

A painting of Jesus in a white robe standing on a wooden pier over a blue sea at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue, orange, and pink, with a bright sun low on the horizon. The water is a deep blue with whitecaps. The pier is made of dark wood. Jesus is wearing a long white robe and sandals. His hands are slightly out to his sides.

encounter Jesus

Beloved Son

Luke 3:21-22, 4:1-13

Luke 3:21-22

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."



Luke 4:1-2

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.



Luke 3:22

You are my beloved Son (Psalm 2)

The prophesied messianic king

Luke 3:22

You are my beloved Son (Psalm 2)

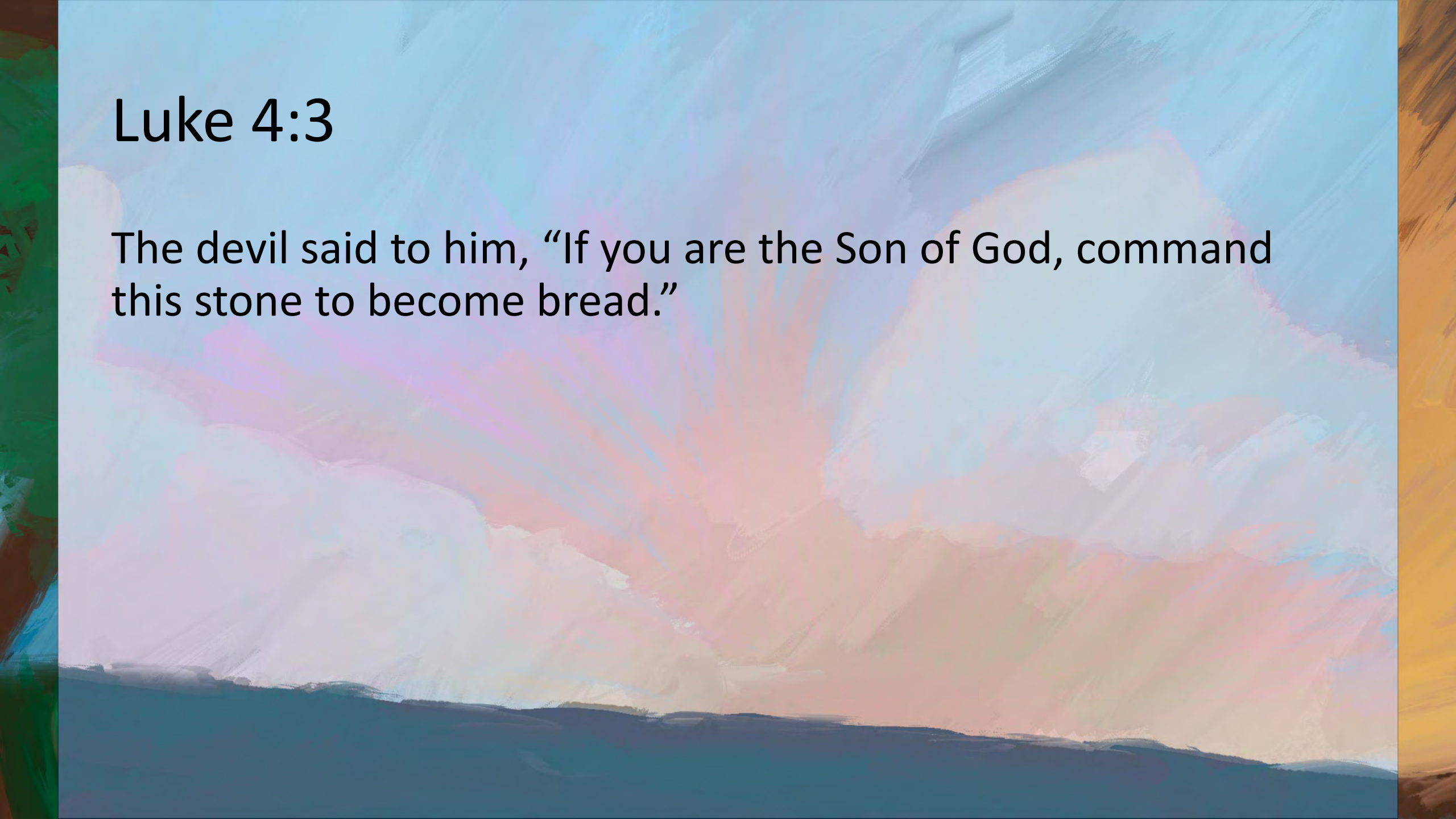
The prophesied messianic king

With you I am well pleased (Isaiah 42)

Predicting the suffering servant

Luke 4:3

The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”



Luke 4:3-4

The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’”

Luke 4:5-7

And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."

