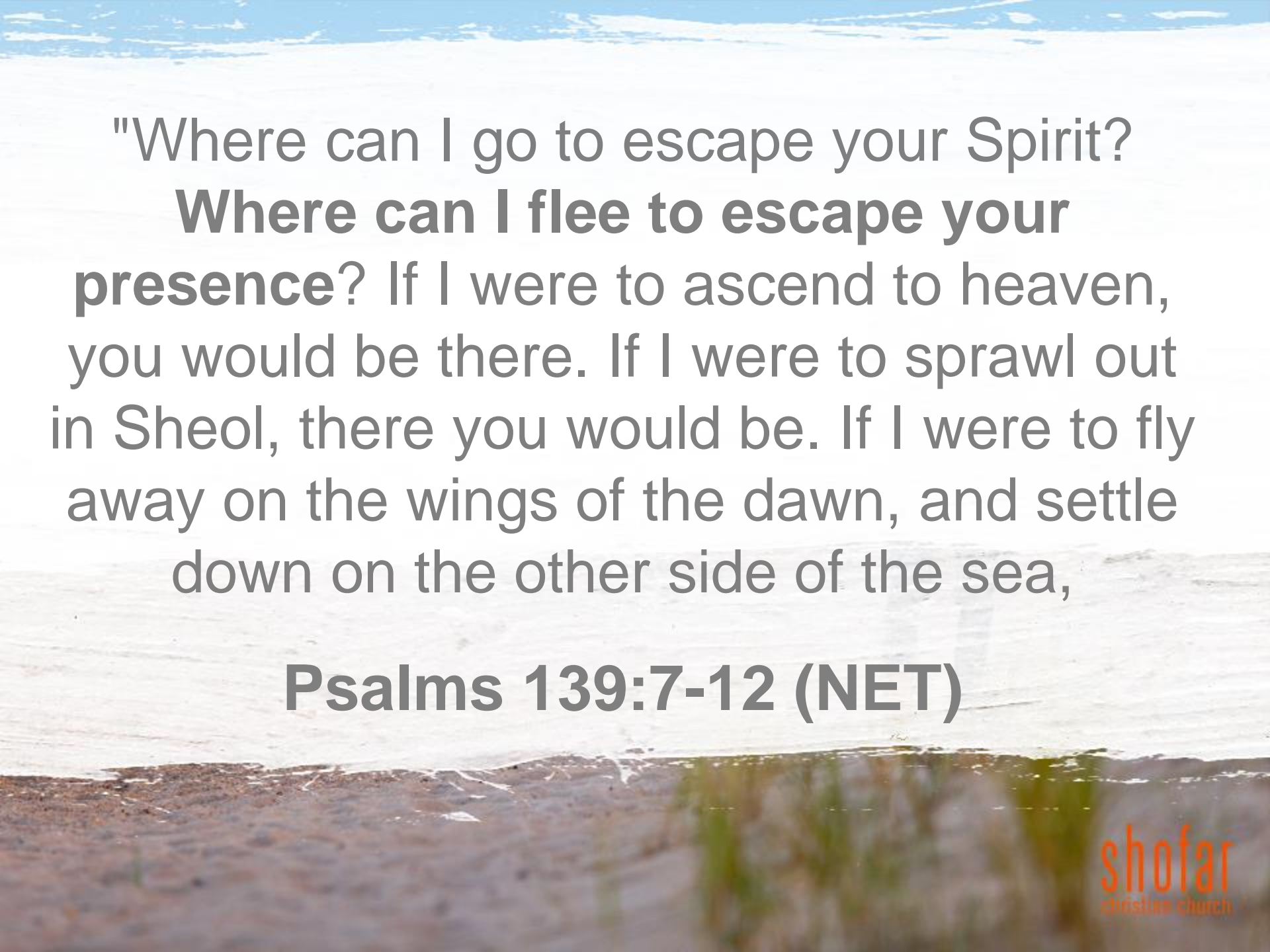


A photograph of a man and a woman embracing on a beach at sunset. The man is wearing a red and blue plaid shirt, and the woman is wearing a dark top. They are standing on the wet sand, and their reflections are visible in the shallow water. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, and the ocean waves are breaking in the distance.

