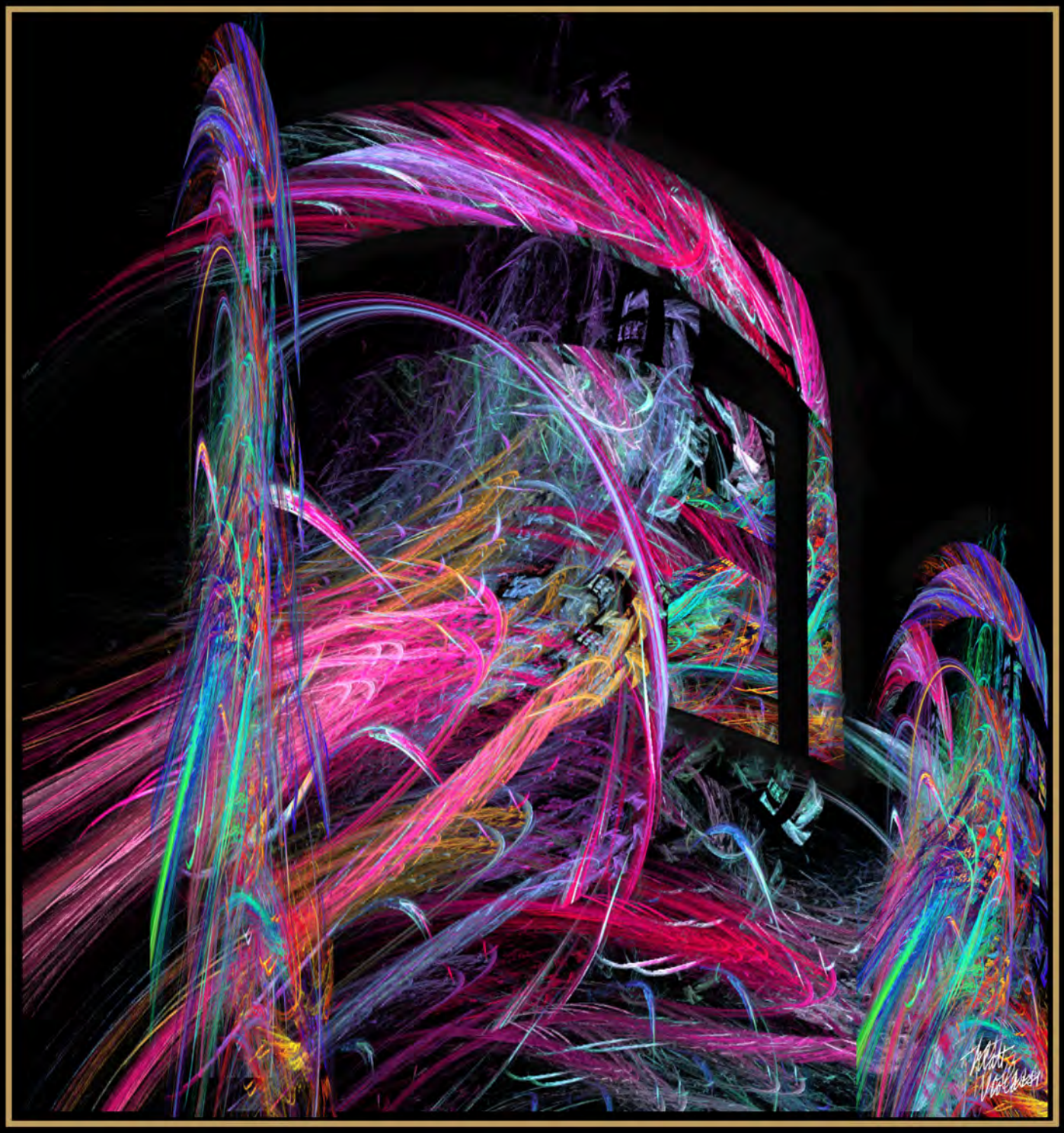
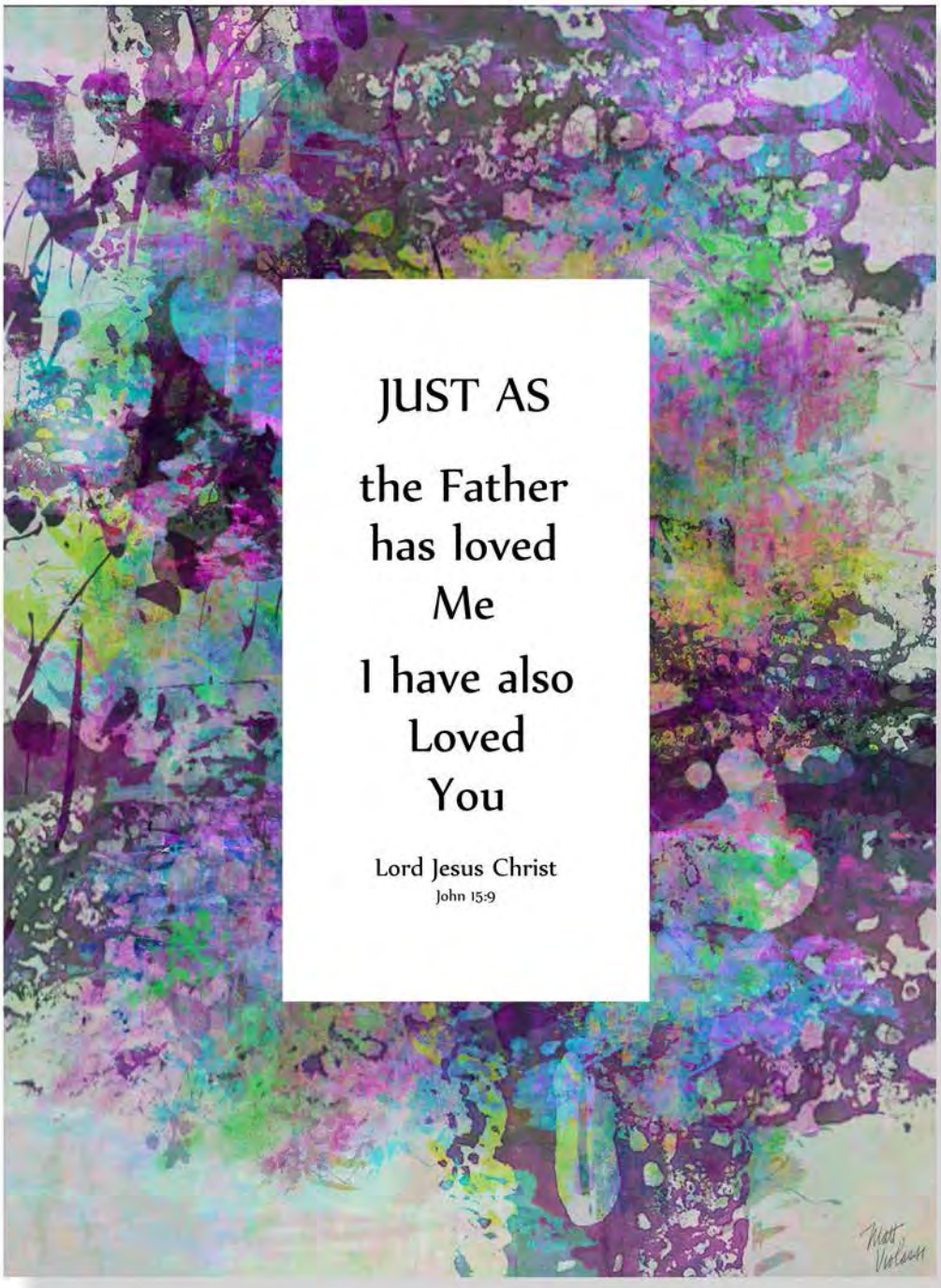
TRAIN FOR GOD



LIVE FOR GOD

matt violassi


I
HAVE
LOVED
YOU
with
an
EVERLASTING
LOVE
Almighty God
The Father
Jeremiah 31:3
matt violassi


JUST AS
the Father
has loved
Me
I have also
Loved
You
Lord Jesus Christ
John 15:9

A Christian training program/ lifestyle
that can greatly help us,

whether we will be leading a family. . .
a company. . . a church . . .

or a nation.

