



PERSEVERANCE

A person is pushing a large, dark, spherical boulder up a steep, dark hill. The scene is set against a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with a bright sun low on the horizon to the right, casting a warm glow and creating a lens flare. The overall mood is one of struggle and perseverance.

PERSEVERANCE:

- The Demand
- The Development

1. Necessary for GROWTH.

- We must allow patience to develop a mature character.

James 1:4

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.



- We must bear fruit with patience.

Luke 8:15

But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.



2. Necessary to ENDURE TRIALS.

2 Thessalonians 1:4

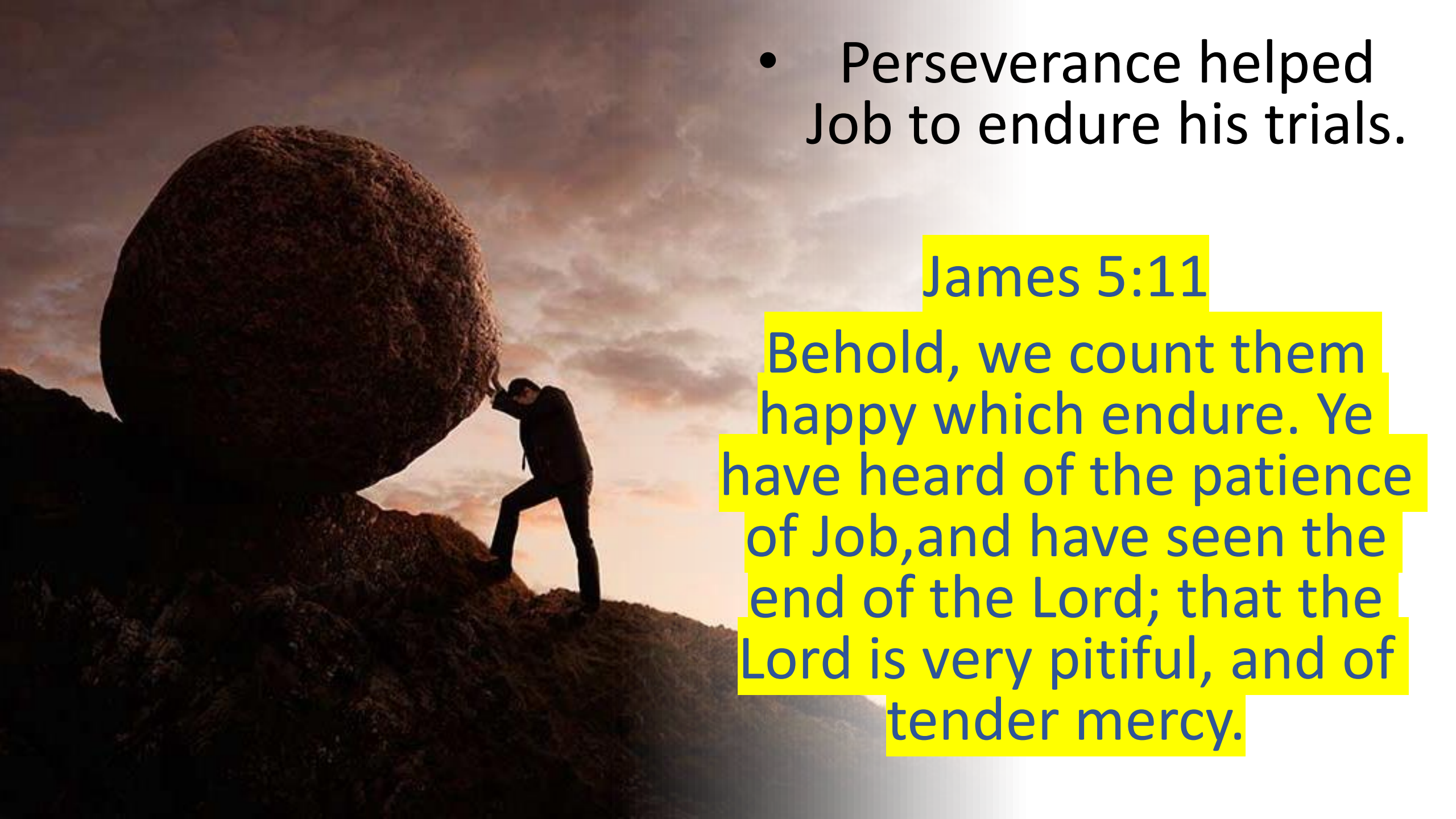
So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:



- Perseverance helped Job to endure his trials.

