



If God is all loving and all powerful, why
does He allow bad things to happen?

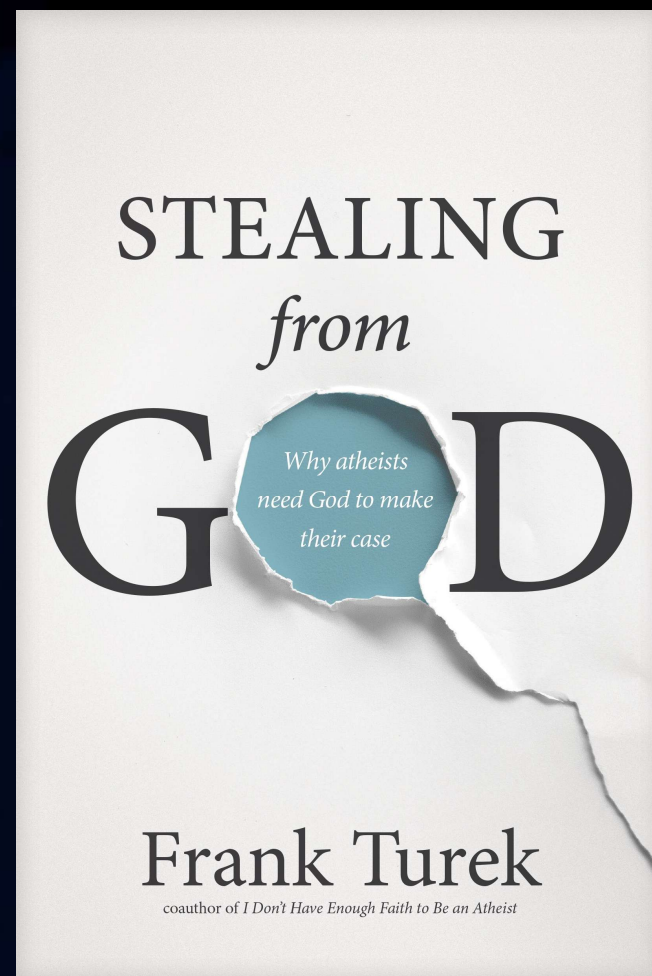


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5:00

until the class begins
please silence all cell phones

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happen



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1. What is the purpose of life?

- To know God

Jn 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they **know you**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

