

A large, rusty anchor is the central focus, resting on a cluster of dark, jagged rocks. The anchor's shank is angled upwards, and its flukes are spread out. A chain is attached to the anchor's crown. The background is a dramatic, dark sky with heavy, grey clouds, suggesting a storm or a late evening. The overall mood is somber and evocative.

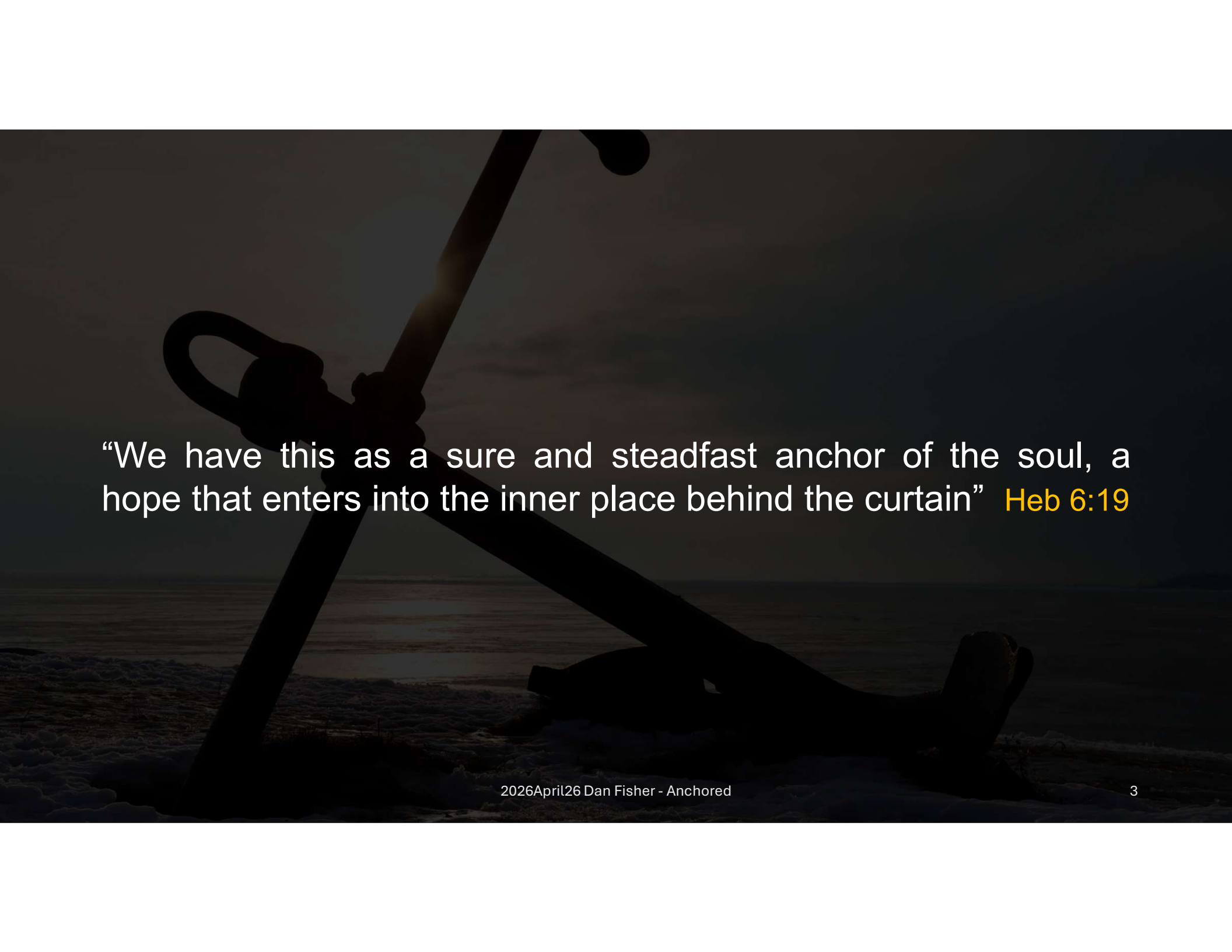
anchored

2026May3 Dan Fisher - Anchored Pt2

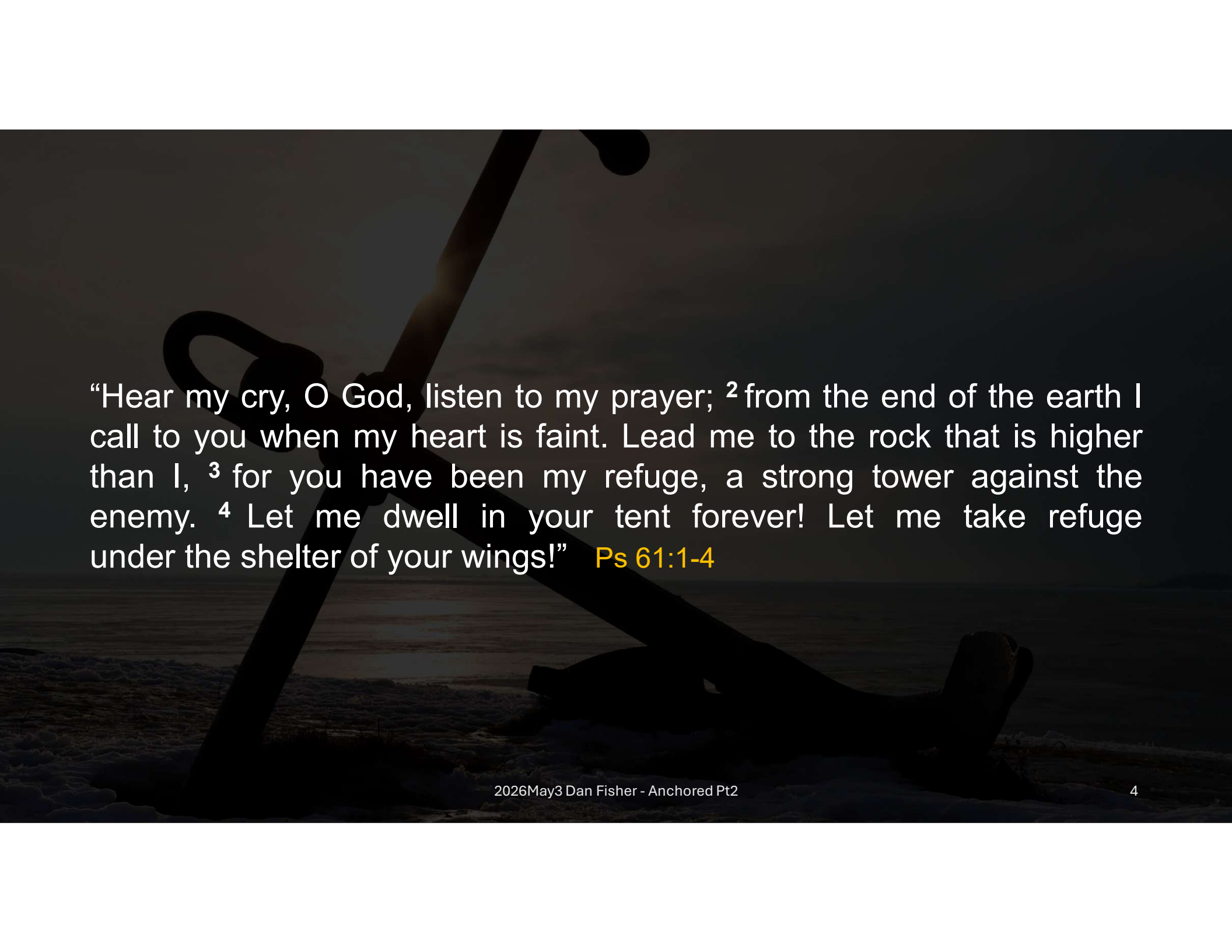
A weathered, dark metal anchor is positioned on a cluster of dark, jagged rocks. The background is a dramatic, dark blue and grey sky with heavy, rain-soaked clouds. The overall mood is somber and resilient. The text 'anchored' and 'part 2: storms' is overlaid in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

