



Part 2

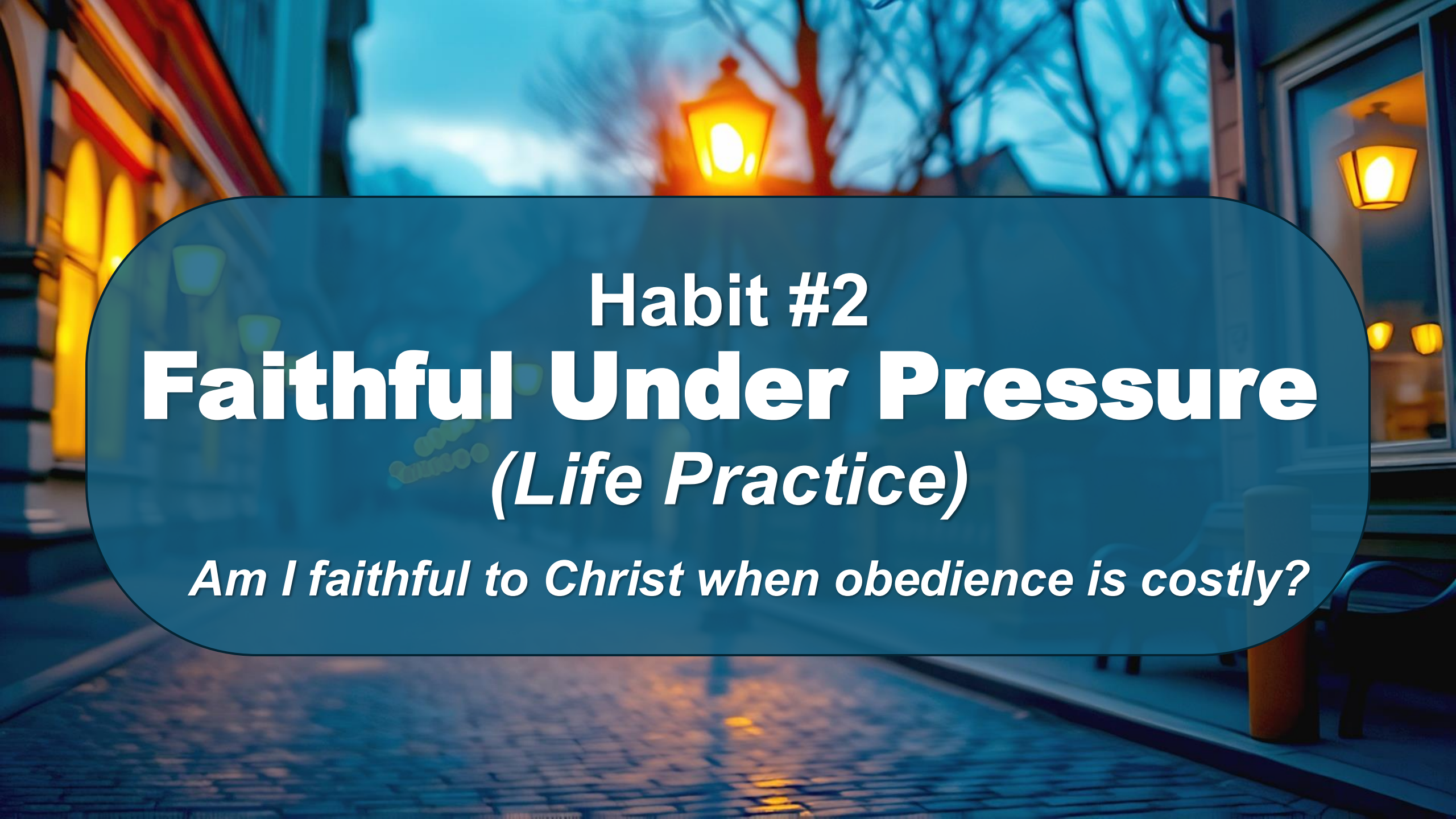
**7 HABITS OF
HIGHLY EFFECTIVE
CHURCHES**

Revelation 2:8-11

A map of modern-day Turkey is shown in the background. Overlaid on this is a parchment-colored map of the same region, highlighting the locations of four ancient cities: Pergamos, Smyrna, Ephesus, and Laodicea. Each city is marked with a red location pin. The parchment map also shows some surrounding geographical features like the Aegean Sea to the west and the Taurus mountains to the north. The text 'modern day TURKEY' is written in a dark brown box in the upper left corner.

modern day
TURKEY

If you were a Christian in the first century ... Smyrna was one of the hardest places to live out your faith.



Habit #2

Faithful Under Pressure

(Life Practice)

Am I faithful to Christ when obedience is costly?



**1. Jesus knows the pressure
you're under (vv. 8-9).**

Remember Who I am.

