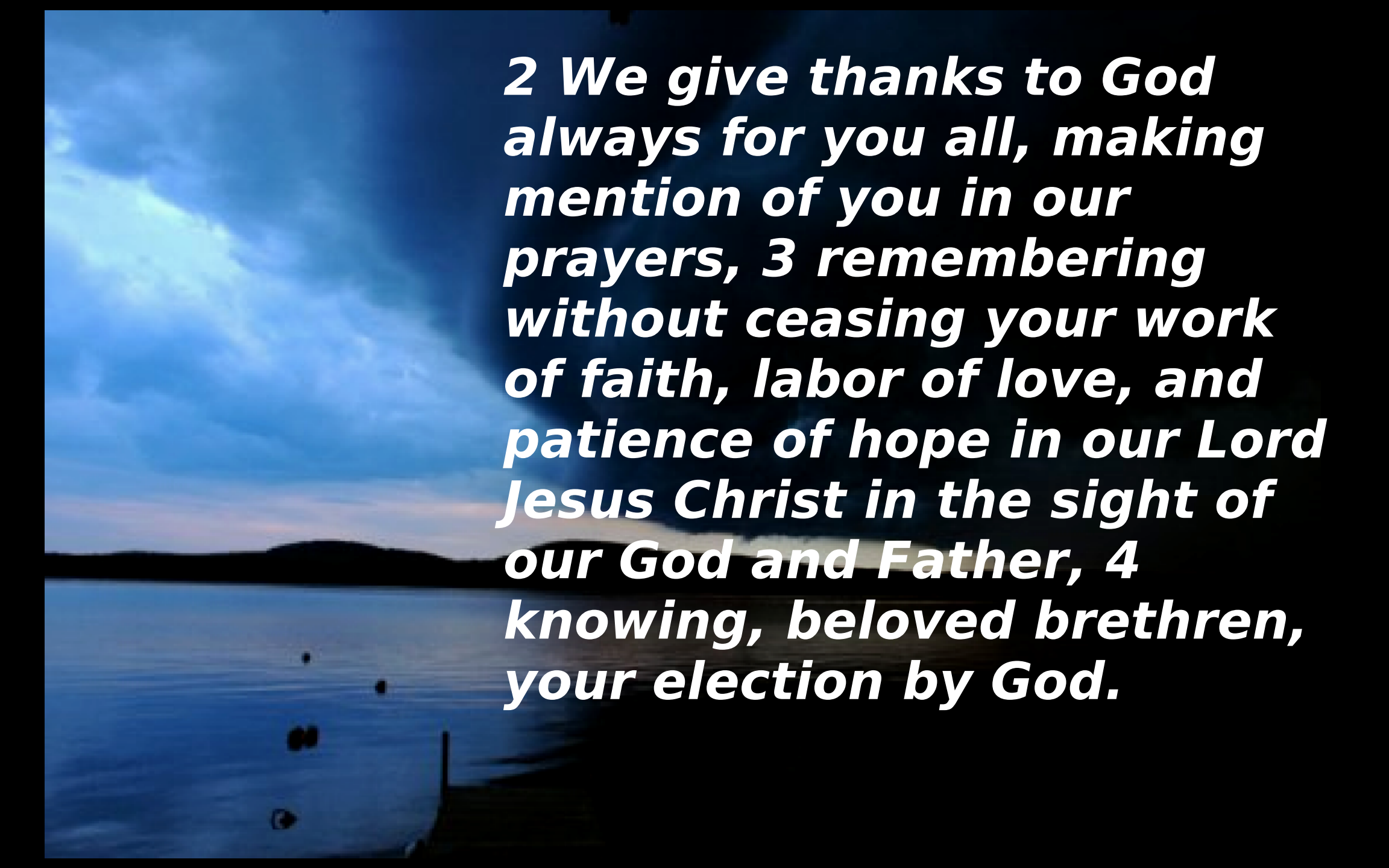


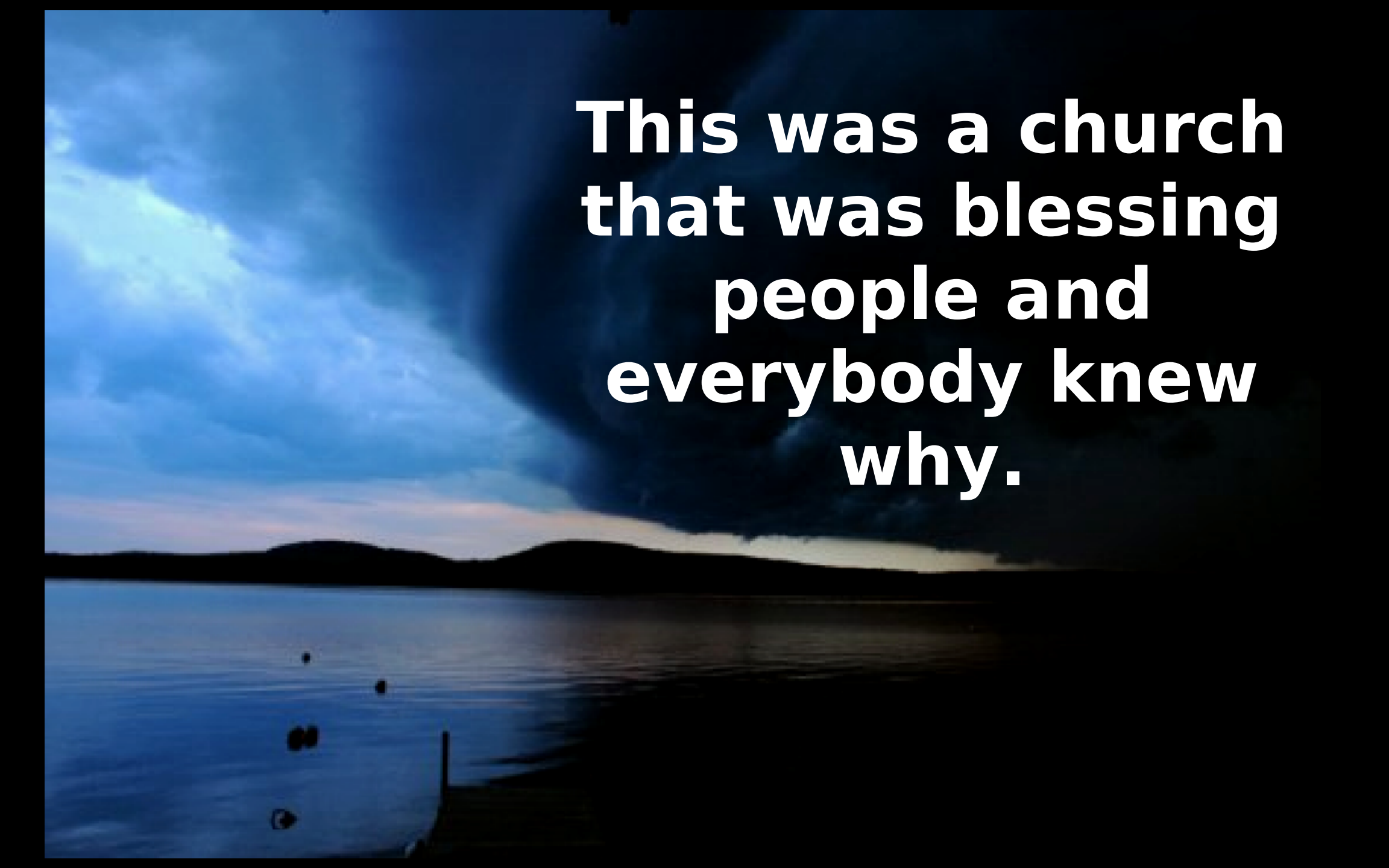


Sounding Out

1 Thessalonians 1:2-8



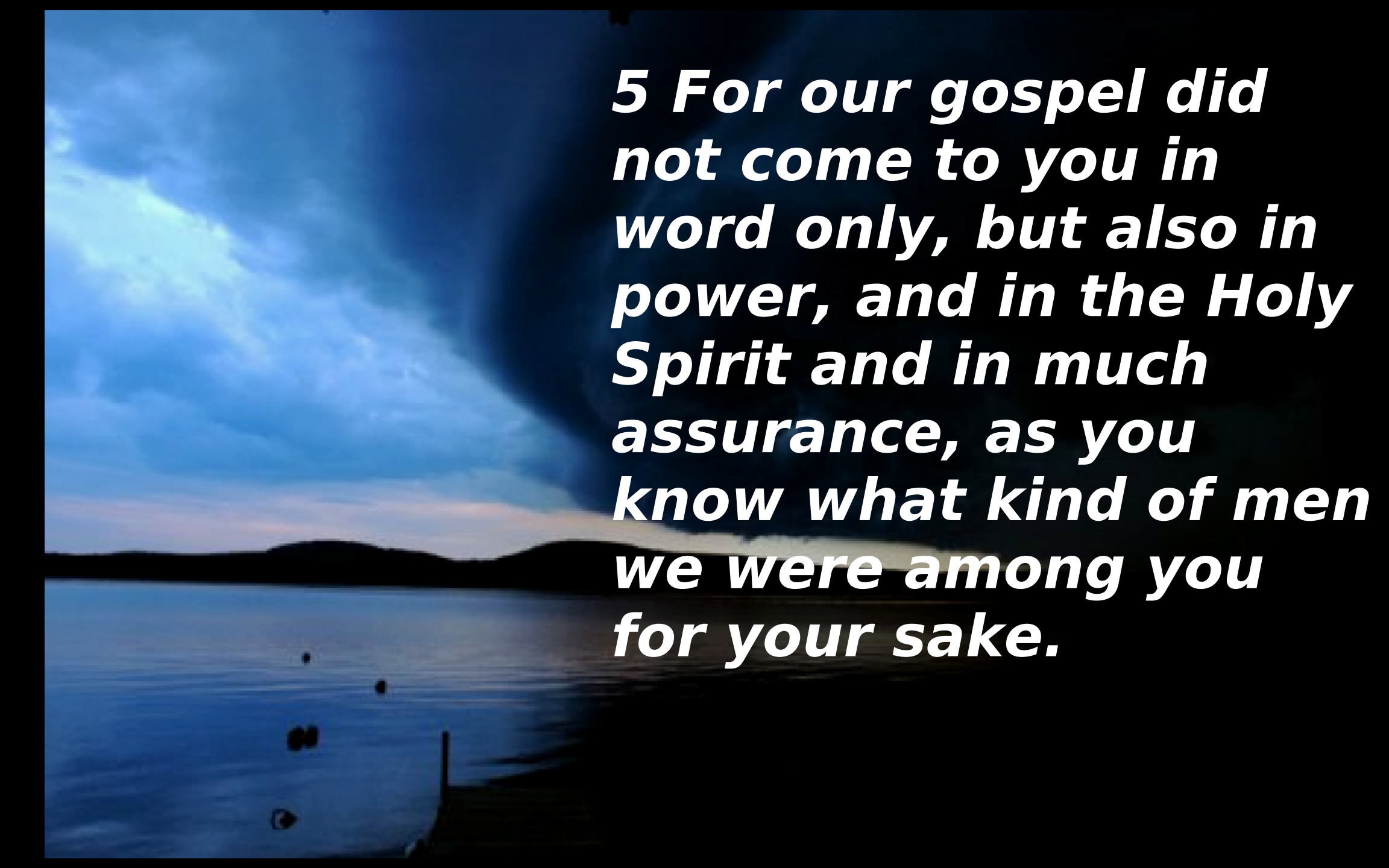
2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, 4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

A dramatic landscape photograph of a lake at dusk. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright, glowing light source breaking through on the left side, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the clouds. The water in the foreground is dark and calm, reflecting the light from the sky. In the distance, there are dark, silhouetted hills or mountains. In the lower-left foreground, the dark hull of a boat is visible, with several small, dark objects floating in the water nearby.