Synoptis / Summary

HOW COULD WE LIVE WITH OURSELVES NOT GETTING-UP EVERY DAY AND DOING OUR BEST FOR GOD?

LET'S KEEP SETTING THAT ALARM CLOCK !

LET'S KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING !

LET'S KEEP "FINDING HIM" !

LET'S KEEP WORKING THE RED LETTERS !

LET'S KEEP OBEYING HIM !

LET'S KEEP DAILY REVIEWING AND PURPOSING TO DO THOSE THINGS THAT PLEASE HIM !

Introduction 1

This Christian end-times training program/lifestyle can help us maximally please God, help minimize needless personal pain and destruction in our lives and the lives of others, and help us "be all we can be" in-God and for-God.

This booklet can help us and others - get to heaven *well.*

The gist of this book is to exhort Christians, especially Christian workers, to actively schedule and do four basic Biblical spiritual disciplines (in a heartfelt way) - as *top-life* priority.

It is my conviction and experience, *God will best-flow out of a lifestyle containing these priorities*:

1. **Private closed-door prayer with the priority of "finding God"**
2. **The Giving of Money and Good Works**
3. **Fasting**
4. **The Finding, Learning/memorizing, and Doing of His Commandments**

If we don't prioritize and thus schedule these disciplines, they will probably happen minimally or not at all.

Doing these disciplines not only pleases God, but He says He even rewards for doing them heartfully.

The Apostle Paul told Timothy, **"Train yourself for godliness."** (1 Tim 4:7 ESV)

Training is a good thing. We train to become good at different things - a career, a sport, a hobby - anything, really.

Let us be serious about training - training for the most important thing there is . . .

Introduction 2

1. The biggest thing we can ever do for another human being is to help them get to heaven.

That is - helping them obtain their "ticket" or "passport" to heaven. This is done through a person repenting of all their sins, and believing in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.

"*Rejoice that your names are written in heaven*." - Jesus Christ (Luke 10:20)

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2. The second biggest thing we can ever do for another human being is to help them get to heaven ***well*.**

We can become a Christian and still inflict a lot of needless pain and destruction upon ourselves and upon others. **This spiritual training program/lifestyle can greatly help keep this from happening.**

Helping people "be all they can be" in God helps them to excel in all the major arenas of life: as an Employer/Employee, as a Spouse, a Parent, as Son or Daughter, as a Neighbor, as a Citizen . . . as a Christian Worker. **This spiritual training program/lifestyle can greatly help us be all God intended for us to be.**

Introduction 3

As we grow-up spiritually, we come to better understand the importance of our own personal, private times of Seeking God, "Finding" God, and Interfacing with Him and His Word.

For many years I have tried to convince other Christians that did not have (scheduled) private devotional times - ***to have ones***. . . . And I tried to convince those Christians that had scheduled private God-times - ***to have robust ones***.

Why?

In our private God-times we can:

- get "reality checks" from God.
- get spiritually cleansed by God and our sins forgiven, and our life straightened out.
- unload all our anxieties on God, and get help with them.
- get vision for our day. . . vision for our week. . . vision for our life.
- better set priorities and our soul's intentions for the day
- learn things about God and grow spiritually,
- have a time to better learn and memorize His commandments.
- grow in our friendship and relationship with God.
- get help from God for all our problems, pains, and trials.
- get spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical healing.
- get God's perspective on issues, people . . . life.
- find out how to serve Him better.
- better think about others, and those we are responsible for taking care of.
- get free from sins, bondages, warped thinking, demonic and fleshly influences.
- increase in our emotional love for God.
- grow in righteousness.
- get empowered for the day.
- **get filled with the Holy Spirit and Joy** (It is not a one-time experience. Acts 13:52)
- **keep our life "close" to God, and we are less apt to "fall away" from God**.
- **miss fewer daily Kingdom Opportunities and Divine Appointments.**
- **thrill *God more often*** - because ***He loves it*** when people schedule their life around time to privately seek Him and spend time with Him.
- the list goes on . . . .

These times are so powerful and important. The devil knows this. Minimizing the frequency and length of these times is probably one of his main "points of attack" in our lives. Because of this opposition, we will need to purposefully ***schedule*** these times - otherwise they will probably happen minimally or not at all.

The apostle Paul told Timothy to train.

"Train yourself in godliness." (1 Tim 4:7 ESV)

We are supposed to train for God.

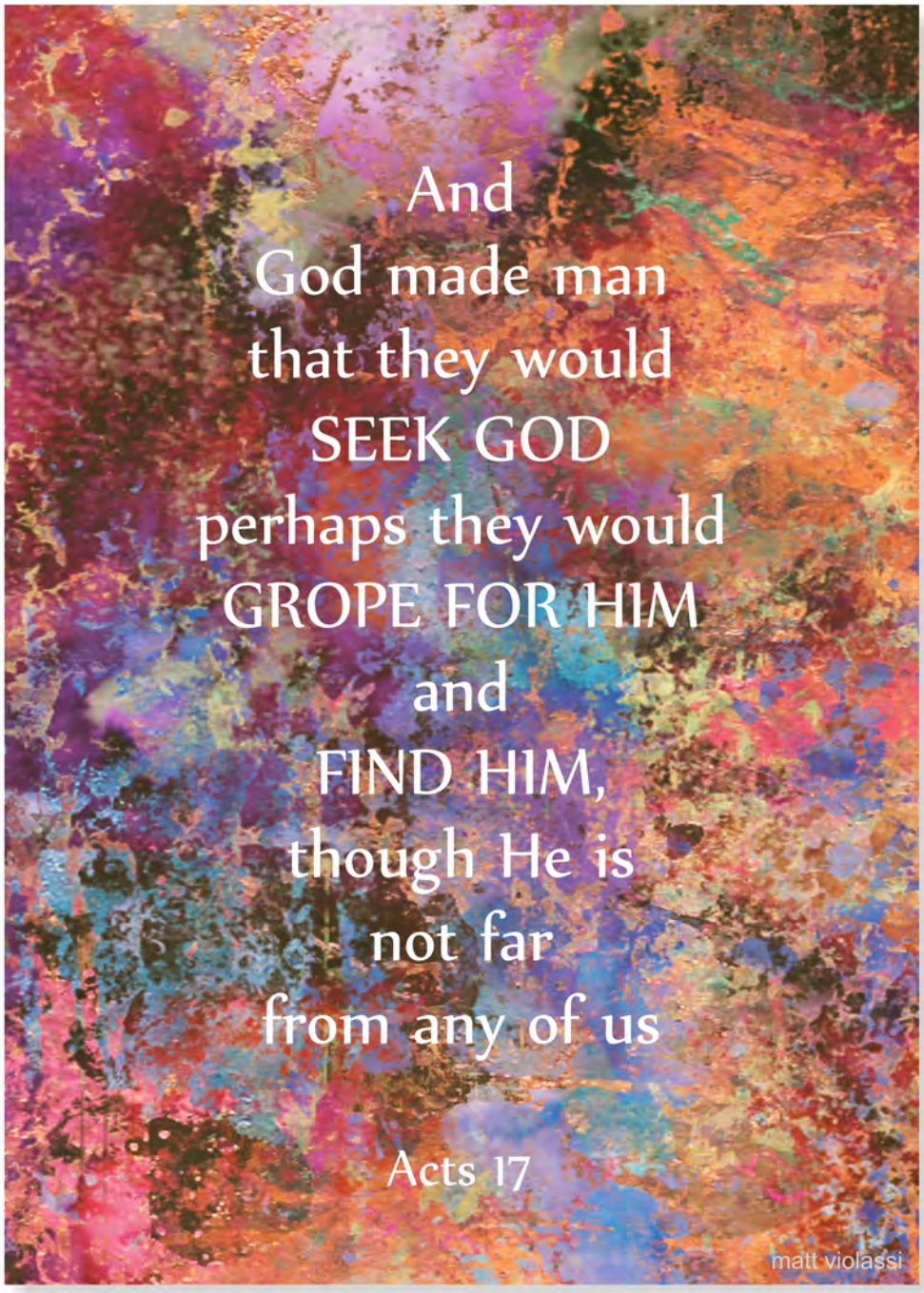
It is good to train for God.

