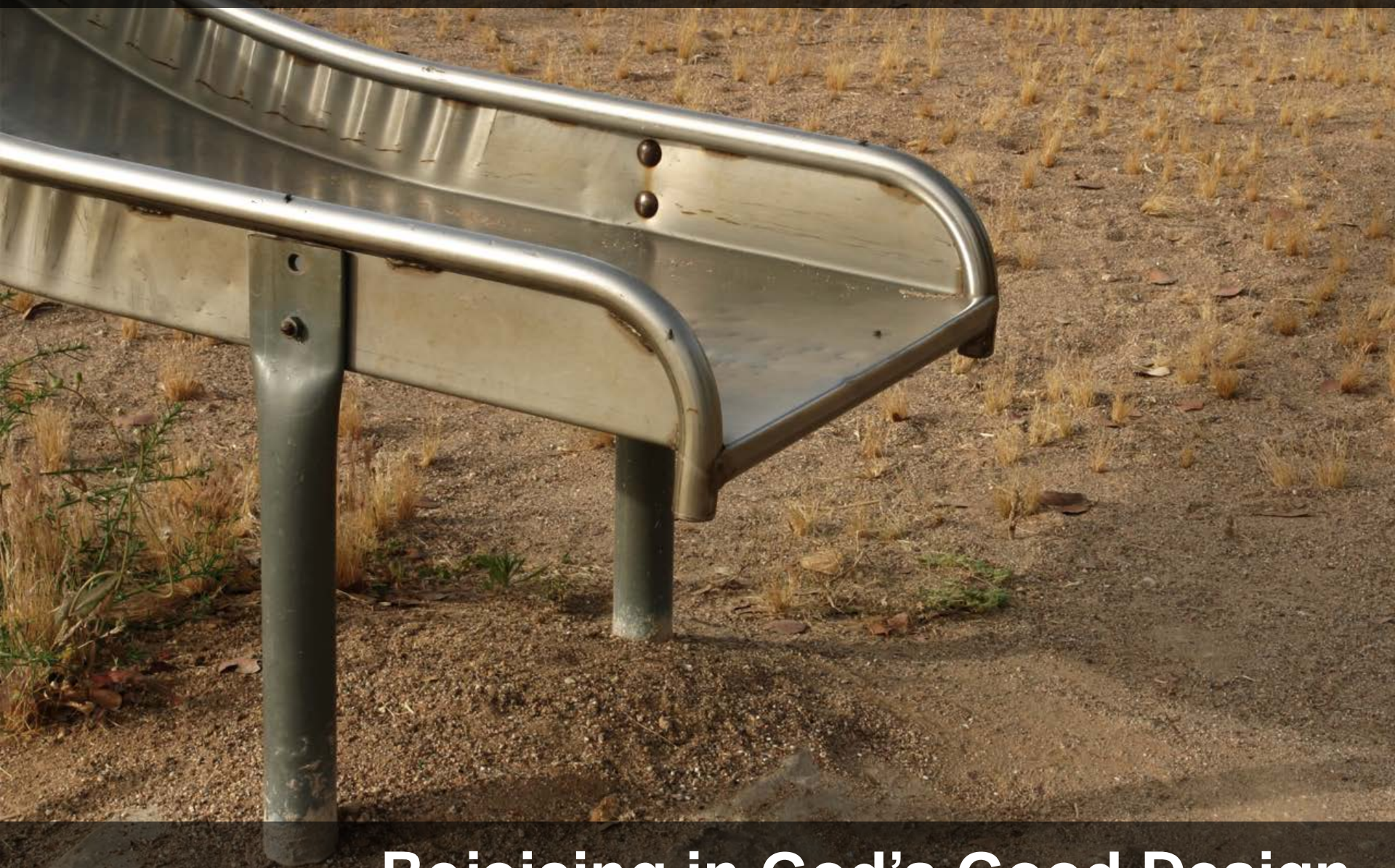


# Lesson 27: Not Prolonging Adolescence



**Rejoicing in God's Good Design**



# Illustration





“More adults, ages eighteen to forty-nine, watch the Cartoon Network than watch CNN. Readers as old as twenty-five are buying ‘young adult’ fiction written expressly for teens. The average video gamer was eighteen in 1990; now he’s going on thirty.”

