

“There is a way that **appears to be right**,  
but in the end **it leads to death.**”

*Proverbs 14:12*

- How might this be true?
- What if this is true for **me** today?
- What if this is true for **you** today?
- What if this is a risk for everything we think we know?

“All Scripture is God–breathed and is useful for teaching, **rebuking, correcting** and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” *2 Timothy 3:16–17*

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**Not losing  
what we think we have**  
Luke 8:16-21

[bib.ly/Luke8.NIV](https://bib.ly/Luke8.NIV)  
[tiny.cc/cmchandouts](https://tiny.cc/cmchandouts)

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### Luke 8:1–15

- **Jesus' genuine followers**
  - Apostles
  - Women: healed and financial backers
- **With many apparent followers, Jesus tells the parable of the 4 soils**
  - Path: birds eat it → Disciples hold the Word tightly
  - Rocks: no roots, so they dry up → Disciples put the Word deep in their hearts
  - Weeds: choked so fruitless → Disciples protect the Word from life's distractions
  - Good soil: fruitful! → Disciples persevere in following the Word
- **Disciples ask what it means, and Jesus says:**
  - Understanding of God is given to **genuine followers**, and not to others
- **Jesus explains:**
  - Fruitfulness comes in people of “noble and good hearts” who hear and retain God's Word, and persevere to produce fruit

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### Luke 8:16-18

“No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.

For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open.

Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them.”

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*Luke 8:19-21*

Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd.

Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you."

He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

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*Luke 8:16-21*

**16-18:** Hear God's guaranteed Word well, or we will lose it

- Lamps: intended to give light
  - Elsewhere: Christians are to shine their light
  - Here: hearers are warned to listen well, or else...
- God's Word (the seed, the light):
  - May start out concealed or misunderstood
  - Will be fully known
  - Will make things fully known (including our hearts)
  - Will be enacted (promises and prophecy fulfilled)
- God's Word is the one thing we had better know!
  - Knowing God's Word leads to greater knowledge
  - Not listening well leads to increasing losses

19-21:

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**Luke 8:16-21**

16-18: Hear God's guaranteed Word well, or we will lose it

19-21: **Hearers and doers are closer to Jesus than family**

- Jesus' mother and brothers
  - Probably stood for Jewish people
  - Today probably stands for people who assume association with Christ
  - The appearance of connection with Jesus without the reality will lead to losing even the appearance of connection
  - The opportunity to know Jesus might also be lost
- In a collective society, this is a **shocking** statement!
- Yet it was wonderful news for 'outsiders'

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**Luke 8:1-21**

- **Jesus' genuine followers**
- **With many apparent followers, Jesus tells the parable of the 4 soils**
  - Disciples ask what it means, and Jesus says:  
Understanding of God is given to **genuine followers**, and not to others
  - Jesus explains: **fruitfulness comes in those who hear & retain, and persevere**
  - Further explanation: **Hear God's guaranteed Word well, or you'll lose it**
- **Hearers and doers are closer to Jesus than family**

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*The Big Idea*

**God's Word**

**though sometimes hard to understand  
and sometimes seemingly not reality  
will one day be fully known  
and will one day be fully experienced  
so God's true family genuinely hears and follows it**

