Open Your Bible To: 1 Samuel 4:1-11

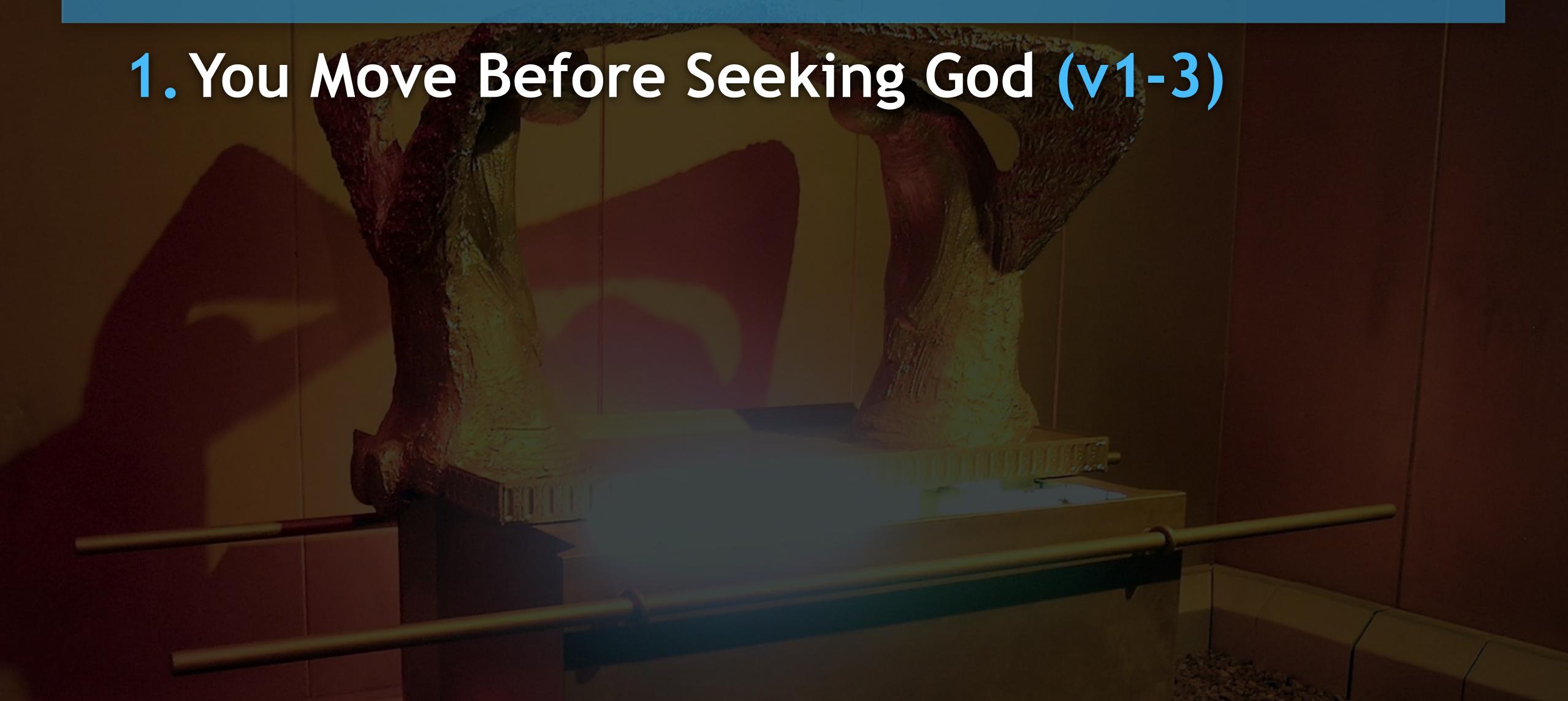
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The same thing can happen to me. I bring the "ark" into my camp. My boxes are all checked off on my spiritual To Do list. And the Lord would say to me, "It's not about bringing a box into your camp or checking a box off on a list. Only a relationship with Me will bring victory as I guide you step by step, day by day.

