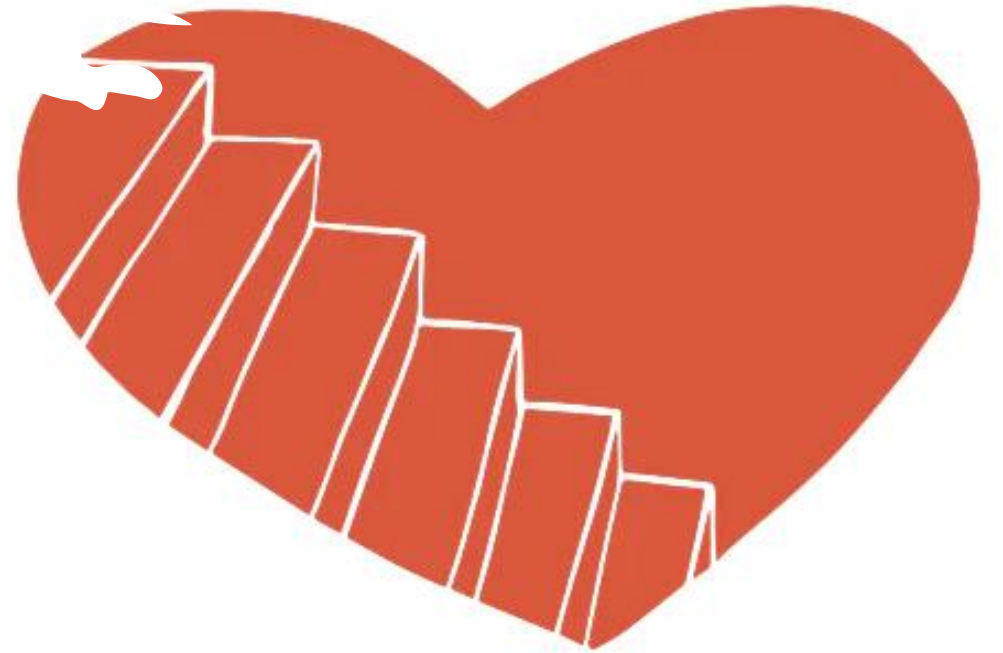
A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a supportive grip. Both wrists are adorned with rainbow-colored Pride wristbands. The background is dark, making the hands and the vibrant colors of the wristbands stand out.