anchored

part 2: storms



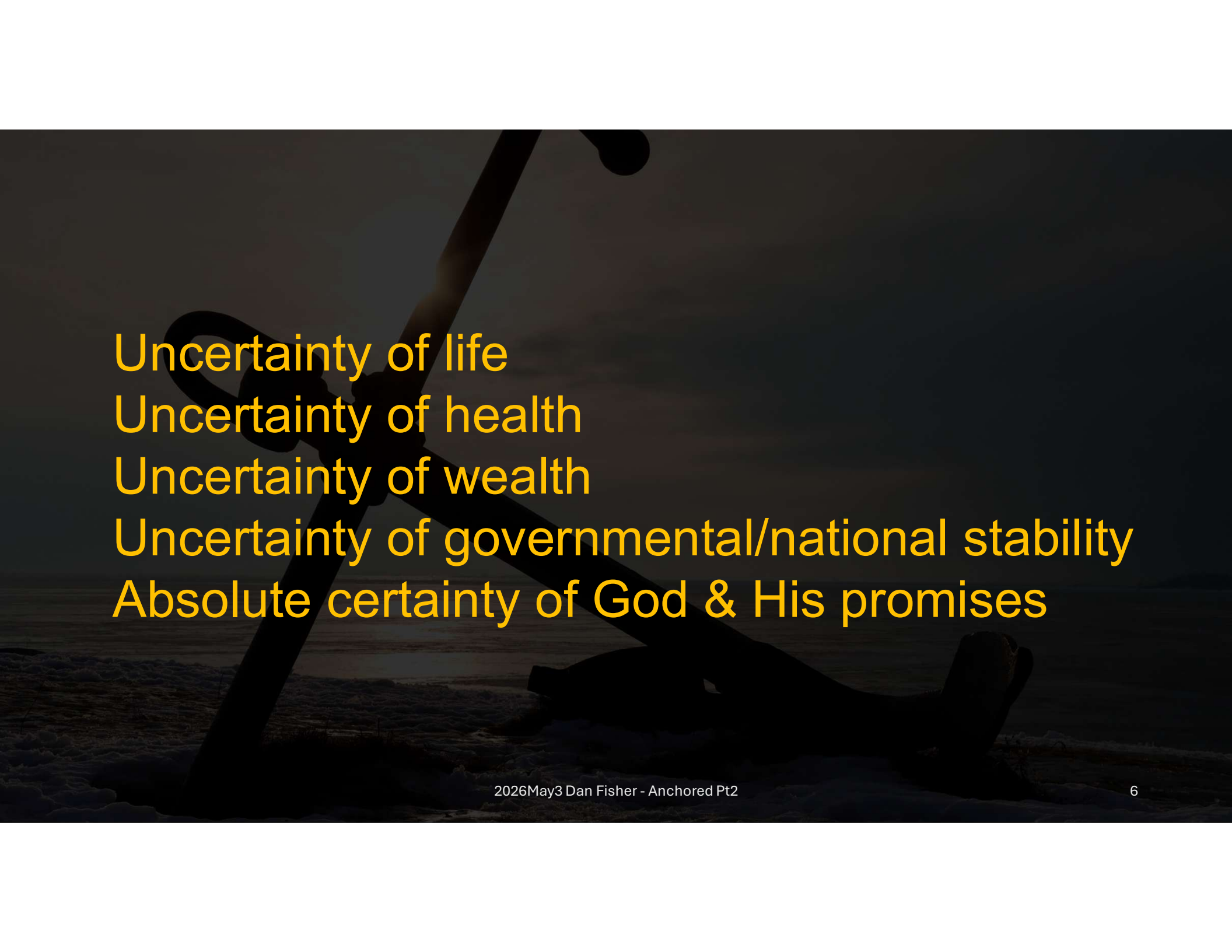
“We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain” **Heb 6:19**



“Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; ² from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I, ³ for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy. ⁴ Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings!” **Ps 61:1-4**

A large, dark silhouette of an anchor is positioned on a sandy beach. The anchor's shank is vertical, and its flukes are spread out. The background shows a calm sea meeting a dark, overcast sky at the horizon. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

Scripture warns of difficulty and
uncertainty as a fact of life



Uncertainty of life
Uncertainty of health
Uncertainty of wealth
Uncertainty of governmental/national stability
Absolute certainty of God & His promises

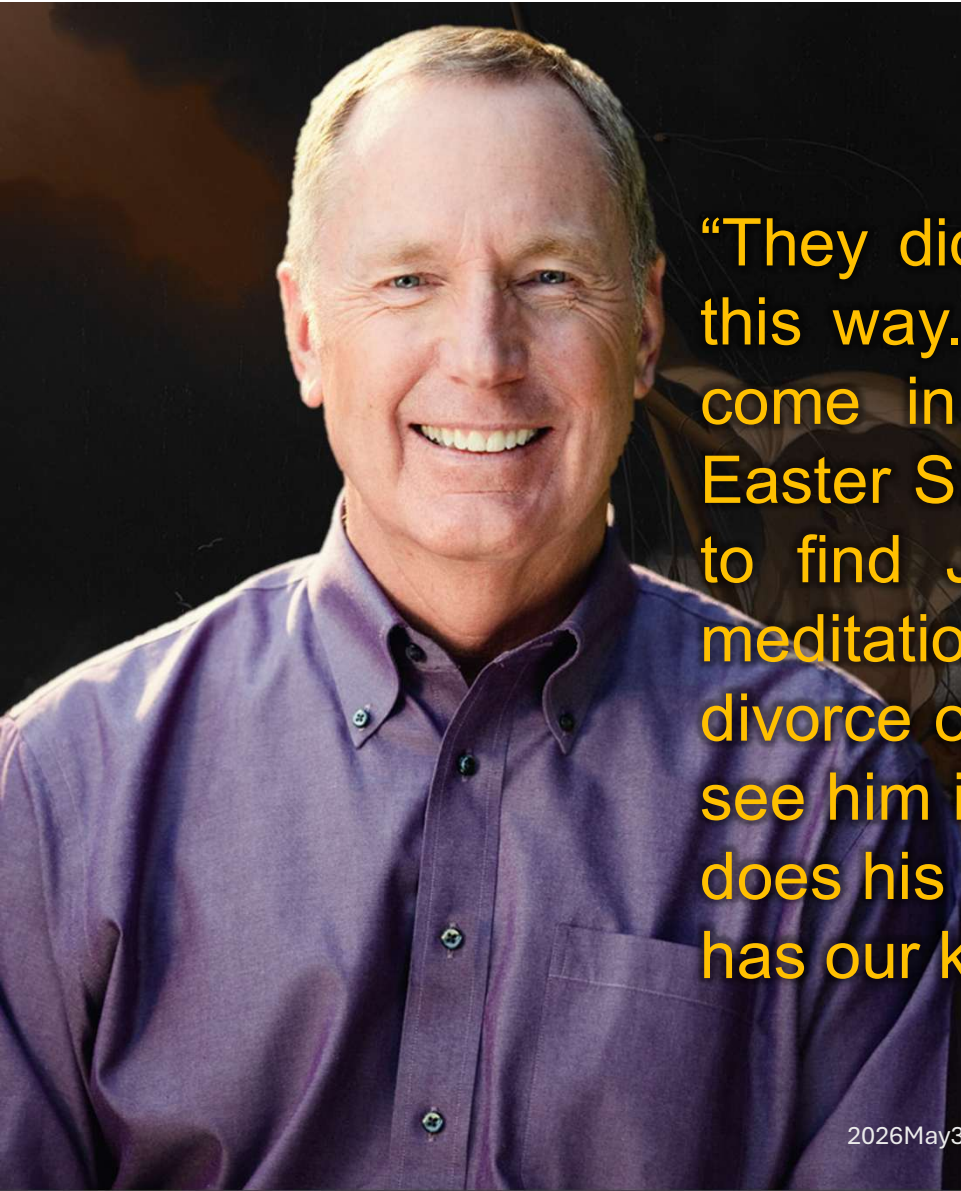


After Jesus' disciples fought a raging storm for nine cold hours, at about 4:00am the unspeakable happened:

“Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” **Mt 14:25-27**



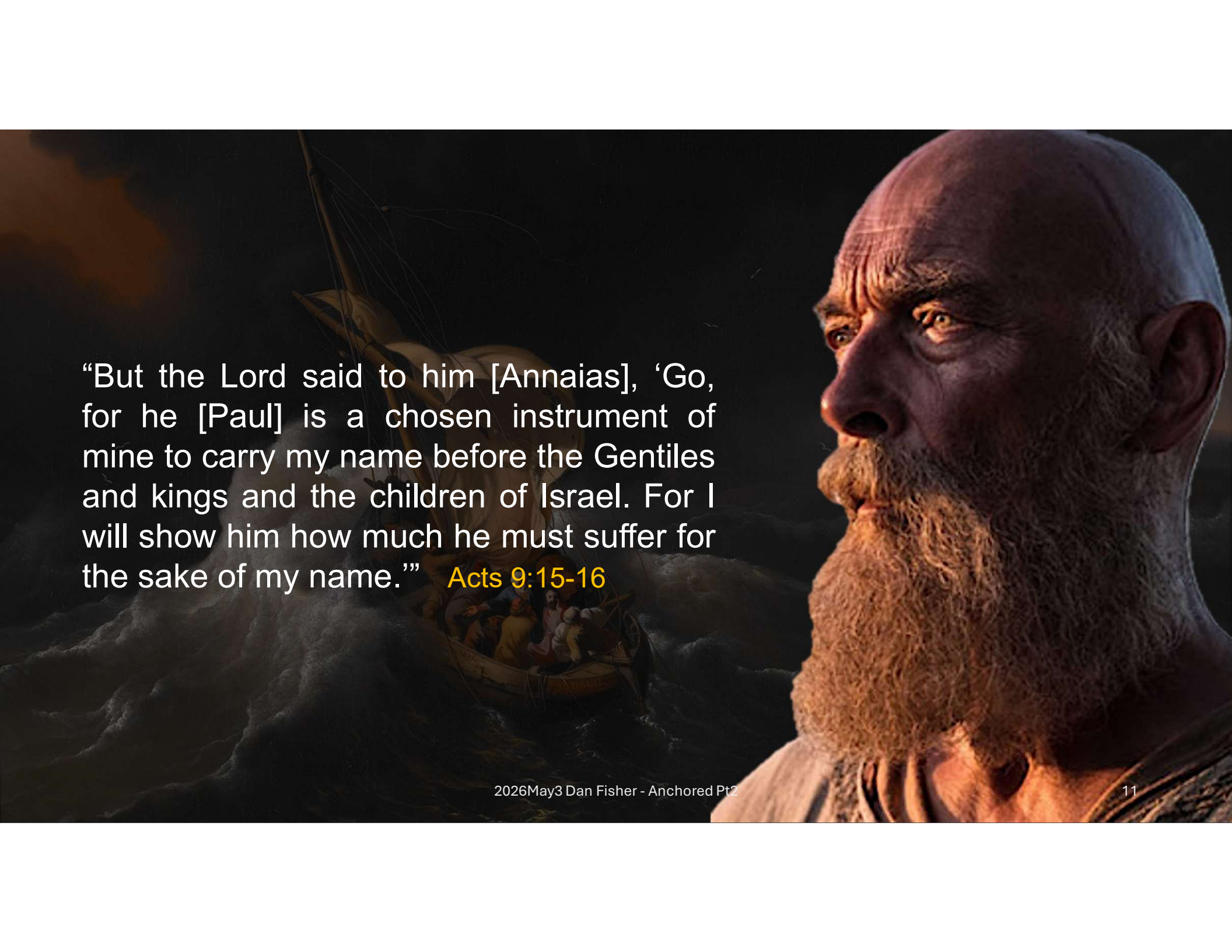
“Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.” **Mt 14:22-24**



“They didn’t expect Jesus to come to them this way. Neither do we. We expect him to come in the form of peaceful hymns on Easter Sundays or quiet retreats. We expect to find Jesus in morning devotionals and meditations. We never expect to see him in a divorce or a foreclosure. We never expect to see him in a storm. But it’s in a storm that he does his finest work, for it is in storms that he has our keenest attention.” Max Lucado, *Fearless*



The Apostle Paul is a great
example for us



“But the Lord said to him [Annaias], ‘Go, for he [Paul] is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.’” **Acts 9:15-16**

“in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness – ²⁸ besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.” **2 Cor 11:23-28**

“For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. ¹⁰ We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. ¹¹ To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, ¹² and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.” **1 Cor 4:9-13**

Physical and External Persecution

- **Violence:** stoned at Lystra, beaten by mobs, and received 39 stripes from Jewish leaders five times
- **Imprisonment:** imprisoned for over five years for preaching the gospel, notably in Rome and other cities
- **Perils in ministry:** faced constant danger from his own countrymen and Gentiles, including attacks in Damascus and Ephesus
- **Physical hardship:** suffered from shipwreck (three times), abandonment, sleeplessness, hunger, thirst, and lack of clothing


Relational Challenges

- **Opposed by former Jewish friends:** hated by former colleagues for becoming a Christian
- **Suffered harm from enemies:**
 - **Demetrius** the Silversmith (Acts 19:24-41)
 - **Alexander** the Coppersmith (2 Tim 4:14)
- **Church conflict:** dealt with “false brethren” and faced constant opposition to his apostolic authority
- **Betrayal from colleagues**
 - **Demas** deserted him due to a love for the world (2 Tim 4:10)
 - **John Mark** deserted him on a missionary journey (Acts 13:13)
 - **Hymenaeus & Alexander** shipwrecked their faith (1 Tim 1:18-20)
 - **Phygelus & Hermogenes** abandoned him in Asia (2 Tim 1:15)



Internal and Emotional Challenges

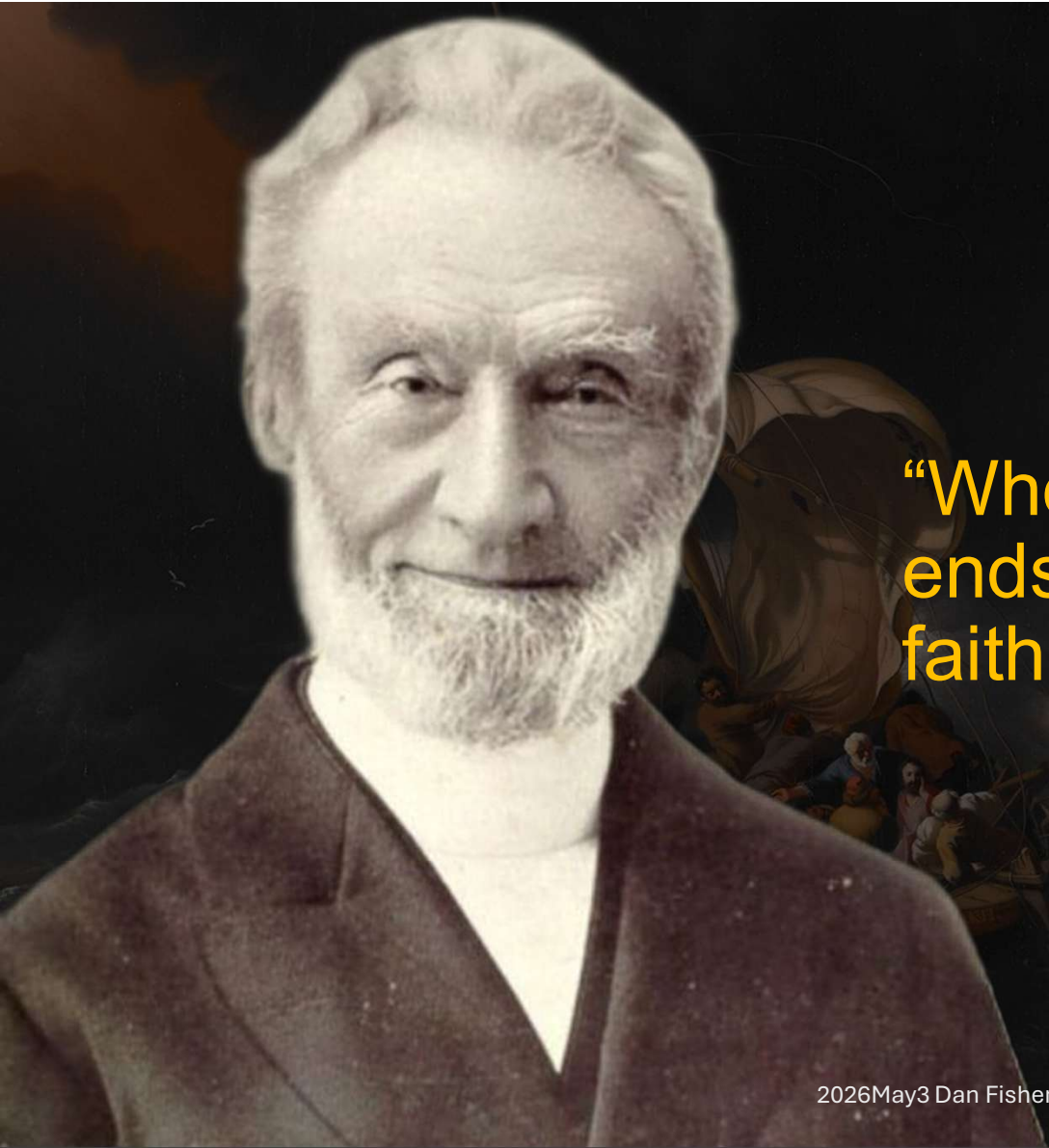
- **His “thorn in the flesh”:** endured a persistent, agonizing “problem” (a messenger of Satan) that God would not remove
- **Constant care for the churches:** felt a daily burden for the welfare of the churches he established, dealing with false teachings and internal strife
- **Emotional distress:** experienced exhaustion and often described himself as a “dying” man due to the constant threat of death