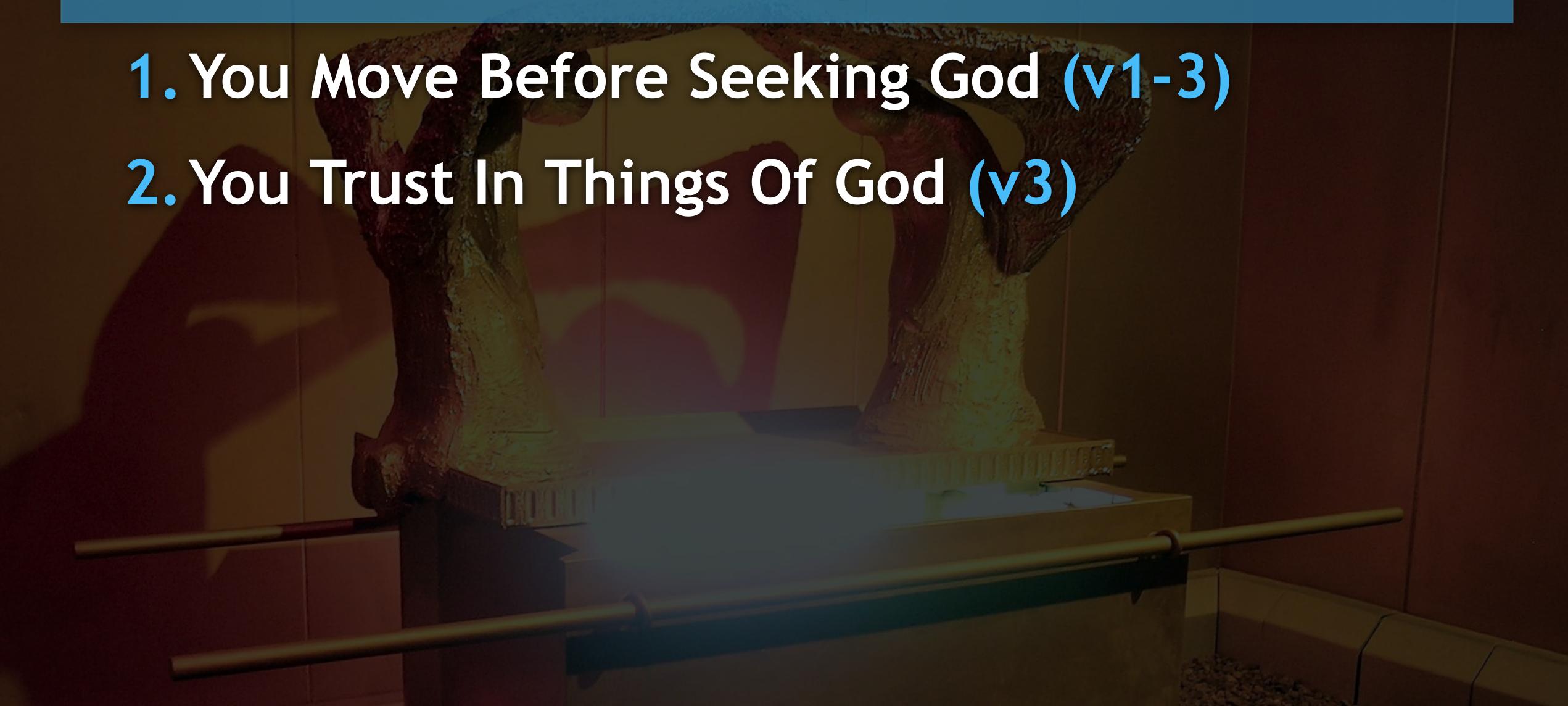
Jon Courson



1. You Move Before Seeking God (v1-3)

There are plenty of Christians, like these elders, who, when they find themselves beaten by the world and the devil, puzzle their brains to invent all sorts of reasons for God's smiting, except the true one, their own departure from Him.

Alexander Maclaren



2. You Trust In Things Of God (v3)

And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

Exodus 25:22

2. You Trust In Things Of God (v3)

Modern believers base their hope of spiritual success on a spiritually strong spouse, regular church attendance, or even the daily reading of the Bible. These things are no substitute for a vital personal relationship with God. Thomas Constable

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- 3. You Have Strong Emotions Without God's Presence (v4-5)

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But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

I Corinthians 2:14

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"We think of a thousand inventions; but we neglect the one thing needful . . . We forget the main matter, which is to enthrone God in the life, and to seek to do his will by faith in Christ Jesus."

Charles Spurgeon

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