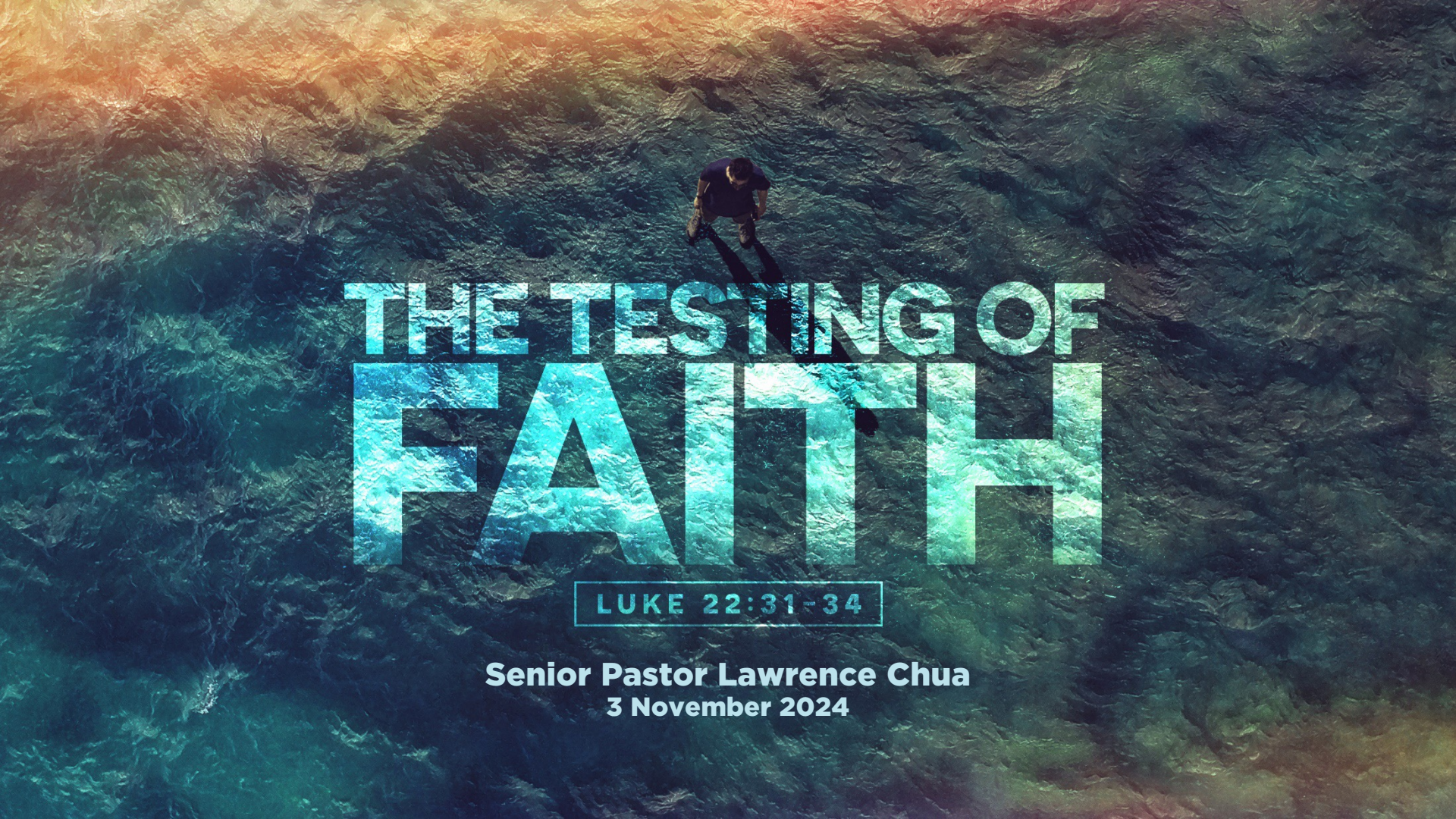


The background of the entire image is a high-contrast, textured surface resembling a turbulent sea or a stormy sky. The colors transition from a fiery orange and red at the top to deep blues and greens at the bottom. A small, dark silhouette of a person is crouching in the upper center of the frame, looking down. The title text is superimposed over the lower half of the image.

THE TESTING OF FAITH

LUKE 22:31-34

Senior Pastor Lawrence Chua
3 November 2024

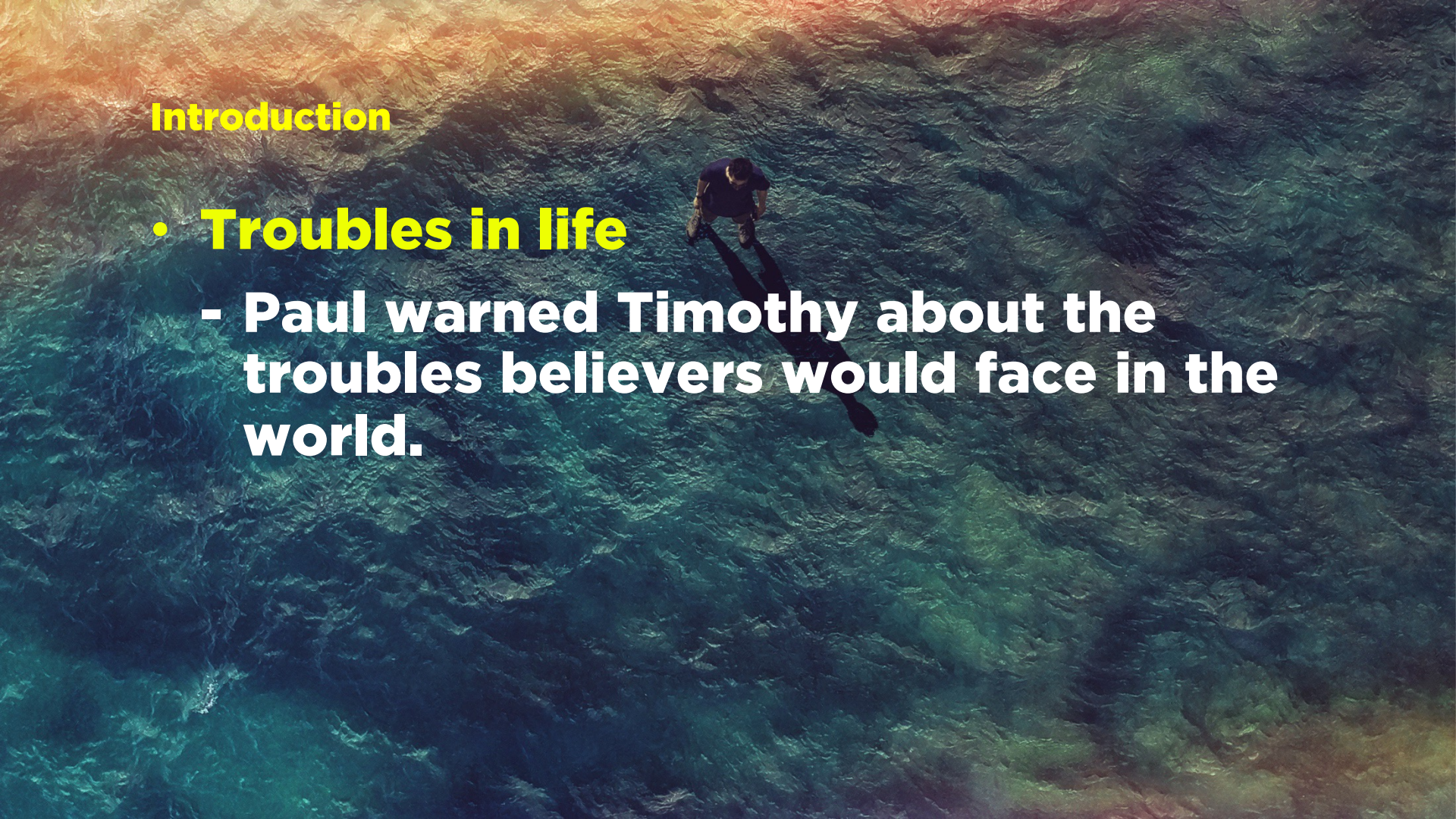
Luke 22: 31-34 (NKJV)

31 And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. **32** But **I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”**

Luke 22: 31-34 (NKJV)

33 But he said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.”

34 Then He said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.”

The background of the slide is a high-contrast, textured image. It features a person crouching in the center, looking down. The surface they are on is vast and textured, with colors ranging from deep blues and greens to bright oranges and yellows, suggesting a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, or perhaps a giant's foot. The person's shadow is cast long and dark on the surface.

