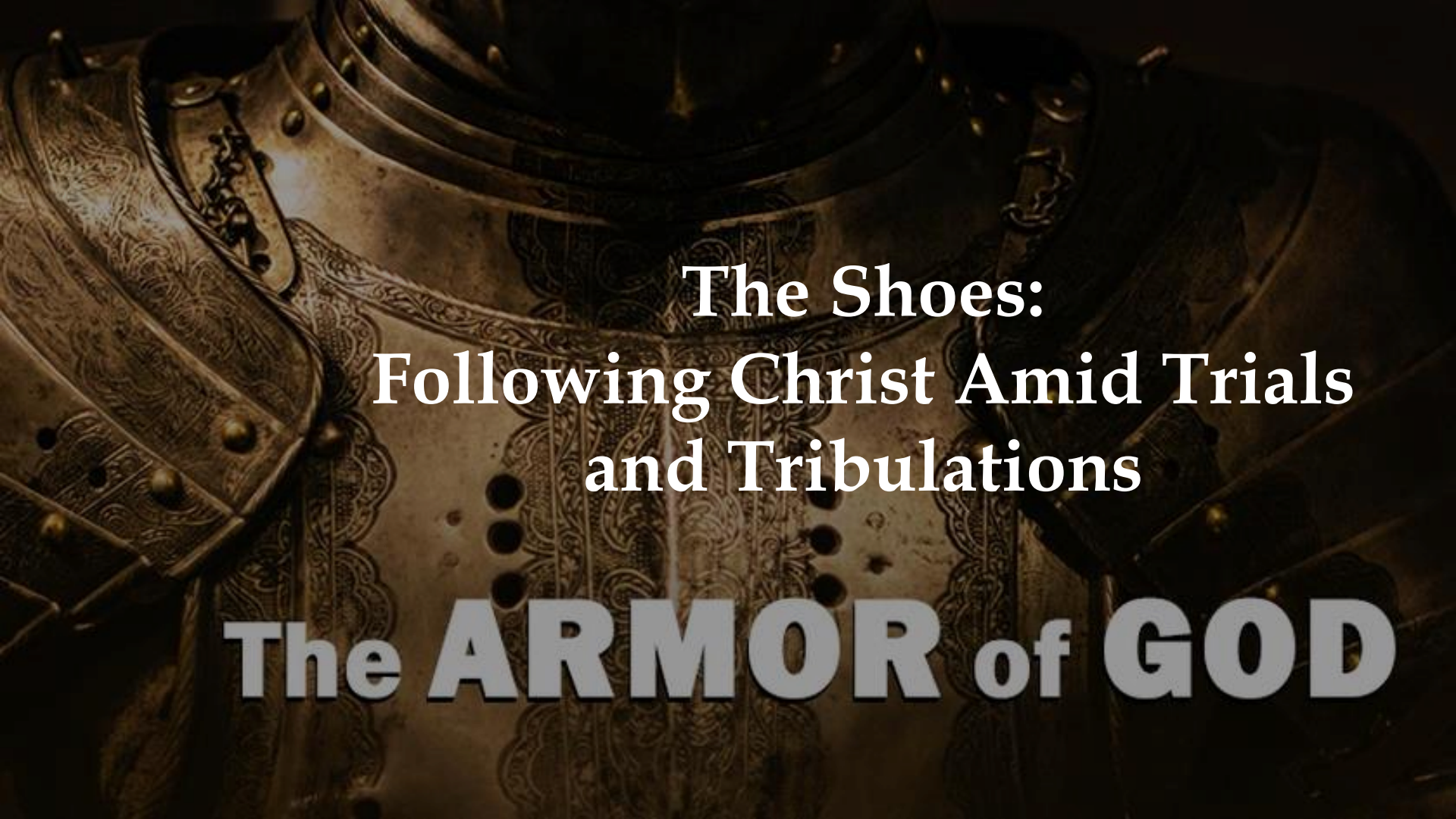




The Shoes:
Following Christ Amid Trials
and Tribulations

The **ARMOR** of **GOD**

“Stand ..., as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace” (Eph. 6:15).

