



# *Not* Forsaken

REFLECTION VS. PERFECTION




A dramatic landscape featuring dark, jagged mountains and a red desert floor under a cloudy sky. The scene is dimly lit, with the mountains appearing as dark silhouettes against a lighter, overcast sky. The foreground is a vast, flat expanse of reddish-brown sand or earth.

*What comes to your mind  
when you think about God?*

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*"The number one **image** of **God**  
that **Jesus** draws for us  
again and again is this:  
**God is a Father.**"*

Louie Giglio

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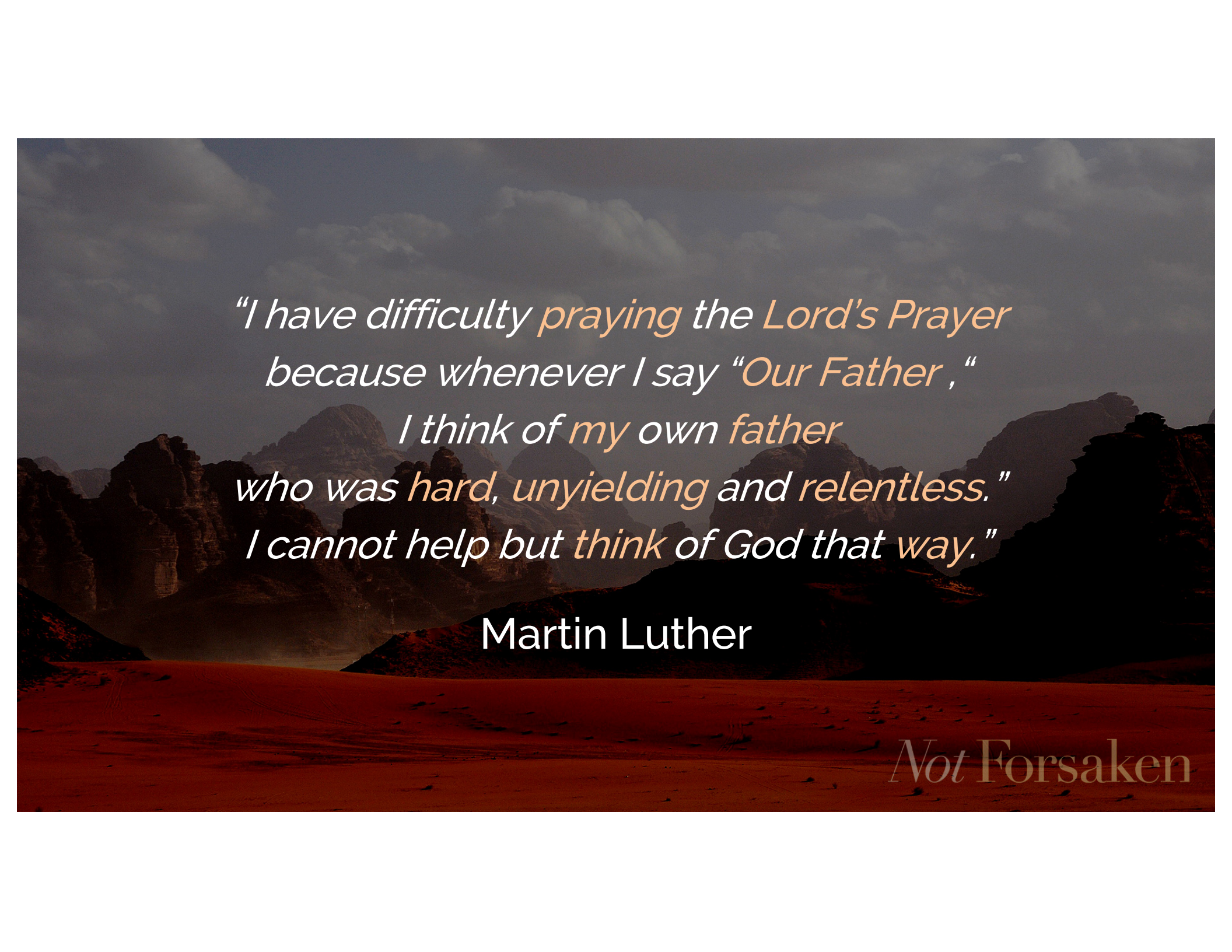


*And, "I will be a **Father** to you,  
and you will be my **sons** and **daughters**,  
says the **Lord Almighty**."*

2 Corinthians 6:18 NIV

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*"I have difficulty **praying the Lord's Prayer**  
because whenever I say **"Our Father,"**  
I think of **my own father**  
who was **hard, unyielding and relentless.**"  
I cannot help but **think of God that way.**"*

