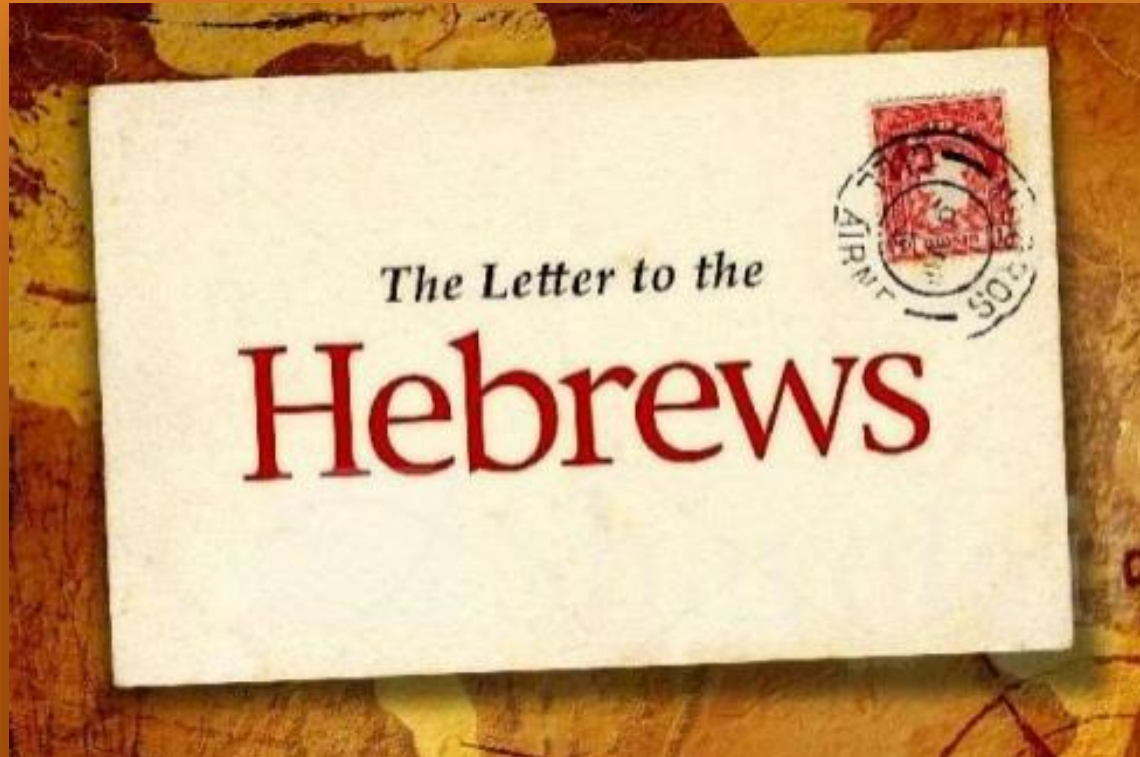
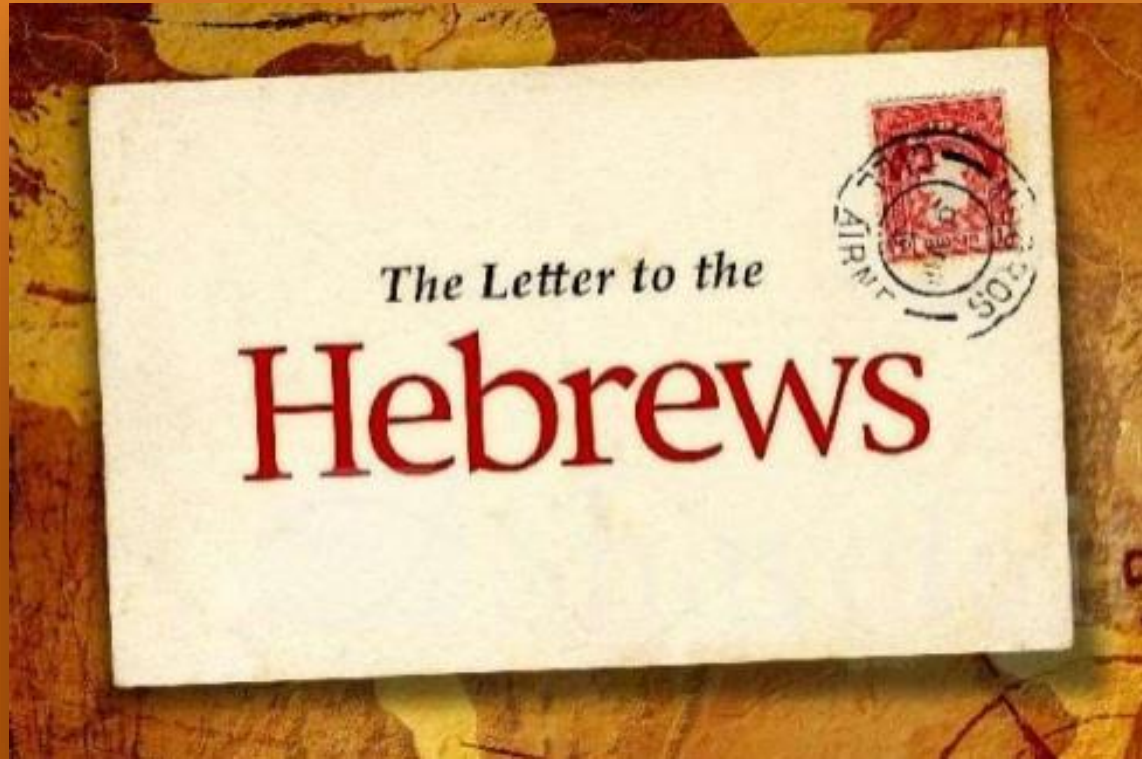


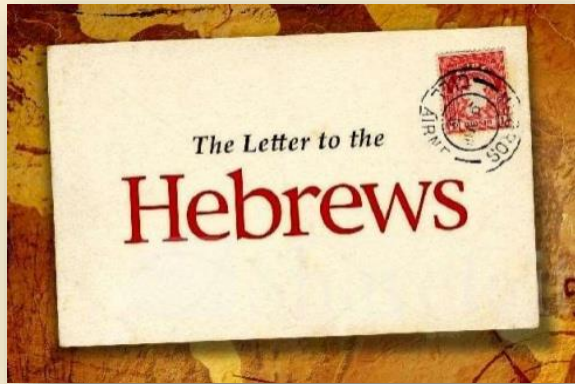
The book of Hebrews was written in part to encourage its readers to persist in living the Christian life



Some of them were in danger of casting aside their blessings in Christ and returning to what they had been before

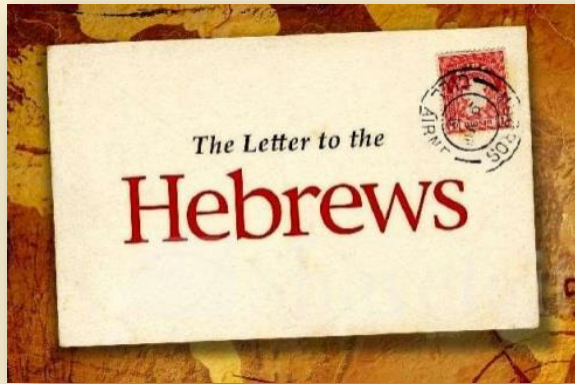


Several passages in this book were written to address this problem



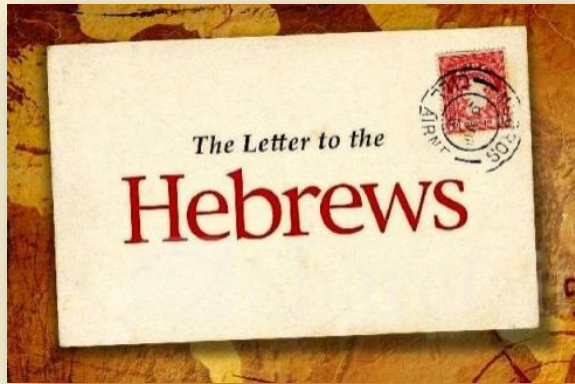
Hebrews 2:1

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.



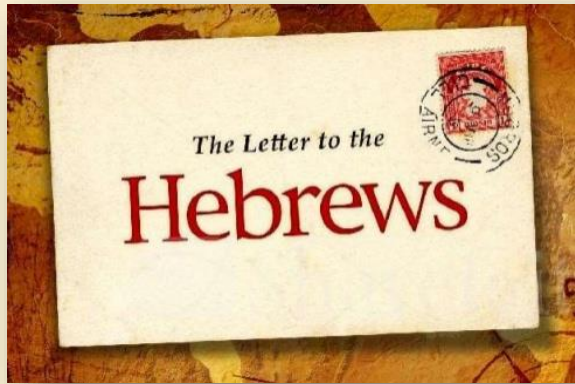
Hebrews 6:11-12

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.



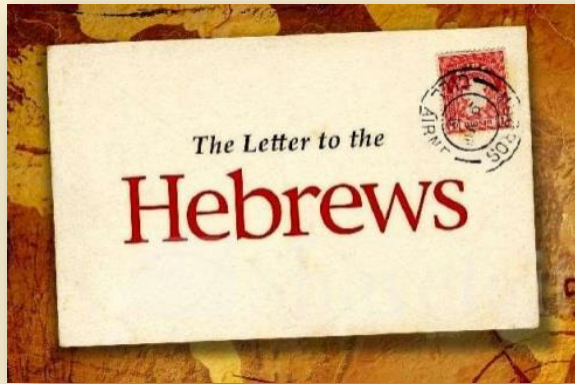
Hebrews 10:35-39

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 “For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. ↓



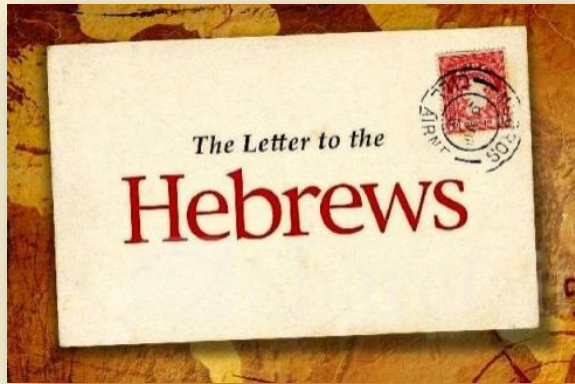
Hebrews 10:35-39

38 Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.” 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.



