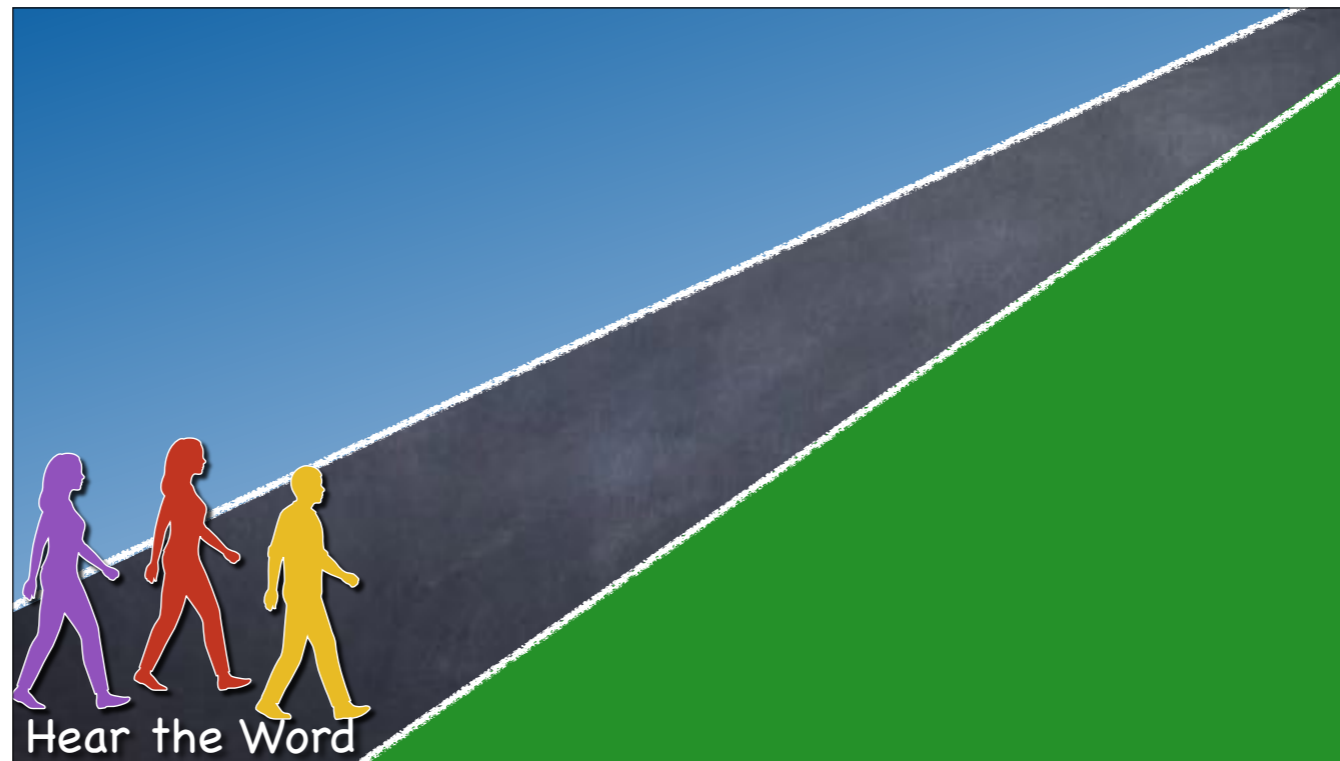
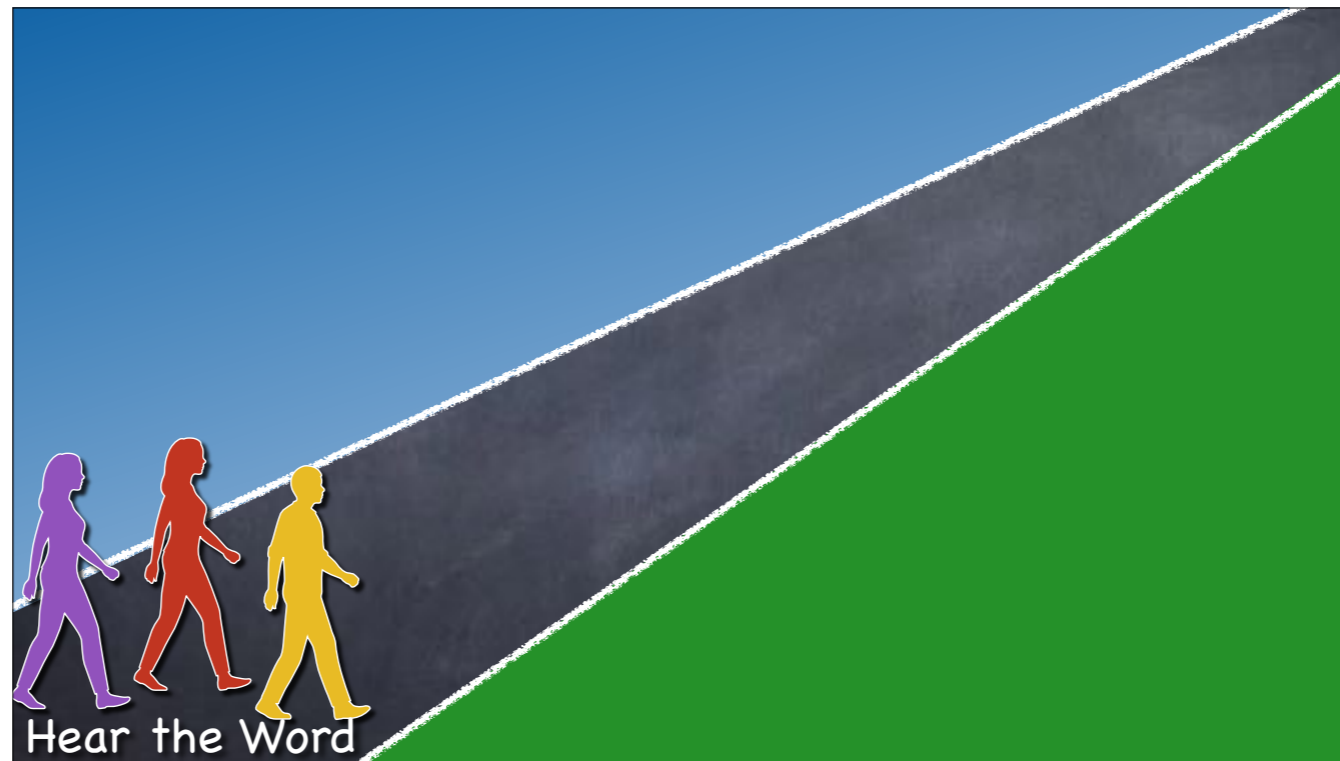


