



A Disciple in the Midst of a Storm

Mark 4:35-41

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them,
“Let us cross over to the other side.”

36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

Mark 4:35-41

37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

Mark 4:35-41

39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"



Mark 4:35-41

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"



I. In the world, there will be
storms

A. This is due to the **fallen-ness** of man

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short
of the **glory of God**.

**[His goodness, name, mercy, compassion
- Exodus 33:19]**

Romans 6:23a

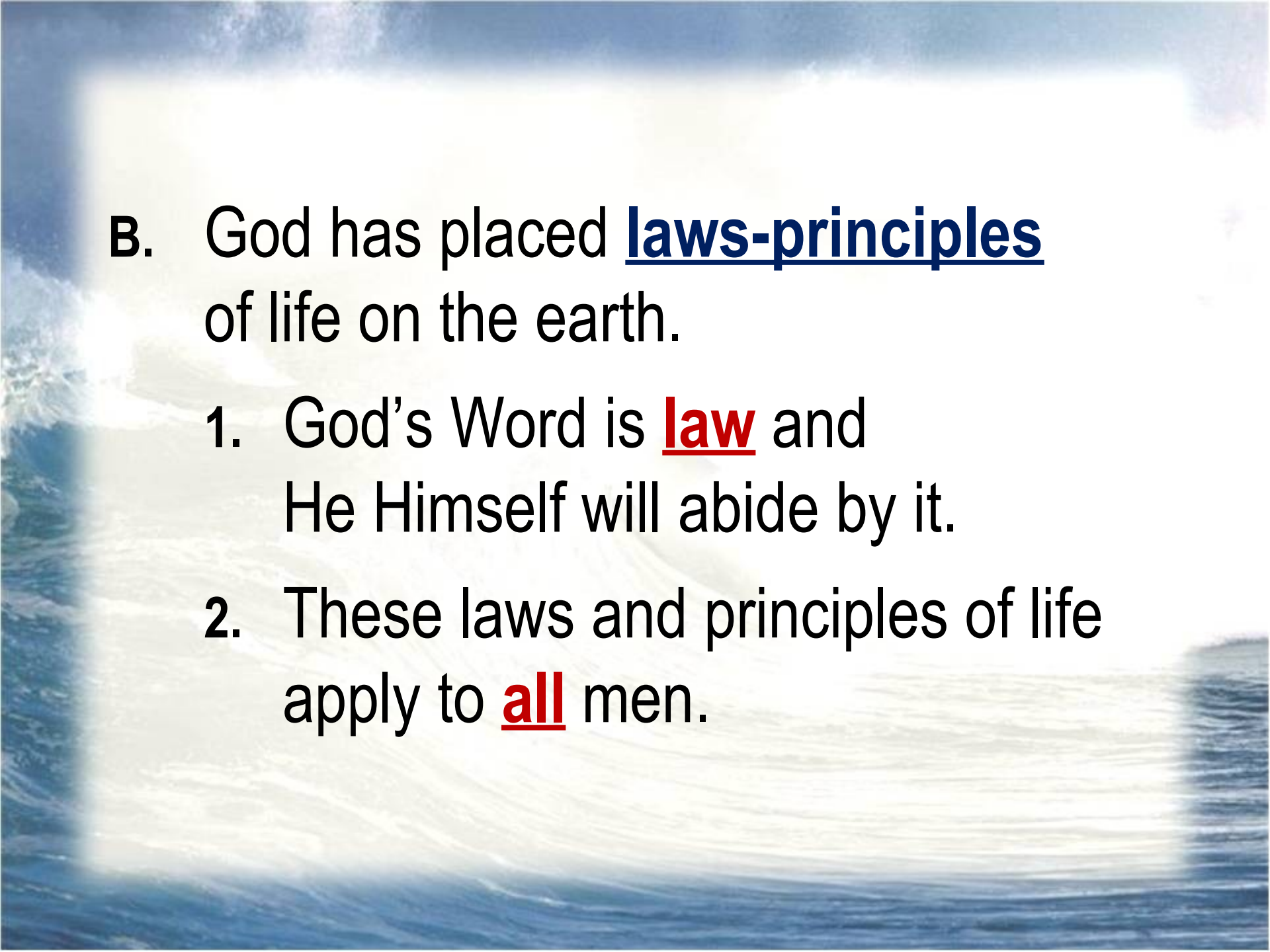
For the wages of sin is death.

