

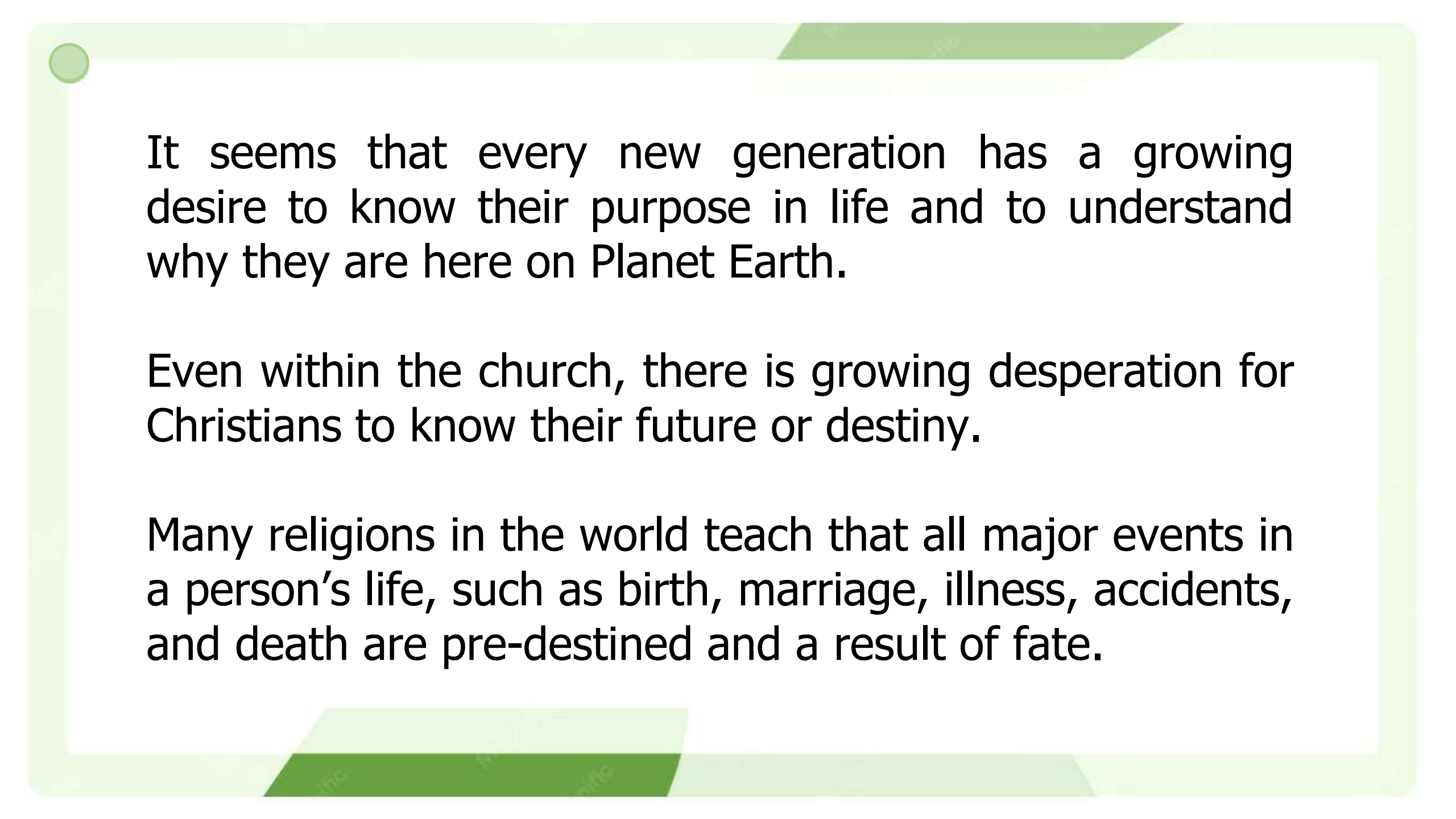
Romans 8: 28-30
&
Matthew 6:34a

Romans 8: 28-30

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified."