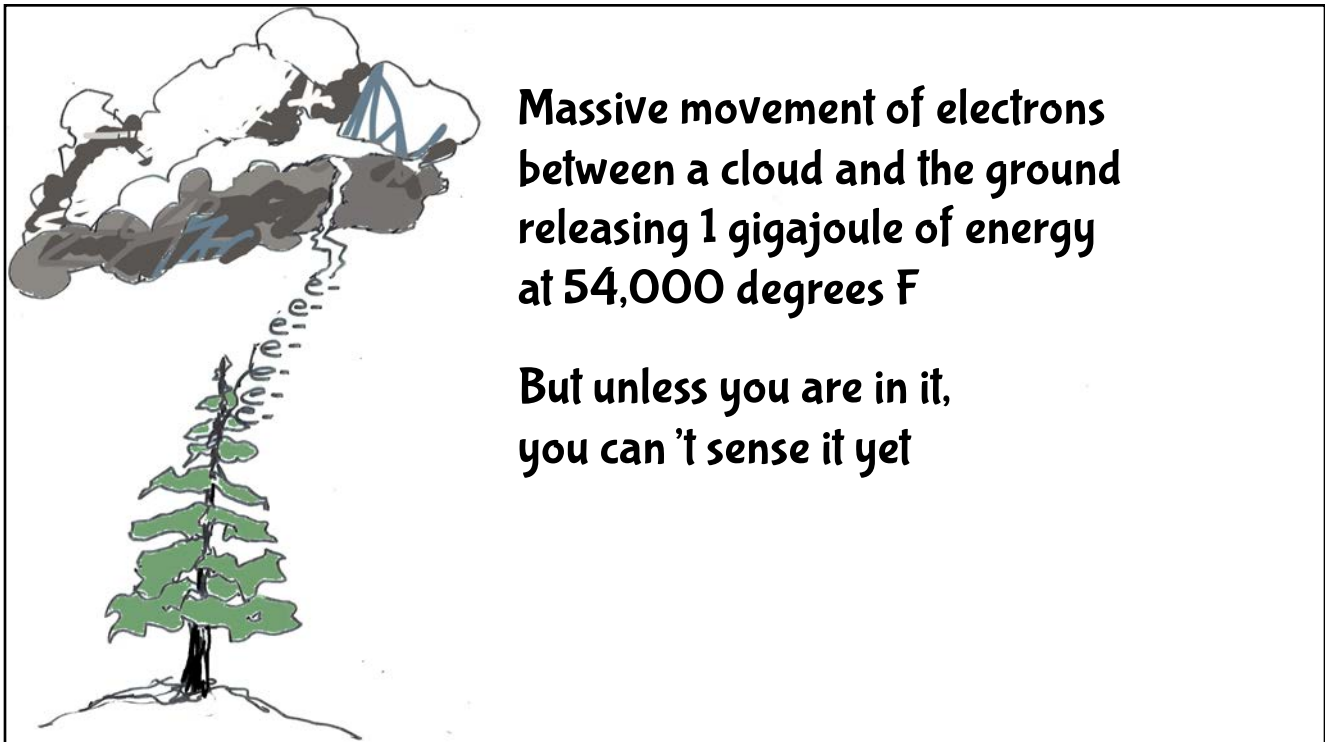
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*Application*

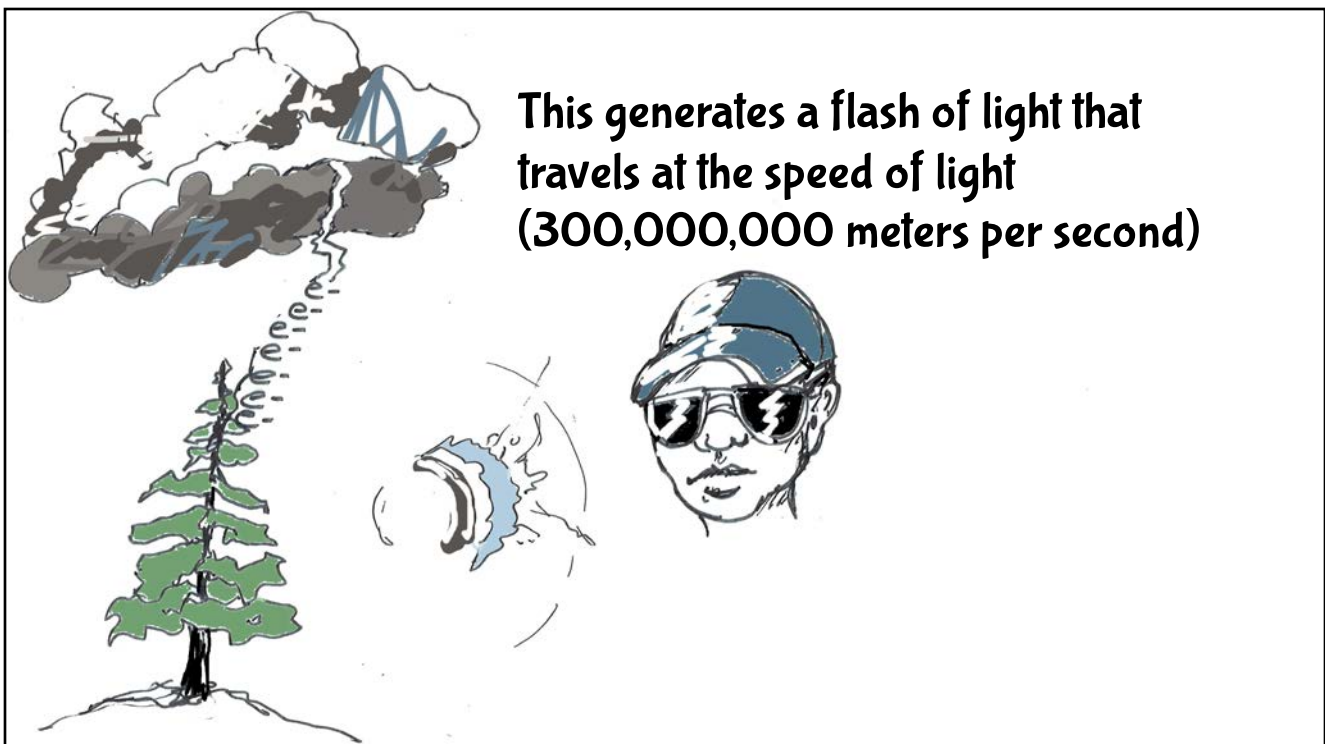
**Conviction: God's Word is already true,  
even if we can't understand it yet or sense it yet**

