

A wide-angle photograph of a paved road curving through a valley. The road is dark asphalt with white dashed lines. It's flanked by dry, golden-brown grass and shrubs. In the background, majestic mountains rise, their peaks partially covered in snow. The sky is clear and blue.

Fly High, Finish Well
Judges 6-8

Judges 6:11-16

11 The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.

12 When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, “The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.”

13 “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

Judges 6:11-16

14 The LORD turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

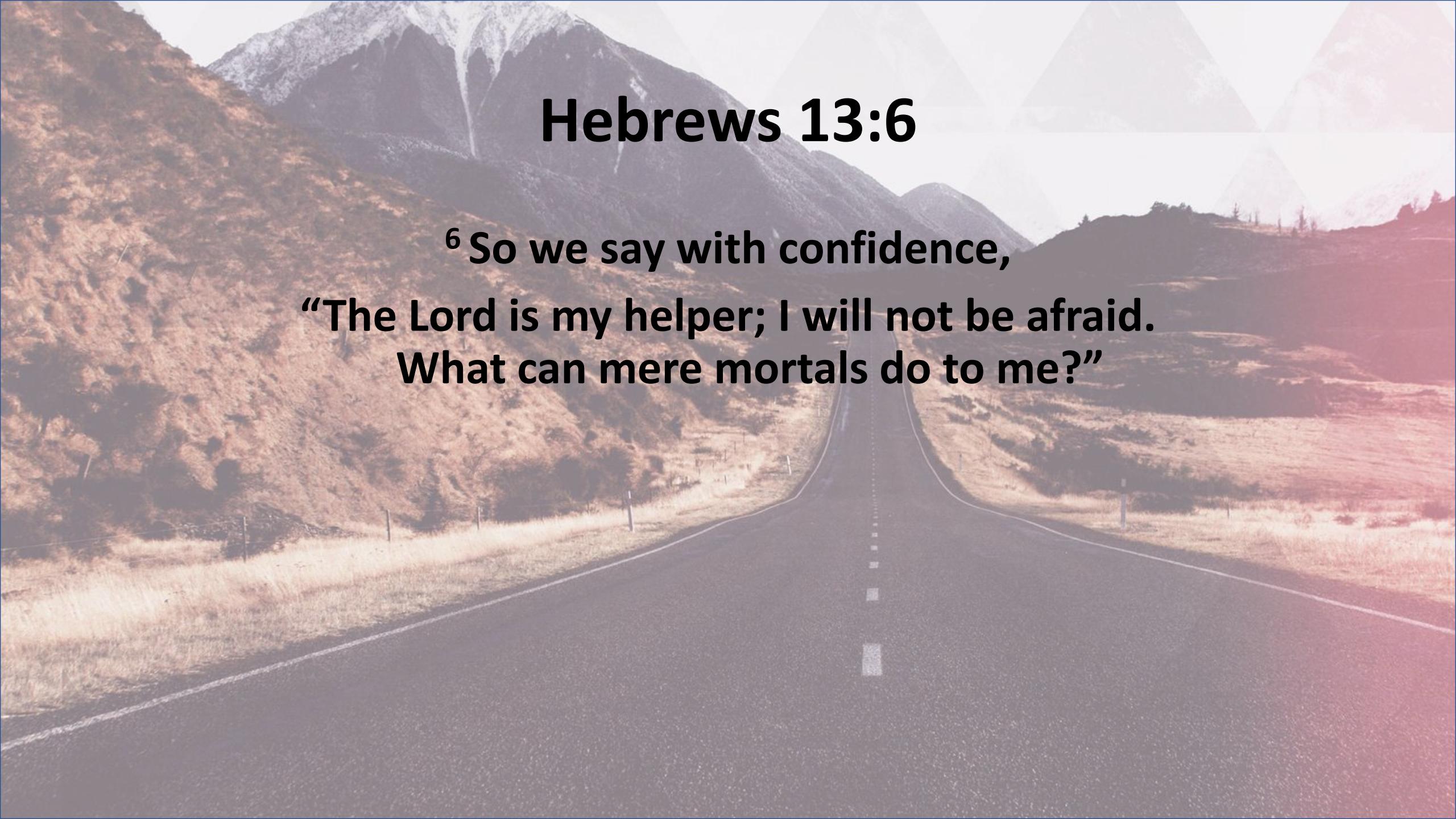
15 “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

16 The LORD answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”

Our Boldness & Courage Are Only Found in God

¹² When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said,
“The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.”