James 5:11

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.



3. Necessary to Eternal Life

- We must have patience to receive the promise.

Hebrews 10:36

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Romans 2:7

To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:



A silhouette of a person pushing a large, round stone up a hill against a sunset sky. The scene is dark, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a dramatic and challenging atmosphere.

PERSEVERANCE:

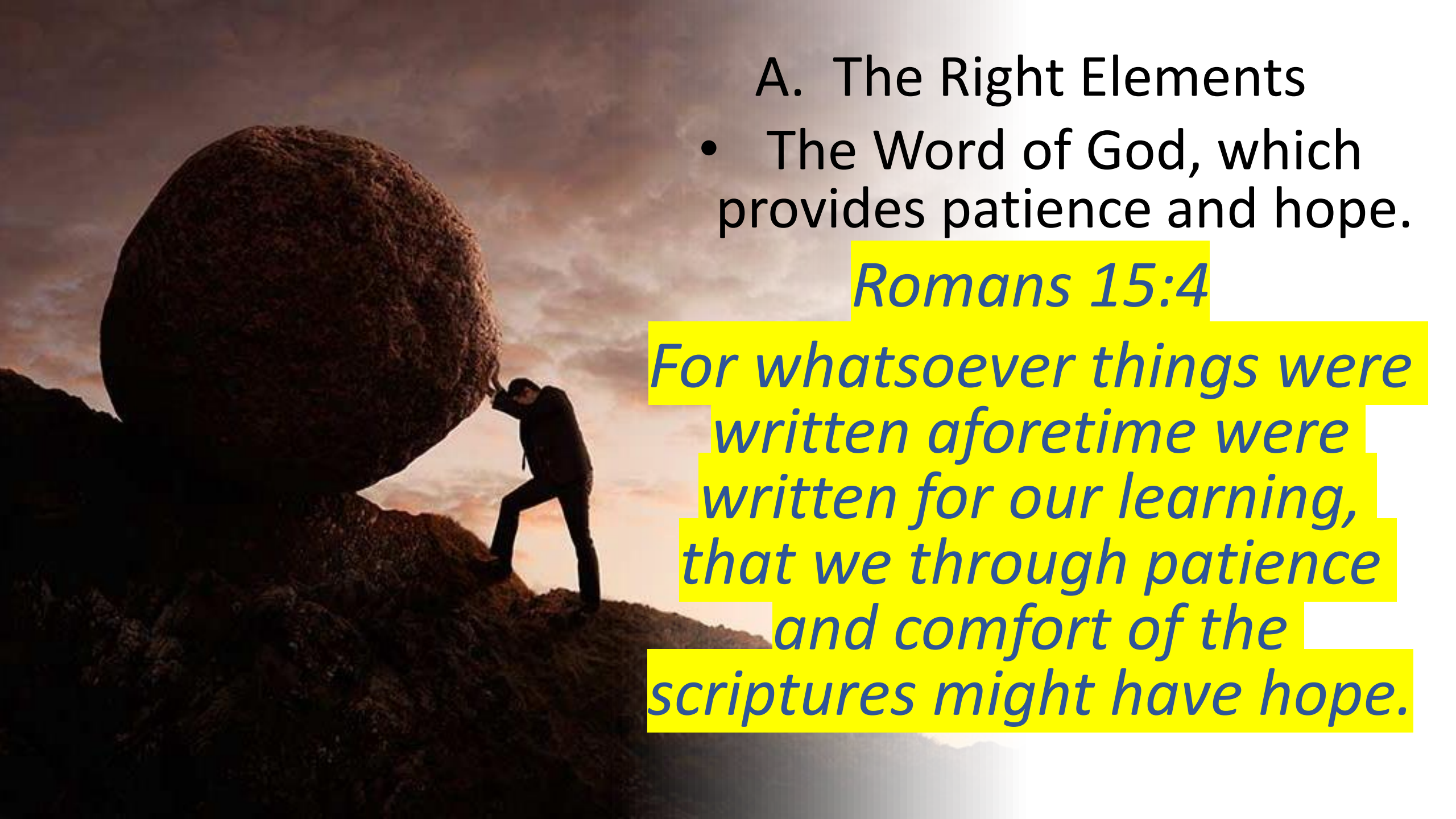
- The Development

A. The Right Elements

- The Word of God, which provides patience and hope.