Matthew 6:34a

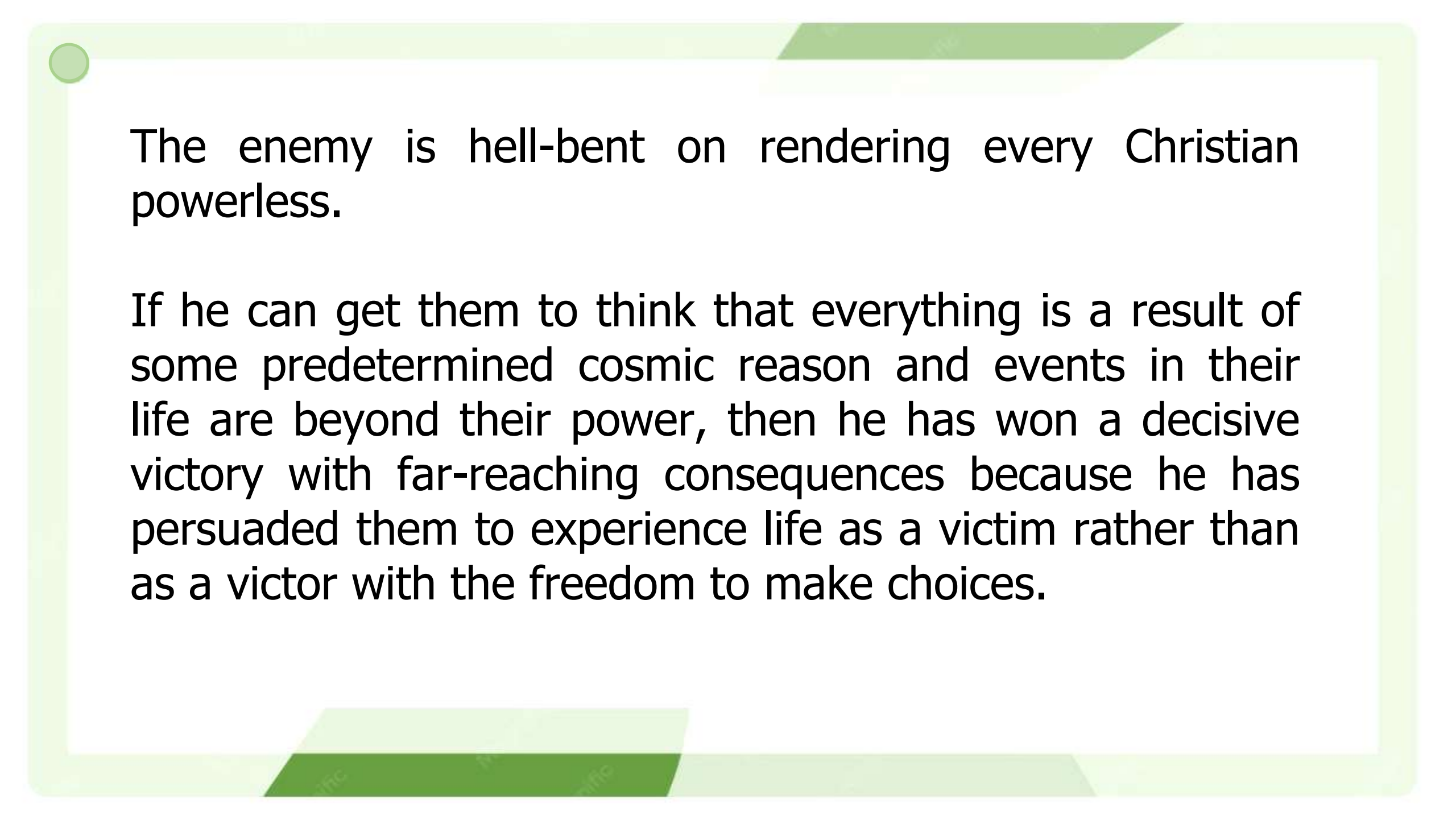
"So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself..."



It seems that every new generation has a growing desire to know their purpose in life and to understand why they are here on Planet Earth.

Even within the church, there is growing desperation for Christians to know their future or destiny.

Many religions in the world teach that all major events in a person's life, such as birth, marriage, illness, accidents, and death are pre-destined and a result of fate.



The enemy is hell-bent on rendering every Christian powerless.

If he can get them to think that everything is a result of some predetermined cosmic reason and events in their life are beyond their power, then he has won a decisive victory with far-reaching consequences because he has persuaded them to experience life as a victim rather than as a victor with the freedom to make choices.

The truth is that destiny is not a **"future"** issue but rather a faith issue.

Jesus commanded every Christian not to worry about tomorrow.

