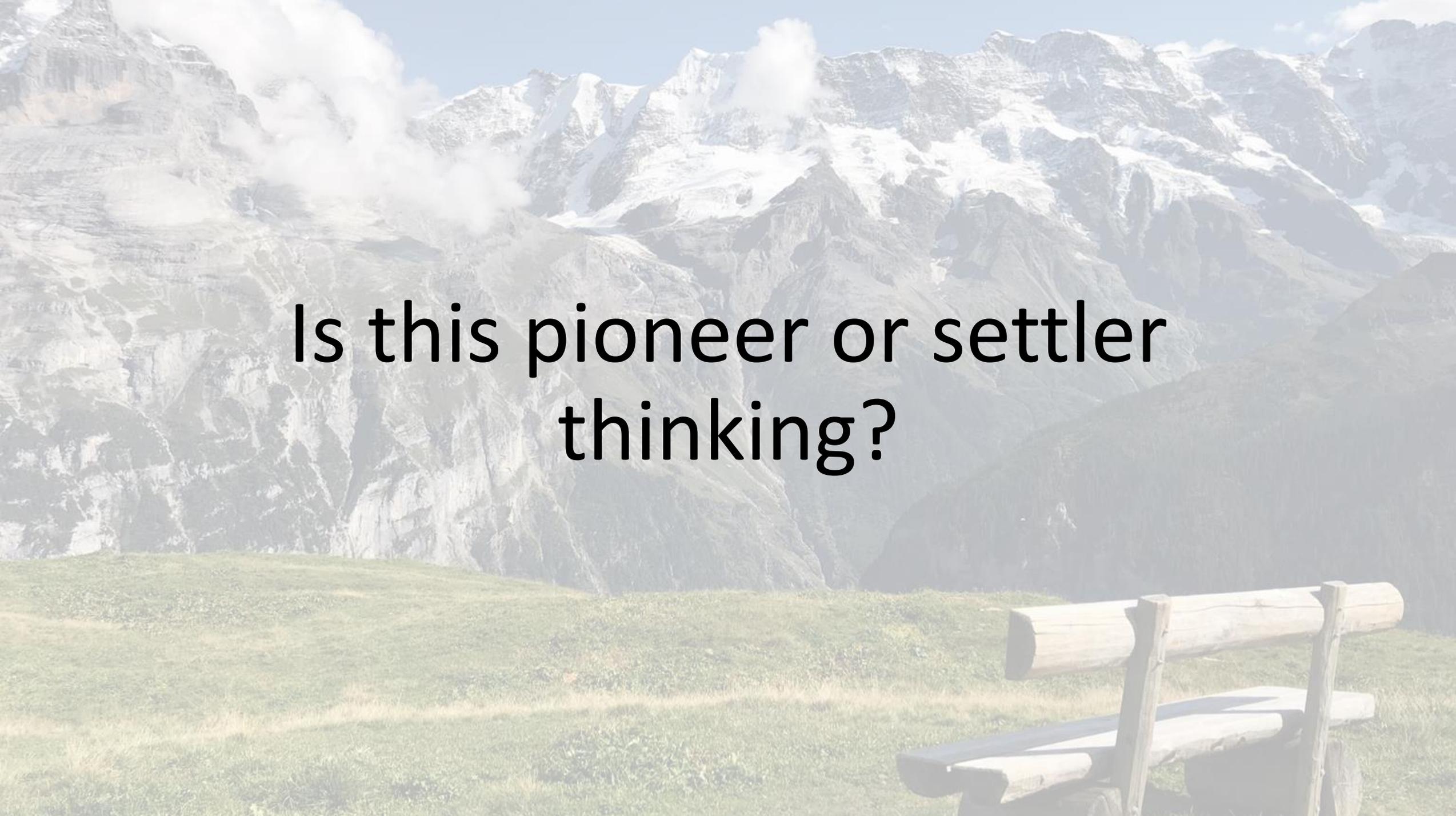
A scenic view of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and a wooden bench in the foreground. The mountains are rugged and rocky, with patches of snow and glaciers. The sky is blue with some white clouds. In the foreground, there is a green grassy field and a simple wooden bench made of logs.

