

NEW COVENANT CHURCH 

PART THREE

# The Power of TODAY

## The Ministry of Presence

*A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.*

Proverbs 17:17

PASTOR BRYAN HUDSON, D.Min.

A vibrant sunset scene with a sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky. The sky transitions from deep blue on the left to soft purple and pink near the sun, and then to a pale yellow and orange. Below the horizon, a body of water reflects the colors of the sky and the silhouettes of trees and foliage. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

## **Colossians 3:15**

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
to which indeed you were called in one body.  
And be thankful.*

A vibrant sunset scene with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds in shades of orange, pink, and purple. The sun's reflection is clearly visible on the calm water in the foreground, which also reflects the colors of the sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

**Proverbs 17:17,**

*A friend loves at all times, And a brother is  
born for adversity.*


# **What is the Ministry of Presence?**

The act of being present with others in their time of need, offering support through physical, emotional, and spiritual presence rather than through words or actions alone.

# **Power of Today** KEY POINT #1:

**Recognizing your need for presence is a power for today.**

- The Holy Spirit is the Master of the ministry of presence.
- Don't underestimate the power of the presence of God's Spirit.
- Your presence, human presence, is also necessary.

A vibrant sunset scene over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, multi-colored sunburst effect that radiates across the sky. The colors transition from deep blue on the left to purple, pink, and orange near the sun, and back to blue on the right. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky and the sun. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

The Ministry of Presence Emphasizes  
the Power of Today by simply being  
there for someone

## **“Being There” by:**

**Active Listening:** Listening without judgment

**Nonverbal Support:** Gentle touch, eye contact, sitting quietly

**Avoid Platitudes:** No clichés or superficial reassurances

**Empathy Over “Fixing:”** Prioritizing understanding and sharing in the other person’s feelings

**Availability:** The best ability is availability. Showing the person that they are not alone

# Ministry of Presence Provides:

**Validation:** Presence communicates that the person's feelings, experiences, and existence matter.

**Connection:** Reflects God's love and care through human connection.

**Healing:** Fosters an environment where healing can occur naturally, without the pressure of needing to "move on" too quickly.

**Relief from Isolation:** In difficult times, presence helps counteract feelings of loneliness or abandonment.



# **Ministry of Presence Gone Wrong**

## **Job's Friends (Job 2:11-13)**

They started out on the right track, but were worn down by Job's situation. When Job's friends initially came to comfort him, they sat with him for seven days and nights without speaking a word because of his great sorrow.

## **Job 2:11**

*When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, **they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him.** 12 When they saw him from a distance, **they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads.** 13 Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.*

A vibrant sunset scene with a sun low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over a tropical beach. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, a sandy path leads towards the water, flanked by lush greenery and palm trees. The overall mood is serene and inspiring.

**Power of Today** KEY POINT #2:  
**Don't be Limited by Your Comfort Zone**

**A comfort zone** is a psychological state in which a person feels familiar, at ease, and in control of their environment. While staying in your comfort zone can feel safe and reassuring. It can also limit personal growth, creativity, and the opportunity to achieve new goals.

A vibrant sunset scene over a tropical beach. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow across the sky in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The sun's rays create a starburst effect. In the foreground, a sandy path leads towards the water, flanked by lush green palm trees. The water is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky and the silhouettes of the palm trees.