He wants them to live for today **(Matt 6:34)**. ***"So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."***



Wondering about what the future holds, or seeking after a prophetic word, is no different than worrying about tomorrow.

In reality, there is no tomorrow because when tomorrow comes, it is today!

Eg. *Tomorrow* song of Faith S.

Trusting-faith is not about when, or what could or should have been, it is about living in the moment - breath by breath - depending completely on the Lord to take care of everything **(1 Pet 5:7)**. *"casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."*



You can't breathe enough air today for tomorrow, and you have used up all that was needed yesterday – so you must learn to live your life day by day – breath by breath in trusting faith of Jesus.

We need to plan our lives like Jesus is not coming back for 100 years, but live our lives like He is coming back today.



SECURED

IN OUR
DESTINY



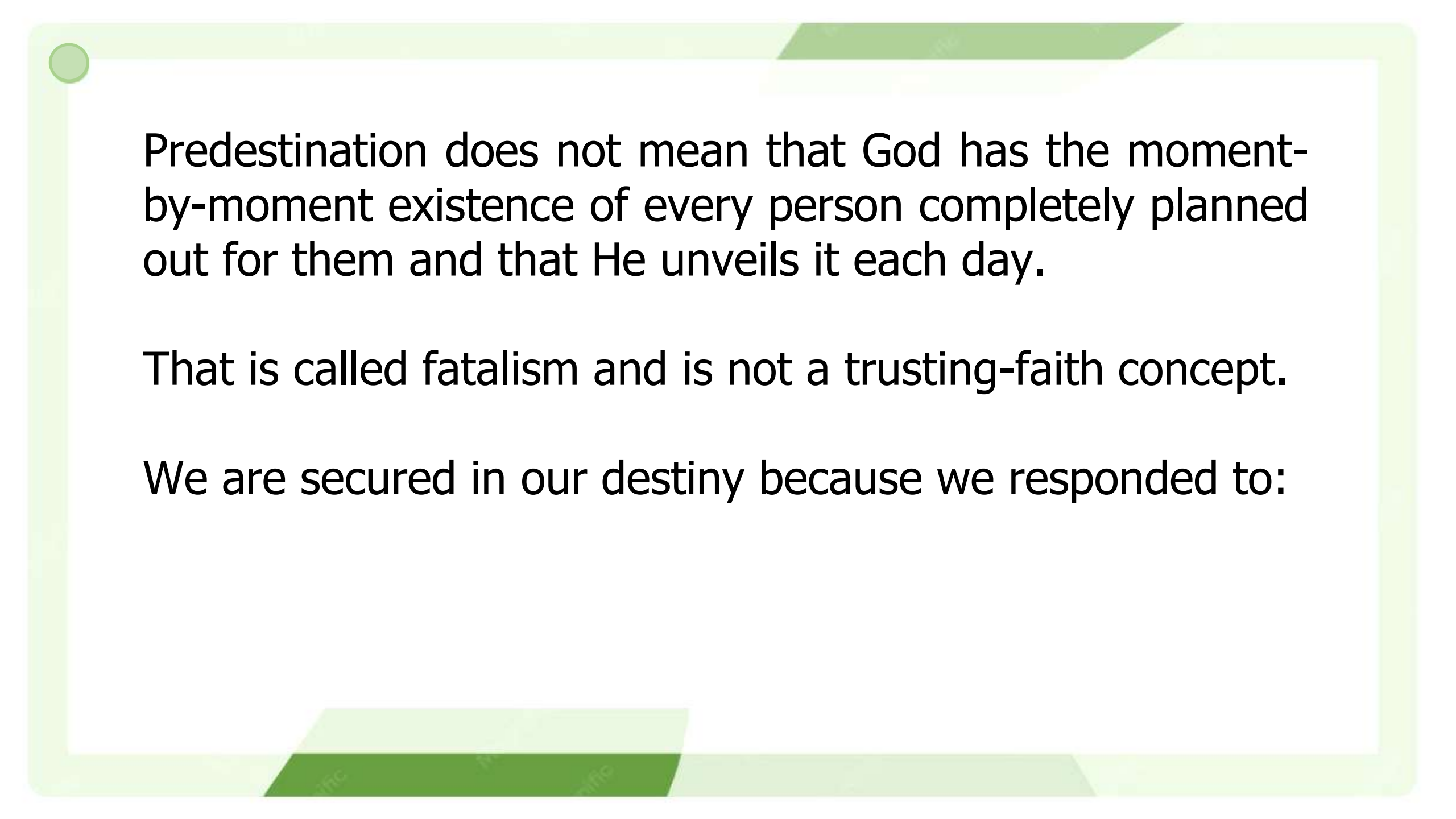
1. The Call of God

2. The Concept of God

3. The Command of God

Those who receive Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior are predestined to spend eternity with Him, and those that do not receive Him are predestined to spend eternity separated from Him.