It is good to train *hard* for God.

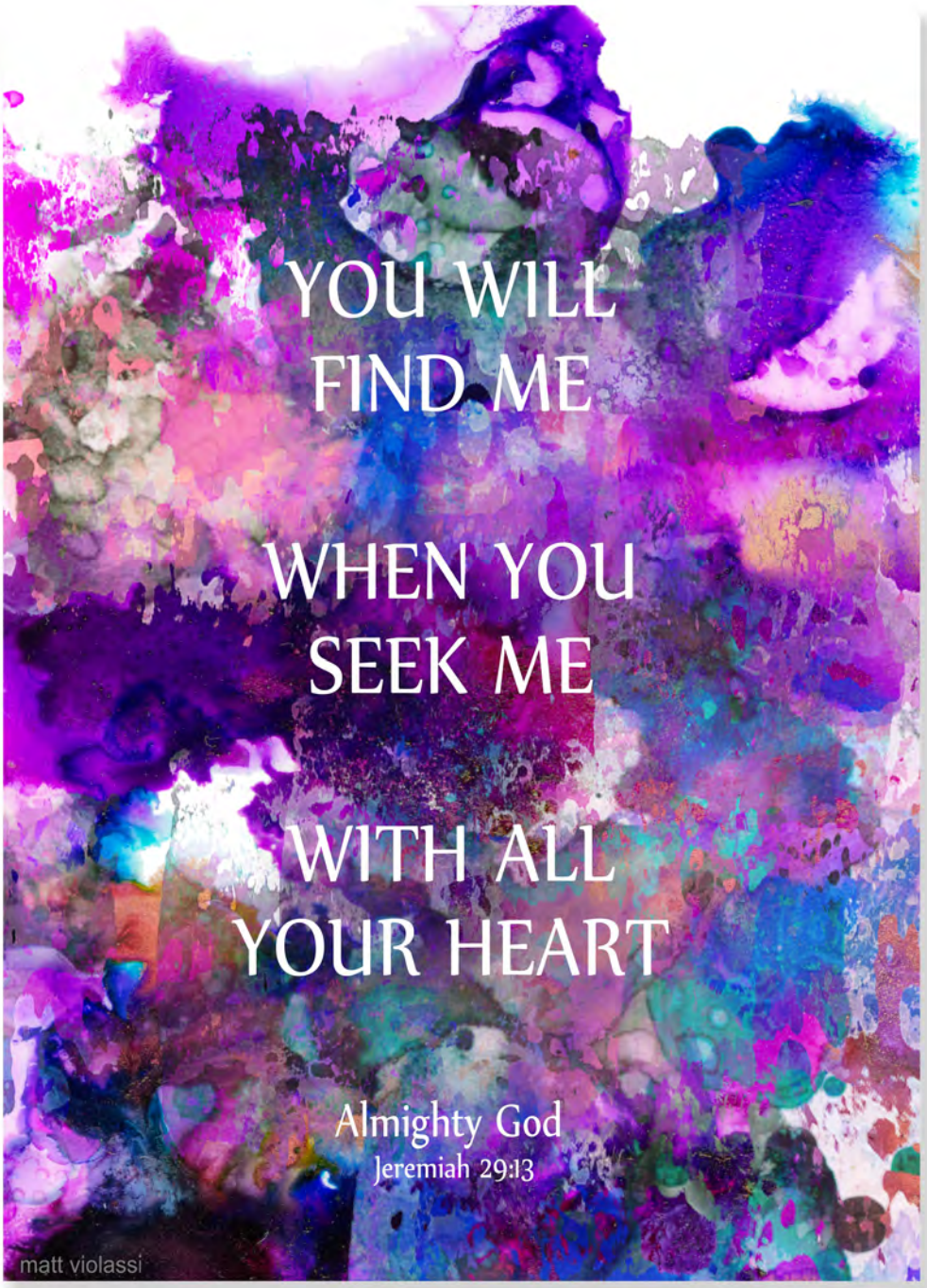
God ultimately trains us.

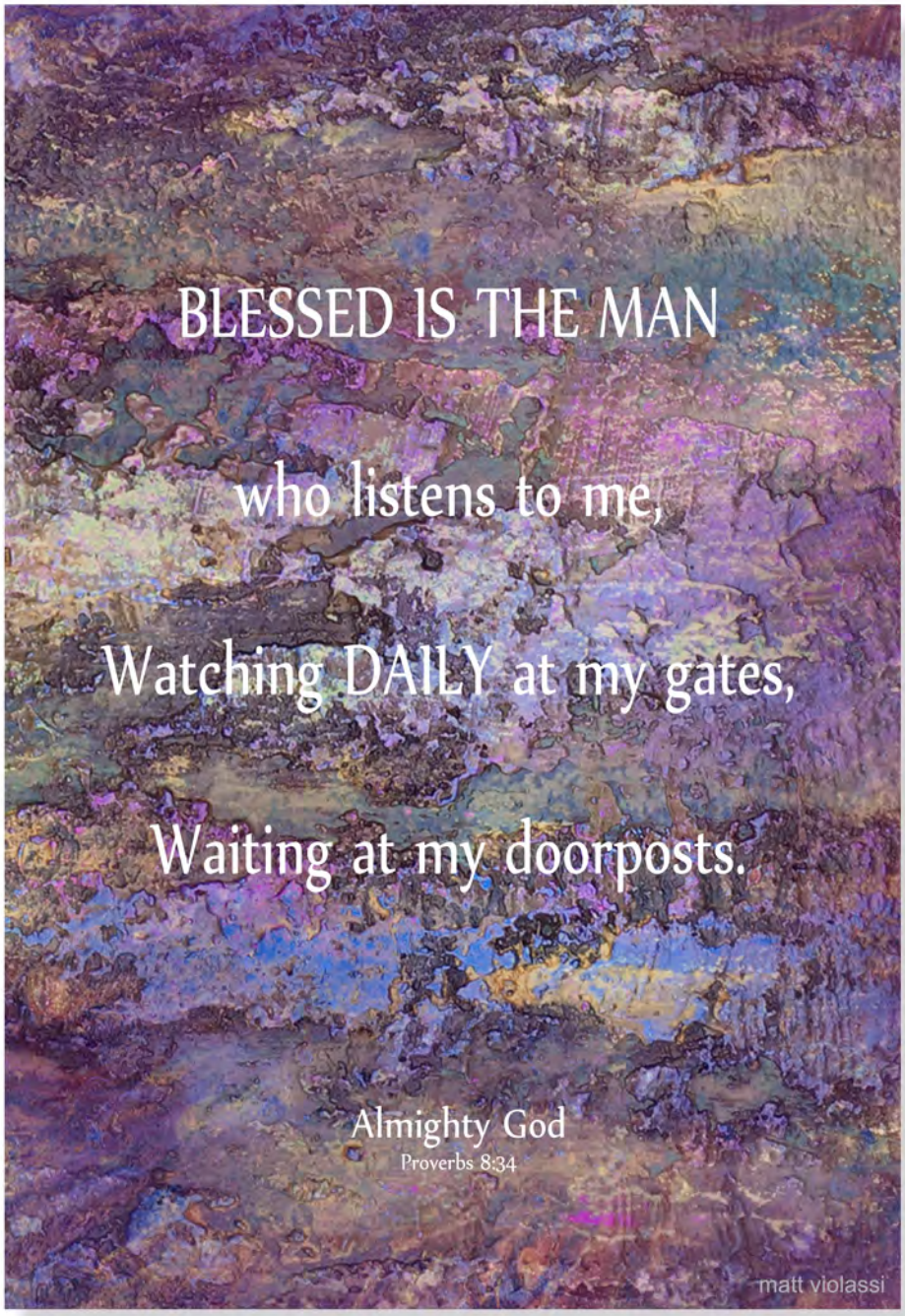
"But everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher."
- Jesus (Luke 6 NAS)