- The 'effectual' Word of God: it enacts the thing it says even if we don't sense it yet

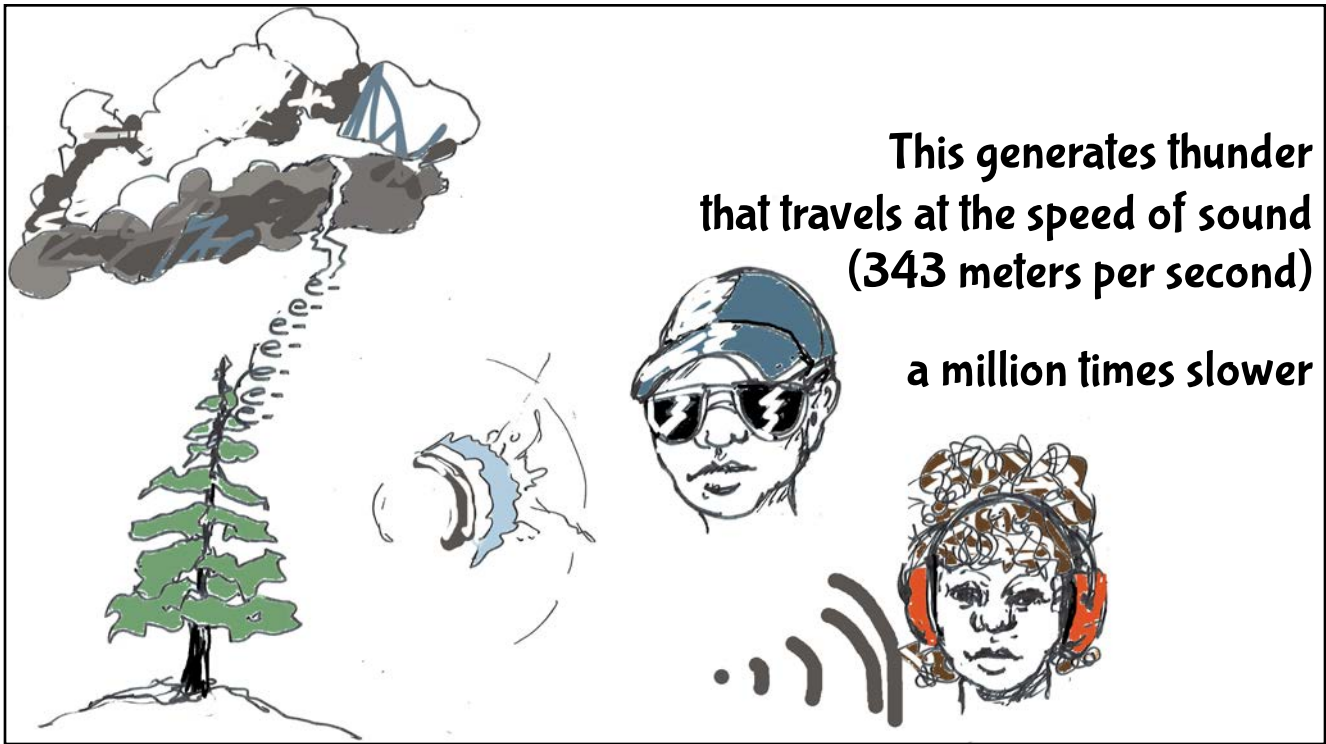
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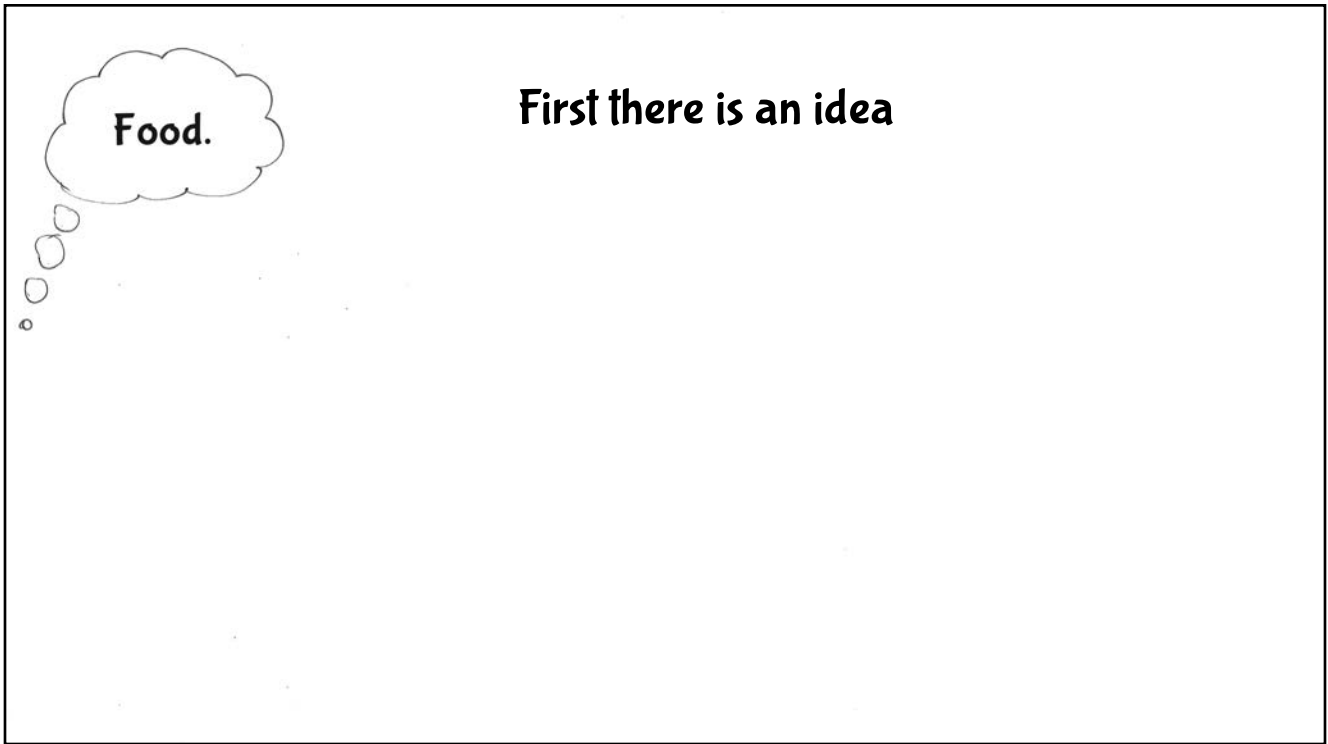




