

“Life, the  
way it was  
meant to  
be.”



What  
Christianity  
looks like when  
the bottom falls  
out

**Job 14:1 “Man,  
who is born of  
woman is short-  
lived and full of  
turmoil.”**

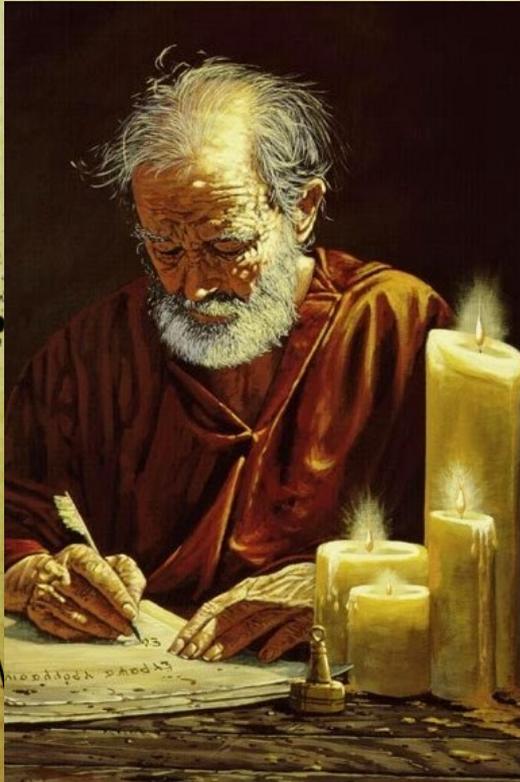
**“...full of trouble” (NIV)**



## **James 1:2-4**

- 1. You will have troubles**
- 2. Troubles come in many forms**
- 3. Good can come from troubles**



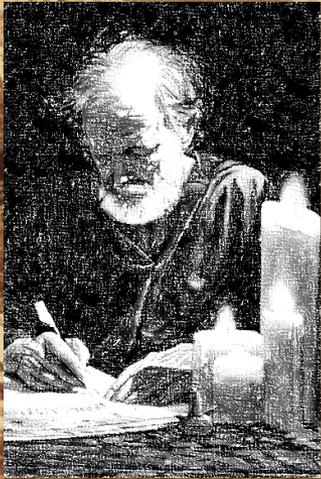


Paul not only knew adversity,  
he shows us how to handle it

**2 Corinthians 4:7-18**

## 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

*We are breakable (7)*



## 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

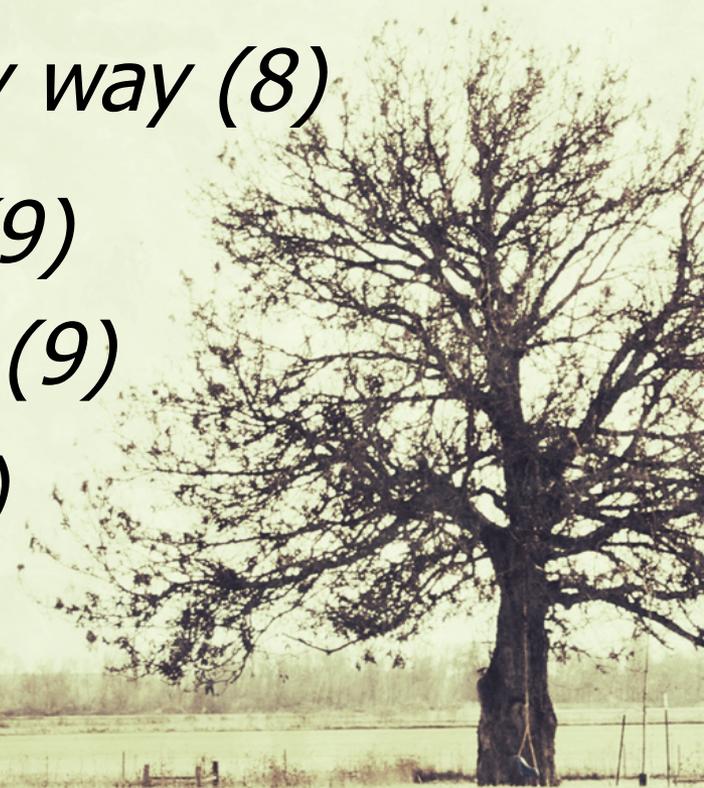
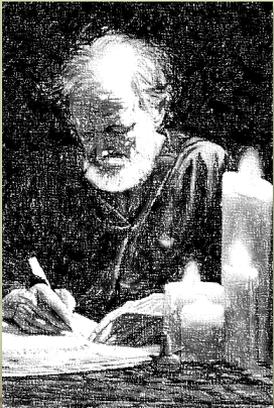
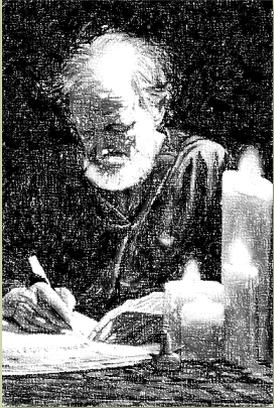
*We are breakable (7)*