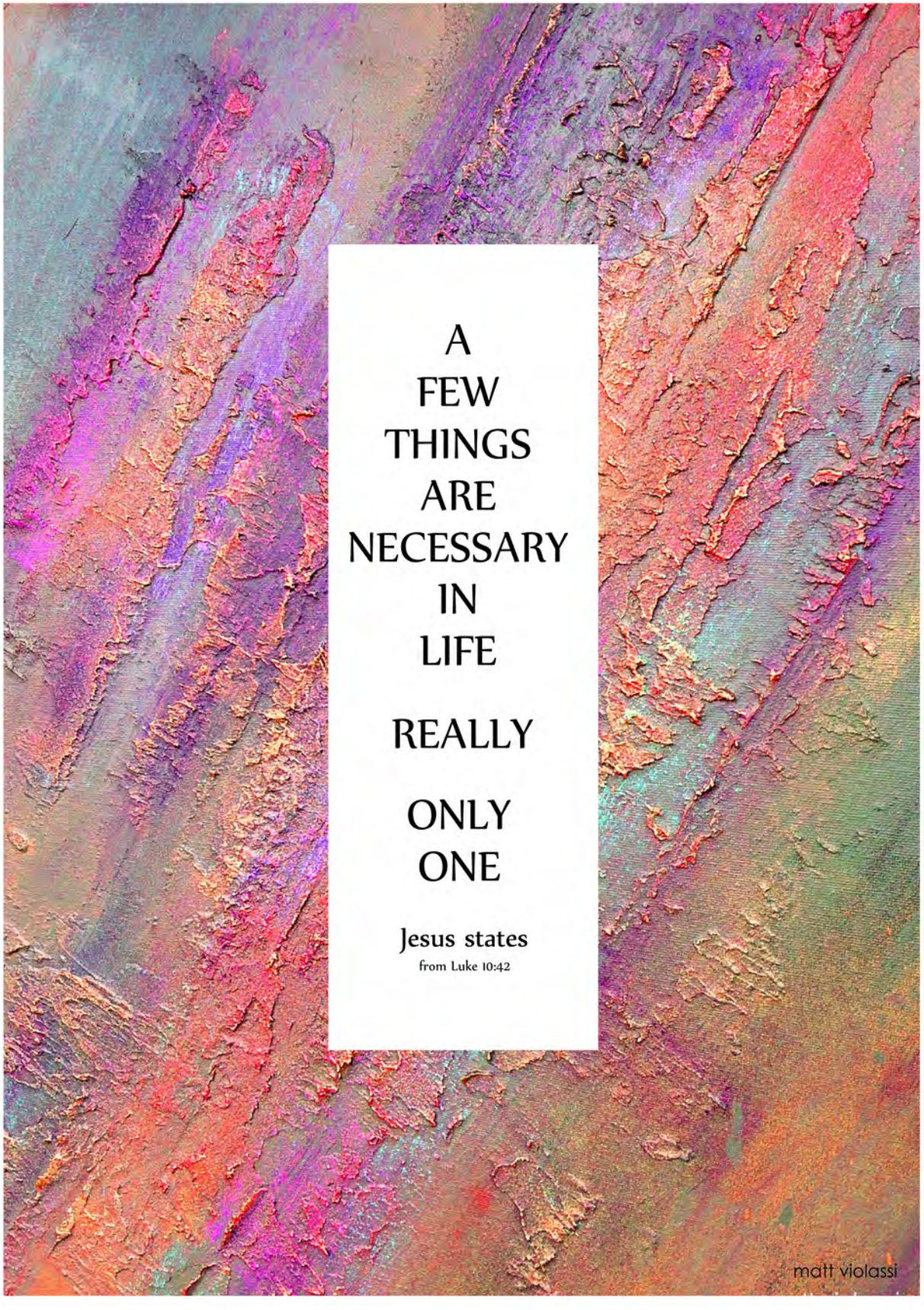
Let us train both *for* God and *with* God by yielding and complying *with* God.