A dramatic painting of a sailboat in a stormy sea at night. The boat is small and crowded with people, struggling against large, dark waves under a dark, stormy sky. The scene is lit with a low, dramatic light, possibly from a moon or a distant light source, creating a sense of peril and struggle.

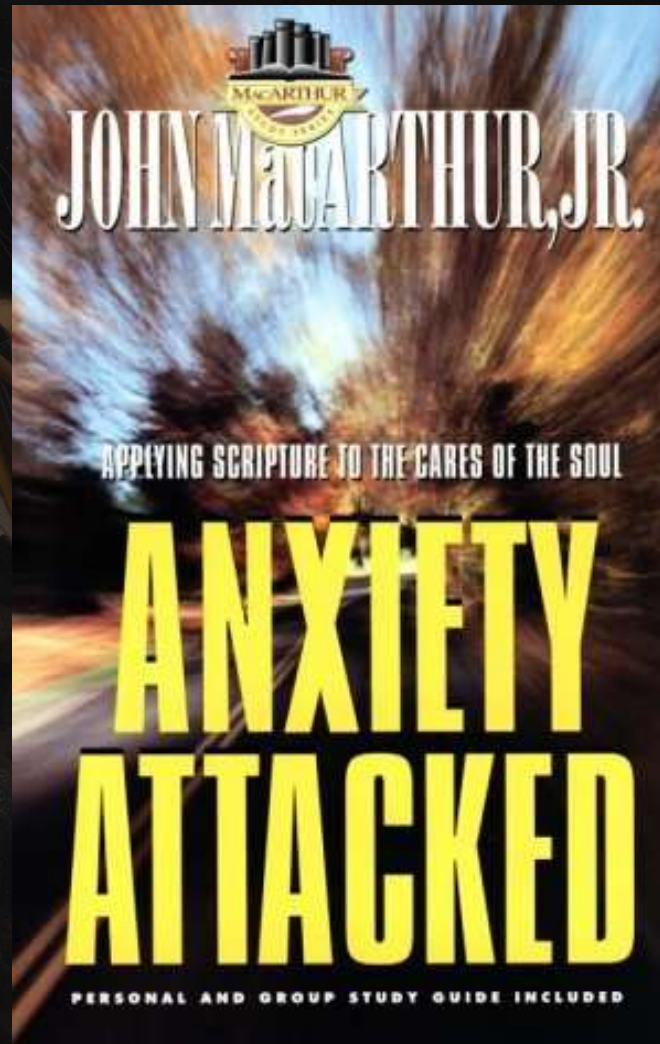
“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” Mt 6:34



Worry comes from the Old English term *wyrgan*, which means: “to choke” or “strangle”



“Where faith begins, anxiety ends; where anxiety begins, faith ends.” George Muller



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1. What gets to us must first go through God

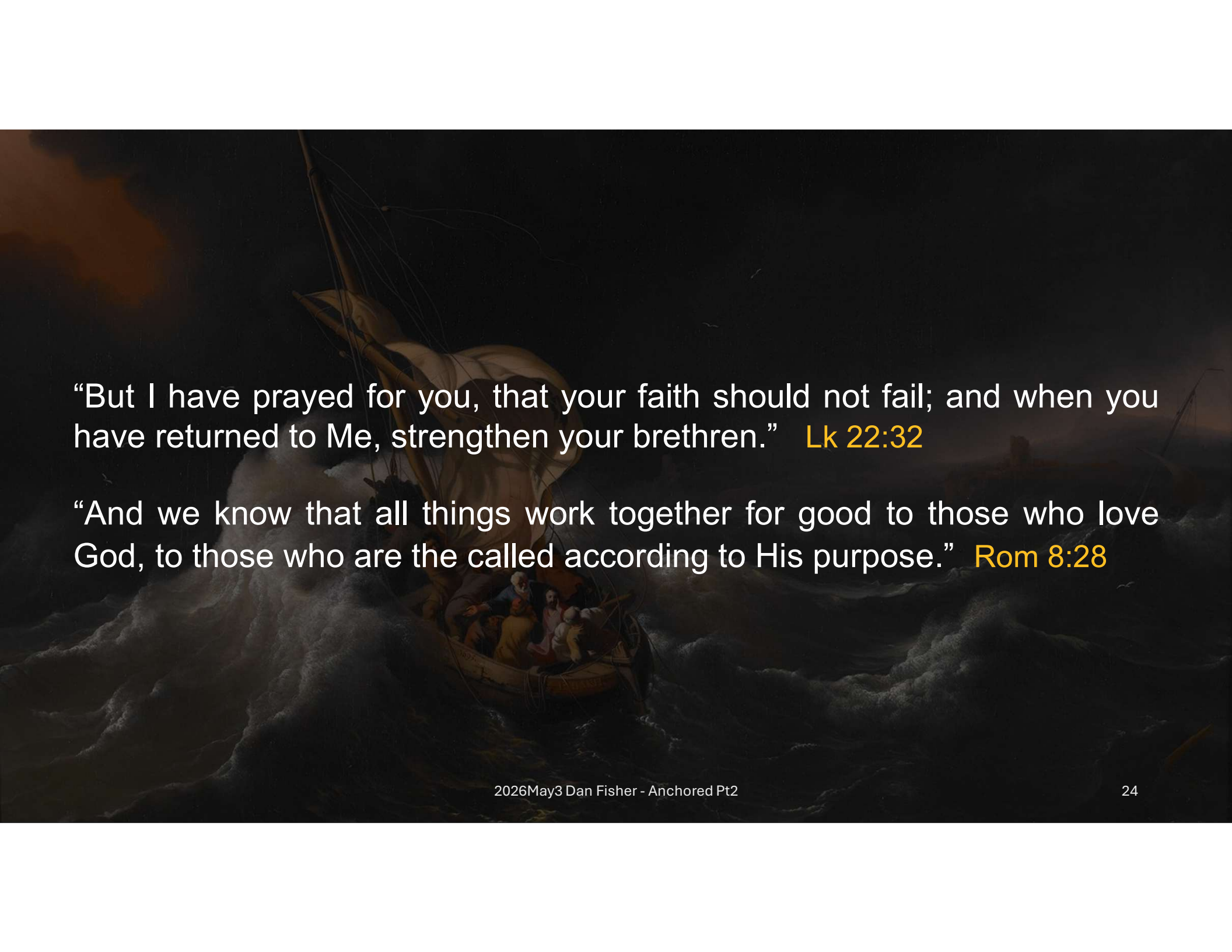
A dramatic painting of a stormy sea. A small wooden boat is filled with people, struggling against dark, turbulent waves under a dark, stormy sky. The scene is lit with dramatic, low-key lighting, emphasizing the perilous situation.