Introduction

- **Troubles in life**

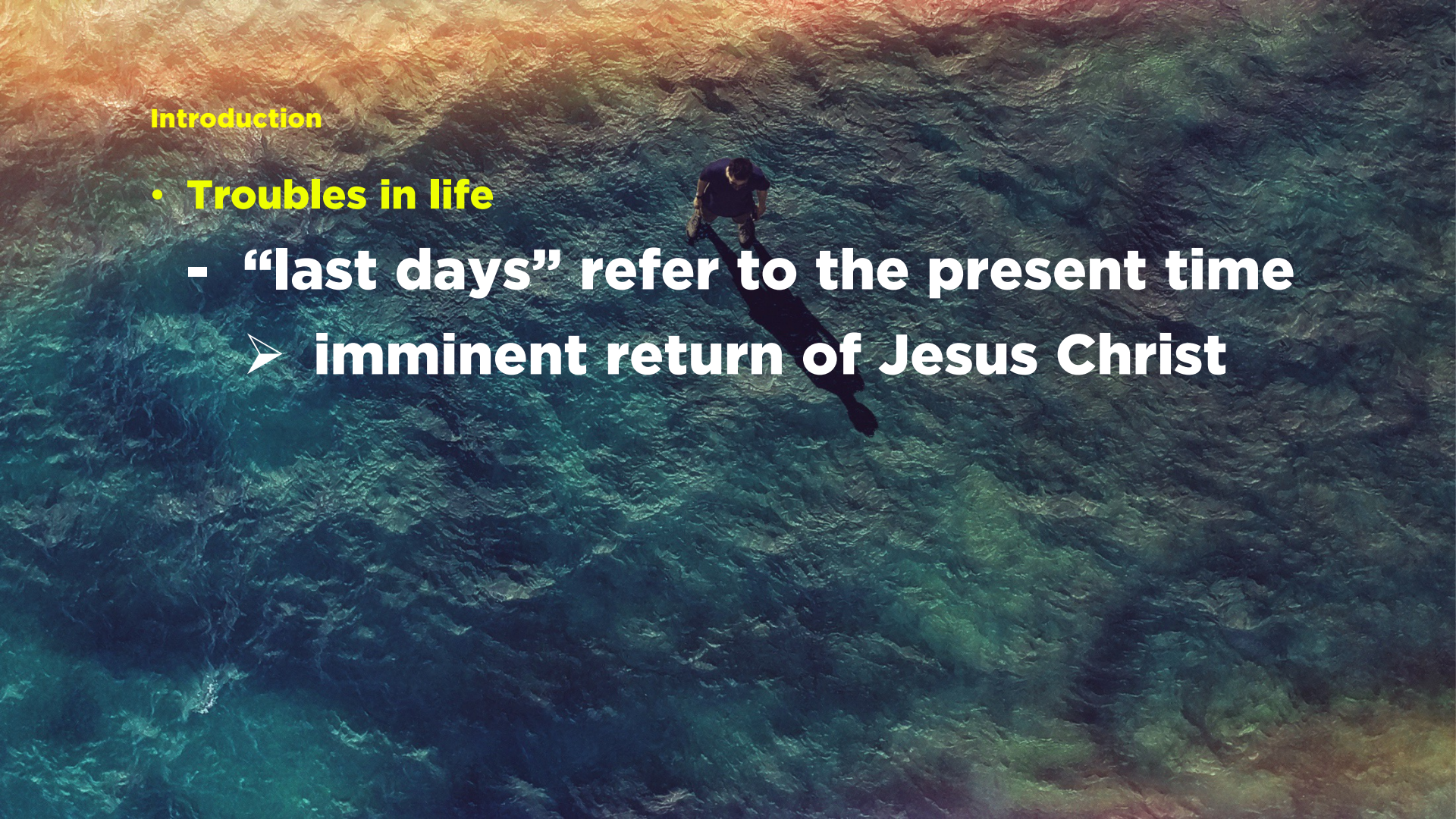
- **Paul warned Timothy about the troubles believers would face in the world.**

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NKJV)

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NKJV)

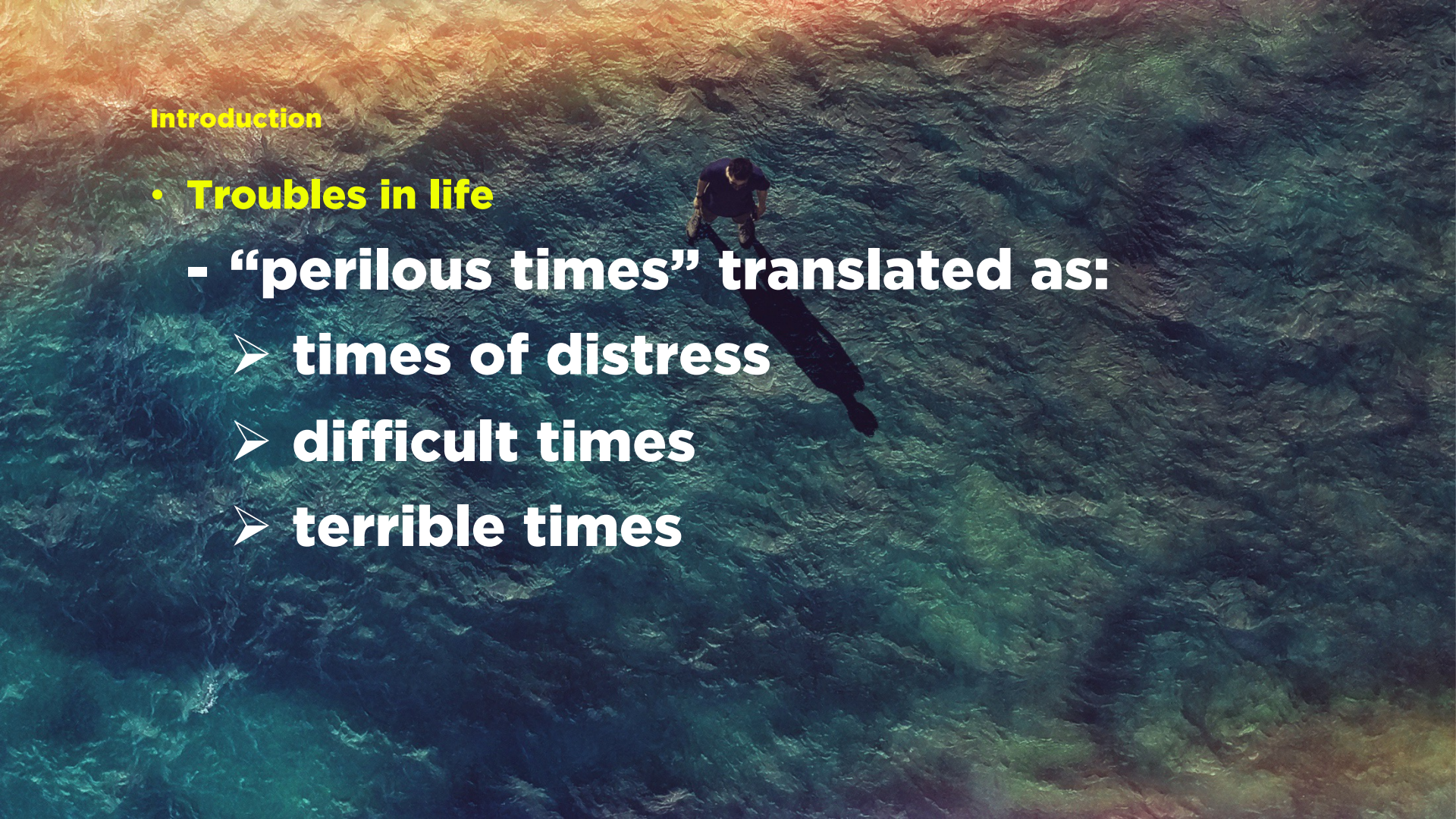
⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

An aerial photograph of a person standing in the middle of a vast, turbulent ocean. The water is a mix of deep blues, greens, and yellows, with white foam from the waves. The person is small in the frame, wearing a dark shirt and pants, and their shadow is cast long and dark on the water's surface. The overall mood is one of isolation and contemplation.