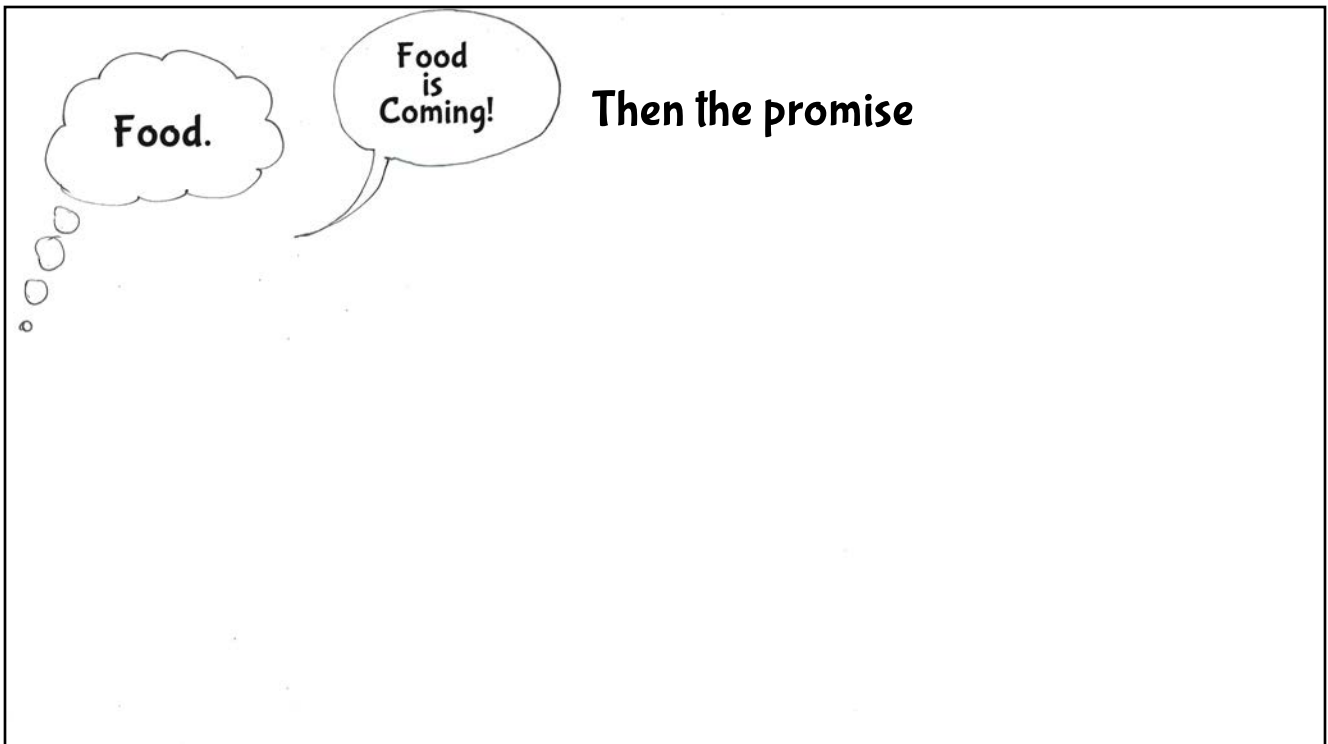
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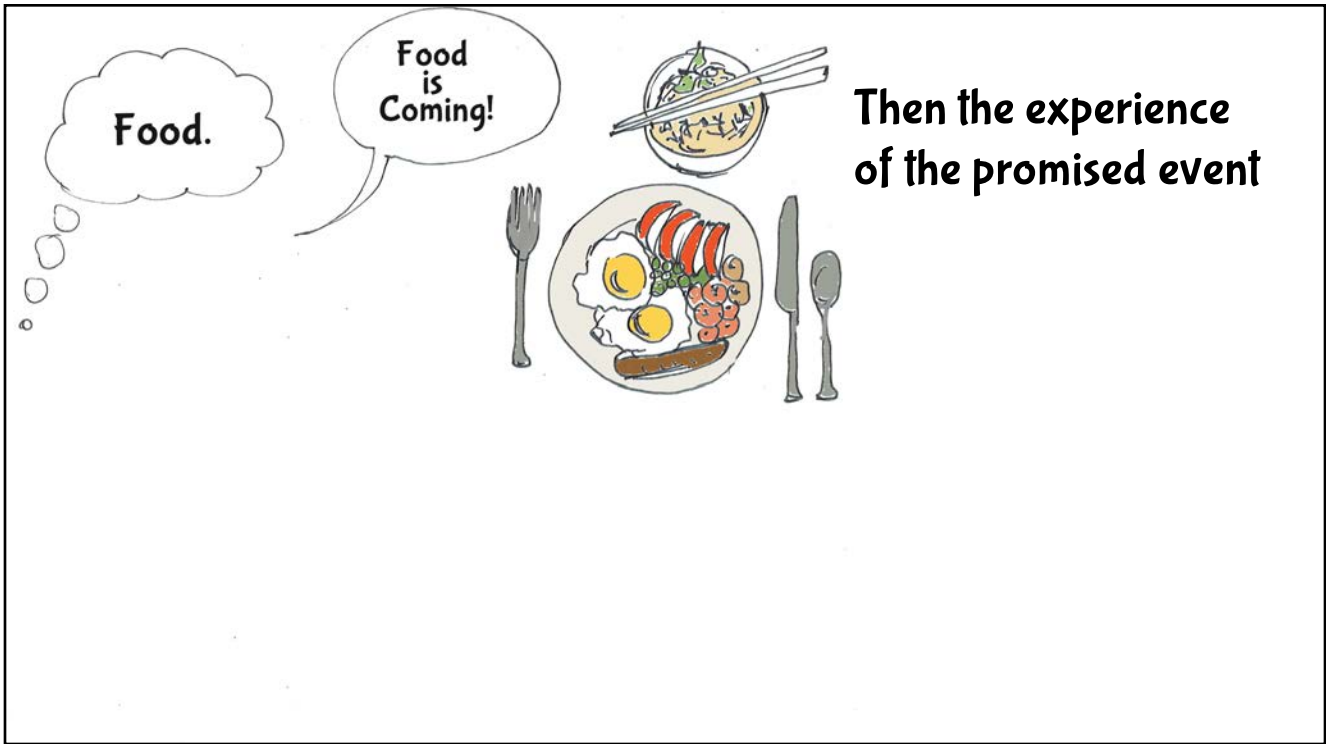
