

A scenic mountain landscape with a church in the foreground. The background features a range of jagged, snow-capped mountains under a clear blue sky. The middle ground is dominated by a dense forest of trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. In the foreground, a small village with a prominent church spire is nestled in a lush green valley. The entire scene is framed by a white, hand-drawn style border.

# Spiritual Flourishing

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Fettes Park Baptist Church

Ps. Kee Chuan



**FLOUNDERING**

**FLOURISHING**

**Two Spiritual States**



# Spiritual Floundering

To keep struggling with  
great difficulty in  
different **earthly**  
matters.



## Spiritual Flourishing

To keep growing quickly, well, and, healthily in an **eternally** meaningful way.



But I am like an olive tree  
*flourishing*  
in the house of God;  
I trust in God's  
*unfailing love*  
for ever and ever.

Psalm 52:8



We are free to *flourish* in Christ  
and because of Christ.

*MercyIsNew.com*



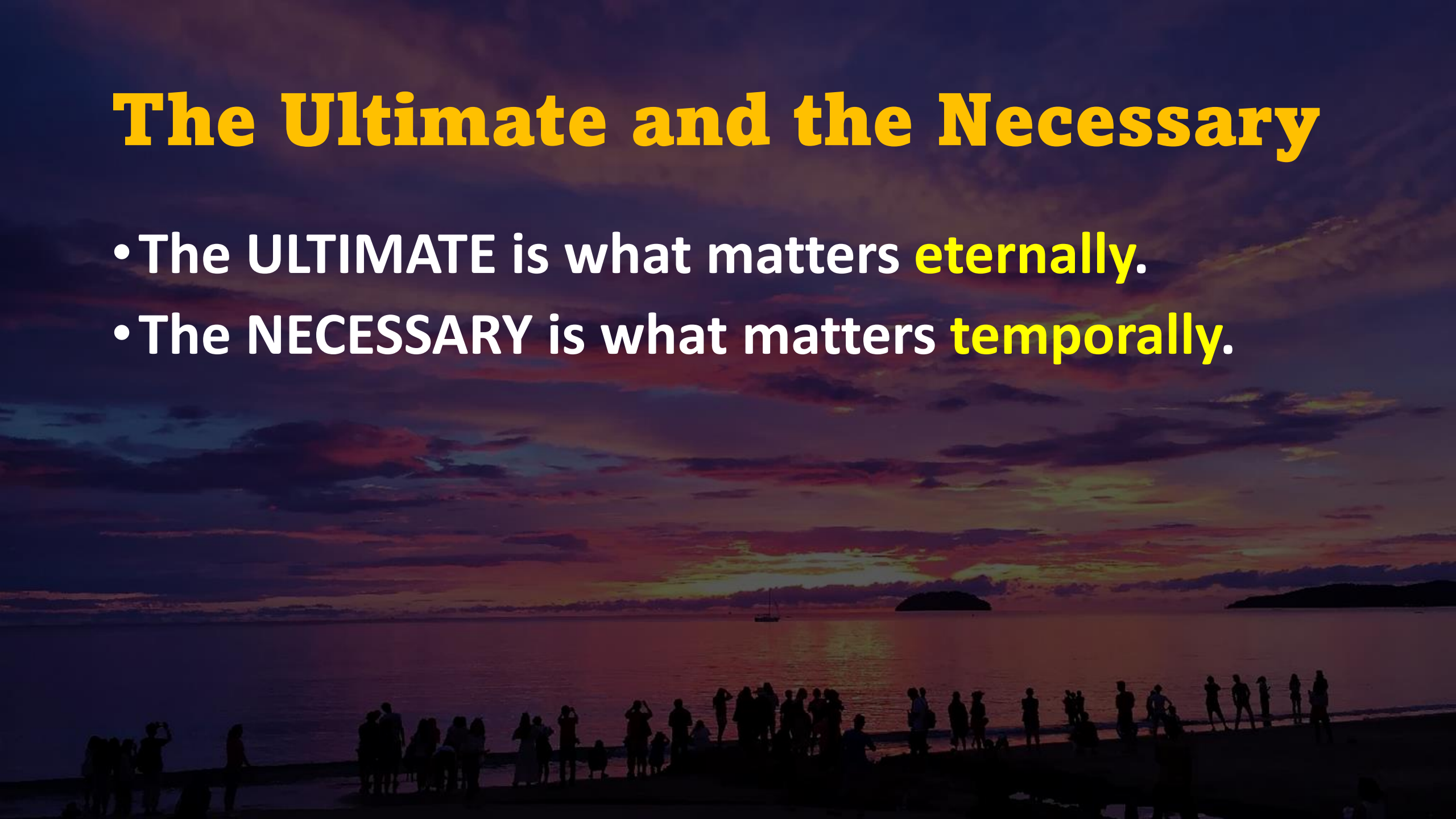
## Big Lesson in Life about Flourishing Spiritually

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- Know what is **ultimate** and what is **necessary**, then prioritise accordingly.