on being present

FRED MAY

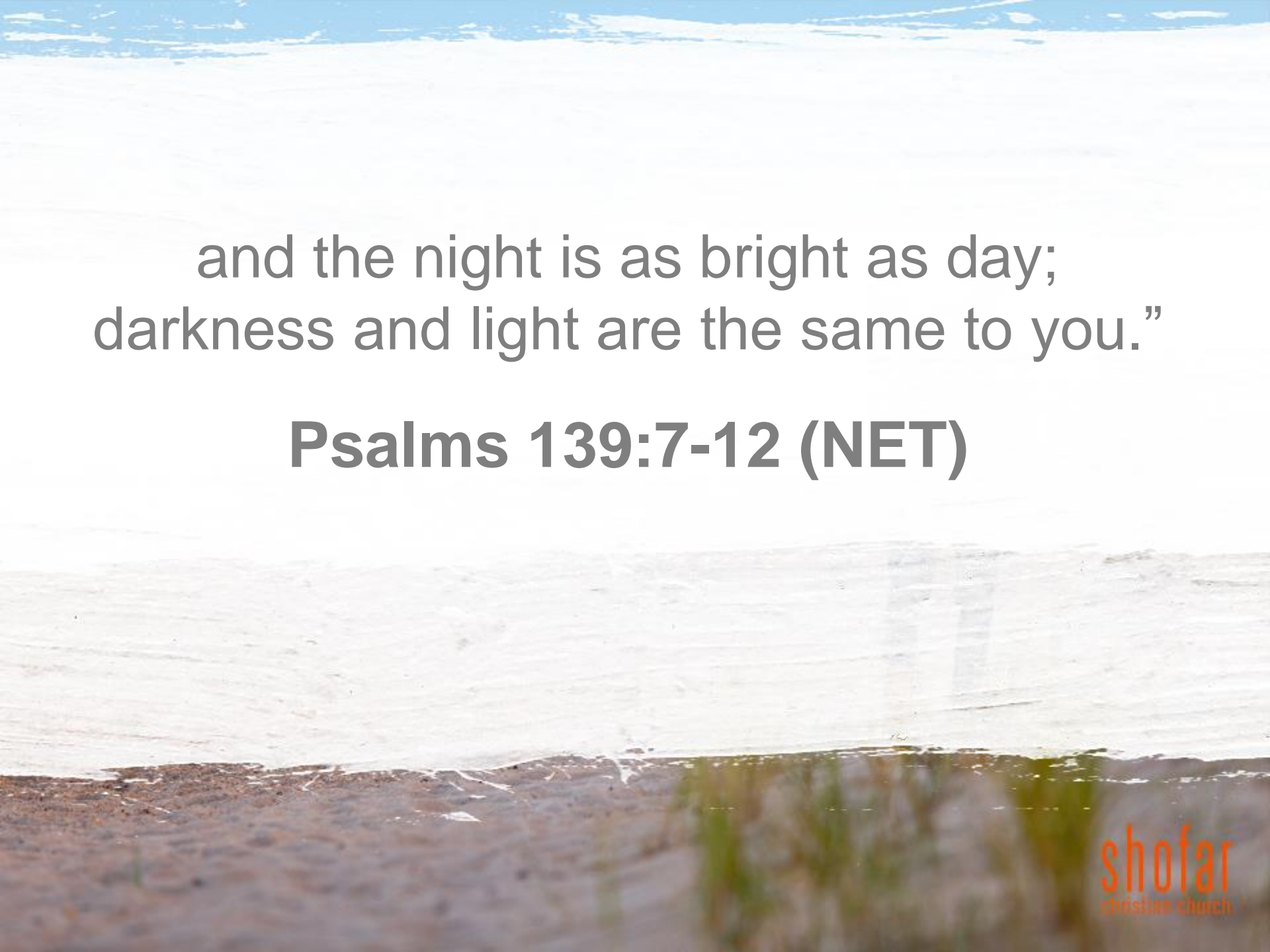


"Where can I go to escape your Spirit?
Where can I flee to escape your presence? If I were to ascend to heaven, you would be there. If I were to sprawl out in Sheol, there you would be. If I were to fly away on the wings of the dawn, and settle down on the other side of the sea,

Psalms 139:7-12 (NET)

even there your hand would guide me,
your right hand would grab hold of me. If
I were to say, “Certainly the darkness will
cover me, and the light will turn to night
all around me,” even the darkness is not
too dark for you to see,

Psalms 139:7-12 (NET)



and the night is as bright as day;
darkness and light are the same to you.”

Psalms 139:7-12 (NET)

THE PRIMACY OF PRESENCE

Your presence with us –

"And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your

Exodus 33:14-16 (NKJV)

Your presence with us –
sight, except You go with us? So we shall
be separate, Your people and I, from all
the people who are upon the face of the
earth."