—Diana West





# Putting Childishness and Immaturity Behind

Refusing to grow up: A life of selfishness and self-indulgence is not only childish but sinful.

Becoming young men and young women means leaving childish things behind.

1 Corinthians 13:11





# Keeping and Leaving

## Things to Keep

**Childlike trust**  
(Matthew 18:3)

**Childlike innocence**  
(1 Corinthians 14:20)

## Things to Leave Behind

**Childish ways**  
(1 Corinthians 13:11)

**Childish thinking**  
(1 Corinthians 14:20)



# Youth: A Time for God or Self?

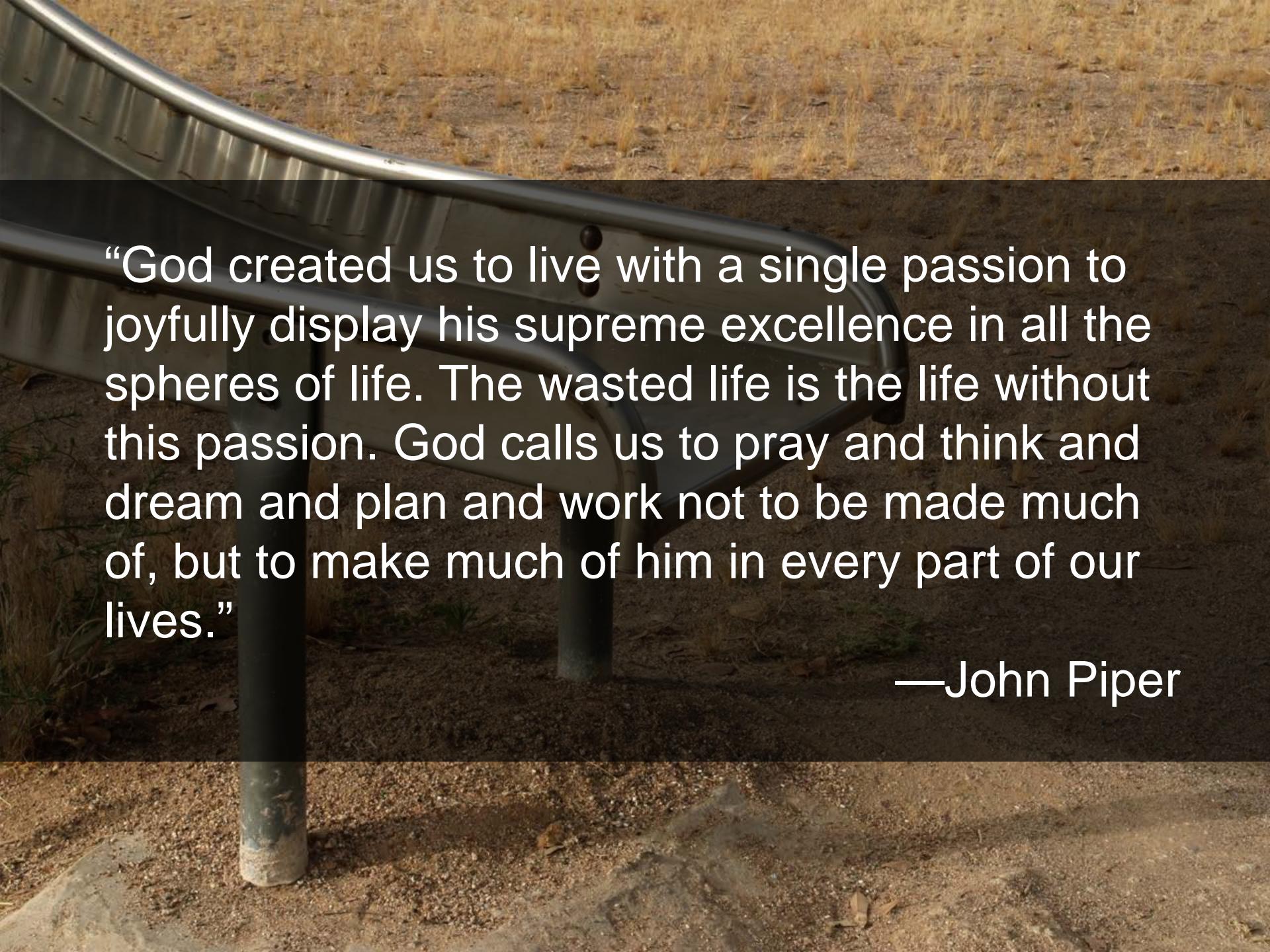
“Teen years”—a time for irresponsibility, laziness, self-indulgence, and self-centeredness.