The gospel of peace (Rom. 5:1; 8:1).

The gospel of peace gives readiness.

For what?

A Journey

Discouraged

Disheartened

Disillusioned

**“I have become like a
wineskin in the
smoke” (Ps. 119:83).**



See 1 Cor. 10:6–13.

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer, with hands clasped together, set against a background of a sunset or sunrise with tall grass and trees.

-1-

Confessing the Sin of Grumbling

When our crying is an expression of *unbelief*, it's directed at *the world* and expressed in *bitterness*.

When our crying is an expression of
belief, it's directed at *the Lord* and
expressed in *meekness*.

“We must not grumble, as some of them did” (1 Cor. 10:10).

1. What is grumbling?

**Grumbling is “the scum of discontent”
and “the vent of impatience.”**

Thomas Manton

2. What causes grumbling?

Pride

Impatience

Presumption

Greed

Unbelief

3. Why is grumbling so serious?

It tests God

It disturbs others

**Grumblers agitate those who
are discontent.**

It injures us

**Most of our miseries stem from a
spirit of discontentment.**

**Grumbling reveals the condition
of my heart.**

**Grumbling indicates that I've lost sight
of God's matchless grace.**

Grumbling causes tunnel vision.

4. What is the remedy for grumbling?



**(1) We need to look at what
we're doing.**

**(2) We need to look at what
we're taking in.**

(3) We need to look back.

(4) We need to look ahead.

(5) We need to look to Christ.

A dirt path winds through a grassy field, leading towards a line of bare trees in the background. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting dusk or dawn. The path is a reddish-brown color, contrasting with the green grass. The trees are mostly without leaves, with some showing early spring greenery.

-2-

Developing Habits of Thinking

“I remember your name in the night, O LORD, and keep your law” (Ps. 119:55).

1. Remembering God's Particular Providence

2. Remembering God's Steadfast Love

These are “enlivening” truths.

The Father is the *source* of all comfort.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort” (2 Cor. 1:3).

The Son is the *cause* of all comfort.

“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself,
and God our Father, who loved us and
gave us eternal comfort” (2 Thess. 2:16).

The Spirit is the *means* of all comfort.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope” (Rom. 15:13).

Faith is the *condition* of all comfort.