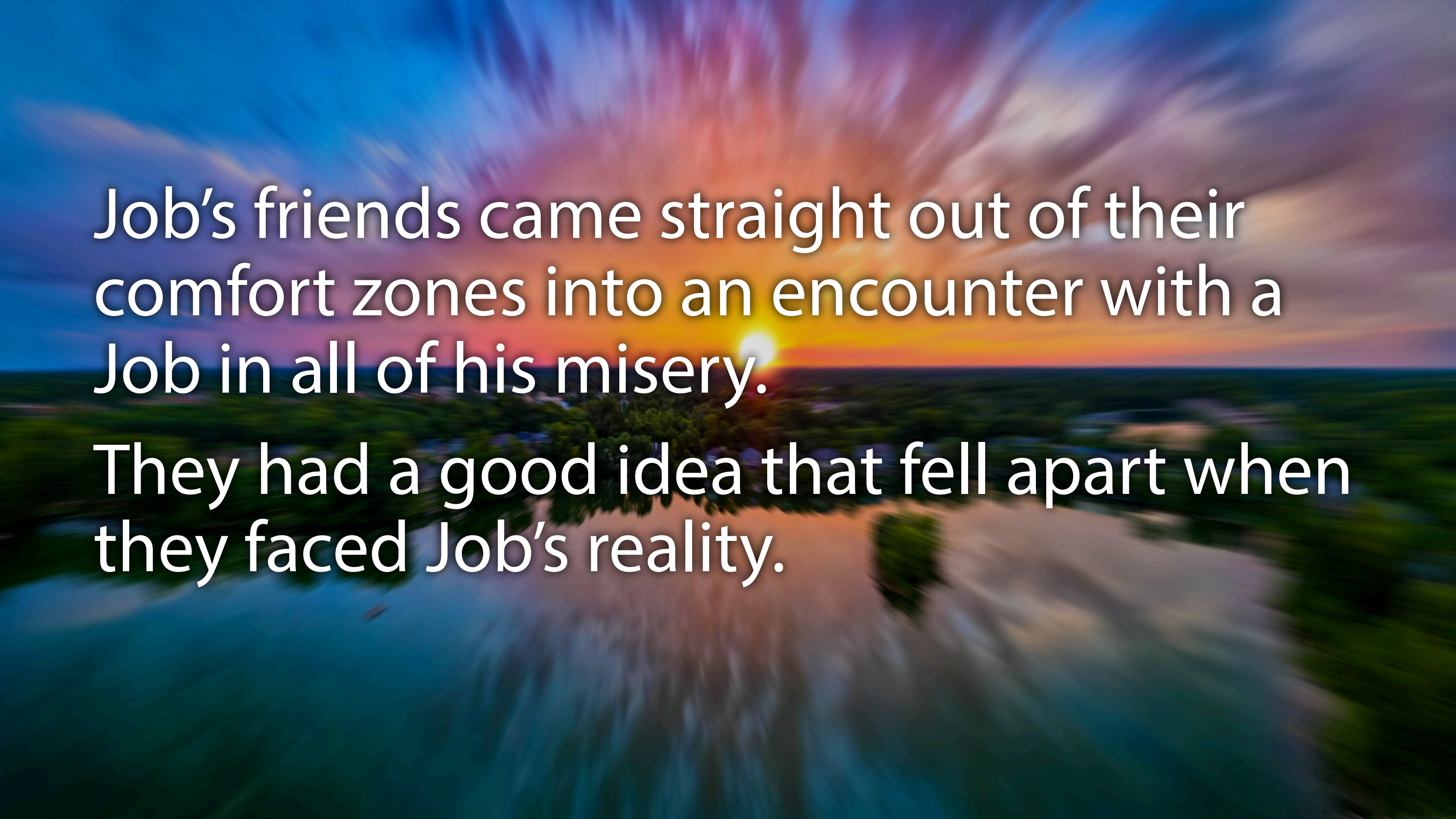
# **Power of Today** KEY POINT #2: **Don't be Limited by Your Comfort Zone**

**Key aspects of the comfort zone include:**

**Predictability:** Routine activities that require little thought or effort.

**Safety:** Minimal perceived risks or challenges.

**Control:** A sense of mastery over the current situation.

A sunset over a body of water with a path leading to a tree. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The water reflects the colors of the sky, and the path leads towards a large tree in the distance.

Job's friends came straight out of their comfort zones into an encounter with a Job in all of his misery.

They had a good idea that fell apart when they faced Job's reality.



**Power of Today KEY POINT #3:**

Stepping out of your comfort zone allows for development, learning, and the discovery of new possibilities.

A sunset over a body of water with a path leading to the horizon. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The water is dark and reflects the colors of the sky. A path or road leads from the foreground towards the horizon, disappearing into the distance.

*"If you want something you've never had, you must be willing to do something you've never done." ~Thomas Jefferson*

*"A comfort zone is a beautiful place – but nothing ever grows there." ~Anonymous*

*"In the absence of a challenge, there is comfort. In the presence of comfort, there is no change. ~Matt LeMond*

*"A ship in a harbor is safe, but that's not what a ship is built for." ~ John Augustus Shedd*

## **Power of Today** KEY POINT #3:

**Example of leaving a comfort zone: Abram**

Genesis 12:1, *Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, **to a land that I will show you.***

Hebrews 11:8-19, *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, **not knowing where he was going.***