**World's Wisdom**

**Bible**  
**God's Wisdom:**  
youth is a time to consider the Creator.

Youth is a time for God and not a time for self.



A photograph of a playground slide with a dark metal frame and a corrugated metal slide surface. The slide is set against a background of dry, yellowish-brown grass and a dark, shadowed area. A semi-transparent dark rectangle is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing white text.

“God created us to live with a single passion to joyfully display his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life. The wasted life is the life without this passion. God calls us to pray and think and dream and plan and work not to be made much of, but to make much of him in every part of our lives.”

—John Piper



# God Holds Youth Responsible for Sin

Wrong Thinking: sins of youth are acceptable and normal.

Right Thinking: The Bible says youth are responsible for their sins.

*The sins of youth are still sins, and they are not to be taken lightly.*







# God Holds Youth Responsible for Sin

Leviticus 10:1-3

Nadab and Abihu: special role as priests



**Disobeyed God's Command**



**Consequence: Death**



# God Holds Youth Responsible for Sin

2 Kings 2:23-24

Sin ➡ Consequence: Death



No one should think from the Bible that the sins of youth are any less serious and destructive than the sins of adults.



# Youth Should Set An Example for Believers of All Ages

Youth is not for sinfulness, laziness, and self-centeredness...

...but for using the gifts of time, zeal, energy, singleness, less-life responsibilities—in the service of God.

All phases of life are the for Lord and not for self.





# Youth Should Set An Example for Believers of All Ages

1 Timothy 4:12

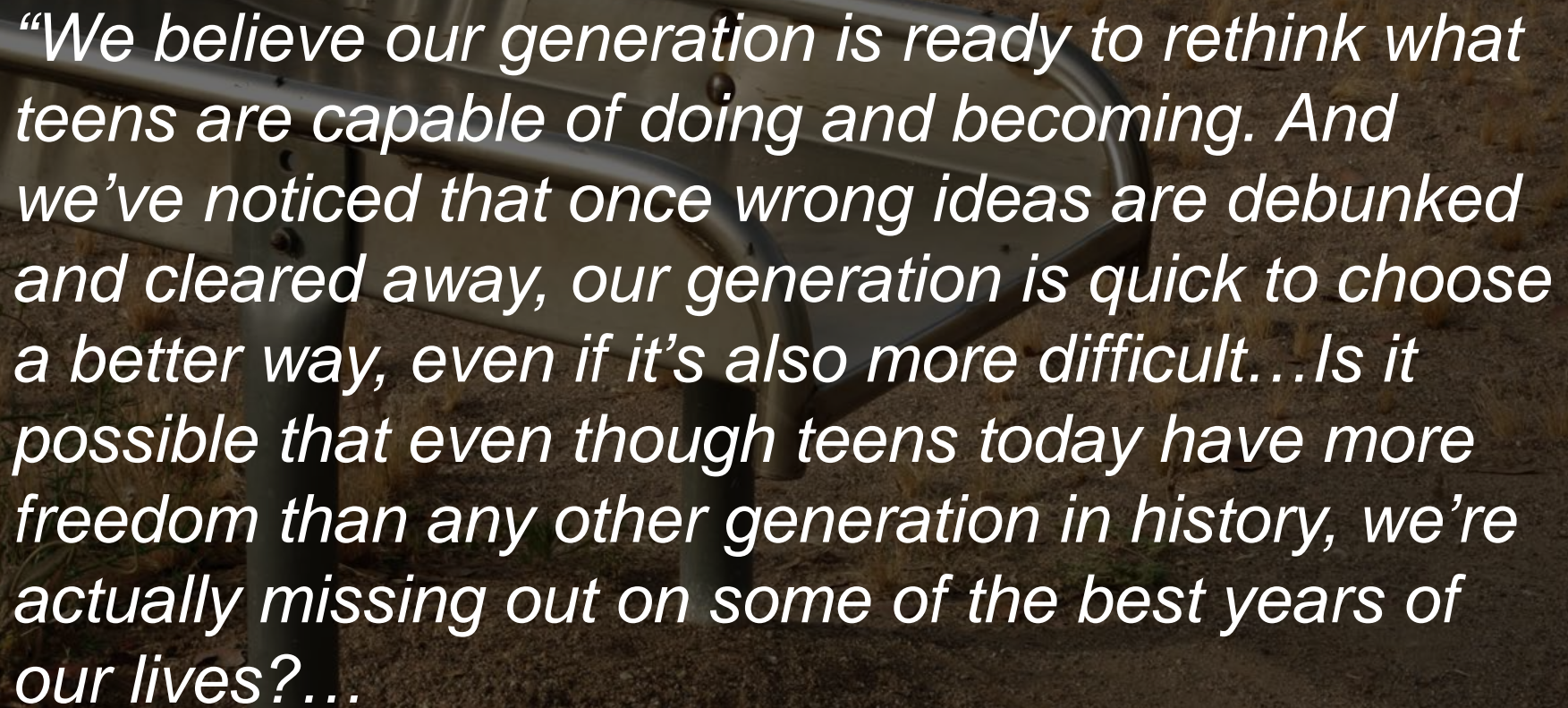
Our culture often “glorifies” youth while youth are also looked down upon and despised.

