

Be a dog.

Recently, I saw a video of a flooded area from inside a small boat. The boat was moving towards a piece of land no larger than 2 feet by 3 feet. As the boat approached, a dog was stranded and understandably shaking.

The tail began to wag and wag faster as the boat got closer.

The man reached out, grabbed the dog, and pulled it aboard. The man held the shaking dog briefly, then laid it on the floor of the boat and wrapped it in a warm blanket.

The dog continued to shake until they reached the shoreline, where someone waited to take it to safety and to a loving vet who would protect and examine it, hoping to eventually return it to its rightful owner.

Psalm 34:4: I sought the LORD, and He answered me, and rescued me from all my fears.

How easy it would be to trade places with the dog and replace the water with our fears, weaknesses, and vices that keep us from fully being present with the Lord.

Do we ask, or more realistically say to God, "God, please remove my sins from me. Oh, but let me keep these sins; I kind of like them."

If we are drowning, God doesn't yell down from heaven, "You need to focus on a more efficient swimming technique and work harder on perfecting your stroke."

We probably wouldn't hear the end of that sentence before we are underwater and moving down quickly.

No, God throws us a life buoy, who is known as Jesus.

1 John 4:14: We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.

So, what are you holding onto that is an anvil instead of a life jacket?

Are you hiding something from the world, or even a loved one, and you think you are safe because no one knows?

God knows.

What is holding you back from being present with God when He desires your attention?

Will the distractors enable you to achieve His heavenly kingdom?

Probably not.

But what if you filled your downtime with God and seeking Him with the same persistence and passion as getting “likes” on social media?

Are you focused more on your favorite team than on being chosen to be on God’s team?

The uniform for God’s team is not appealing to most people, as it is tarnished with ridicule and spewed with hatred, vile projections, and streaked with blood-red markings.

It is not about the eternal view for others to see. It is about what you hold inside, which others cannot see.

Adorning your uniform is not easy when you represent God’s team. But it is worth it.

You need to let go of whatever shaky ground you may be standing on. Let go of the distractions and change your focus.

God is the hand reaching out to save you from the storms and devastations we face.

He will pull us into His boat, embrace us, and wrap us in His warm, loving care.

And if we are lucky, he will look lovingly into our eyes and say, “You are a good boy.”

Vivat Jesus