Distinct Message; Same Format

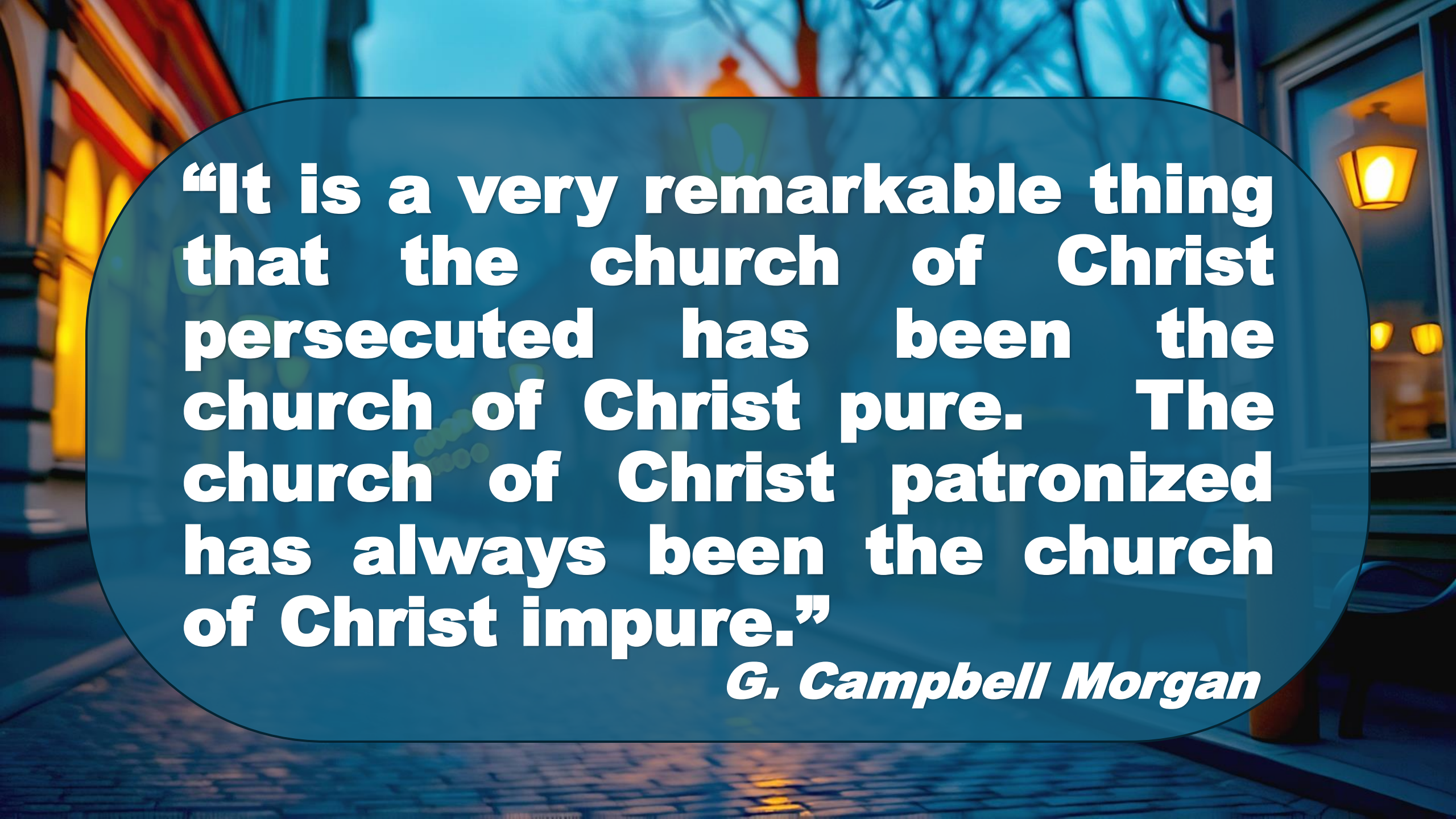
Commendation

Exhortation

Encouraging promise

Strong rebuke

**7 HABITS OF
HIGHLY EFFECTIVE
CHURCHES**



“It is a very remarkable thing that the church of Christ persecuted has been the church of Christ pure. The church of Christ patronized has always been the church of Christ impure.”

G. Campbell Morgan



1. Jesus knows the pressure you're under (vv. 8-9).

- God is in control, regardless of appearance of evil (vs. 8).**
- God knows all about your circumstances, regardless of how hopeless they may seem (vs. 9).**



**1. Jesus knows the pressure
you're under (vv. 8-9).**

Key words:

- **tribulations - *pressure; like something being crushed***
- **poverty - *abject poverty; possessing absolutely nothing***

**1. Jesus knows the pressure
you're under (vv. 8-9).**

Jesus redefines what '*rich*' means.