*We are afflicted in every way (8)*

*We are perplexed (9)*

*We are persecuted (9)*

*We are struck down (9)*



## 2 Corinthians 4:7-

18

Afflicted but not CRUSHED

Perplexed but not

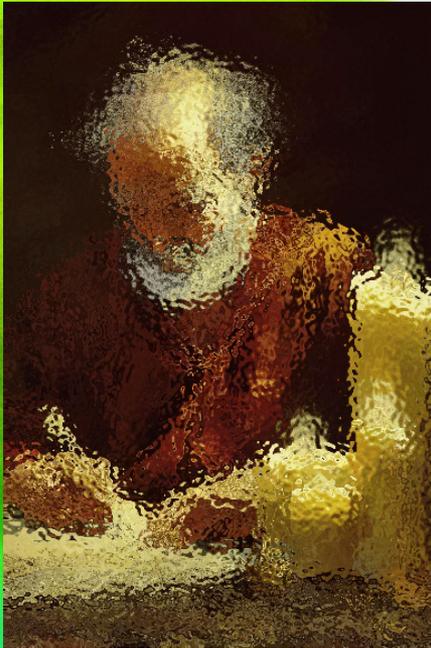
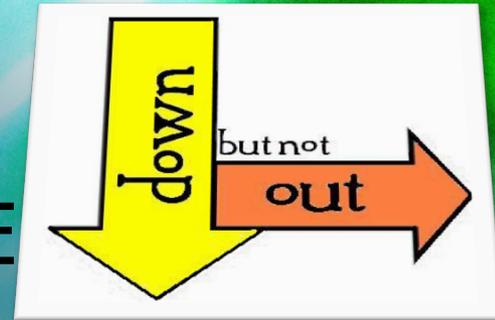
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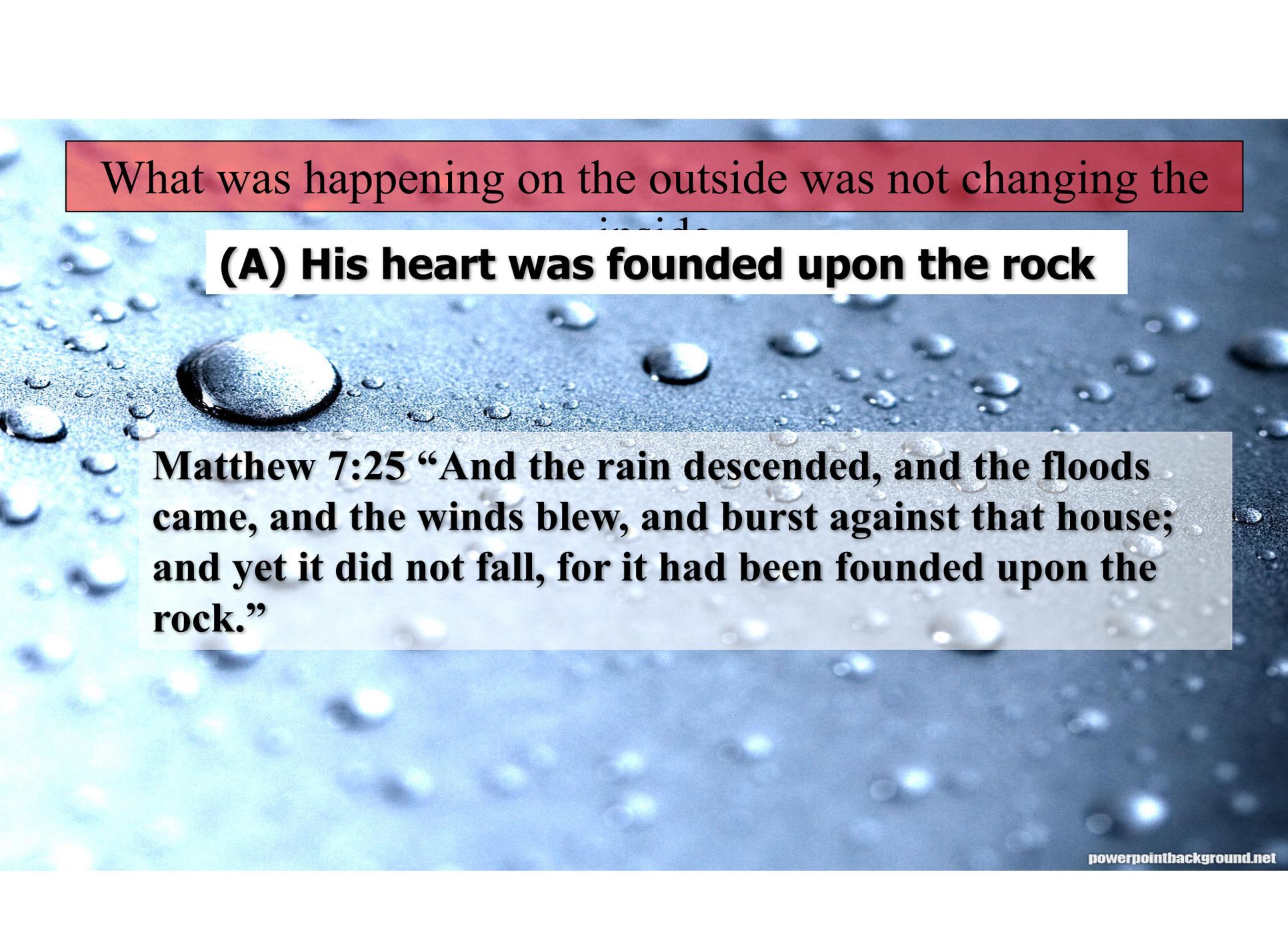
Persecuted but not

