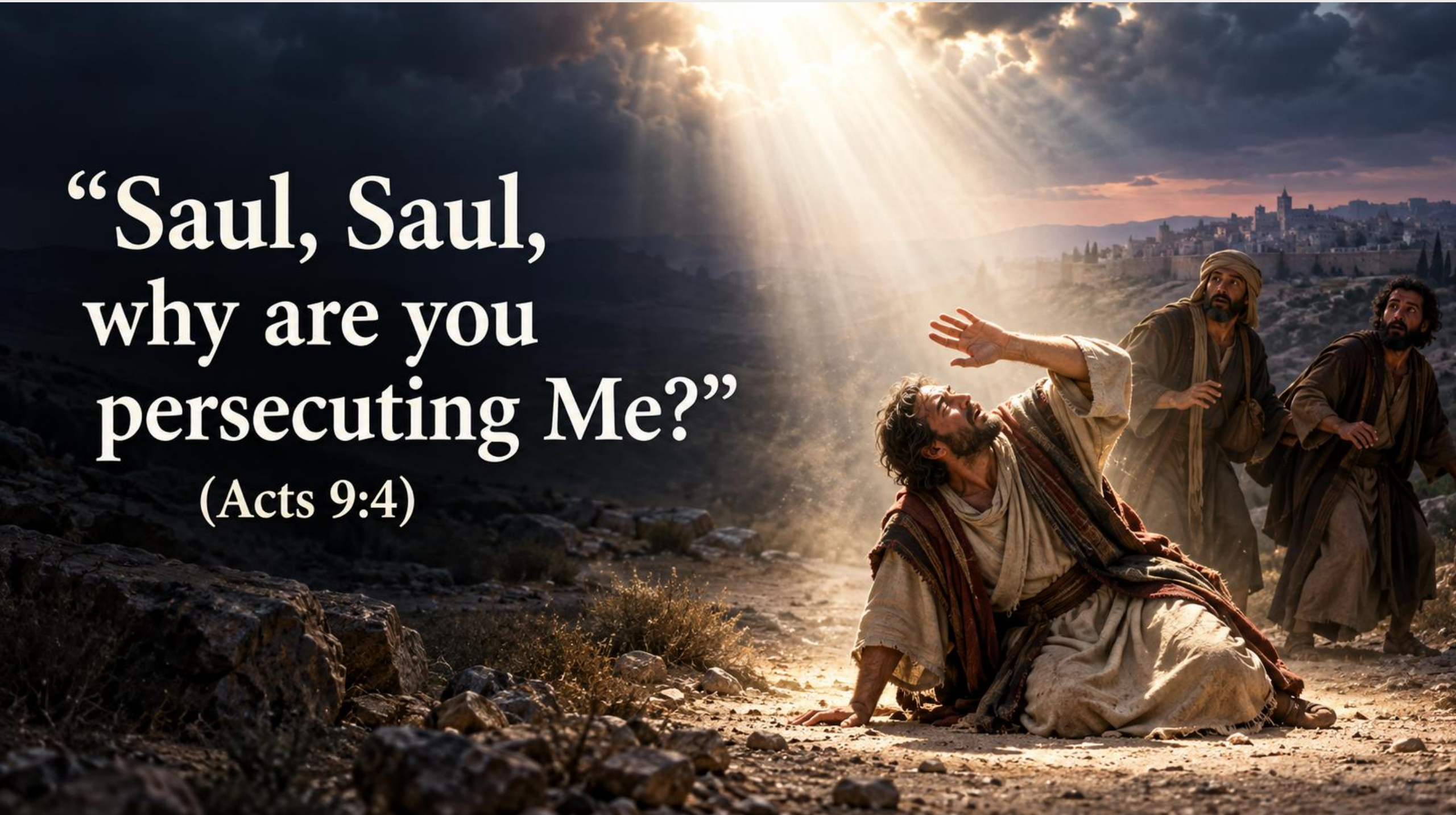
Act 9:1-4 (NAS95)

1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,

2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;

4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him:


“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”
(Acts 9:4)