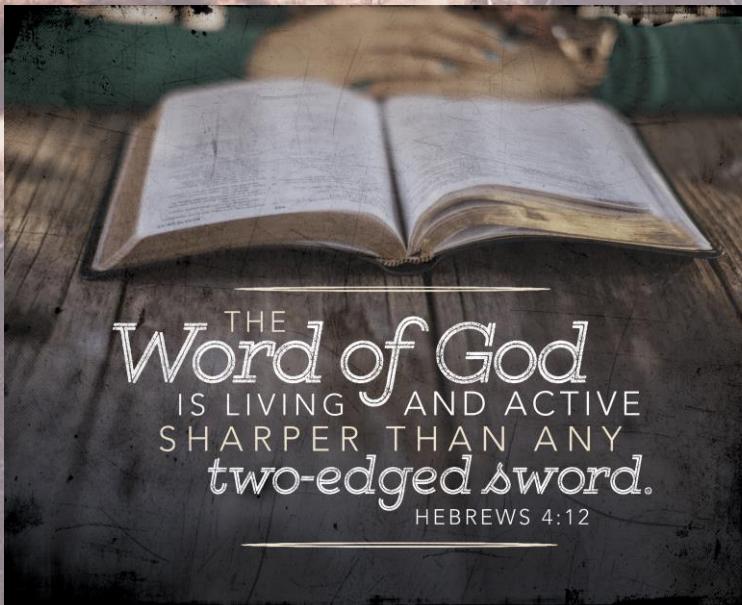
A wide-angle photograph of a winding asphalt road leading towards a range of mountains. The mountains in the background have patches of snow on their peaks. The foreground shows dry, yellowish-brown grass and shrubs. The sky is clear and blue.

Hebrews 13:6

**“⁶ So we say with confidence,
“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?”**

How Can We Dwell In His Presence?

- Fill your mind with the Word of God.
- The more our minds are filled with God's Word, meditating upon His promises and living out the Living Word; we will be filled with the Spirit to face any kind of difficulties in life.



Judges 7:1-8

7 Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh.

2 The LORD said to Gideon, “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’

3 Now announce to the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

Judges 7:1-8

4 But the LORD said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.”

5 So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.”

Judges 7:1-8

- 6** Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.
- 7** The LORD said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.”
- 8** So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

God Always Do the Impossible

- Obedience.
- All the Lord requires of Gideon is obedience.



1 Corinthians 1:26-29

26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,

29 so that no one may boast before him.



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Judges 8:22-27

22 The Israelites said to Gideon, “Rule over us—you, your son and your grandson—because you have saved us from the hand of Midian.”

23 But Gideon told them, “I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The LORD will rule over you.”

24 And he said, “I do have one request, that each of you give me an earring from your share of the plunder.” (It was the custom of the Ishmaelites to wear gold earrings.)

Judges 8:22-27

25 They answered, “We’ll be glad to give them.” So they spread out a garment, and each of them threw a ring from his plunder onto it.

26 The weight of the gold rings he asked for came to seventeen hundred shekels, not counting the ornaments, the pendants and the purple garments worn by the kings of Midian or the chains that were on their camels’ necks.

27 Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshiping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family.

Fly High, Finish Well

- It's not about how you start, but how you finish.
 - Gideon
 - King Saul
 - King Hezekiah
 - Demas, disciple of Apostle Paul
 - 2 Timothy 4:10, “Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.”