Introduction

- **Troubles in life**

- **“last days” refer to the present time**
 - **imminent return of Jesus Christ**



Introduction

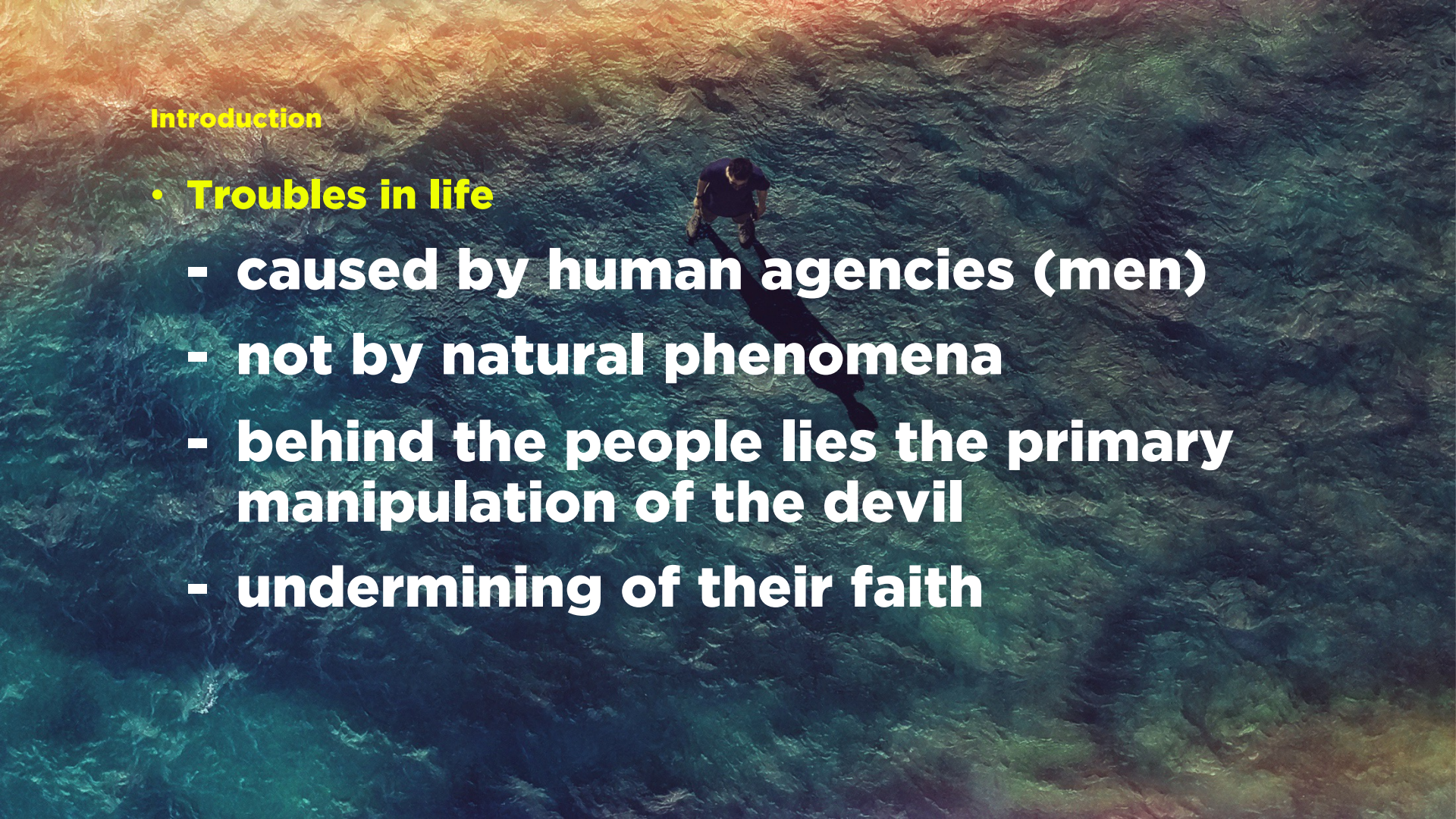
- **Troubles in life**

- **“perilous times” translated as:**

- **times of distress**

- **difficult times**

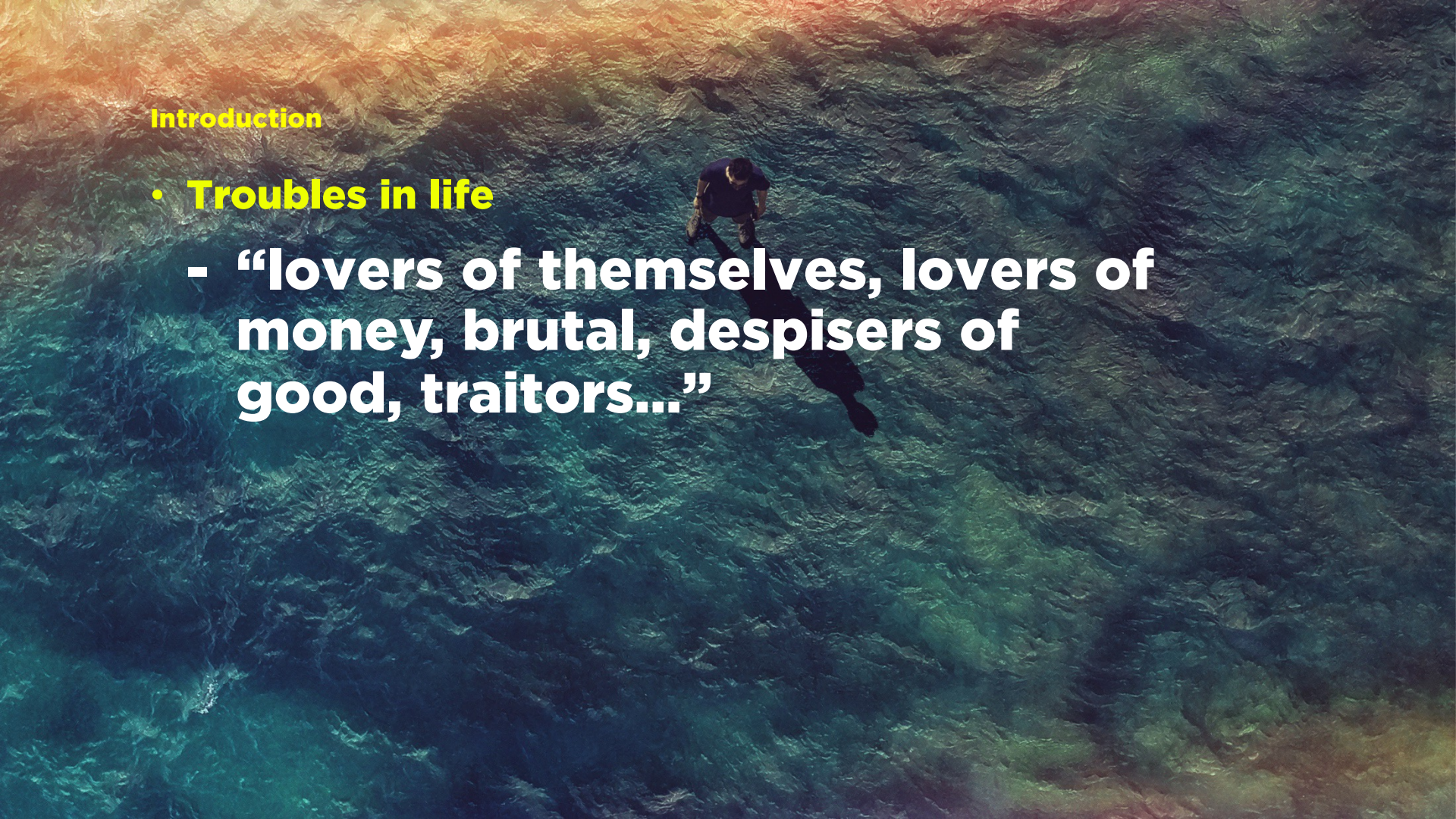
- **terrible times**

The background of the slide is a high-resolution, textured image. It features a person crouching in the center, looking down. The surface they are on is highly textured and colorful, with a gradient from warm orange and yellow at the top to deep blues and greens at the bottom, resembling a large-scale geological formation or a vast body of water with varying depths and currents. The person's shadow is cast long and dark on the surface in front of them.