A. This is due to the fallen-ness of man

John 16:33b

In the world, there will be

tribulation - trouble - trials

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- B. God has placed laws-principles of life on the earth.
1. God's Word is law and He Himself will abide by it.
 2. These laws and principles of life apply to all men.



B. God has placed laws-principles of life on the earth.

3. The laws of life on earth affect and applies to both believers and unbelievers.



B. God has placed laws-principles of life on the earth.

4. These laws are perfect and complete in and of themselves.

e.g. Galatians 6:7 - Man will reap what he sows.

Current **Global Financial Tsunami** is due to:-

Excessive
Credit

Greed

Borrowed \$

Covetousness

Borrowing
on Margin

Hedge
Funds

Leveraged
Deposits

Dependent on Confidence
in the banking and financial
system

Current **Global Financial Tsunami** is due to:-

Irresponsible
lending practices

Market excesses

Easy credit

Complex financial
derivatives

Ineffective
regulations

Self interest of financial
institutions

c. Other storms

1. Fracture of the physical earth and corruption of the environment.

(Romans 8:19-22)

Droughts and Floods

Earthquakes

Tornadoes

Tsunamis

Volcanic Eruptions

Typhoon

Extreme Weather resulting in Hurricanes

c. Other storms

2. Sickness and Diseases

Plagues

Typhoid

Heart
Attacks

T.B.

SARS

Food
Poisoning

Allergies

Cancer

Environmental
Poisoning

Contagious
Diseases



c. Other storms

3. Increase of stress, anxiety and fears in living in the end-times.

This is due to our **pace of life** vis-à-vis the **connectivity** of the whole **world** via satellite, the internet and the mobile phone (**Daniel 12:3**).

D. God is **NOT** the source/origin of all the evil, wickedness and calamities on this earth.

Therefore, **DO NOT** say:-

✓ God allows ...

OR

✓ This is the Judgment of God ...

Judgment

- **John 5:22, 27** - The Father does not judge but has committed all judgment to His Son.
- **John 12:47-48** - The Lord Jesus Himself does not judge. He has committed all judgment according to His Word - Laws - Principles of Life.

Therefore when someone:-

Dies from an earthquake or a tsunami

Fall sick / have a medical condition

Loses \$\$

Goes Bankrupt

It is due to the **fallen-ness of man**

At the personal individual level, it is due to:

Foolishness – i.e. lack of wisdom

Ignorance – Not Bliss!

Not walking with God

Greed / Covetousness

Indifference

Giving Ground-Doorway-Foothold to
the evil one to steal, kill and destroy!

At the **global level**:

In these last days, there will be an **increase**
of earthquakes, wars, famines, pestilences
and lawlessness
according to the scriptures.