Plain and simple - life is what you make it – It is really self-fulfilled prophecy determined by every choice made and the consequences of those choices.



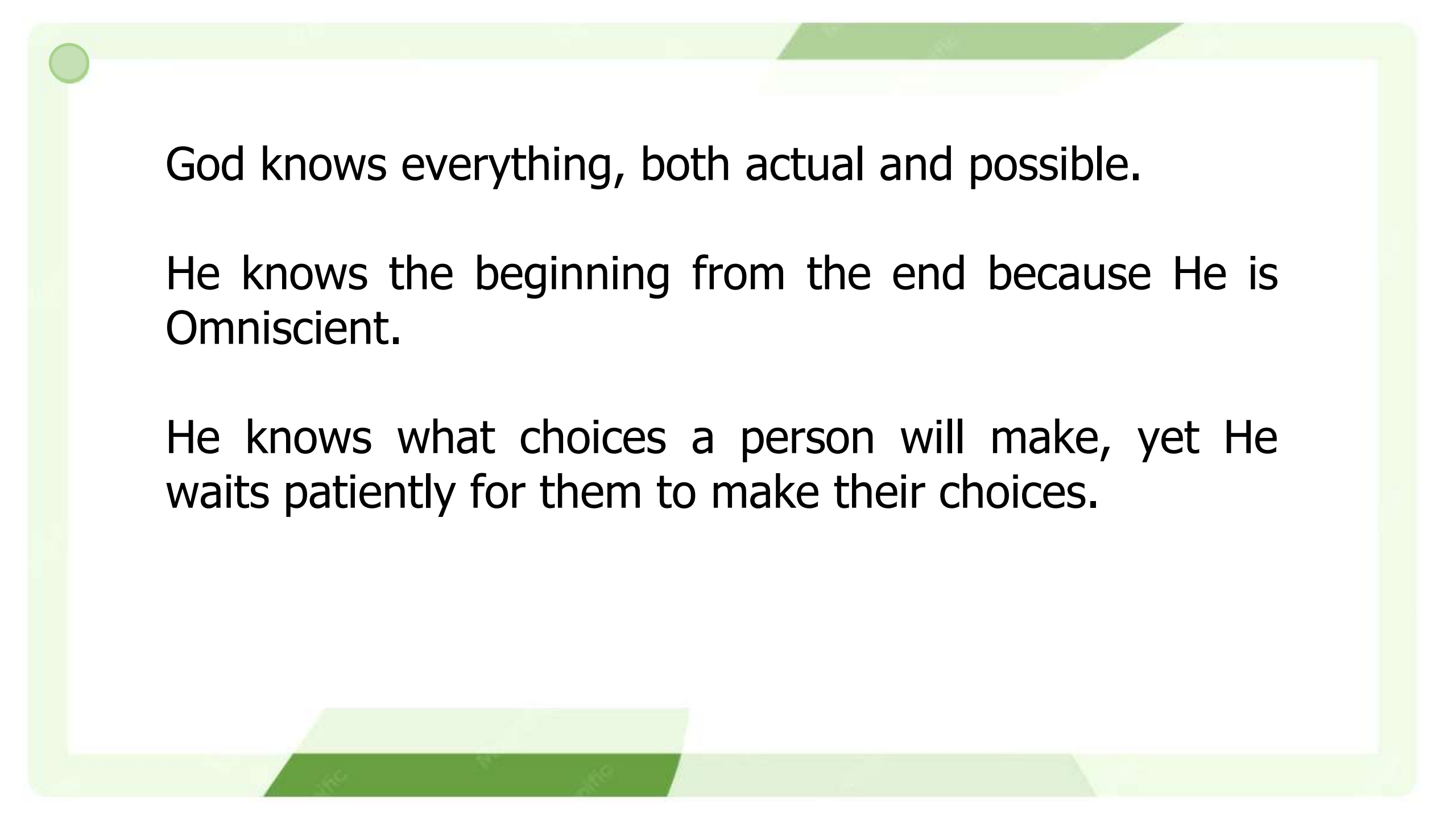
Predestination does not mean that God has the moment-by-moment existence of every person completely planned out for them and that He unveils it each day.

