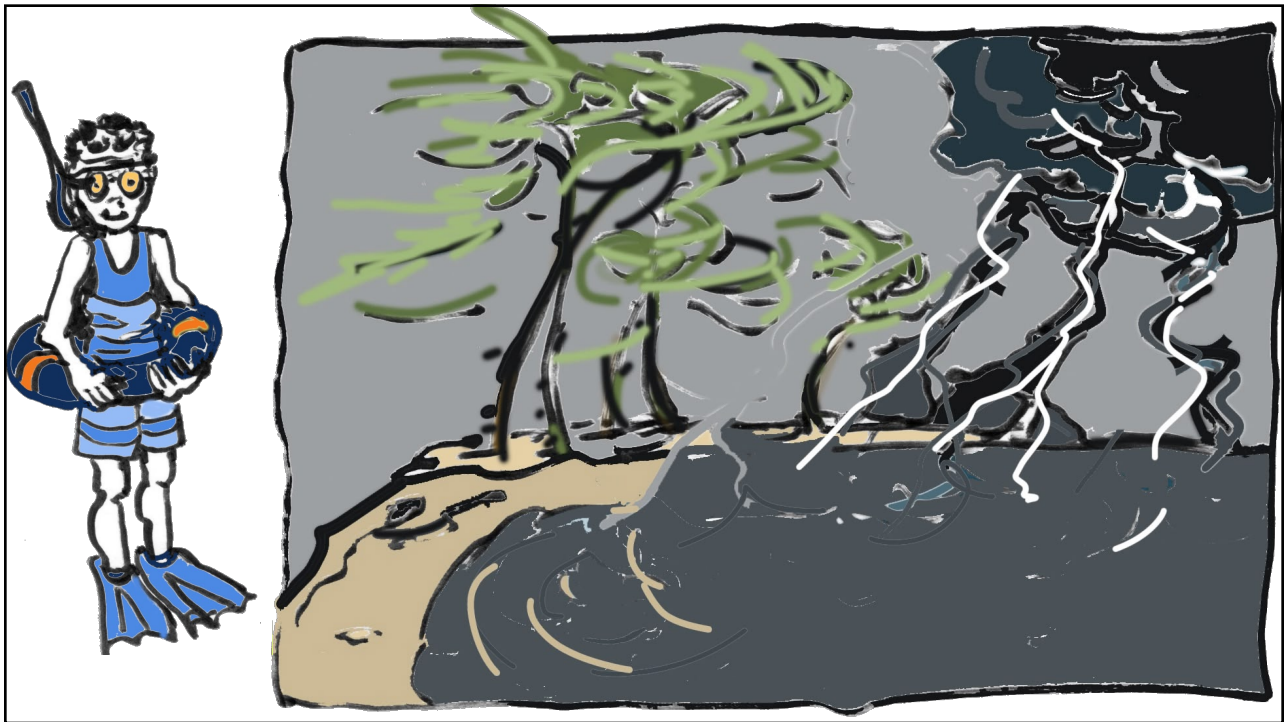




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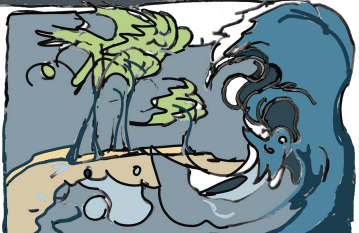


It is foolish (or worse)
to ignore or reject
external reality

Other examples?

**What about the
supernatural reality?**





4

The Great King

Psalm 95

ref.ly/Ps95;niv



A mature Christian:

*With new life from God
in the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
we love and join God's works*

1) One holy Creator God

5

Psalm 95

¹ **Come**, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us **shout aloud** to the Rock of our salvation.

² Let us **come** before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

³ **For** **God has total authority**
the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the **depths** of the earth,
and the **mountain peaks** belong to him.

⁵ The **sea** is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the **dry land**

6

⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

⁷ for
he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

God is completely good

7

An abrupt change to be a strong warning

Today, if only you would hear his voice,

⁸ **Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,**
as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness,

⁹ where your ancestors tested me;
they tried me, though **they had seen what I did.**

¹⁰ For forty years I was angry with that generation;
I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they have not known my ways.'

¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger,
'They shall never enter my rest.'