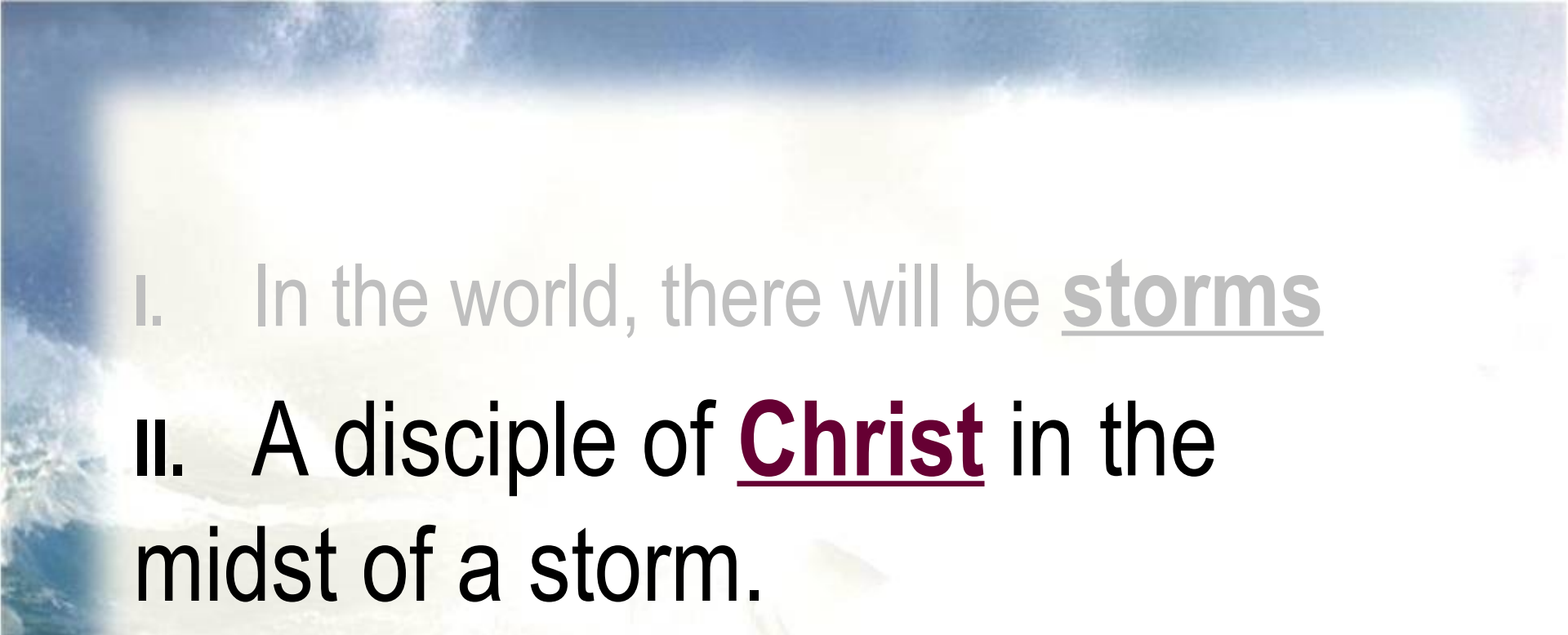
Matthew 24:8 (NIV)

All these are the beginning of **birth-pangs**

Luke 21:25-26

25And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; **26**men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Haggai 2 & Hebrews 12 - Shaking of the Earth

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- I. In the world, there will be storms
 - II. A disciple of Christ in the midst of a storm.

God can only intervene when His people prays

Earth – Ownership & Responsibility of Man

Our Prayers





A disciple is a **learner** and a **follower** of the Lord Jesus Christ.

i.e. A disciple seeks to learn, obey and apply the Word of God in his life.