Romans 15:4

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

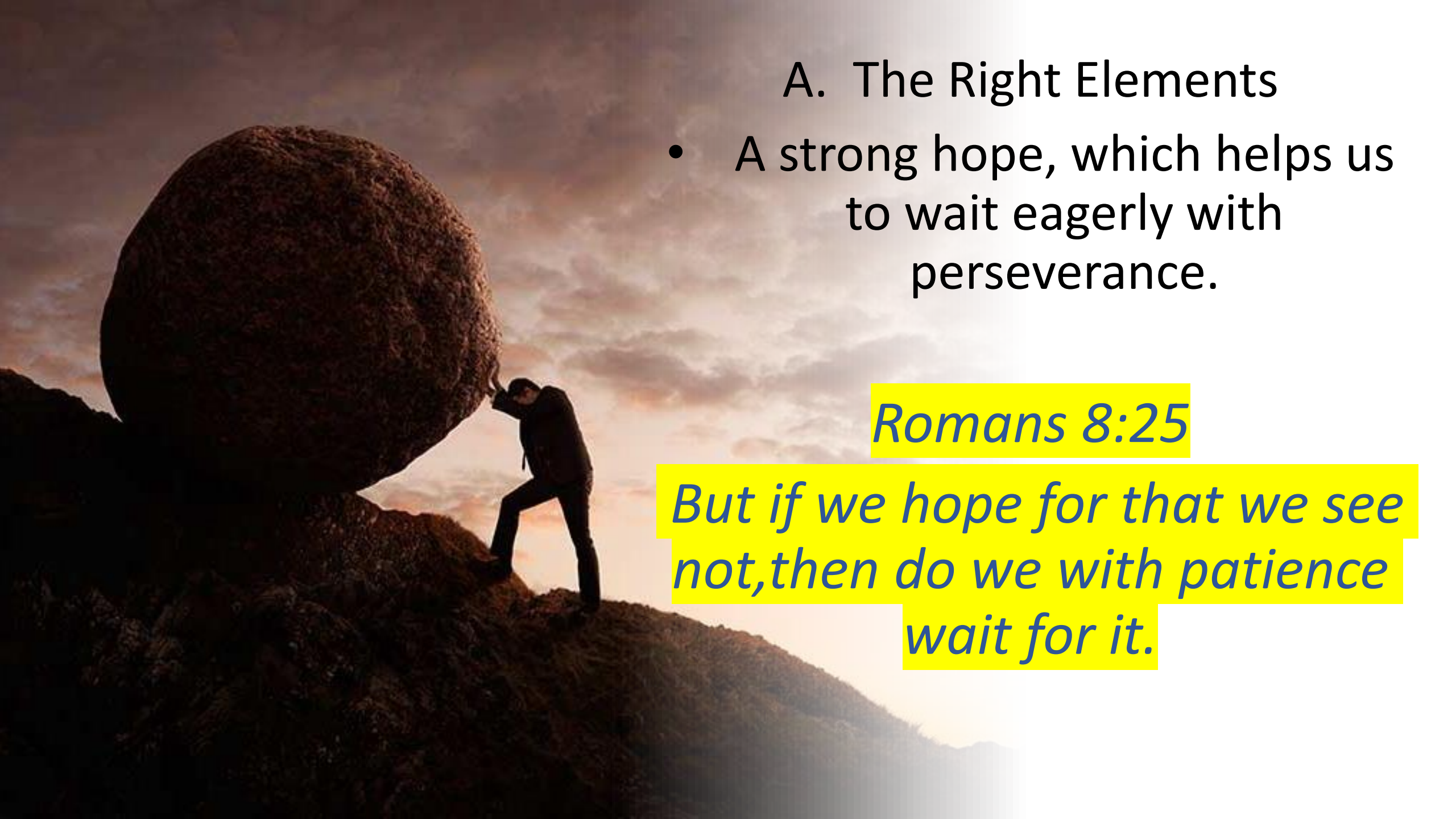


A. The Right Elements

- A strong hope, which helps us to wait eagerly with perseverance.

Romans 8:25

But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.



A. The Right Elements

- Prayer certainly helps, as Paul prayed for the Colossians.

Colossians 1:11

*Strengthened with all might,
according to his glorious
power, unto all patience and
longsuffering with joyfulness;*



A. The Right Elements

- Even tribulations...