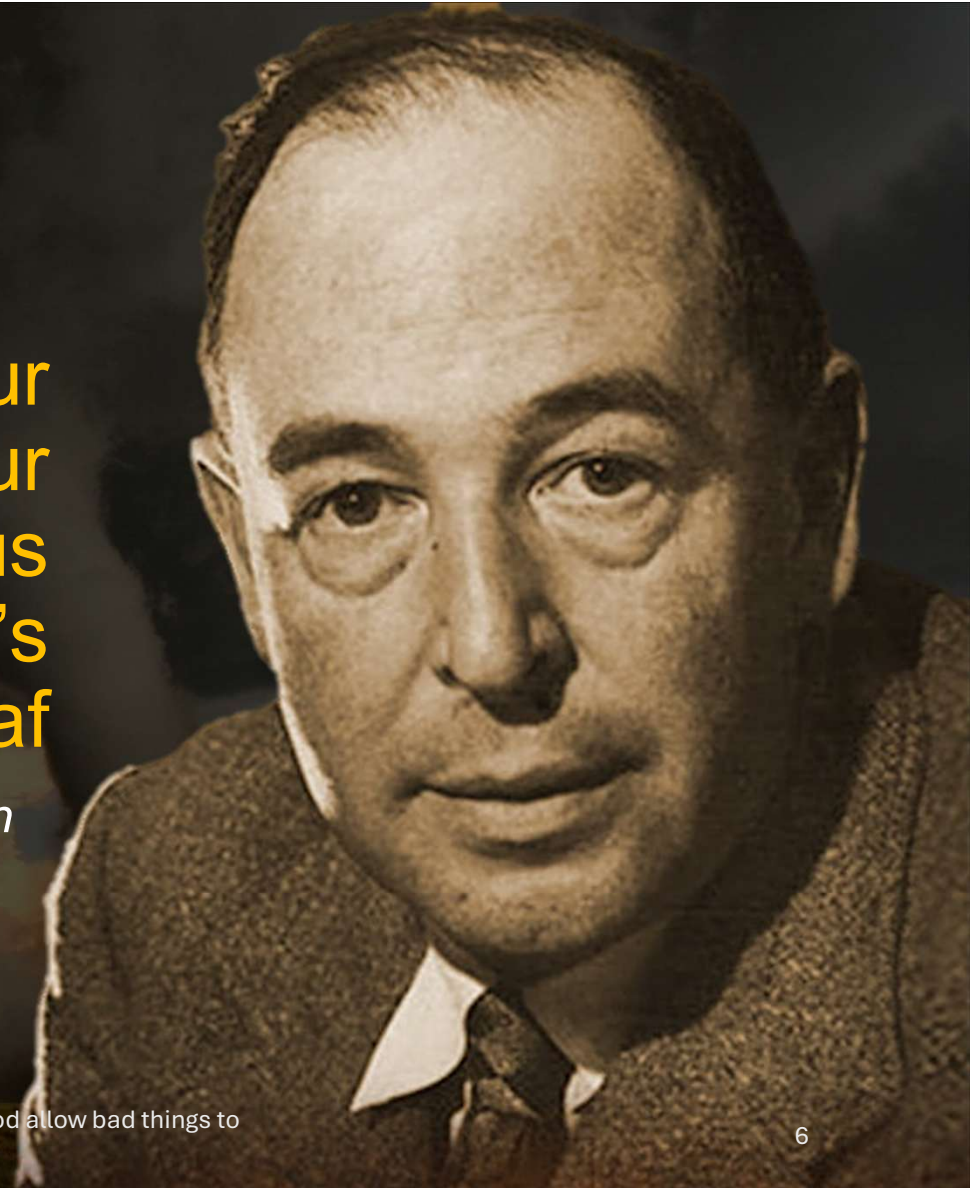
- Make Him known

Mt 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit



2. Knowing and growing in God requires pain

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts to us in our pain. Pain is God’s megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