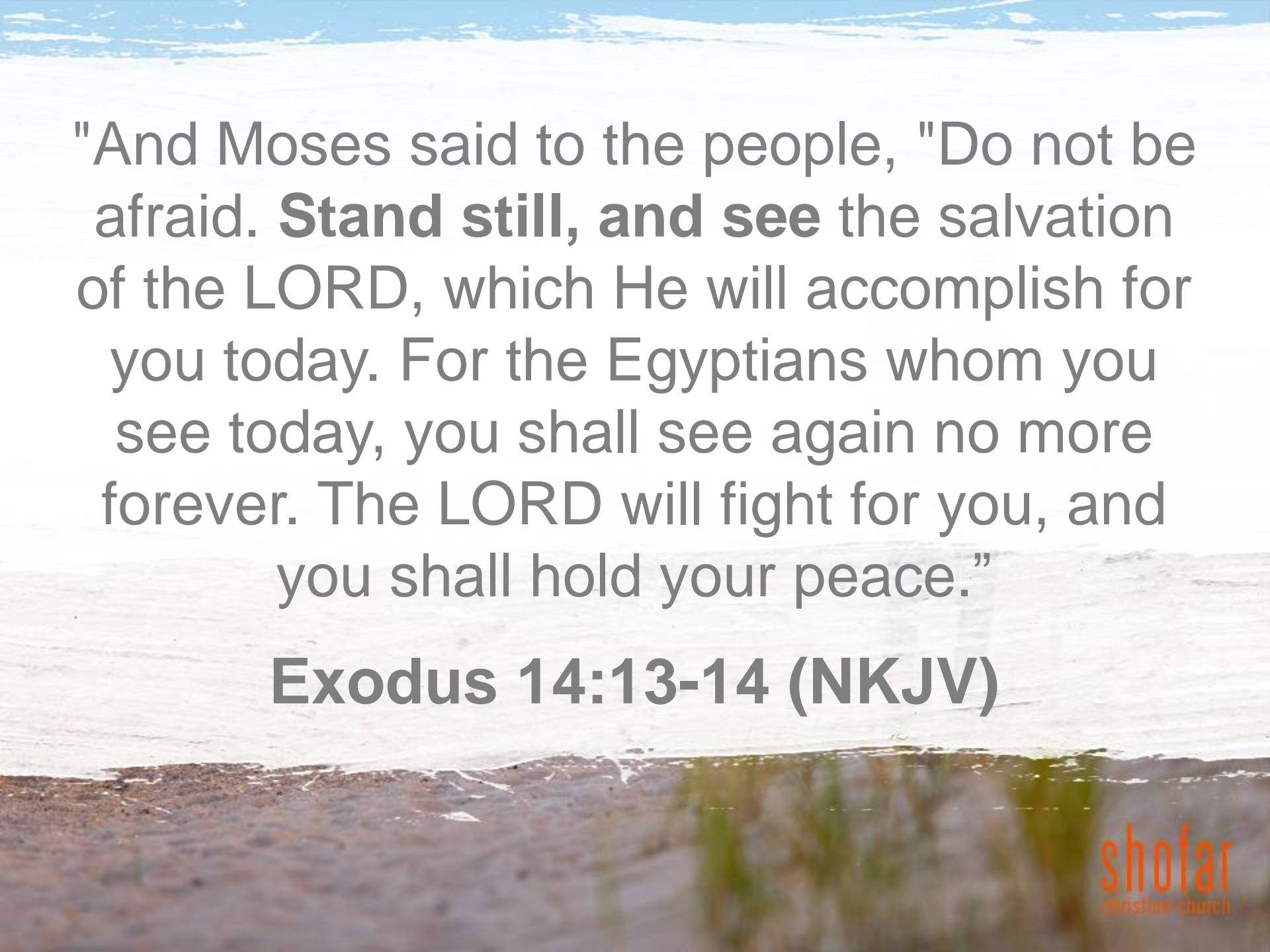
Exodus 33:14-16 (NKJV)