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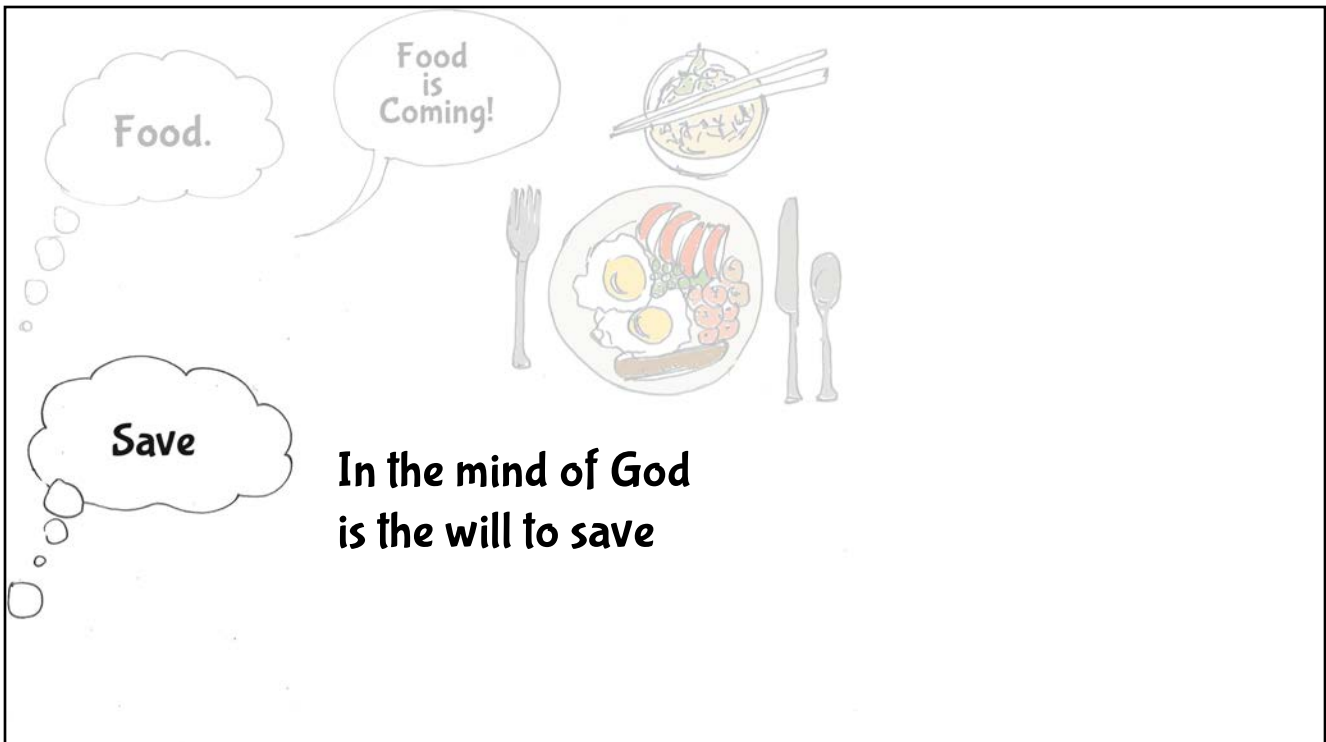
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