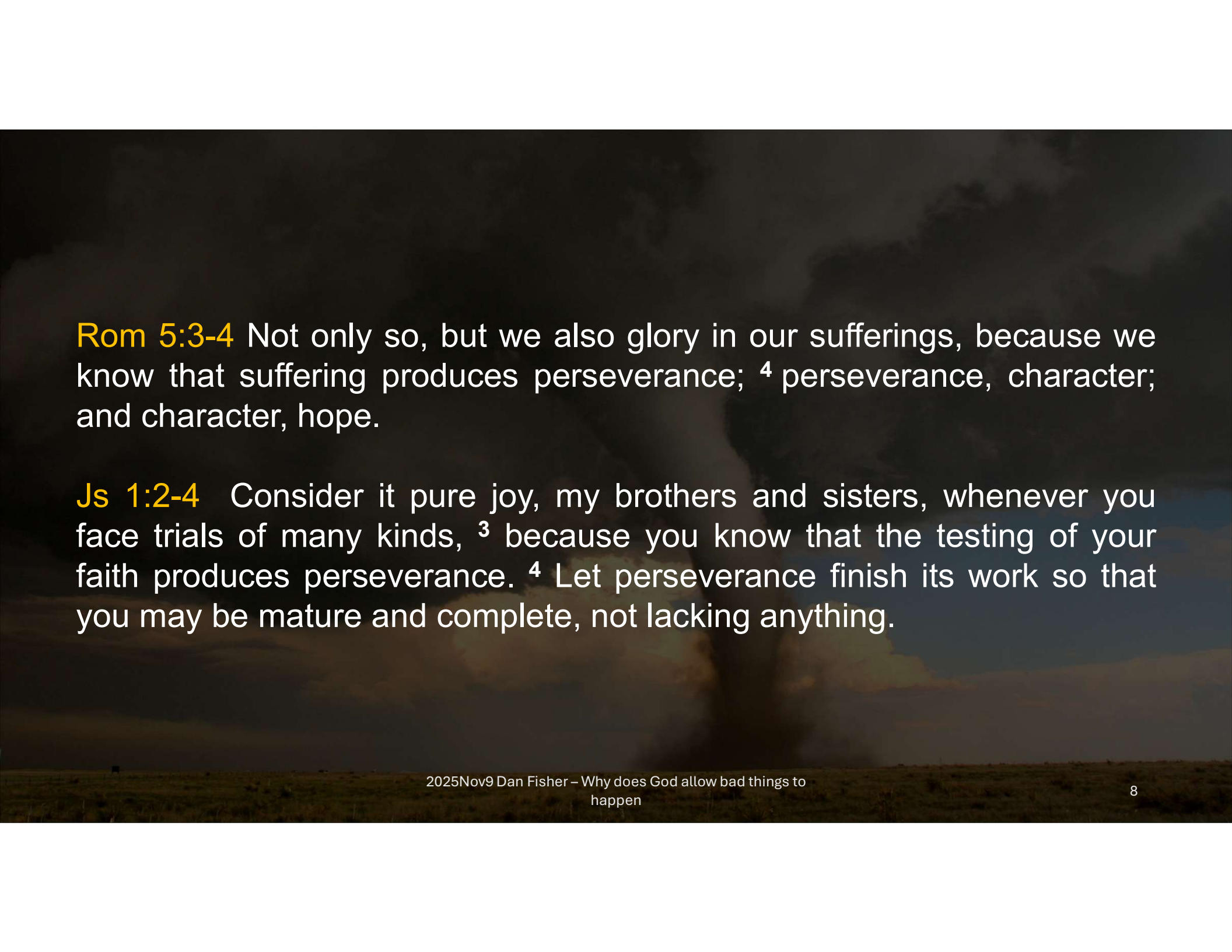


We need obstacles and problems

What happens if a person gets everything they want?

Mt 19:23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.





Rom 5:3-4 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Js 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

3. Some virtues can only be developed through difficulty & trial

- No courage without danger
- No perseverance without obstacles
- No compassion without suffering
- No patience without tribulation
- No character without adversity
- No faith without need



Frank Turek: “I’ve been praying for patience for a very long time, and frankly, I’m getting tired of waiting for it.”



No pain; no gain.
More pain; more gain.



4. Believers have always – and will always experience difficulties and persecution



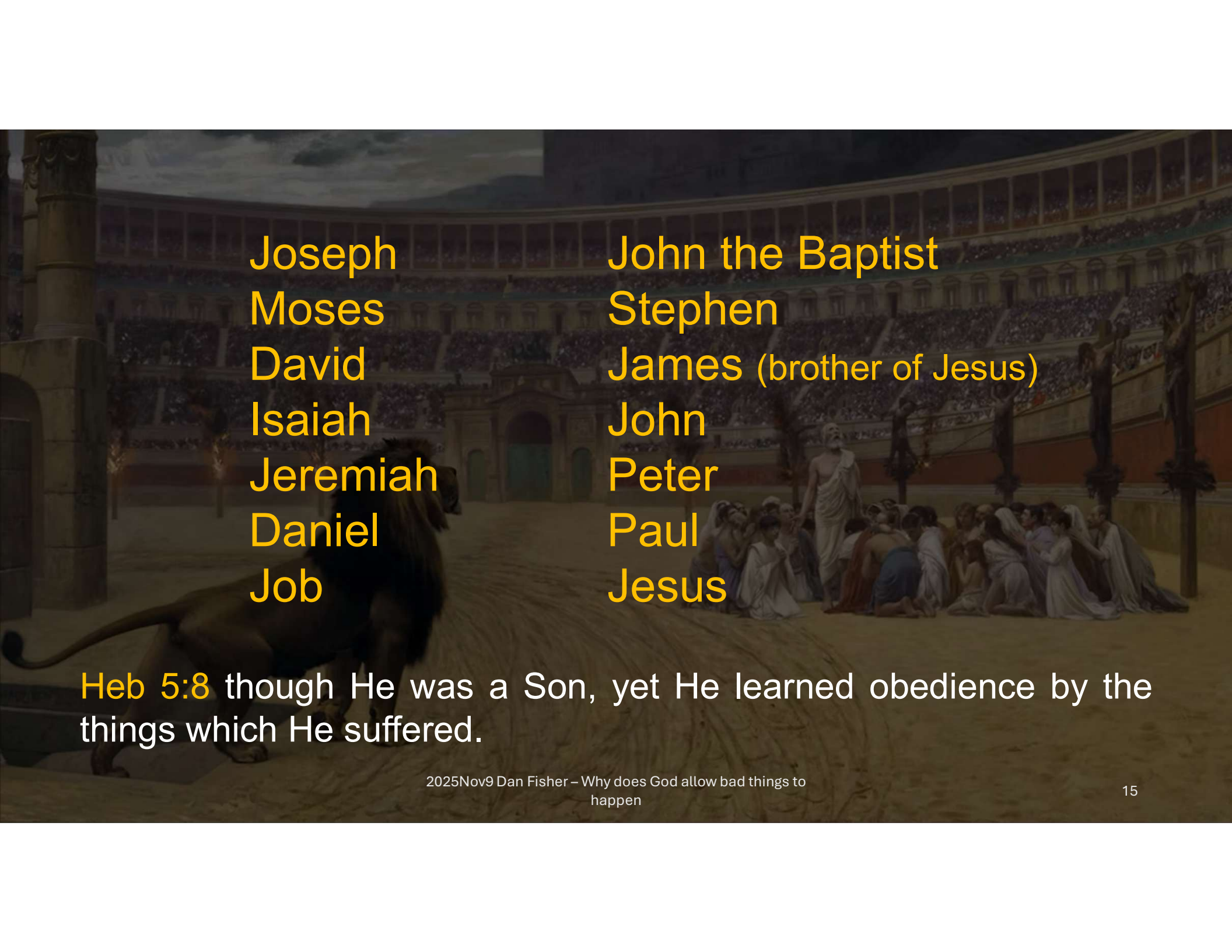
Acts 14:22 [Paul & Barnabas] “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,”