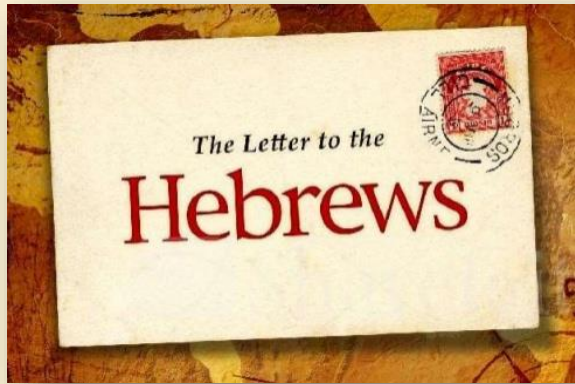
Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ↓



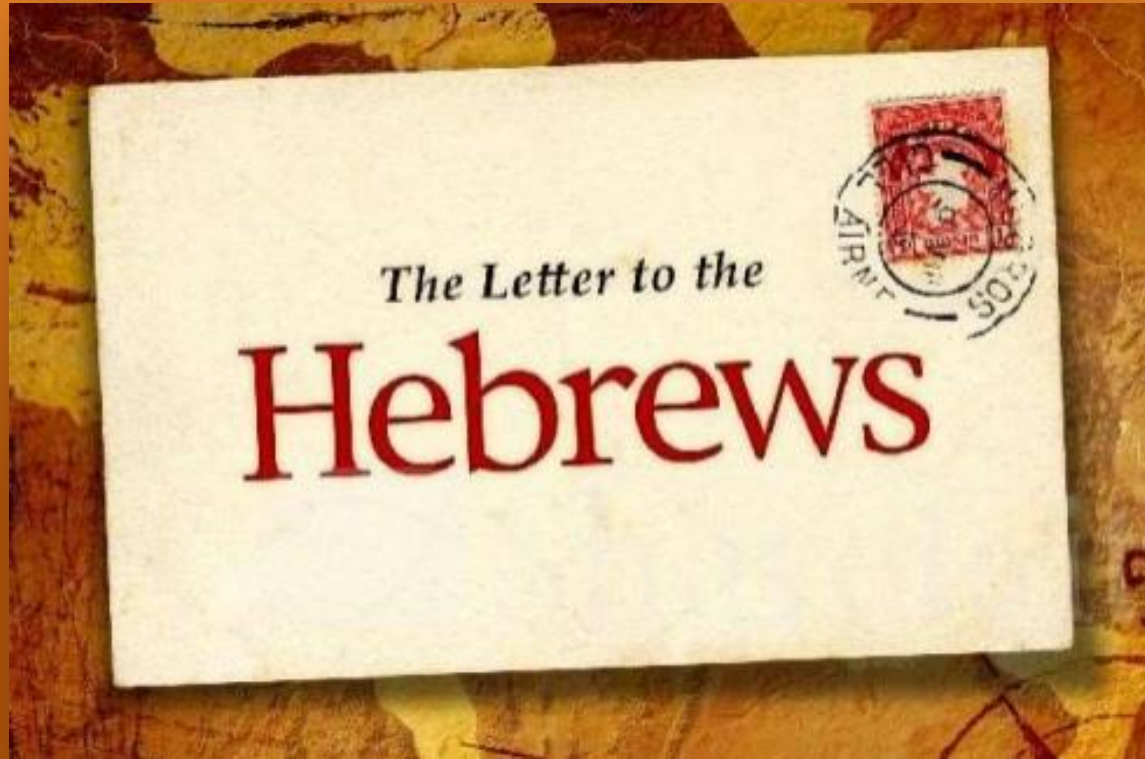
Hebrews 12:1-2

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

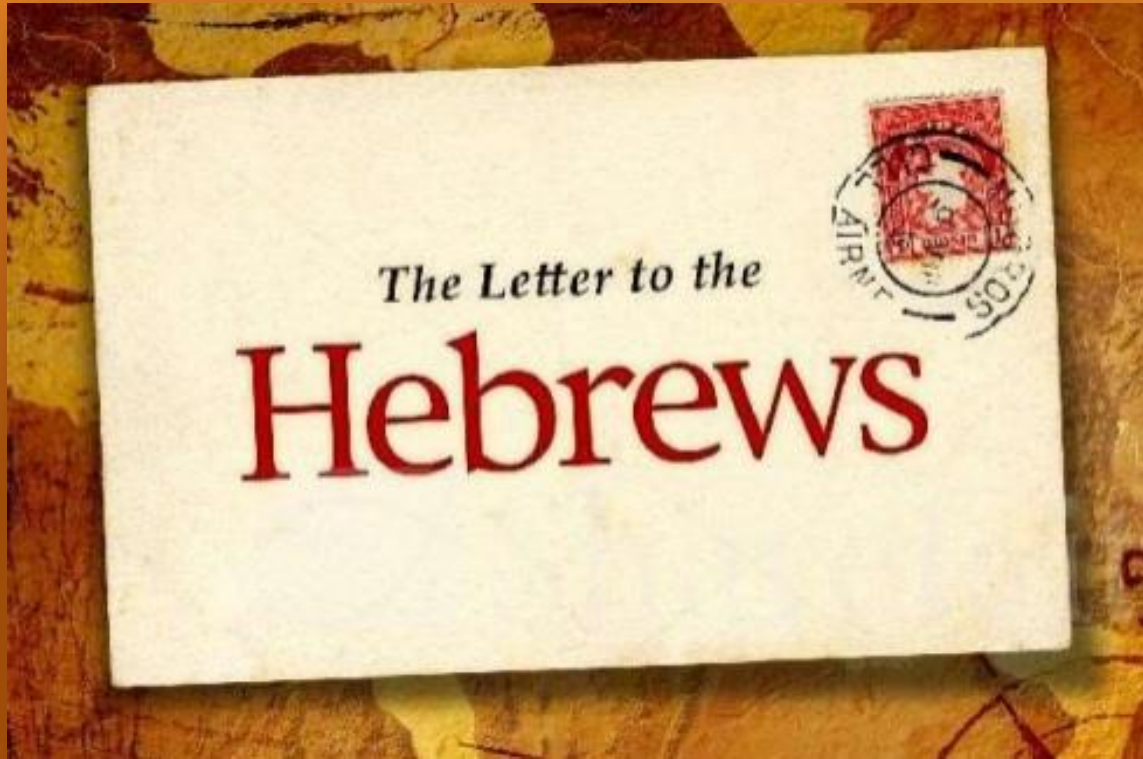


Hebrews 12:12-13

Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.



The encouragement
given to the Hebrews
is needed for us today



To be saved, one must have:

- Patience
- Persistence
- Perseverance
- Steadfastness
- Endurance

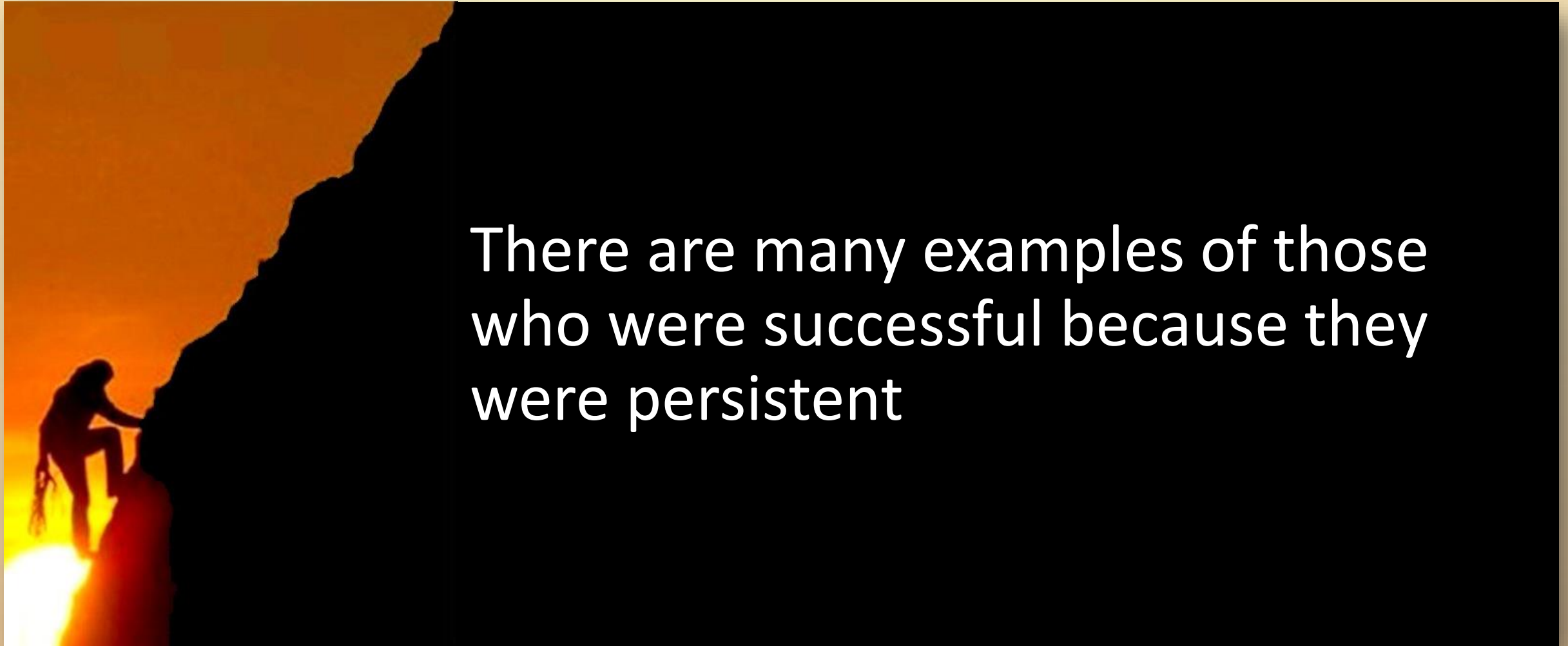


Persistence

Finishing the Course

Persistence Pays in Every
Aspect of Life

Pays in Every Aspect of Life



There are many examples of those who were successful because they were persistent



Abraham Lincoln

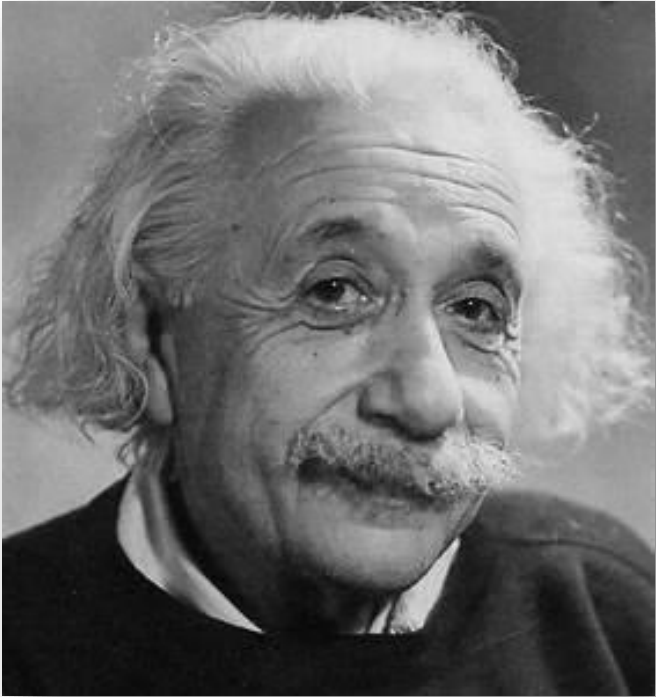
Lincoln was defeated
in eight elections before
winning the presidency