**BBTC - an Intentional
Disciple-Making Church (IDMC)**

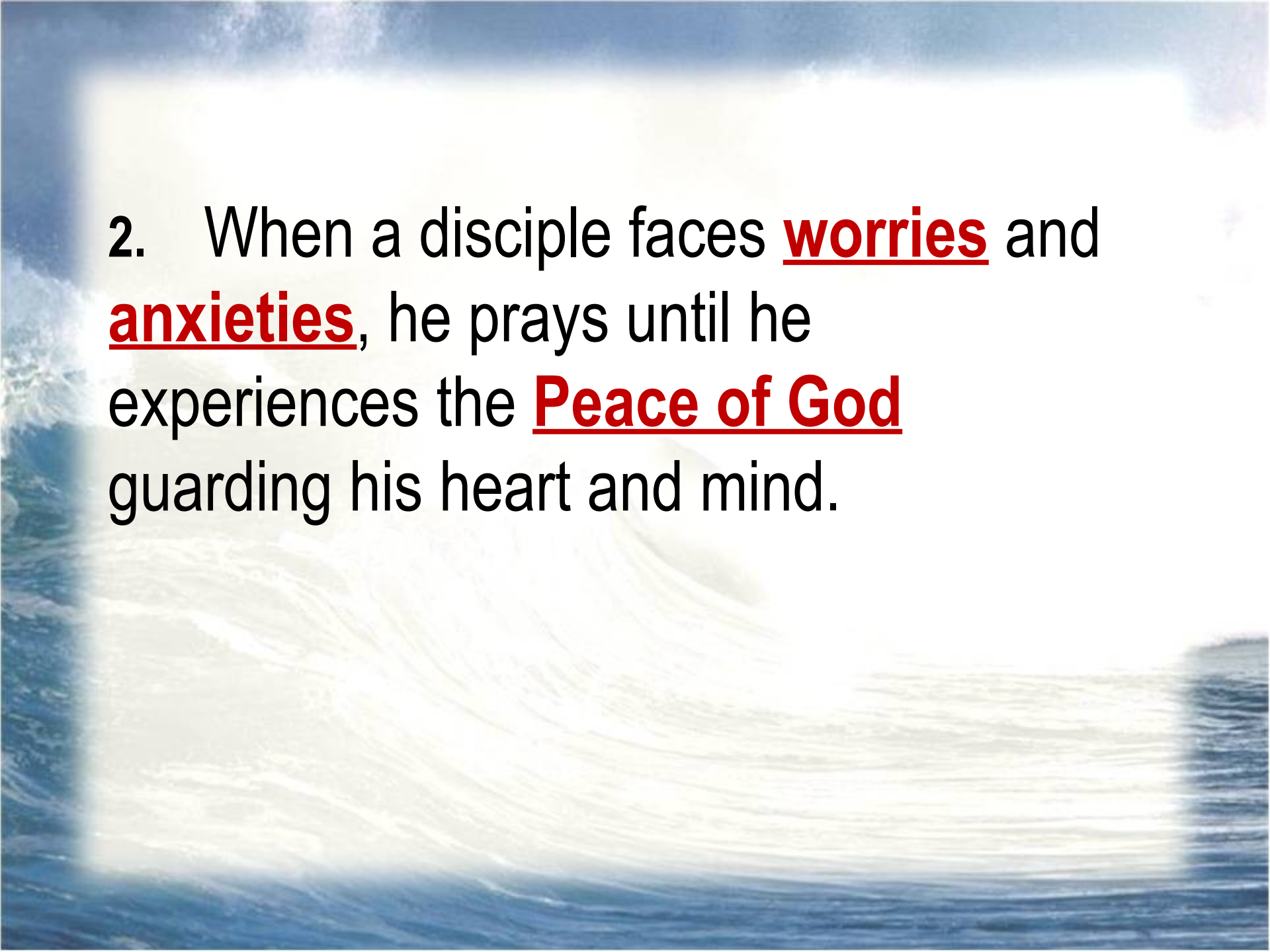
1. Before, during and after a storm, a disciple **connects** with the Living God i.e. **he prays**.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

pray without ceasing

James 5:13

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.
Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.



2. When a disciple faces worries and anxieties, he prays until he experiences the Peace of God guarding his heart and mind.