Martin Luther

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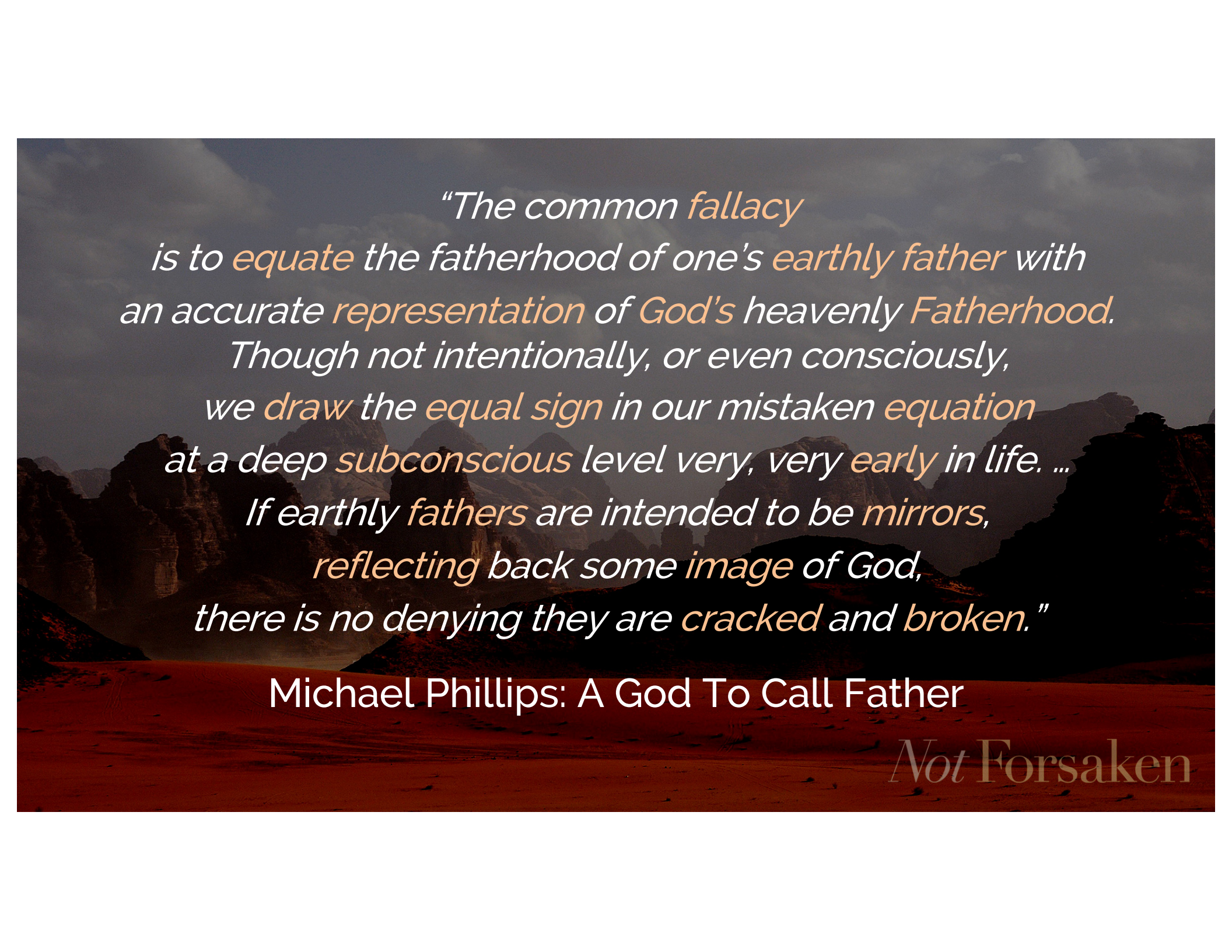


# WHAT IS YOUR “FATHER” PICTURE?



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*“The common fallacy is to equate the fatherhood of one’s earthly father with an accurate representation of God’s heavenly Fatherhood. Though not intentionally, or even consciously, we draw the equal sign in our mistaken equation at a deep subconscious level very, very early in life. ... If earthly fathers are intended to be mirrors, reflecting back some image of God, there is no denying they are cracked and broken.”*

Michael Phillips: A God To Call Father

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# SIX FATHER FIGURES

1. Absent Father: Not present in your life
2. Abusive Father: Hurt you ... you wondered
3. Passive Father: Weak and mostly silent
4. Performance-Based Father: Conditional love
5. Antagonistic Father: Your sparring partner
6. Empowering Father: Demonstrates his love

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*“God is not the reflection  
of your earthly dad.  
He is the perfection  
of your earthly dad.”*

Louie Giglio

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*How do we uncover our father wounds  
and find healing for our hearts?*