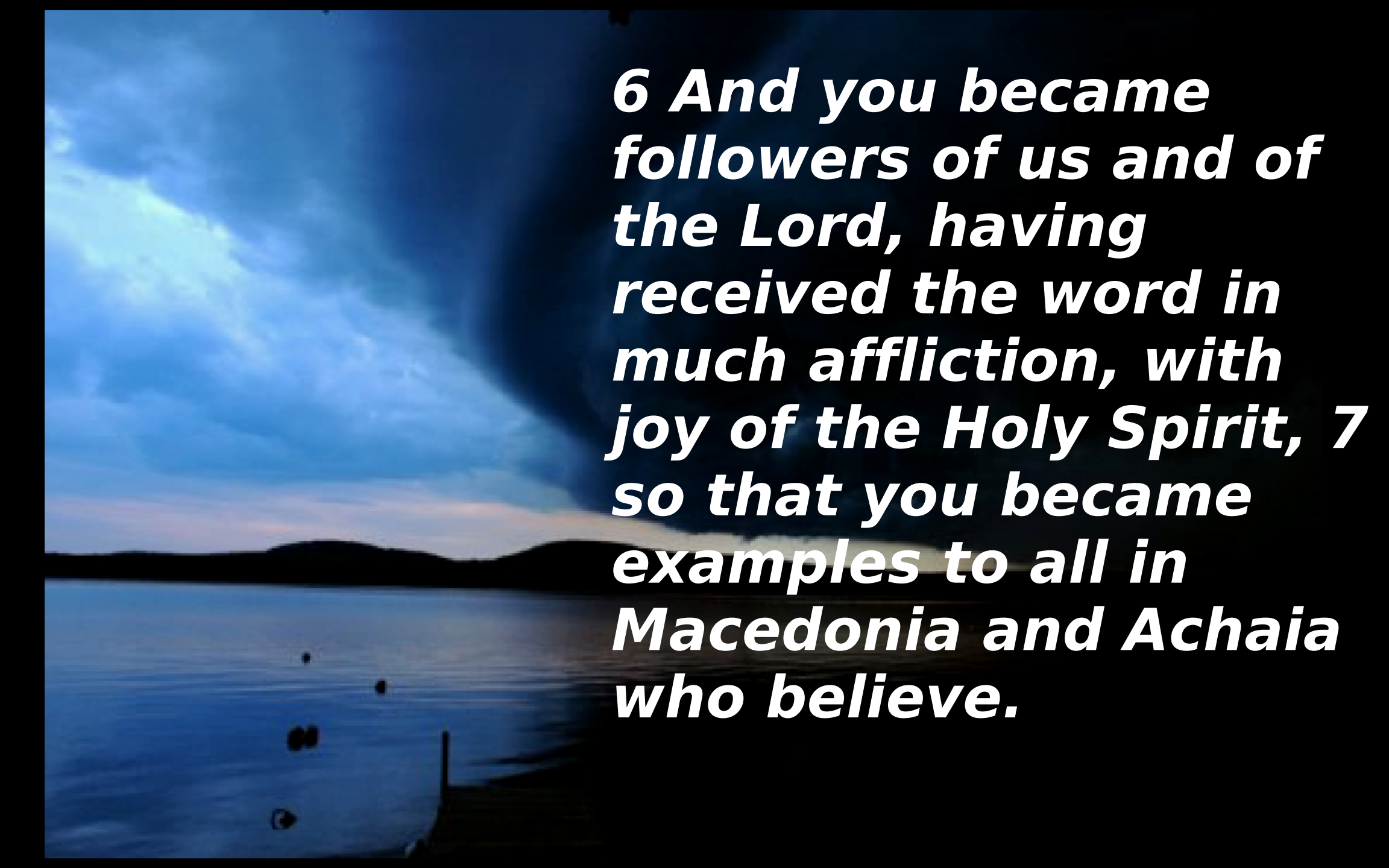
**This was a church
that was blessing
people and
everybody knew
why.**

A dramatic landscape photograph featuring a dark, stormy sky with heavy, dark clouds. The sky transitions from a deep blue on the left to a dark, almost black on the right. Below the sky, a thin layer of light clouds or mist is visible above a range of dark, silhouetted hills. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the dark sky. The overall mood is somber and powerful.