Introduction

- **Troubles in life**

- **caused by human agencies (men)**
- **not by natural phenomena**
- **behind the people lies the primary manipulation of the devil**
- **undermining of their faith**

An aerial photograph of a person standing on a vast, textured surface that resembles a giant's foot or a massive, colorful rock formation. The surface is covered in intricate, swirling patterns of orange, red, yellow, green, and blue, creating a rainbow-like effect. The person is small in the center, wearing a dark shirt and pants, looking down at the ground. Their shadow is cast long and dark to the right.

Introduction

- **Troubles in life**

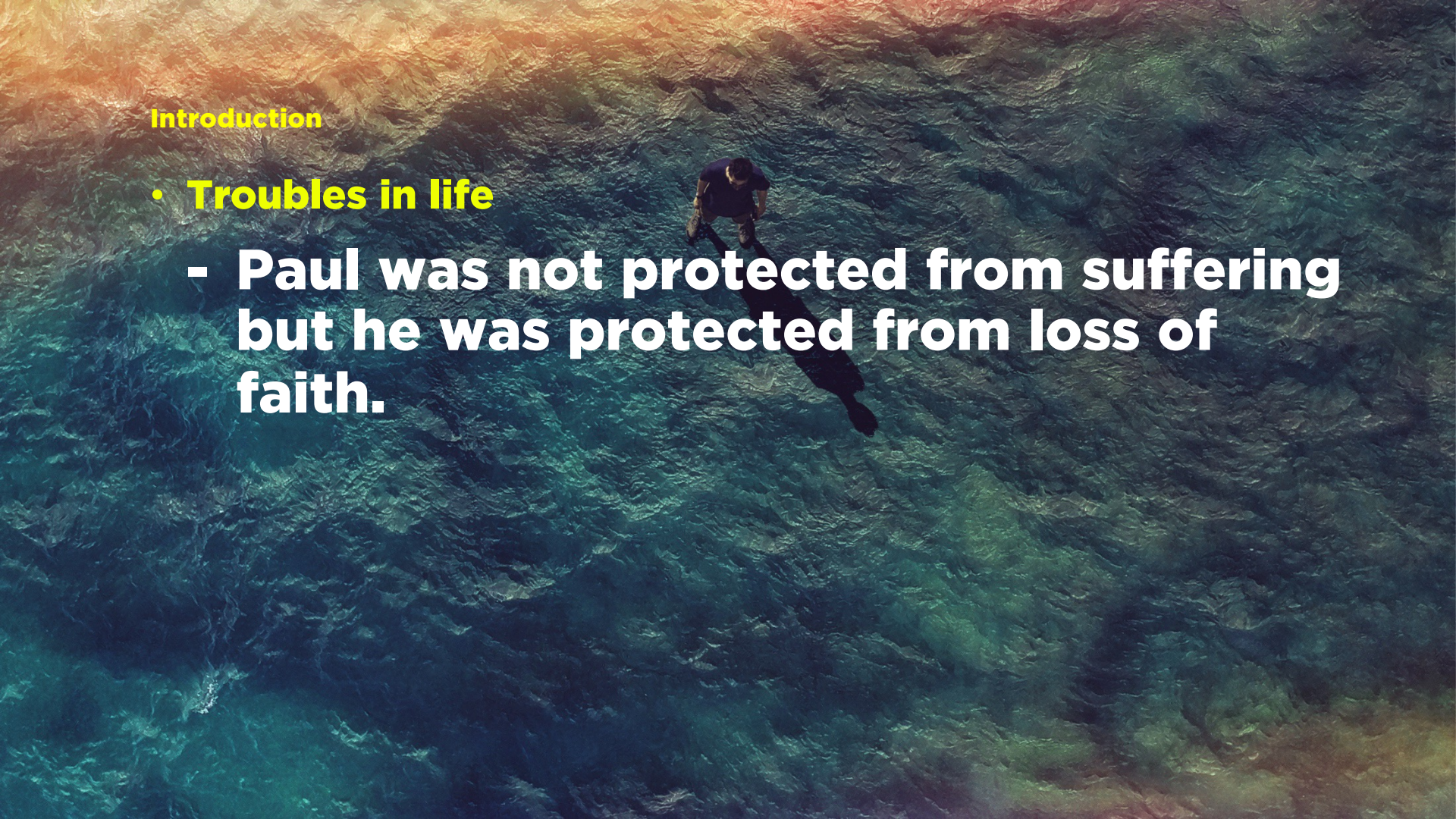
- **“lovers of themselves, lovers of money, brutal, despisers of good, traitors...”**

The background of the slide is a full-page image. It depicts a person from a high-angle perspective, standing on a surface that looks like a giant's back or a vast, textured body of water. The surface is covered in intricate, swirling patterns and is bathed in a rainbow-like light, with colors ranging from deep blues and greens to bright oranges and yellows. The person is small in the frame, wearing dark clothing, and a long, dark shadow is cast behind them, stretching towards the bottom right. The overall mood is surreal and dramatic.

Introduction

- **Troubles in life**

- **Scammers are brutal.**
- **They are unconscionable!**

The background of the slide is a large, textured image. It appears to be a close-up of a surface with a complex, organic pattern, possibly water or a giant's foot. The colors are vibrant, ranging from deep blues and greens to bright oranges and yellows, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A person is standing on this surface, casting a long, dark shadow that stretches across the lower half of the image. The person is wearing a dark shirt and shorts, and their shadow is cast towards the bottom right.

