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the book of
ACTS

The account of the growth of the Church

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Tim Keller :

“No amount of money, power, planning, can prevent illness, accidents, or any number of other troubles from entering life.”



Tim Keller :

“Human life is fragile, and almost impossible to manage. In short life is tragic. I think we all know this intuitively, but we like hide from its truth.”



Tim Keller :

“Secondly, those who face the challenge of suffering learn all too well that it is impossible to do so in one’s own strength.”



I. THE PARADOX IN THE STORM

Take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.' So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said. But we will be shipwrecked on an island.

[Acts 27:22-26](#)

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I. THE PARADOX IN THE STORM

Then the sailors tried to abandon the ship; they lowered the lifeboat as though they were going to put out anchors from the front of the ship. But Paul said to the commanding officer and the soldiers, "You will all die unless the sailors stay aboard." So the soldiers cut the ropes to the lifeboat and let it drift away.

[Acts 27:30-32](#)

I. THE PARADOX IN THE STORM

Here's where it gets complex.

Paul says, *"It is absolutely sure we're all going to be saved.
But if the sailors get off of here, we're all going to die."*

I. THE PARADOX IN THE STORM

If Paul's absolutely sure everybody is going to be saved, because God has said so, why not let them take the boat?

I. THE PARADOX IN THE STORM

If our destiny is fixed, then our choices don't matter. But if we believe our choices matter, our outcome depends on our choices.

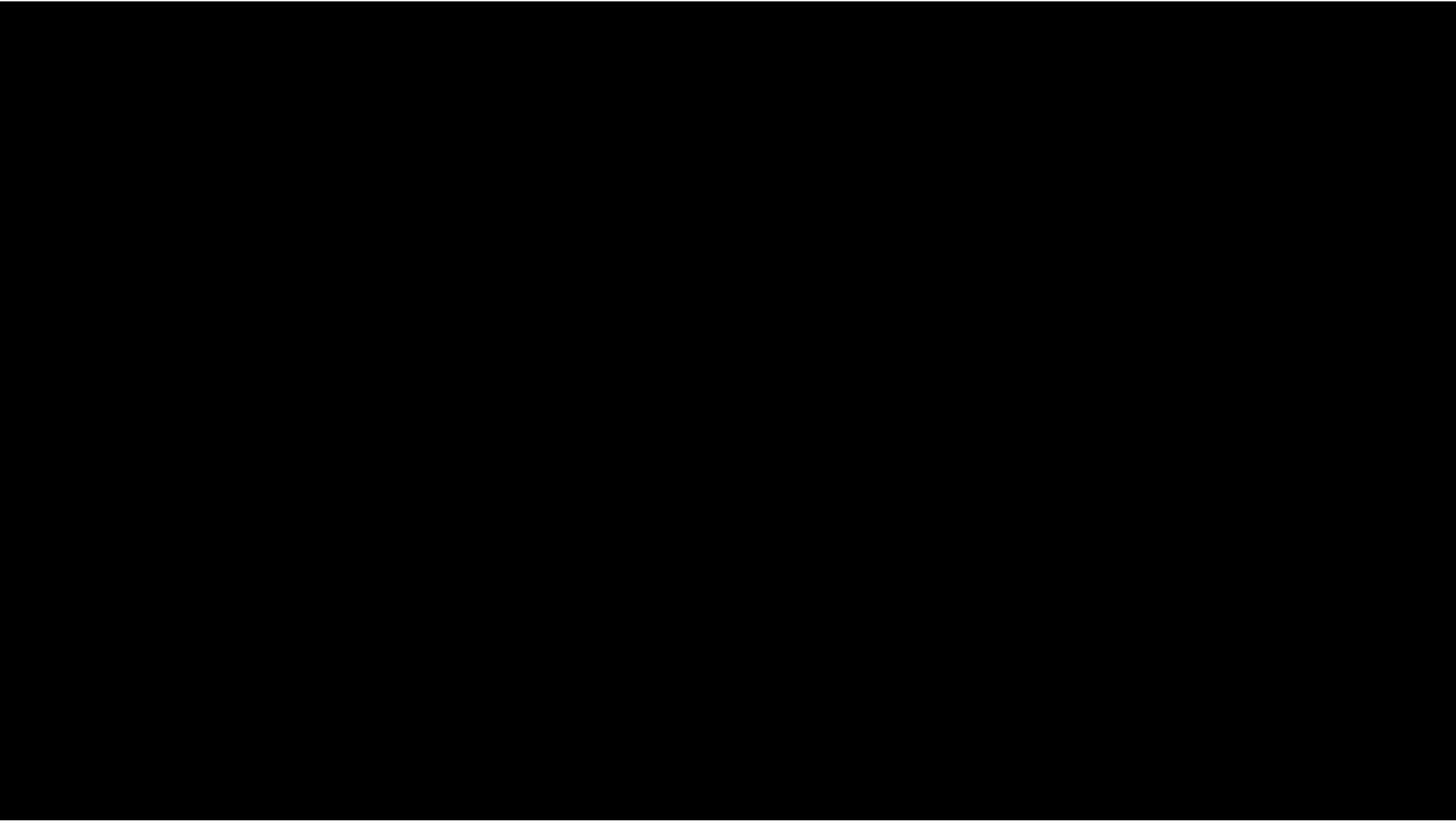


I. THE PARADOX IN THE STORM

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord.

“And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

Isaiah 55:8



II. WHAT GOD PRODUCES IN US THROUGH THE STORM

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Just as day was dawning, Paul urged everyone to eat. “You have been so worried that you haven’t touched food for two weeks,” he said. “Please eat something now for your own good. For not a hair of your heads will perish.” Then he took some bread, gave thanks to God before them all, and broke off a piece and ate it. Then everyone was encouraged and began to eat— all 276 of us who were on board.

Acts 27:33-37

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II. WHAT GOD PRODUCES IN US THROUGH THE STORM

Even those closest to you—your parents, brothers, relatives, and friends—will betray you. They will even kill some of you. And everyone will hate you because you are my followers. **But not a hair of your head will perish!** By standing firm, you will win your souls. [Luke 21:16-19](#)

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II. WHAT GOD PRODUCES IN US THROUGH THE STORM

Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea.

2 Corinthians 11:24,25

II. WHAT GOD PRODUCES IN US THROUGH THE STORM

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! [2 Corinthians 4:16,17](#)

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Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and **joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.** [Romans 5:1,2](#)

II. WHAT GOD PRODUCES IN US THROUGH THE STORM

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. [Romans 5:3,4](#)

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Romans 5:3,4



III. THE PRESENCE IN THE STORM

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Acts 27:23

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For last night an angel of *the God to whom I belong* and whom I serve stood beside me.

Acts 27:23



Only Christianity says God is with you.

Only Christianity said God has been tortured.

Only Christianity said God cried out in pain.

Only Christianity said God lost a Son.



Some people say suffering should be accepted because it's inevitable.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. John 10:10

On the other hand, some folks believe suffering should be avoided.

"The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. 18 No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily.

John 10:17,18



We'll step out of our mortal clothes and slide into immortal bodies, replacing everything that is subject to death with eternal life. And, when we are all redressed with bodies that do not, cannot decay, when we put immortality over our mortal frames, then it will be as Scripture says: Life everlasting has victoriously swallowed death. Hey, Death! What happened to your big win? Hey, Death! What happened to your sting? [1 Corinthians 15:53-55](#)





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