Luke 4:8

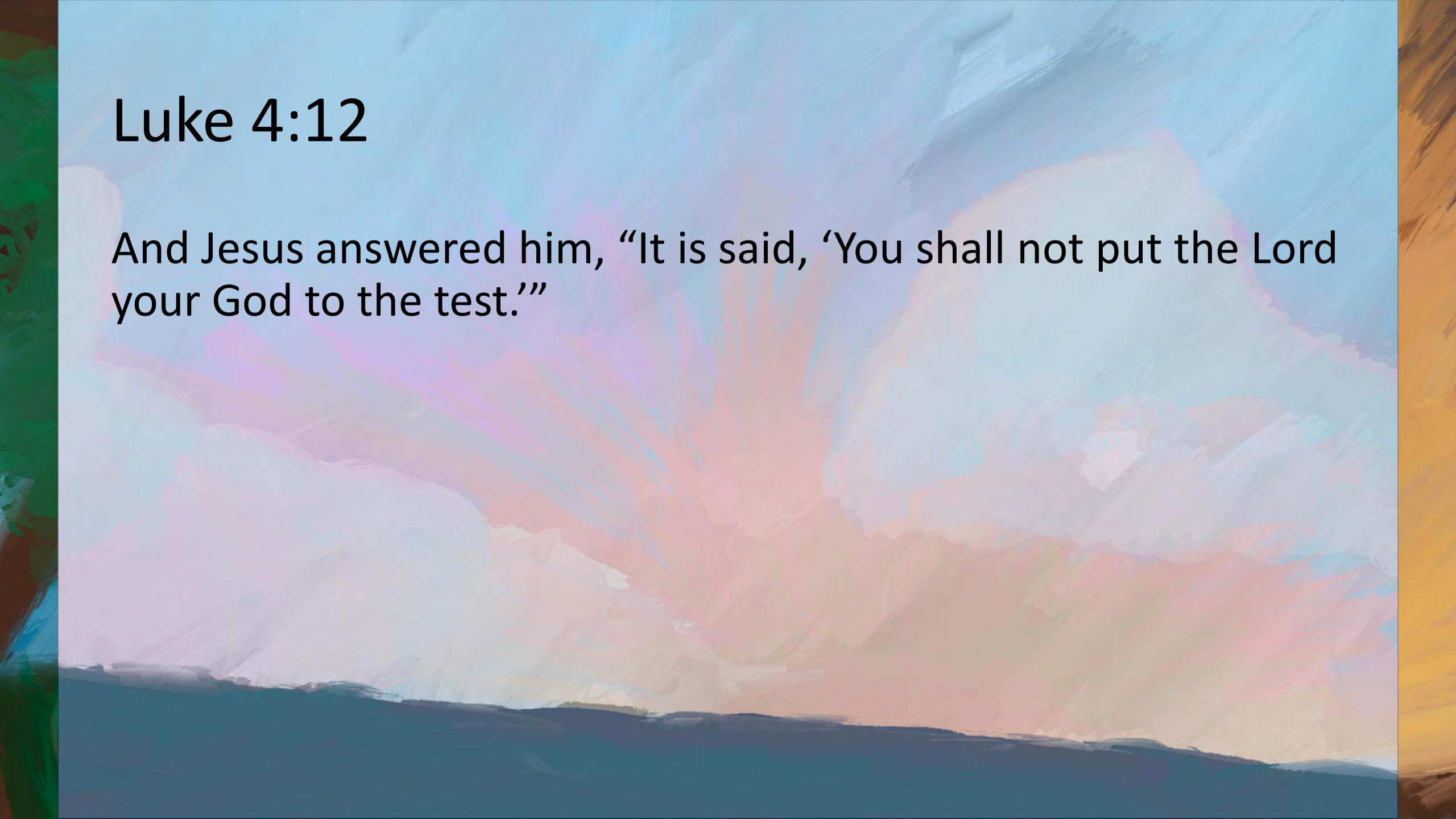
And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ““You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.””