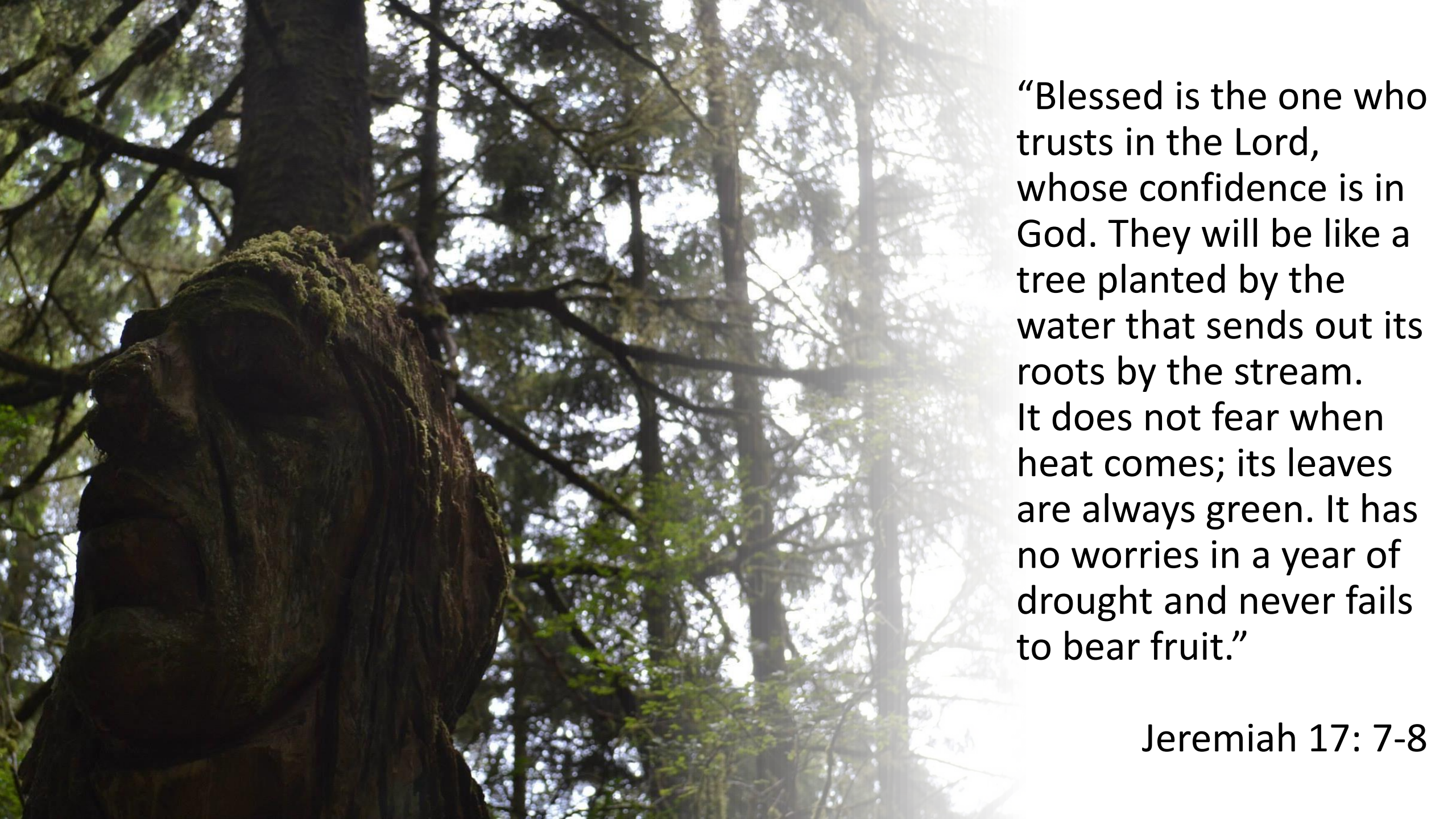
The Spirit of Pride & The Resilience of the Suffering

Sunday, June 16th, 2024

“I pray that out of God’s glorious riches
She may strengthen you with power
through the Spirit in your inner being,
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts
through faith. And I pray that you, being
rooted and established in love, may
have power, together with all people, to
grasp how wide and long and high and
deep is the love of Christ, and to know
this love that surpasses knowledge—
that you may be filled to the measure
of all the fullness of God.”

Ephesians 3: 16-19





“Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in God. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