FORSAKEN

Struck down but not

DESTROYED





What was happening on the outside was not changing the

**(A) His heart was founded upon the rock**

**Matthew 7:25 “And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock.”**

IAN DALE

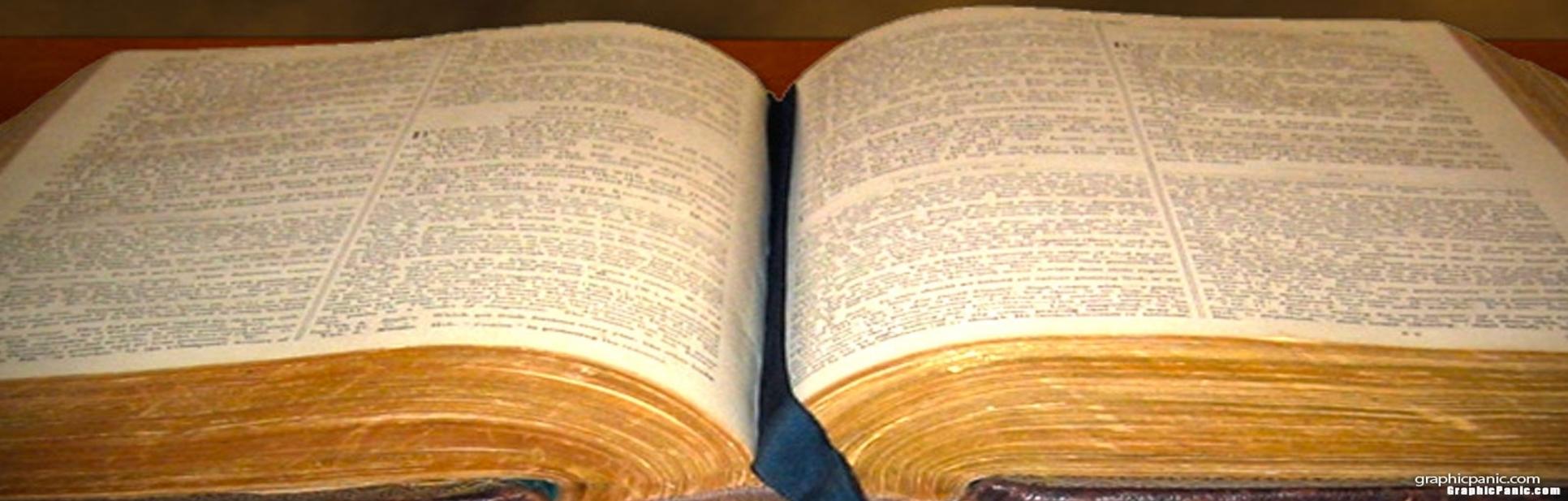
[www.iandale.net](http://www.iandale.net)