Job 1:11-12; 2:5-6

“And the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon! behold, Satan has desired to have you [asked for you], that he may sift you as wheat.’” **Lk 22:31**



2. God is always in your court



“But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” **Lk 22:32**

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” **Rom 8:28**

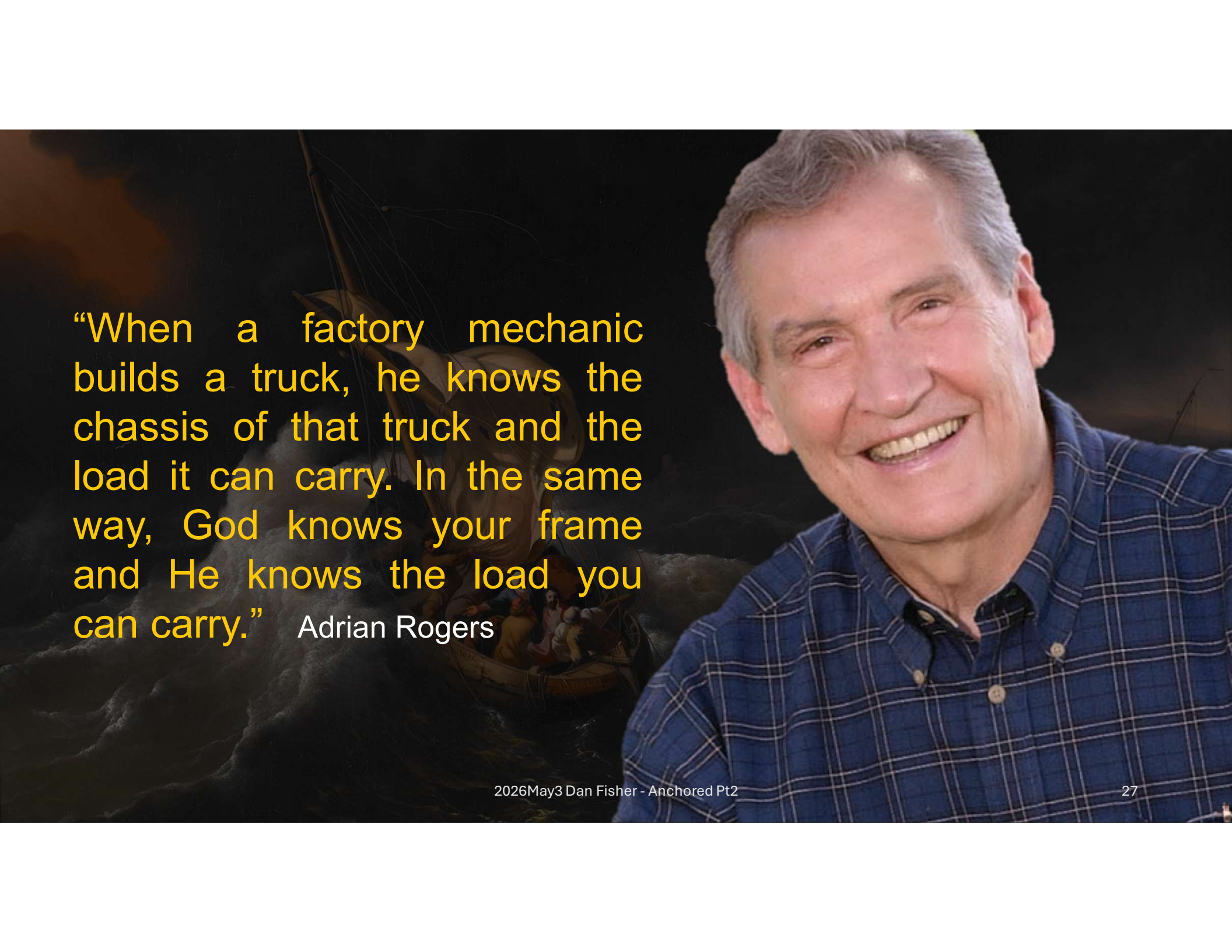


3. God knows how much you can bear and never allows the load to exceed your limit

A dramatic painting of a ship's crew in a small boat amidst a stormy sea at night. The scene is dark and turbulent, with large, white-capped waves crashing around the boat. The crew members are huddled together, some looking towards the viewer with expressions of concern and determination. The lighting is low, highlighting the textures of the water and the figures in the boat. The overall mood is one of peril and struggle.

“For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.” Ps 103:14

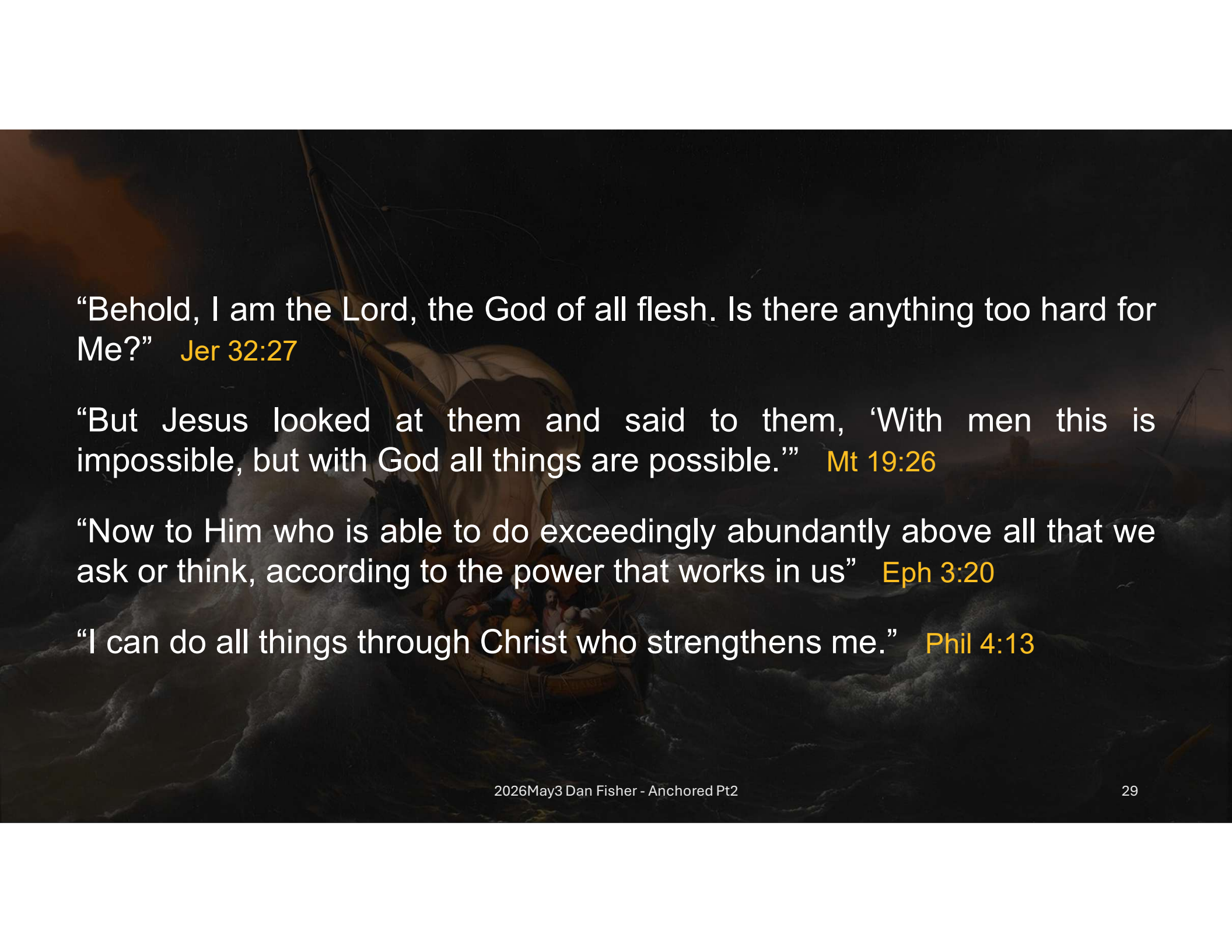
“God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” 1 Cor 10:13



“When a factory mechanic builds a truck, he knows the chassis of that truck and the load it can carry. In the same way, God knows your frame and He knows the load you can carry.” Adrian Rogers