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

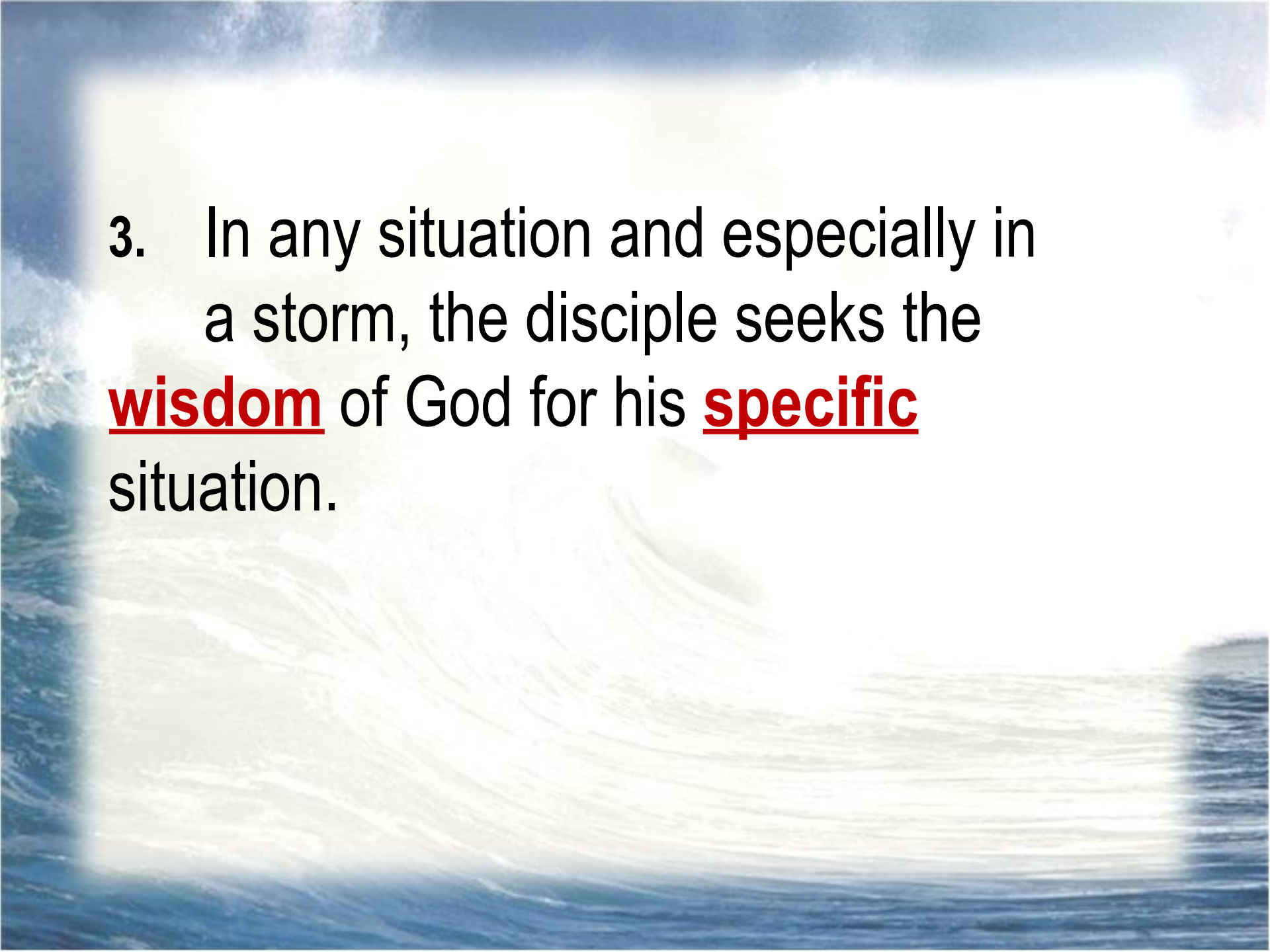
Whenever a person faces stress, anxieties and fears, the body produces toxins.

Depending on the state of health/immunity level, the person may fall sick and this can be very serious for some.

Matthew 6:25, 31, 34 - **Do not worry**

1 Peter 5:7

casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

A dramatic seascape with a bright, glowing light source behind a dark, stormy sky, creating a silhouette of a person in the water. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

3. In any situation and especially in a storm, the disciple seeks the wisdom of God for his specific situation.

Examples of Wise Decisions:-

Cut Losses - Ensure liquidity for needs for 12 months

Prepare and Strengthen Marriage

Get household in order

Humble yourself

Sow into the Kingdom of God
- Isaac reaped 100-fold.