Low expectations can be harmful to youth.





# Low Expectations Are Harmful to Youth



*“We believe our generation is ready to rethink what teens are capable of doing and becoming. And we’ve noticed that once wrong ideas are debunked and cleared away, our generation is quick to choose a better way, even if it’s also more difficult...Is it possible that even though teens today have more freedom than any other generation in history, we’re actually missing out on some of the best years of our lives?...”*



# Low Expectations Are Harmful to Youth

*“Is it possible that what our culture says about the purpose and potential of the teen years is a lie and that we are its victims? Is it possible that our teen years give us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for huge accomplishments—as individuals and as a generation? And finally, what would our lives look like if we set out on a different path entirely—a path that required more effort but promised a lot more reward? We describe that alternative path with three simple words: ‘do hard things.’”*

—Alex and Brett Harris



# How to Attain Greater Things

Keep watch over your life according to the Word of God.  
Psalm 119:9

Flee youthful passions and pursue godliness with other sincere believers. 2 Timothy 2:22



Don't be a loner. Seek out genuine Christian friendship, fellowship, and encouragement. Seek out, perhaps, old Christians to “mentor” and speak into your life.



# Inspiration from Other Youth



MR. SPURGEON AT THE AGE OF TWENTY-THREE.

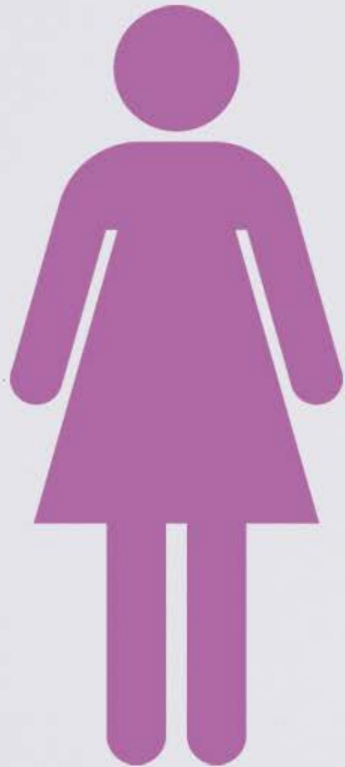
Charles Spurgeon



Fannie Crosby



# What's Your Story?



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