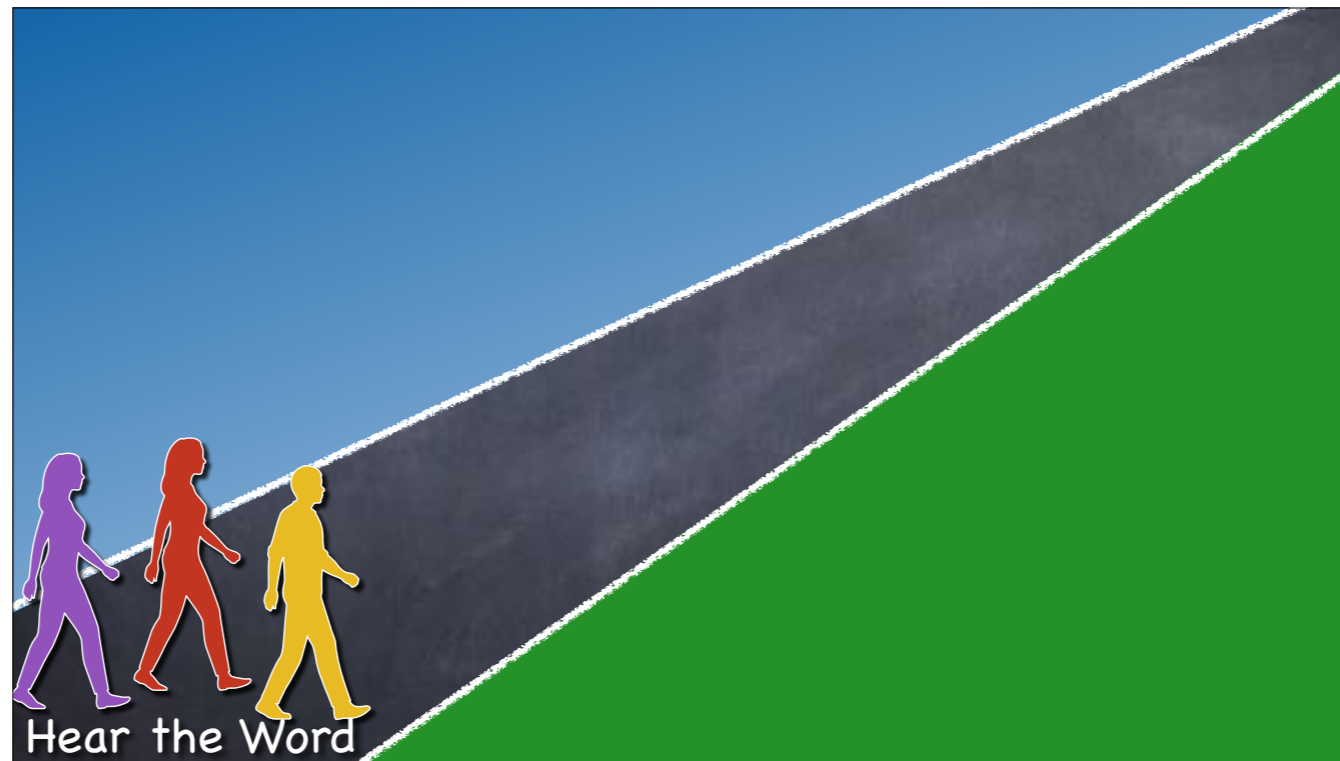
- Steadfast Hope



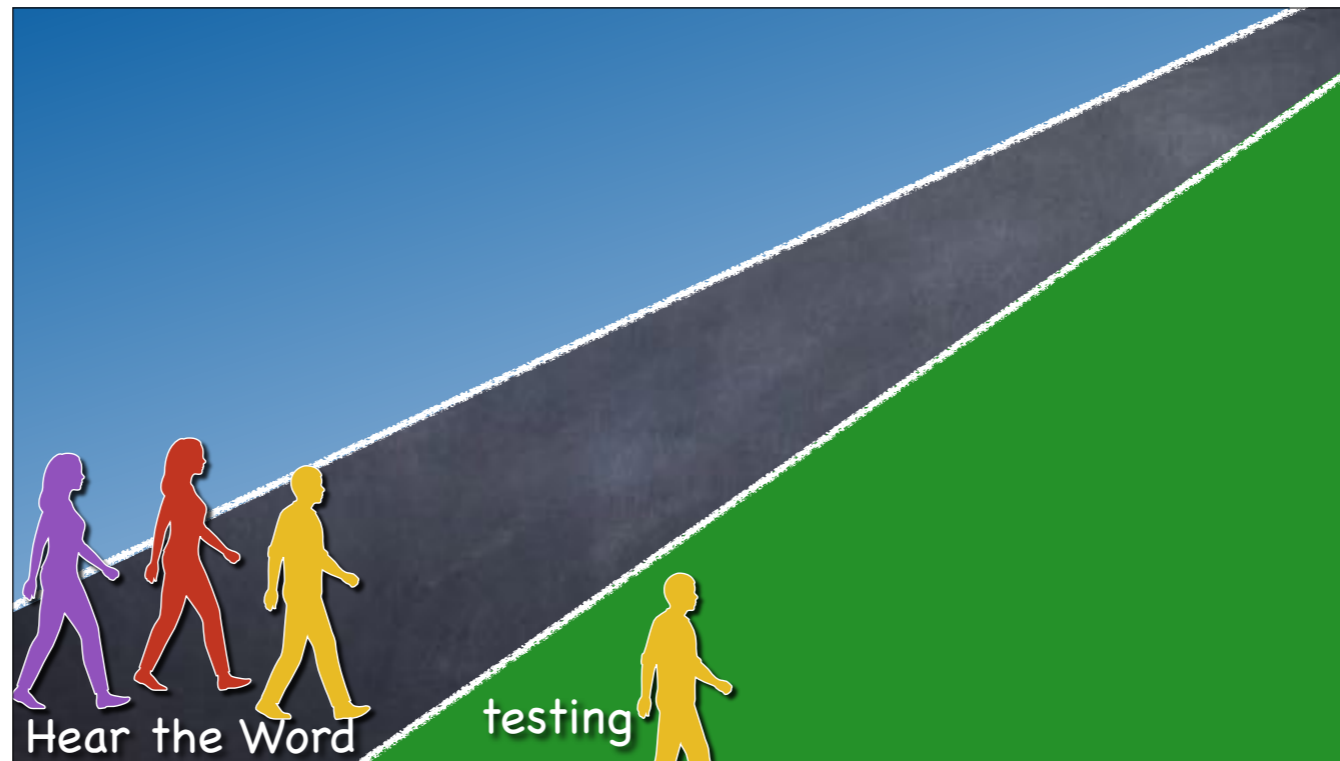
- Luke 8:11-15 (ESV) 11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.
  - 12 The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.
  -



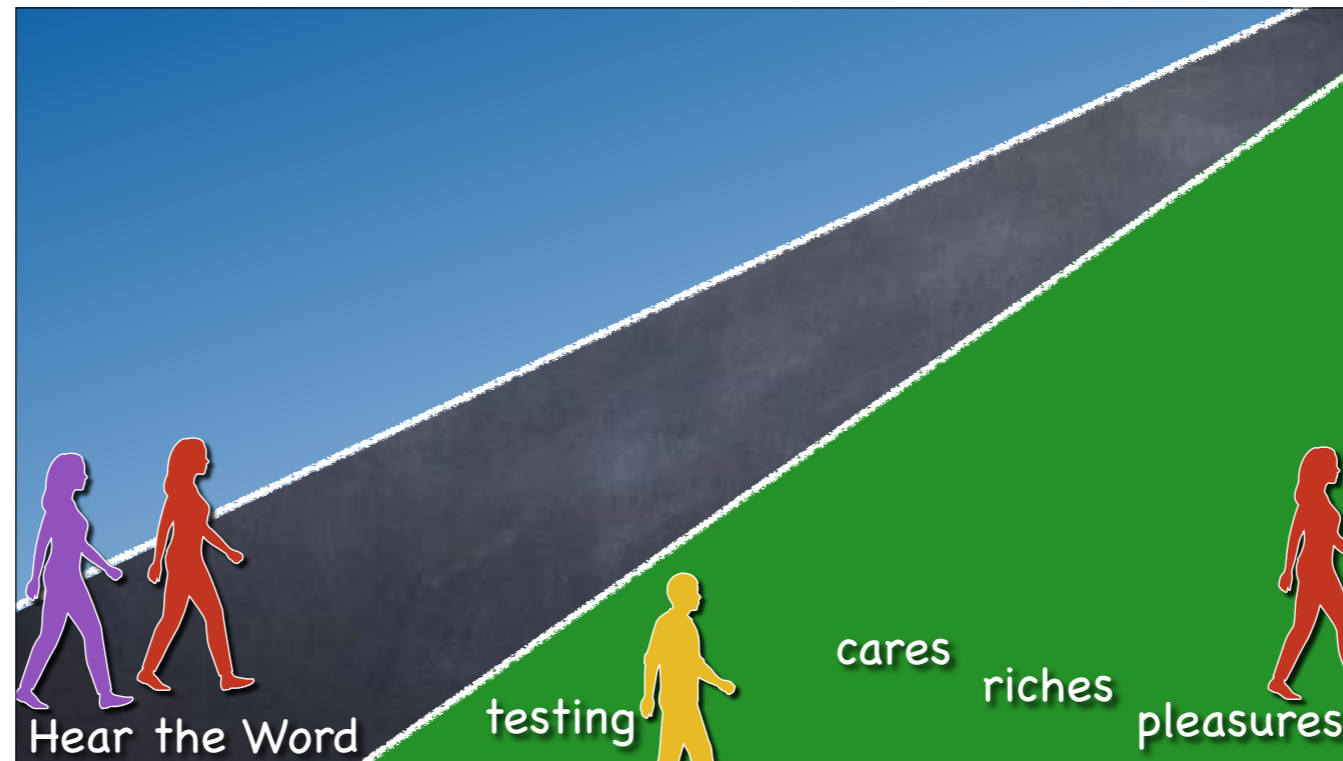
- Ephesians 2:12 (ESV) remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
- What is hope for those in this world?
  - Better life?
  - Better world?
  - Success?
  - Death... then what?



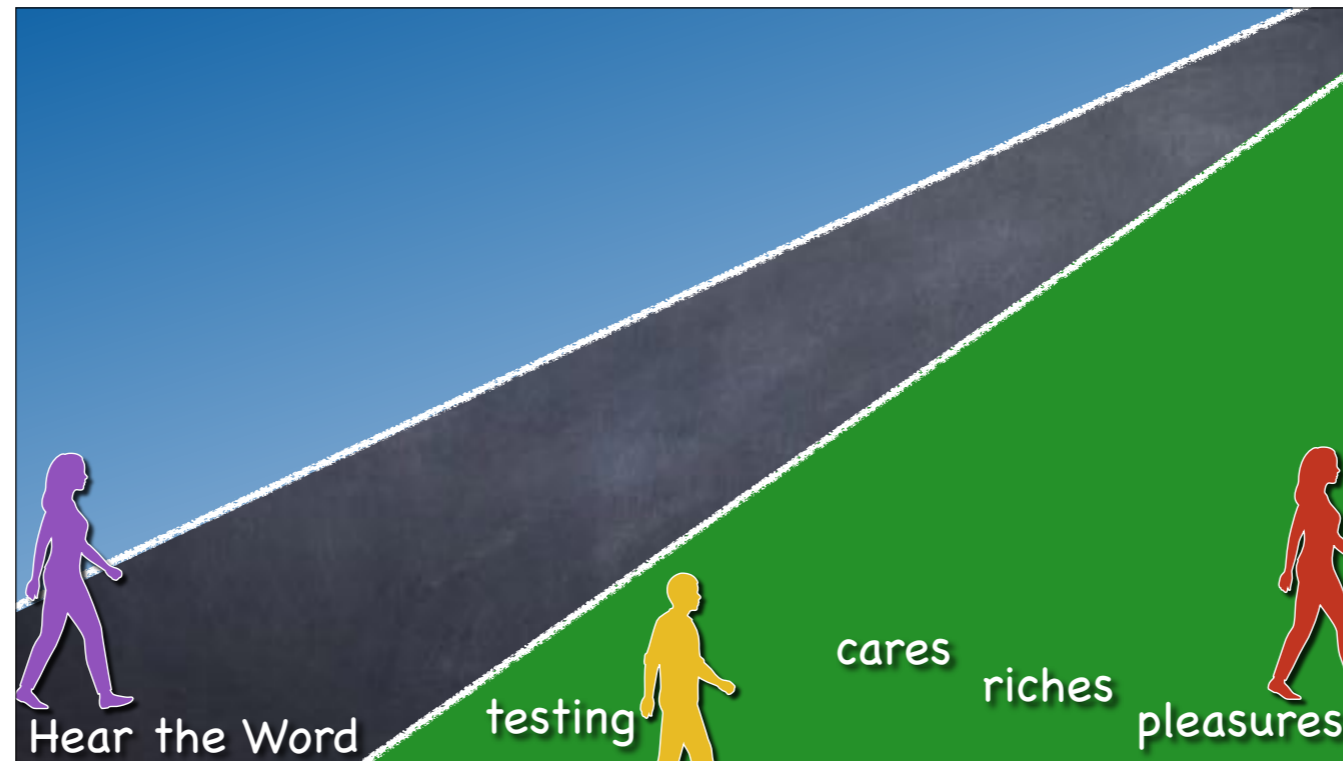
- Ridicule the hope of believers...
  - pie in the sky
  - distant
  - dreamy
  - unreal
- The hope that our God gives us is real and helpful in this life.
  - Hebrews 11:1 (ESV) Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.



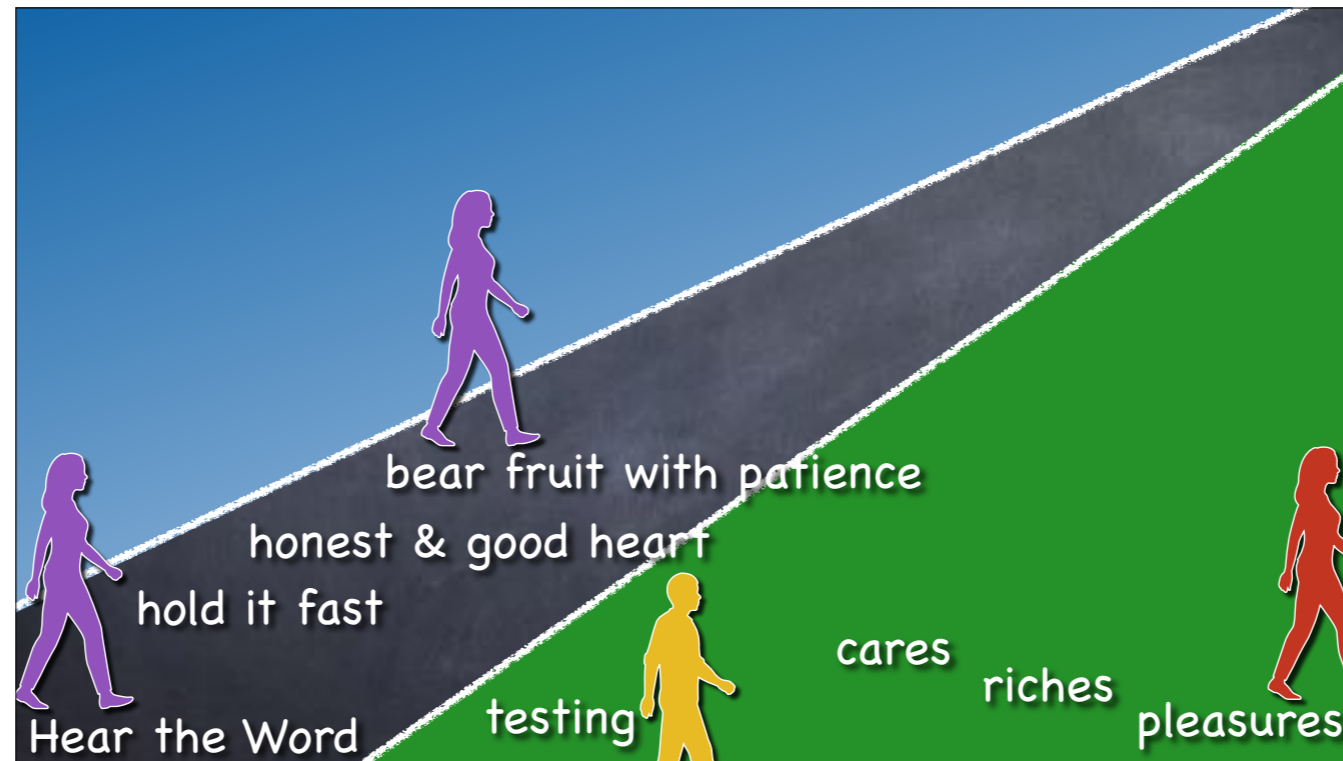
- 13 And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in **time of testing** fall away.
- Matthew 13:20-21: As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when **tribulation** or **persecution** arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.