Luke 4:9-11

And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

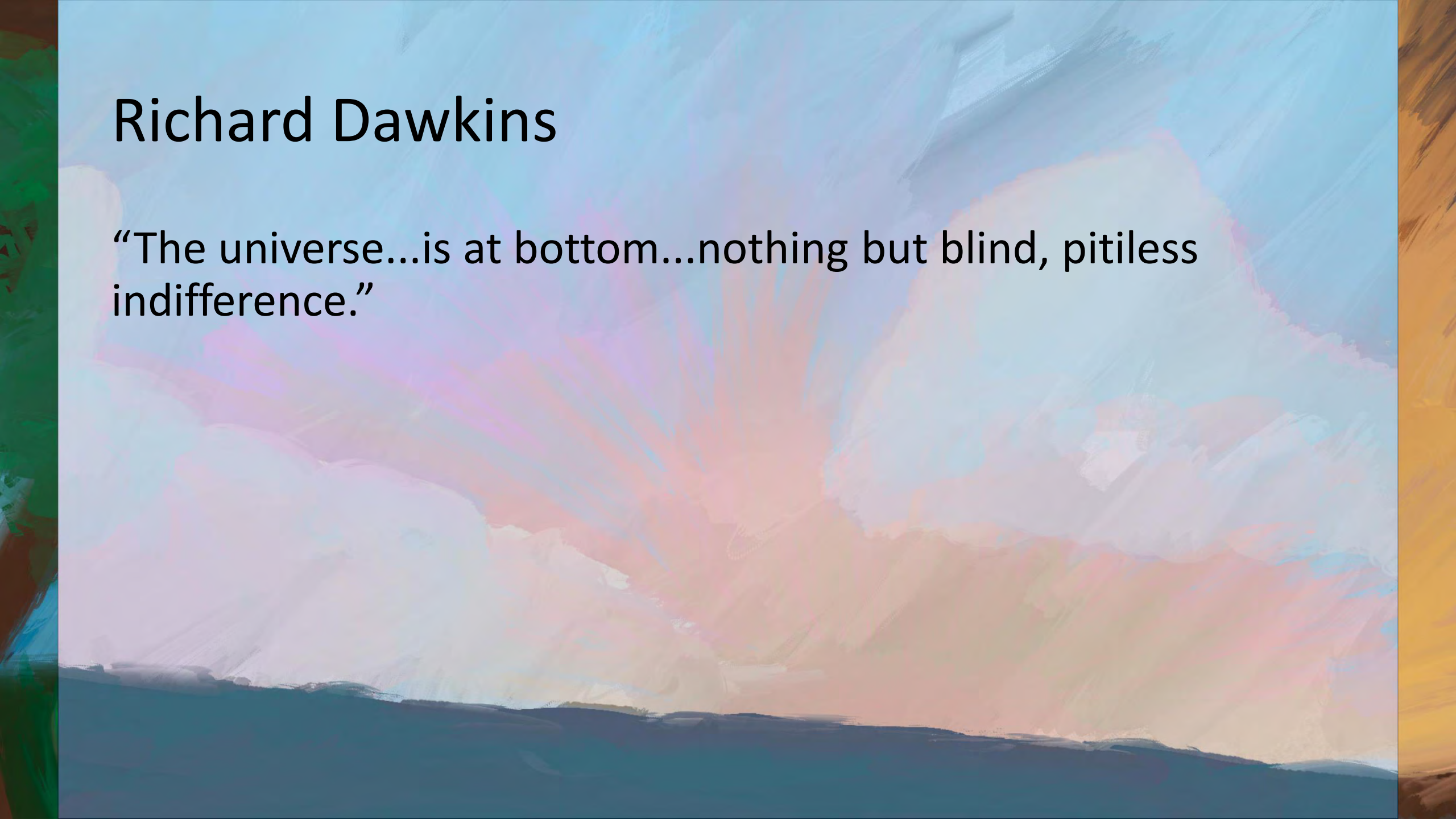
Luke 4:12

And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”