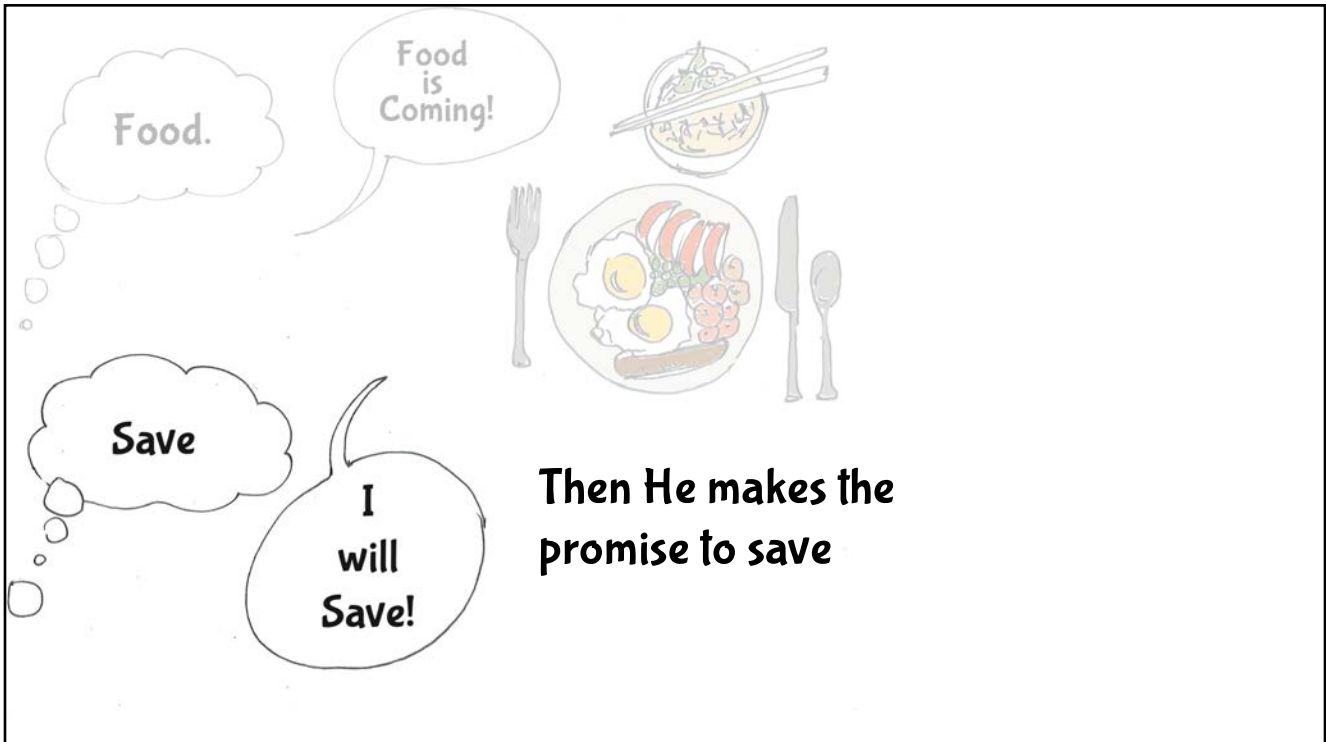
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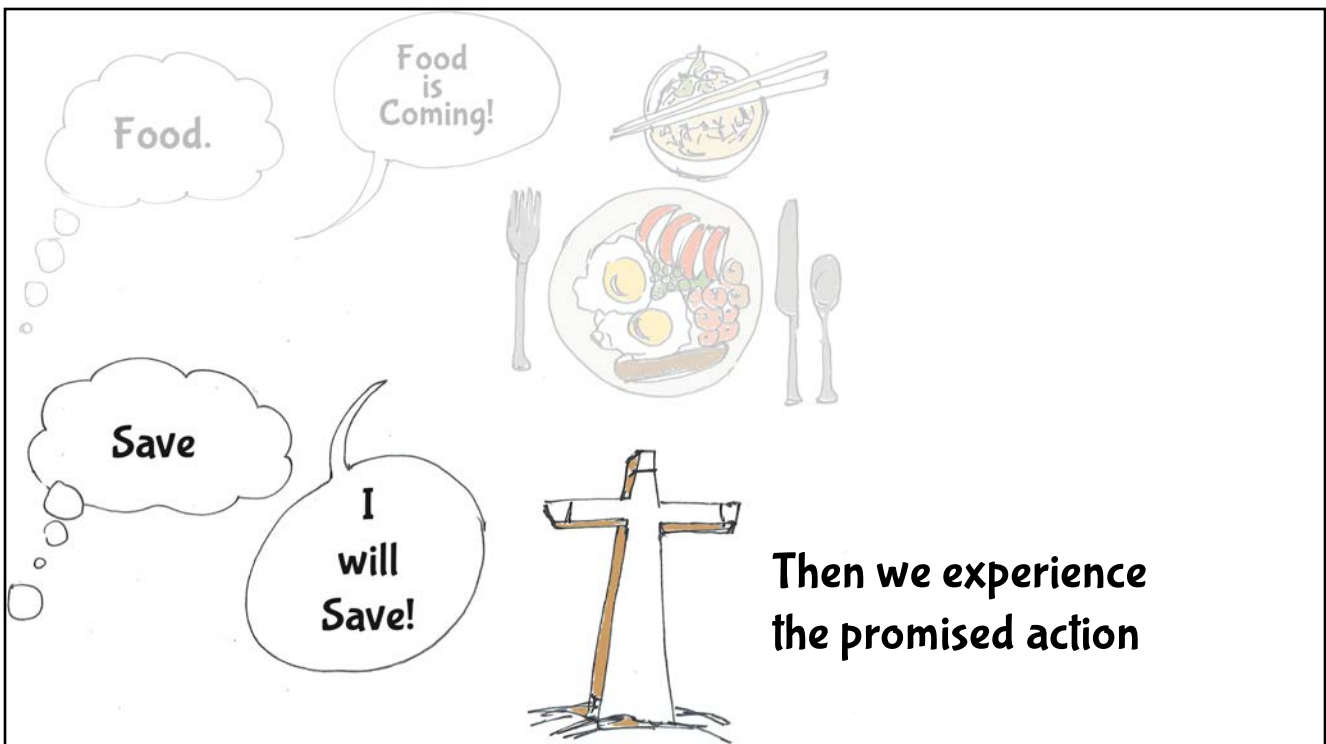
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### When God wills to save and to love, it is as real as history