4. Nothing is too hard for God



“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?” **Jer 32:27**

“But Jesus looked at them and said to them, ‘With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’” **Mt 19:26**

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” **Eph 3:20**

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” **Phil 4:13**

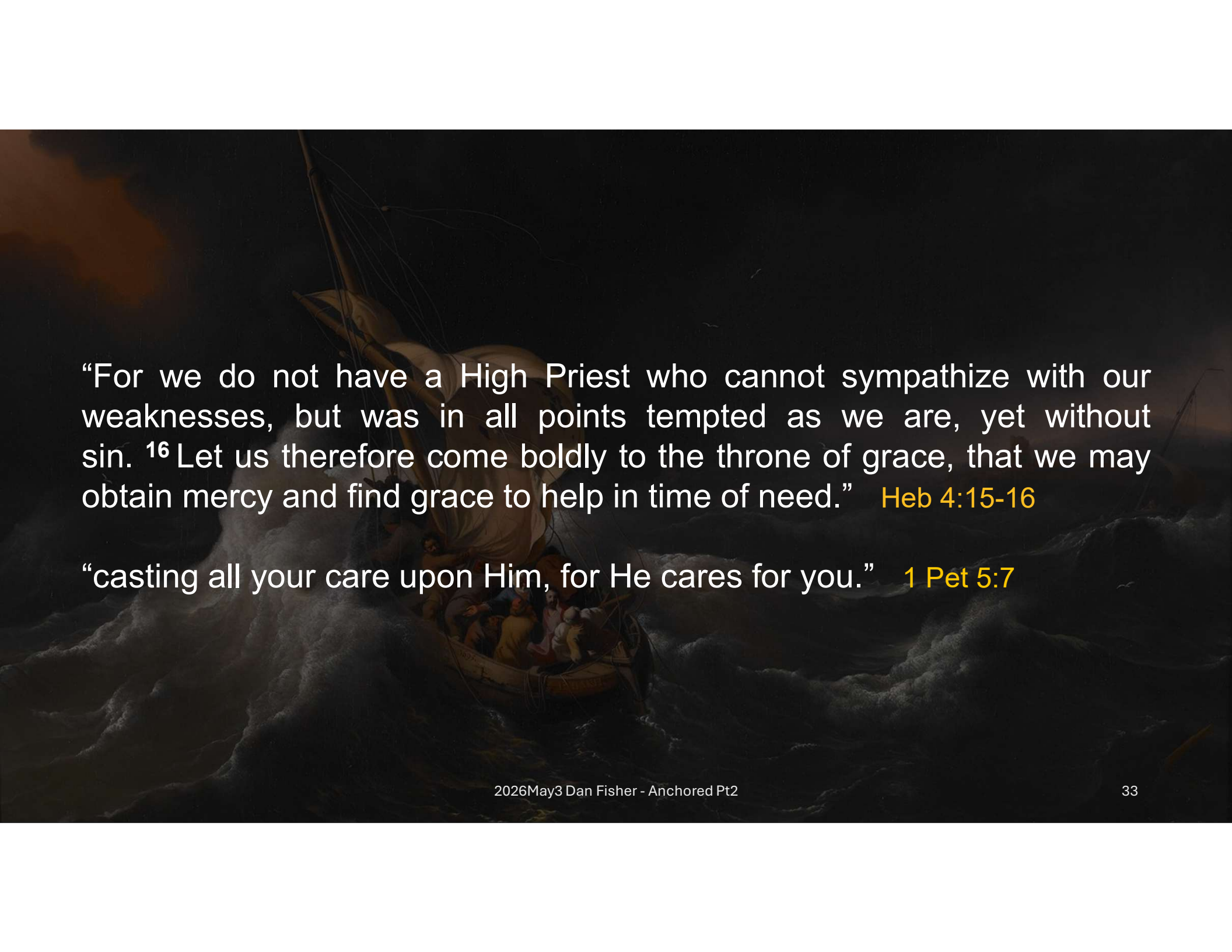


5. Others are looking out for you too

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- A dramatic painting of a small boat with people on a stormy sea at night. The scene is dark and turbulent, with large, white-capped waves crashing around the boat. The boat is filled with several people, some appearing to be in a state of distress or seeking refuge. The overall mood is one of peril and uncertainty.
- **Angels** (Heb 1:4)
 - **Family**
 - **Fellow believers**




6. Jesus understands and cares when you are in a storm

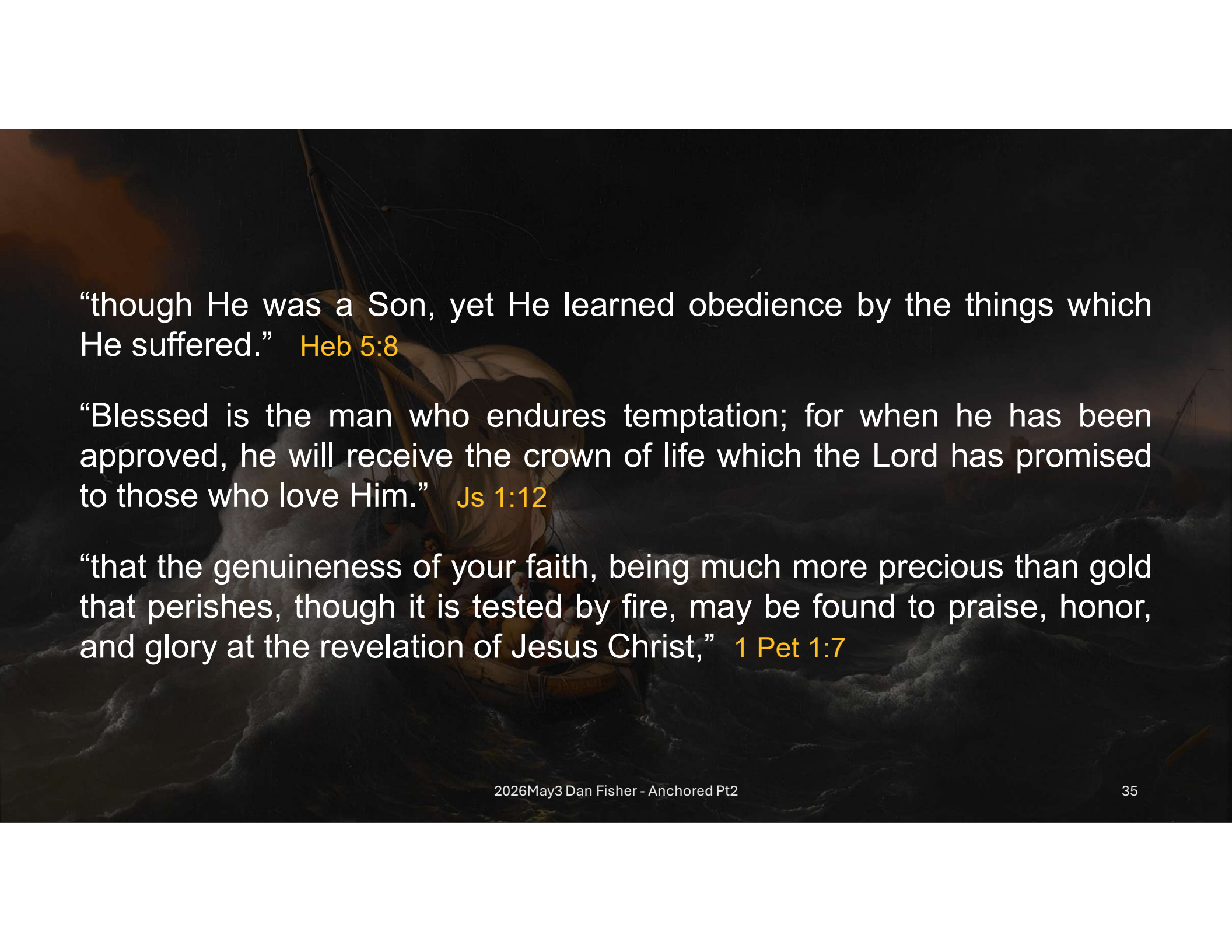


“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” **Heb 4:15-16**

“casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” **1 Pet 5:7**

A dramatic painting of a small boat with people navigating a stormy sea at night. The scene is dark and turbulent, with large, white-capped waves crashing around the boat. The boat is a small, wooden vessel with several people inside, some appearing to be struggling or working together. The sky is dark and stormy, with a faint light source on the horizon. The overall mood is one of peril and struggle.

