

A landscape photograph showing a blue sky with a bright sun in the upper right corner. Below the sky is a dense line of trees and foliage. The text is overlaid on the sky and foliage.

**FOREVER-ALWAYS START WITH GOD**

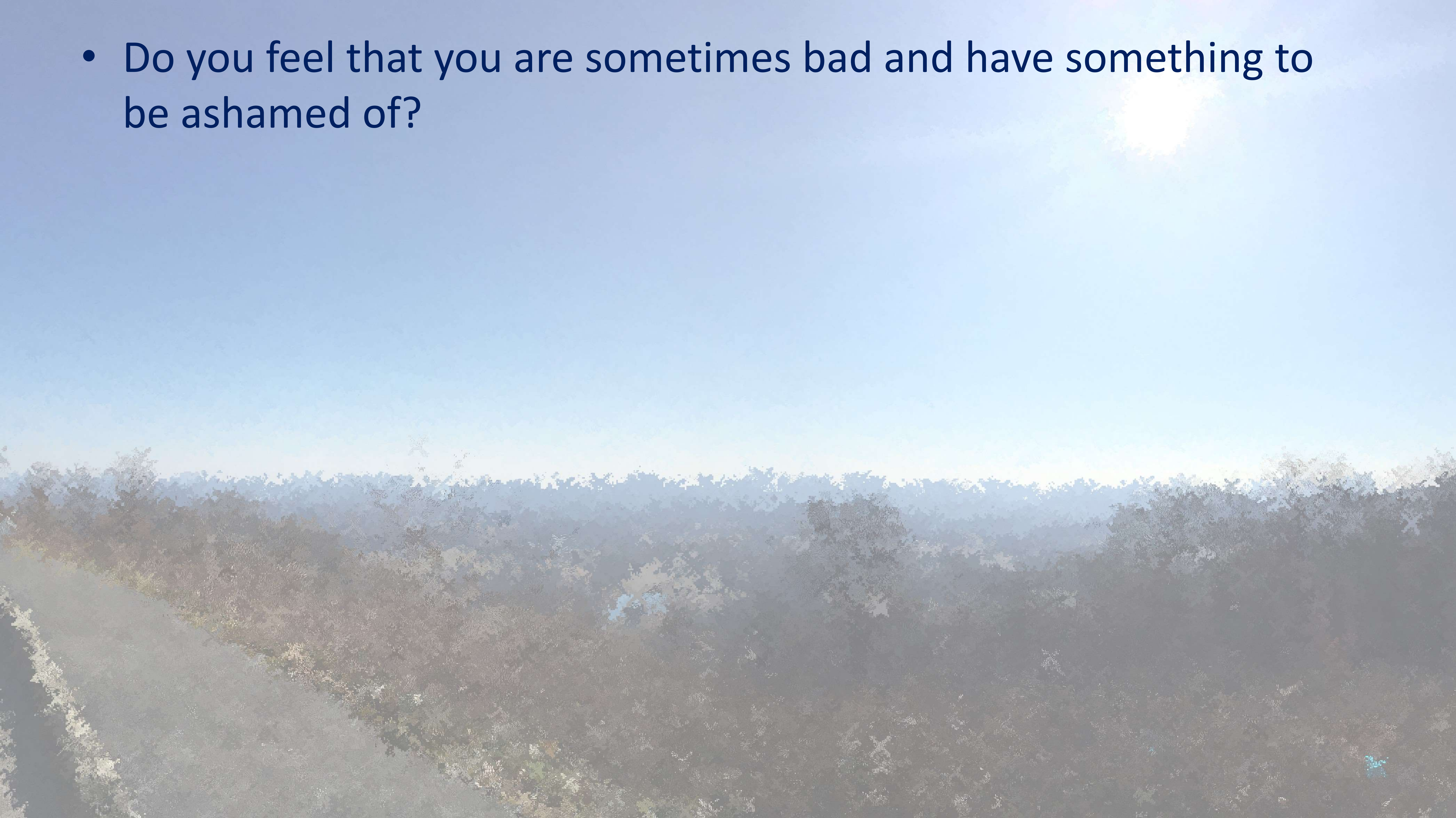
**Ecclesiastes 9:1**

**ECCLESIASTES: LIFE UNDER THE SON**

What wisdom or **perspectives** guide us in these attitudes and actions when we face life's ever-changing situations **apart from God's** wisdom and perspective on things?