Thomas Edison



Edison failed over 14,000 times
in his efforts to invent the light
bulb

Albert Einstein

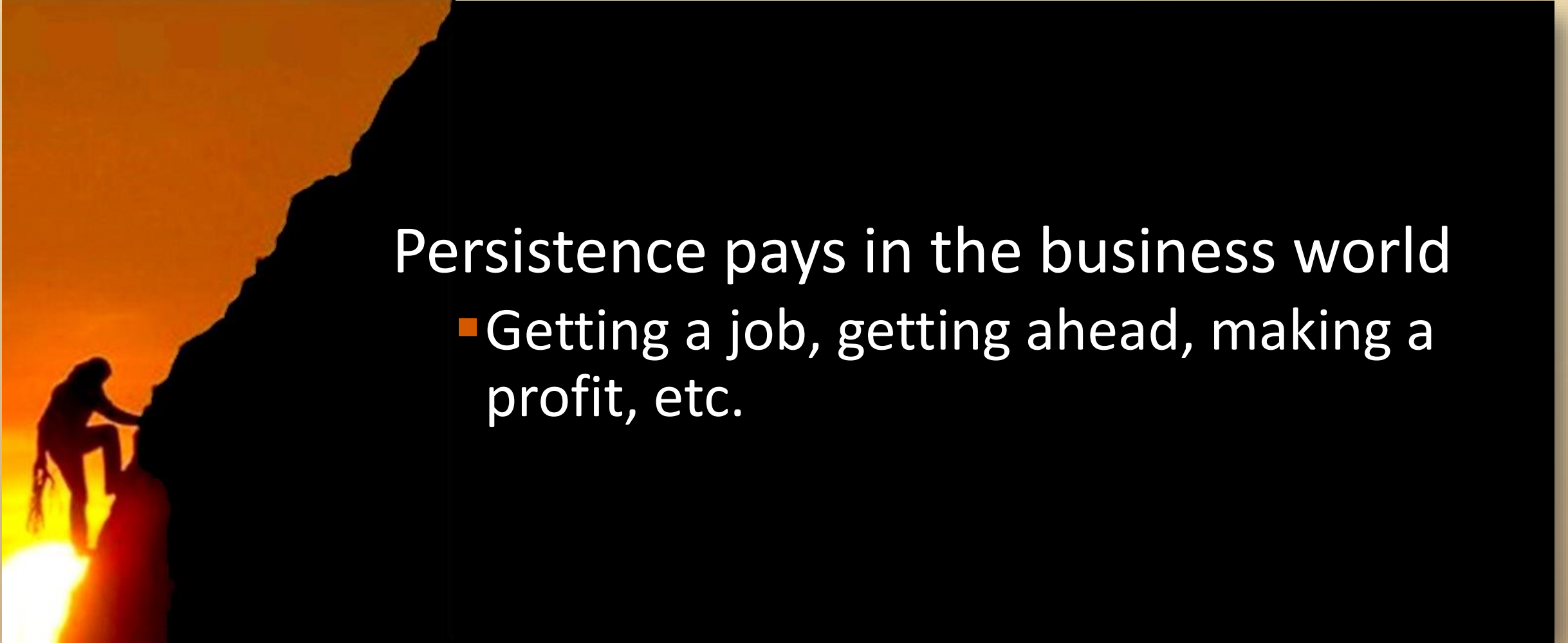


While in school, Einstein failed several math courses but went on to be a great mathematical genius

Pays in Every Aspect of Life

Persistence pays in the business world

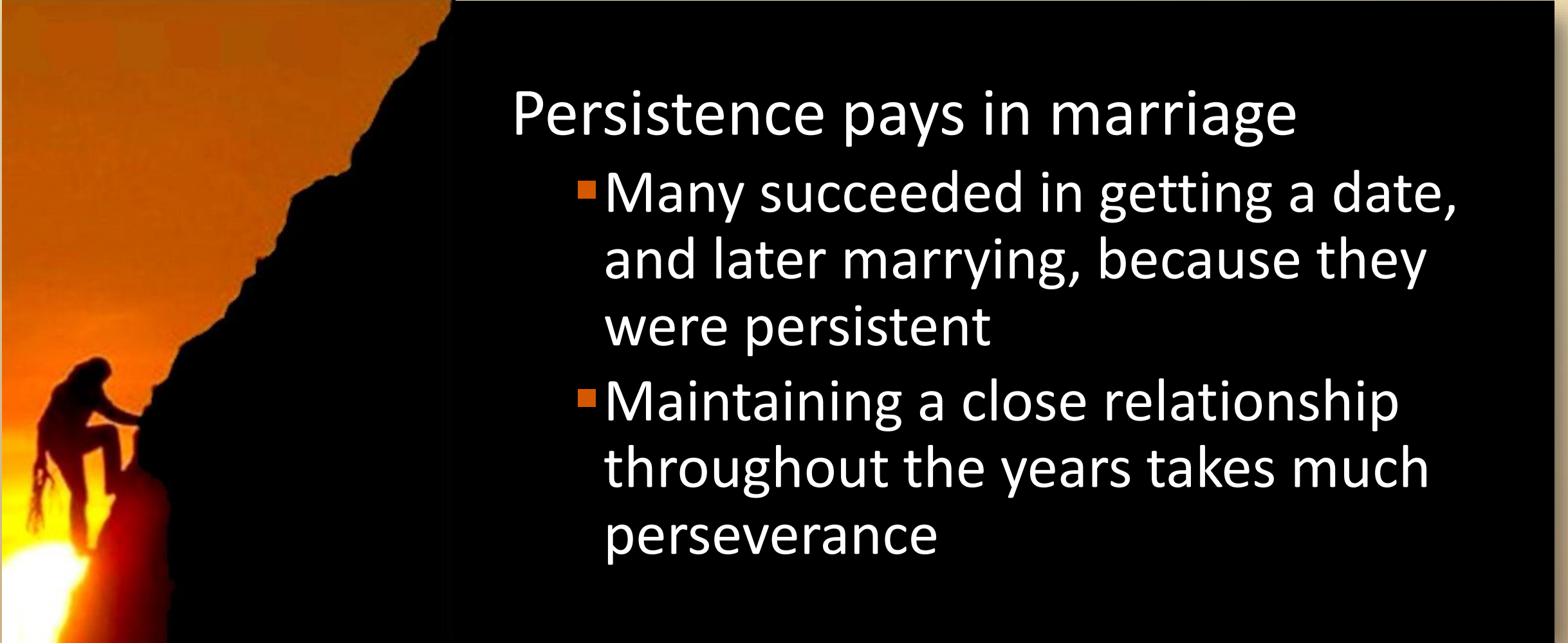
- Getting a job, getting ahead, making a profit, etc.



Pays in Every Aspect of Life

Persistence pays in marriage

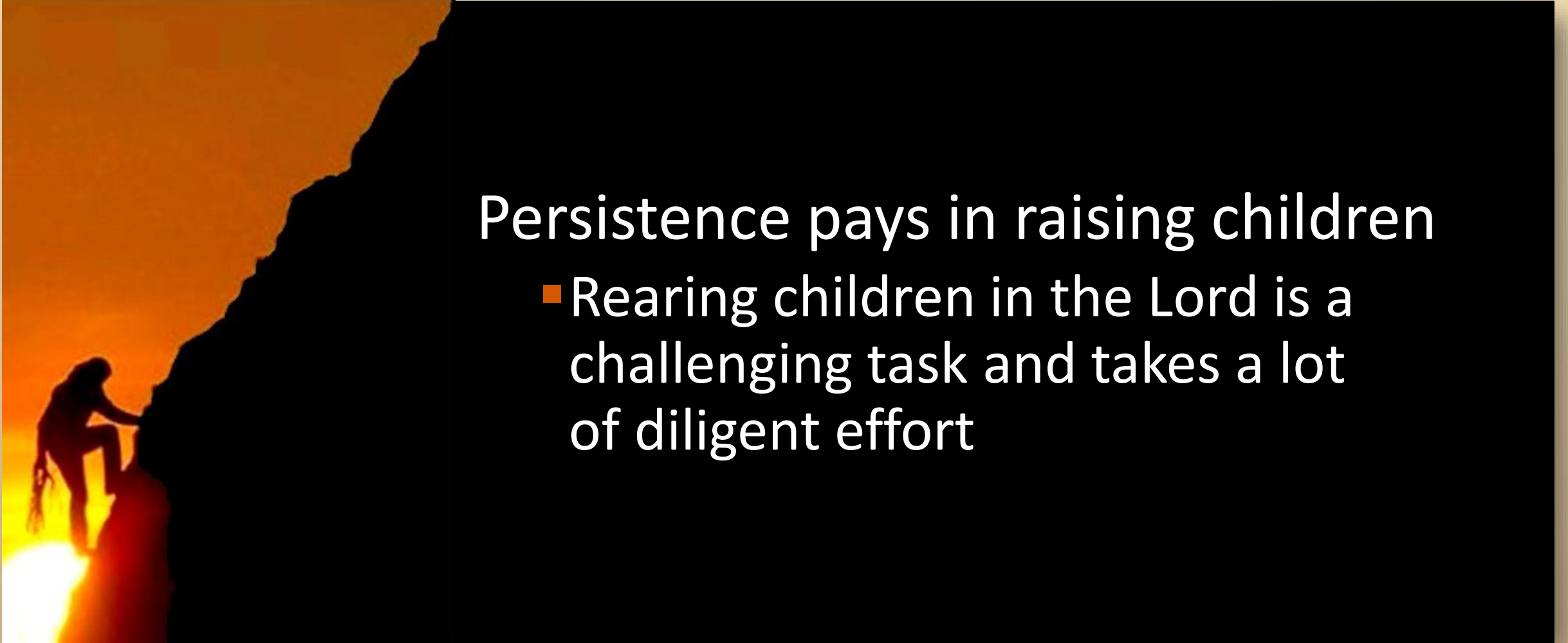
- Many succeeded in getting a date, and later marrying, because they were persistent
- Maintaining a close relationship throughout the years takes much perseverance



Pays in Every Aspect of Life

Persistence pays in raising children

- Rearing children in the Lord is a challenging task and takes a lot of diligent effort