That is called fatalism and is not a trusting-faith concept.

We are secured in our destiny because we responded to:

1. THE CALL OF GOD

Predestination does not mean that God has already determined the outcome of everything as well as who will go to Heaven and who won't.



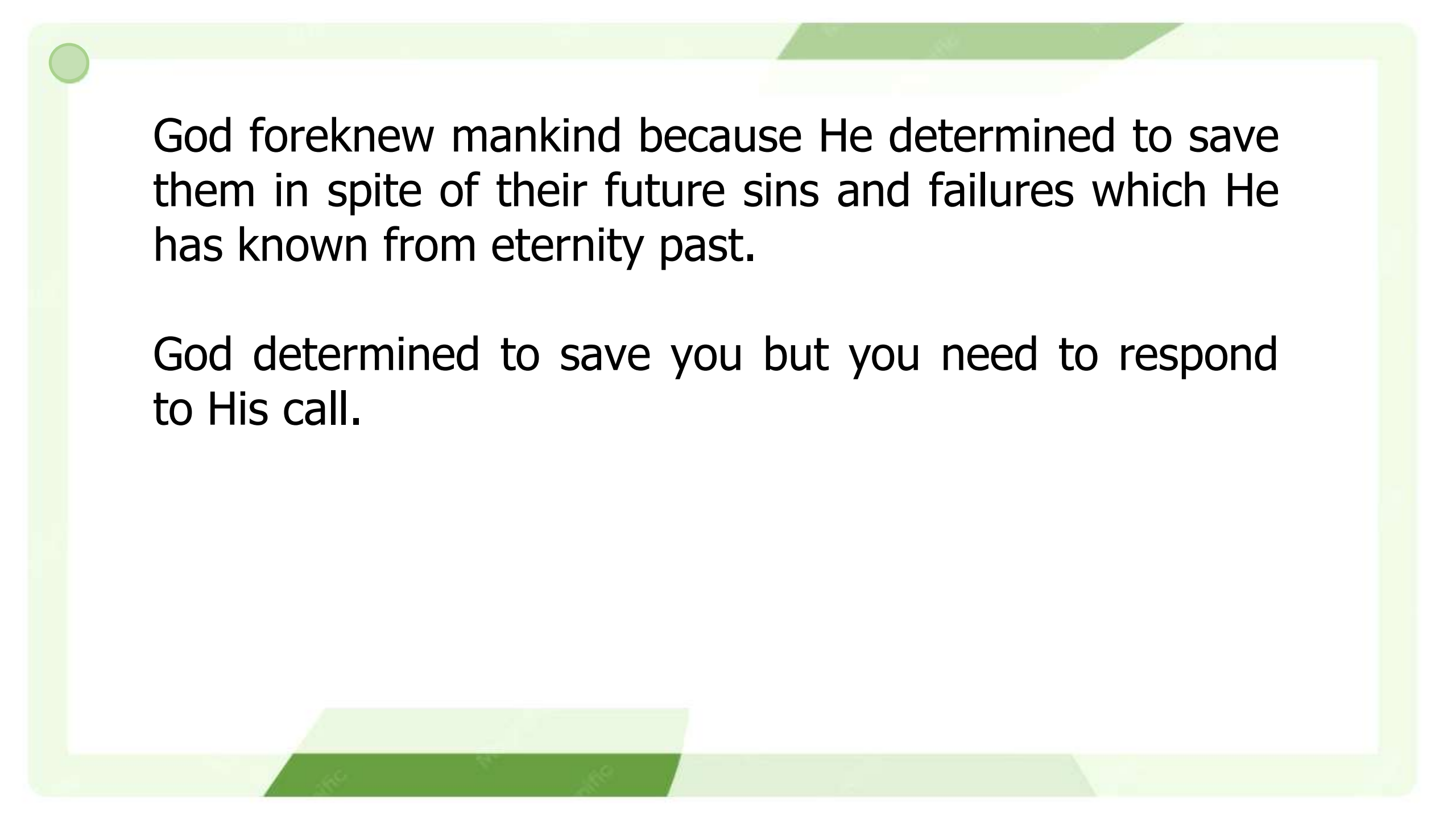
God knows everything, both actual and possible.

He knows the beginning from the end because He is Omniscient.