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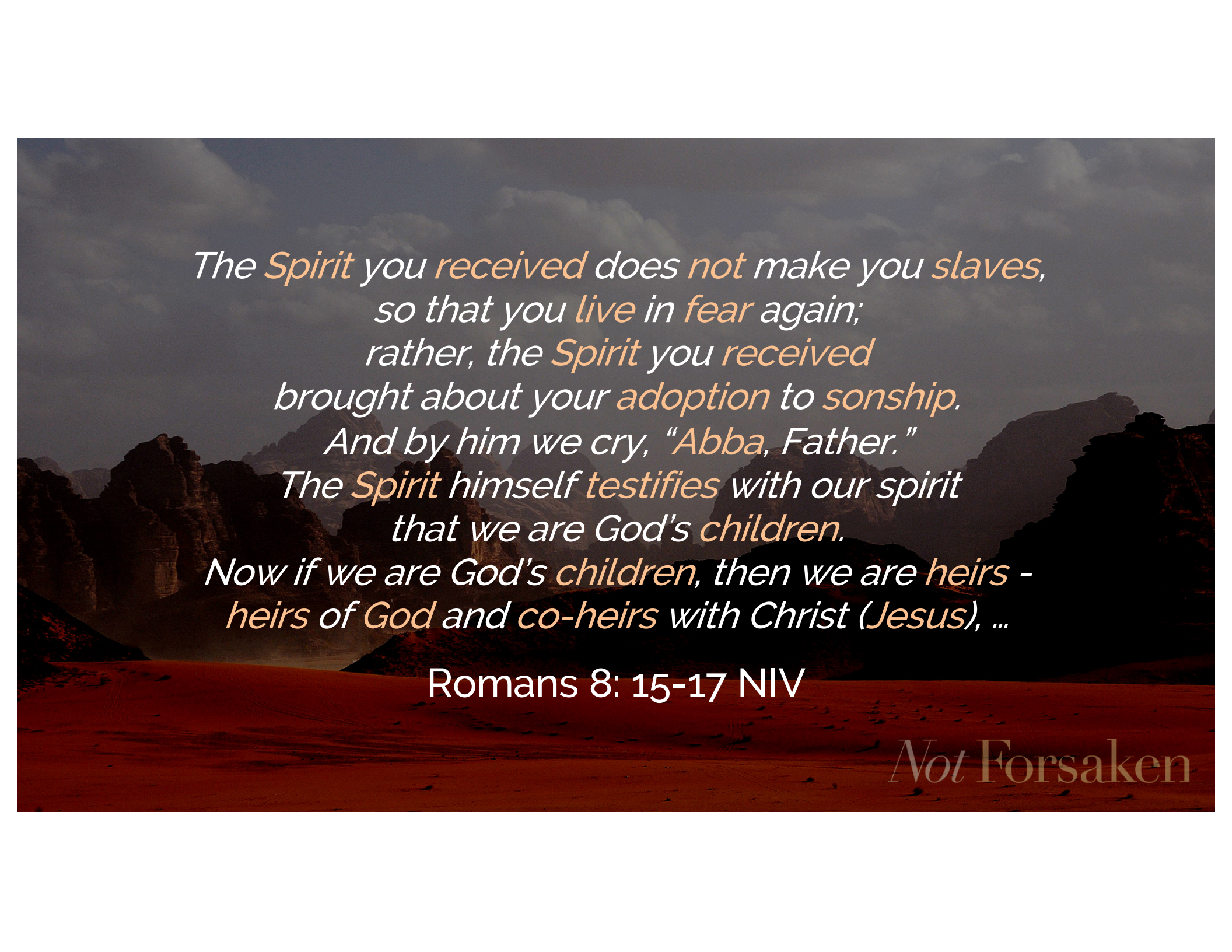
# FINDING THE FATHER'S LOVE

*But when the **set time** had fully **come**,  
God **sent** his **Son** (Jesus), born **of a woman**,  
born **under the law**, to **redeem** those under the law,  
that **we** might receive **adoption to sonship**.  
Because **you** are his **sons**, God sent the **Spirit of his Son**  
into our **hearts**, the Spirit who **calls** (cries out), "**Abba, Father.**"  
So you are no longer a **slave**, but God's **child**;  
and since you are his **child**, God has made you also an **heir**.*

Galatians 4: 4-7 NIV

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*The Spirit you received does not make you slaves,  
so that you live in fear again;  
rather, the Spirit you received  
brought about your adoption to sonship.  
And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."  
The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit  
that we are God's children.  
Now if we are God's children, then we are heirs -  
heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ (Jesus), ...*

Romans 8: 15-17 NIV

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*"Our identity as sons and daughters of God  
unlocks prison doors, heals wounds,  
and propels us into greater purpose in our lives."*