# The Ultimate and the Necessary

- The ULTIMATE is what matters **eternally**.
- The NECESSARY is what matters **temporally**.







# **The Rope Illustration**



It's Our Choice!  
(Jeremiah 17:5-9)

**The Cursed Life or the Blessed Life**



## **The Cursed Life (Jeremiah 17:5-6)**

- A **human-centred** and **human-reliant outlook** that tries to create heaven on earth.
- They are **bound TO earth** because they see themselves solely or predominantly as **residents on earth**.

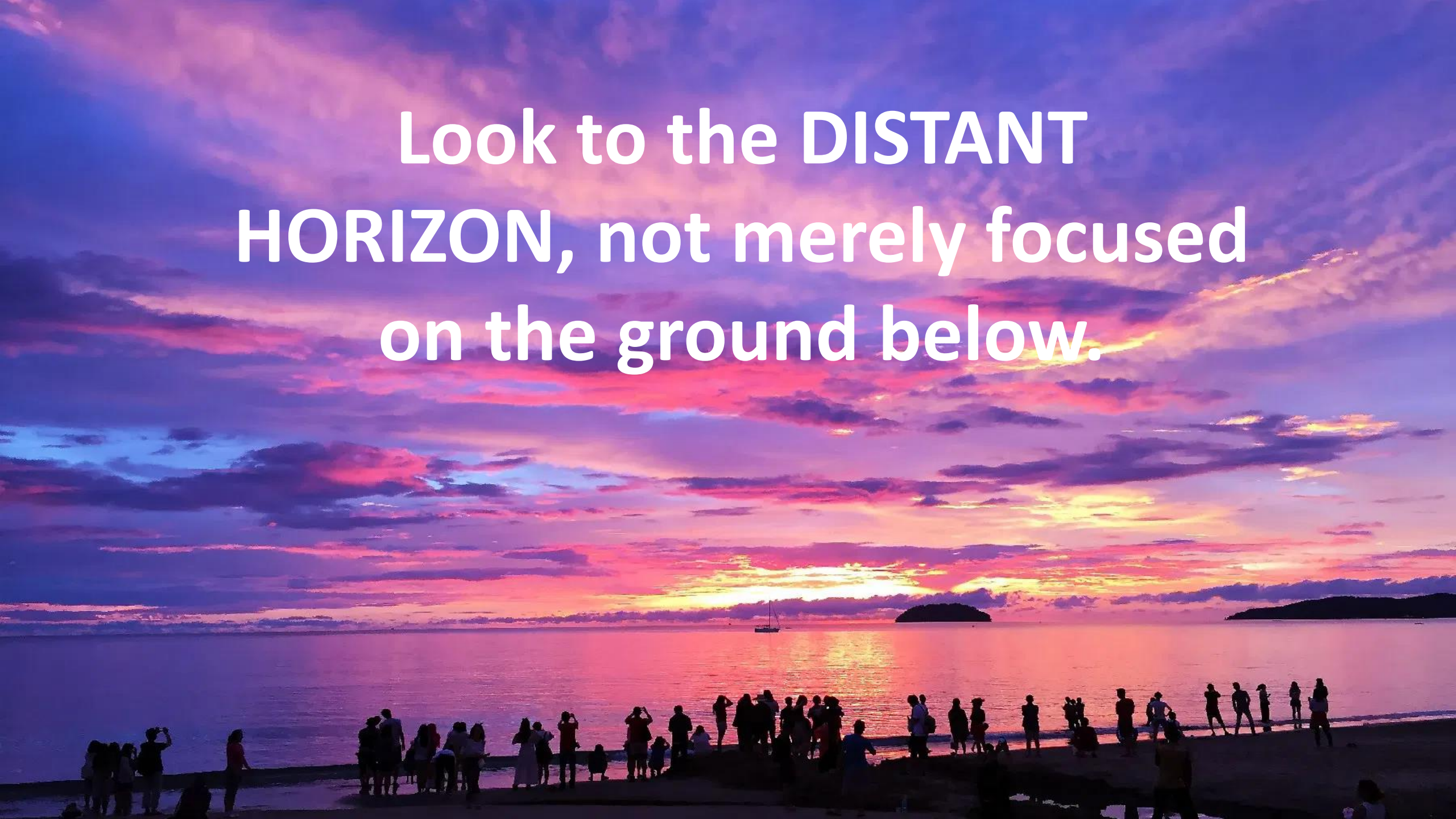
# The Blessed Life (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

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- A **God-centred** and **God-reliant outlook** whereby man taste heaven on earth.
- They are **bound FOR heaven** and see themselves as **citizens of heaven** and are now **pilgrims** on earth.