**PRESENCE VERSUS PRESENTS –
the gift of personal/face time**

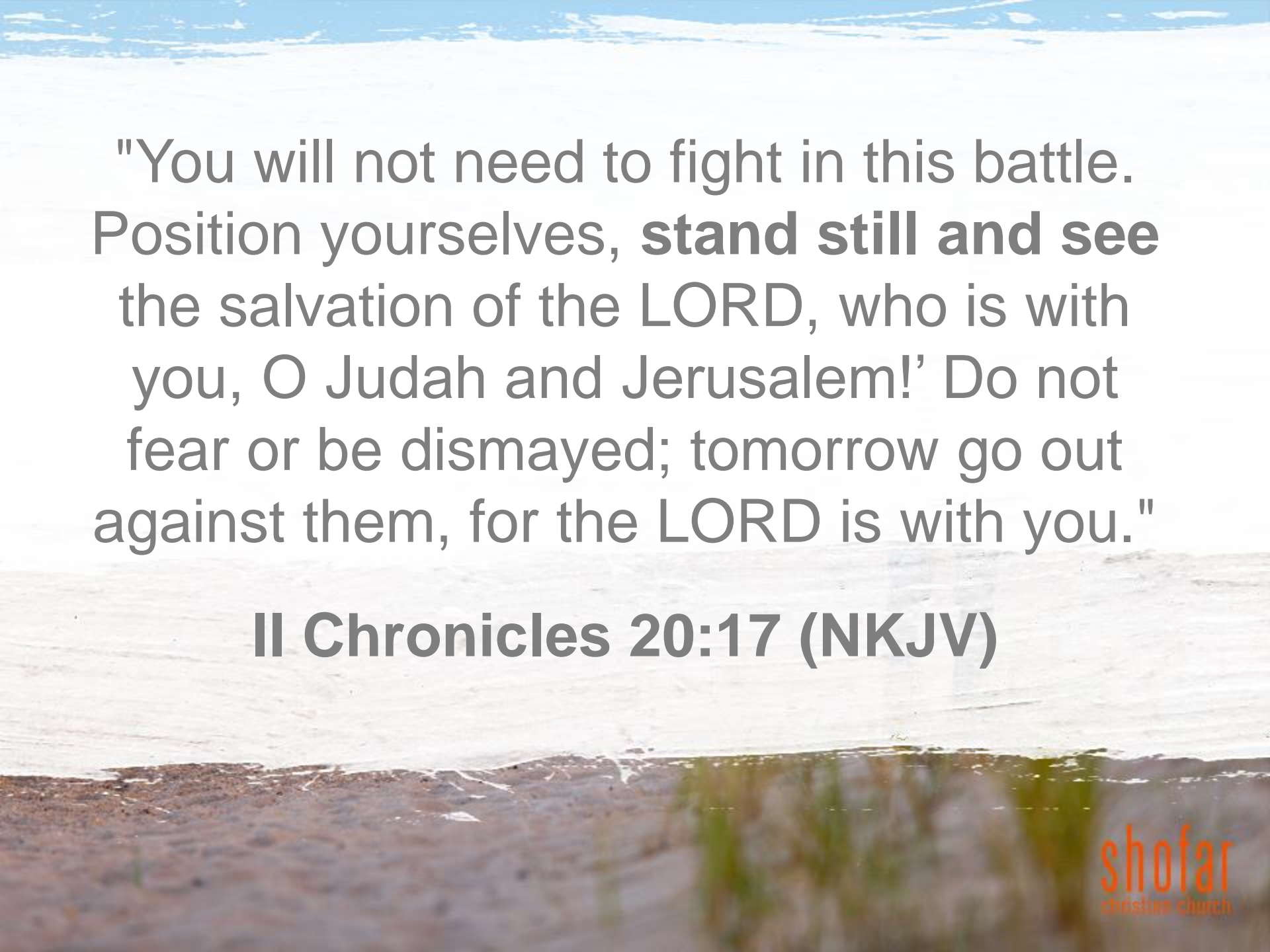
SONSHIP THE PRIVILEGE OF 'EMBASSY' –

[the function, mission or position of
an ambassador] 'stand still and see'