- 14 And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.
- Matthew 13:22: As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

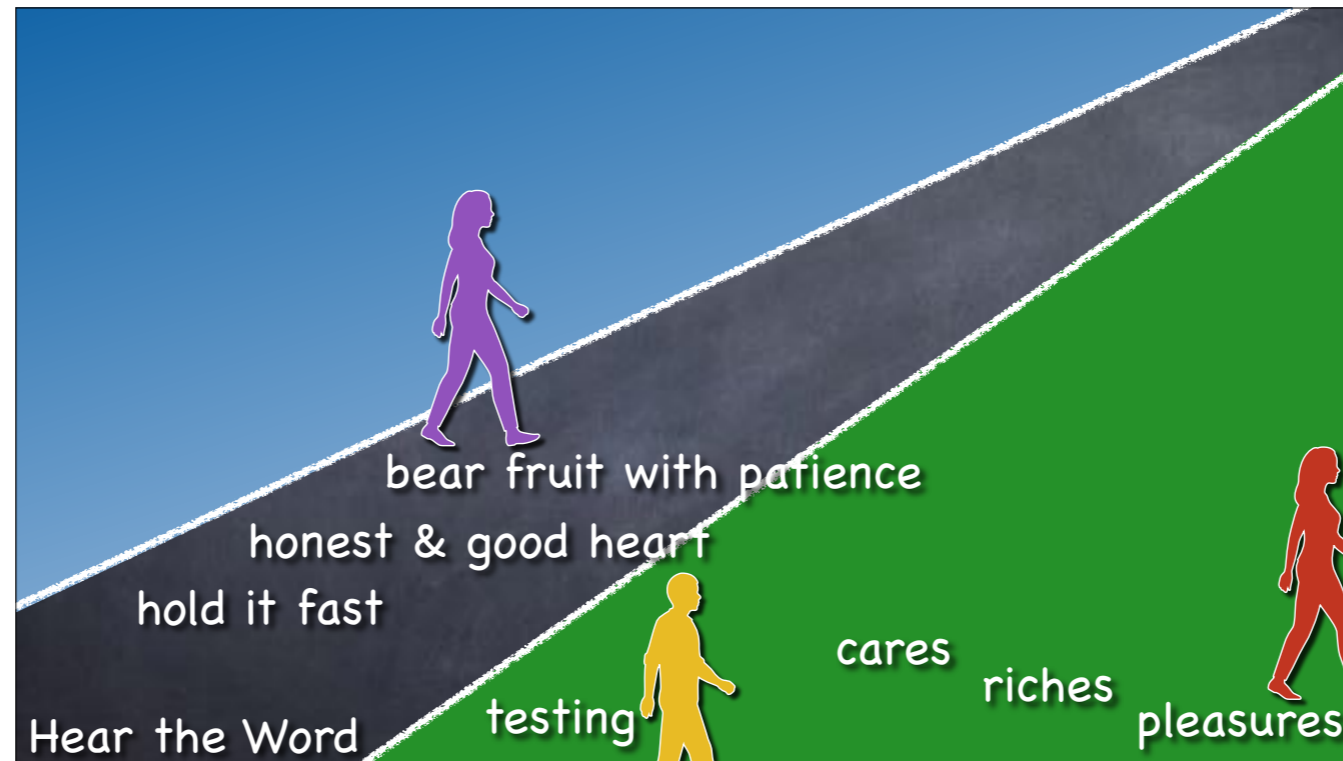


- 15 As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.
- Matthew 13:23 (ESV) As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

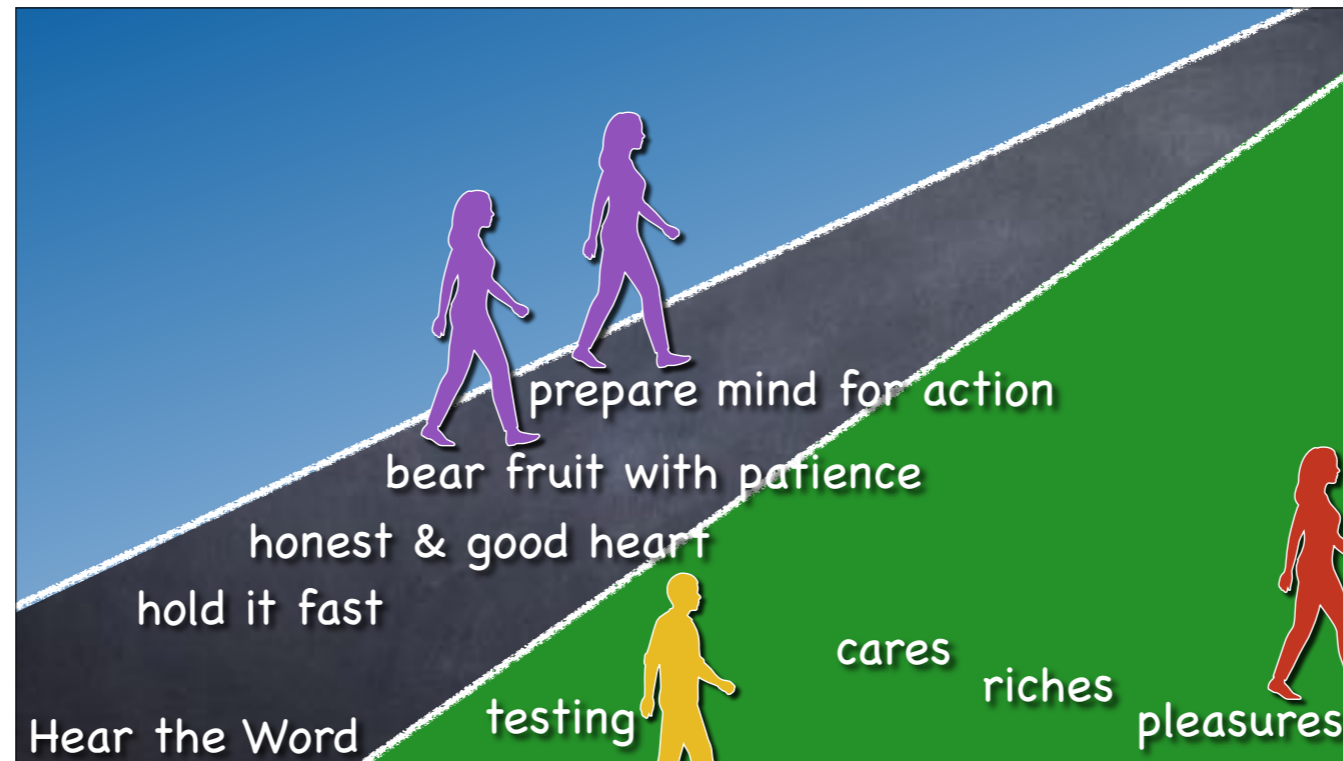


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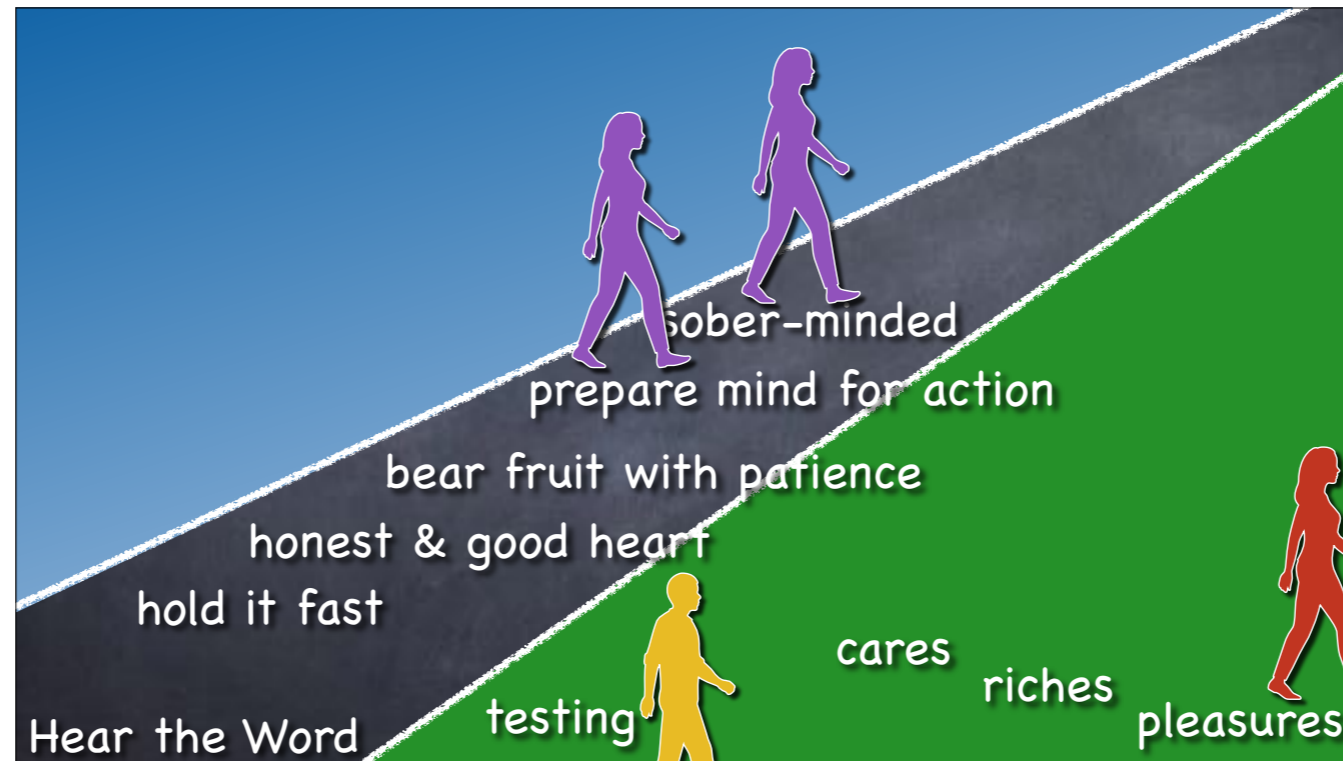