Persistence

Finishing the Course

Persistence Pays
in Living for Christ

Pays in Living for Christ



The Lord wants us to “grow up,” to mature as Christians (2 Pet. 3:18)

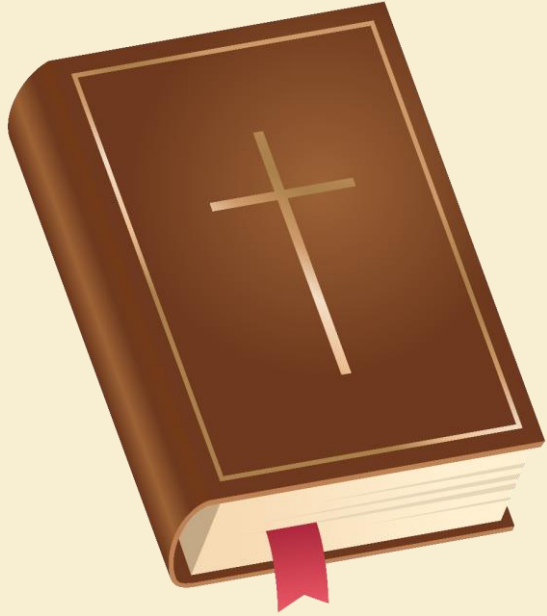
- Put away childish behavior (2 Cor. 13:11)
- Be persistent in study, exercise and work in the Lord (2 Tim. 2:15)

Pays in Living for Christ



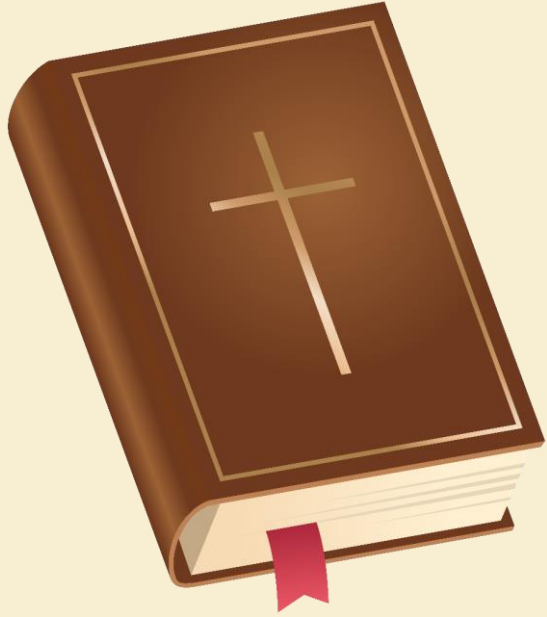
We are to persistently add to our faith

- The “graces” of 2 Peter 1:5-11
- The “fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5:22-23



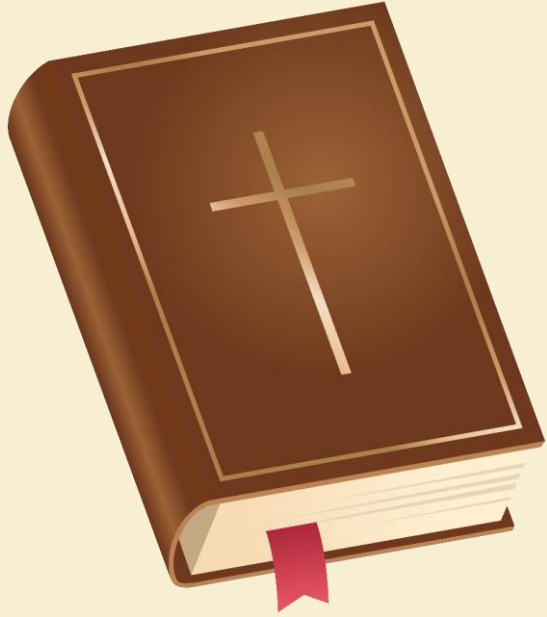
2 Peter
1:5-11

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ↓



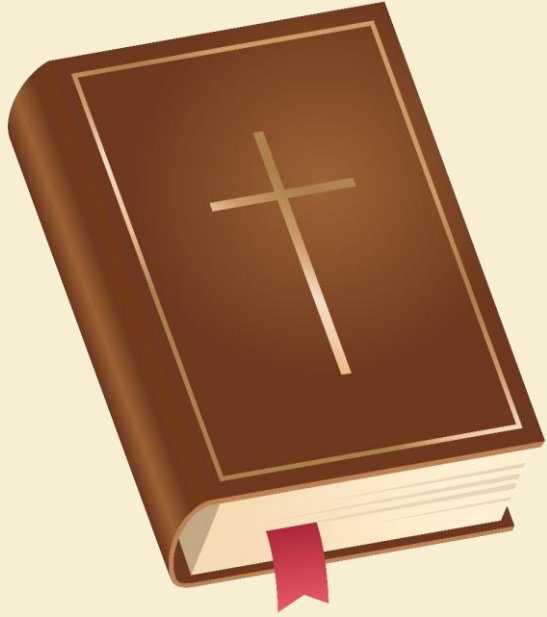
2 Peter
1:5-11

8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. ↓



2 Peter 1:5-11

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



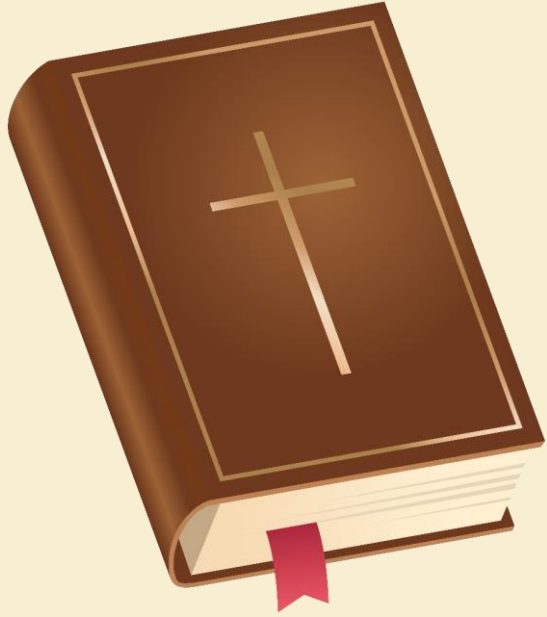
Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Pays in Living for Christ



Finishing the course will bring great rewards



Hebrews
10:35

Therefore do not cast away
your confidence, which has
great reward.



Hebrews
10:39

But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

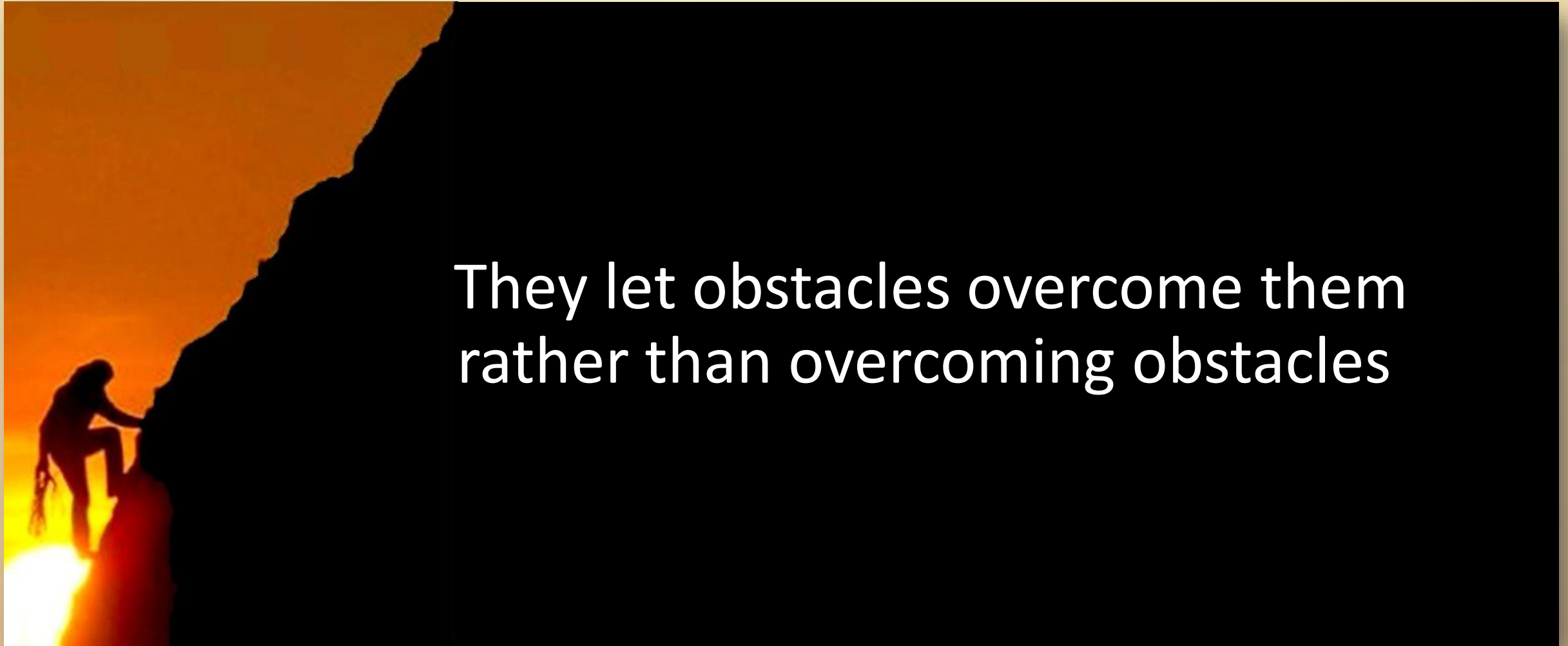


Persistence

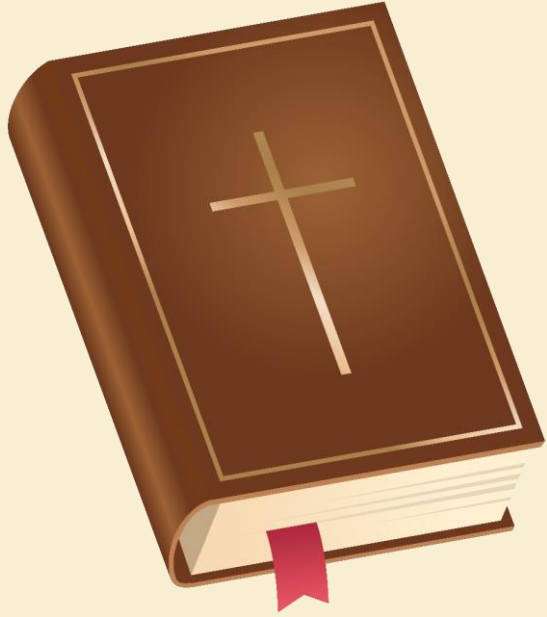
Finishing the Course

Since Persistence Pays,
Why Do People Quit?