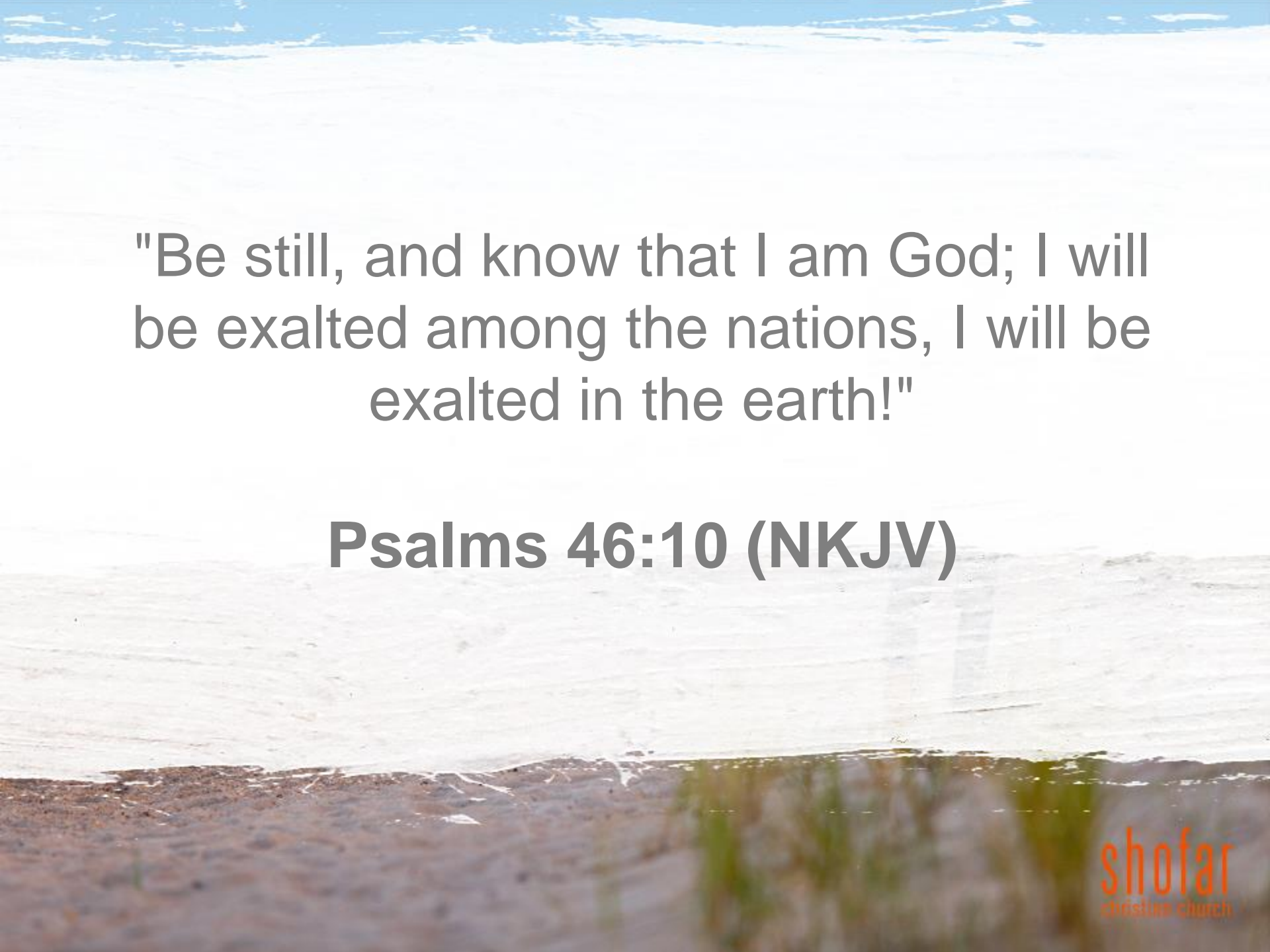
"And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. **Stand still, and see** the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

Exodus 14:13-14 (NKJV)