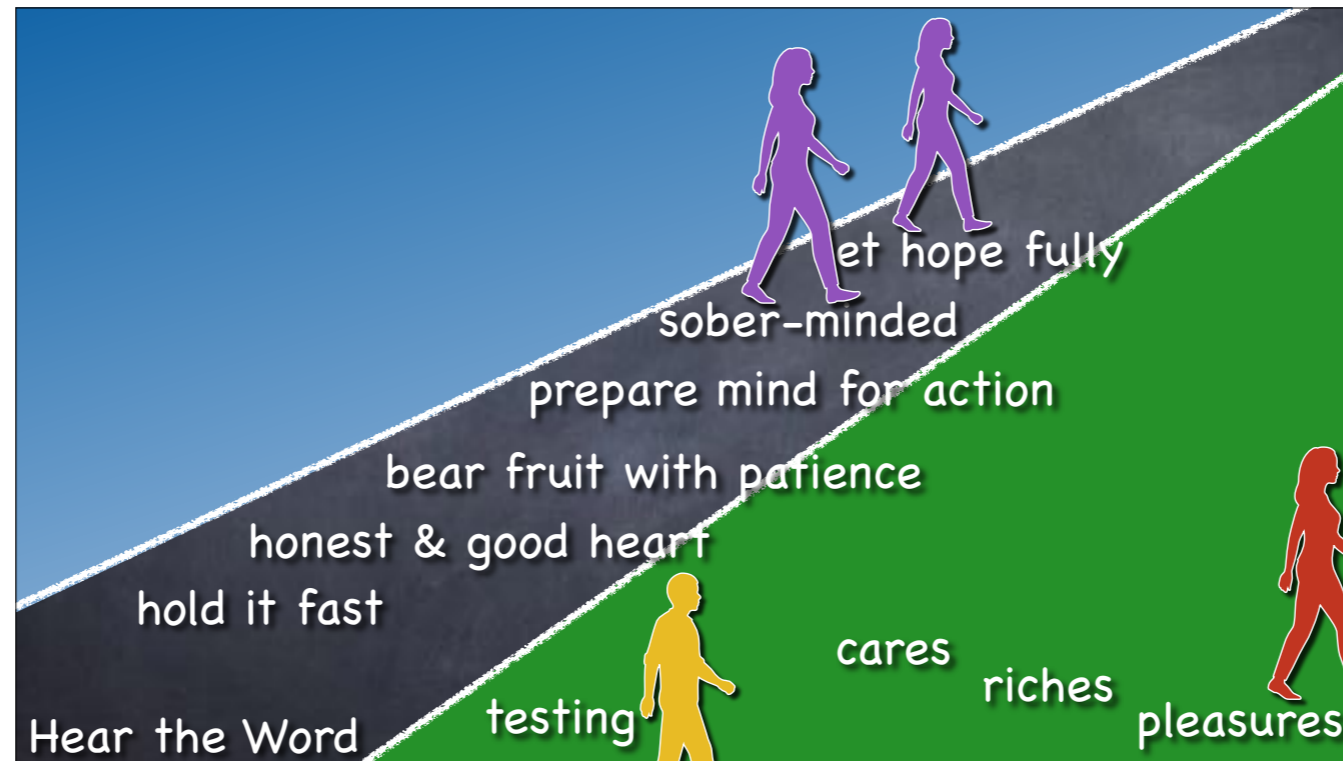
- 1 Peter 1:13-25 (ESV) 13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
  - Preparing your minds for action
    - Game-face
    - Soldiers ready battle.
    - Followers of Jesus must not be passive about our faith and hope.



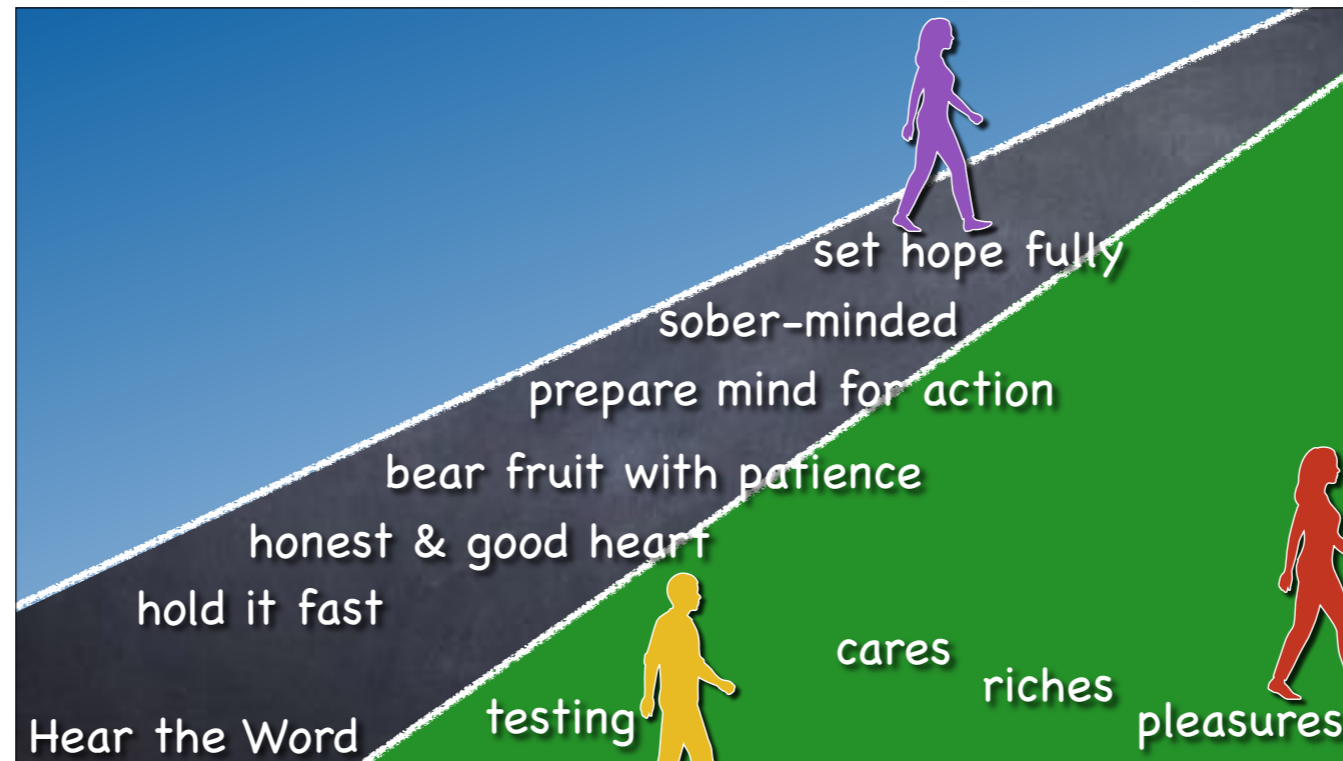
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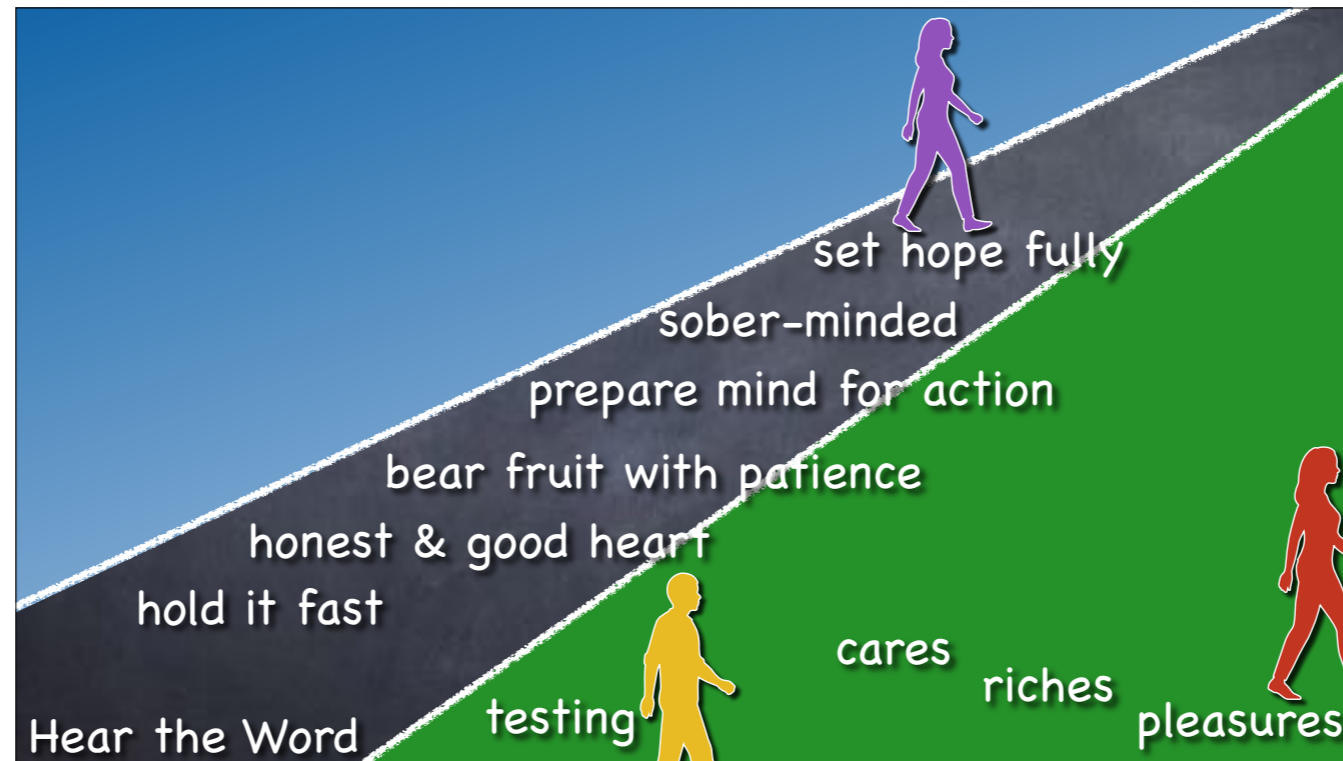
- being sober-minded
  - Thinking correctly and clearly



- 1 Peter 1:13-25 (ESV) 13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, **set your hope fully** on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
  - Hope changes how I live my life