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2 Tim 3:12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

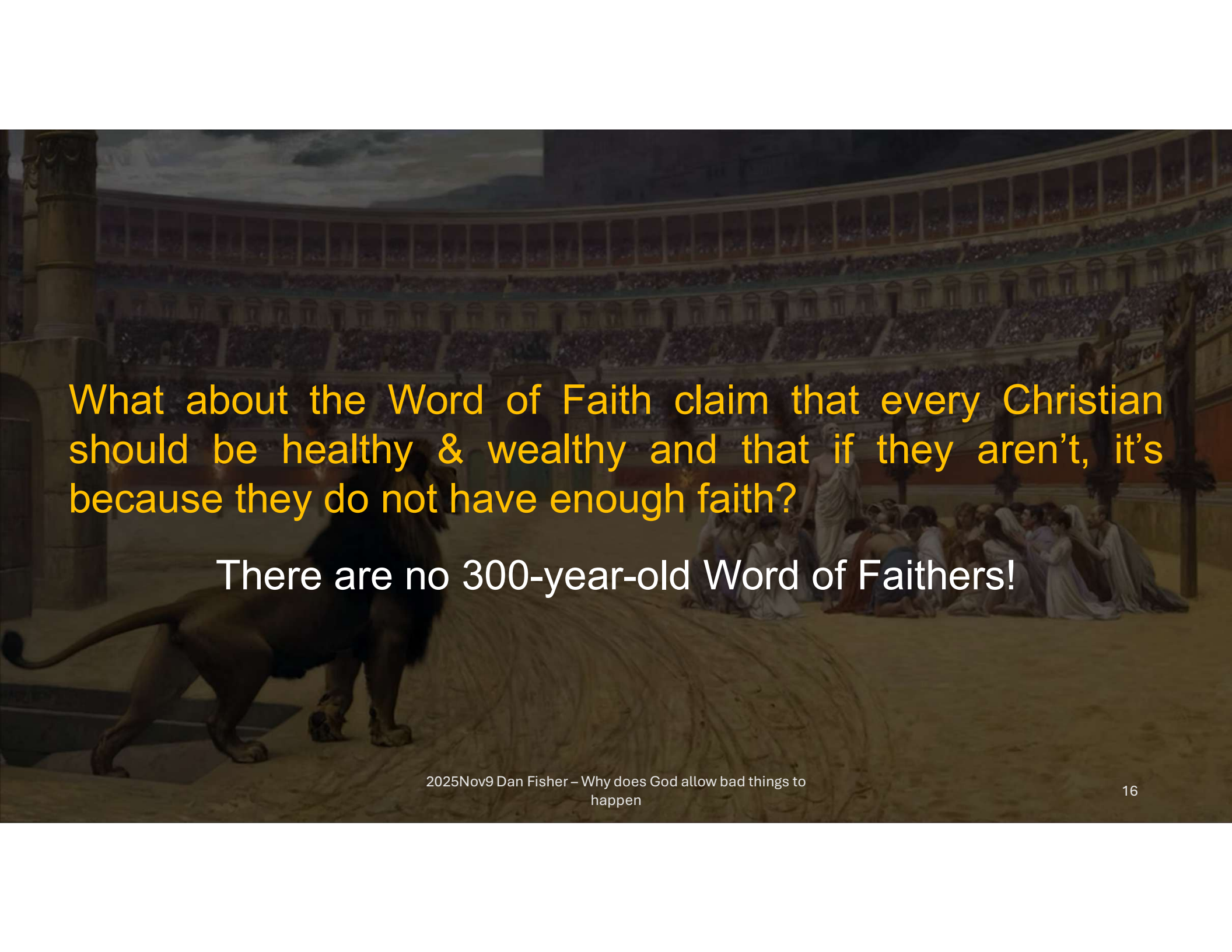
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Joseph
Moses
David
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Daniel
Job