He knows what choices a person will make, yet He waits patiently for them to make their choices.

When a person chooses to receive Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, they receive all of the promises of God.

He (God) is not *"slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* **(2 Pet 3:9 KJV)**.



God foreknew mankind because He determined to save them in spite of their future sins and failures which He has known from eternity past.

God determined to save you but you need to respond to His call.

You are called and were *"chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance"* (**1 Pet. 1:2 NIV**).



This call of God is an expression of divine grace.

It alone doesn't save.

However, not everyone answers God's general call by calling upon Him.

"But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified." **(Rom 8:25, 28, 30 NIV)**

The chosen are those who are objects of God's effectual call.

They are the called according to His purpose.

It is God's direct will that these called receive all that is involved in His gift of salvation."

God has predetermined that, *"..everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"* (**Rom 10:13 NIV**).

He has not determined that the destiny of some people would be separation from Him. But rather, He: *"wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men the testimony given in its proper time."* (**1 Tim 2:3-6 NIV**)



**We are secured in our destiny because
we conform to:**

2. THE CONCEPT OF GOD

I call it **"Mental Blueprint."** The blueprint in the mind of God.

Eg. Significance of a blueprint. (God's concept)

Constructions should conform to the concept.

The foreman should understand the concept before he can implement.



God, in His infinite wisdom and love, has a specific concept or plan for each of our lives.

This concept is not a rigid blueprint but a dynamic journey that unfolds as we walk with Him.

It is a journey that is unique to each of us, shaped by our individual experiences, gifts, and callings.

Ephesians 1:11. It tells us that even before we were born, God had already given us our destiny.

This implies that our lives are not a series of random events but a purposeful journey orchestrated by God.

Our destiny is not something that we have to strive to create or achieve on our own.

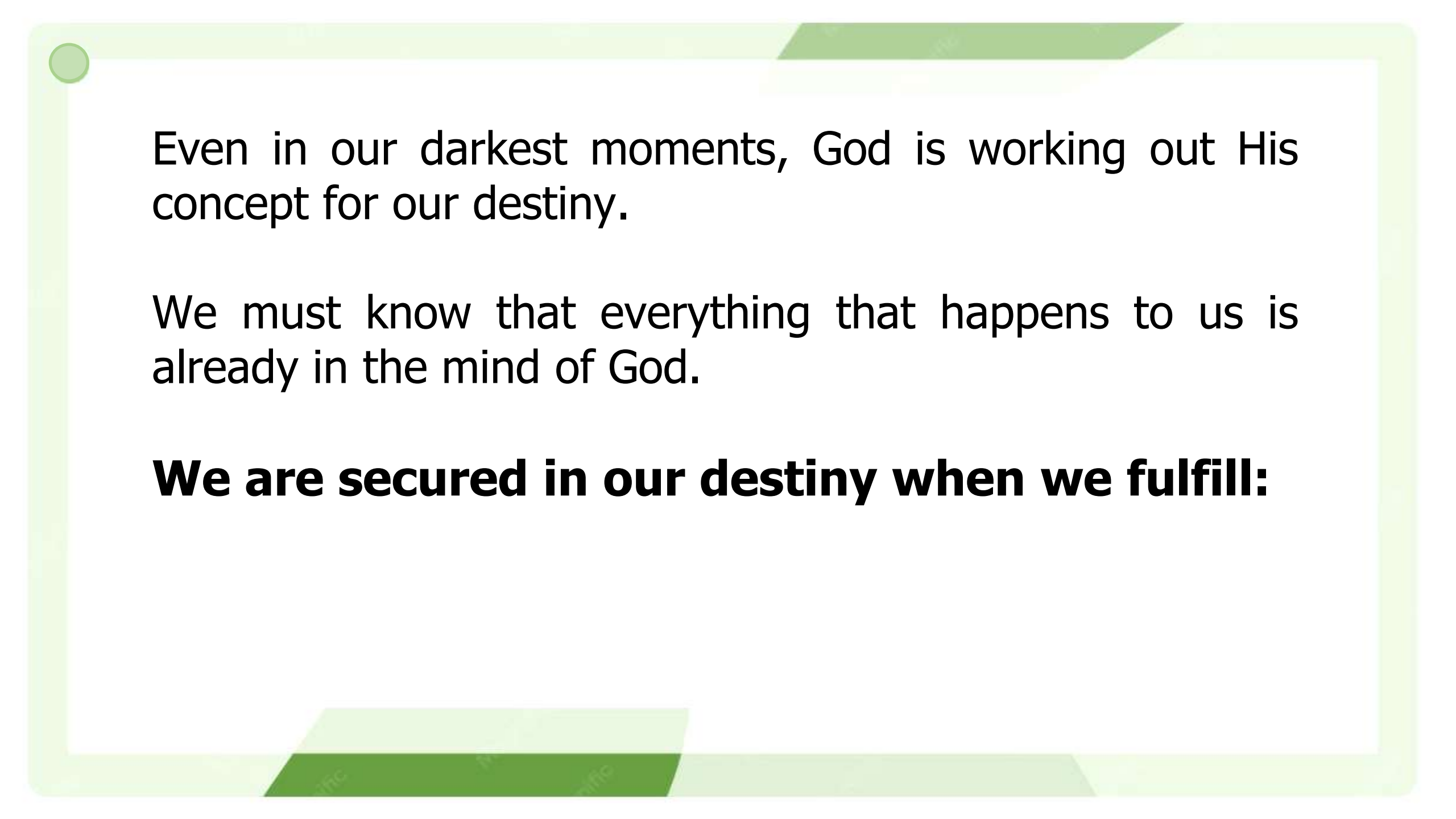
It is a gift from God, a part of His grand design.