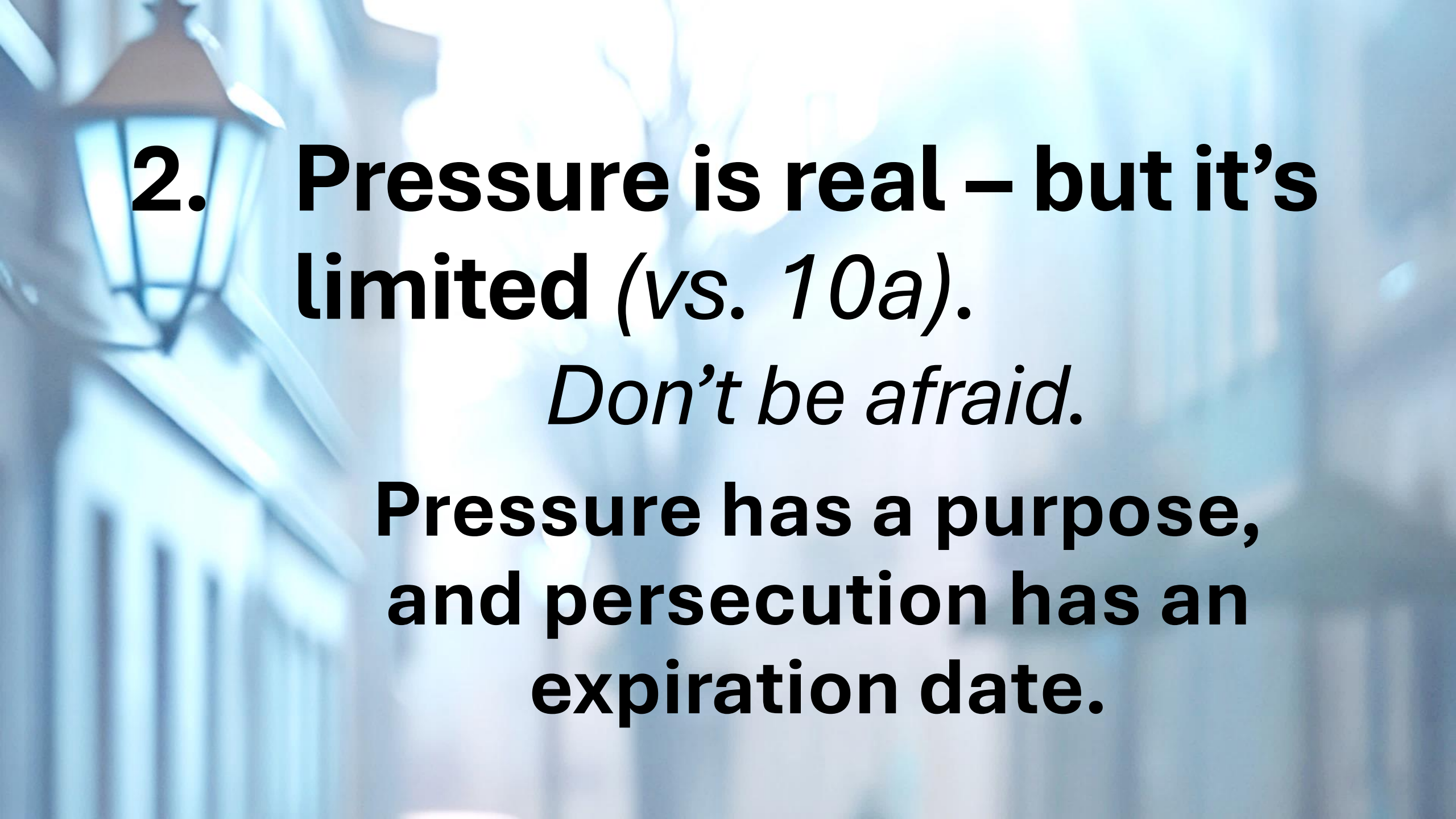
***You can be broke by the
world's standards and
loaded by heaven's!***

1. Jesus knows the pressure you're under (vv. 8-9).

Key words:

- tribulations - *pressure; being crushed***
- poverty - *poverty; possessing nothing***
- blasphemy - *slandered reputations; malicious words, not true but used to hurt incite anger***