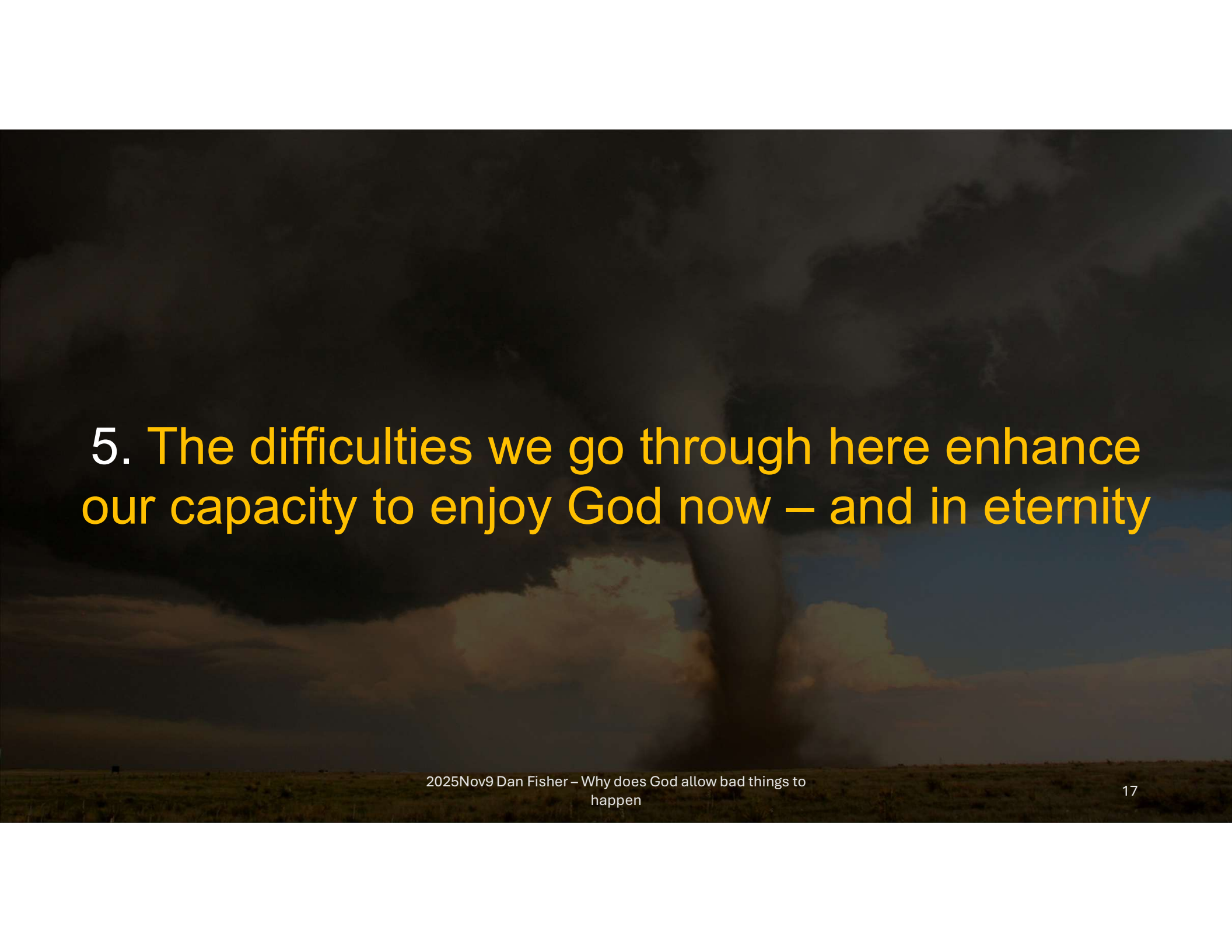
John the Baptist
Stephen
James (brother of Jesus)
John
Peter
Paul
Jesus