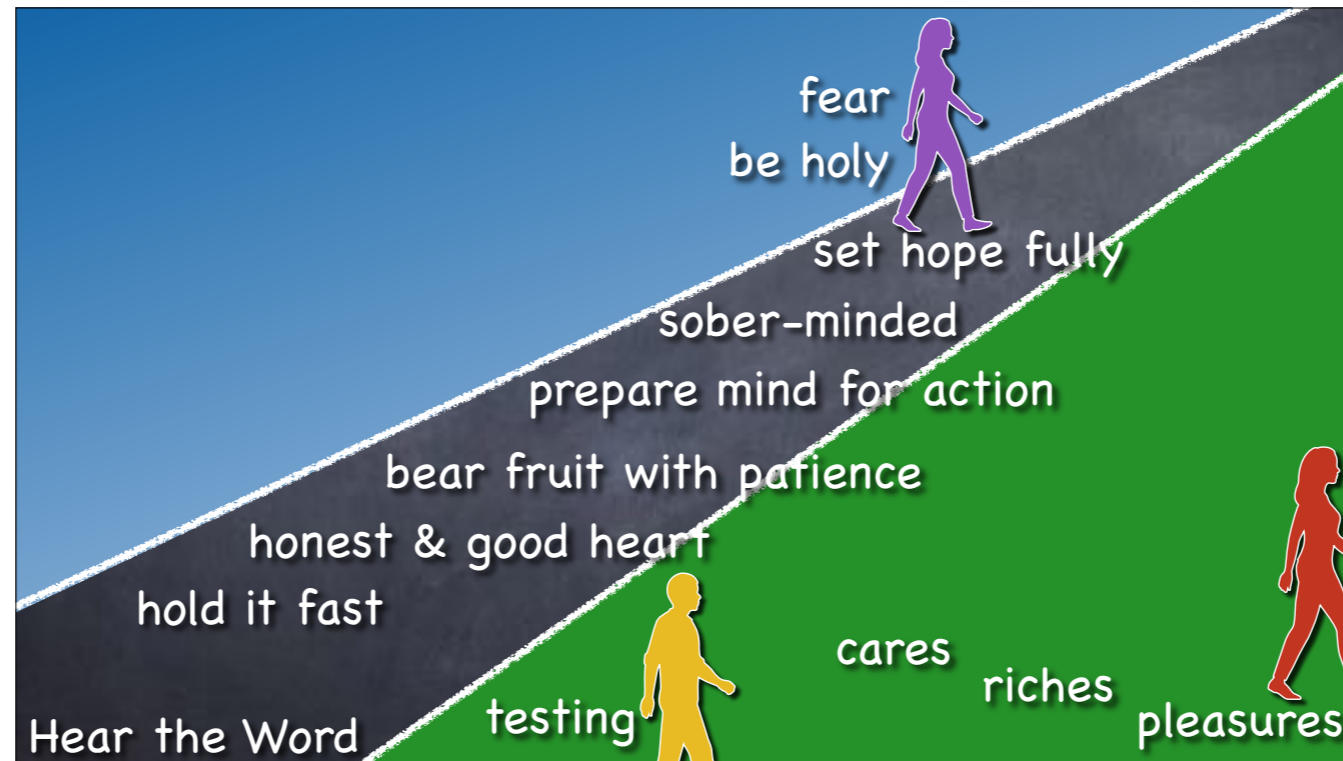
- 1 Timothy 6:17 (ESV) As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, **nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches**, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.
  - What happens if your hopes are on “riches”?



- Uncertainty!
  - Proverbs 23:4-5 (ESV) 4 Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. 5 When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.
- Can't take them with us
  - 1 Timothy 6:7 (ESV) for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

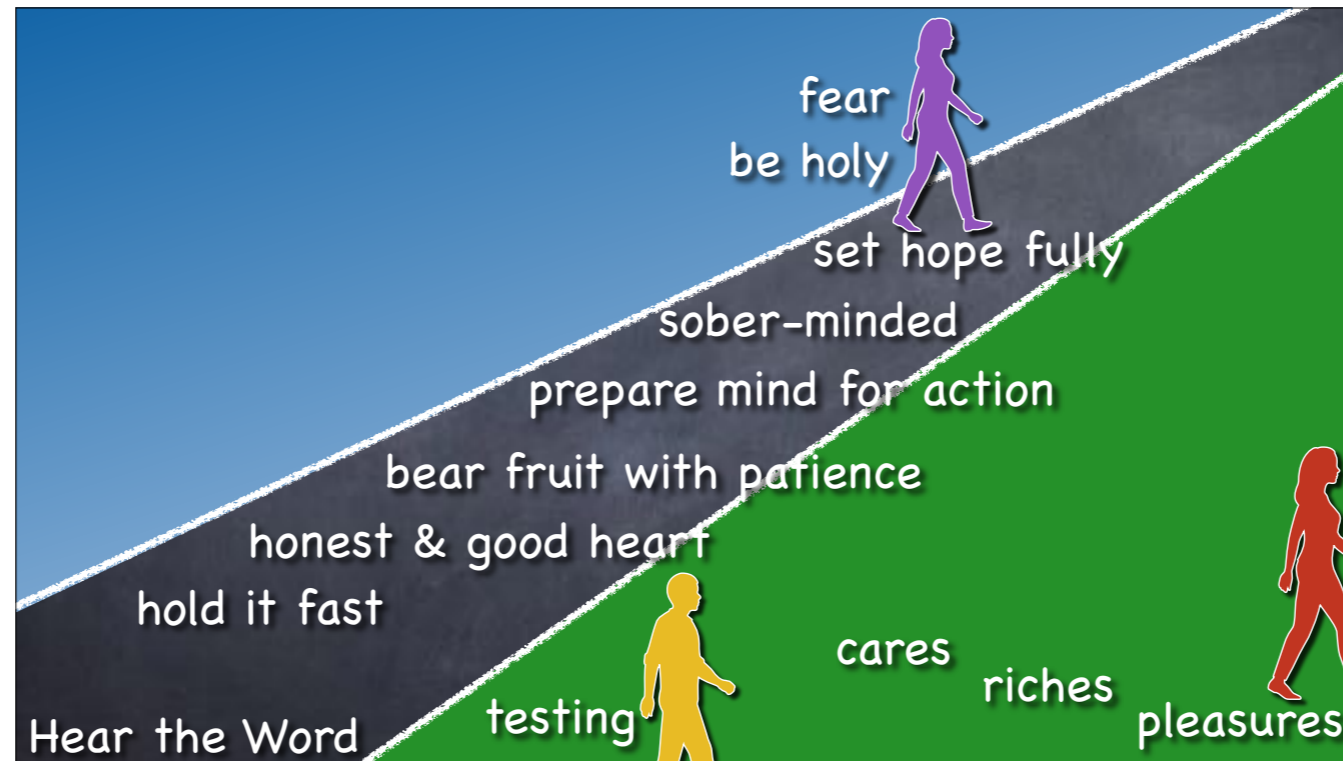


- Holiness
  - 14 As obedient children, do **not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance**, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in **all your conduct**, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."
- Holiness vs. Passions



- Conduct yourselves with Fear
  - 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, **conduct yourselves with fear** throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were **ransomed** from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are **believers** in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, **so that your faith and hope are in God.**
- Fear God vs. Futile ways
  - precious blood of Christ vs. perishable things, silver, god
  - believe; faith and hope in God vs. ways inherited from Fathers (trust in man made religion)



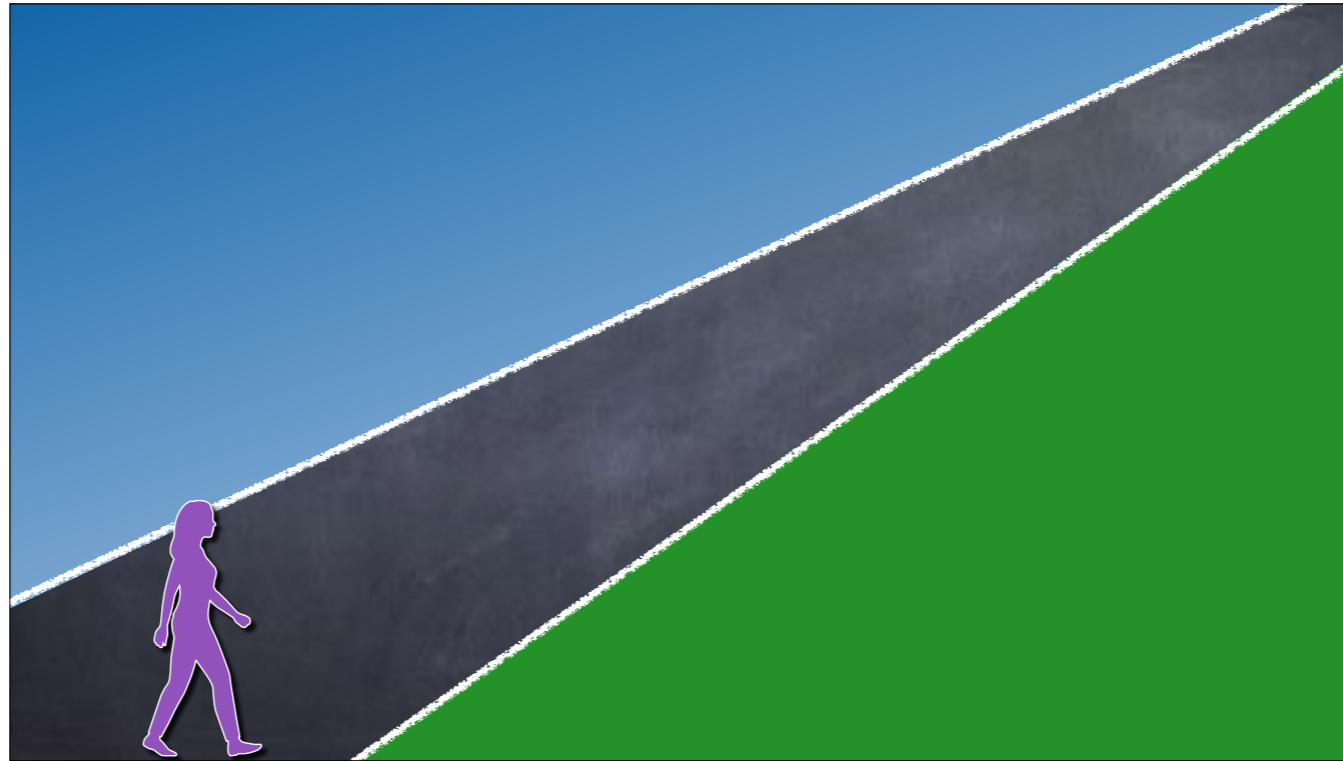


- Fear God vs. Futile ways
  - precious blood of Christ vs. perishable things, silver, gold
  - believe; faith and hope in God vs. ways inherited from Fathers (trust in man made religion)



- Love One another

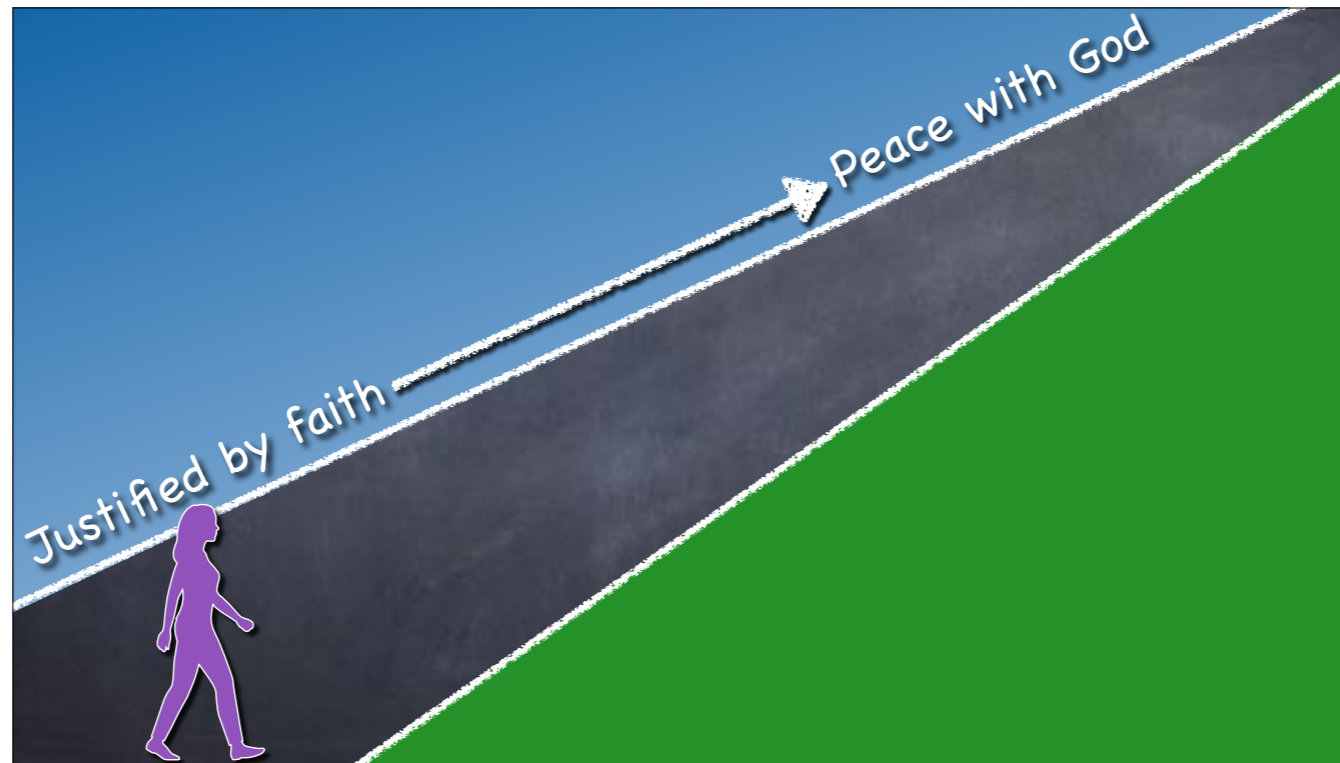
- 22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 24 for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.