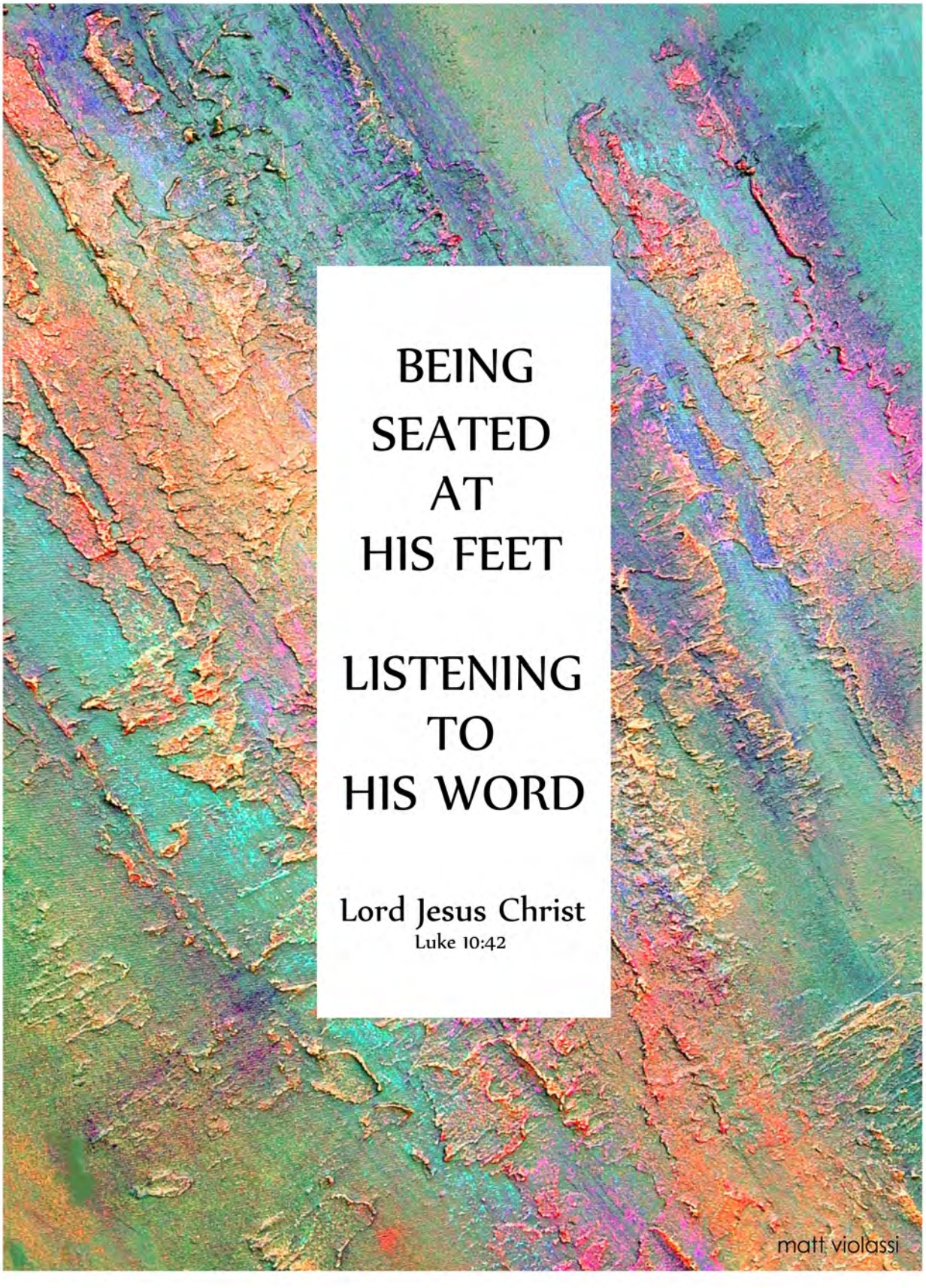

And
God made man
that they would
SEEK GOD
perhaps they would
GROPE FOR HIM
and
FIND HIM,
though He is
not far
from any of us
Acts 17
matt violassi


Come to Me
all you
who are weary
and burdened
and I
will give you
rest
Lord Jesus Christ
Matthew 11
matt violassi


YOU WILL
FIND ME
WHEN YOU
SEEK ME
WITH ALL
YOUR HEART
Almighty God
Jeremiah 29:13
matt violassi


BLESSED IS THE MAN
who listens to me,
Watching DAILY at my gates,
Waiting at my doorposts.
Almighty God
Proverbs 8:34
matt violassi


A
FEW
THINGS
ARE
NECESSARY
IN
LIFE
REALLY
ONLY
ONE
Jesus states
from Luke 10:42
matt violassi


BEING
SEATED
AT
HIS FEET
LISTENING
TO
HIS WORD
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 10:42
matt violassi

4 Basic Scheduled Disciplines

Training/Lifestyle Program

"Train yourself in godliness." (1 Tim 4:7 ESV)

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1. CLOSED-DOOR PRAYER: As top-priority every day, and with the best of your time, privately Seek God with the attempt to "Find" God and Talk to Him about stuff. Also, interact with Him and His Word.

"But when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret." (normal Christian lifestyle - Matt 6)

- **Tool #1 contains a bunch of things you will want to do in this time. Try to do as many of the activities in Tool #1 as you can.**

2. FASTING: Schedule Weekly Fasting. *(heartfelt)*

"But when you fast. . . " (normal Christian lifestyle - Matt 6)

- **Purpose and schedule to fast a day or two every week - no food – for the purpose of humbling ourselves before God and as a request for His life, power, and works to be fully manifest in us.**

3. GIVING: Schedule Weekly Financial Giving and the Giving of Good Works. *(heartfelt)*

"When you give to the needy . . . " (normal Christian lifestyle - Matt 6)

- **Give as much as you can. Give God the first and best of your money.**
- **Do as many of God's prepared Good Works you can perceive, daily.**

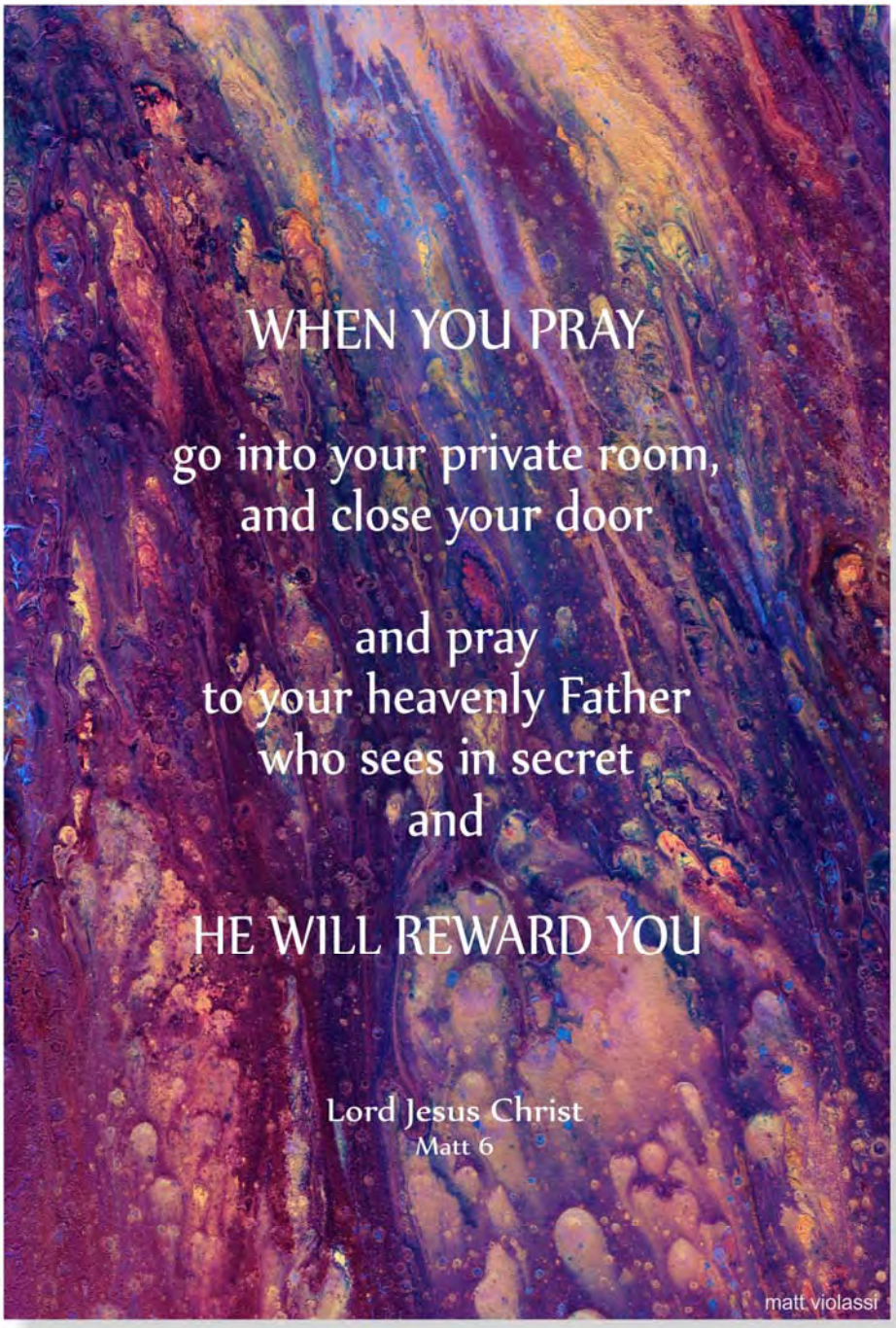
"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they many see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (normal Christian lifestyle - Matt 5)

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. " (normal Christian lifestyle - Ephes 2)

4. FIND, REVIEW, MEMORIZE, AND DO: Find and Memorize God's Commands in the Bible, and Do Them Throughout Each Day. *(heartfelt)*

"Whoever has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me."
(normal Christian lifestyle - John 14 NIV)

- ***How can we say we love Him, and we are not finding, learning, memorizing, reviewing, and doing His commands?***


WHEN YOU PRAY
go into your private room,
and close your door
and pray
to your heavenly Father
who sees in secret
and
HE WILL REWARD YOU
Lord Jesus Christ
Matt 6
matt.violassi

1. CLOSED-DOOR PRAYER: As top-priority every day, and with the best of your time, privately Seek God with the attempt to "Find" God and Talk to Him about stuff. Also, interact with Him and His Word.