Heb 5:8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

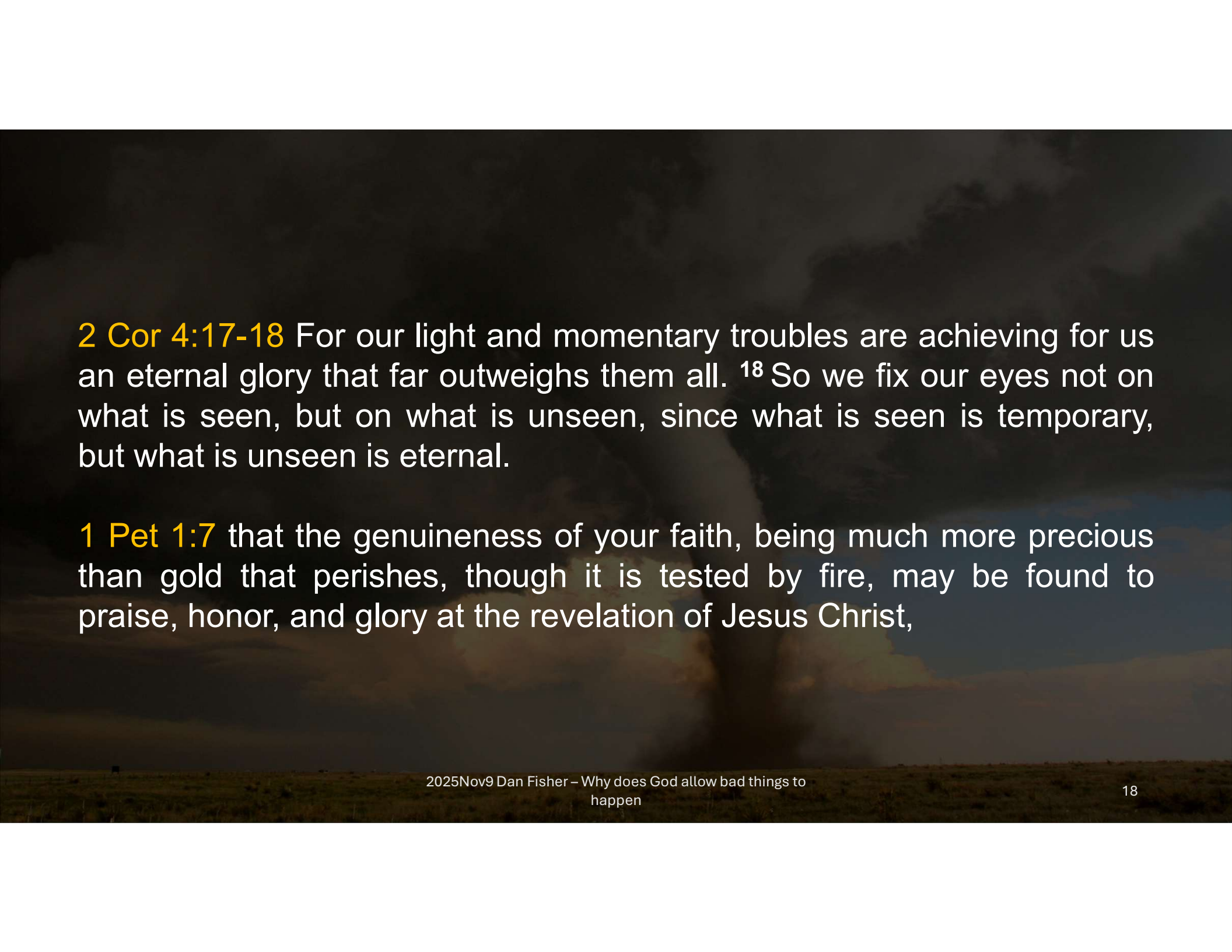
A painting of a Roman amphitheater, likely the Colosseum, filled with spectators. In the foreground, a lion stands on the sandy arena floor. In the background, a group of people, some in white robes and some in darker clothing, are gathered near a structure that looks like a cross or a monument. The scene is set during the day with a cloudy sky.

What about the Word of Faith claim that every Christian should be healthy & wealthy and that if they aren't, it's because they do not have enough faith?

There are no 300-year-old Word of Faithers!