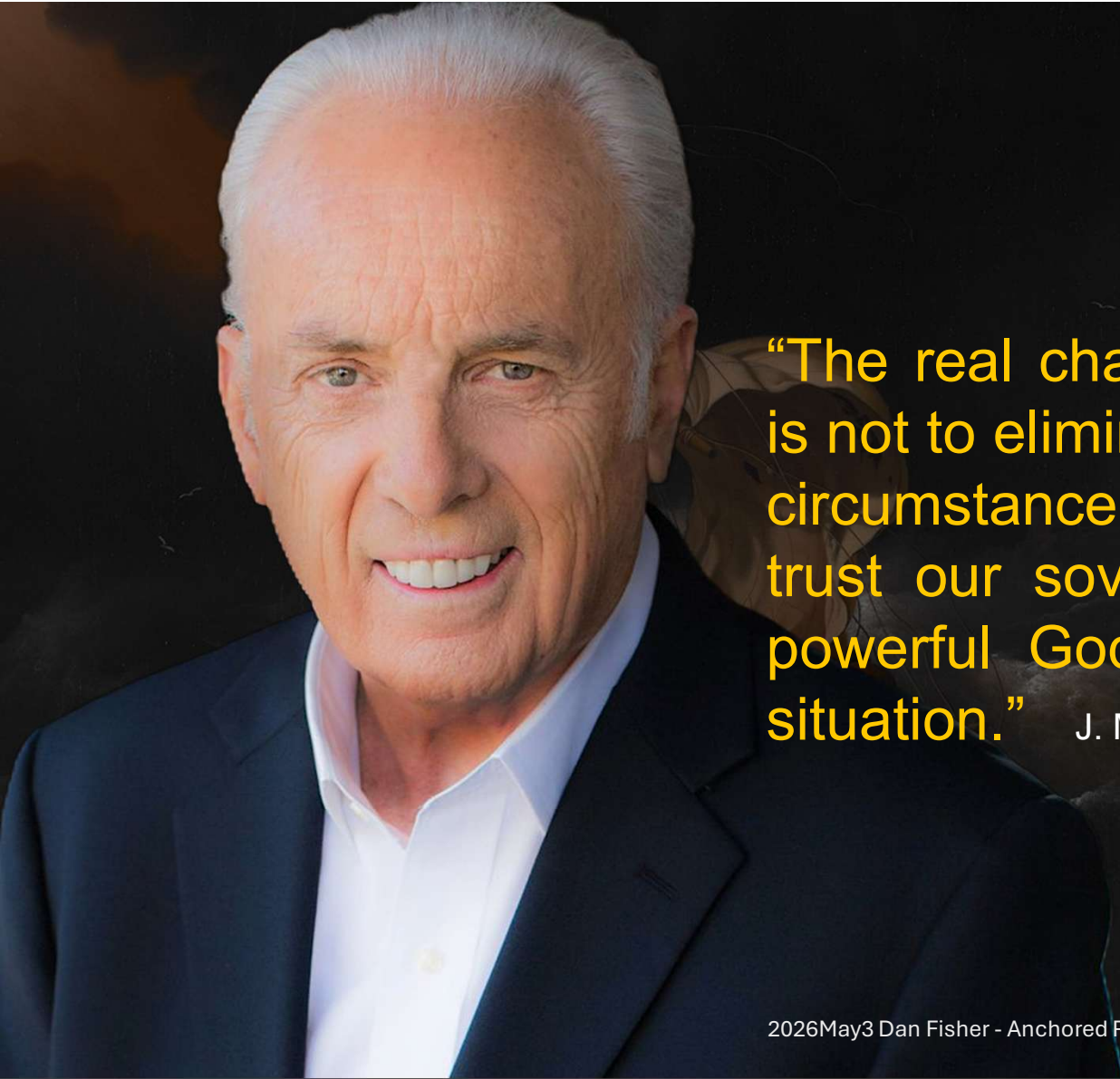
7. Storms are allowed to make us better –
not bitter and fearful



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

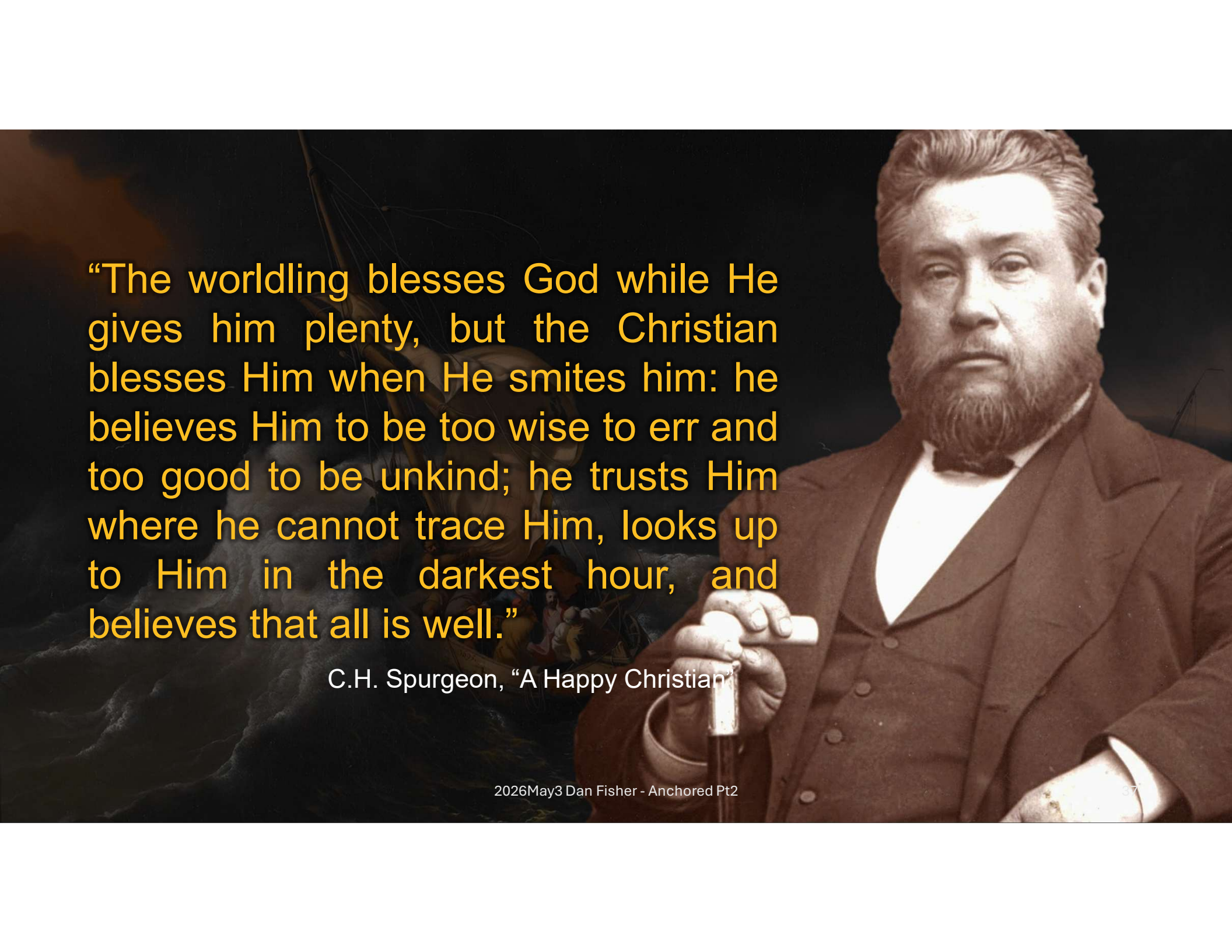
“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” **Js 1:12**