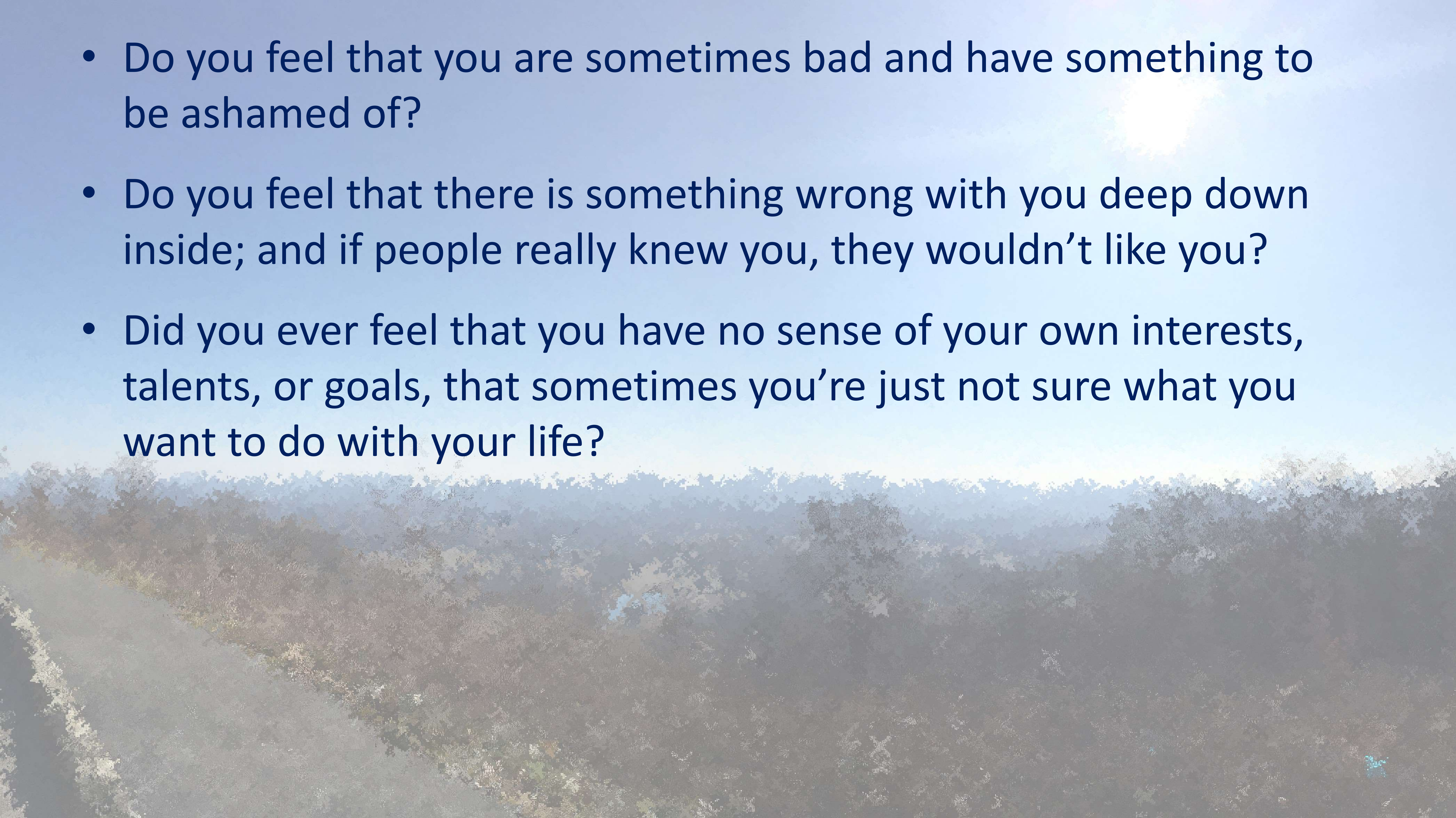


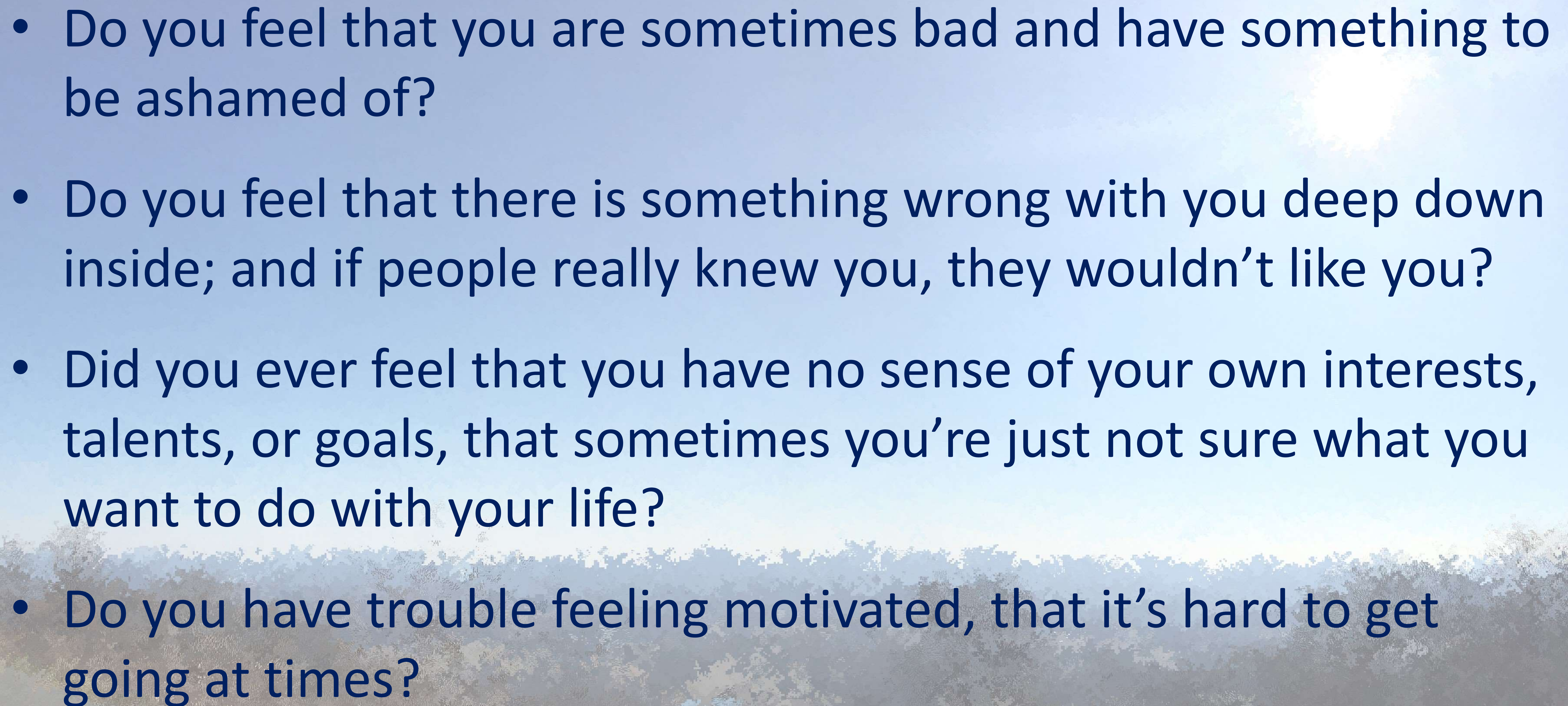
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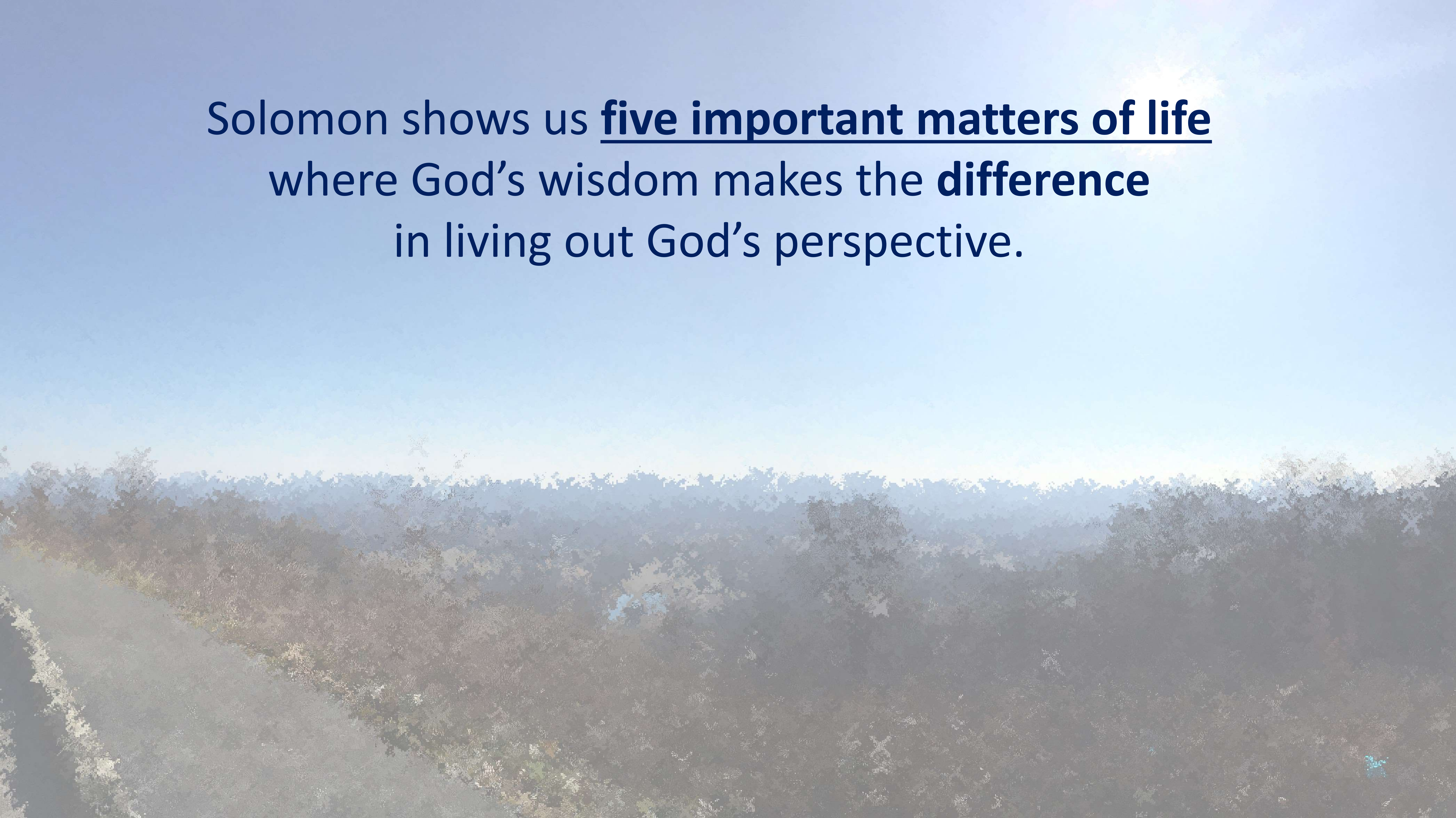
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- Do you have trouble feeling motivated, that it's hard to get going at times?
- Do you sometimes feel you have to be perfect in order to be accepted?

