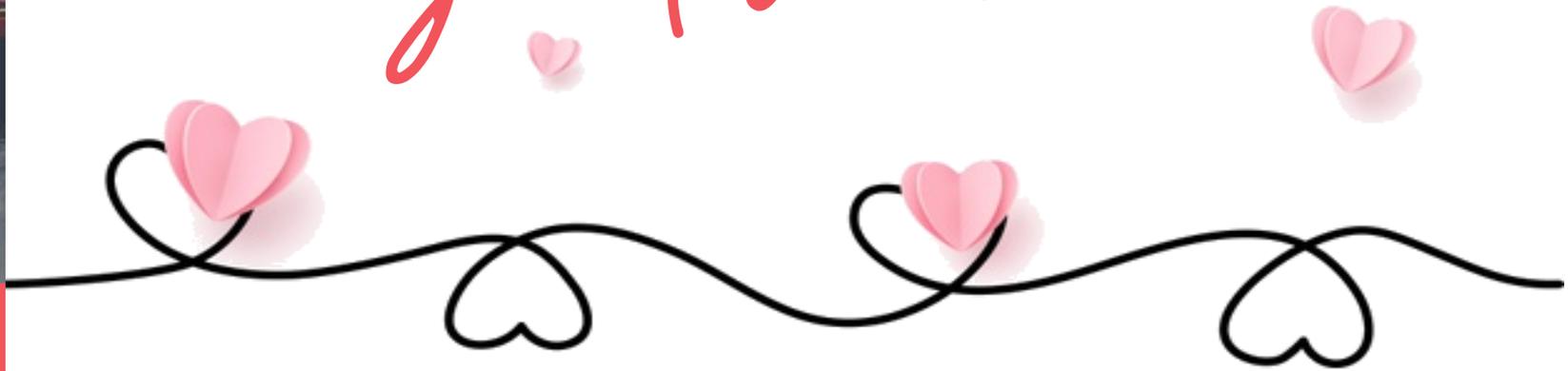


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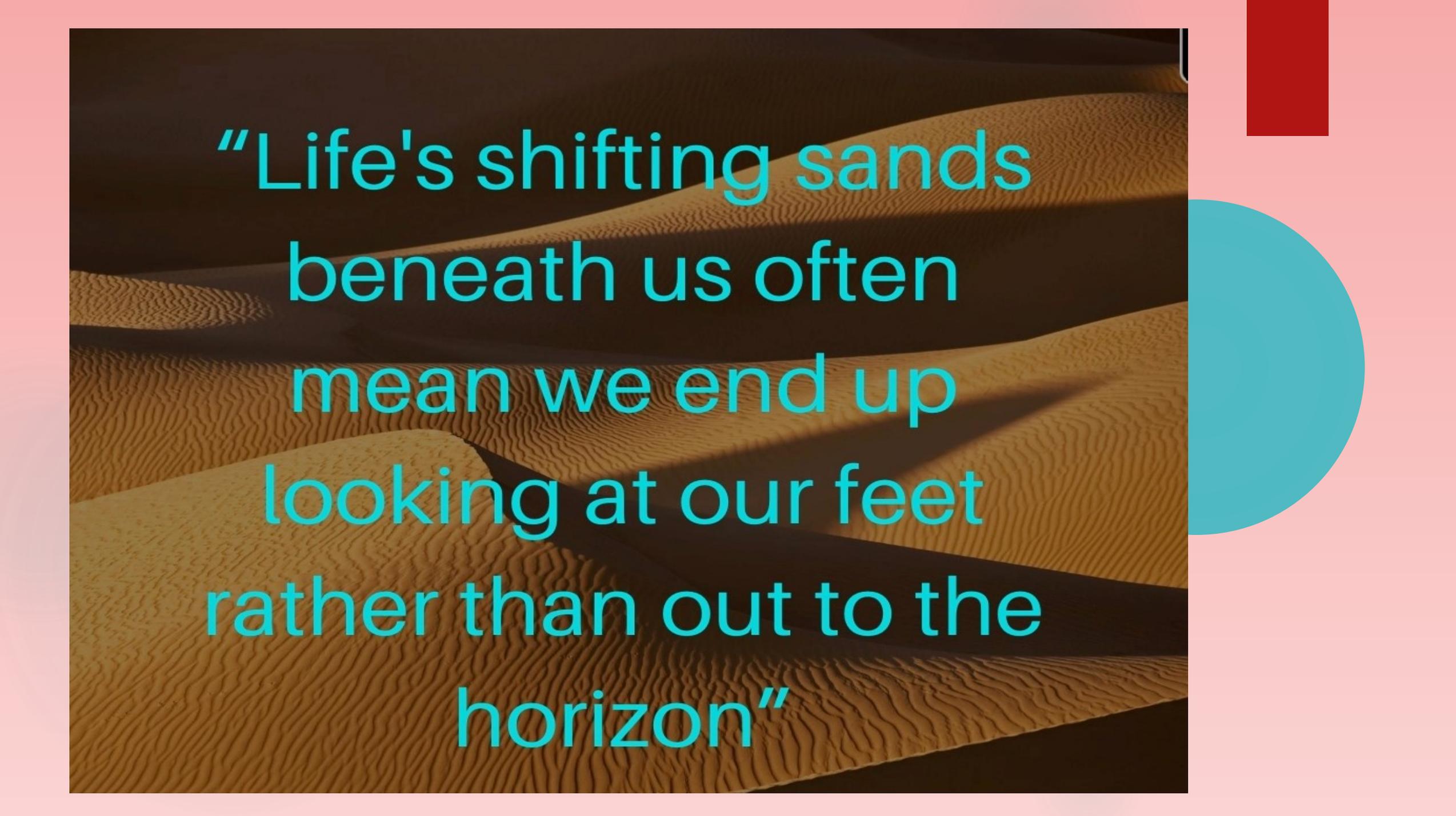
14 February 2021