“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,” **1 Pet 1:7**



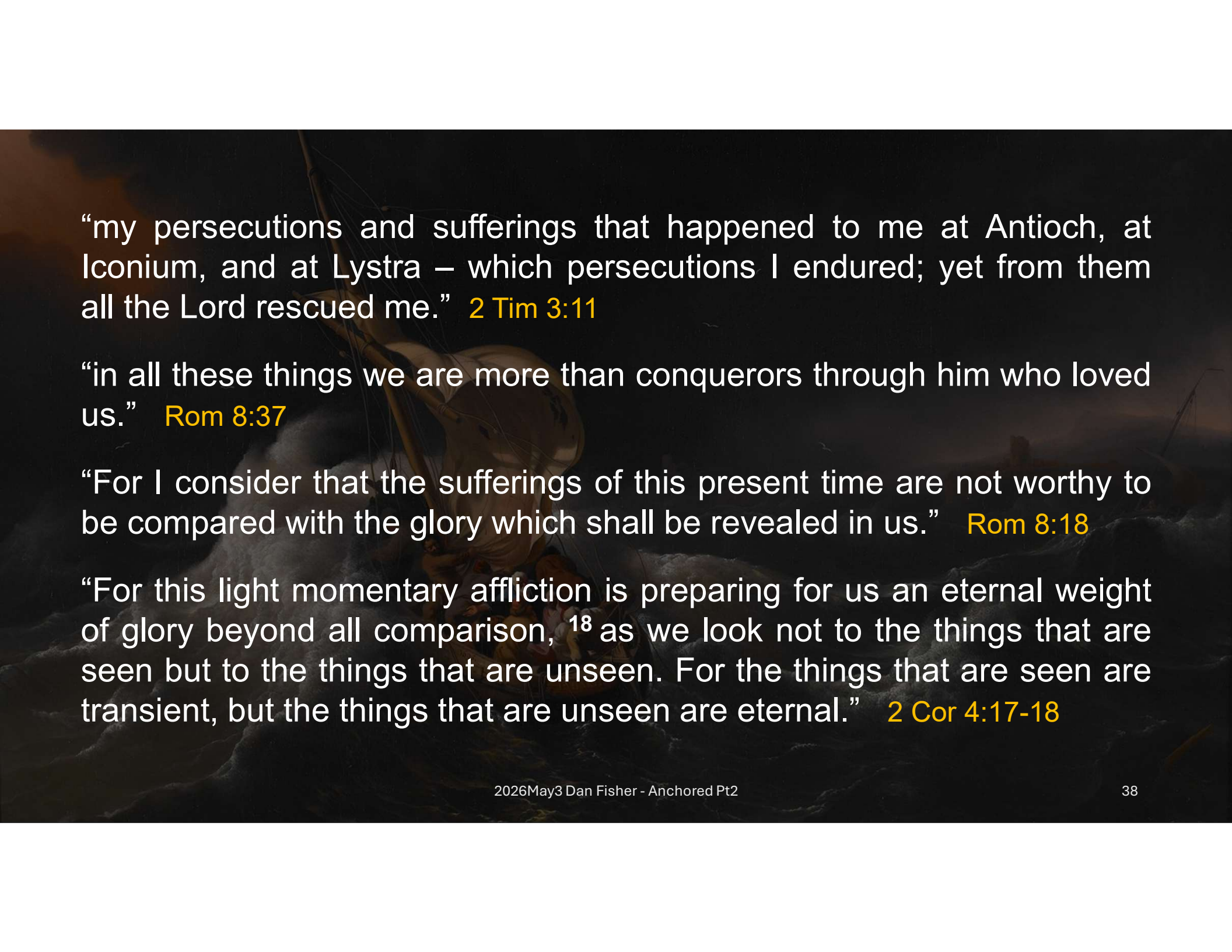
“The real challenge of Christian living is not to eliminate every uncomfortable circumstance from our lives, but to trust our sovereign, wise, good, and powerful God in the midst of every situation.”

J. MacArthur, *Anxiety Attacked*



“The worldling blesses God while He gives him plenty, but the Christian blesses Him when He smites him: he believes Him to be too wise to err and too good to be unkind; he trusts Him where he cannot trace Him, looks up to Him in the darkest hour, and believes that all is well.”

C.H. Spurgeon, “A Happy Christian”

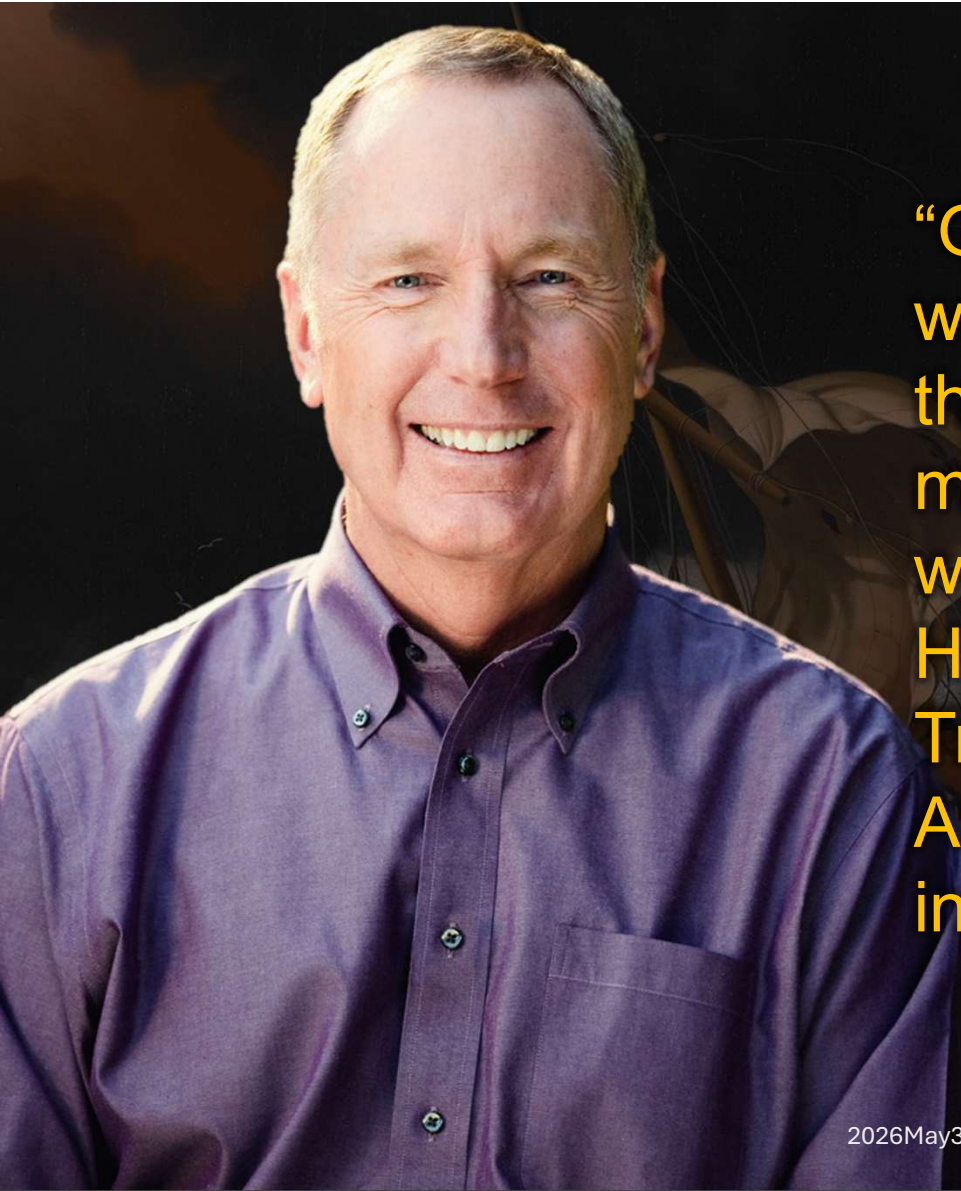


“my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra – which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.” **2 Tim 3:11**

“in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” **Rom 8:37**

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” **Rom 8:18**

“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” **2 Cor 4:17-18**



“God never said that the journey would be easy, but he did say that the arrival would be worthwhile. He may not do what you want, but he will do what is right ... and best. He’s the Father of forward motion. Trust Him. He will get you home. And the trials of the trip will be lost in the joys of the feast.”

Max Lucado, *Safe In the Shepherd’s Arms*