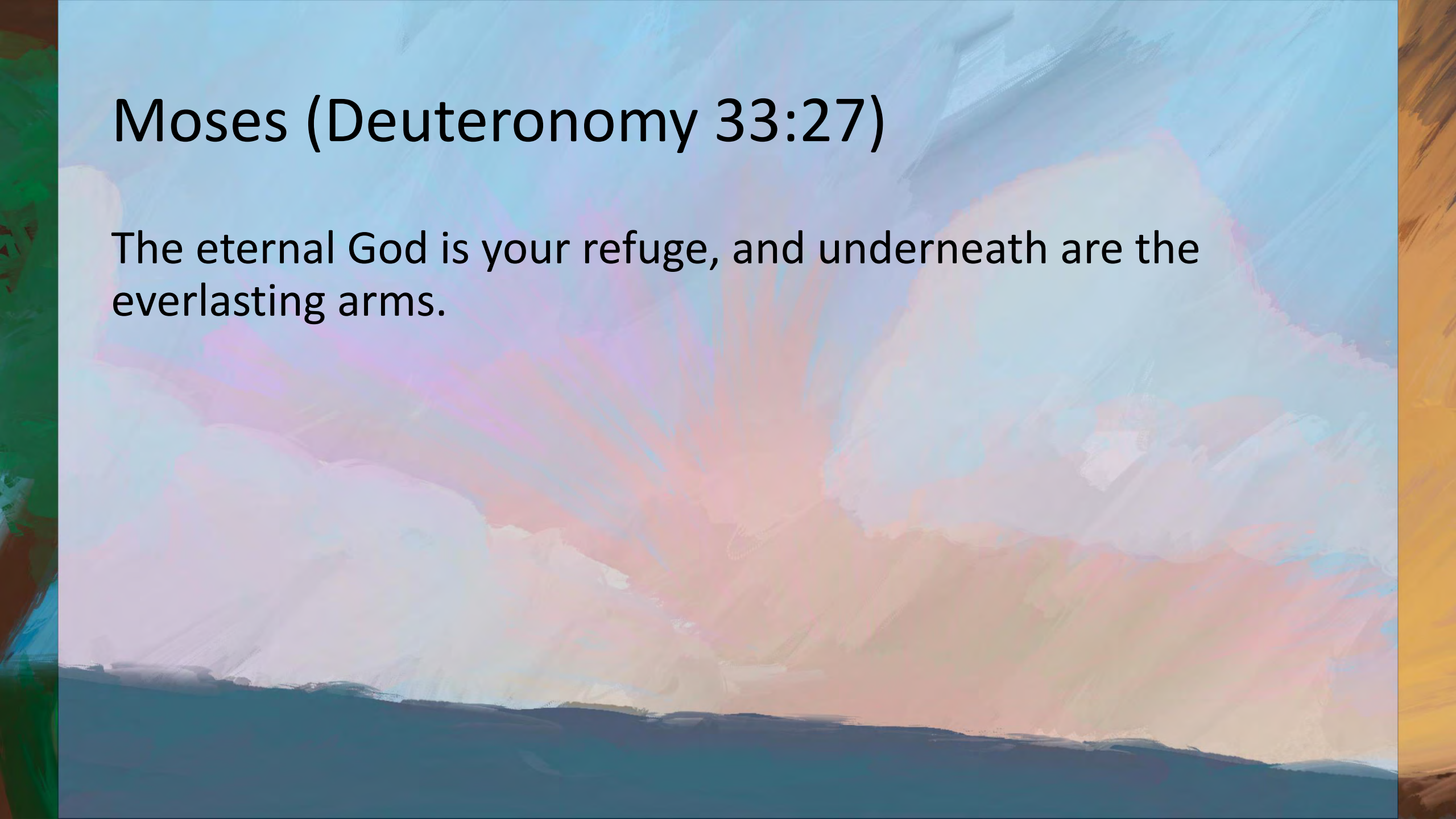
Richard Dawkins

“The universe...is at bottom...nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.”



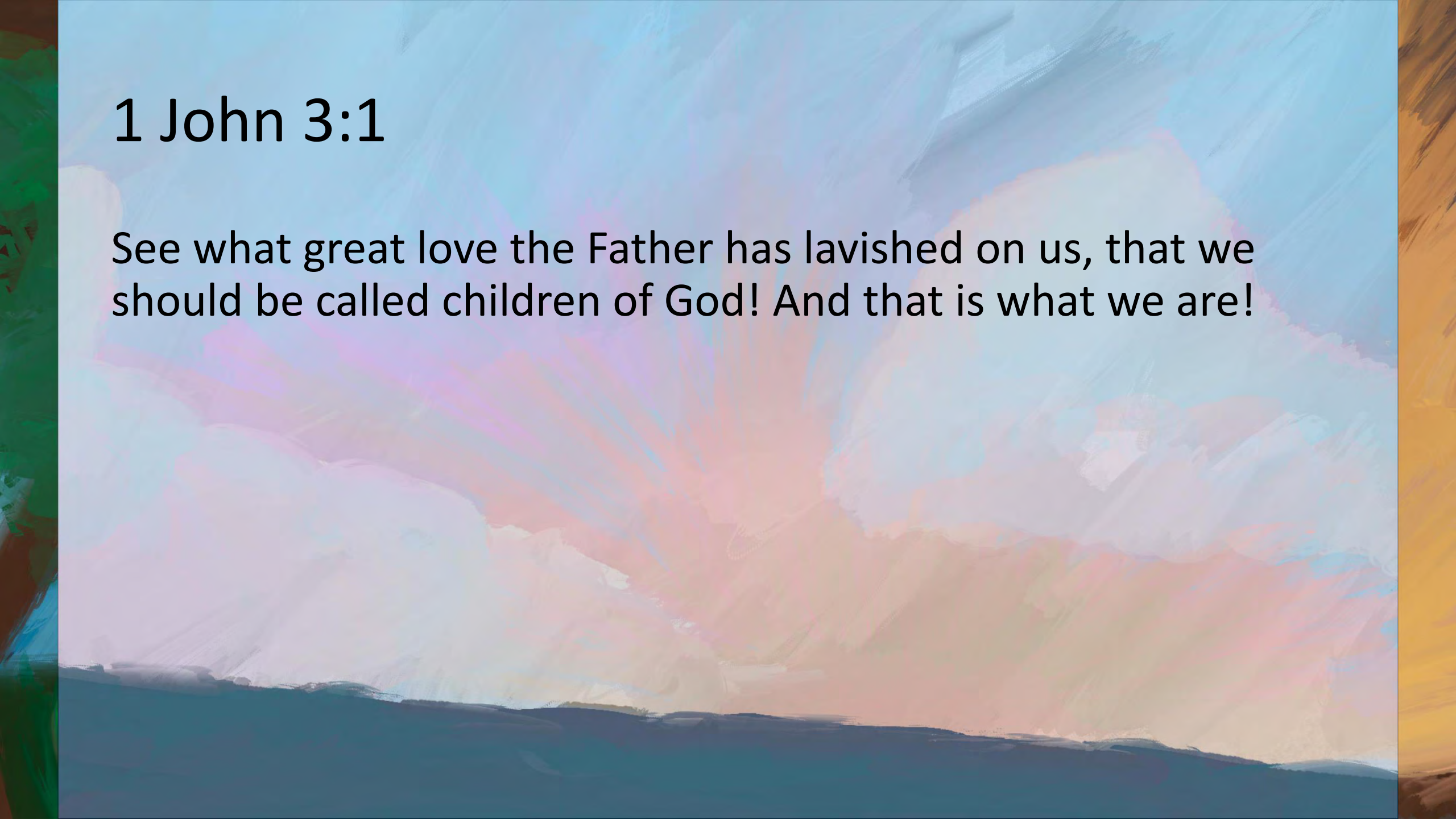
Moses (Deuteronomy 33:27)

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.