Why People Quit

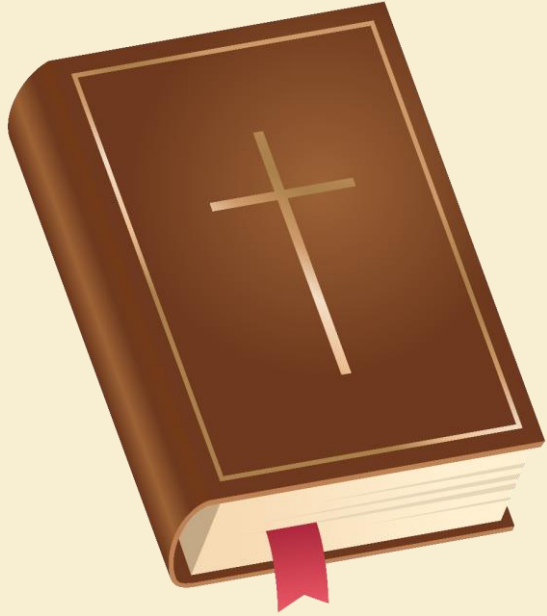


They let obstacles overcome them
rather than overcoming obstacles



Luke
8:11-15

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. ↓



Luke
8:11-15

13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. ↓



Luke
8:11-15

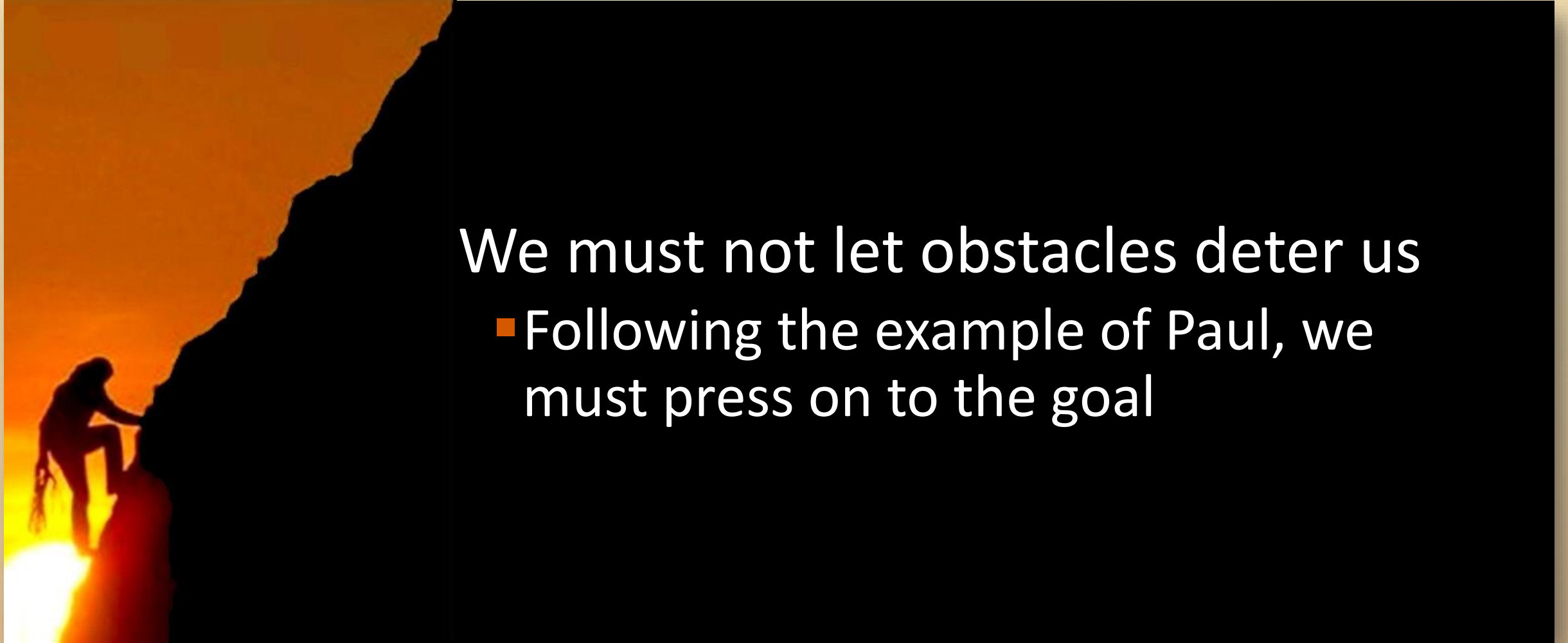
14 And the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.



Luke
8:11-15

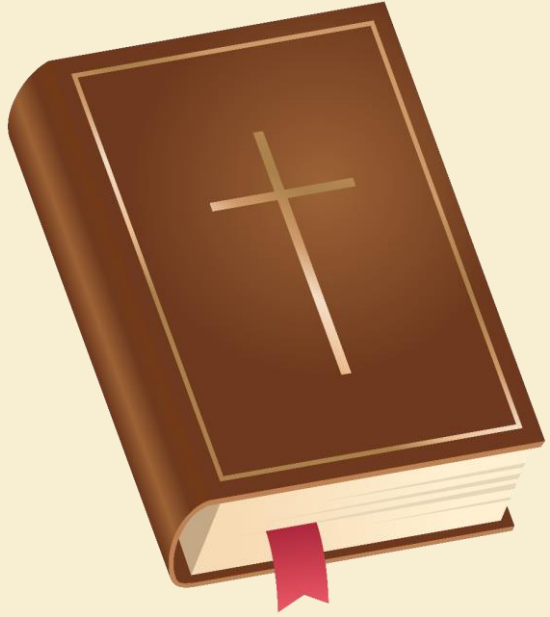
15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

Why People Quit



We must not let obstacles deter us

- Following the example of Paul, we must press on to the goal



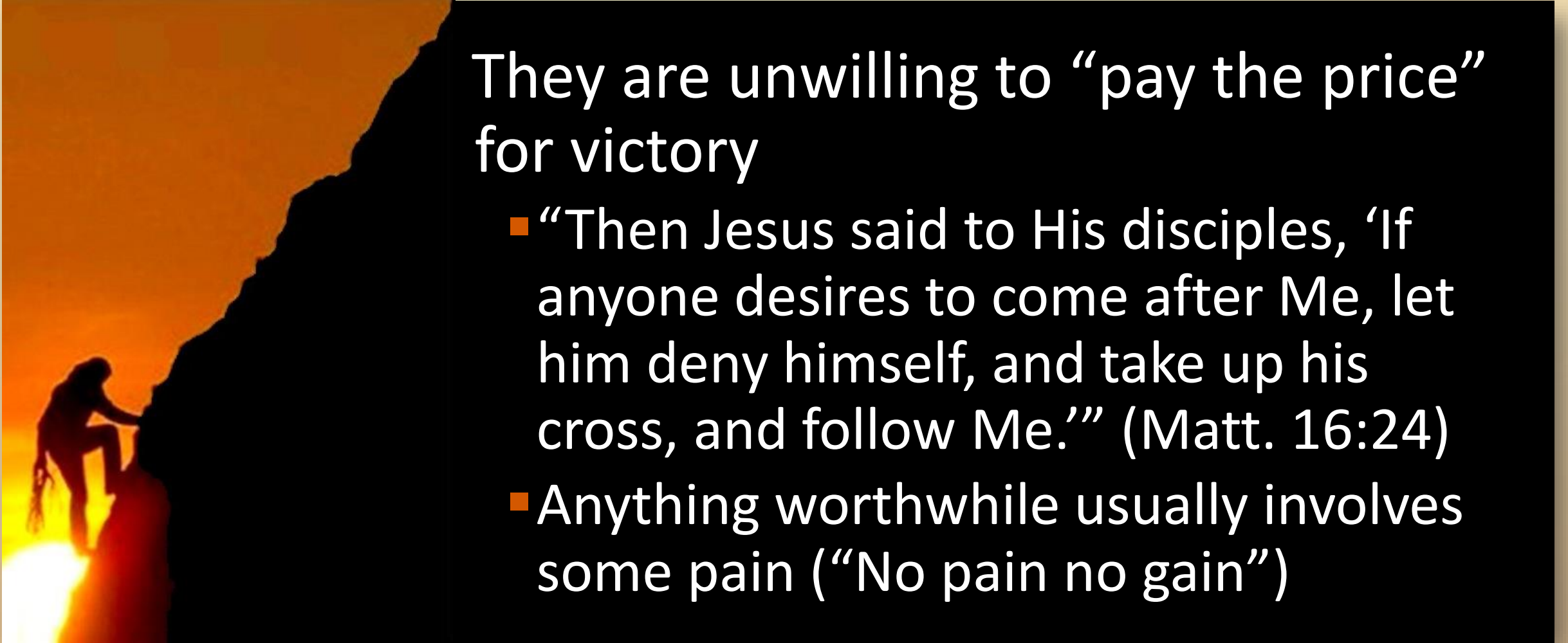
Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