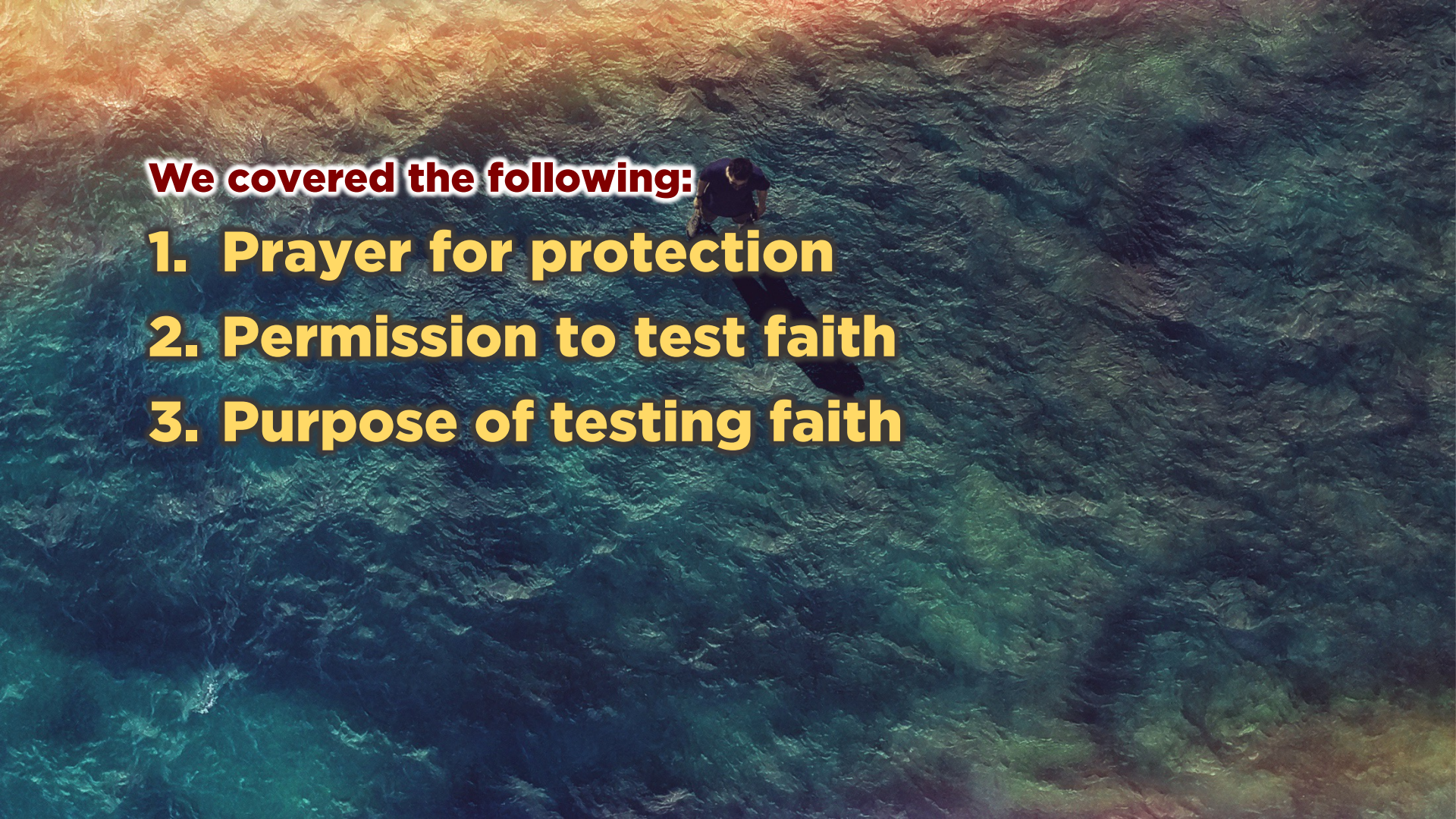
Introduction

- **Troubles in life**

- **Paul was not protected from suffering but he was protected from loss of faith.**

2 Timothy 3:10-11 (NKJV)

**But you have carefully followed my doctrine,
manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering,
love, perseverance, ¹¹persecutions, afflictions,
which happened to me at Antioch, at
Iconium, at Lystra - what persecutions
I endured. And out of them all the
Lord delivered me.**



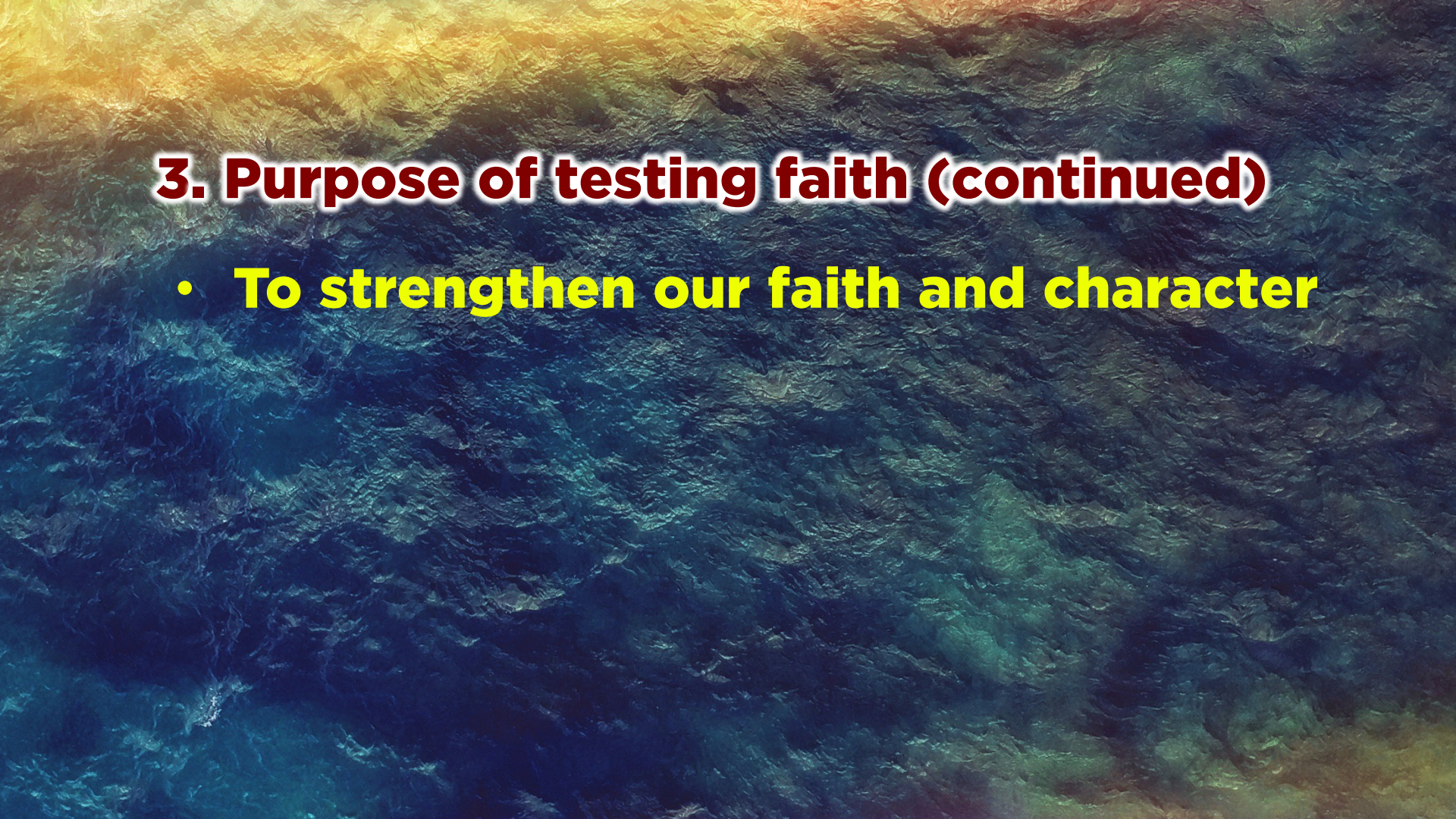
We covered the following:

- 1. Prayer for protection**
- 2. Permission to test faith**
- 3. Purpose of testing faith**

A person is crouching on a vibrant rainbow that arches over a body of water. The water is a deep, textured blue-green, and the rainbow displays a full spectrum of colors from red at the top to violet at the bottom. The person is wearing a dark shirt and shorts, and their shadow is cast onto the rainbow. The overall scene is serene and symbolic.

Complete Road Map

- 1. Prayer for protection**
- 2. Permission to test faith**
- 3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)**
- 4. Path to recovery**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a dark, choppy sea. A bright, golden-yellow light source, possibly the sun, is visible at the top left, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the water's surface with a shimmering, rainbow-like effect. The water is dark blue and black, with white foam from the waves catching the light.

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **To strengthen our faith and character**

Luke 22:32 (AMPC)

**But I have prayed especially for you [Peter],
that your [own] faith may not fail; and when
you yourself have turned again, strengthen,
and establish your brethren.**

3. Purpose of testing faith

- **To strengthen our faith and character**
 - **We pray for no pain.**
 - **Jesus prayed for our gain.**

3. Purpose of testing faith

- **To strengthen our faith and character**
 - **We pray for protection from troubles.**
 - **Jesus pray that our faith will be preserved in time of trouble.**

3. Purpose of testing faith

- **To strengthen our faith and character**
 - **God is always at work to purify and strengthen our faith in Him.**

1 Peter 1:6-9 (NKJV)

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 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, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

1 Peter 1:6-9 (NKJV)

8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
9 receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls.

