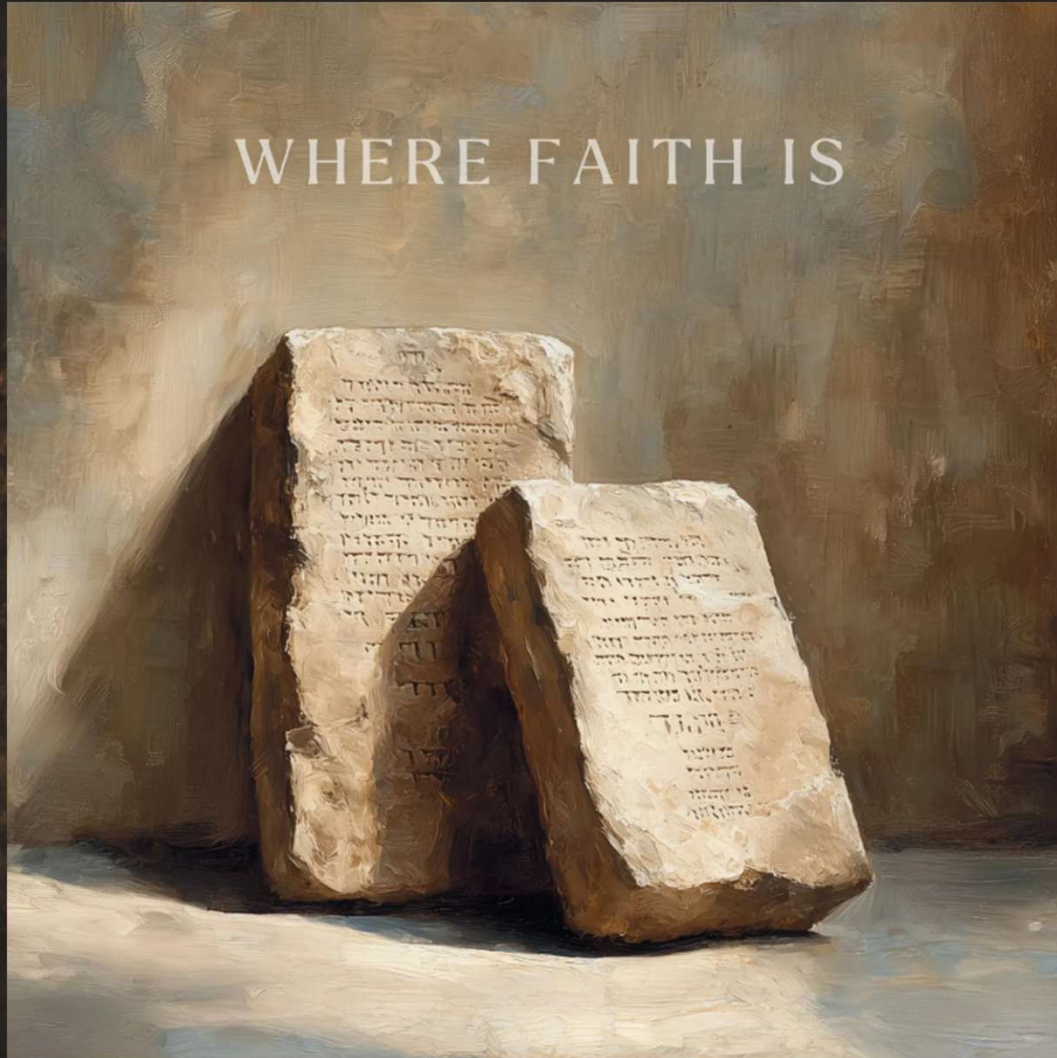




DETHRONING
Self

**WHOEVER WANTS TO BE MY
DISCIPLE MUST DENY
THEMSELVES
LUKE 9:23**

WHERE FAITH IS



**THOU SHALT NOT MAKE
UNTO THEE ANY
GRAVEN IMAGES.**

EXODUS 20:4

ROMANS 1:21-25

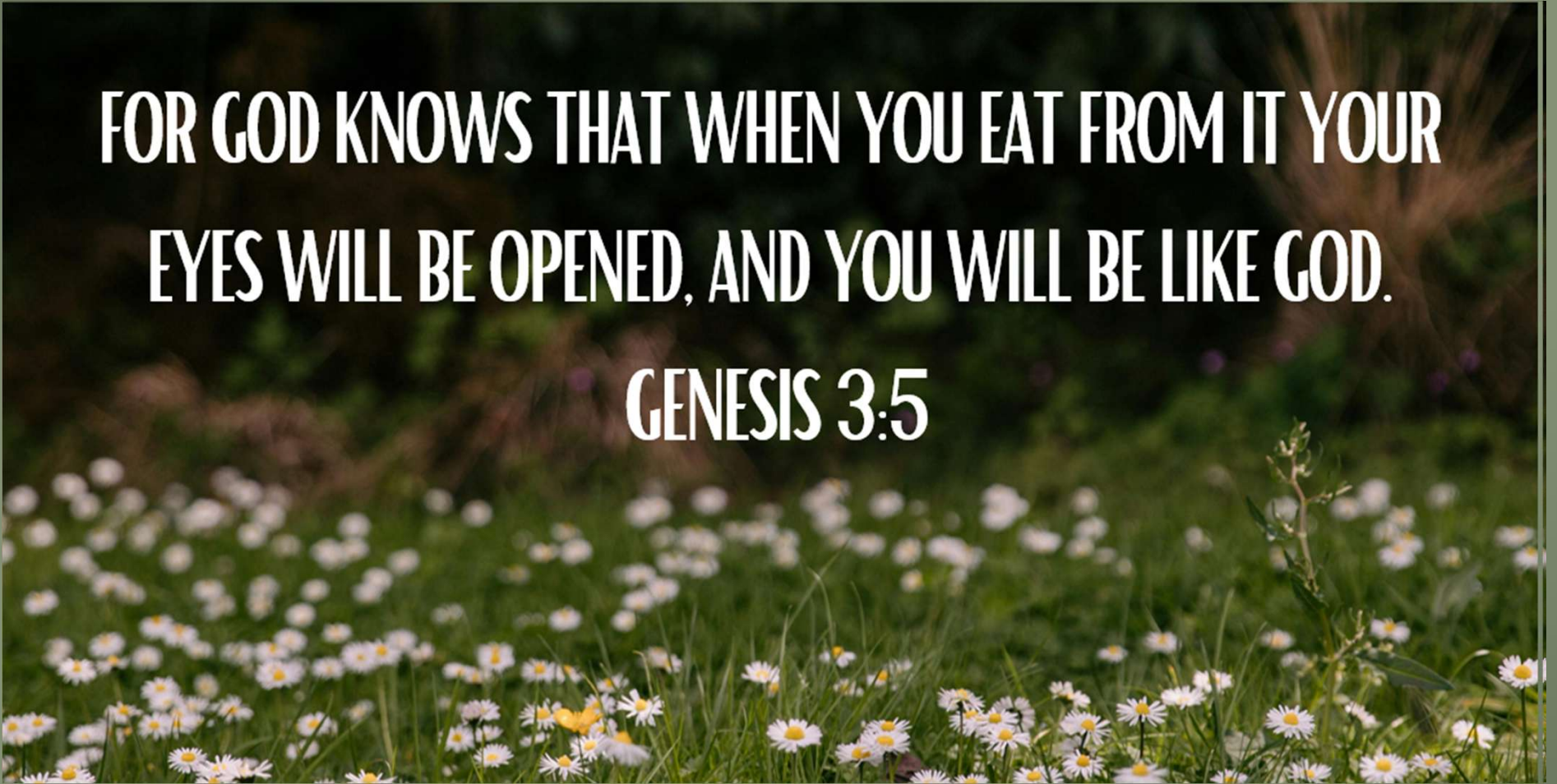
FOR ALTHOUGH THEY KNEW GOD, THEY NEITHER GLORIFIED HIM AS GOD NOR GAVE THANKS TO HIM, BUT THEIR THINKING BECAME FUTILE AND THEIR FOOLISH HEARTS WERE DARKENED.

ALTHOUGH THEY CLAIMED TO BE WISE, THEY BECAME FOOLS AND EXCHANGED THE GLORY OF THE IMMORTAL GOD FOR IMAGES MADE TO LOOK LIKE A MORTAL HUMAN BEING AND BIRDS AND ANIMALS AND REPTILES. THEREFORE GOD GAVE THEM OVER IN THE SINFUL DESIRES OF THEIR HEARTS TO SEXUAL IMPURITY FOR THE DEGRADING OF THEIR BODIES WITH ONE ANOTHER.

THEY EXCHANGED THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD FOR A LIE, AND WORSHIPED AND SERVED CREATED THINGS RATHER THAN THE CREATOR — WHO IS FOREVER PRAISED. AMEN.