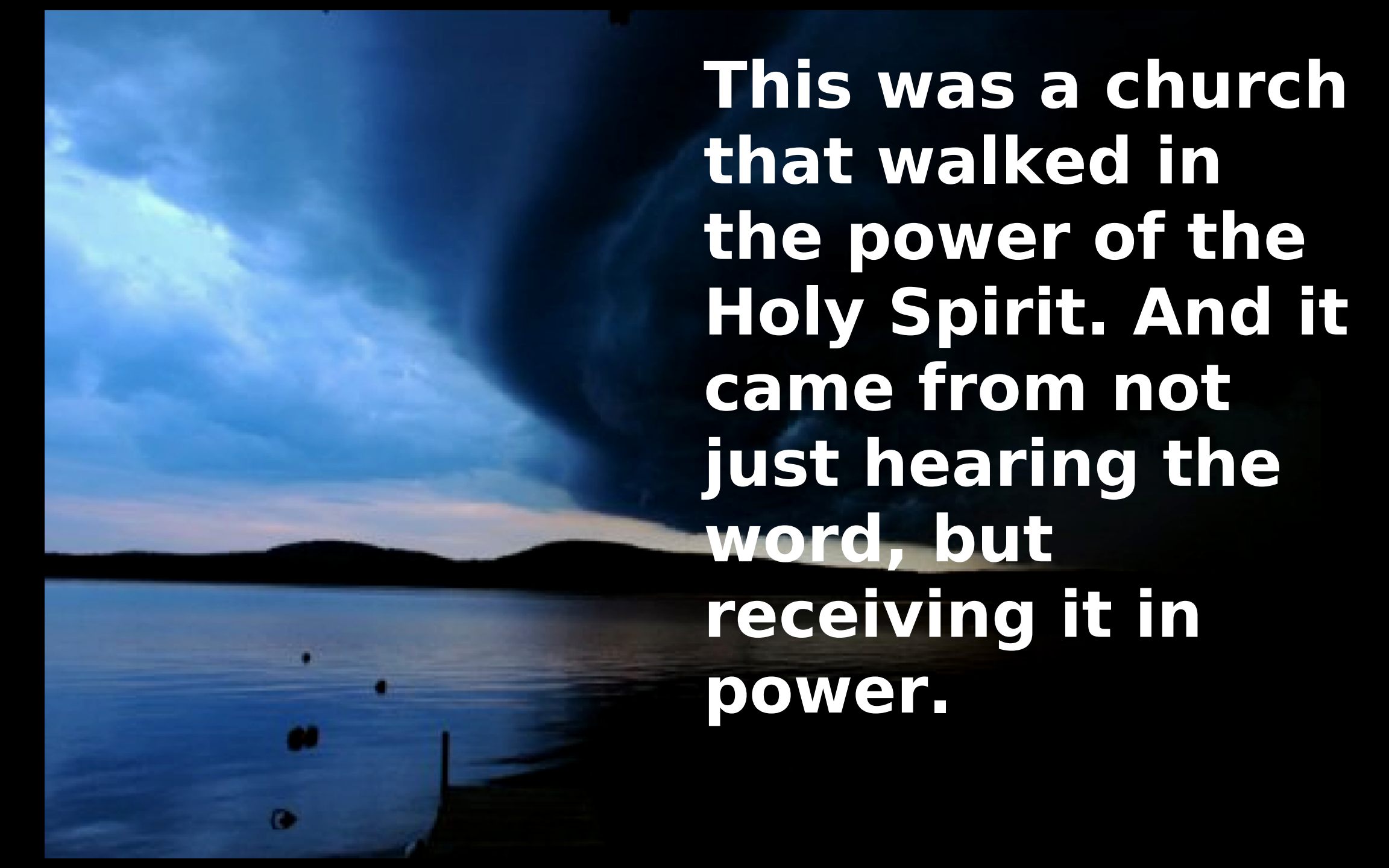
The loudest faith is
marked by **blessing**
others.

A scenic view of a lake at dusk or dawn. The sky is a deep blue with some lighter clouds. The water is calm and reflects the sky. In the background, there are dark silhouettes of hills or mountains. The overall mood is serene and peaceful.

5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.



6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

A dramatic landscape featuring a large, dark, swirling cloud formation, possibly a storm or a massive wave, dominating the sky. The scene is set over a body of water, likely a lake or a wide river, with a dark shoreline and distant hills visible in the background. The lighting is low, suggesting dusk or dawn, with a mix of dark blues, greys, and a hint of orange near the horizon. The overall mood is powerful and awe-inspiring.

**This was a church
that walked in
the power of the
Holy Spirit. And it
came from not
just hearing the
word, but
receiving it in
power.**