The Rock is  
Jesus Christ



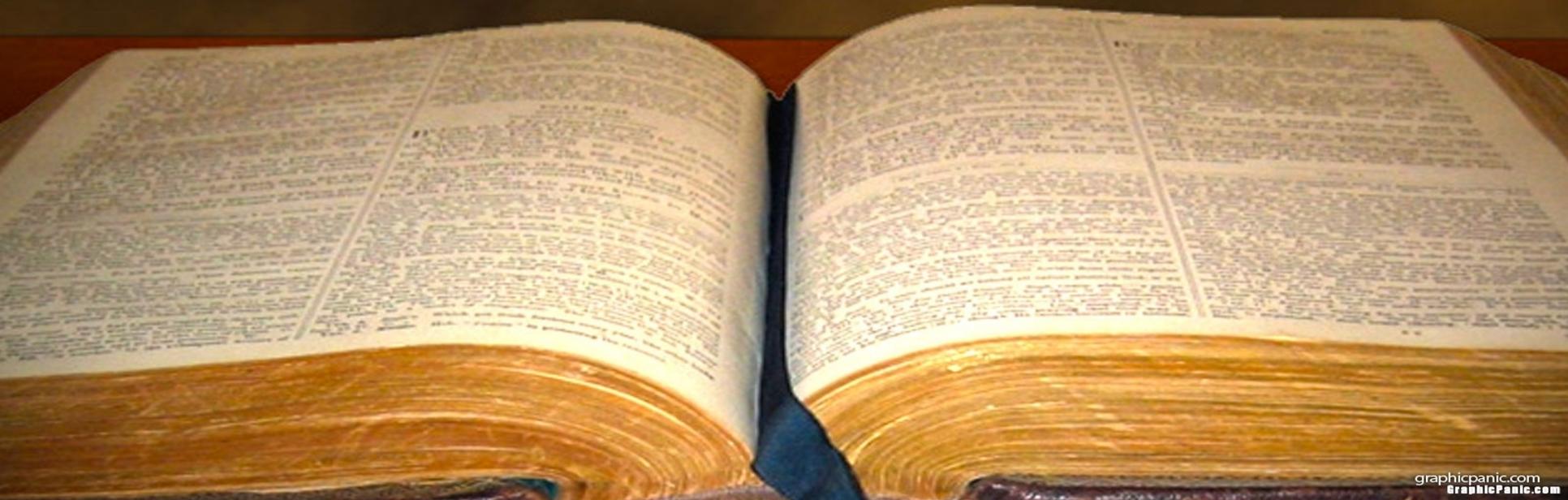
What was happening on the outside was not changing the  
inside

**Psalms 23:4 “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me. Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.”**