Pioneers or Settlers?

Audrey Sentinella

A scenic mountain landscape. In the foreground, a wooden bench made of logs sits on a grassy slope. The middle ground shows a valley with green fields and a forested mountain slope. The background is dominated by a large, rugged mountain range with significant snow cover under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Is this pioneer or settler
thinking?

Definitions

Oxford English Dictionary – Pioneer

A person who is among the first to explore or settle a new country or area.

Oxford English Dictionary – Settler

A person who settles in an area

Roots of the word ‘pioneer’

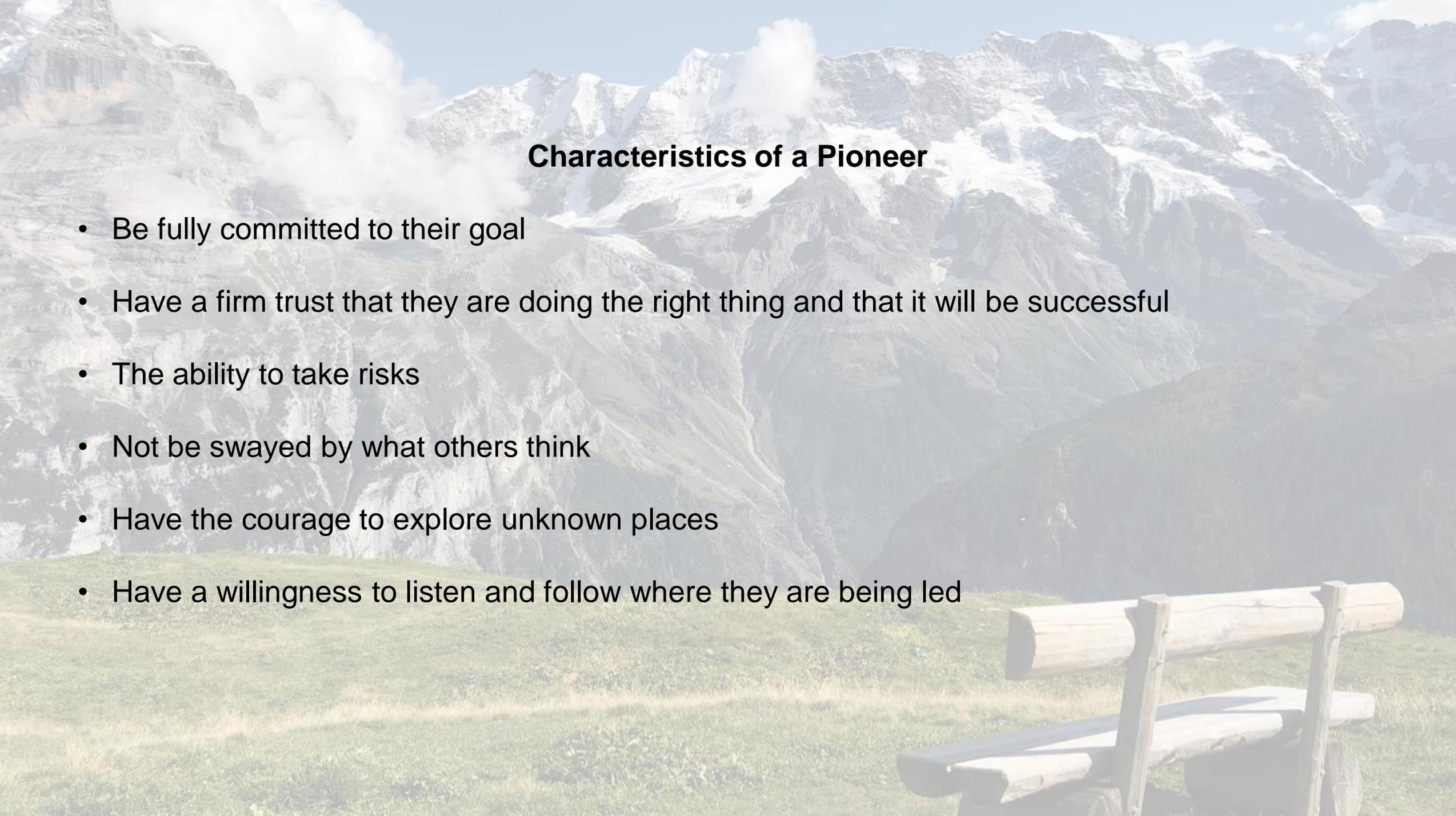
Early 15th Century ‘(as a military term denoting a member of the infantry) from French *pionnier* ‘foot soldier, pioneer’, foot soldiers being those who prepared the way for the army.