CERTAINTY OF

God's love



DURING TURBULENT TIMES

A photograph of sand dunes with a teal quote overlaid. The dunes are golden-brown and have a rippled texture. The quote is in a bold, teal, sans-serif font. On the right side of the image, there is a red vertical bar at the top and a teal semi-circle below it.

“Life's shifting sands
beneath us often
mean we end up
looking at our feet
rather than out to the
horizon”

**'I lift up my eyes to the mountains -
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the
Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip - He who
watches over you will not slumber'
(Ps 121:1-2)**

- ▶ **The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying ‘ I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness’
Jer 31:3**

Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

‘THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE TREASURE HIDDEN IN A FIELD. WHEN A MAN FOUND IT, HE HID IT AGAIN, AND THEN IN HIS JOY WENT AND SOLD ALL HE HAD AND BOUGHT THAT FIELD. AGAIN, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A MERCHANT LOOKING FOR FINE PEARLS. WHEN HE FOUND ONE OF GREAT VALUE, HE WENT AND SOLD EVERYTHING HE HAD AND BOUGHT IT’

(MATT 13:44-46)

What is this hidden treasure?

- ▶ **Treasure is something priceless/valuable. We are valuable to God.**
- ▶ **We are God's treasure. Jesus said 'where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' You are in God's heart. He loves and cares for you. He has a plan for your life as well as mine.**
- ▶ **Treasure to one person may be a junk, cannot be seen. People in the world might consider you as a junk or unnoticed. But God sees you as His hidden treasure who will be revealed on that day of His fullness. He sees us as a treasure in jars of clay to show that this all surpassing power is from God.**

What is this hidden treasure?

- ▶ **If the treasure is lost, it does not benefit anyone, Although we are lost, we are considered valuable to Him. That is why He sent Jesus to search for us.**
- ▶ **If the treasure is found, its value can be seen by many. When we become the children of His Kingdom, we begin to impact lives around us. Be an influencer for Christ.**
- ▶ **Treasure is usually protected in some form. We are protected under the shadow of His wings, even when the heat comes upon our lives, we come under the shadow of His wings...**

What is the significance of Pearls?

- ▶ Pearl is the most sought valuable during Roman Empire. Unlike gemstones like diamonds where it comes from dead rock and the value of diamonds are determined it is cut but not from pearls.
- ▶ Pearls are formed when a foreign object somehow enters the inside of the oyster and instead of ejecting the irritants out, the object is covered by layers of layers of secretion by its own body until it becomes a pearl.
- ▶ We are all an irritant (through our sins) to God. But He accepts us, He covers our sins and it cost His life...He paid the price for us, the pearl with great value.

What is the significance of Pearls?

- ▶ **The longer the pearl stays in the oyster, the more valuable it is....this is the character of God, He is long suffering, His grace will abound and no sin is too big for Him. He loves you and me.**
- ▶ **To many, the oyster is nasty looking shell and many will despise us but God sees the pearl inside us. Hallelujah!**

God Loved us and cost the life of His son, Jesus

- ▶ **1 Cor 6:30 – He bought us at a price that cost the shedding of His blood for our sins**
- ▶ **John 15:12-13: Greater love has no man than this...that a man lay down his life for His friends**
- ▶ **Isa 53: 4-5: He took up our pain, bore our suffering, pierced for our transgression, crushed for our iniquities, and by His stripes, we are healed**

1 Cor 10:13 Message Bible

- ▶ **‘No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; He’ll never let you be pushed past your limit; He’ll always be there to help you come through it.’**