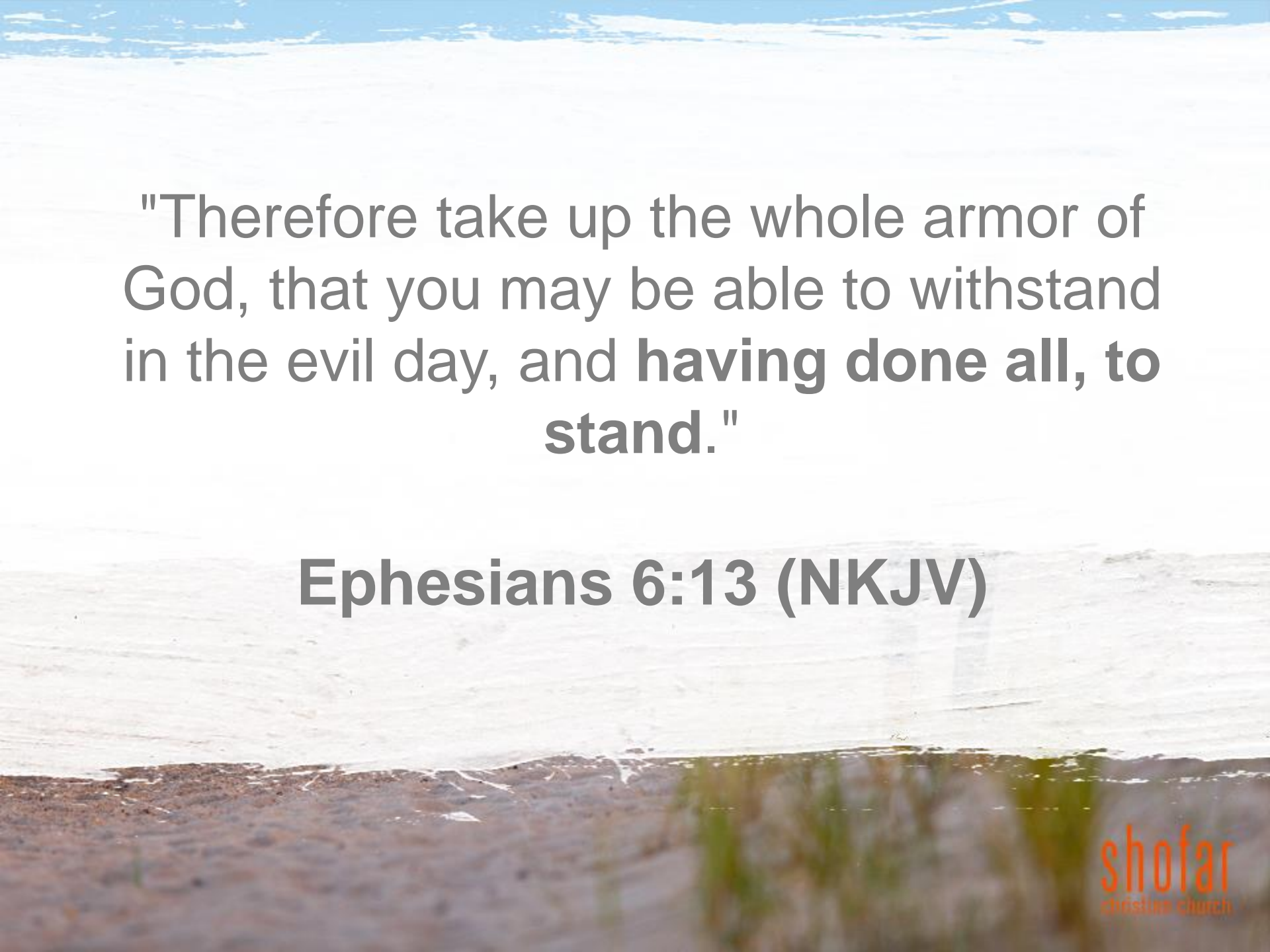
"You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, **stand still and see** the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."

II Chronicles 20:17 (NKJV)



"Be still, and know that I am God; I will
be exalted among the nations, I will be
exalted in the earth!"

Psalms 46:10 (NKJV)



"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and **having done all, to stand.**"

Ephesians 6:13 (NKJV)

DELEGATED BATTLE ENGAGEMENT



the sabbath rest –
first called to **BE** not do **DO**



"For he who has entered His rest has himself also **ceased from his works** as God did from His."

Hebrews 4:10 (NKJV)



**human contribution fallacy –
empty insignificance, the irony**

the 'purpose-and-destiny obsession' also known as the **Messiah Complex**:

"A state of mind/state of being, (where) ... the ... individual(s) possessing the 'complex' (sub)consciously feel that they bear the weight of the world and that their actions and words ... may be a significant catalyst of changing the course of the

the 'purpose-and-destiny obsession' also known as the **Messiah Complex**:

world for the better. ... the individual(s) consistently envision (quasi) prophetic projections of the future which de-synchronize them from what many call 'living in the present' ... making it immensely difficult to be content with the world ... great or ill."

Performance pressure // stress

A wide, shallow beach with gentle waves washing onto the shore under a bright, overcast sky. The water is a pale, milky white, and the sand is a soft, light brown. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall mood is calm and serene.

Fear of failure // under-achievement

unplanned, unscripted existence –
being vs doing - chasing the wind/vanity:

"I have seen all the works that are done
under the sun; and indeed, all is **vanity**
and grasping for the wind."