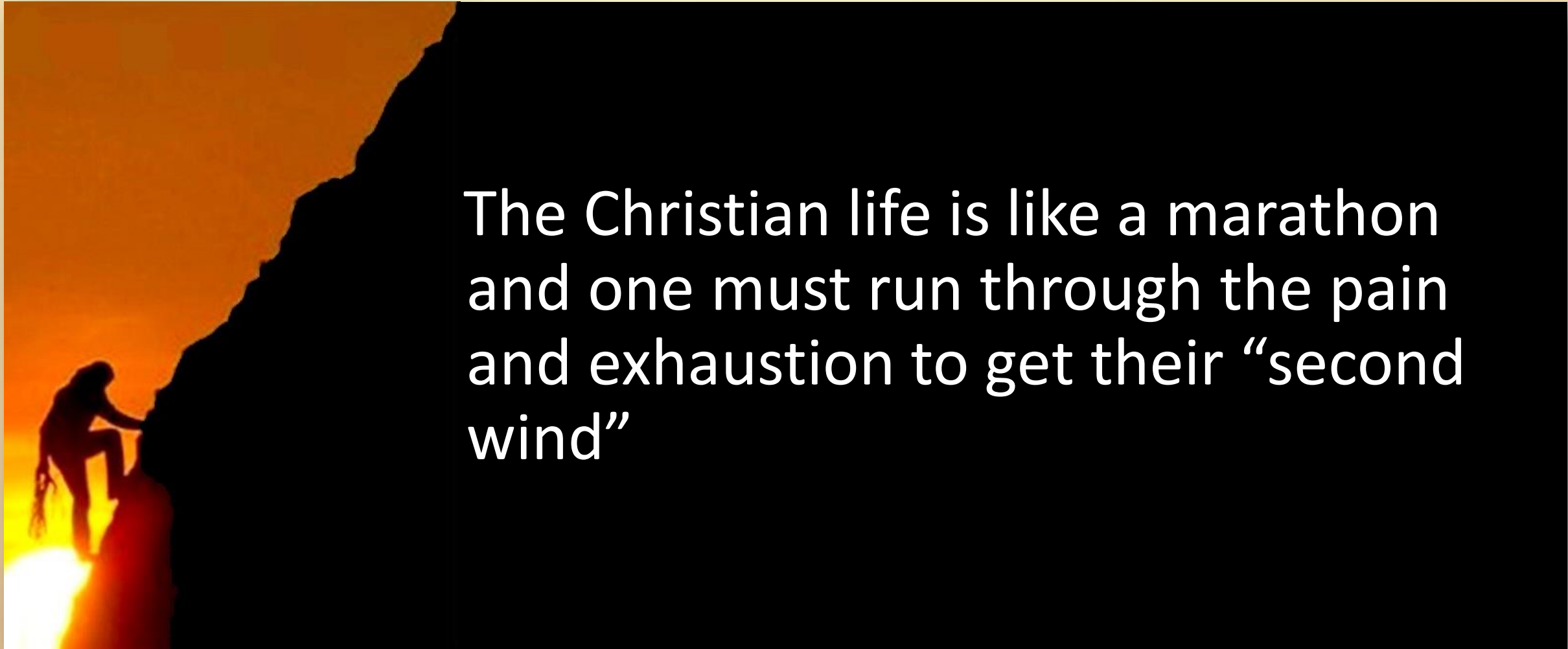
Why People Quit

They are unwilling to “pay the price” for victory

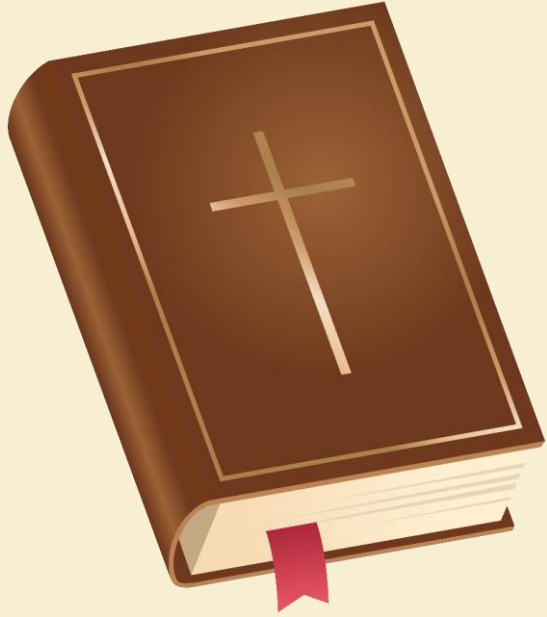
- “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’” (Matt. 16:24)
- Anything worthwhile usually involves some pain (“No pain no gain”)



Why People Quit



The Christian life is like a marathon and one must run through the pain and exhaustion to get their “second wind”



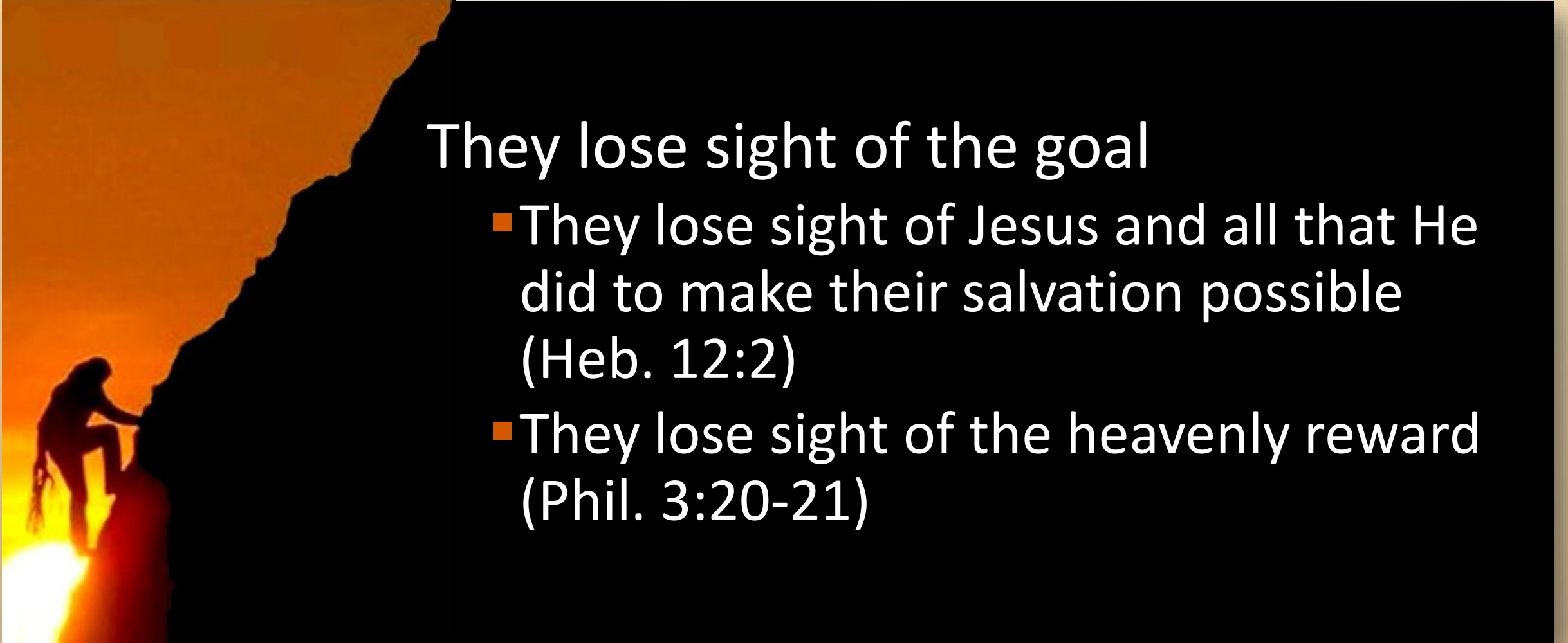
Hebrews 12:1

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...

Why People Quit

They lose sight of the goal

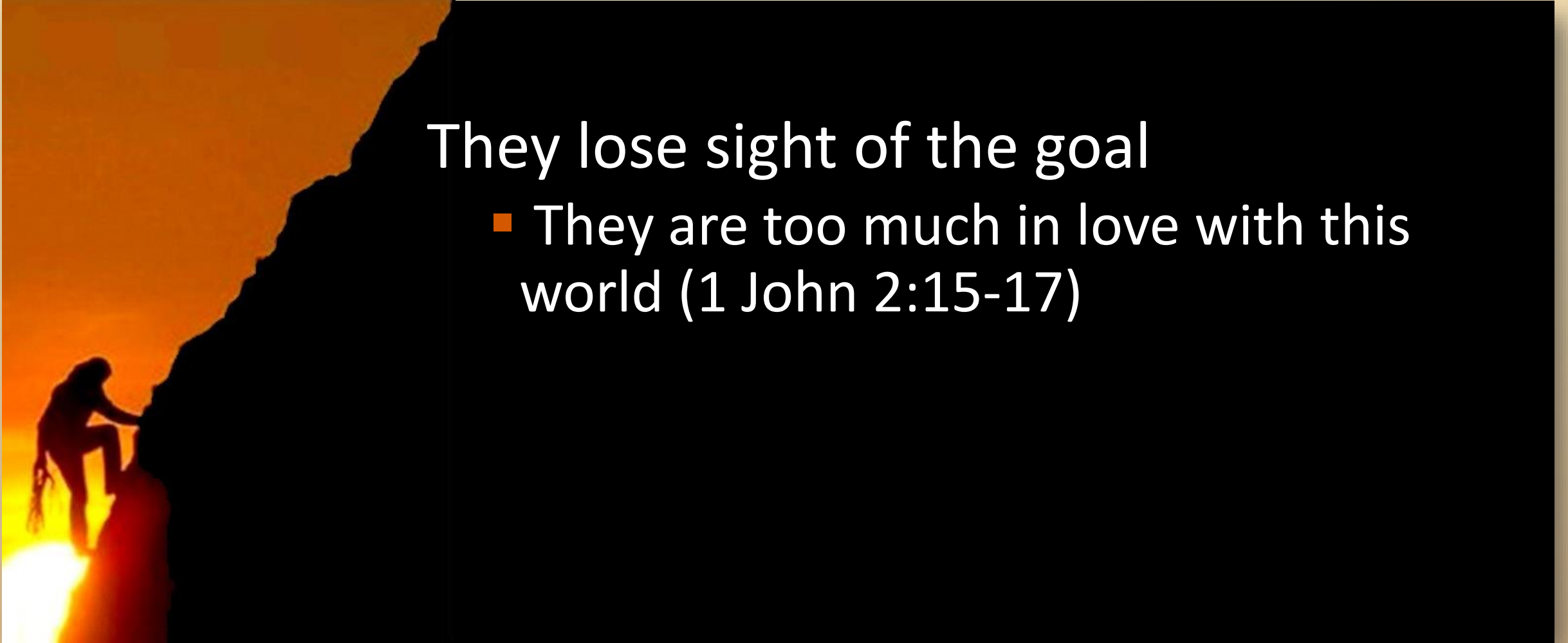
- They lose sight of Jesus and all that He did to make their salvation possible (Heb. 12:2)
- They lose sight of the heavenly reward (Phil. 3:20-21)