3. Purpose of testing faith

- **To strengthen our faith and character**
 - **result in our personal growth and character development**

James 1:2-4 (NKJV)

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

3. Purpose of testing faith

- **To strengthen our faith and character**
 - **troubles will produce in us character qualities of sympathy and empathy**

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (NKJV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (NKJV)

⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. ⁶ Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (NKJV)

7 And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **To sharpen our perspective of God's sovereignty**
 - **God is sovereign and He can deliver His servants.**

2 Timothy 3:10-11 (NKJV)

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra - what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **Prayer for protection is hemmed by truths on God's sovereignty**



Matthew 6:9-10 (NKJV)

In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:11-13a (NKJV)

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

**12 And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.**

**13 And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.**



Matthew 6:13b (NKJV)

**For Yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever.**

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **Prayer for protection is hemmed by truths on God's sovereignty**
 - **Circumstances where we cannot understand why the protection falls short of our expectation.**

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **Prayer for protection is hemmed by truths on God's sovereignty**
 - **We should return to the fundamental belief on God's sovereignty.**

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **God sharpened Job's perspective of His sovereignty**
 - **God did not answer Job's question.**
 - **Instead, God asked Job an avalanche of questions.**

Job 38:1-4 (NKJV)

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: ² “Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? ³ Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. ⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **God sharpened Job's perspective of His sovereignty**
 - **God's questions put to Job are recorded from:**
 - **Job 38:4 - 40:2**
 - **Job 40:6 - 41:34**

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **God sharpened Job's perspective of His sovereignty**
 - **Job finally came to the acknowledgement of the sovereignty of God.**
 - **See God for who God is instead of seeing God in human terms.**

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **God sharpened Job's perspective of His sovereignty**
 - **see God in His majestic greatness, contrasting with Job's relative ignorance**
 - **He realized how puny he was.**

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **God sharpened Job's perspective of His sovereignty**
 - **Job acknowledged that God can do everything.**
 - **God's purpose cannot be thwarted.**

Job 42:1-6 (NKJV)

Then Job answered the Lord and said:

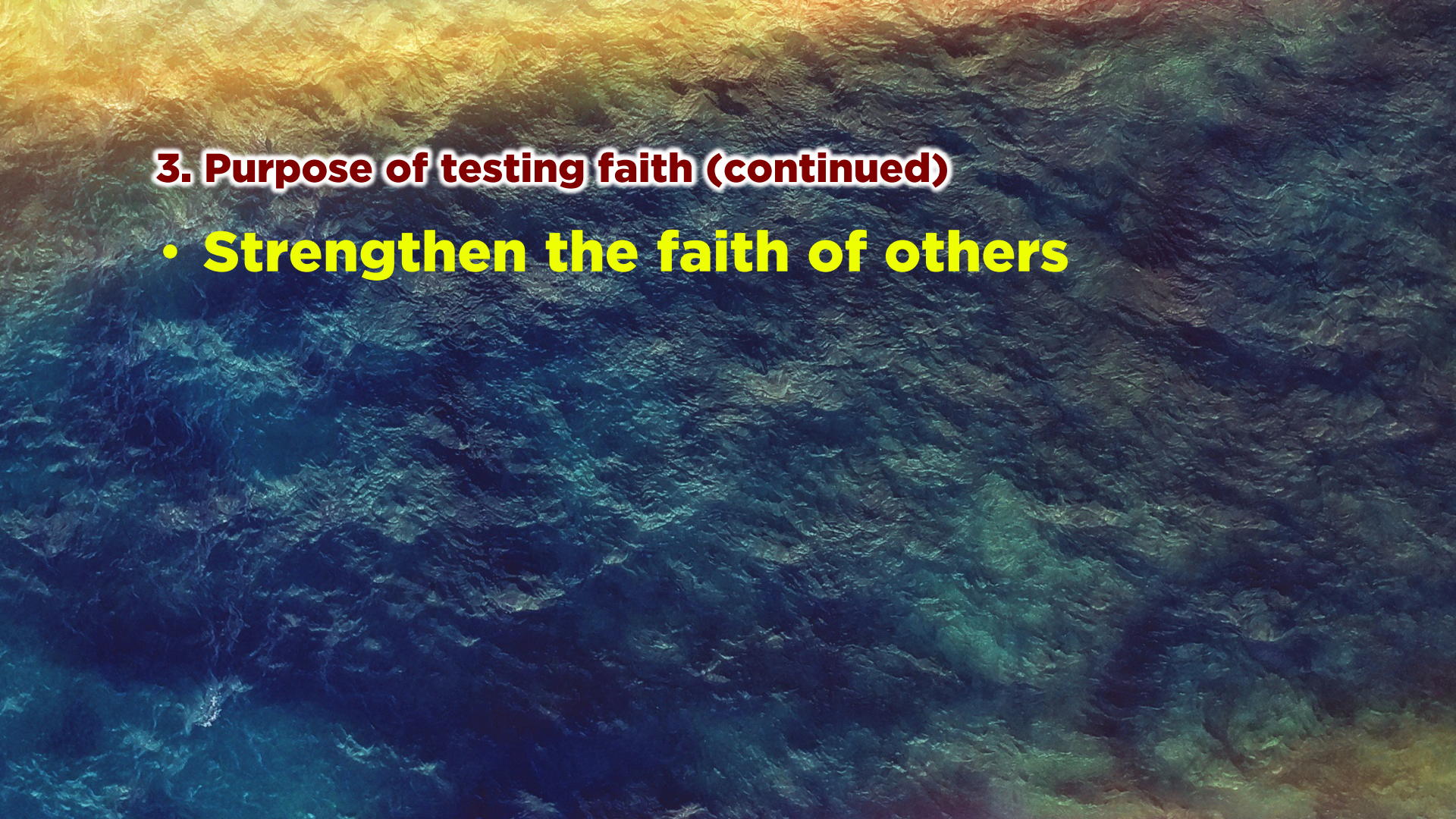
**² “I know that You can do everything,
And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld
from You. ³ You asked, ‘Who is this who hides
counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore
I have uttered what I did not understand,**

Job 42:1-6 (NKJV)

Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴ Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ ⁵ “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. ⁶ Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes.”

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **God sharpened Job's perspective of His sovereignty**
 - **Job finally achieved a breakthrough in his grief and pain, when Job acknowledged God's sovereignty.**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a dark, choppy sea under a dramatic sky. A rainbow is visible in the upper right portion of the image, its colors blending into the dark clouds. The water is dark blue and black with white foam from the waves.

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **Strengthen the faith of others**

Luke 22:31-32 (NKJV)

And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **Strengthen the faith of others**
 - **to become stronger in his faith, so that he can strengthen others**

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **Strengthen the faith of others**
 - **Paul could strengthen Timothy because of Paul's personal experience of suffering.**
 - **Paul's sufferings had a higher purpose.**

3. Purpose of testing faith (continued)

- **Strengthen the faith of others**
 - **that in the last days perilous times will come**

2 Timothy 3:10-15 (NKJV)

**But you have carefully followed my doctrine,
manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering,
love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, afflictions,
which happened to me at Antioch, at
Iconium, at Lystra - what persecutions I
endured. And out of them all the Lord
delivered me.**

2 Timothy 3:10-15 (NKJV)

¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

2 Timothy 3:10-15 (NKJV)

15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

4. Path to recovery

- **Peter was tested, and how he stumbled.**
- **restoration to leadership and ministry**
- **process of recovery**

4. Path to recovery

- **Recovery is a journey.**
- **Path to recovery comprises 3 steps:**
 - a) Repentance**
 - b) Return**
 - c) Restoration**

4. Path to recovery

a) Repentance

- **To repent is to recognize the wrong and to turn away from wrong.**
- **serious realization that a mistake has been made**
- **often accompanied with remorse of varying degree**

4. Path to recovery

a) Repentance

- **Judas Iscariot repented from his sin of betraying Jesus to the Chief Priests.**
- **He was remorseful.**

Matthew 27:1-5 (NKJV)

When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. ² And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Matthew 27:1-5 (NKJV)

³ Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

Matthew 27:1-5 (NKJV)

⁴ saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” And they said, “What is that to us? You see to it!” ⁵ Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

4. Path to recovery

a) Repentance

- **Peter realized the depth and depravity of his sin of denying Jesus after repeating it for the third time.**
- **word of Jesus was brought to his remembrance**

Luke 22:54-62 (NKJV)

Having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

Luke 22:54-62 (NKJV)

56 And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, “This man was also with Him.” **57** But he denied Him, saying, “Woman, I do not know Him.”

Luke 22:54-62 (NKJV)

58 And after a little while another saw him and said, “You also are of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not!” **59** Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, “Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean.”