- The determined will of God **cannot** fail to happen
- **The promise of God is as real as if it were history!**

### Then He promises that which cannot fail to happen

- We live most of life between the promise & the experienced fulfillment
- “For we live by faith, not by sight.” *2 Corinthians 5:7*
- “I tell you, God will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” *Luke 18:8*

### Later we experience the fulfillment of that promise

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### *The Deplorable Legacy of Geddert*

- From the Lansing State Journal: “Extreme verbal and emotional abuse. Excessive physical conditioning. Girls forced to perform through injuries. Sexual and physical assaults.”
- Charged with 24 felony accounts
- Then he committed suicide
- One of the victims said: “John Geddert’s escape from justice by committing suicide is traumatizing beyond words...he was able to cheat justice.”

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“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and **books** were opened. Another book was opened, which is the **book of life**. **The dead were judged** according to what they had done as recorded in **the books**. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. **Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.**” *Revelation 20:12-14* **As real as if it were history**

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**As real as if it were history**  
**Sometimes we like it, sometimes we don't,**  
**but that can't change it**

Jesus said:  
 “Very truly I tell you, whoever **hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged** but **has crossed over from death to life**. Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. **And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man** ...and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned” *John 5:24-27, 29*

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*Hope in troubling times*

Be alert and of sober mind. **Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, **will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.**

To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

*1 Peter 5:8-11*

**As real as if it were history**

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*Application*

**Conviction: God's Word is already true, even if we can't understand it yet or sense it yet**

- The 'effectual' Word of God: enacts the thing it says even if we don't sense it yet
  - His judgment of those who are not in Christ
  - His steadfast love for those who are in Christ
  - The new heaven and the new earth, where there is no more death or mourning or crying or pain
- All these things are as real as if they were history!
- God tells us what is true, and vital, yet not apparent
  - Do we fully trust Him?

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### *Application*

#### **Really HEAR God's Word**

- “We have been taught to come to the Bible for solace.... we have no wish to be disturbed.”
  - If this is our purpose, we are not listening for God
  - We are using God to reinforce OUR view of the world
- “We have to open our minds wide enough **to risk hearing what we do not want to hear.**”
  - “There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” *Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25*
  - “All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord.” *Proverbs 16:2*

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#### **It is so hard to hear...**

- **what we assume is not true or we assume cannot be true**
- **what we don't want to be true**
  - either consciously or subconsciously
  - “Of course \*I\* am not supposed to sell all my possessions and give them to the poor to follow Jesus!”
  - “Of course \*I\* am not supposed to give up my time or my freedom or my career or my family to follow Jesus!”
- **what my community conditions me not to hear**
  - “In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross-examines.” *Proverbs 18:17*

**Yet the seed is lost if it isn't genuinely heard!**

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*Application*

**Really HEAR God's Word → together**

- Listen together, especially across differences
  - We have different blind spots
- There is potential for stronger courage together
- When Jesus' words were so hard that many disciples left, Jesus asked the Apostles if they would leave also
- Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall **we** go?"

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**We** have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." *John 6:68-69*

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*Application*

**Really DO God's Word**

- I can let uncertainty about the step after this step be a great excuse for not taking this step = disobedience
- Initial obedience very often sheds more light and grows our faith for the next steps of obedience
- **"Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.** The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and **show myself to them.**" *John 14:21*
- Jesus replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and **put it into practice.**" *Luke 8:21*

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*Application*

**Really DO God's Word → together**

- “And let us consider how we may **spur one another on toward love and good deeds**, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” *Hebrews 10:24-25*
- Genuine Christian fellowship spurs us toward God
  - Life Groups
  - Mentoring
  - True friendship
  - *Superficial friendship just reinforces our blindness*

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*The Big Idea*

**God's Word**

though sometimes hard to understand  
and sometimes seemingly not reality  
will one day be fully known  
and will one day be fully experienced  
so God's true family genuinely hears and follows it

**What seems right to us may be killing us!**

*Father, open our ears to **hear**, our eyes to **see**,  
our hearts to **believe**, and our hands to **do** your Word*

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***How is God speaking to you right now?***

- Are we **not really listening** to God's Word like it matters
- Are we **not actually believing** what God's Word says
- Are we **not letting ourselves be confronted** by God's Word
- Are we **not doing** what God is asking us to do
  - Delaying / Distracting / Arguing / Rebelling

Don't ignore the Spirit's effectual voice! → **He will give power**

Find a genuine friend who will help you follow

**Jesus said: "Therefore consider carefully how you listen.**

**Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them."**