Romans 5:3

*And not only so, but we glory
in tribulations also: knowing
that tribulation worketh
patience;*



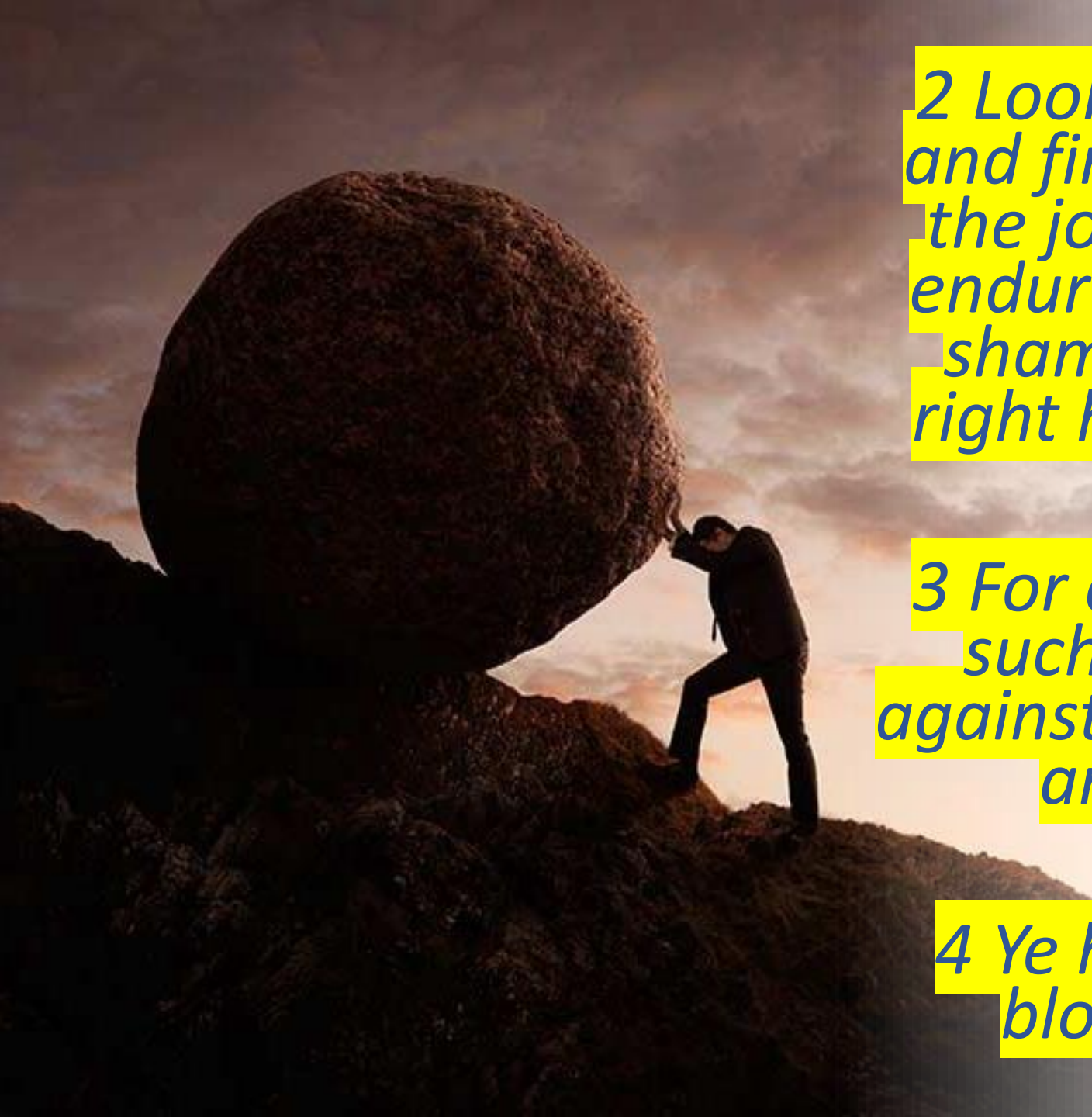
B. The right PERSPECTIVE.

1. Look to Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1-4

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,





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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

B. The right PERSPECTIVE.

2. Look to Each Other

Hebrews 3:12

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.