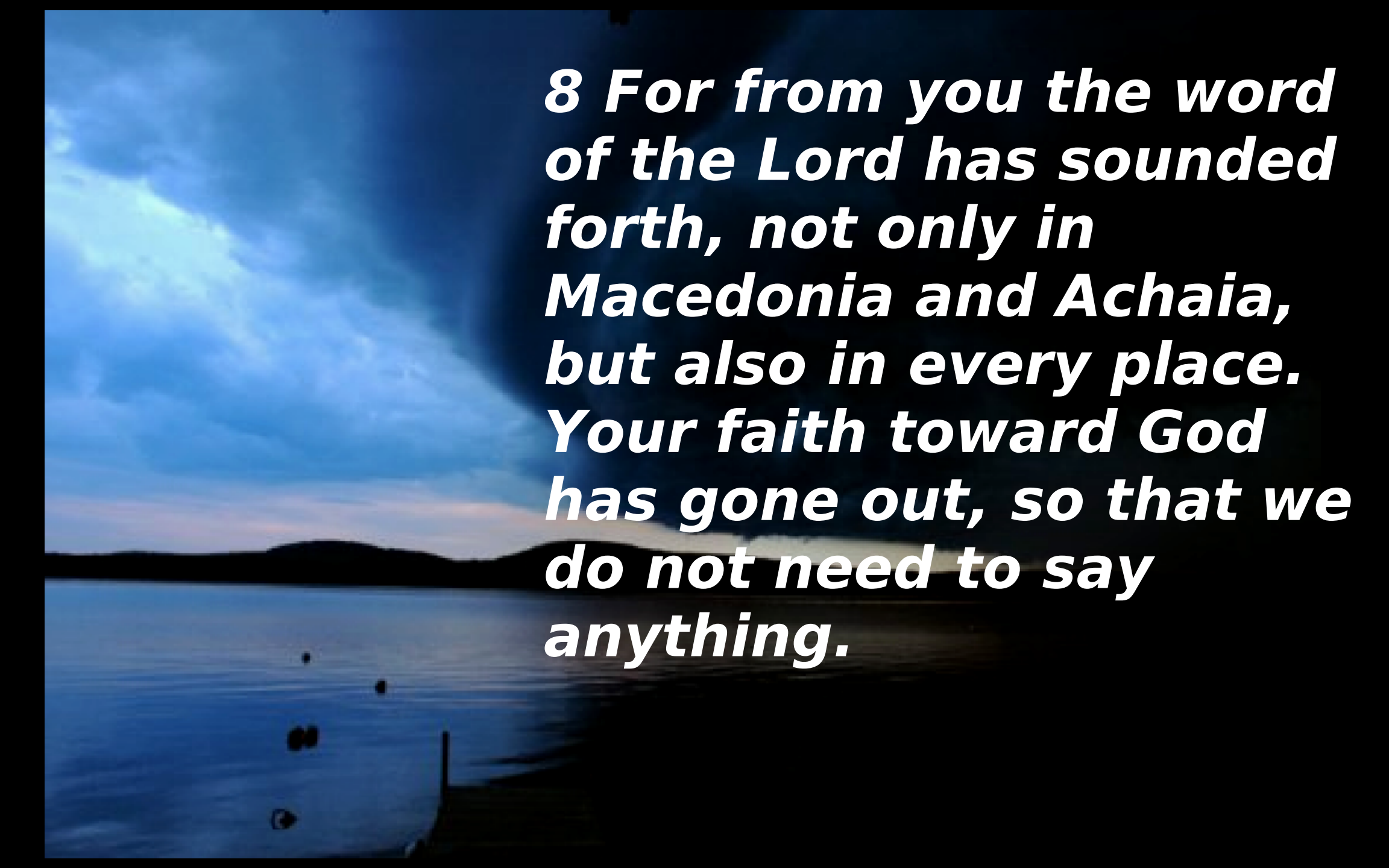
Loud faith is Powerful.