1. **Schedule the BEST of your time.** Ask God to help you with this. Tool #1 contains about 3 hours of stuff that deep down, we all would like to do and accomplish everyday. Try to do as many activities found in Tool #1 "Good Things to Do in our Private God-Times" as you can.

2. This is to be done privately, behind a closed door.

3. Try to make your personal God-times your highest priority in life, perhaps even more important to attending church meetings. (Of course, we are not to forsake assembling; the Bible teaches this.)

- Jesus said our personal 1-on-1 face-times with Him are the most important activity of all of life. Worried and bothered Christian Martha was complaining to Jesus about having to do all the serving. First she somewhat accuses Him of not caring. Then she tells Him what to do . .

  "Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, **who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word**. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up *to Him* and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; **but only one thing is necessary**, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.'" (Luke 10 NAS)

So we are scheduling these times.

- The devils of hell undoubtedly understand that our private, personal, closed-door prayer times and our 1-on-1 face times with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are the most important and powerful activity in all of life. It is probably the main point of demonic attack in our lives. Minimize these times - Minimize the Christian. Get the Christian to think that he or she cannot make time for this. Get them to think these times are not *that* important. **So we are scheduling these times.**

- If we do not schedule our personal, private God-times, they will probably happen minimally not at all.

- Many Christians with full time jobs, still invest hours in their relationship and friendship with God weekly.

- This is one of the 4 main Christian activities that God says He rewards for doing. **THAT HE SAYS HE REWARDS FOR DOING.**

> "When you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, **and your Father who sees what is done in secret <u>will reward you.</u>**"
> (Matt. 6:6 NAS)

- It is obvious that God would rather have 100 Christian Workers whose top-life priority was their Personal God-times, and they attended a church assembly only once or twice a month - <u>versus</u> - 100 Christian Workers that were involved in all kinds of Christian activities and meetings, but only attended to their Personal God-times periodically and superficially.

- We will grow in our love of these times. Really, in these times, we are *investing* in our friendship with God - our personal relationship with God. ***Is it not crazy to be doing any and every kind of Christian activity but neglecting this one?***

- Scheduling your BEST TIME each day to cultivate and invest in your relationship with God - **THRILLS GOD**. Think about this. God looks down from heaven and sees you - in real-time - in a real and tangible way - scheduling and planning your whole day around Him. Around a time to seek Him and find Him and talk to Him. And to do other spiritual training. **This thrills Him.** Let us always be encouraged about this fact.

- Tool 1 consists of at least 15 activities that most Christians would want to do everyday. We are weak. We are forgetful. We get distracted. Having a list of top-priority activities, and managing our time efficiently and effectively by scheduling adequate personal God-times - is a *great* glory to God.

- Why close-door prayer ***versus*** prayer on the way to work or while doing something else? Some people say there is no need to partake in private closed-door prayer times because they pray all day long as they "do life." Unfortunately, this was not Jesus's example nor lifestyle,

> **"But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray**." - Luke 5:16 NAS

We *are* supposed to pray *at all times,* as we "do life,"

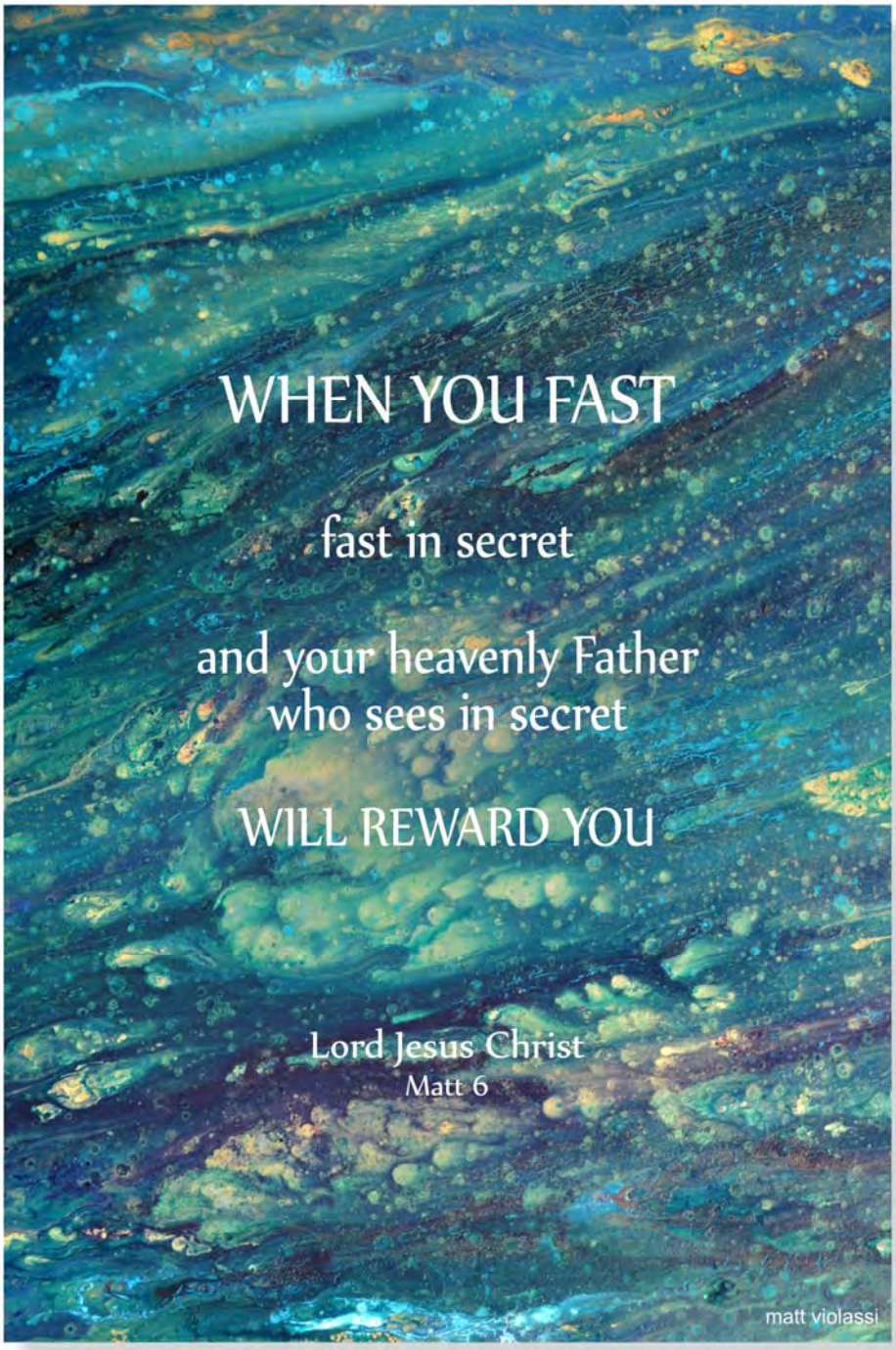
> **"Pray at all times in the Spirit"** (Eph 6:18 NAS)

> **"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up."** (Luke 18:1 NIV)

This "praying at all times" is praying while taking a shower, on the drive to work, while working, while shopping, etc. However, Jesus also taught on close-door prayer. *It is different than prayer "along the way."*

Closed-door prayer is 100% undistracted prayer.