The word started to be used figuratively in the 16th century, meaning one who breaks new ground or is the first to do something new.

Webster’s Dictionary 1828 – Pioneer

One whose business is to march with or before an army, to repair the road or clear it of obstructions.

One that goes before to remove obstructions or to clear the way for another.

A scenic view of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and a wooden bench in the foreground. The mountains are rugged and rocky, with patches of snow and glaciers. The sky is blue with some white clouds. In the foreground, there is a green grassy field and a simple wooden bench made of logs.

Characteristics of a Pioneer

- Be fully committed to their goal
- Have a firm trust that they are doing the right thing and that it will be successful
- The ability to take risks
- Not be swayed by what others think
- Have the courage to explore unknown places
- Have a willingness to listen and follow where they are being led

‘As a rule the Adam-race are not apt to worship the pioneer of spiritual ideas, — but oftentimes to shun him as their tormentor.’

(‘00 3:15-18)

‘It is the task of the sturdy pioneer to hew the tall oak and to cut the rough granite. Future ages must declare what the pioneer has accomplished.’ (SH vii: 23-25)

‘In every age, the pioneer reformer must pass through a baptism of fire. But the faithful adherents of Truth have gone on rejoicing. Christian Science gives a fearless wing and firm foundation.’ (Mis 213:17-18)

