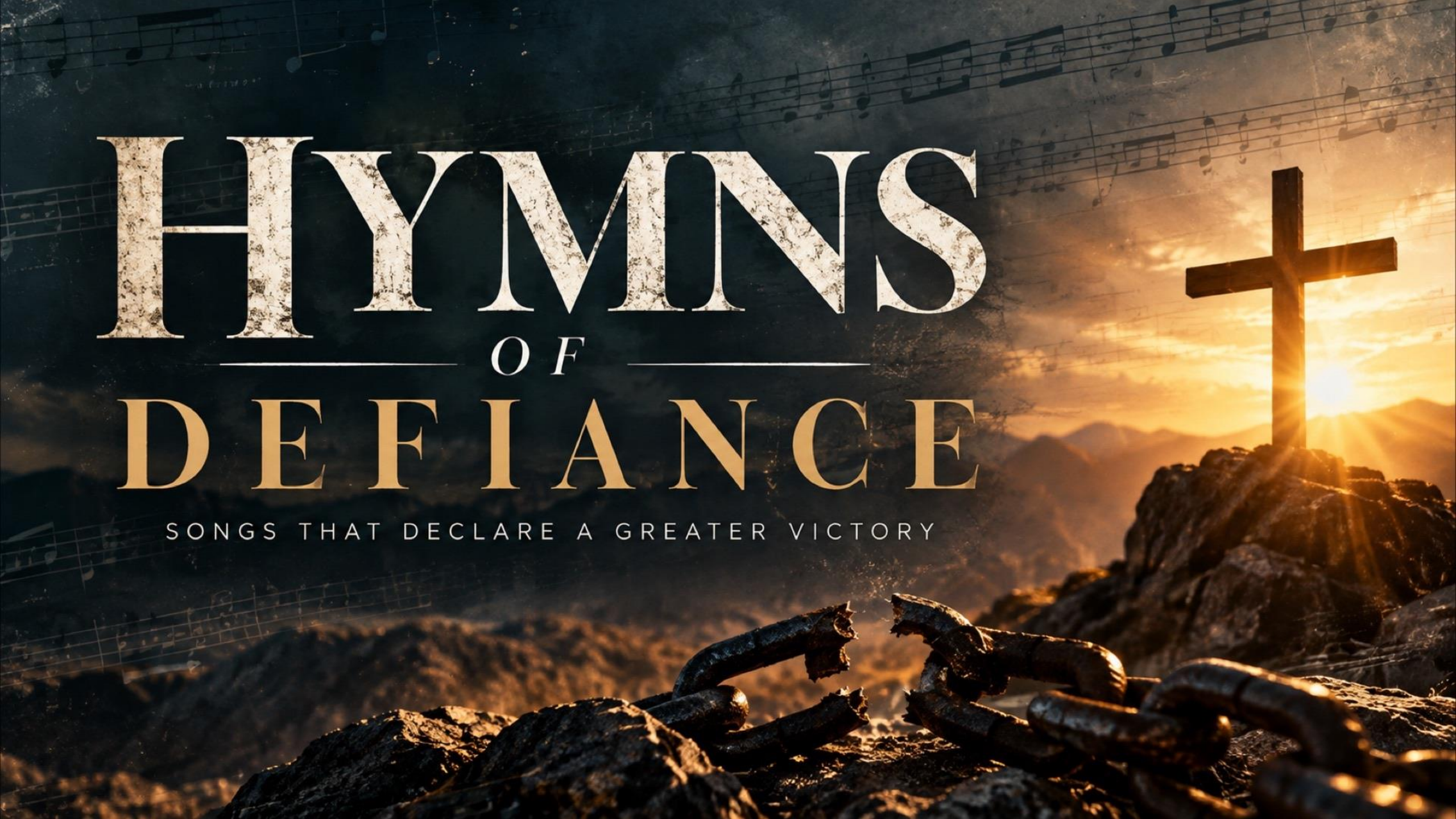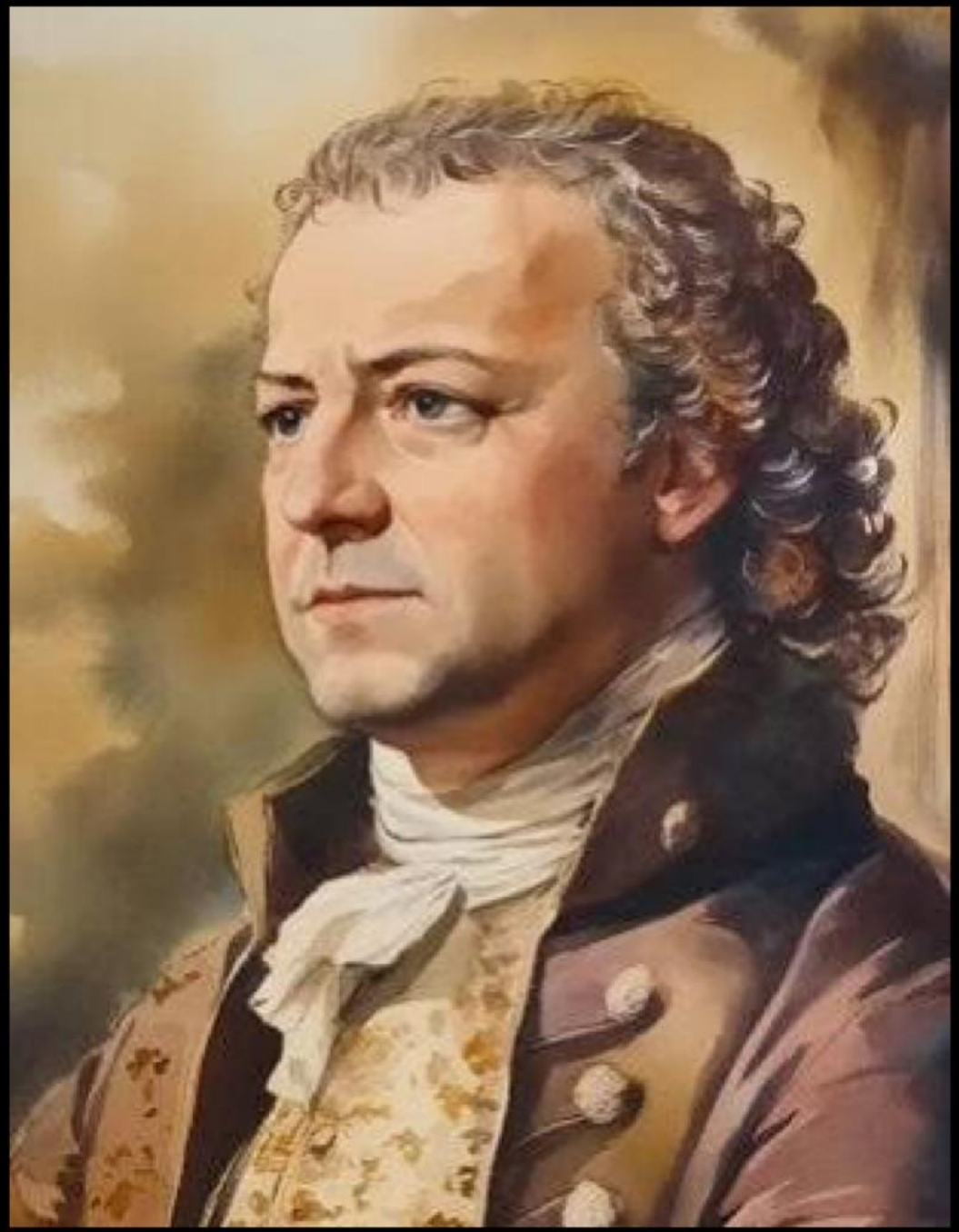