**True Christianity is both
disturbing and powerful.**

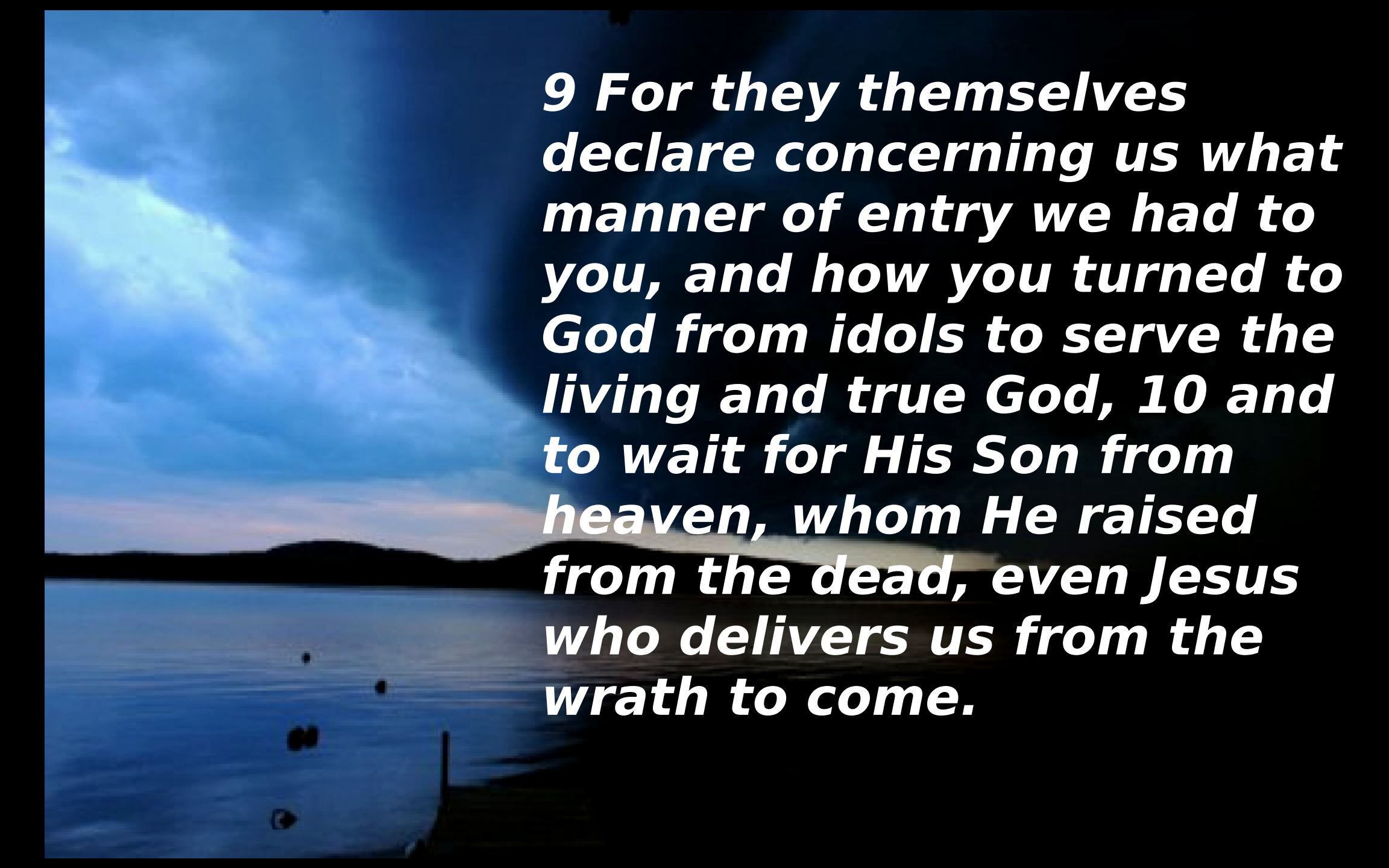
- William Barclay

**True Christianity turns
conformists into
revolutionaries.**

- William Reirden



8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.



9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

A dramatic landscape photograph featuring a large, dark, and ominous storm cloud that dominates the right side of the sky. The sky is a mix of deep blues and greys, with some lighter patches where the sun has set or is about to rise. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the colors of the sky. The horizon is marked by dark, silhouetted hills or mountains. The overall mood is somber and powerful.

**This was a
church with a
reputation.**

A dramatic landscape photograph featuring a large, dark, swirling storm cloud that dominates the right side of the sky. The sky transitions from a deep blue to a lighter, hazy blue near the horizon. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the sky's colors. The background shows dark, silhouetted hills or mountains. The overall mood is intense and atmospheric.

**Loud faith draws
attention to **Jesus**.**

A serene sunset or sunrise over a body of water with mountains in the background. The sky is a mix of deep blue and lighter, hazy tones near the horizon. The water is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a boat's hull is visible.

Questions for thought:

Are others thankful for me?

**Is God's power evident in my
life?**

**Do I make it easier for others
to talk about Jesus?**

Am I sounding out?

The greatest single cause of Atheism in the world today is Christians who

acknowledge Jesus with their lips and walk out the door and deny him by their lifestyle.

That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.

- Brennan Manning