**Look to the DISTANT  
HORIZON, not merely focused  
on the ground below.**



# What Ultimately Counts and Matters

- What ultimately counts in this life is what ultimately matters on **the day or judgement.**
- 2 Corinthians 5:10;  
1 Corinthians 3:12-15



JUDGMENT SEAT OF  
CHRIST



# Reality Check

- The blessed life involves spiritual flourishing that focuses on **eternal rewards**, not so much on **earthly awards (temporal)**.



# Eternal Rewards:

## The Five Crowns



**The Crown Of Righteousness  
(2 Timothy 4:8)**



**The Crown Of Life  
(James 1:12, Rev 2:10)**



**The Crown of Glory  
(1 Peter 5:4)**



**The Incorruptible Crown  
(1 Corinthians 9:25)**



**The Crown Of Rejoicing  
(1 Thess 2:19)**





# **Three Marks of Spiritual Flourishing that Aligns with the Five Crowns.**

- 1. Fruitfulness**
- 2. Faithfulness**
- 3. Finishers**

# **1. Fruitfulness In Eternal Righteousness**

- **The Crown of Righteousness** (2 Timothy 4:7–8)
- **The Imperishable Crown** (1 Corinthians 9:24–27)
  - Finishing the race of life with the fruits of righteousness - holiness and godliness (1 Peter 1:13-20; Galatians 3:1-5; 5:16-17).



Galatians 5:13-26

2 Peter 1:3-11

I am the vine; you are  
the branches. If you  
remain in me and I in  
you, you will bear much  
fruit; apart from me  
you can do nothing.

**John 15:5**

# Principle: Fruitfulness

- All of life is a preparation for heaven on the new earth.

**Let's possess this STEADFAST SPIRIT.**

## 2. Faithfulness in Discipleship & Service

- **The Crown of Rejoicing/Joy** (1 Thessalonians 2:19) – Fruitfulness in making disciples.
- **The Crown of Glory** (1 Peter 5:2–4) – Fruitfulness in shepherding others.

Disciples  
MAKING DISCIPLES

DARE TO ASK GOD

# DISCIPLE

BE ONE. MAKE ONE.

**Two  
Orientations  
towards  
Disciple-  
Making in  
Church**

**Stage to Spectators:  
Programme Oriented.**

**Sage alongside  
Students: People  
Oriented.**

**Two  
Orientations  
towards  
Disciple-  
Making in  
Church**

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**Stage to Spectators:  
Programme Oriented.**

**To entertain and encourage/exhort.**

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**Sage alongside  
Students: People  
Oriented.**