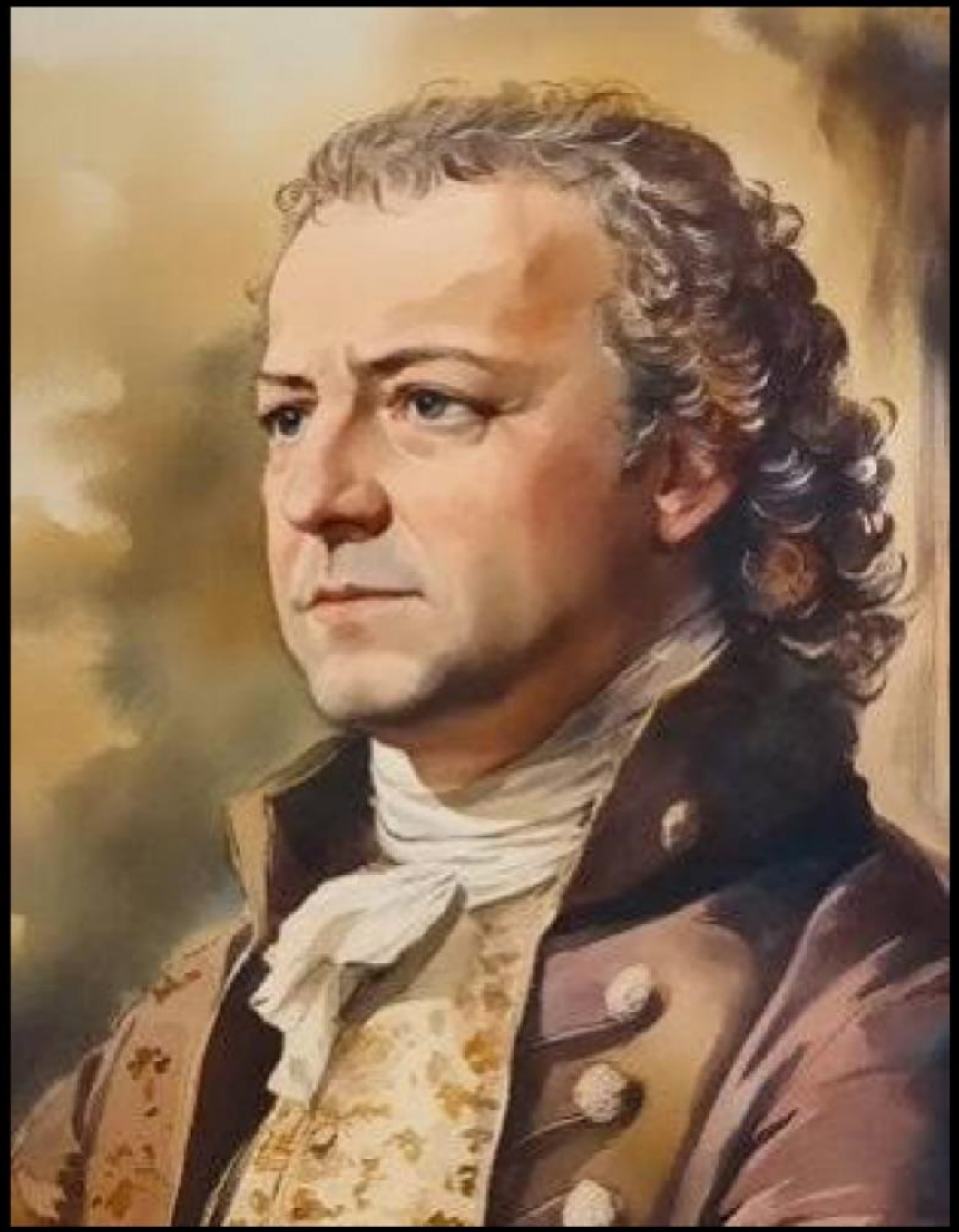