Ecclesiastes 1:14 (NKJV)

**slowing down & the glory of
nothingness**

- Boredom challenge -

sensation & fascination vs
quiet togetherness;

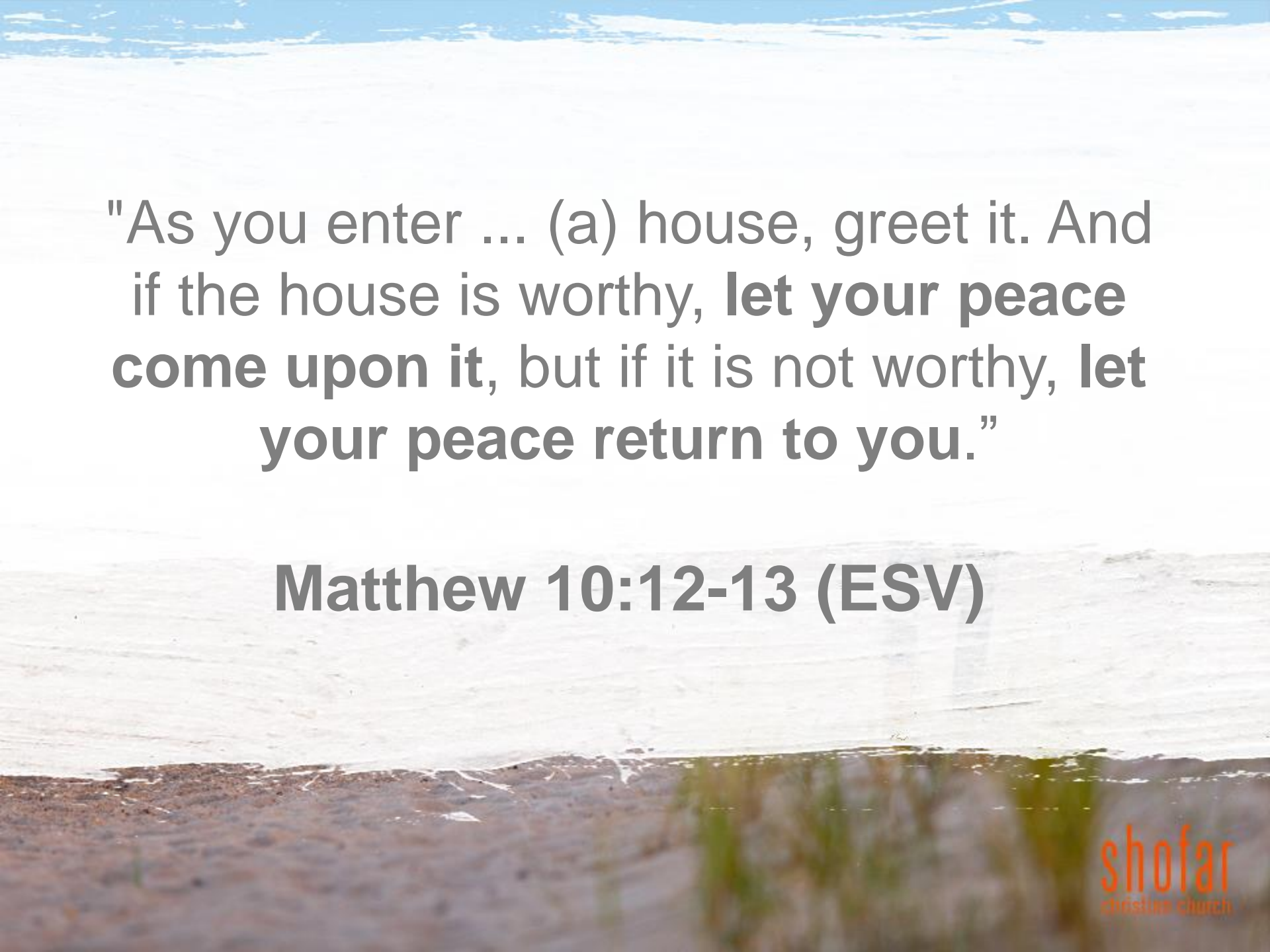
Distraction & 'helicopter' parents - the
entertainment abomination



"Then He appointed twelve, **that they might be with Him** and that He might send them out to preach ..."