5. The difficulties we go through here enhance our capacity to enjoy God now – and in eternity



2 Cor 4:17-18 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

1 Pet 1:7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,



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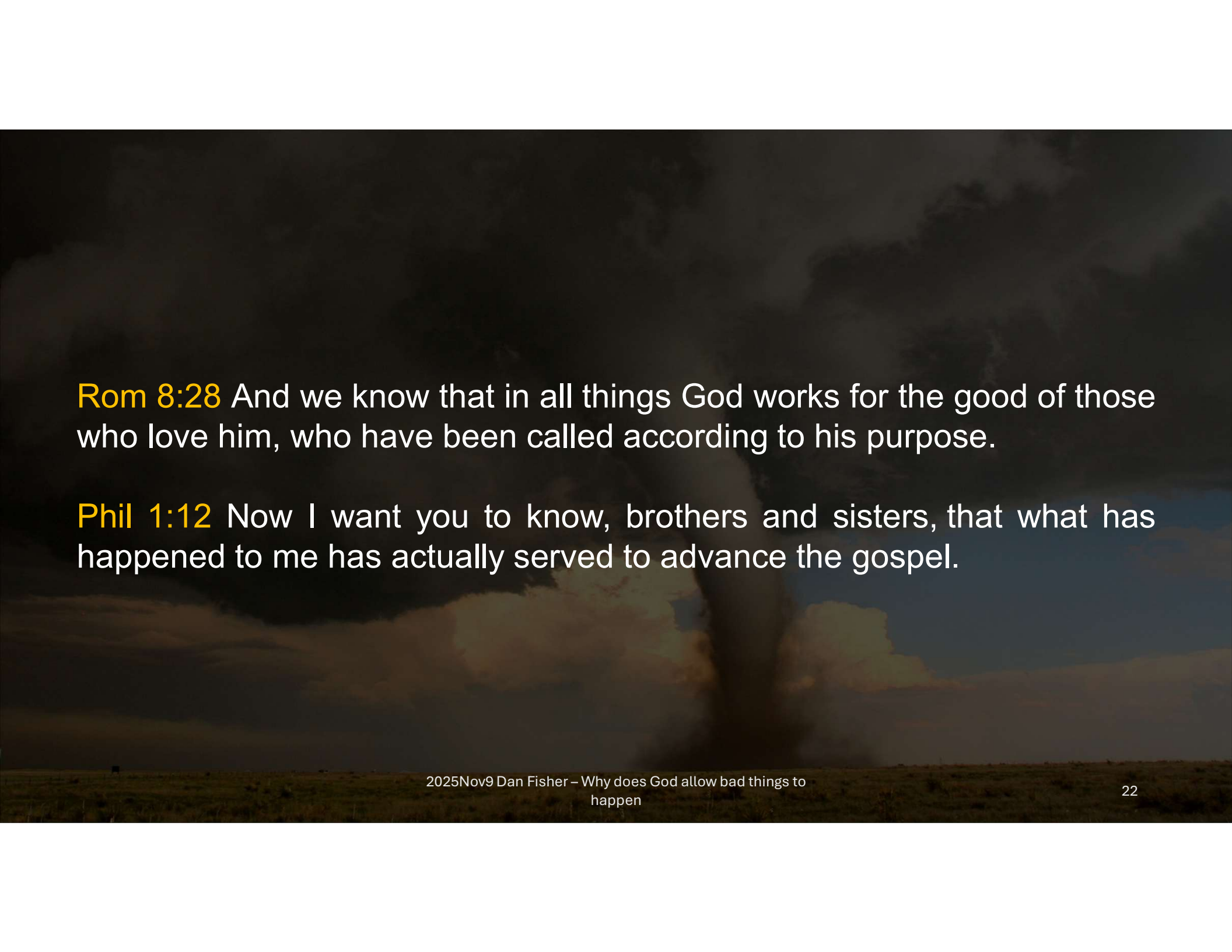


6. Suffering brings greater good



Atheist: “There is some evil that no good can come from it.”

- If life ends at death, then that is true – Hitler never faces judgment.
- If life goes beyond the grave, then ...



Rom 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Phil 1:12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.



God can bring good from evil – even when we cannot see it.
Joseph – you meant it for evil but God meant it for good (Gen 50:20)



7. We know why we don't know why everything happens – we are finite and God is infinite.



He knows the end from the beginning.