However, it's important to understand that God's plan, for our destiny is not always about achieving worldly success or avoiding suffering.

Sometimes, it involves going through trials and tribulations.

The Bible is filled with stories of people like Job, Joseph, and Paul who faced immense suffering, but through it all, God's concept for their destiny was being fulfilled.



Even in our darkest moments, God is working out His concept for our destiny.

We must know that everything that happens to us is already in the mind of God.

We are secured in our destiny when we fulfill:

3. THE COMMAND OF GOD

No Christian needs to wait on the Lord or hear a prophetic word to know what their ministry is.

God has already released every Christian into the ministry of reconciliation.

Jesus proclaimed at the start of His ministry:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." **(Luke 4:18-19 KJV)**

Sharing the message of reconciliation is of utmost importance to God.

It is the very reason Jesus left the Father's side and all the comforts of heaven to walk among us and die for us all.

This is why He gave the ministry of reconciliation. God wants us to share in *"reconciling the world to himself in Christ" as "ambassadors" of forgiveness to the world* **(2 Cor 5:18-21).**

Once a person is reconciled to God, they have the assurance that their friendship with God will never end.

The Apostle Paul was absolutely convinced that:

"neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." **(Rom 8:38)**

The ultimate destiny of the Christian is to gaze upon the beauty of God for all of eternity. **(Ps 27:4).**

"One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord. And to meditate in His temple."

Our destiny in this life is to be conformed into the **"likeness"** of Jesus (Rom 8:29 NIV), so that we can fulfill the Great Commandment and Great Commission by proclaiming and declaring the goodness of God through the ministry of reconciliation to everyone we meet at the moment we meet them - and not at some future time when our **"ministry"** is finally revealed.