Always Examine Our Hearts

(Psalm 139:23-24)

- Pride
 - 1 Peter 5:5b-6
 - God opposes the proud, but shows favor to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.
- Power/Lust
 - Gideon wanted to keep the power for himself.
- Possession
 - We are called not to hoard but to be good stewards.

Pass It On to the Next Generation

- 2 Timothy 2:1-2
- You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.



Rest

- Keep your Sabbath Day
- Rest in the Lord
 - Matthew 11:28
 - Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Always Keep Our Eyes on Jesus

- Hebrews 12:1-3

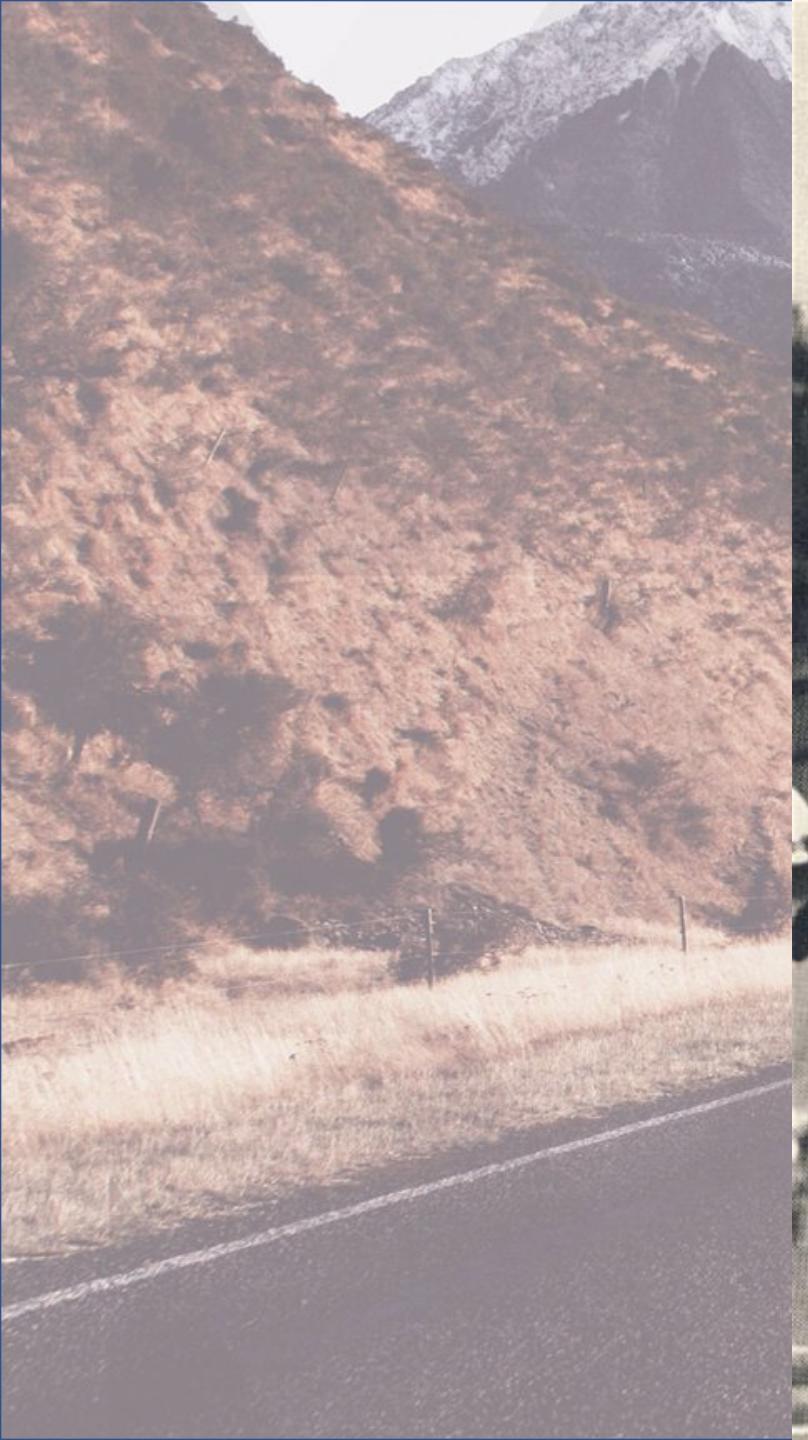
Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