Cut Down Eating Out

Reconcile a Relationship

Strengthen walk with God

A Season of Intense Prayer

Seek Godly Counsel

Examples of Wise Decisions:-

Forgive the person
who offended you

Work out your risk-reward on
your savings and investments

Determine standard
of living

Work out the cash-flow
- Liquidity -

Abound and Abase

Money management

Calculated Risks

Determine level of spending

Sowing and Reaping - Watch out for wrong patterns
of thought, decision-making and lifestyle

4. A disciple will always seek the **favour** of God for:-

Clear Mindedness

Life

Family

Finances

Health

CG

Marriage

each of his children

Ministry

Emotional Stability

Work

Peace of Mind



I. In the world, there will be storms

II. A disciple of Christ in the midst
of
a storm.

III. A disciple is blessed to be
a blessing to others.

The water pipe that carries the water
will itself be wet.

A. A disciple who knows and connects with God is blessed.

Ephesians 1:3

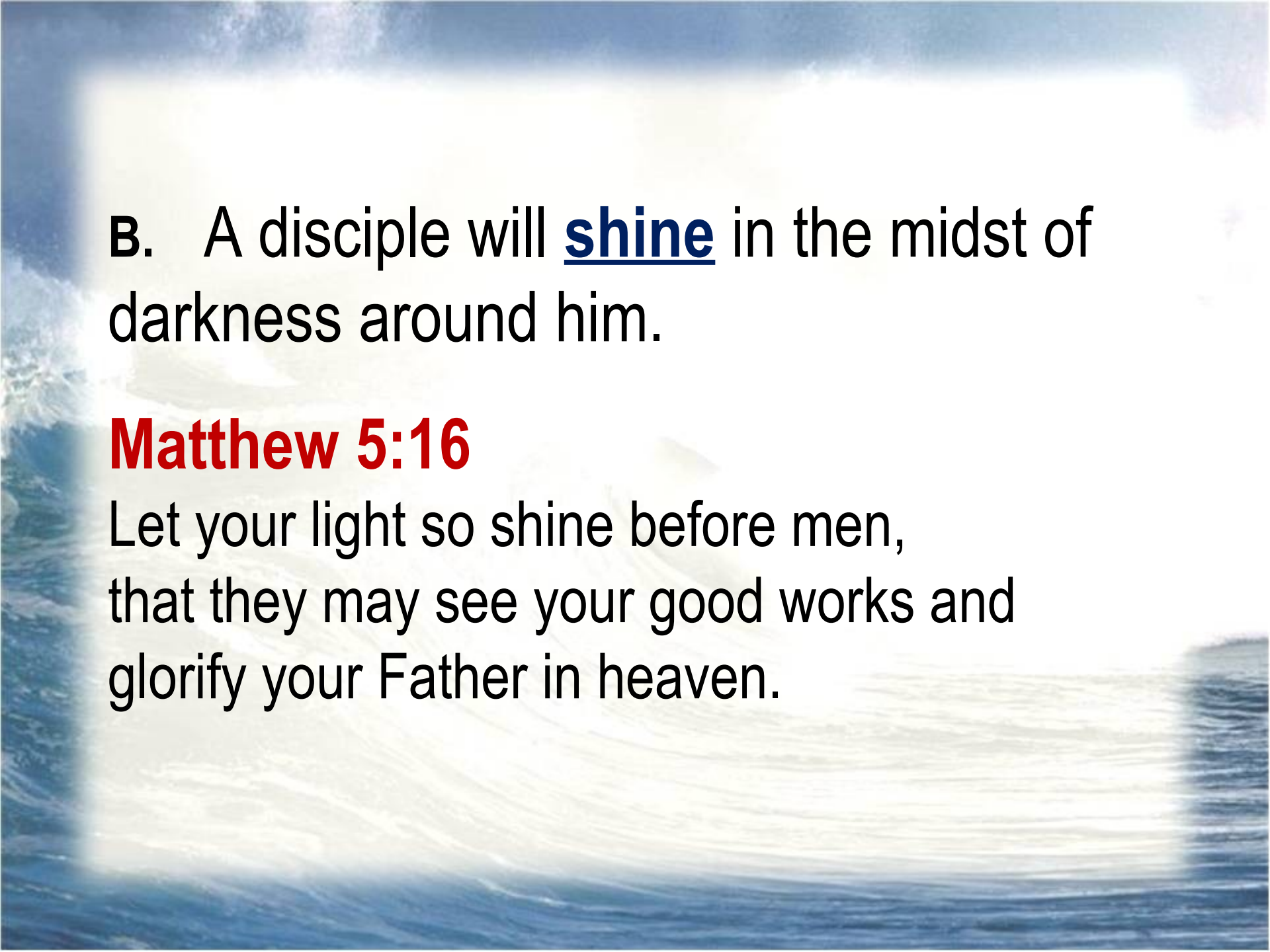
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