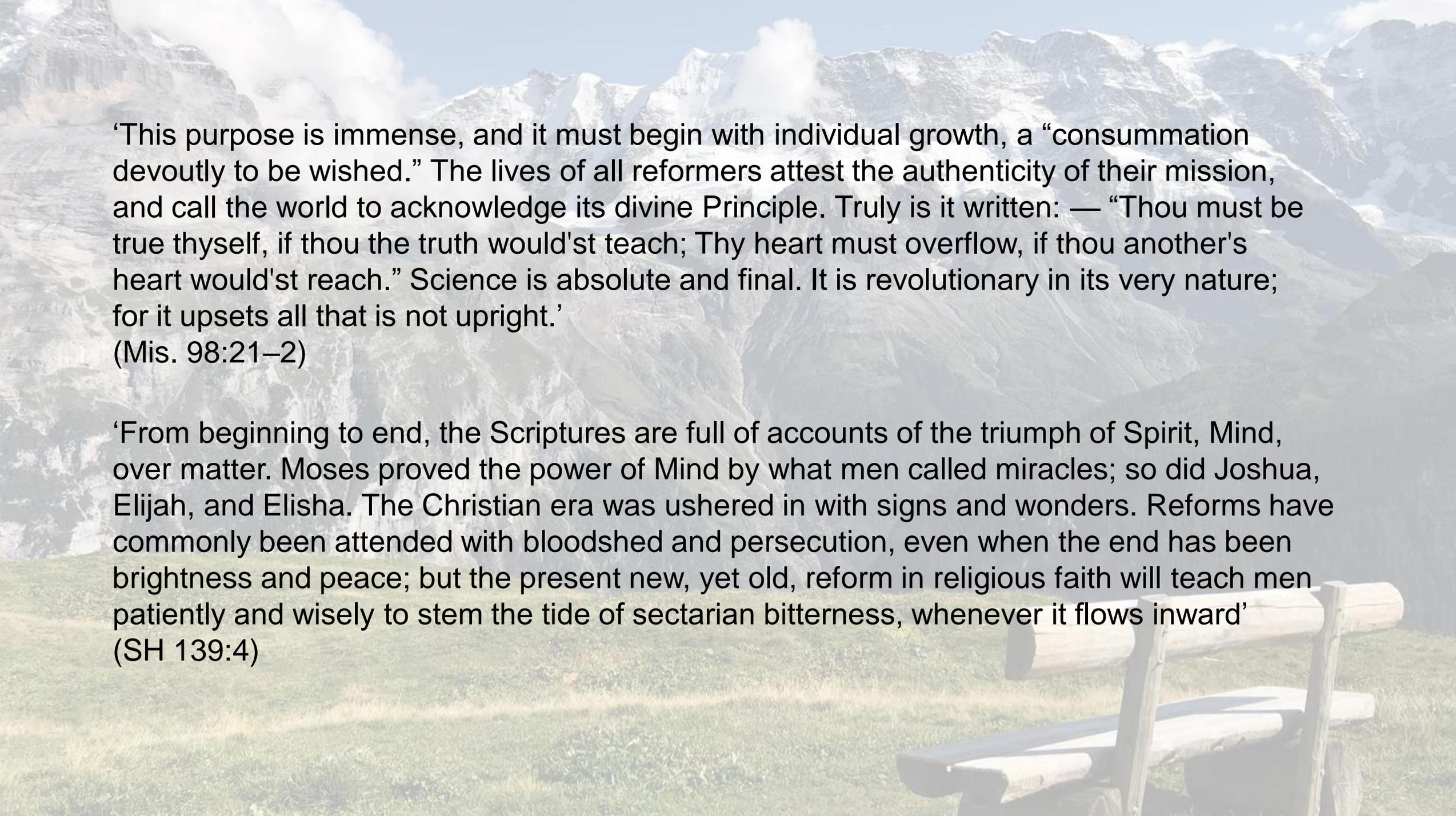
Definitions

Oxford English Dictionary – Reform

To make changes in something in order to improve it

1828 Webster’s Dictionary – Reform

To correct something that is wrong; amend; restore to a good state

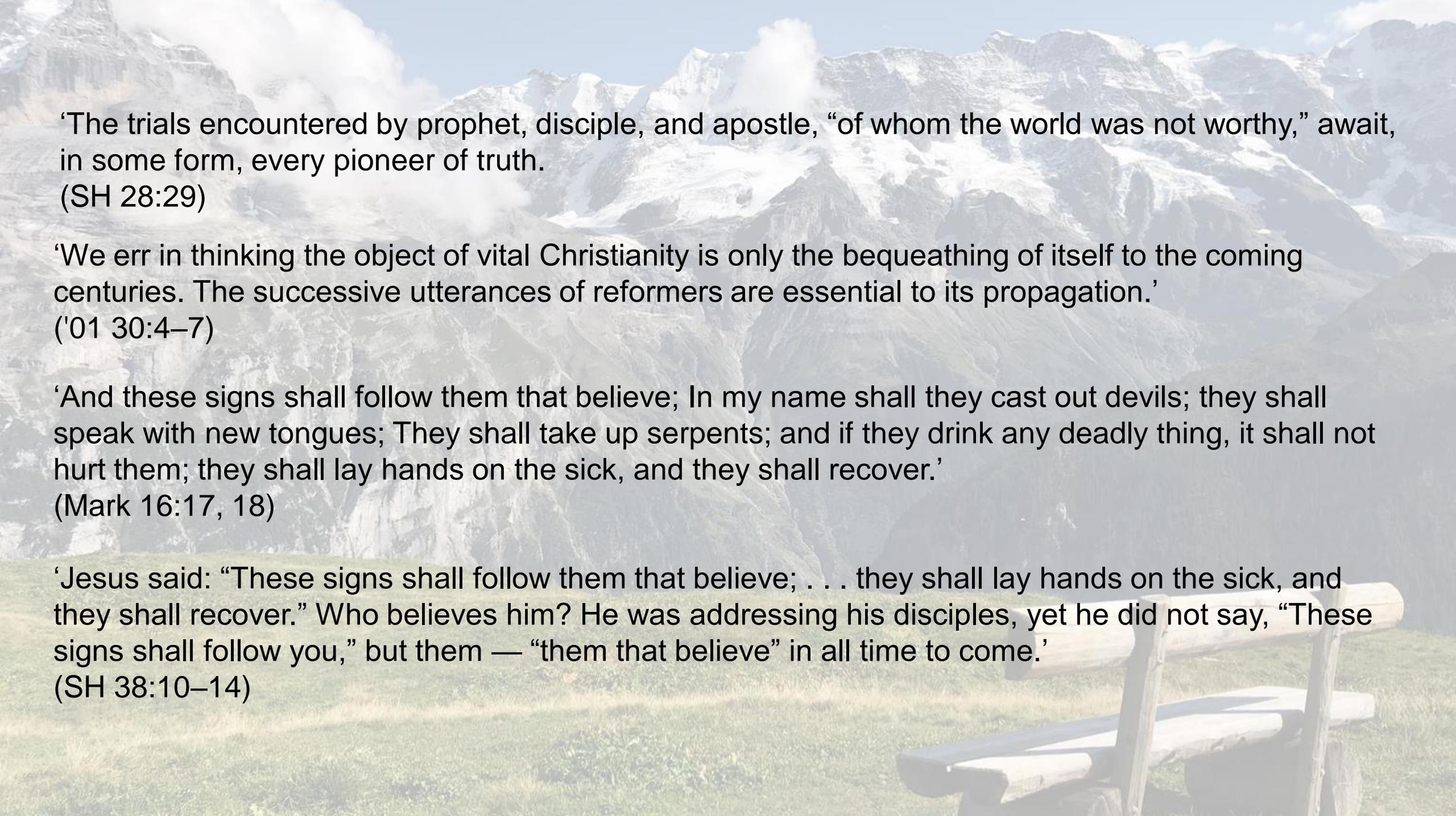


‘This purpose is immense, and it must begin with individual growth, a “consummation devoutly to be wished.” The lives of all reformers attest the authenticity of their mission, and call the world to acknowledge its divine Principle. Truly is it written: — “Thou must be true thyself, if thou the truth would'st teach; Thy heart must overflow, if thou another's heart would'st reach.” Science is absolute and final. It is revolutionary in its very nature; for it upsets all that is not upright.’

(Mis. 98:21–2)

‘From beginning to end, the Scriptures are full of accounts of the triumph of Spirit, Mind, over matter. Moses proved the power of Mind by what men called miracles; so did Joshua, Elijah, and Elisha. The Christian era was ushered in with signs and wonders. Reforms have commonly been attended with bloodshed and persecution, even when the end has been brightness and peace; but the present new, yet old, reform in religious faith will teach men patiently and wisely to stem the tide of sectarian bitterness, whenever it flows inward’

(SH 139:4)