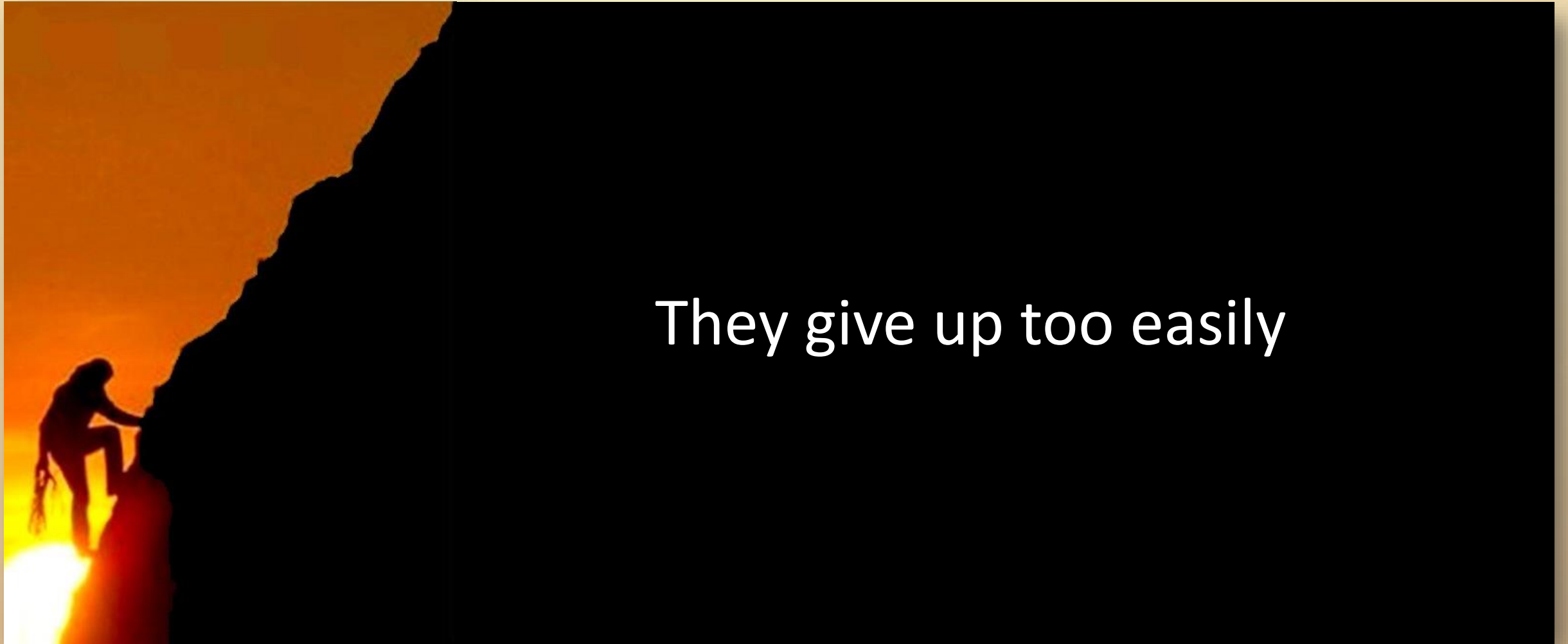
Why People Quit

They lose sight of the goal

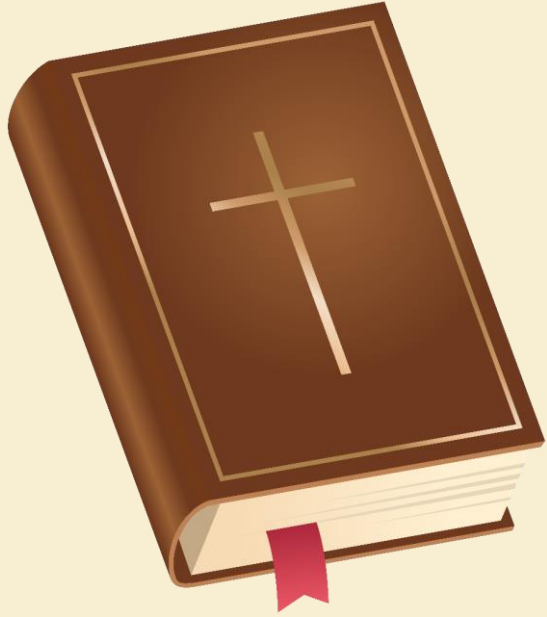
- They are too much in love with this world (1 John 2:15-17)



Why People Quit



They give up too easily



Matthew
7:13-14

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.
14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”



Persistence

Finishing the Course

Failure Does Not Have
to Be Fatal or Final

Failure: Not Fatal or Final



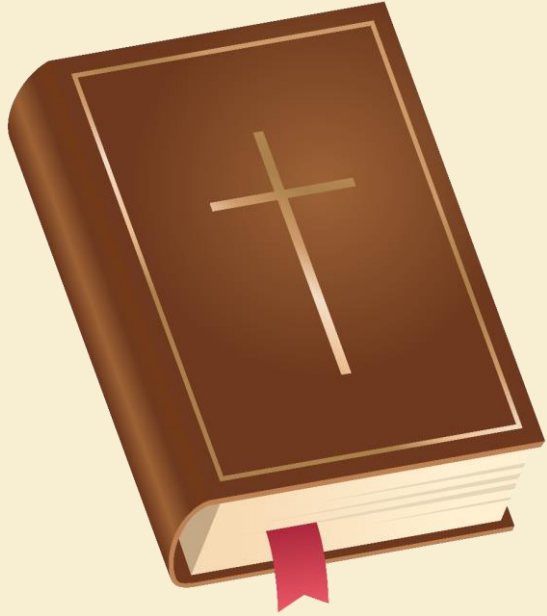
Adversity, disappointments,
discouragements and even failures
happen to all Christians

- The example of John Mark



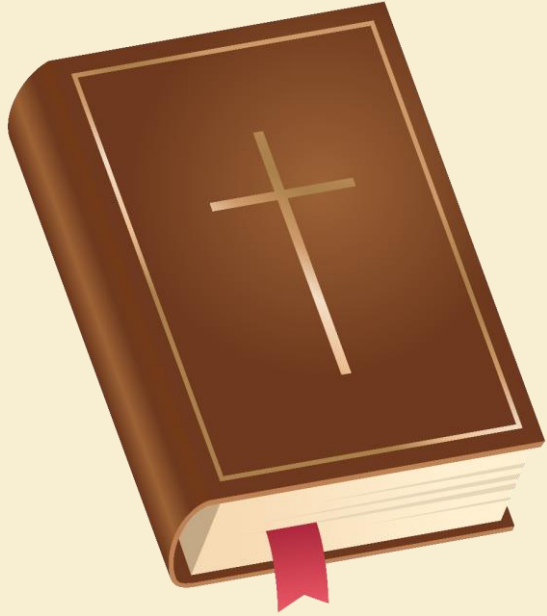
Acts
12:25

And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.



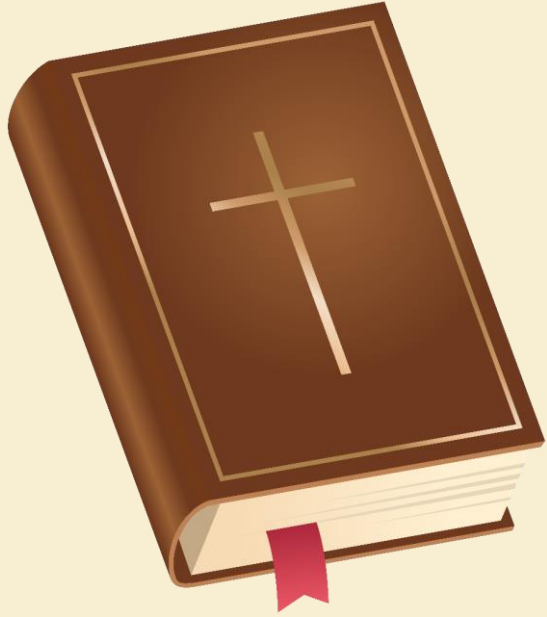
Acts
13:13

Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.



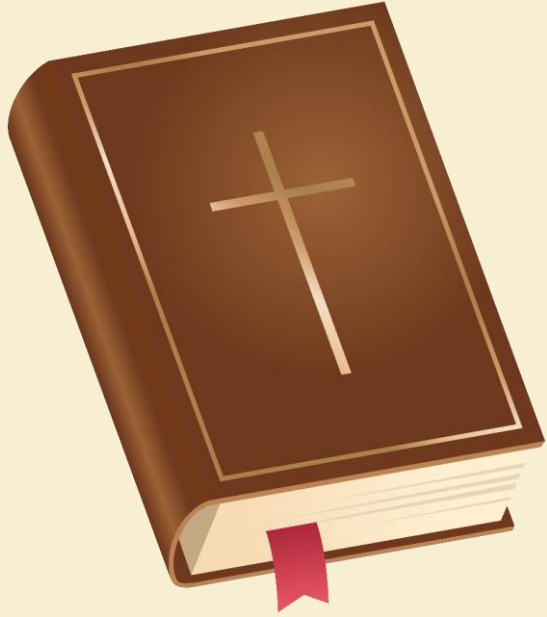
Acts
15:38-40

But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. 39 Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; ↓



Acts
15:38-40

40 but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.