1 John 3:1

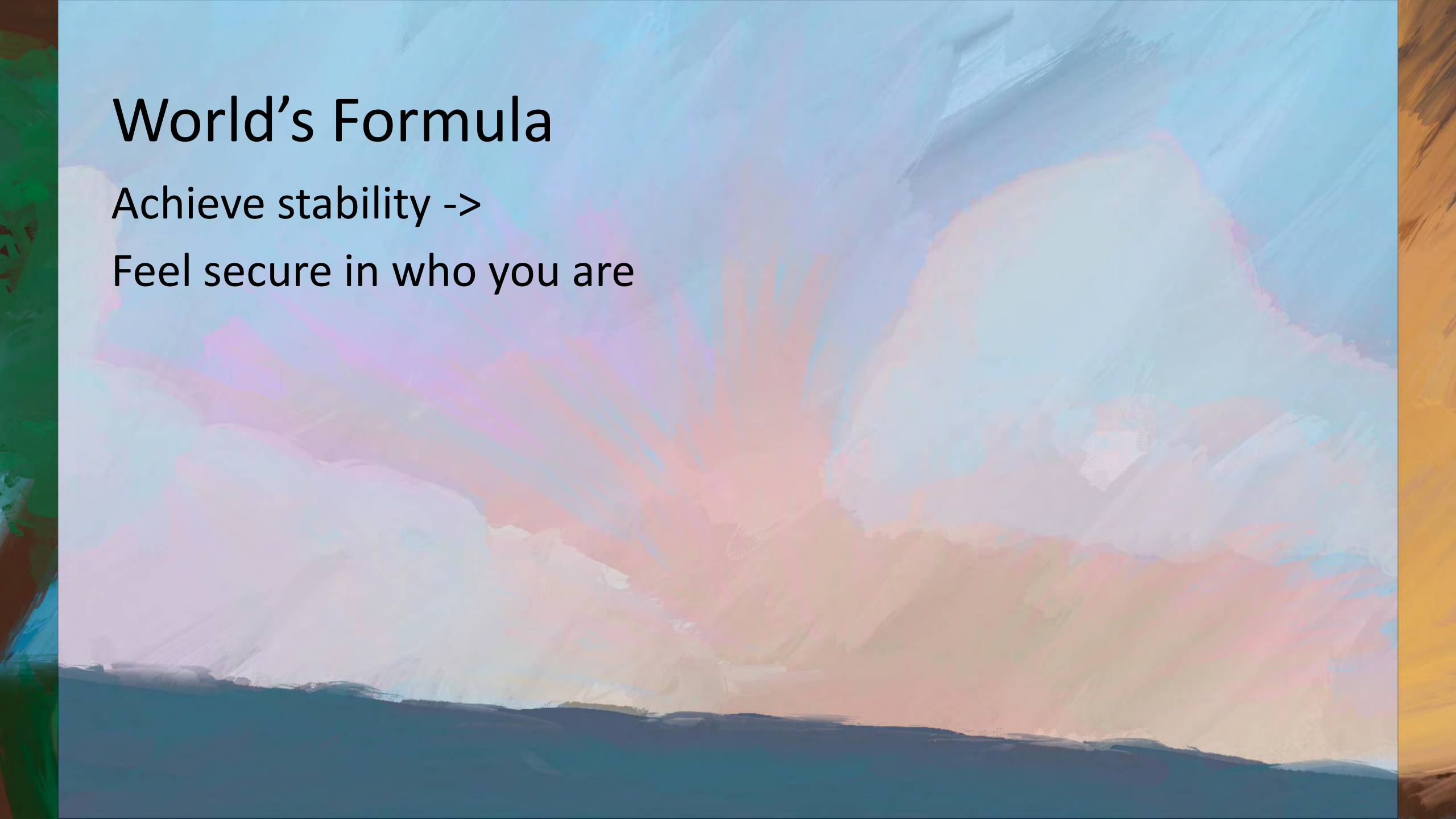
See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!