Louie Giglio

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# BARRIERS TO THE FATHER'S LOVE

*"Let me ask you this:*

*Do you know of any father who would give his son a snake on a plate when he asked for a serving of fish? Of course not! Do you know of any father who would give his daughter a spider when she had asked for an egg? Of course not! If imperfect (evil) fathers know how to lovingly take care of their children, how much more will the perfect heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit's fullness when his children ask him."*

Luke 11: 11-13 TPT

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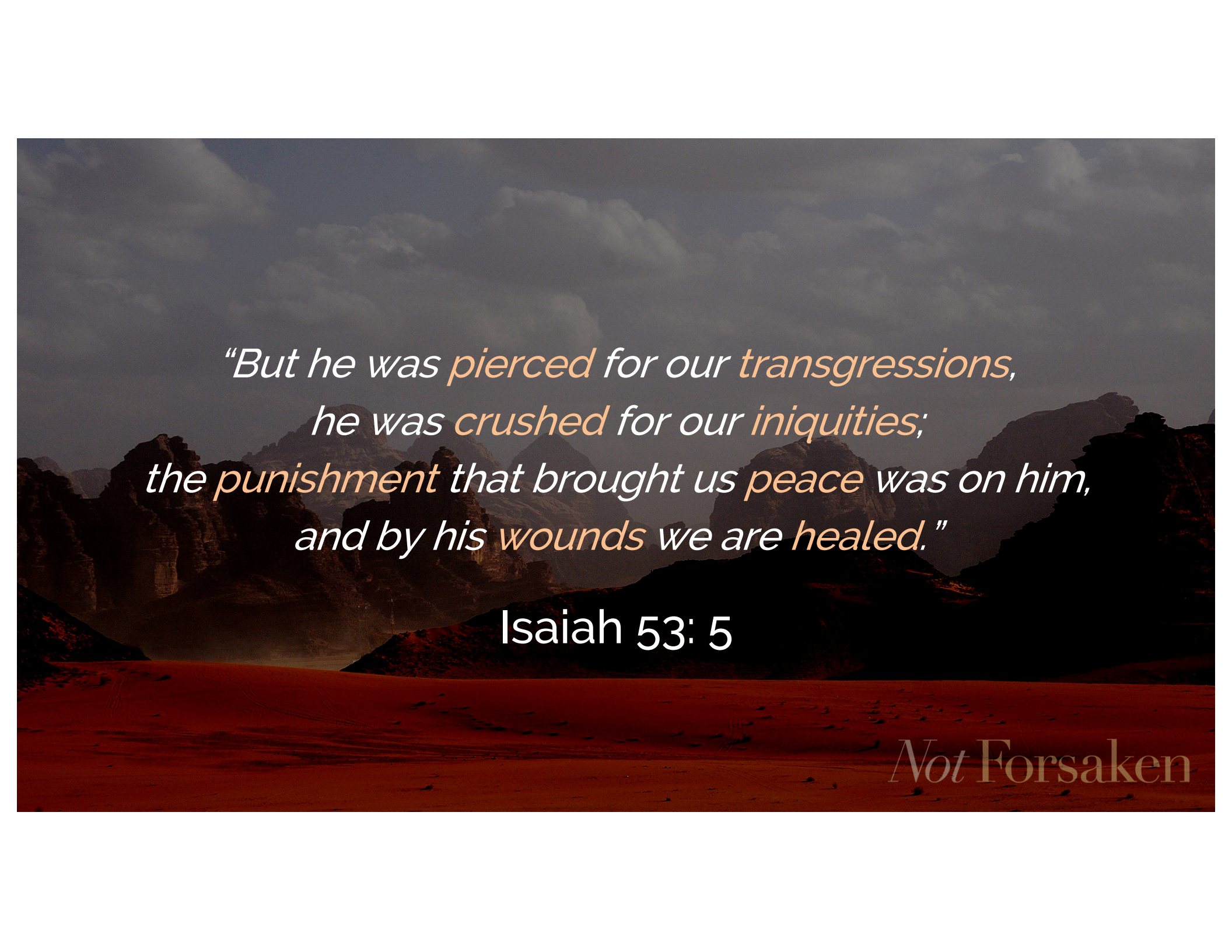
# ADDRESSING FATHER ISSUES

*"To remove broken lenses we begin by identifying them and acknowledging their existence. Identification reveals the areas where a natural father failed to represent God's true nature. This is important to grasp because it is only through forgiving our fathers of these sins that we can remove the faulty lenses. Forgiving our fathers frees us from bitterness and the broken images of fatherhood."*

Ed Piorek: The Father Loves You

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*"But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed."*

Isaiah 53: 5

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