Jesus says God the Father specifically rewards for this kind of prayer.


WHEN YOU FAST
fast in secret
and your heavenly Father
who sees in secret
WILL REWARD YOU
Lord Jesus Christ
Matt 6
matt violassi

2. FASTING:
Schedule Weekly Fasting. *(heartfelt)*

1. Purpose and schedule to fast a day or two every week - no food – for the purpose of humbling ourselves before God and as a request for His life, power, and works to be fully manifest in us. If we don't schedule regularly lifestyle fasting, it will probably happen minimally or not at all.

- Jesus spoke of fasting as a normal part of the Christian lifestyle,

"When you fast . . . " (Matt 6)

"When the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days."
(Luke 5:35 NAS)

- Fasting does a number of different things - it humbles us before God, frees-up time to seek Him, voluntarily weakens us physically and mentally as a statement of our need for Him, helps us become more aware and conscious of the spiritual realm, gets God's attention, jolts us into thinking and focusing on Him, spiritually empowers us, etc., **With voluntary fasting, we are ultimately choosing some level and time duration of pain and discomfort in this area of voluntary hunger**. Because of this, schedule fasting with God's help and input and initiation - He is not interested in us unnecessarily ravaging ourselves and damaging ourselves.

- Fasting helps us be more comfortable with discomfort. Otherwise, we seem to tend to choose and live a lifestyle of *pain-avoidance*. Our flesh is dedicated to *pain-avoidance*. Fasting breaks this. Christians who don't include fasting in their lifestyle seem to have bigger problems with overcoming addictions. They have a bigger problem controlling and ruling their flesh - saying "No!" to the passions and lusts and cravings and desires of the flesh. We have been given a new *spirit*. We are to comply with God in the renewing of our *minds*. But, we are awaiting the redemption of our *bodies*. We are getting new bodies, ones that are not steeped in sin. These present bodies have to die, literally. They will not be joining us in heaven. We need to rule these bodies and that scream for pleasures and pain-avoidance by using our minds that are led by our *Spirit.*

- **Fasting breaks "yokes" and bondages in our lives and in the lives of others**. ("'Is this the fast I choose [God] . . . to break every yoke?'" Isaiah 58 NIV) Many issues in our lives can be better overcome through serious prayer and fasting. We hear God and perceive His wisdom more clearly for a situation through fasting. Fasting brings His power. Many times the road to solving issues can be complex or multi-faceted. There are multiple steps to be taken where people have to change a number of things in their lives. I will only agree to help a couple with a disintegrating marriage, with the condition they agree to war with me with prayer and fasting for the weeks we are meeting. I am not going to waste the time and energy if they will only invest minimal effort. Fasting brings our full attention, our full game.

- Choosing how to fast. Generally fasting means no food. Doing a "milkshake fast" or a "doughnut fast" is not going to hurt very much. **Ultimately, spiritual fasting is about voluntary hunger - some level or degree of discomfort - for some specific time.** (Spiritual fasting *is not* for health reasons or to lose weight or for physical cleansing, etc.) We should not mix the two. We should prayerfully plan our fasting days.

- Fasting can particularly "wipe-out" people with physically demanding jobs. A full 24 hour fast while working a hard job can really wipe you out - even into the following day. Consider fasting all day to evening - and then eat, so as to be able to recover for the next work day - so as not to be useless to your boss the following day. **You were still hungry *all day* for the Lord!** I think this is a very honorable and a good fast day. You were definitely hungry and uncomfortable all day long. But plan and execute your fast days with God's help. We are doing this to please Him - not ourselves or other people.

- One ministry I knew of fasted 6 months of each year; they fasted every other day. It is documented in the Bible that Jesus did at least one 40 day fast. One Christian I knew of did two 40-day fasts every year. We *could* fast every day - *every day for the rest of our lives!* How could this be done? Fast all day until evening, every day. **Some Christians do this for years at a time . . . hungry all day . . . every day . . . for God**.

- This is one of the 4 main Christian activities that God says He rewards for doing. **THAT HE SAYS HE REWARDS FOR DOING.** God likes this activity so much - He rewards for it.

  "But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; **a**nd your Father **who sees what is done in secret will reward you."** (Matt. 6:17-18)

- We fast primarily to please God. Doing it for the reward is okay, too!

- If we don't schedule regularly lifestyle fasting, it will probably happen minimally or not at all.


WHEN YOU GIVE
to the poor
give in secret
and your heavenly Father
who sees in secret
WILL REWARD YOU
Lord Jesus Christ
Matt 6
matt violassi

3. GIVING:

Schedule Weekly Financial Giving and of the Giving of Good Works. *(heartfelt)*

A. Schedule Financial Giving.

- Give to God from the first of your income. Give as much as you can. Prayerfully give.
- Put it all on the line about once a month - any savings you might have. Offer it up to God one more time. This activity can keep us from loving money, serving money, or depending on money rather than depending on God. Ultimately, Jesus said to not be storing up wealth,

  "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal." (Matt 6:19 NAS)

- The Old Testament standard was 10% of one's income.
- If we don't schedule the giving of our money, we will probably give minimally or not at all.

B. Give by Doing Good Works.

- Since true **Good Works** are supposed to be God-initiated or God-led (Ephes. 2:10), we need to tune in to God's **Good Works** every day. **Purposefully be alert for God's prepared Good Works everyday.**
- A God-inspired Good Work might come to our mind and/or heart, or they may merely present themselves available as the day unfolds.
- A **Good Work** can be anything to ultimately help someone get to heaven, help them get to heaven *well*, or help them grow further spiritually in God. It could be as simple as being a friend to someone, mowing the lawn for a neighbor, or helping at church. It could be as powerful as leading a person to a salvation commitment, speaking supernaturally to someone, or laying hands on a person and healing their disease through Christ.
- A good test for whether something is a **Good Work** or a **Dead Work** is whether the recipient will be praising or thanking God afterwards,

  "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they many see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matt 5:16)

  If we slip someone a $20 bill in a grocery store aisle, and they were just silently crying-out to God to help them feed their kids that day - we hit pay dirt. Now they better KNOW God is real and that He cares for them and that He answers prayer. They prayed - He answered - they praise and thank Him. They now believe in Him more after this Good Work. God wins. They win. We win.

- GIVING is one of the 4 main Christian activities that God says He rewards for doing. **THAT HE SAYS HE REWARDS FOR DOING.** God likes this activity so much - He rewards for it.

  "When you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; **and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.**" (Matt. 6:3-4)


Whoever
has
My Commands
and
keeps them
is
the one
who
loves me
Lord Jesus Christ
John 14:21
matt violassi

4. FIND, REVIEW, MEMORIZE, AND DO:

Find and memorize God's commands in the Bible, and do them throughout each day. *(heartfelt)*

1. Get a red-letter Bible. (words printed in red whenever Jesus is speaking.) Start with finding, learning, and memorizing Jesus's commands.