World's Formula

Achieve stability ->

Feel secure in who you are



World's Formula

Achieve stability ->

Feel secure in who you are

Gospel's Truth

Know you are God's beloved child ->

Experience stability regardless of circumstances

Living as Beloved Children in a Volatile World



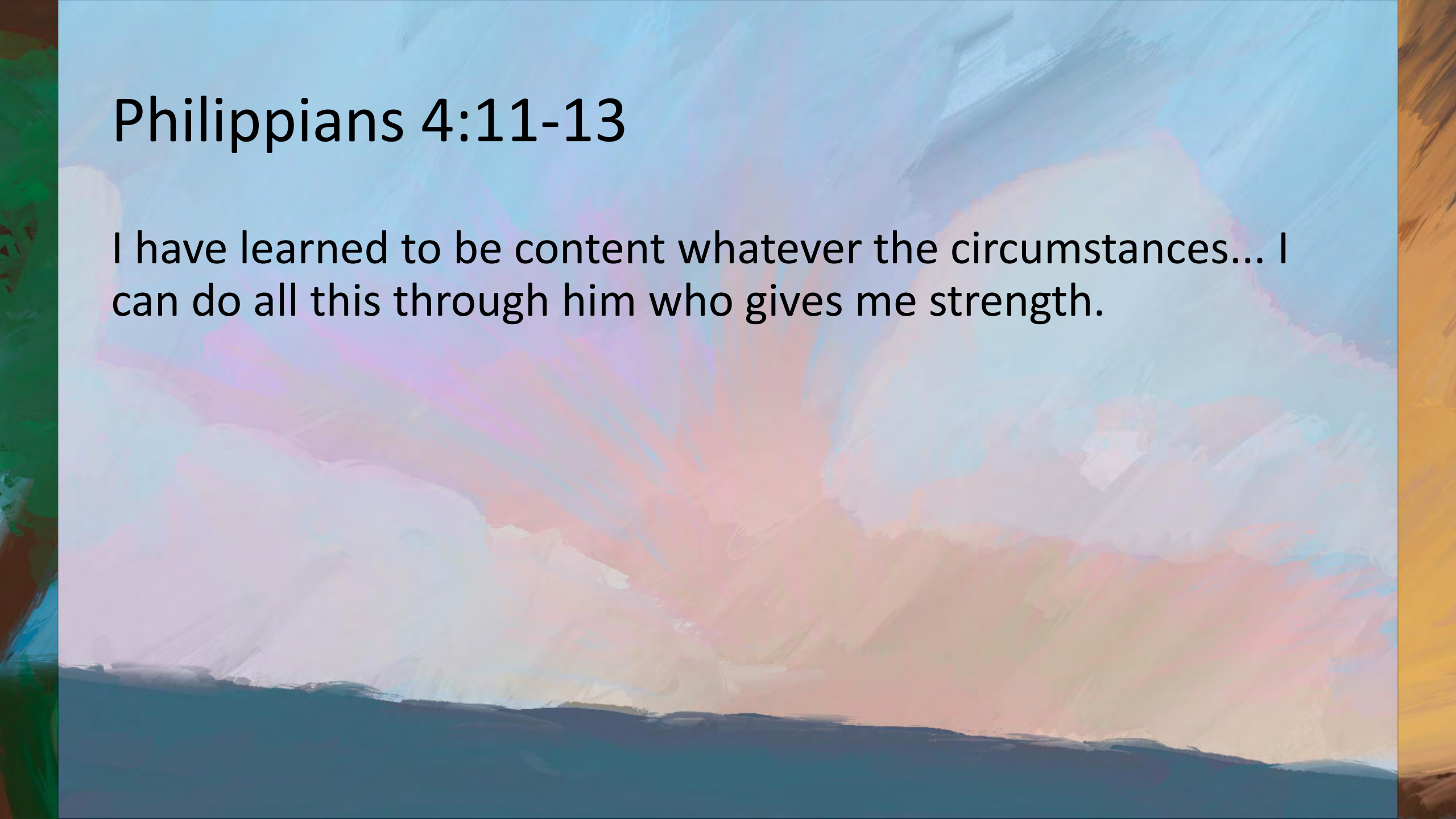
Living as Beloved Children in a Volatile World

Resting in God's provision, not striving for security



Philippians 4:11-13

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances... I can do all this through him who gives me strength.



Living as Beloved Children in a Volatile World

Resting in God's provision, not striving for security

Resting in God's power, not striving for control



2 Corinthians 12:9-10

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” ...For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Living as Beloved Children in a Volatile World

Resting in God's provision, not striving for security

Resting in God's power, not striving for control

Resting in God's approval, not striving for validation

Galatians 3:10

For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God?... If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Ephesians 4:12-13