Mark 3:14 (NKJV)

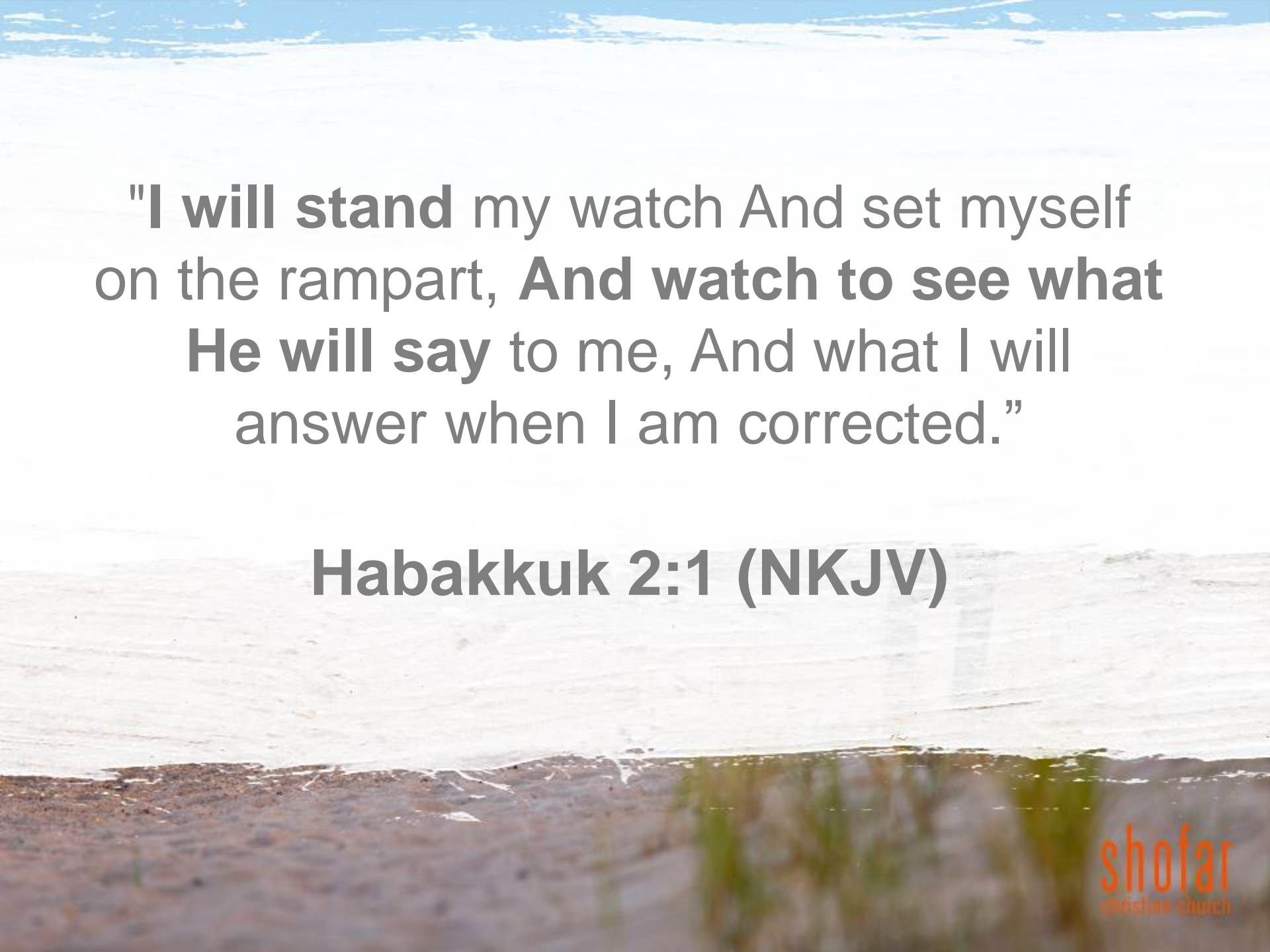
- beyond words & awkward silence
- simplicity - & peace; a de-accessorized existence, reduced to zero
- mediating Christ's peace



"As you enter ... (a) house, greet it. And if the house is worthy, **let your peace come upon it**, but if it is not worthy, **let your peace return to you.**"

Matthew 10:12-13 (ESV)

THE WATCHMAN



**"I will stand my watch And set myself
on the rampart, And watch to see what
He will say to me, And what I will
answer when I am corrected."**

Habakkuk 2:1 (NKJV)

- the beautiful mundane - quietly alert & focussed, relaxed (no striving & anxiety)
- presence metaphors
 - salt and leaven – surreptitious/subtle & irremovable (virtual missions)
- capacity constraints - at peace with personal weakness/incapacity

- pressure-motivation eg false-guilt, shame (slavery/bondage - Romans 8: 15-16)
- vulnerability (emotional-spiritual) – insecurity > pride; intimidation
- mother-need > trust & commitment issues with 'church'/body