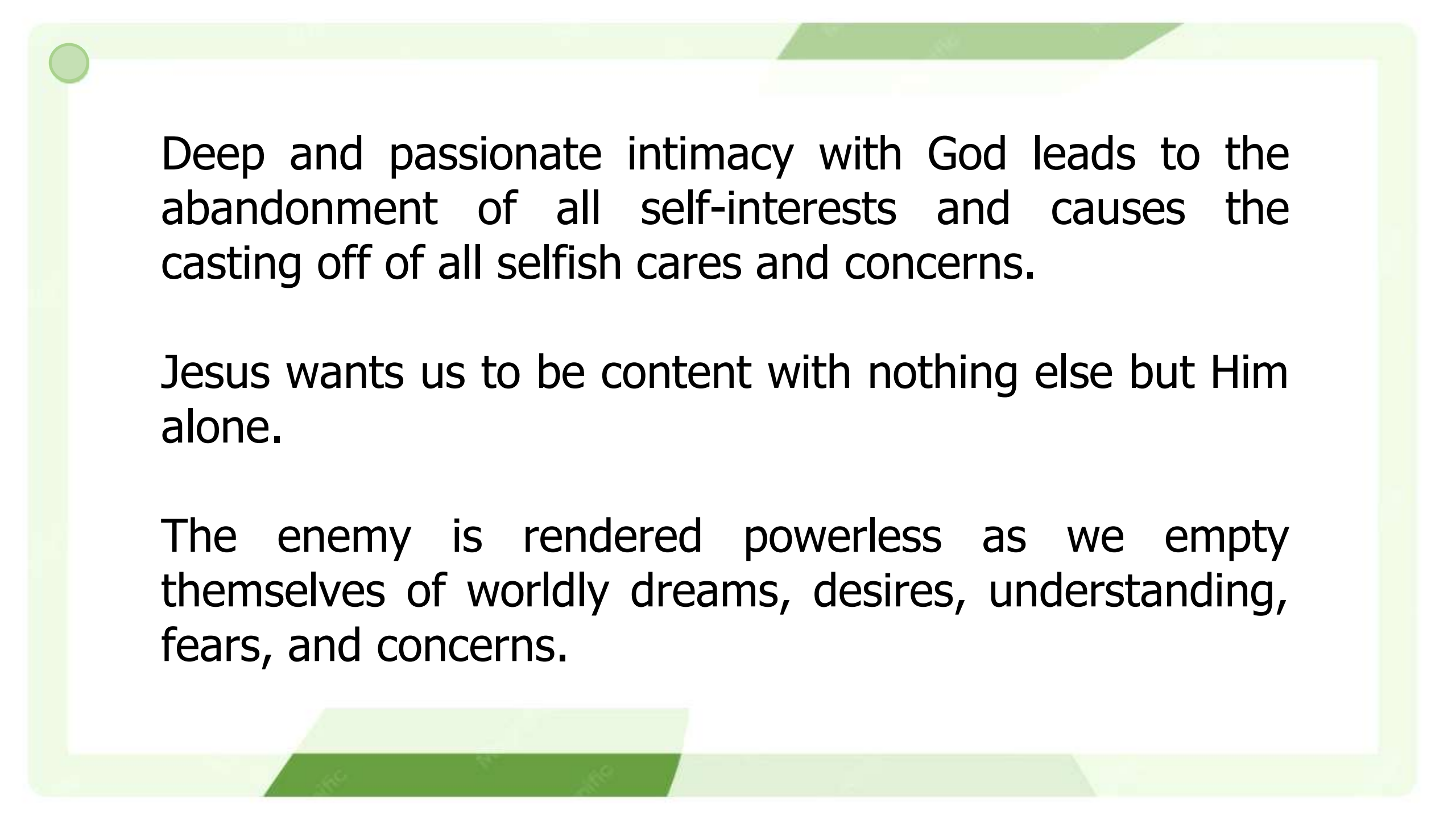
Fulfilling God's command or mandate is done through the way we live our lives and treat those around us today.

Because Jesus lived in absolute trusting-faith, we are able to live in trusting-faith, no matter what choices we make or paths we take, or what comes our way – today, or tomorrow.

The great and merciful Heavenly Father has a marvelous destiny laid out for those who trust in Him.

He says His plans are: *"... for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. In those days, when you pray, I will listen. You will find me when you seek me if you look for me in earnest."* **(Jer 29:11-13 TLB)**

When we move into the realm of deep intimate communion with God, we lose our desire to know our destiny in this life because we are already living with our eternal destiny – **Jesus!**



Deep and passionate intimacy with God leads to the abandonment of all self-interests and causes the casting off of all selfish cares and concerns.

Jesus wants us to be content with nothing else but Him alone.

The enemy is rendered powerless as we empty ourselves of worldly dreams, desires, understanding, fears, and concerns.

CONCLUSION:

Our destiny is secured in Christ.

When we respond to His call, when we conform to His plan and when we fulfill His commands.



Maybe one of the reasons why you are so afraid about your future is because you have not been living right before God.

Maybe you have turned your backs on your calling?

Or you have become angry with God for the sufferings you went through?

Or maybe you have not really been obedient to God?

Let's say you failed. But it does not mean the end. There is a chance and a hope for you. They say, **"To err is human..."**

Let us all admit it today. Many of us **(if not all)** were one time in error but God did not abandon you.

God does not change His mind concerning you.

I am thankful that God is like that, that He did not change His mind on me.

Today, we are blessed with so much grace as Jeremiah says, *"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'"*

This promise is to give hope to the children of Israel who were in captivity.

It was for the children of Abraham.



But are we not the children of One who is greater than Abraham?

We have become God's children through Jesus Christ.

Therefore, our destiny is secured.