**FOR GOD KNOWS THAT WHEN YOU EAT FROM IT YOUR
EYES WILL BE OPENED, AND YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD.**

GENESIS 3:5



How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

For you have said **in your heart:**

‘I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Isaiah 14:12-15

SELFISHNESS- SELF-CENTEREDNESS! THAT, WE THINK, IS THE ROOT OF OUR TROUBLES. DRIVEN BY A HUNDRED FORMS OF FEAR, SELF-DELUSION, SELF-SEEKING, AND SELF-PITY, WE STEP ON THE TOES OF OUR FELLOWS AND THEY RETALIATE. SOMETIMES THEY HURT US, SEEMINGLY WITHOUT PROVOCATION, BUT WE INVARIABLY FIND THAT AT SOME TIME IN THE PAST WE HAVE MADE DECISIONS BASED ON SELF WHICH LATER PLACED US IN A POSITION TO BE HURT.

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SO OUR TROUBLES, WE THINK, ARE BASICALLY OF OUR OWN MAKING. THEY ARISE OUT OF OURSELVES, AND THE ALCOHOLIC IS AN EXTREME EXAMPLE OF SELF-WILL RUN RIOT, THOUGH HE USUALLY DOESN'T THINK SO. ABOVE EVERYTHING, WE ALCOHOLICS MUST BE RID OF THIS SELFISHNESS. WE MUST, OR IT KILLS US! GOD MAKES THAT POSSIBLE. AND THERE OFTEN SEEMS NO WAY OF ENTIRELY GETTING RID OF SELF WITHOUT HIS AID. MANY OF US HAD MORAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL CONVICTIONS GALORE, BUT WE COULD NOT LIVE UP TO THEM EVEN THOUGH WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO. NEITHER COULD WE REDUCE OUR SELF-CENTEREDNESS MUCH BY WISHING OR TRYING ON OUR OWN POWER. WE HAD TO HAVE GOD'S HELP.

THIS IS THE HOW AND WHY OF IT. FIRST OF ALL, WE HAD TO QUIT PLAYING GOD. IT DIDN'T WORK. NEXT, WE DECIDED THAT HEREAFTER IN THIS DRAMA OF LIFE, GOD WAS GOING TO BE OUR DIRECTOR. HE IS THE PRINCIPAL; WE ARE HIS AGENTS. HE IS THE FATHER, AND WE ARE HIS CHILDREN. MOST GOOD IDEAS ARE SIMPLE, AND THIS CONCEPT WAS THE KEYSTONE OF THE NEW AND TRIUMPHANT ARCH THROUGH WHICH WE PASSED TO FREEDOM. WHEN WE SINCERELY TOOK SUCH A POSITION, ALL SORTS OF REMARKABLE THINGS FOLLOWED. WE HAD A NEW EMPLOYER. BEING ALL POWERFUL, HE PROVIDED WHAT WE NEEDED, IF WE KEPT CLOSE TO HIM AND PERFORMED HIS WORK WELL.

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ESTABLISHED ON SUCH A FOOTING WE BECAME LESS AND LESS INTERESTED IN OURSELVES, OUR LITTLE PLANS AND DESIGNS. MORE AND MORE WE BECAME INTERESTED IN SEEING WHAT WE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO LIFE. AS WE FELT NEW POWER FLOW IN, AS WE ENJOYED PEACE OF MIND, AS WE DISCOVERED WE COULD FACE LIFE SUCCESSFULLY, AS WE BECAME CONSCIOUS OF HIS PRESENCE, WE BEGAN TO LOSE OUR FEAR OF TODAY, TOMORROW OR THE HEREAFTER. WE WERE REBORN.

BB P. 62



Dethrone
SELF

LUKE 9:23

DENY YOURSELF

JOHN 3:30

**HE MUST INCREASE,
I MUST DECREASE**

EXODUS 20:3-4

**YOU SHALL HAVE
NO OTHER GODS
BEFORE ME**





GOD, I OFFER MYSELF TO THEE—TO BUILD WITH ME AND TO DO WITH ME AS THOU WILT. RELIEVE ME OF THE BONDAGE OF SELF, THAT I MAY BETTER DO THY WILL. TAKE AWAY MY DIFFICULTIES, THAT VICTORY OVER THEM MAY BEAR WITNESS TO THOSE I WOULD HELP OF THY POWER, THY LOVE, AND THY WAY OF LIFE. MAY I DO THY WILL ALWAYS!

A field of white daisies with yellow centers, set against a lush green background. The flowers are scattered across the frame, with some in sharp focus in the foreground and others blurred in the background, creating a sense of depth. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

THE
End