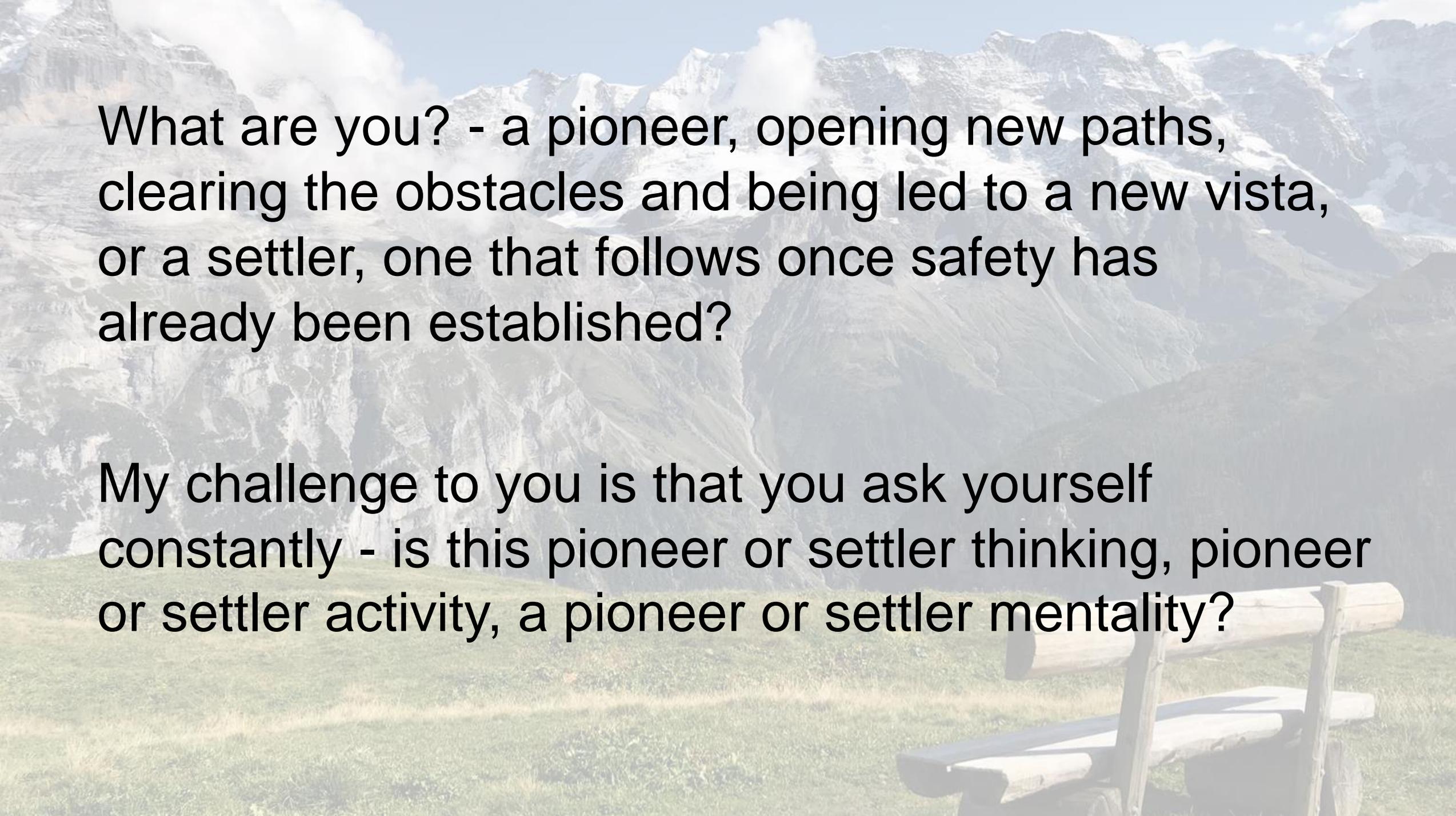
A scenic view of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and a wooden bench in the foreground. The mountains are rugged and partially covered in snow, with some clouds or mist around the peaks. The foreground shows a grassy field and a simple wooden bench made of logs.

‘The trials encountered by prophet, disciple, and apostle, “of whom the world was not worthy,” await, in some form, every pioneer of truth.
(SH 28:29)

‘We err in thinking the object of vital Christianity is only the bequeathing of itself to the coming centuries. The successive utterances of reformers are essential to its propagation.’
(’01 30:4–7)