B. The right PERSPECTIVE.

3. Look at life with a positive attitude.

James 1:2-3

*My brethren, count it all joy
when ye fall into divers
temptations;*

*Knowing this, that the trying of
your faith worketh patience.*



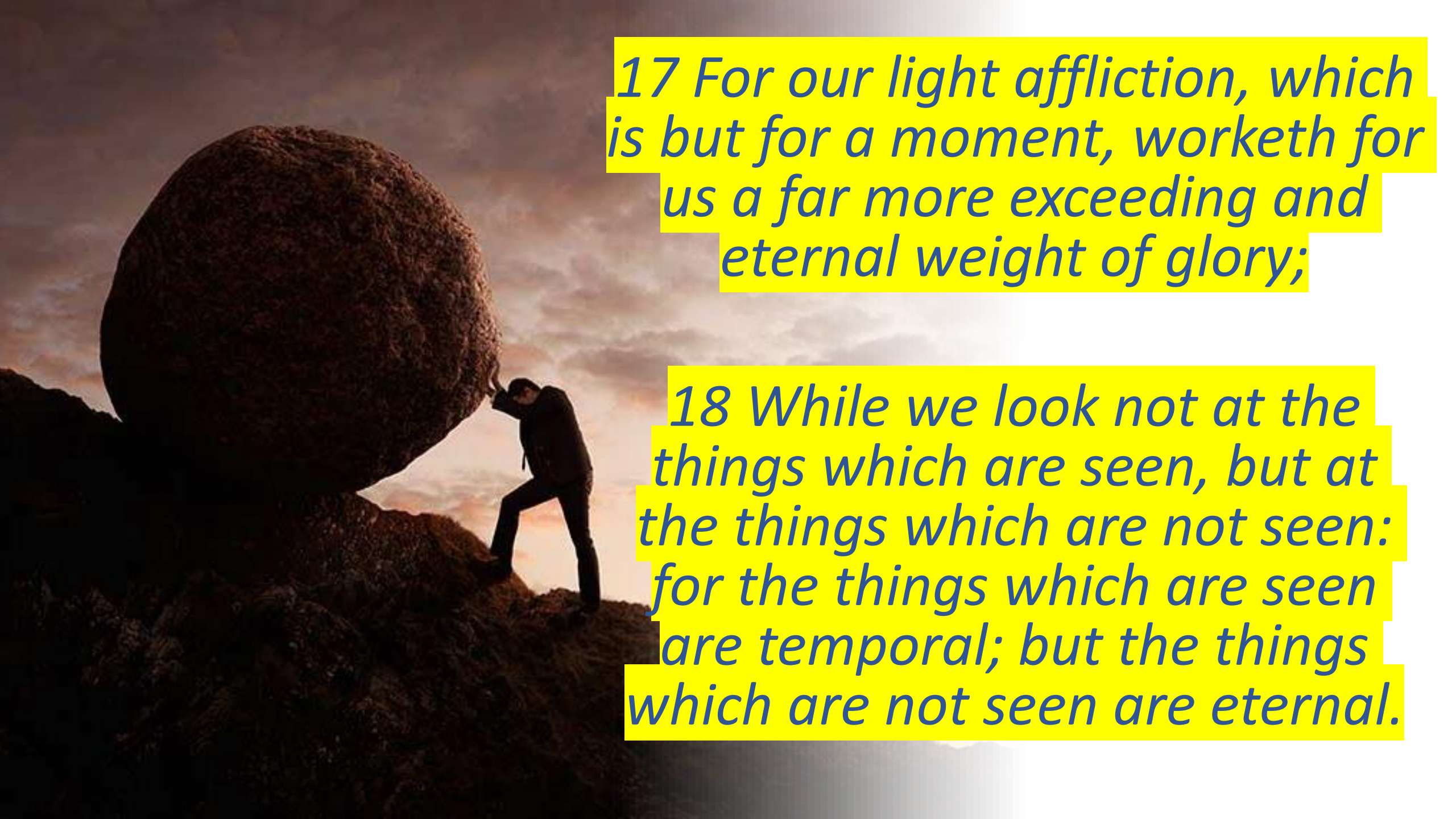
A silhouette of a person pushing a large, round stone up a hill against a sunset sky. The person is on the right side of the stone, leaning forward and pushing it up the incline. The sky is filled with soft, orange and pink clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong backlighting effect. The foreground is dark, showing the texture of the hillside.

B. The right PERSPECTIVE.

4. Look to the future.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

A silhouette of a person pushing a large, round stone up a hill against a sunset sky. The person is on the right side of the stone, leaning forward and pushing it up the incline. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and grey clouds. The stone is on the left side of the frame, resting on a dark, rocky surface.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.



PERSEVERANCE