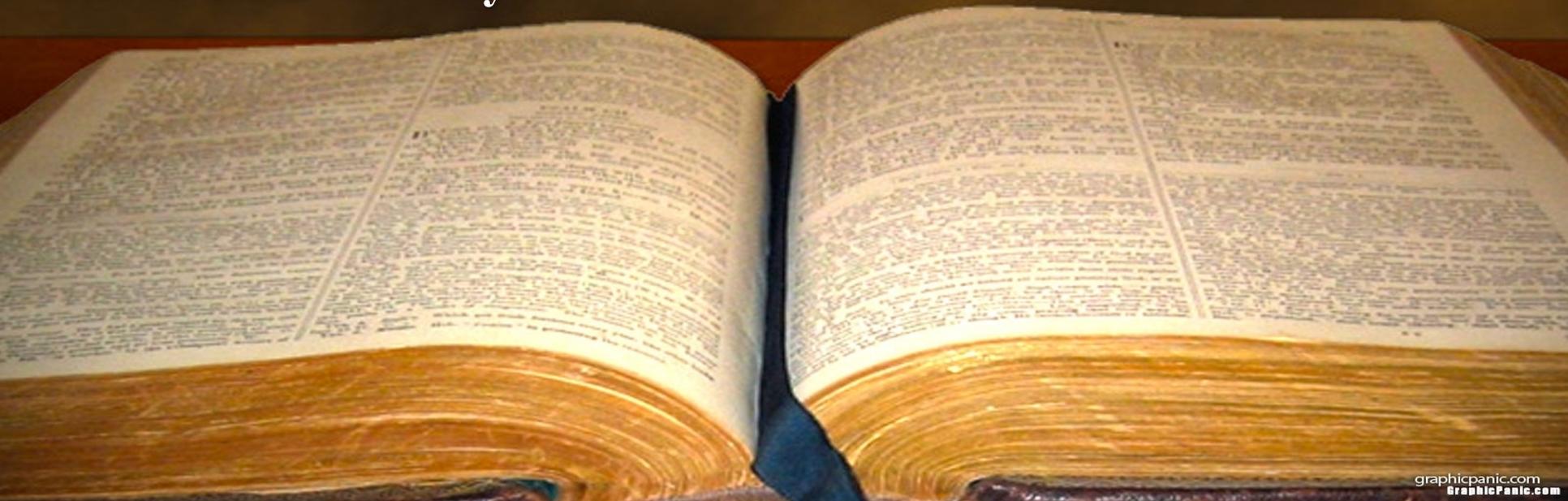
What was happening on the outside was not changing the  
inside

**Psalms 46:1-2 “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea”**



What was happening on the outside was not changing the  
inside

**2 Timothy 1:12 “For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”**





What was happening on the outside was not an indication of God's feelings toward him