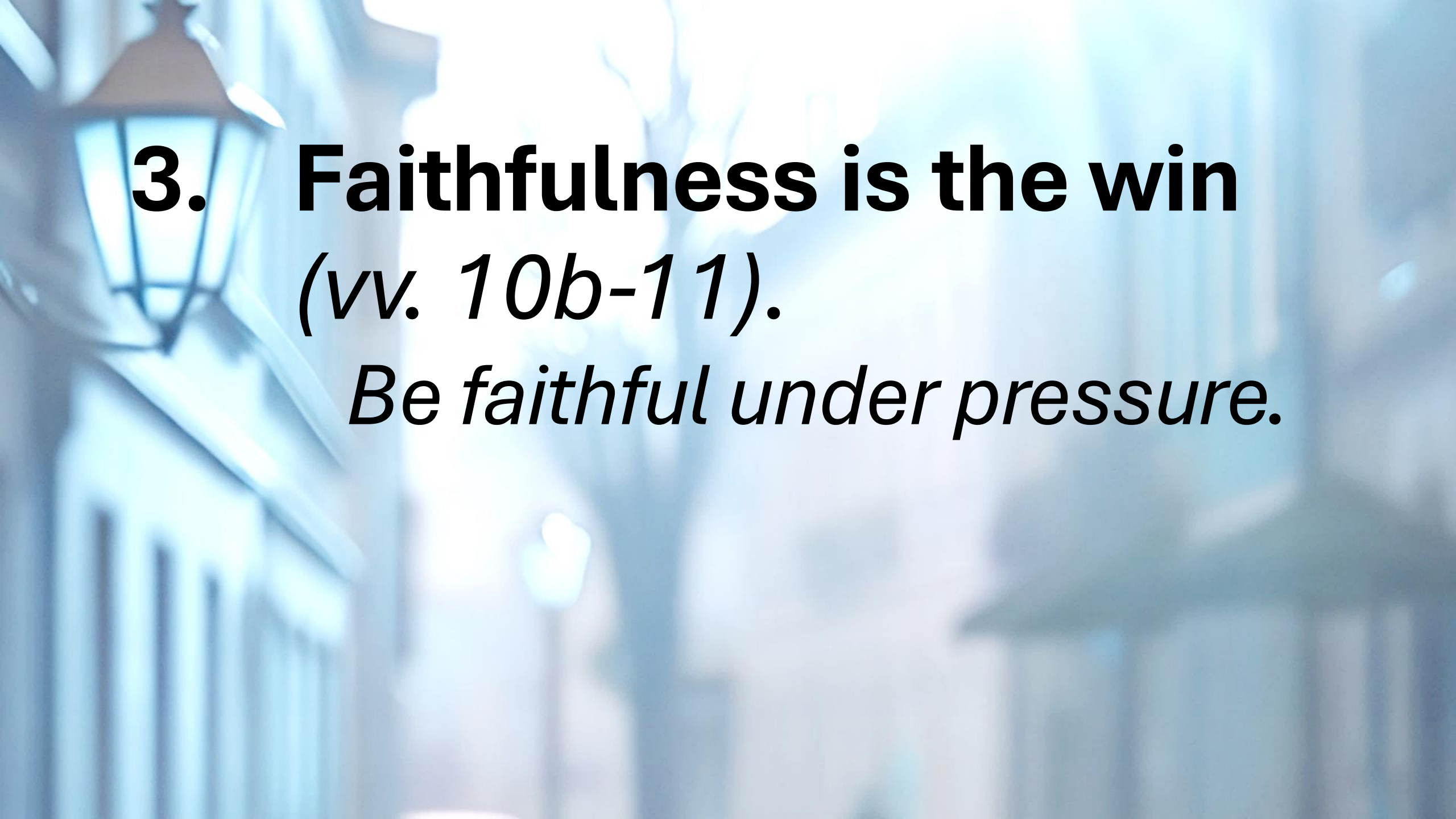




2. Pressure is real – but it's limited (vs. 10a).

Don't be afraid.

**Pressure has a purpose,
and persecution has an
expiration date.**

A blurred background of a street scene. On the left, a building with a street lamp is visible. The street lamp has a dark, ornate top and a glass-enclosed light fixture. The background is out of focus, showing trees and other buildings in a city setting.

3. Faithfulness is the win
(vv. 10b-11).

Be faithful under pressure.



***“Eighty six years
have I served Christ,
and He has never
done me wrong. How
can I blaspheme my
King who saved me?”***

POLYCARP

- 1. Jesus knows the pressure you're under (vv. 8-9). *Remember Who I am.***
- 2. Pressure is real – but it's limited (vs. 10a). *Don't be afraid.***
- 3. Faithfulness is the win (vv. 10b-11). *Be faithful under pressure***
- 4. There's a better crown coming (vs. 10).**

Week

Ephesus (2:1-7)

Smyrna (2:8-11)

Pergamos (2:12-17) ...

Thyatira (2:18-29)

Sardis (3:1-6)

Philadelphia (3:7-13) ...

Laodicea (3:14-22)

Diagnostic Question

Do I love Jesus as deeply as when I first followed Him?

Am I faithful to God when obedience is costly?

Where am I tolerating compromise in truth or practice?

Is my love matched by personal holiness?

Am I spiritually alive—or just busy and respectable?

Am I obeying God even when I feel weak?

What am I relying on more than Christ?