- Romans 5:1-5 (ESV Strong's) 1 Therefore, since we have been **justified** by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and **we rejoice in hope of the glory of God**. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that **suffering** produces **endurance**, 4 and endurance produces **character**, and character produces **hope**, 5 and **hope does not put us to shame**, because **God's love** has been **poured into our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.



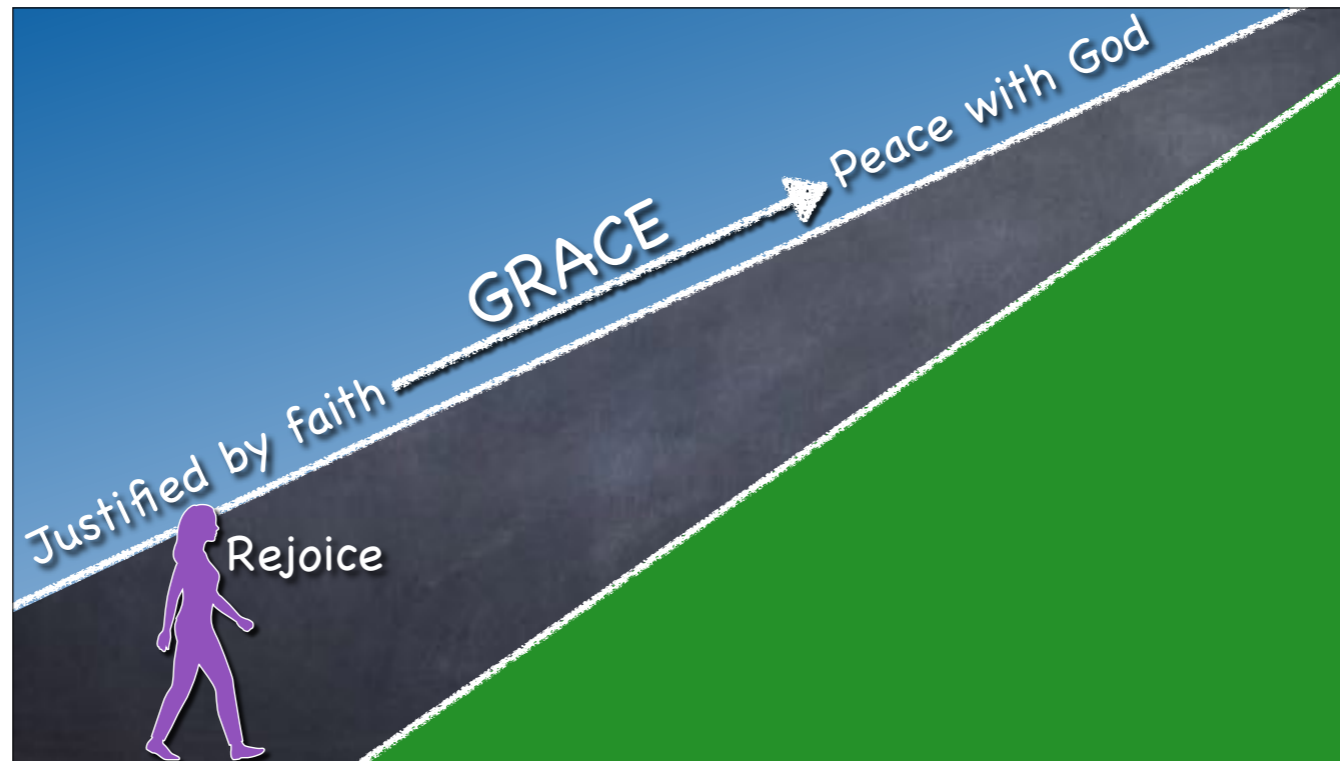
- Romans 5:1-5 (ESV Strong's) 1 Therefore, since we have been **justified** by faith,



- we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.



- 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand,



- and **we rejoice**
  - This gets to the root of our struggle with hope and being steadfast.
  - We forget to rejoice in the grace that God has given to us
- When we lack joy, we stumble, we slow down, we are distracted
  - Forget hope
  - Don't keep on

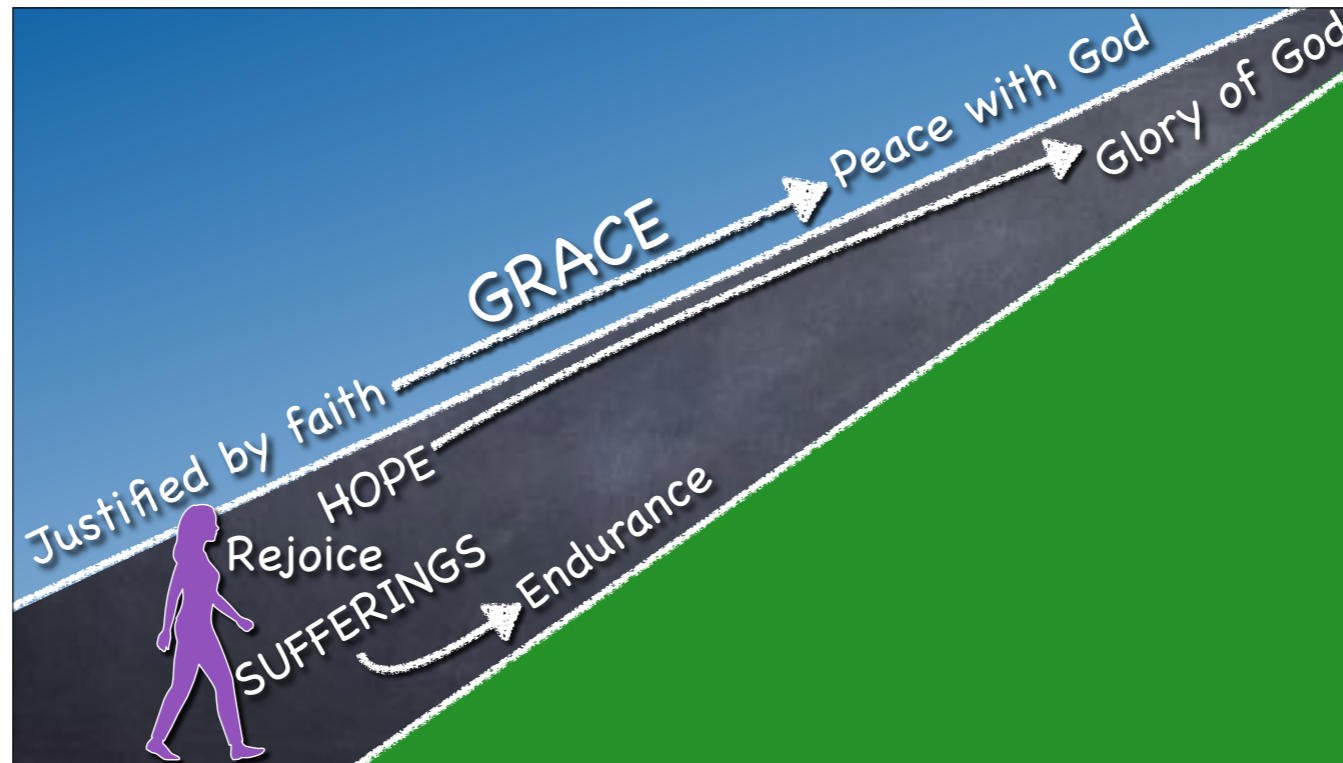


- **we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**
- 1 John 3:1-3 (ESV) 1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