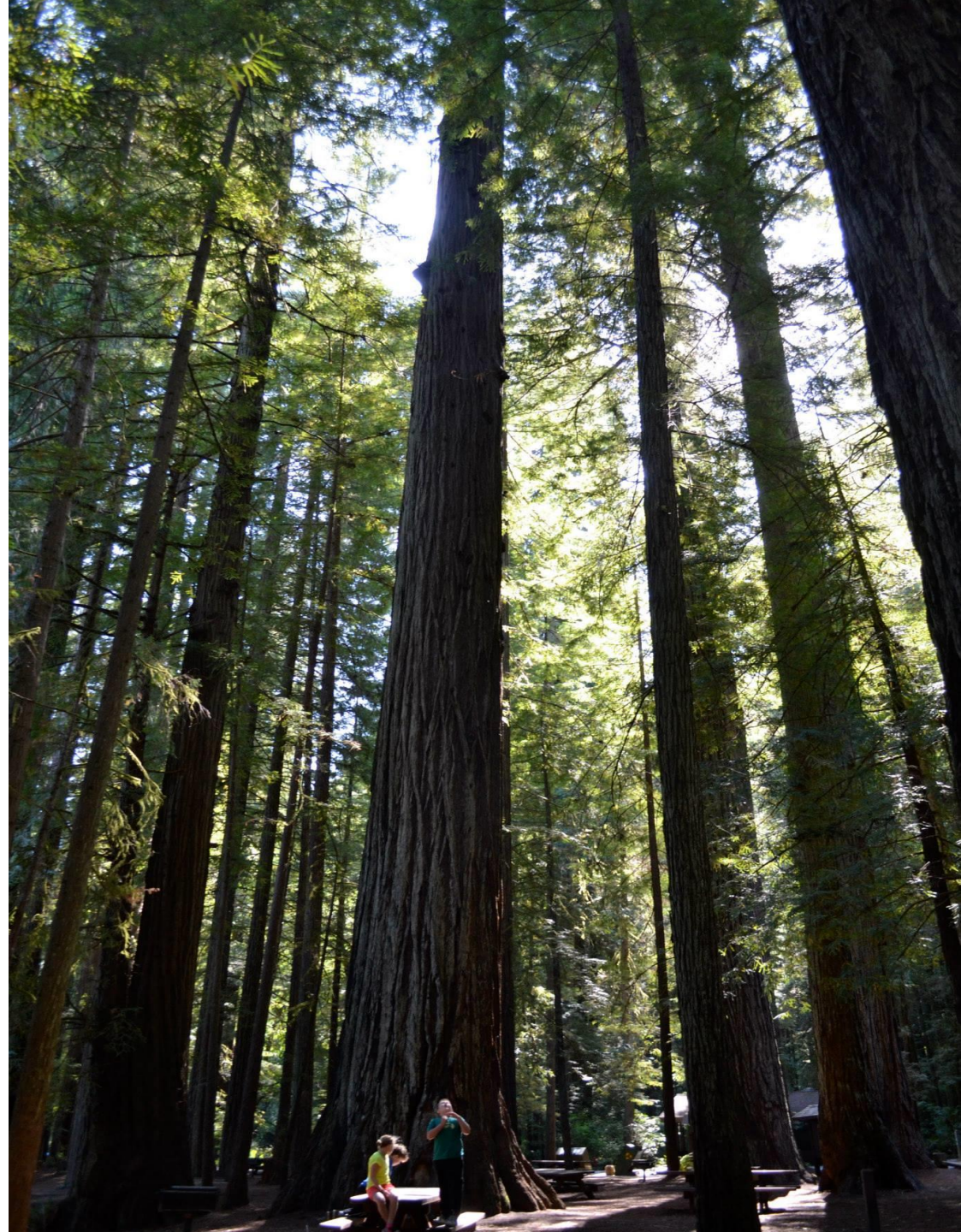
Jeremiah 17: 7-8



WAIT WHAT?

...BUT HOW?

“I recently heard Omid Safi tell a story of redwood trees in Muir Wood, California. These trees are up to 2000 years old, and are 200-300 feet high, but their roots are only 6 - 8 feet deep. The way they have survived so long is by entangling their roots together, so when one falls the other catches it or they all fall together. It feels as though you are exploring this, being rooted together in love for resilience.”







THE SPIRIT OF PRIDE



CARL DE SOUZA//Getty Images

“The more radical the person is, the more fully he or she enters into reality so that, knowing it better, he or she can transform it. This individual is not afraid to confront, to listen, to see the world unveiled. This person is not afraid to meet the people or to enter into a dialogue with them. This person does not consider himself or herself the proprietor of history or of all people, or the liberator of the oppressed; but he or she does commit himself or herself, within history, to fight at their side.”

— Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*







“For me, it happened in tandem with actually discovering that I was hurt. I have pain. I think I could have told you I was hurt and had pain but I don’t think I understood how deeply hurt I was. I think the way forward toward healing is actually being able to be honest about our pain, and it took a very long time for me to be honest about my pain, because, I don’t know... without having other people to be able to reflect our pain back to us, I don’t know if we have the capability to actually recognize how deep our pain is. Like, we need community to be able to show to us and reflect back to us – at least in my experience, for me, I needed people to say ‘oh, that’s messed up. That must have really hurt’.... That was huge. We need other people. I’m talking about community, I’m talking about friendships, I’m talking about mentors. I’m talking about all of these things that I think we need. And I think, that’s some of the tragedy of this, that when we’ve experienced spiritual harm it is harm that occurs in community and therefore being in community can feel traumatizing and scary.”



**SO WE WHO ARE MANY
AND COME FROM MANY PLACES
ARE ONE IN CHRIST.**

-Amen