If God is all loving and all powerful, why doesn't he stop evil? **People forget that God is all wise**

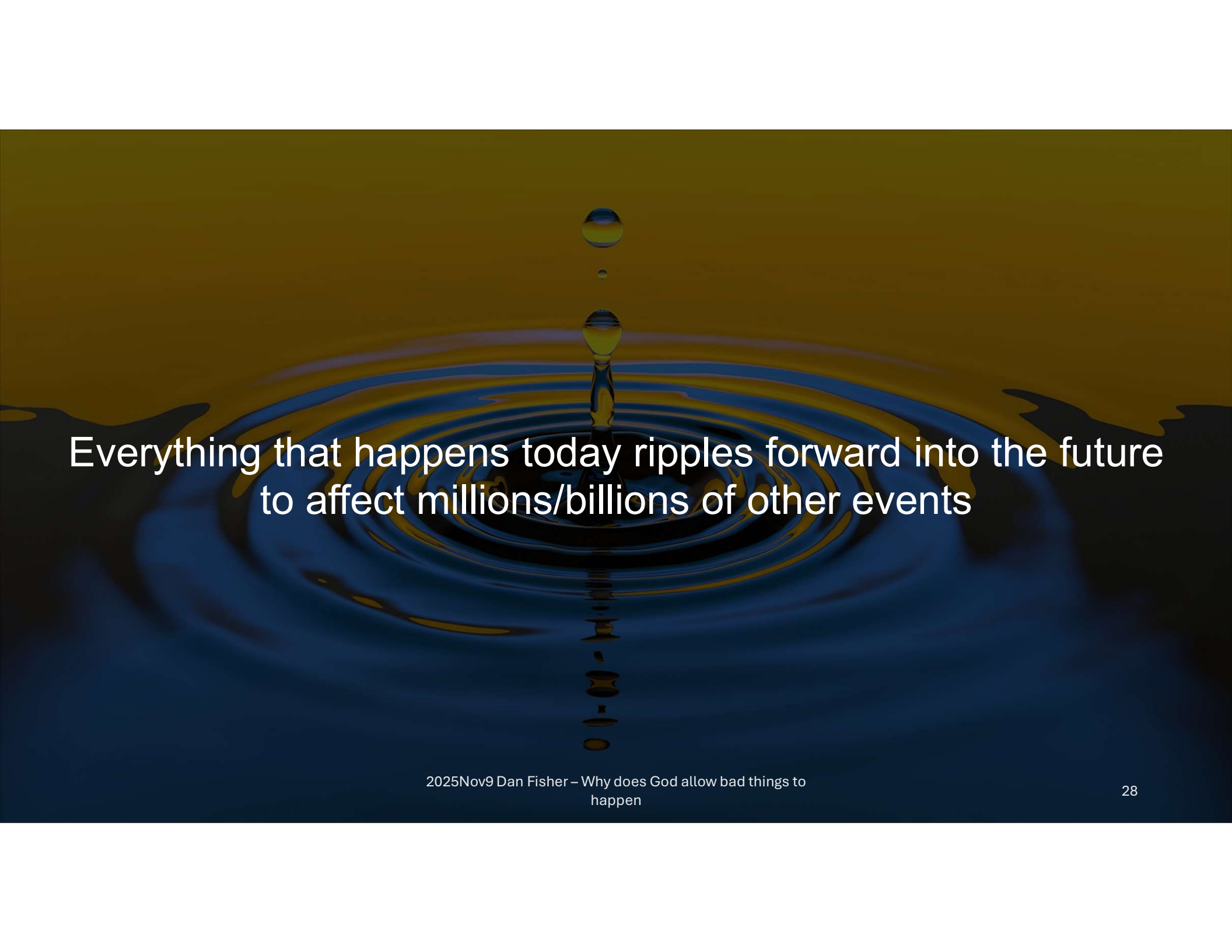
Jacques-Marie-Louis Monsabre:

"If God would concede my His power for 24 hours, you would see how many changes I would make in the world. But if He gave me His wisdom too, I would leave things as they are."



A high-speed photograph of a water droplet falling into a pool of water. The droplet is captured mid-fall, just above the point of impact. Below it, a series of concentric ripples spread outwards from the center. The background is a solid, bright yellow. The water surface is a deep blue, and the ripples are highlighted with a golden-yellow glow.

8. The “ripple effect”

A high-speed photograph of a water droplet falling into a pool of water. The droplet is captured mid-fall, just above the point of impact. Below it, a series of concentric ripples spread outwards from the center. The water is dark blue, and the background is a solid, dark brownish-gold color. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the droplet and the ripples.

Everything that happens today ripples forward into the future
to affect millions/billions of other events



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