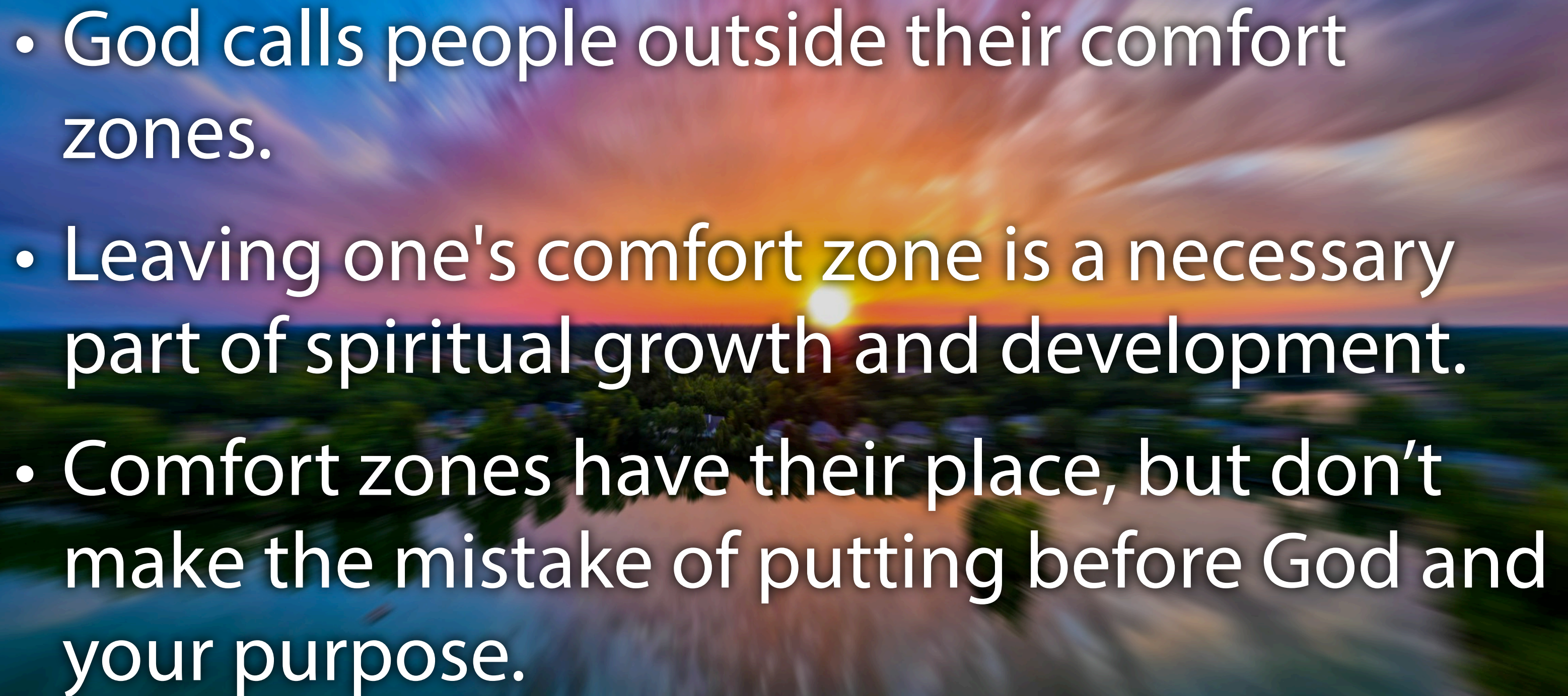


## **Power of Today** KEY POINT #3:

**Example of leaving a comfort zone: Jesus**

*John 14:1, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

**14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth**

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- A vibrant sunset over a body of water with a path leading towards the horizon. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The colors transition from deep blue on the left to bright orange and yellow near the sun, and then to soft purple and pink on the right. The water in the foreground is dark and still, reflecting the colors of the sky. A path or road leads from the bottom center towards the horizon, flanked by green grass and trees. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.
- God calls people outside their comfort zones.
  - Leaving one's comfort zone is a necessary part of spiritual growth and development.
  - Comfort zones have their place, but don't make the mistake of putting before God and your purpose.

A sunset over a body of water with palm trees reflected in the water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that transitions into a deep blue sky. The water is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky and the silhouettes of palm trees in the foreground.

**Power of Today** KEY POINT #4:  
**Adversity Reveals the Presence You Need**

**Proverbs 17:17, *A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.***

***A CLOSING STORY***