Meribah=quarreling, Massah=testing

They accused God of not being good

They treated God as someone with little authority

8

The Big Idea

God is the **all good** and **Sovereign King**
(has total authority over everything and everyone)

So in joy we worship and obey
and we must

9

It is foolish (or worse) to ignore or deny
external reality



10

It is foolish (or worse) to ignore or deny
external reality

11

The Big Idea

God is the all good and Sovereign King
(has total authority over everything and everyone)

So in joy we worship and obey
and we must

12

The problem with absolute kings and queens...

- It is not **their authority**
- It is their **imperfections**

Every human ruler is flawed

- The wisdom of **separation of powers**
- The wisdom of **checks and balances**

God is perfect in goodness and total in authority

- Great joy in both directions

13

What should we do?

Joyfully praise God

- The character and actions of the all good sovereign King
- Not everything makes sense to us
 - So we trust His complete goodness and His full authority and joyfully submit
- When gathering as God's people
- When on our own
- **A mature disciple joyfully praises God**

14

What should we do?

Fully obey God

- Love God with our entire being and love our neighbors as ourselves
 - More concretely: 10 commandments
 - Plus the commands in the rest of the Bible

"They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him." Titus 1:26

Confession: our hearts don't want to submit fully

- A mature disciple continually grows in full obedience to God

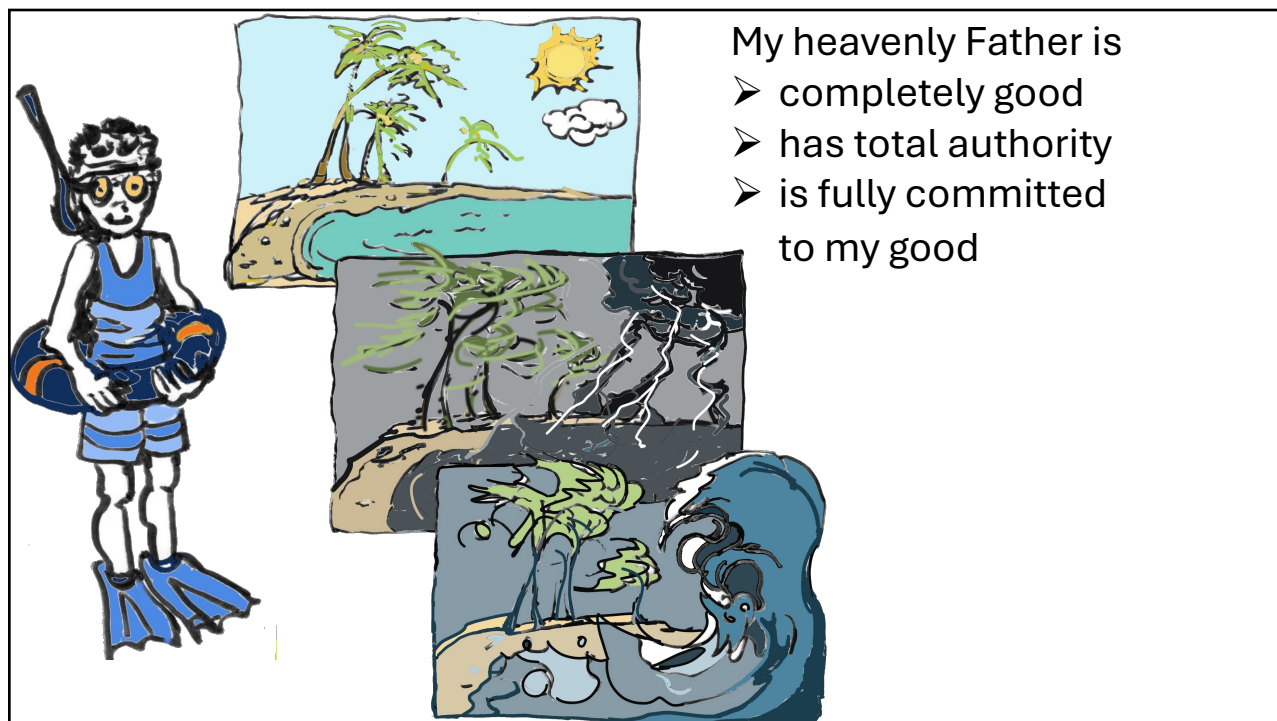
15

What does it look like?

- Beginning a new day or season
- Encountering trouble
 - "That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day."

2 Timothy 1:12
- Encountering goodness

16



17

*Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker;
for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.*

Psalms 95:6-7a

18