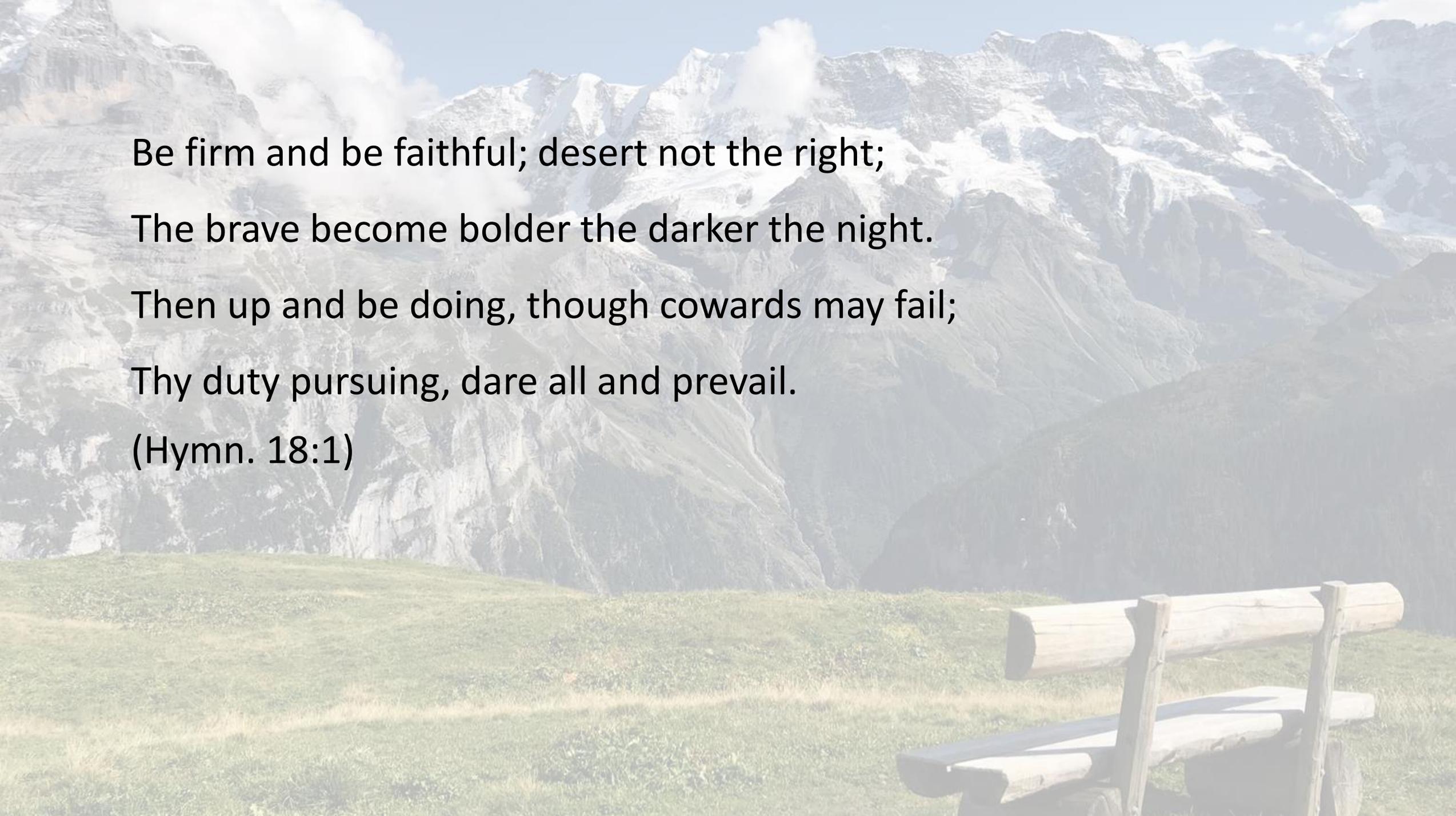
‘And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.’
(Mark 16:17, 18)

‘Jesus said: “These signs shall follow them that believe; . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” Who believes him? He was addressing his disciples, yet he did not say, “These signs shall follow you,” but them — “them that believe” in all time to come.’
(SH 38:10–14)