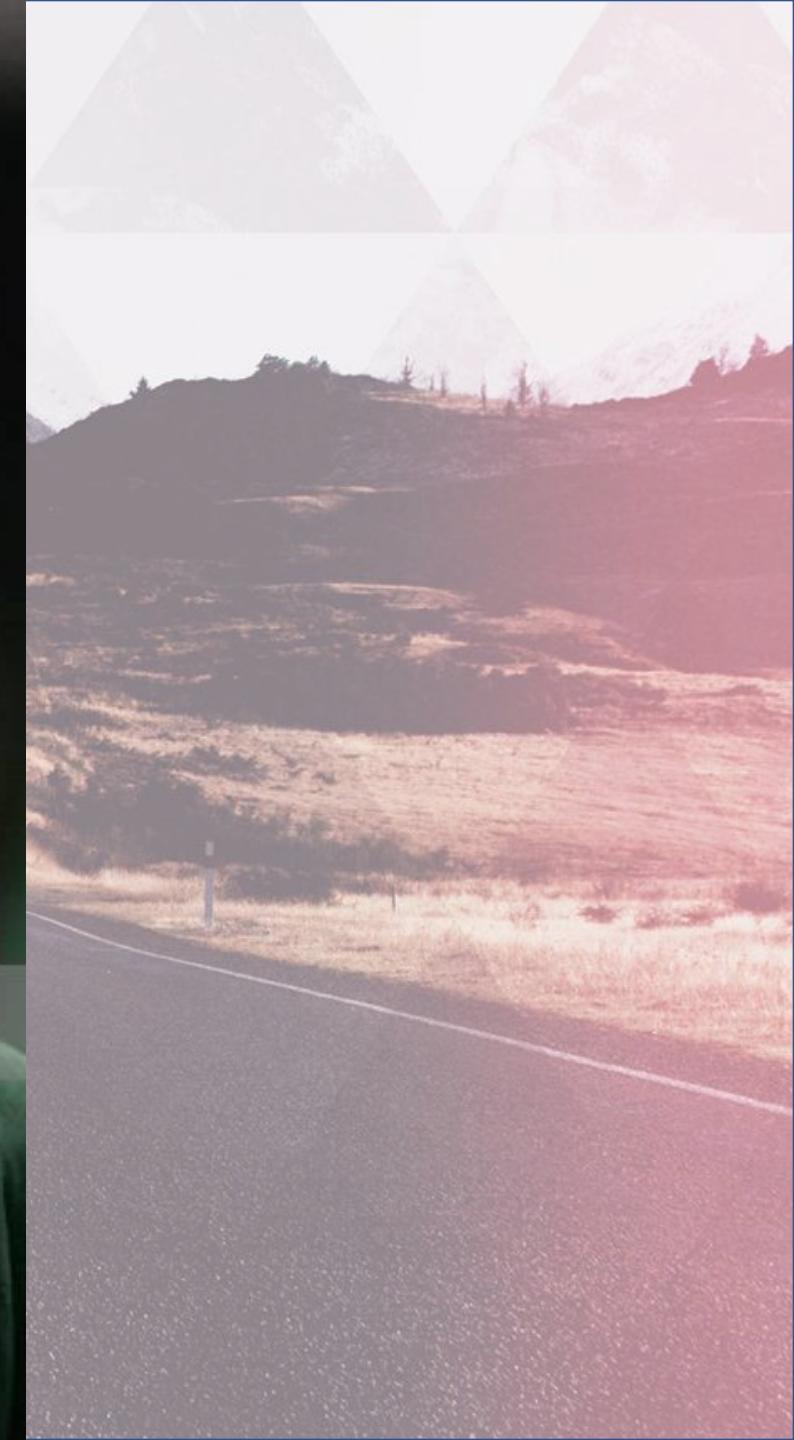
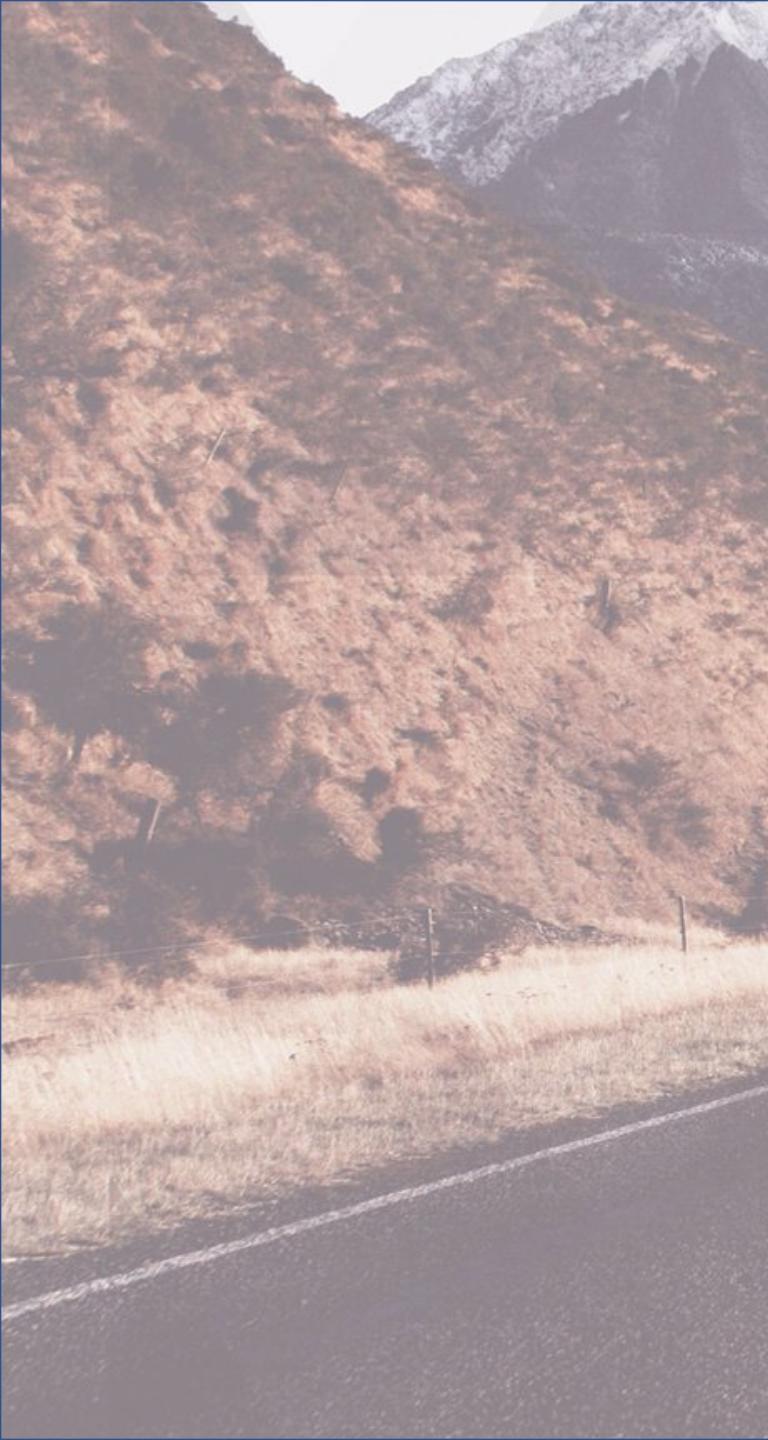
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A wide-angle photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a landscape of dry, golden-yellow grass. In the background, majestic mountains rise, their peaks partially covered in white snow. The sky is clear and blue. A faint, large watermark of a triangle is visible in the upper right corner.

**FLY HIGH
FINISH WELL.**