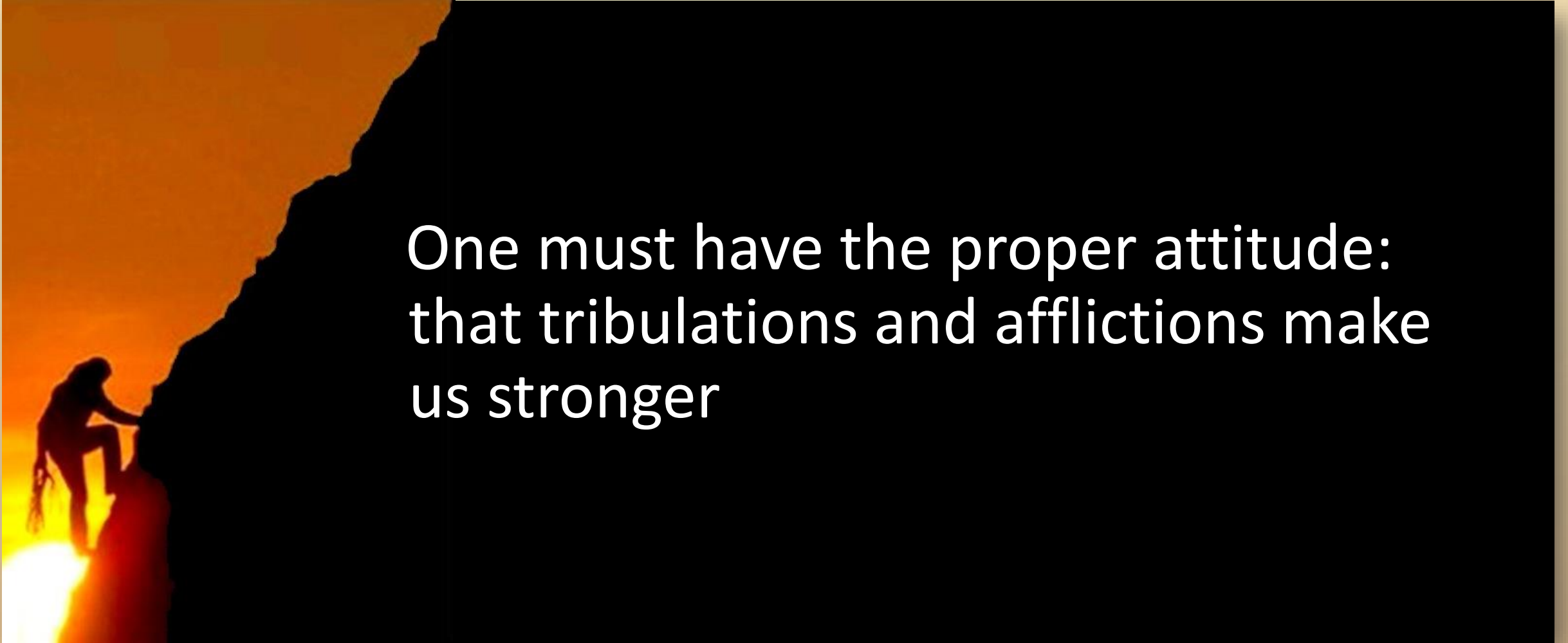


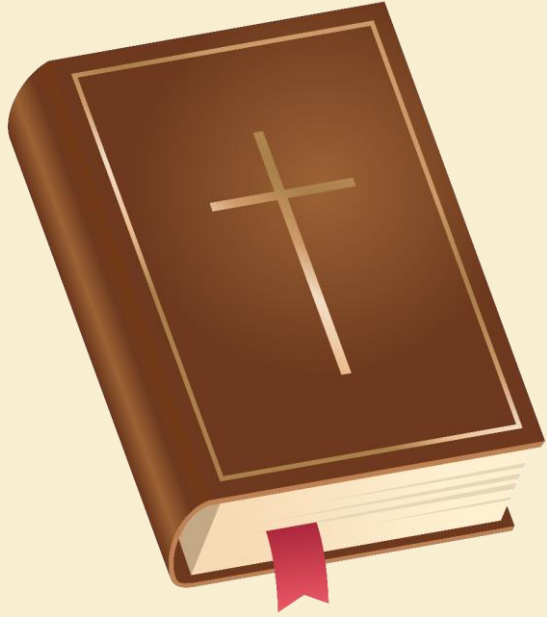
2 Timothy
4:11

Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

Failure: Not Fatal or Final

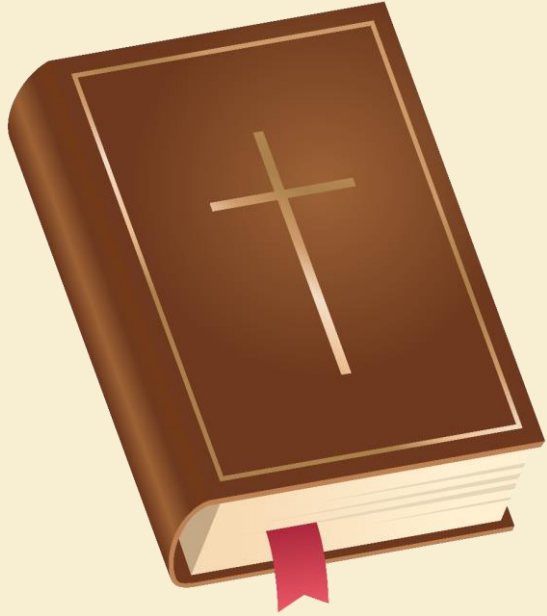
One must have the proper attitude:
that tribulations and afflictions make
us stronger





Romans 5:3-5

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.



James 1:2-4

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

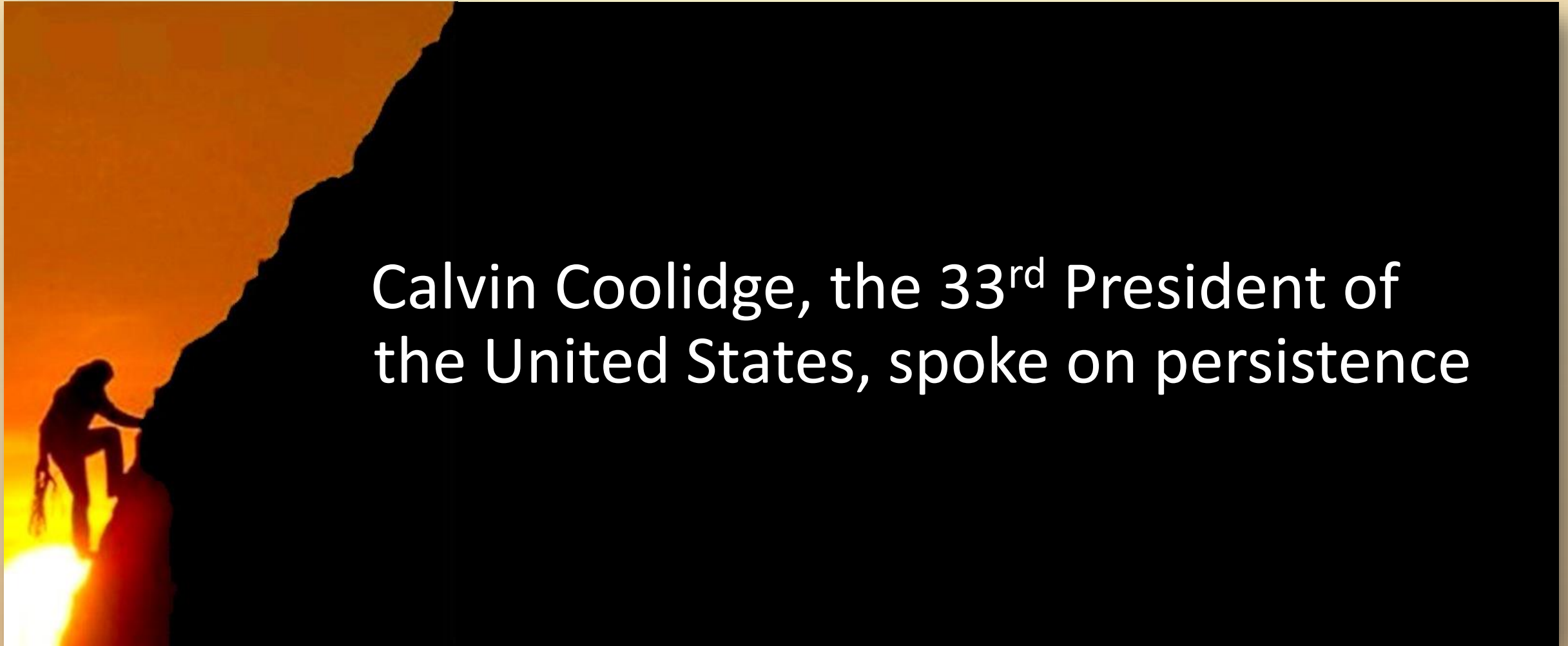


Persistence

Finishing the Course

Conclusion

Conclusion



Calvin Coolidge, the 33rd President of the United States, spoke on persistence



Calvin Coolidge

On Persistence

“Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent. ↓

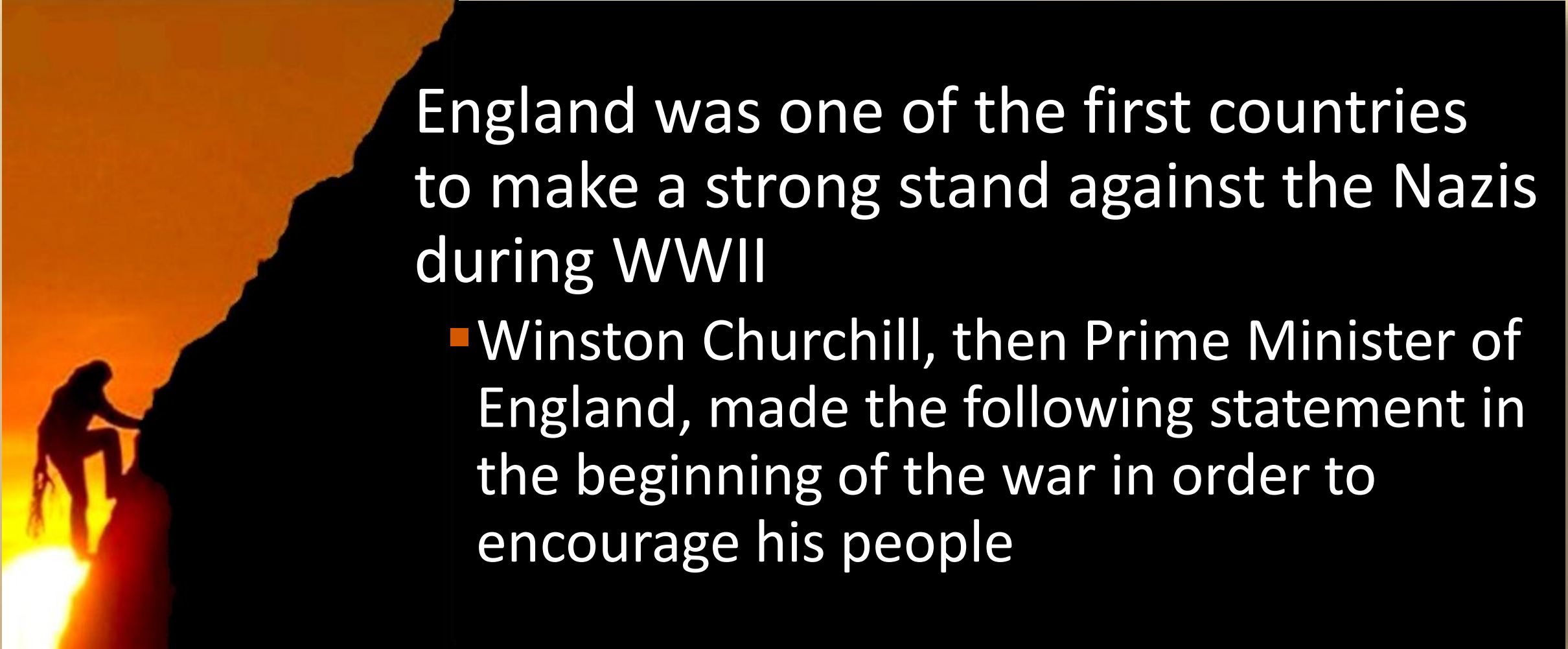


Calvin Coolidge

On Persistence

“Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.”

Conclusion



England was one of the first countries to make a strong stand against the Nazis during WWII

- Winston Churchill, then Prime Minister of England, made the following statement in the beginning of the war in order to encourage his people

Winston Churchill

“Death and sorrow will be the companions of our journey; hardship our garment; constancy and valor our only shield. We must be united, we must be undaunted, we must be inflexible.”



Winston Churchill



Churchill took three years in getting through the eighth grade because he had a problem with English. After leaving the office of Prime Minister, Oxford University asked him to make an address at their commencement exercises. With some of his usual fanfare, with his cane and top hat, he settled in at the podium. ↓

Winston Churchill



Churchill eyed his adoring crowd and said, “Never give up.” After several seconds of silence, he rose up on his toes and repeated, “Never give up.” He then reached for his cane and hat. His address was concluded.

Conclusion

In closing, let me say,

“Christians, never give up!”