Luke 22:54-62 (NKJV)

60 But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are saying!” Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” 62 So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

4. Path to recovery

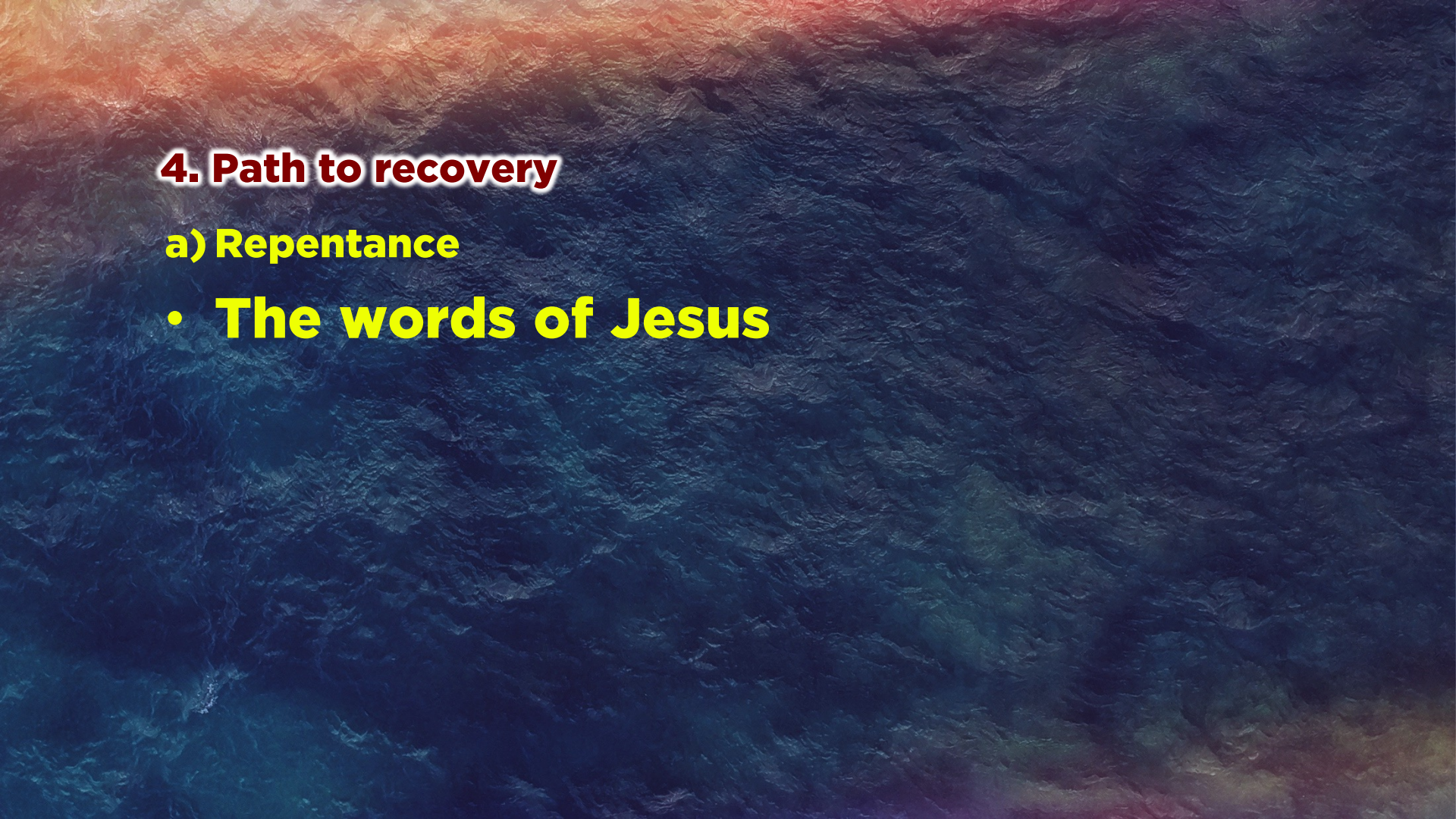
a) Repentance

- **What triggered the repentance of Judas?**
- **It was the irreversible and irreparable harm he caused to Jesus.**

4. Path to recovery

a) Repentance

- **What triggered the repentance of Peter?**
- **The word of Jesus and the compassion of Jesus.**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a dark, choppy sea under a dramatic sky. A rainbow is visible in the upper left corner, its colors blending into the orange and red hues of the sky. The water is dark blue and black with white foam from the waves.

4. Path to recovery

a) Repentance

- **The words of Jesus**

4. Path to recovery

a) Repentance

- **The words of Jesus**

- **words that warned Peter of his pride and his impending fall**

4. Path to recovery

a) Repentance

- **The words of Jesus**

- **words that warned Peter of his pride and his impending fall**

4. Path to recovery

a) Repentance

- **The words of Jesus**

- **word of God can revive us from our fall**

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

Psalm 19: 7-8 (NLT)

**The instructions of the Lord are perfect,
reviving the soul. The decrees of
the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the
simple. ⁸ The commandments of the Lord
are right, bringing joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are clear,
giving insight for living.**

4. Path to recovery

a) Repentance

- **The words of Jesus**

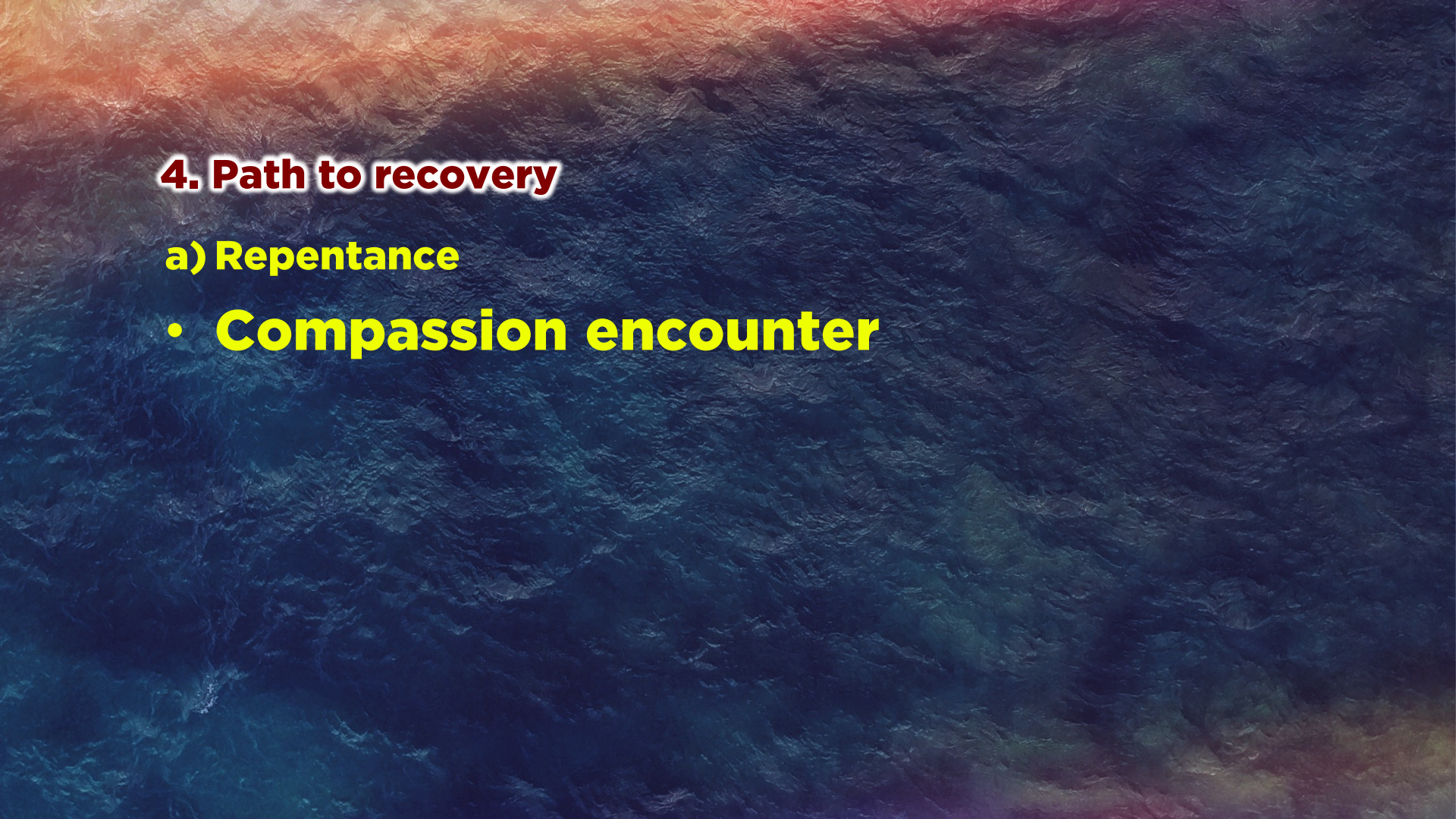
- **Peter's line of sight was synced with the look of Jesus upon Peter.**
- **Can look communicate?**

4. Path to recovery

a) Repentance

- **The words of Jesus**

- **“Did you know that I was very angry?”**
- **should give them the Jesus look**



4. Path to recovery

a) Repentance

- **Compassion encounter**

Luke 22:60-61 (NKJV)

But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are saying!” Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.