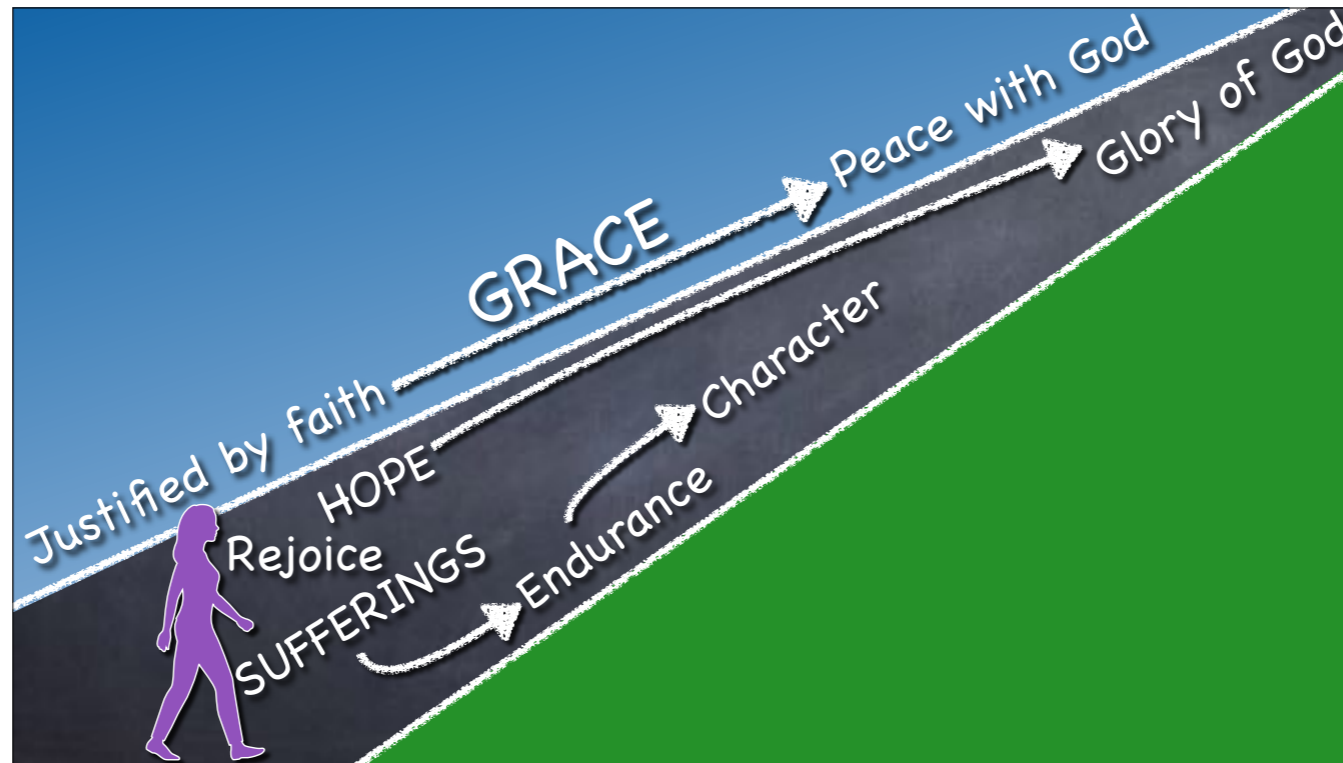




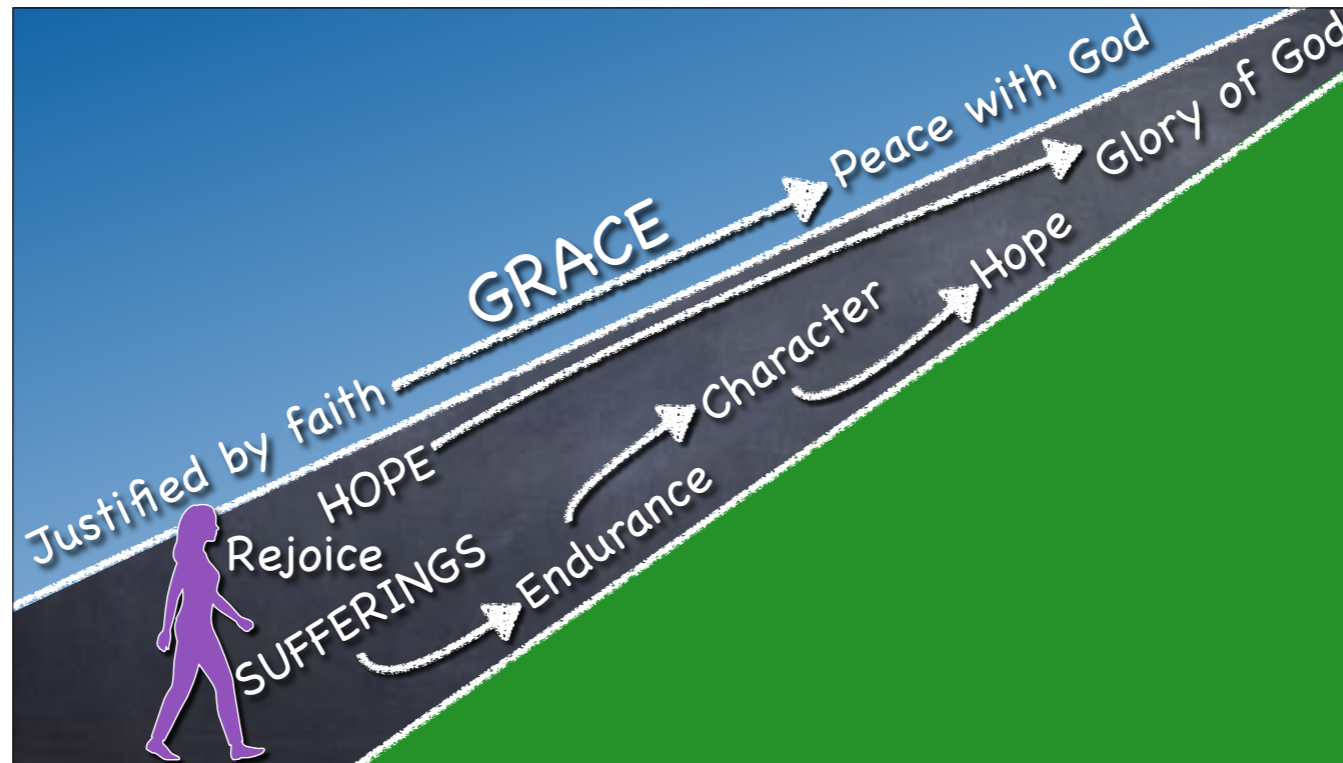
- 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings



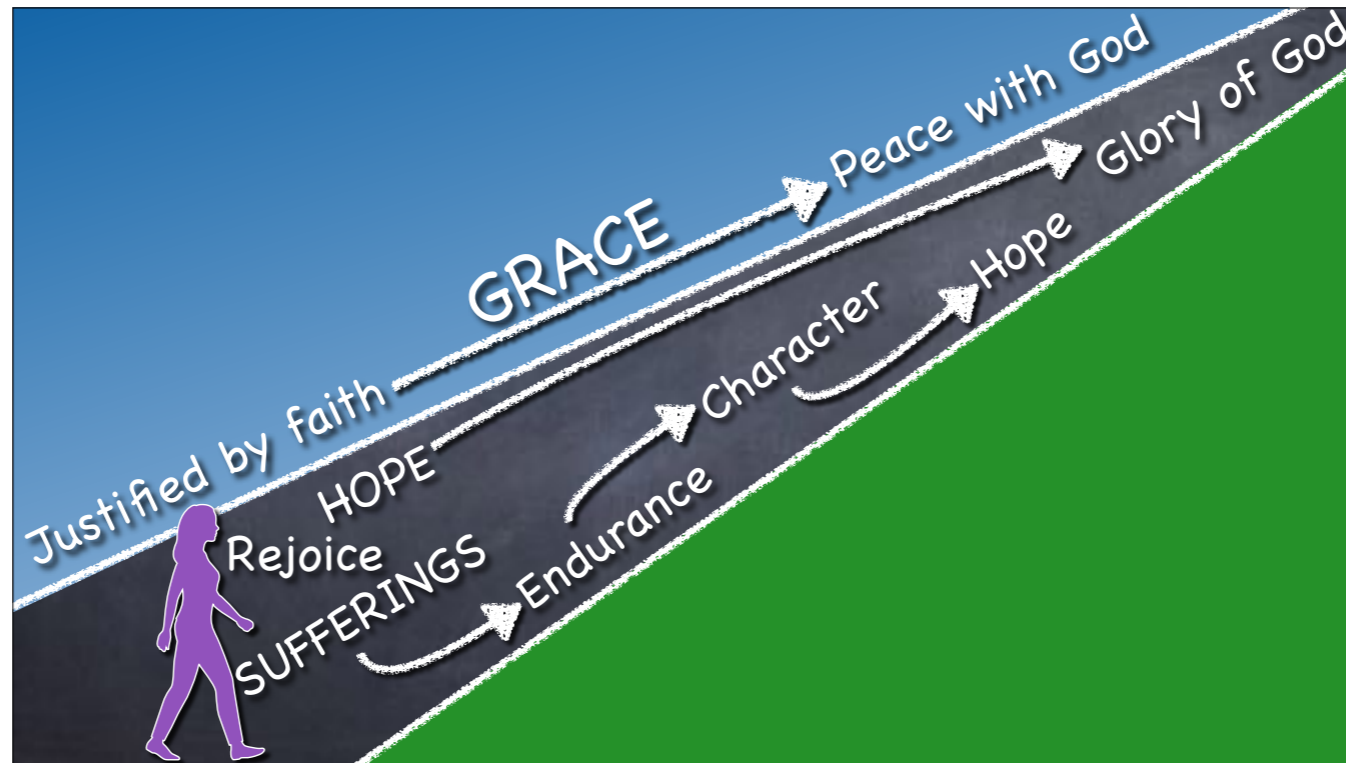
- knowing that **suffering** produces **endurance**,
  - Usually think of this the other way around
  - We endure suffering
  - But here we learn that suffering helps us learn endurance



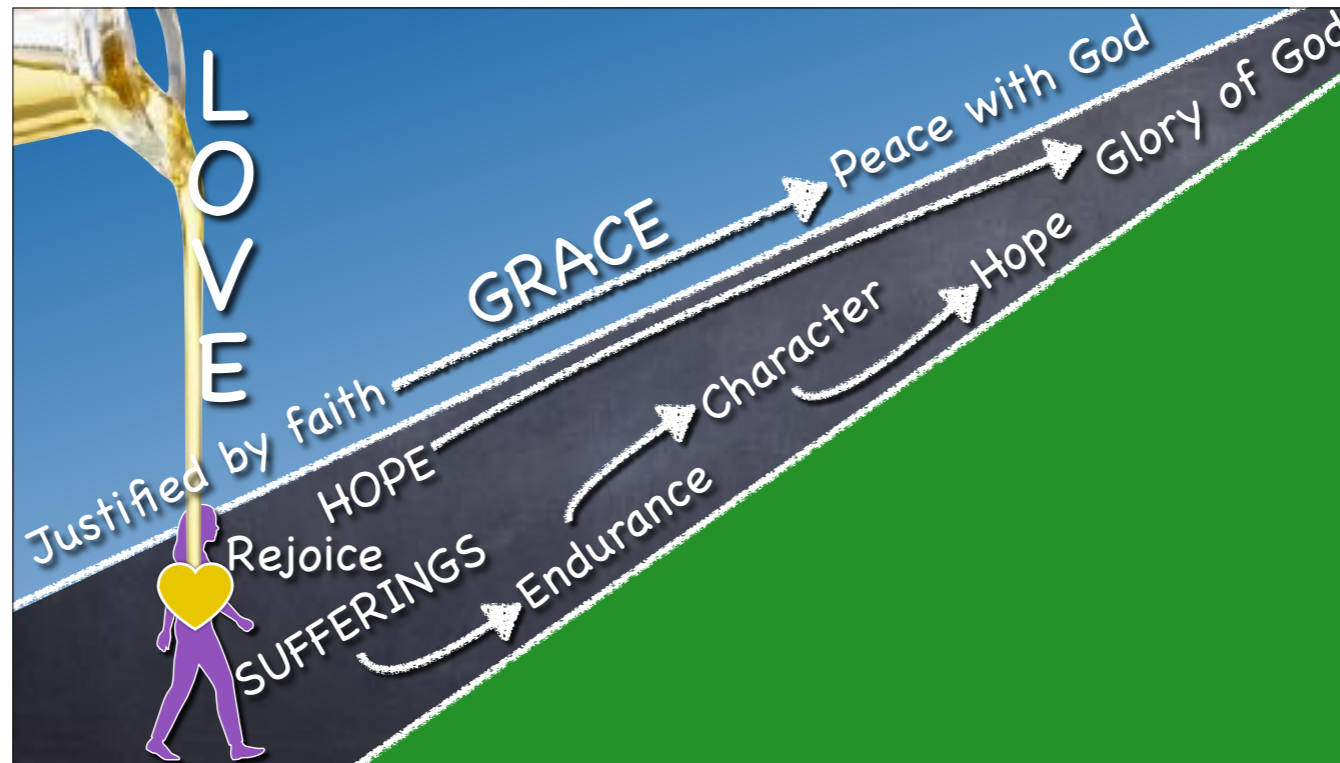
- 4 and endurance produces **character**,
  - Again, don't we usually think that because we have character we endure.
  - The endurance is vital to develop our Christ like character
- Hebrews 5:7-10 (ESV) 7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, 10 being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.