HYMNS
OF
DEFIANCE
SONGS THAT DECLARE A GREATER VICTORY





“Those words sunk into my heart like lead in water. I wept…and for weeks, I could think of little else.”



“Madam, I am the poor unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago, and I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I had back then.”

One of the hardest truths to grasp as a Christian is that even though we love God, our hearts don’t always want what God wants

Our hearts are prone to wander from God, but His faithfulness calls us back, His grace restores us, and His love teaches us to remain close to Him.

Three Realities of the Christian Life

1) We are prone to wander more than we realize.

31 “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to
sift all of you as wheat. 32 But I have
prayed for you, Simon, that your faith
may not fail. And when you have
turned back, strengthen your
brothers.”

[33] But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”

[34] Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”

Luke 22:31-34

Wandering through distraction

We gradually give God less attention as our schedules, responsibilities, and interests take priority.

Wandering through compromise

We begin to justify attitudes, behaviors, or decisions we once saw as sinful.

Wandering through self-reliance

Begin depending on our own wisdom, strength, and abilities rather than on God.

Spiritual wandering rarely begins with a **decision** to abandon God. It typically begins with **small choices** that end up distracting us.

54 Then seizing Him, they led Him away
and took Him into the house of the high
priest. Peter followed at a distance. 55 And
when some there had kindled a fire in the
middle of the courtyard and had sat down
together, Peter sat down with them. 56 A
servant girl saw him seated there in the
firelight. She looked closely at him and
said, “This man was with Him.”

[57] But he denied it. “Woman, I don’t know Him,” he said.

[58] A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.”

“Man, I am not!” Peter replied.

[59] About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with Him, for he is a Galilean.”

60 Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what
you’re talking about!” Just as he was
speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 The Lord
turned and looked straight at Peter. Then
Peter remembered the word the Lord had
spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows
today, you will disown me three times.” 62
And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Luke 22:54-62

Peter's failure reveled the weakness of his heart, but his grief revealed that his Faith was still rooted in Christ.

Where are you prone to wander?

Three Realities of the Christian Life

1) We are prone to wander more than we realize.

2) God is more faithful than we deserve.

15 So when they had finished
breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter,
“Simon, son of John, do you love Me
more than these?” He said to Him,
“Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”
He said to him, “Tend My lambs.”

[16] He said to him again a second time,
“Simon, son of John, do you love Me?”
He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know
that I love You.” He said to him,
“Shepherd My sheep.”

[17] He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Tend My sheep.

John 21:15-17

Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and named it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.”

When was the last time you intentionally remembered what God has already done in your life?

but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.

Luke 22:32

When our faith stumbles, Christ's faithfulness never does.

God's grace doesn't simply erase guilt. It restores our relationship with Him and calls us back into faithful obedience.

Remembering God's past faithfulness helps us trust Him with our present circumstances.

Three Realities of the Christian Life

1) We are prone to wander more than we realize.
2) God is more faithful than we deserve.
3) A wandering heart must continually return to Jesus.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

[1] Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, [2] fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Recognize when your heart is wandering.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; **Try me** and know my anxious thoughts; And **see** if there be any hurtful way in me, And **lead me in the everlasting way**.

Psalm 139:23-24

Repent instead of making excuses.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.
9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Reorient your daily life around Jesus

[4] Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. [5] I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

John 15:4-5

Respond with your next step of obedience

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

James 1:22

Conviction calls us to acknowledge our sin and return to God.

Condemnation tells us that our sin makes returning hopeless.

The enemy tells us to stand on our own, that our failures define us, and that we have wandered too far. But Christ and His mercy is the fount of every blessing.

What is **Your**
Next Step of Obedience?



Surrender



Baptism



Membership



Invite your
“1 More”