...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

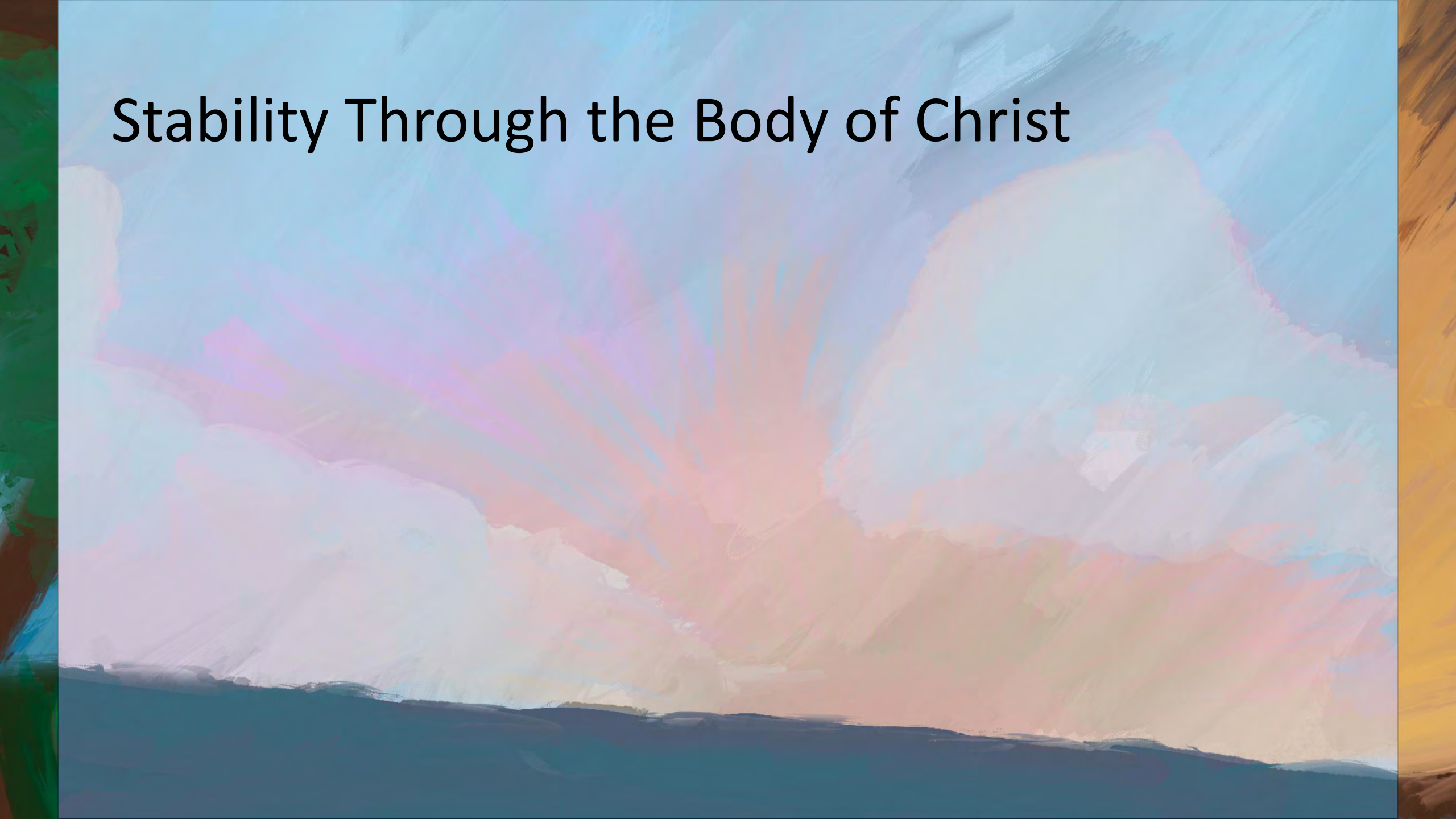
Ephesians 4:15-16

...we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:14

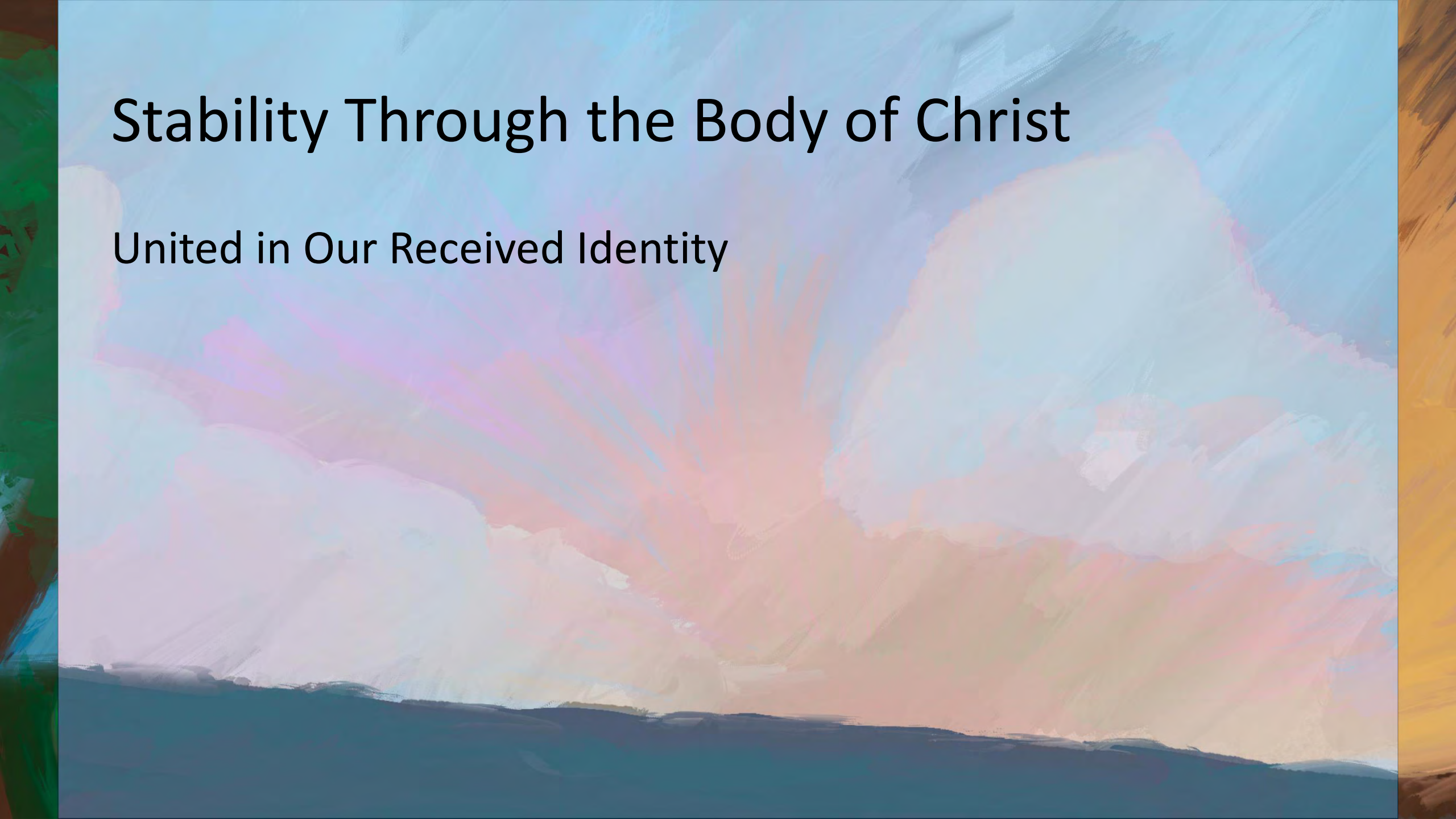
So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Stability Through the Body of Christ