A scenic landscape featuring a dirt road on the left, a dense line of trees in the middle ground, and a bright, hazy sky. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

Solomon shows us five important matters of life  
where God's wisdom makes the **difference**  
in living out God's perspective.



# I. One God Worth Knowing (Ecc. 9:1)



# I. One God Worth Knowing (v1)

In the **ESV** the “all this” is mentioned **twice** in this opening clause and expresses the **emphasis** a little more clearly than does the NASB:

*But all this I laid to heart, examining it all...*

# I. One God Worth Knowing (v1)

And the only thing that makes any sense to him **at all** after examining it all is, “*righteous men, wise men, and their deeds are in the hand of God.*”

That's **relationship** with God.

# I. One God Worth Knowing (v1)

Both adversity and prosperity come into their lives **from God's hand**. This is a statement of **ownership**—those who are in the hand of God belong to God, and they are loved and cared for by God.

“When you move from your experience to God, you always distort God... when you *see* God [and life] through those experiences, you distort God.

The Bible turns this upside down.

Don't start from your experiences and work up to God.

Start from God and work down to your experiences, whether past or present. Define who God is, and then bring that to bear on what's happening in your life.”

*John Bettler*

“The main point is that finding purpose in life apart from God is futile (Ecc. 12:13-14). The things of this world – pleasure, work, achievement, possessions, friends, etc. – are all meaningless when pursued as ends unto themselves. True purpose and joy in life is found in God.”

*Deepak Reju*



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ECCLESIASTES: LIFE UNDER THE SON