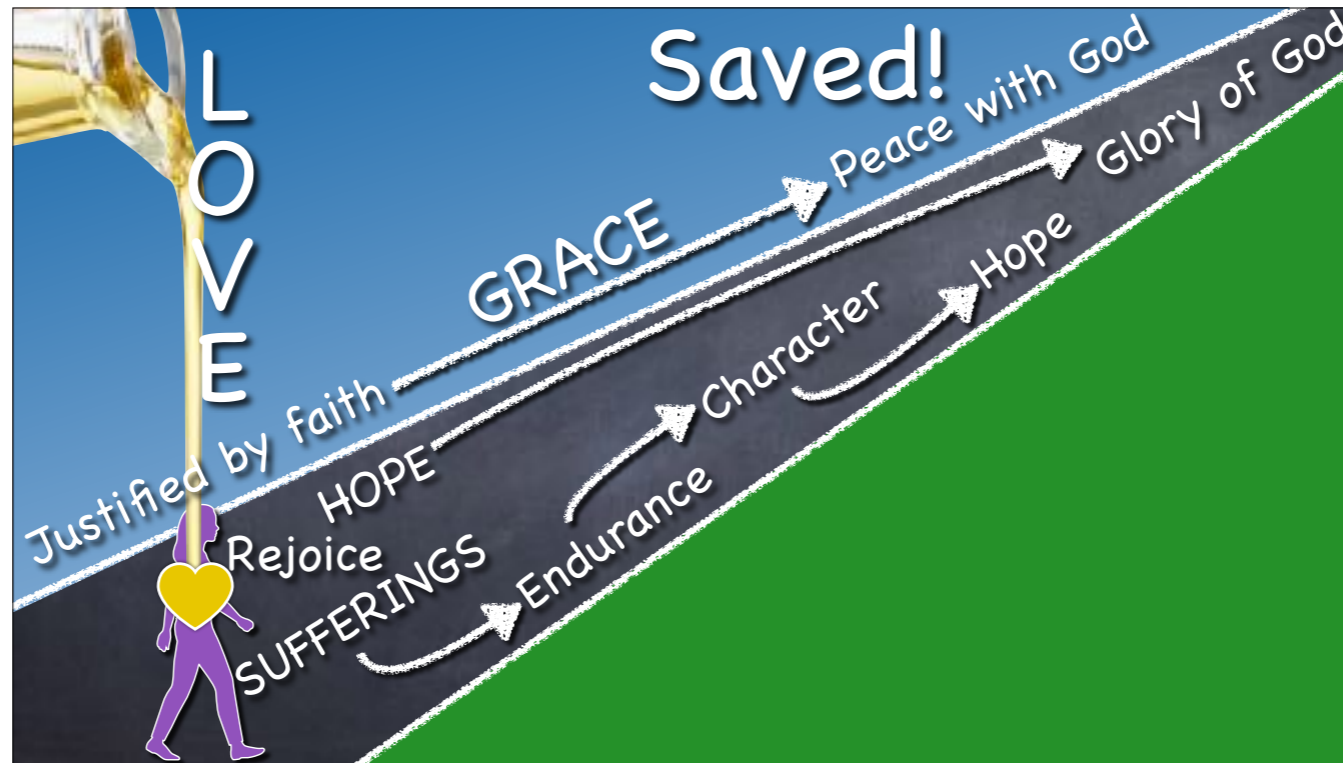
- and character produces **hope**
  - Godly character helps us keep our focus where it must be especially when suffering.
- full cycle!: Rejoice in hope!



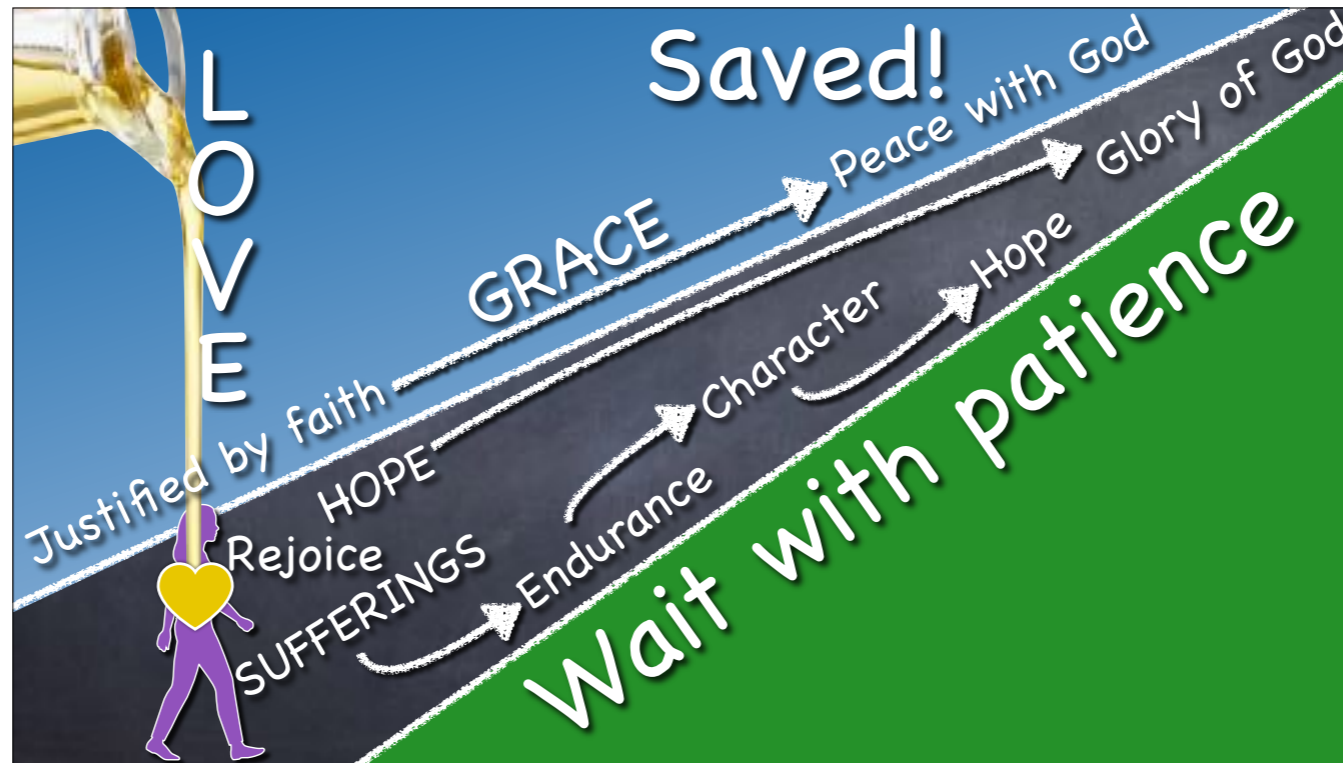
- 5 and hope does not put us to shame,



- because **God's love** has been **poured into our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.



- Romans 8:24-25 (ESV Strong's) 24 For **in this hope we were saved.**

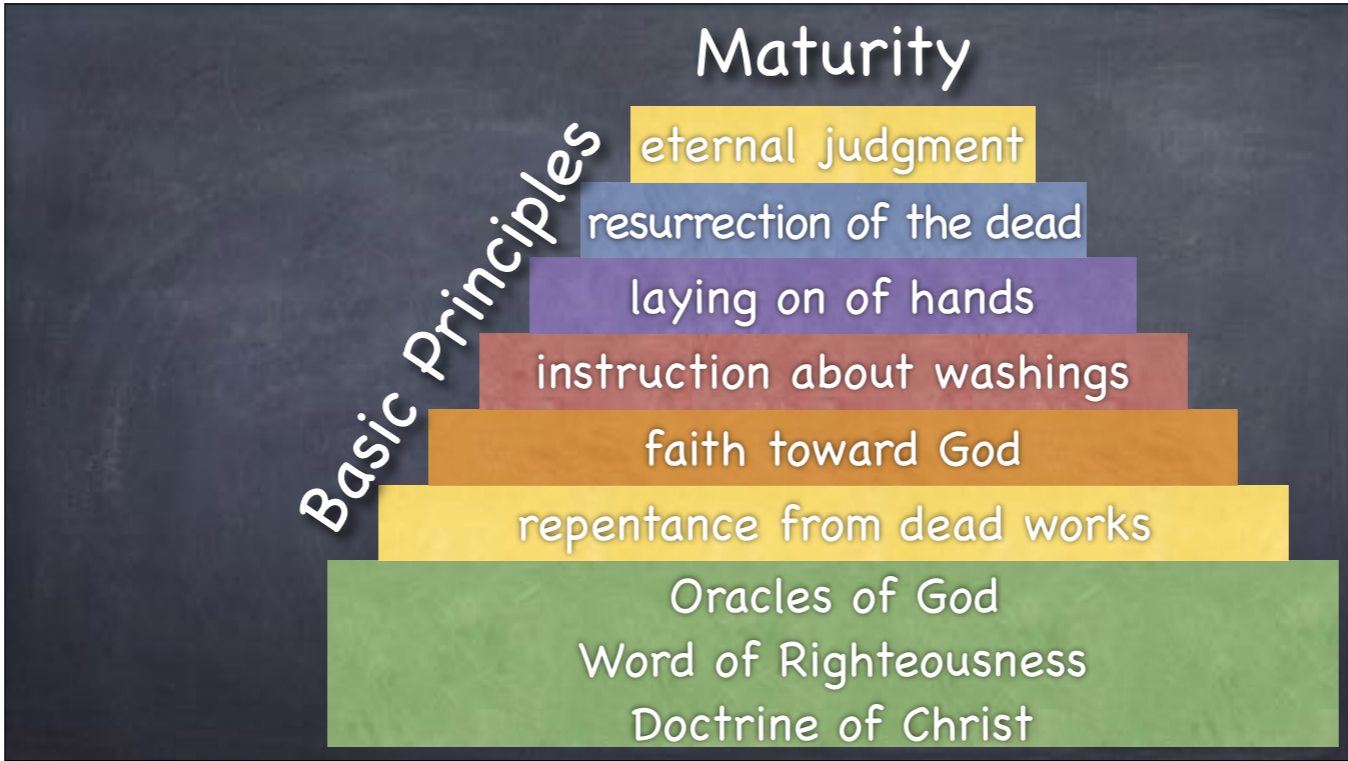


- Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, **we wait for it with patience.**



**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**



- text



- Hebrews 6:9-12 (ESV) 9 Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—**things that belong to salvation**. 10 For **God is not unjust** so as to **overlook your work** and the **love** that you have shown for his name in **servicing the saints**, as you still do. 11 And we desire each one of you to **show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end**, 12 so that you may **not be sluggish**, but imitators of those who through **faith and patience inherit the promises**.
- Hebrews 6:17-20 (ESV) 17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the **promise** the **unchangeable character of his purpose**, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is **impossible for God to lie**, we who have fled for refuge might have **strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us**. 19 We have this as a **sure and steadfast anchor of the soul**, a **hope** that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where **Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf**, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.
- Hebrews 10:32-39 (ESV Strong's) 32 But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, **you endured a hard struggle with sufferings**, 33 sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. 34 For you had **compassion** on those in prison, and you **joyfully accepted** the plundering of your property, since **you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one**. 35 Therefore **do not throw away your confidence**, which has a **great reward**. 36 For you have need of **endurance**, so that when you have **done the will of God** you may receive what is **promised**. 37 For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; 38 but **my righteous one shall live by faith**, and if he **shrinks back**, my soul has no pleasure in him." 39 But we are not of those who **shrink back and are destroyed**, but of those who **have faith and preserve their souls**.

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## Go On to Steadfast Hope

Luke 8:15

Synopsis: Those who go on to maturity live with a steadfast hope. This hope changes how we live our lives, in holiness, the fear of God and loving one another. What keeps us going on the path is learning to rejoice in Hope especially when suffering.

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**