Stability Through the Body of Christ

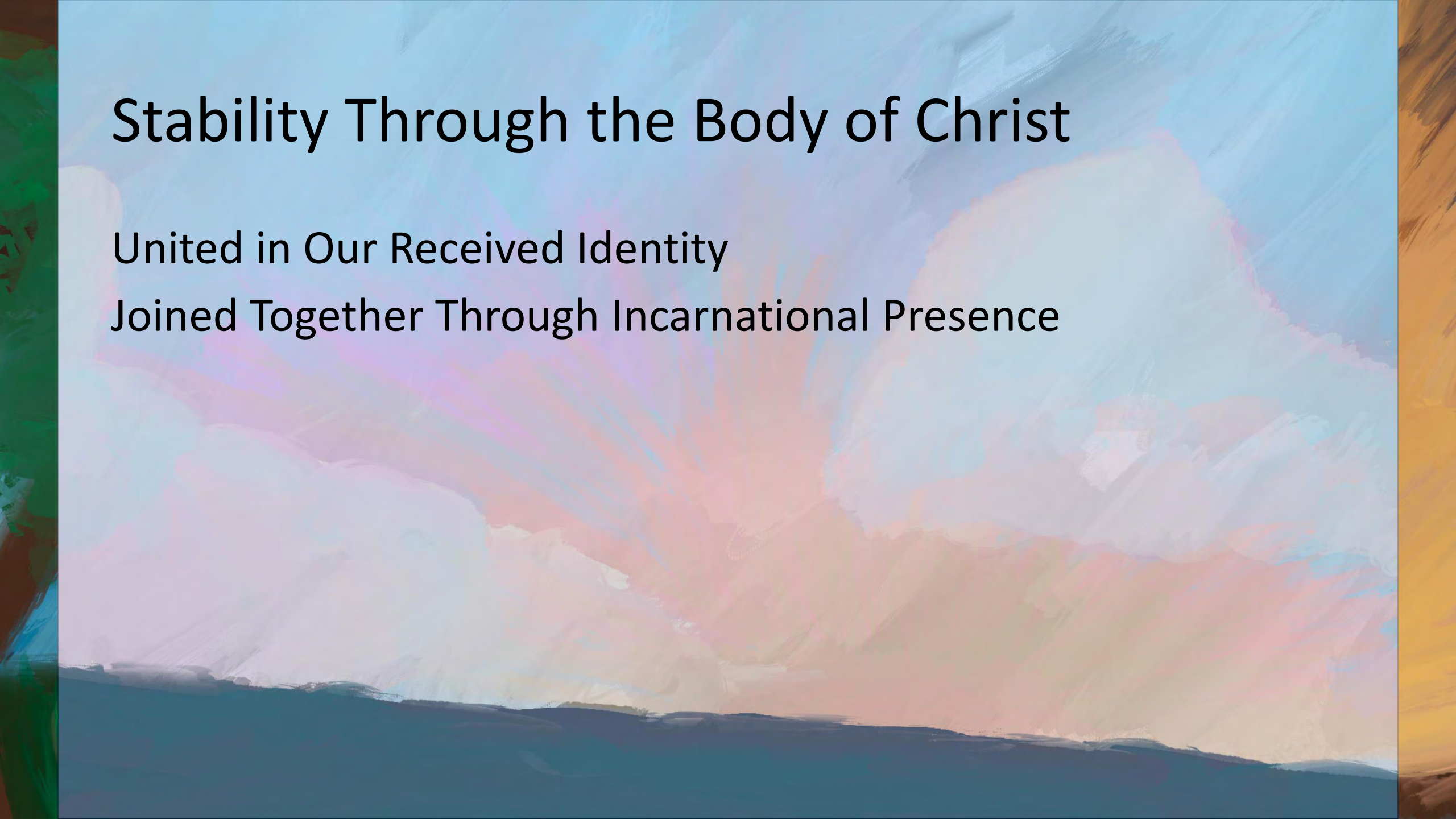
United in Our Received Identity



Stability Through the Body of Christ

United in Our Received Identity

Joined Together Through Incarnational Presence



Stability Through the Body of Christ

United in Our Received Identity

Joined Together Through Incarnational Presence

The Long View of Growing in Christ

Romans 8:15

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”