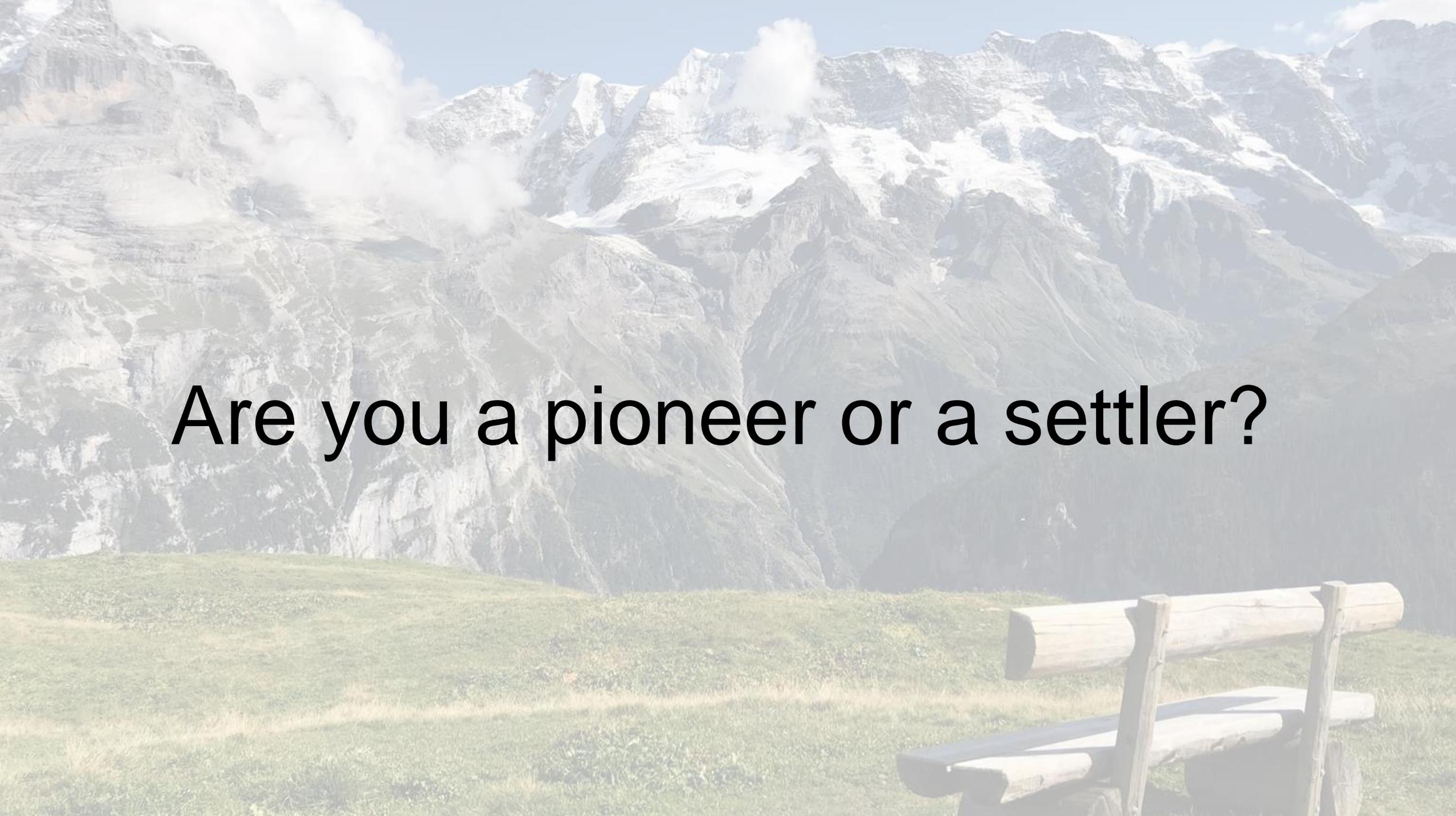
A scenic view of a mountain range with a wooden bench in the foreground. The mountains are rugged and partially covered in snow, with a clear blue sky and some light clouds. The foreground shows a grassy field and a simple wooden bench made of logs.

What are you? - a pioneer, opening new paths, clearing the obstacles and being led to a new vista, or a settler, one that follows once safety has already been established?

My challenge to you is that you ask yourself constantly - is this pioneer or settler thinking, pioneer or settler activity, a pioneer or settler mentality?

A scenic view of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and a wooden bench in the foreground. The mountains are rugged and rocky, with patches of snow and glaciers. The sky is blue with some white clouds. In the foreground, there is a green grassy field and a simple wooden bench made of logs.

Be firm and be faithful; desert not the right;
The brave become bolder the darker the night.
Then up and be doing, though cowards may fail;
Thy duty pursuing, dare all and prevail.
(Hymn. 18:1)

A scenic view of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and a wooden bench in the foreground. The mountains are rugged and rocky, with patches of snow and glaciers. The sky is blue with some white clouds. In the foreground, there is a green grassy field and a simple wooden bench made of logs.

Are you a pioneer or a settler?