**To equip and empower (Eph. 4:11-13).**





# Active Learning Illustration

# Active Learning Demonstration

Dialectic Discussion  
Haverim-Style

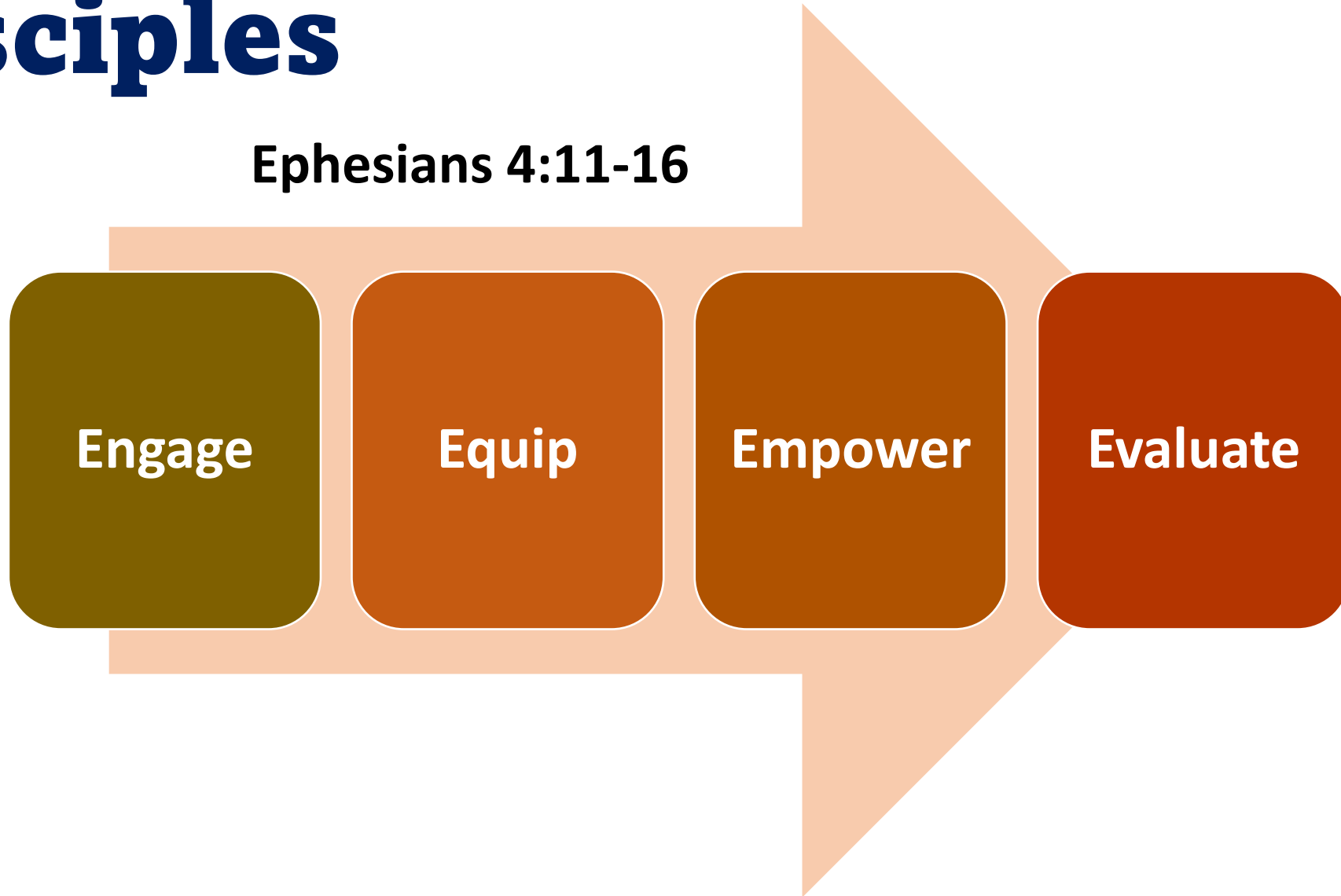


# Scan and Answer



# Biblical Approach to Make Disciples

Ephesians 4:11-16



Engage

Equip

Empower

Evaluate

# Ministering to the Needy – Our Supreme Example

- Our example: Jesus became poor that we might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9; Matthew 8:20; Luke 4:18-19; 14:12-14).



# Ministering to the Needy – Our Sincere Execution

- Our execution to help those in need with what we have already been given in abundance, spiritually, emotionally, physically (Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; 6:4-10; Galatians 2:10; 1 Timothy 6:18-19).



## 1 Corinthians 3:6-7

I planted the seed,  
Apollos watered it,  
but God has been  
making it grow.  
So neither the one  
who plants nor the  
one who waters  
is anything,

**but only God, who makes things grow.**



# Principle: Faithfulness

- Our most important purpose in life is to fulfil the Great Commission to be and make disciples.

**Let's practice this STIRRING ZEAL.**



### **3. Finishing Well as Life Witness**

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

- **The Crown of Life**  
(James 1:12; Revelation 2:10) – Faithfulness in standing for Christ, no matter the hardships, persecution or suffering (Matthew 10:21-23,26-32,37-39).



# Principle: Finishers

- Fix our eyes on the distant horizon and finish the race marked out for us.

Let's purpose to have this **STURDY FAITH**.

# Spiritual Flourishing

**Fruitfulness with steadfast spirit.**

**Faithfulness with stirring zeal.**

**Finishers with sturdy faith.**



**A GENEROUS PERSON WILL PROSPER;  
WHOEVER REFRESHES OTHERS  
WILL BE REFRESHED.**

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**PROVERBS 11:25**



## Sea of Galilee vs. The Dead Sea

- Jordan River flows into both
- Sea of Galilee
  - Beautiful
  - Lush green
  - Full of fish
  - Full of life
- The Dead Sea
  - Desert
  - Everything Dead!



# The Five Crowns

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- **Making** disciples of all nations.
- **Ministering** to the needy.





# Reality Check

- The blessed life involves spiritual flourishing that focuses on **eternal rewards**, not merely on **earthly awards**.



**Scan  
and  
Answer**





# **Our Luggage to Eternity**

The only things in this life that we can bring along to eternity are:

1. My own soul and spirit in Christ
2. The souls and spirit of others in Christ
3. The divinely forged character and virtues in Christ.

**Get this free e-book!**

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- The five kingdom mindsets that is aligned to New Covenant living.
  - <https://wms.academia.edu/NgKeeChuan/Books>
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# The Kingdom Mindsets

The Ultimate Way to Live Here and Now

Dr. Ng Kee Chuan



<https://projectbase.com.my/>



To reach the next generation for *Christ*

# Important Question

- Don't waste your life! Is there a need to re-orientate our lives so that we flourish spiritually? How?