## **(B) His help came from the Lord**

*“...we are not forsaken” (2 Cor 4:9)*

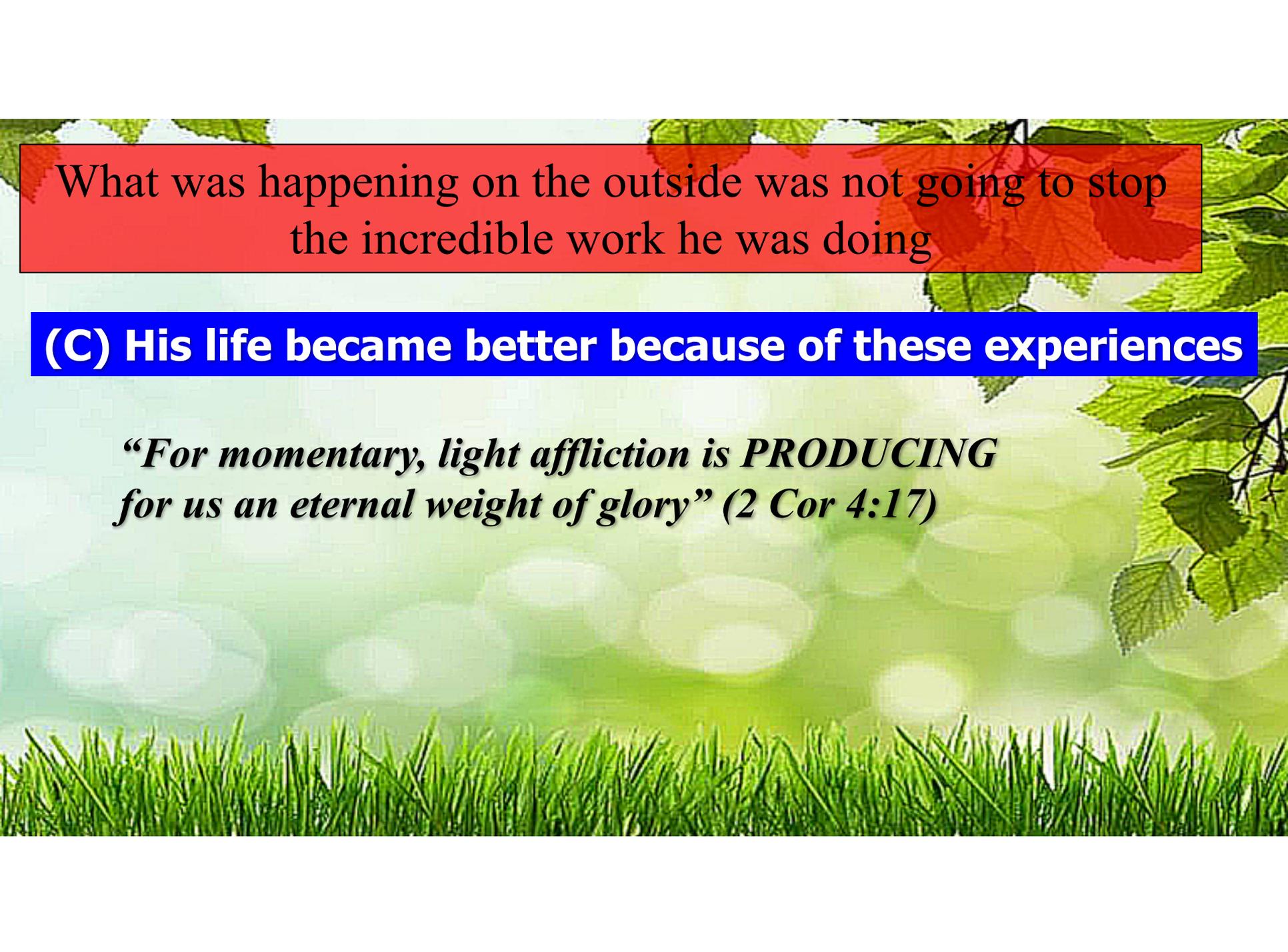
**Heb 13:5b “...for He Himself has said, ‘I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,’ so that we confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?’”**

Instead of *isolating* us from troubles, God *insulates* us to keep troubles from coming in to our heart



**Acts 26:22** “And so, having **obtained help from God**, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place”

**2 Tim 4:16-17** “At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. But **the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me**, in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the lion’s mouth.”



What was happening on the outside was not going to stop  
the incredible work he was doing

**(C) His life became better because of these experiences**

*“For momentary, light affliction is **PRODUCING**  
for us an eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor 4:17)*