2 Peter 1:3-4

3as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Romans 5:17

.. much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.



B. A disciple will shine in the midst of darkness around him.

Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works and
glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 i.e.

- ✓ He is able to provide **counsel** to people around him.
- ✓ He has the **answers** from the scriptures for people's problems.

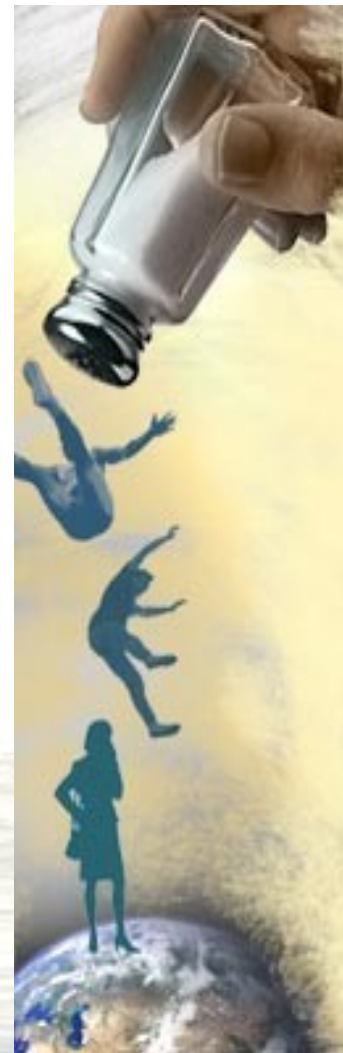
Matthew 5:16 i.e.

- ✓ He has the **solution** to the predicaments faced by others.
- ✓ He has the good news of the **Gospel**.
- ✓ He knows the **Anchor** of our souls.

- c. A disciple will be the **salt** :
1. to **preserve** the harmony,
 2. bring the **peace** to troubled souls
 3. **strengthen** the hands of the feeble and needy.

Matthew 5:13a

You are the salt of the earth ...



Conclusion

Mark 4:35

“Let us cross over to the other side.”

Mark 5

The other side is the land of the Gadarenes
Where there is a man demonized by legion.
This man is lost and in bondage.

Conclusion

The assignment is to deliver and heal this man who will be the instrument of salvation to the entire region (Mark 5:20).

But there is a great wind storm to block the crossing over to the other side (Mark 4:37).

Conclusion

A disciple in the midst of a storm has his eyes fixed on the Lord.

- ✓ This disciple has peace.
- ✓ This disciple has wisdom.
- ✓ This disciple has favour.
- ✓ This disciple is not distracted by the storm - **ARE YOU!**

Conclusion

A disciple in the midst of a storm has his eyes fixed on the Lord's assignment i.e. **on the Ministry and his Destiny**

Matthew 24:12-14

12 - lawlessness - love of many grow cold

13 - endures to the end - saved-victorious

14 - Gospel to the ends of the world

Conclusion

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Conclusion

Acts 20:24

But none of these things move me;
nor do I count my life dear to myself,
so that I may finish my race with joy,
and the ministry which I received
from the Lord Jesus, to testify
to the gospel of the grace of God.

Conclusion

Nahum 1:7

The LORD is good,
a stronghold in the day of trouble;
and He knows those
who trust in Him.

1 John 4:18

2 Timothy 1:7