4. Path to recovery

a) Repentance

- **Compassion encounter**

- **it was a look of compassion and love**
- **not condemnation and disappointment**

James 5:11 (NKJV)

**Indeed we count them blessed who endure.
You have heard of the perseverance of Job
and seen the end intended by the Lord —
that **the Lord is very compassionate
and merciful.****

4. Path to recovery

a) Repentance

- **Compassion encounter**

- **Aaronic blessing composed by God**

Numbers 6:22-26 (NKJV)

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

²³ “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: ²⁴ “The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.”

4. Path to recovery

b) Return

- Repentance must be accompanied by return.
- Judas did not return.
- He condemned himself.

4. Path to recovery

b) Return

- By returning to Jesus, Peter put himself in the position to receive a fresh commission from Jesus.**

John 21:1-14 (NKJV)

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way, He showed Himself: ² Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.

John 21:1-14 (NKJV)

3 Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We are going with you also.” They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. 4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

John 21:1-14 (NKJV)

5 Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?” They answered Him, “No.” **6** And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So, they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

John 21:1-14 (NKJV)

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.

John 21:1-14 (NKJV)

9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. **10** Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.” **11** Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

John 21:1-14 (NKJV)

12 Jesus said to them, “Come and eat breakfast.” Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?” - knowing that it was the Lord. **13** Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. **14** This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

4. Path to recovery

b) Return

- The larger purpose of the testing of Peter was not just to test his faith but that he will be used by Jesus in a greater way to strengthen the others.**

Luke 22: 31-32 (NKJV)

31 And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. **32** But **I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”**

4. Path to recovery

c) Restore

- Mistakes do not need to result in permanent disqualification.**

4. Path to recovery

c) Restore

- Our failures make us more effective disciples.**

John 21:15-19 (NKJV)

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”

John 21:15-19 (NKJV)

16 He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”
He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”

John 21:15-19 (NKJV)

17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”
Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.

John 21:15-19 (NKJV)

18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.”

John 21:15-19 (NKJV)

19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”

4. Path to recovery

c) Restore

- He said “when you return...”
- He did not say “If you recover...”

Luke 22:32 (AMPC)

**But I have prayed especially for you [Peter],
that your [own] faith may not fail; and when
you yourself have turned again,
strengthen and establish your brethren.**

4. Path to recovery

c) Restore

- To fall is not to fail.**
- We are expected to get up again and fight the good fight of faith.**

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 (NKJV)

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. ⁸ We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; **struck down, but not destroyed -**

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 (NKJV)

10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

4. Path to recovery

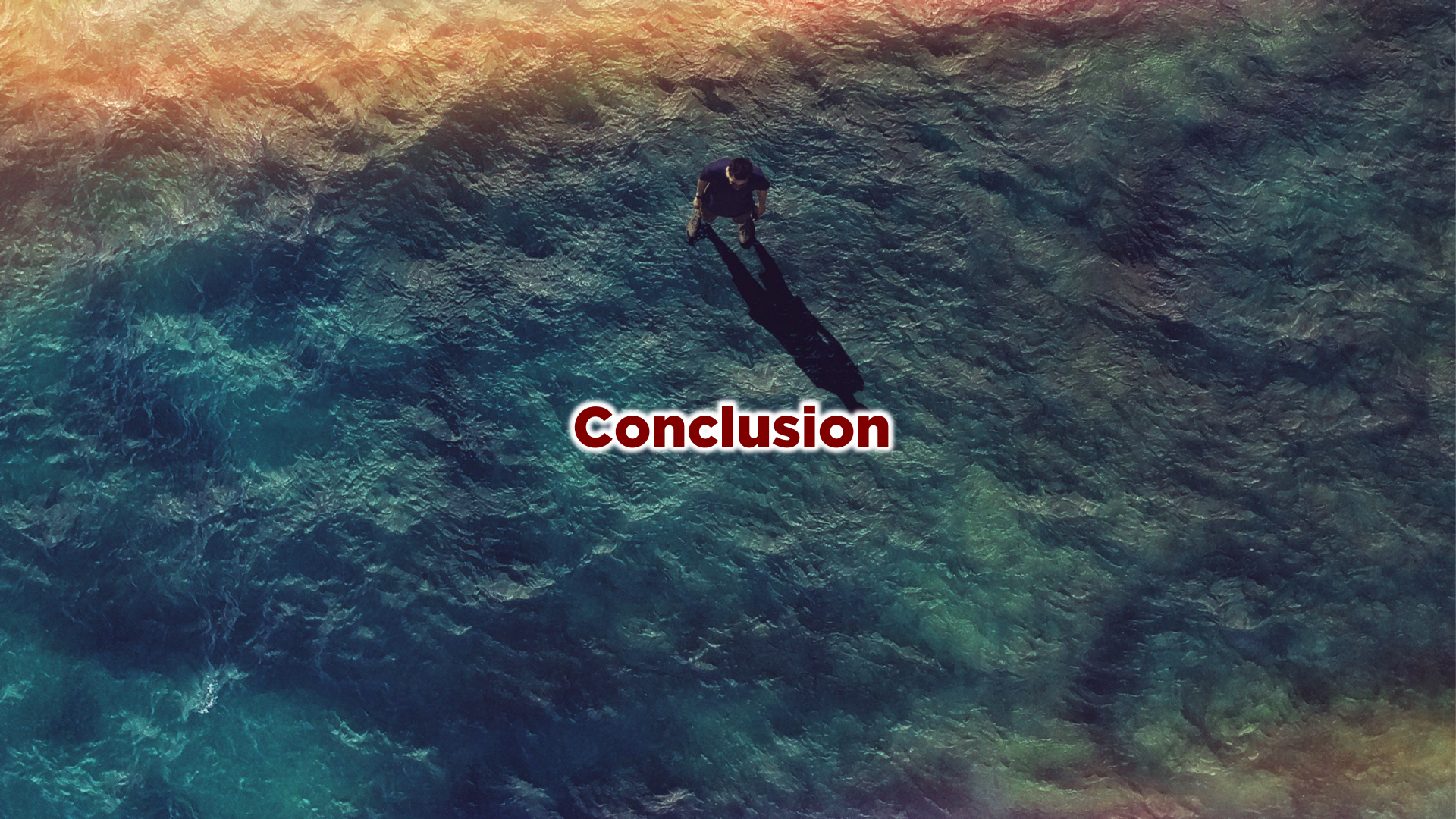
c) Restore

- Repentance should be followed by return.**

4. Path to recovery

c) Restore

- **Peter was remorseful.**
- **He repented.**
- **And he went further by returning to the team, to Jesus, and to ministry.**

An aerial photograph of a person standing on a vast, textured surface that resembles water or a large-scale artistic installation. The surface is covered in intricate, swirling patterns and is bathed in a vibrant, multi-colored light that transitions from deep blues and greens in the lower half to bright oranges and yellows at the top. The person, positioned in the upper-middle section, is wearing a dark shirt and shorts, and their long shadow is cast out towards the bottom. The word "Conclusion" is superimposed in a bold, red, sans-serif font with a white outline, centered horizontally in the lower half of the image.

Conclusion