He understood that adversity is God's classroom

He learned to depend upon the Lord

He learned to be humble

He learned to see the big picture

He understood that God's kingdom is indestructible



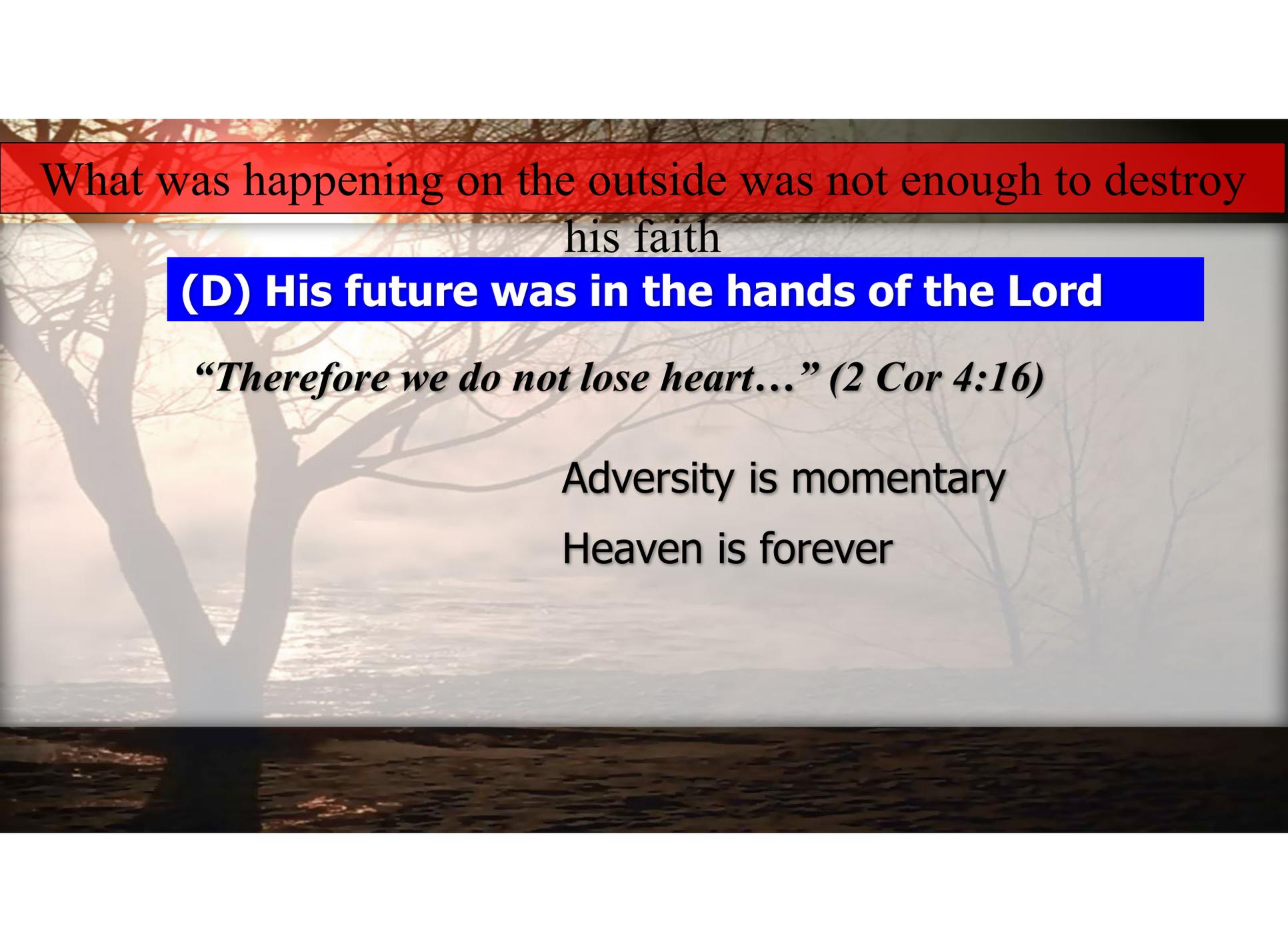
Hebrews 12:28 “Therefore, since we receive a kingdom **which cannot be shaken**, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe.”

Daniel 2:44 “And in the days of those kings the God of Heaven will set up a kingdom **which will never be destroyed**, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but **it will itself endure forever.**”

He understood that adversity is God's classroom

He understood that God's kingdom is indestructible

He understood that through adversity, he could help  
others



What was happening on the outside was not enough to destroy  
his faith

**(D) His future was in the hands of the Lord**

*“Therefore we do not lose heart...” (2 Cor 4:16)*

Adversity is momentary

Heaven is forever

A red and white checkered heart hangs from a string above a wooden-framed chalkboard. The chalkboard has the text "The Lord is counting on you" written on it in white. The background is a rustic wooden wall.

The Lord is  
counting on you

A rustic wooden sign with a black chalkboard surface is mounted on a weathered wooden wall. Above the sign, a heart-shaped object made of red and white checkered fabric is suspended by thin wooden sticks. The sign features the text "The journey is worth it" written in a white, serif font.

The journey is  
worth it

A red and white checkered heart hangs from a string above a wooden-framed chalkboard. The chalkboard has a black surface with white text written on it. The entire scene is set against a background of vertical wooden planks.

You will be  
disappointed if you let  
your troubles win



What  
Christianity  
looks like when  
the bottom falls  
out

A close-up photograph showing a person's hand holding a small, rectangular white piece of paper. The paper has the words "I can't" on the top line and "do it" on the bottom line, written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A pair of blue-handled scissors is positioned to cut the paper, with the blades meeting at the top right corner of the text. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light beige color.

I can't  
do it