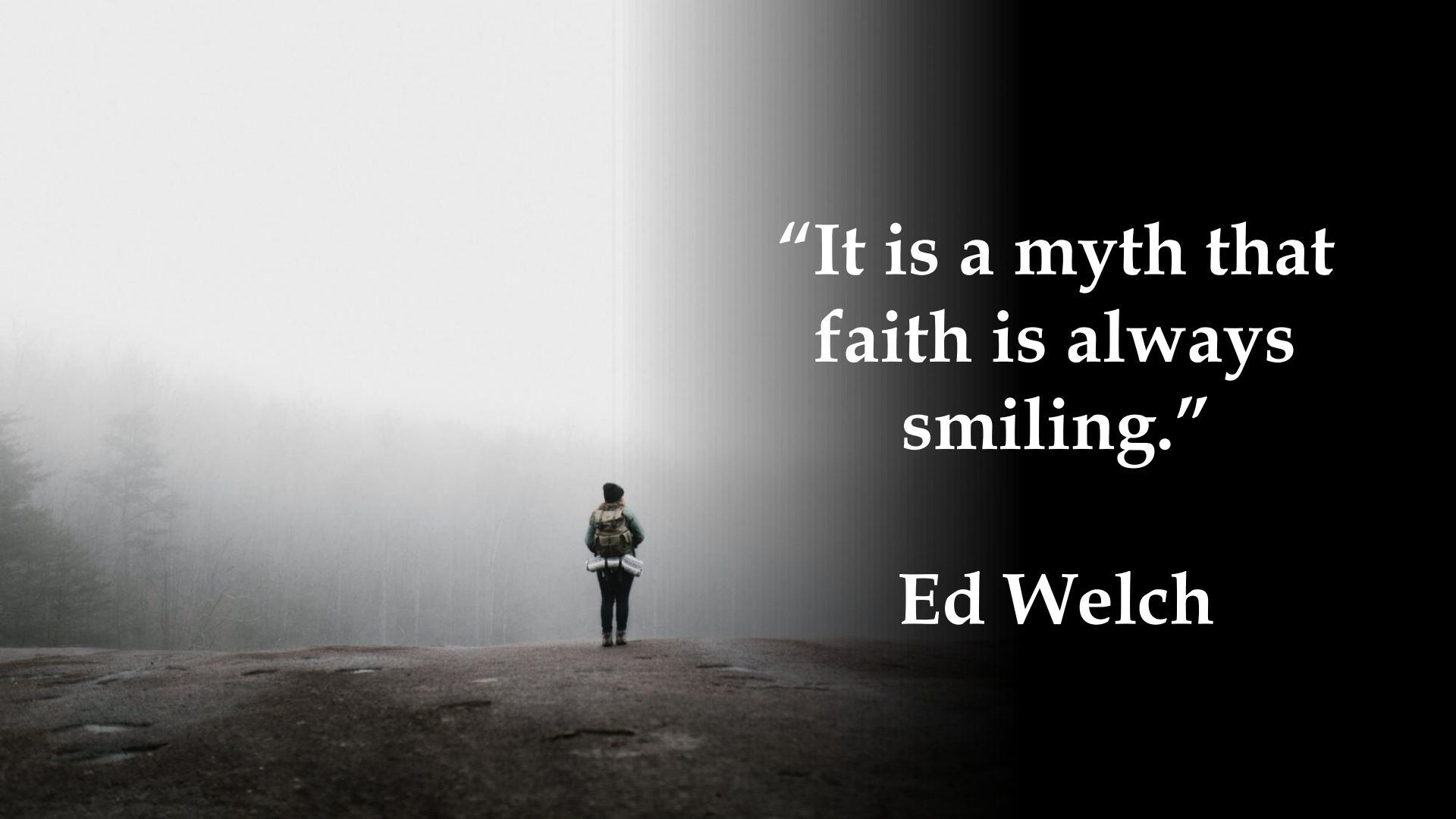
“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me” (Jn. 14:1).

Pardon is the *matter* of all comfort.

“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” (Rom. 5:2).

**-1-
Maintain
realistic
expectations**



A person wearing a backpack and a hat stands on a dark, rocky outcrop, looking out over a dense forest shrouded in thick fog. The scene is atmospheric and somber, with a vertical beam of light illuminating the person from above.

**“It is a myth that
faith is always
smiling.”**

Ed Welch

-2-
Keep your
emotions in
check





-3-
**Resist the
temptation to
grumble**



-4-
Delight in
God above
all else



-5-
Talk to
yourself



Eloquent Ta

-6-

Learn to
entrust small
things to God



-7-

Devote
yourself to
the means of
grace



-8-
Study God's
Word



-9-
Serve
others



-10-
Look to
Christ



(1) We look to Christ as “our righteousness” (Jer. 23:6).

**(2) We look to Christ as “our advocate”
(1 John 2:1).**

(3) We look to Christ as “our helper.”

**“Without Christ we would not be able to
take one step in the way of life.”**

- Thomas Vincent

“Let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith” (Heb. 12:1–2).

Christ's Motive

“When his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days” (Isa. 53:10).

Christ's Resolve

**“I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame”
(Isa. 50:7).**

Christ's Mindset

“He trusts in God; let God deliver him now if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God’” (Matt. 27:43).

Christ's Triumph

“Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head” (Luke 9:58).