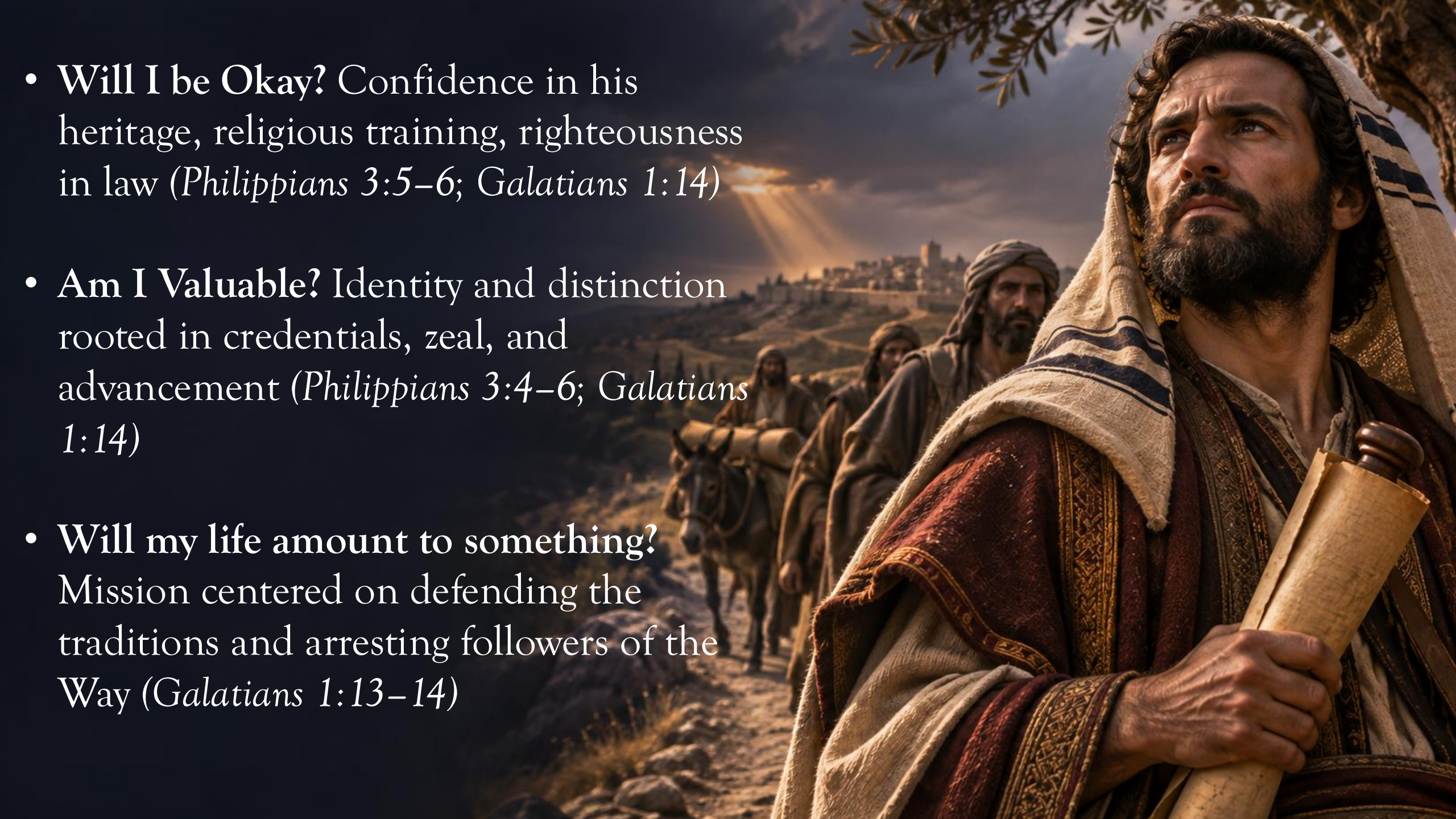
# IMAGE BEARER OR IDOL MAKER

In his book ***Identity and Idolatry: The Image of God and Its Inversion***, theologian Richard Lints explores three fundamental human needs and how we seek to fulfill or secure those needs determines the image we bear:

1. **Safety - Will I be okay?** We seek protection, stability, and belonging through money, control, approval, or religious certainty.
2. **Significance - Am I valuable?** We seek to matter through achievement, recognition, status, or being needed.
3. **Destiny/Purpose - Will my life amount to something?** We seek direction and impact through controlling our future, pursuing a mission, or building a legacy.

We can know this in our heads and still wrestle with the question, *"Will Yeshua really come through for me?"*

When that question rises, we may reach for the familiar things we use to feel secure. Paul's story lets us explore what it looks like when our deepest trust, and the things we build our lives around, are reordered around Messiah.



- **Will I be Okay?** Confidence in his heritage, religious training, righteousness in law *(Philippians 3:5–6; Galatians 1:14)*

- **Am I Valuable?** Identity and distinction rooted in credentials, zeal, and advancement *(Philippians 3:4–6; Galatians 1:14)*

- **Will my life amount to something?** Mission centered on defending the traditions and arresting followers of the Way *(Galatians 1:13–14)*

Paul’s story shows how a life can be reordered around a new understanding of identity and purpose.

# MY DREAM STORY

# DREAM KEY

God is blowing apart my idea of liberty. It's not the manmade construct that I think it is. Even ministry can be a manmade construct! The key to the dream is the first scene.

The little girl in the parking lot is my inner child who has been “parked.” She is tied to my creativity, imagination, and the childlike one to whom the Kingdom belongs. That’s where I “dine” with victory, grace, and zeal for the sheep and the Land.



# WHAT DO YOU DREAM ABOUT?

# THREE QUESTIONS TO TAKE HOME

1. Where am I looking for **safety**, **significance**, or **destiny** apart from Messiah?
2. What inner story am I living from?
3. What part of me has been parked, ignored, or assigned a role she never wanted?

