

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark scene of a stormy sea under a heavy, dark sky. Multiple bright, jagged lightning bolts are visible, striking down from the clouds. The water in the foreground is dark and turbulent, with white-capped waves. The overall mood is intense and powerful.

HEBREWS

PERSEVERANCE AND GODLINESS

8 steps of the “Path”

1. Faith
2. Excellence
3. Knowledge
4. Self-control
5. **Perseverance**
6. **Godliness**
7. Brotherly affection
8. Unselfish love

Perseverance is when we choose to trust God in every test, temptation, and trial

Godliness is when we work to align our character, ethics, worldview, and thought patterns with Christ

SPIRITUAL SUMMER

- God uses circumstances to test our faith
- Strong spiritual battles: trials from people around us or attacks to get us to sin
- God cuts things or people out of our lives





*Jesus is better than
anything and anyone else*

Warning passage elements

- What is the situation?
- How did I get here?
- What danger/problem am I facing if I don't change my trajectory?
- What should I do?

What is the situation?

- Drifting in my spiritual life
- “*drift away*” from what? from the truth of Jesus
- “*therefore*” – because Jesus is better, we need to be watchful

How did I get here?

- Drifting often happens slowly, without even realizing it...
- ...but it can't happen when we're anchored
- A wrong understanding of the truth revealed which leads to a lack of concern for it

“Salvation” in the Bible

“Salvation” refers to eternal salvation...

- in the OT - 60 out of 810 (7.4%)
- in the NT - 60 out of 150 (40%)
- whole Bible - 120 out of 960 (12.5%)

Almost 90% of the time in the Bible it refers to either:

- 1) temporal deliverance of an individual (David, psalms)
- 2) national deliverance of Israel in the coming kingdom

“Salvation” in the Bible

“Salvation” in Hebrews is

participation with Christ in the rich blessings of his future kingdom; the rewarding of believers who faithfully persevere for Christ in this life

Other key words - *rest, inheritance*

What is the danger?

- There is a penalty for disobedience (whether active or passive)
- “*how will we escape?*” — If there was a penalty for commands given through angels, how much more for those given through Jesus, who is far better than angels?

What should I do?

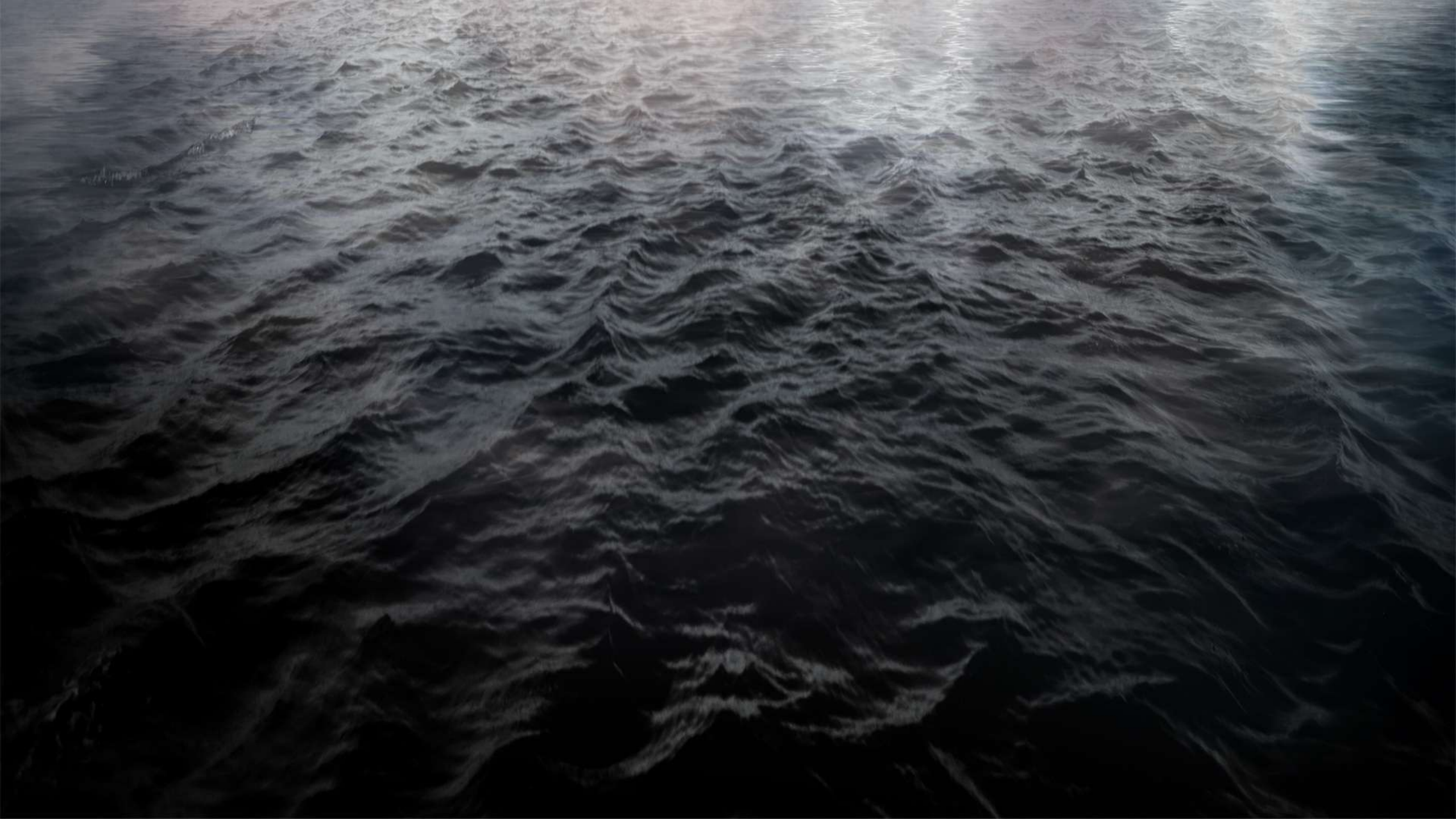
- *“pay closer attention to what we have heard”*
- Many times, getting back isn't about learning something new; we need to remember what we already know (2 Peter 1:9)

What should I do?

- In this case, the key truth to remember is what Jesus taught about the future – penalty or inheritance in his kingdom
 - That was Jesus' and the apostles' primary message and what their miracles proved
 - The writer confirmed this in verse 5
 - This is the normal use of “salvation” in the Bible

Challenge

- How closely am I paying attention to my spiritual life?
- Am I drifting? Would I notice if I were?
- Where do I need to pay more attention?



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