2. Underline any direct command and put a "C" next to it denoting "Command."

3. Underline any implied command and put a "I" next to it denoting "Implied Command."

4. As best you can, memorize each of the commands you find, trying being able to recite them back to yourself with your eyes closed.

5. Each day, DO all the commands you know, especially those that you are learning.

***Please note**: We can only obey any and all of God's/Jesus's commandments through the power of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit who now lives inside of those who believe. Jesus's commands are even harder and higher than "The Law." **But, we can obey them all through Him.** This is the beauty of the gospel. God now lives inside of us and we now have power over all sin, and the power to fully please God through Jesus Christ. This is Good News, indeed.

- Jesus defined the person that truly loves Him - ***by His definition,***

"Whoever has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me."
(John 14:21 NIV)

On judgment day, all the nations will be before His throne, and He will separate the sheep from the goats - those that loved Him by His definition - and those that did not. We want to be in the group that loved Him ***by His definition.***

- God has 2 types of commands:
  1) Commands revealed to us in the general counsel of Scripture
  2) Personal things God communicates for us to do, obey, and/or believe. *Also attend to any personal things God convicts and communicates for you to do, obey, or believe.* (examples: Quit being late for work. Offer to play with your child more often. Work on the job like God owns the place. Help your wife or parents more often and *cheerfully*. Take care of so-and-so, do what you say to your are going to do, obey the speed limit and all the laws, don't talk that way, etc. See Spiritual Tool #3.

- The Great Commission is our main job description. Jesus instructed us in the 2 things we are to be involved in doing as we are involved in making disciples of all the nations,

  "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, [1] baptizing them. . . [2] **teaching them to obey all I have commanded you."**

  Obviously, if we are going to be involved in the Great Commission, we need to first be a person who is actively finding, learning, memorizing, and doing all His commands - before we are teaching other people to do so.

- We all want to be great in God's sight. Obviously we are great in God's sight on one level because we are one of His children. But Jesus was speaking of something else. Jesus instructed us how to be great in God's sight,

  "Whoever does my commandments and teaches others to do the same, shall be called <u>great</u> in the kingdom of heaven." (Matt 5:19)

  We need to find, learn, memorize, and do all His commands, and then be teaching others to do so, if we want to be great in the kingdom of God.

- This is one of the 4 main Christian activities that God says He rewards for doing. **THAT HE SAYS HE REWARDS FOR DOING.**

  "He who has My commandments and keeps them *is the one who loves Me*; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, **<u>and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.</u>"** **(reward)** (John 14:21)

  "Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **<u>We will come to him and make Our abode with him.</u>**'" **(reward)** (John 14:23)

  If we are a person that memorizes His commandments and then does them, God promises He will be visiting us. ***He is joy, happiness, and peace. We get those by just being in proximity to Him.*** **(reward)**

- If we do not actively schedule time to find, learn, and memorize His commandments, we will probably do so minimally, or not at all.

He said to him, "Stretch out your hand!" And he did *so;* and his hand was restored. 11 But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.

Choosing the Twelve

12 It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. 13 And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles: 14 Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew; 15 and Matthew and Thomas; James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot; 16 Judas *the son* of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

17 Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place; and *there was* a large crowd of His disciples, and a great throng of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, 18 who had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. 19 And all the people were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing *them* all.

The Beatitudes

20 And turning His gaze toward His disciples, He *began* to say, "Blessed *are* you *who are* poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 Blessed *are* you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed *are* you who weep now, for you shall laugh. 22 Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. 23 Be glad in that day and leap *for joy,* for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets. 24 But woe to you who are rich, for you are receiving your comfort in full. 25 Woe to you who are well-fed now, for you shall be hungry. Woe *to you* who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. 26 Woe *to you* when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way.

27 "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. 30 Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. 31 Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. 32 If you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is *that* to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same *amount.* 35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men.* 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, *and* running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

39 And He also spoke a parable to them: "A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40 A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher. 41 Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 42 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

43 For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. 44 For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. 45 The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil *man* out of the evil *treasure* brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

Builders and Foundations

46 "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 But the one who has heard

"C" denotes "Direct Command" - "I" denotes "Implied Command."

Our Best Time
The Mom of Several Children

Imagine a mom of several young children. She's been up throughout the night nursing a newborn child. She just stripped the bed and clothes of another who is sick and had thrown-up over everything. The continual crying that has been going on for weeks that accompanies colic has been unnerving enough, let alone the projectile vomiting.

She finally was able to lower the dangerous fever of another with a cool bath. She suspects this level of crying might be the indication of a painful earache. . . but will she be able to even get an appointment with a doctor in the morning? She hopes the antibiotics won't wreck their tight budget.

Her head aches as if it were in a steel vice. She can barely think straight, let along think. She has had minimal sleep and rest for days. . . or has it been weeks? Reality has been getting blurred.

It is morning. Children awake and hundreds of needs begin to tug at her sweat pants and clamor for her help and attention - as they will throughout the remainder of the day. She doesn't have the energy, but somehow, she does what needs to be done. She just wants to go shut the door of her bedroom, and go to sleep for a month.

At the end of another crazy day, "wired" with exhaustion, she has the first ten minutes of the day she can call her own - just ten minutes that are *hers* to spend anyway she chooses. She *could* grab that half gallon of ice cream and veg-out in front of the TV news…

But, she does something far more noble and eternal. She decides she is going to try to give her first and best time - to God. Its only ten minutes, but it's all she's got. She grabs her Bible and sits down.

She'll *somehow* try to make a connection with heaven. Exhausted, she sends a soft whispered prayer upward, "**I love you God - *wherever you are*. Thank you.“ She** opens her Bible with a sense it will just be a bunch of words on a page. it is. She did not want to or mean to, but she drifts to sleep. . .

I can only imagine God, moved to tears, quickly standing up in heaven as He exclaims to anyone and everyone around Him who might understand what He had just seen,

"Did you see that?". . . ***Did you see that !"***

I believe that these kinds of sacrificial gifts of love to God - ***mightily move*** His heart.

They speak volumes to Him.

Our Best Time - The Single Parent

Imagine a *single* mom (or dad) with several older children. She does the work that was meant for two grown adult parents.

She works a demanding full-time job, trying desperately to pay the unending stream of bills that greet her each day in the mailbox: rent, utilities, clothing, food, credit card statements, repair bills, medical bills. She would love to be able to afford to take an exercise class and be in better shape, but she doesn't have the money or the time to do it.

She alone is responsible for all the shopping, cooking, cleaning, laundry, rides to school, children's homework, doctor visits, car maintenance, afterschool care, birthday gifts . . .

She alone carries the burden - the never-ending weight - of keeping her kids on the "narrow path."

She knows this day-to-day kind of drudgery and war will be going on for many years ahead.

She had to stay up late the previous night to try to beat back some of the wave of chaos that seems to continually try to overwhelm her.

As she stumbles to bed, she purposely leaves the alarm clock set to that predetermined time.

She has to get up *so early* to get the kids up and on the bus on time . . . and even earlier to be able to give this sacred, holy, personal commitment of love. . . to Him.

She awakes to the annoying alarm clock announcing that it is time for her to rise and go to war. It seems like she just laid down. She would *love* to sleep-in that extra half hour. She would *love* to just press that "snooze" button.

But she chooses to do something that heaven not only records, but weighs as far more noble and eternal.

She gets up and seeks Him . . . not only because she understands how badly she needs Him. . .

But because she wants to *love Him*.

Her choice ***deeply*** moves God.



It is my experience and opinion - that serving God starts *all over* again every day.

Like starting out on a hot, dead, dry, lonely desert road . . .

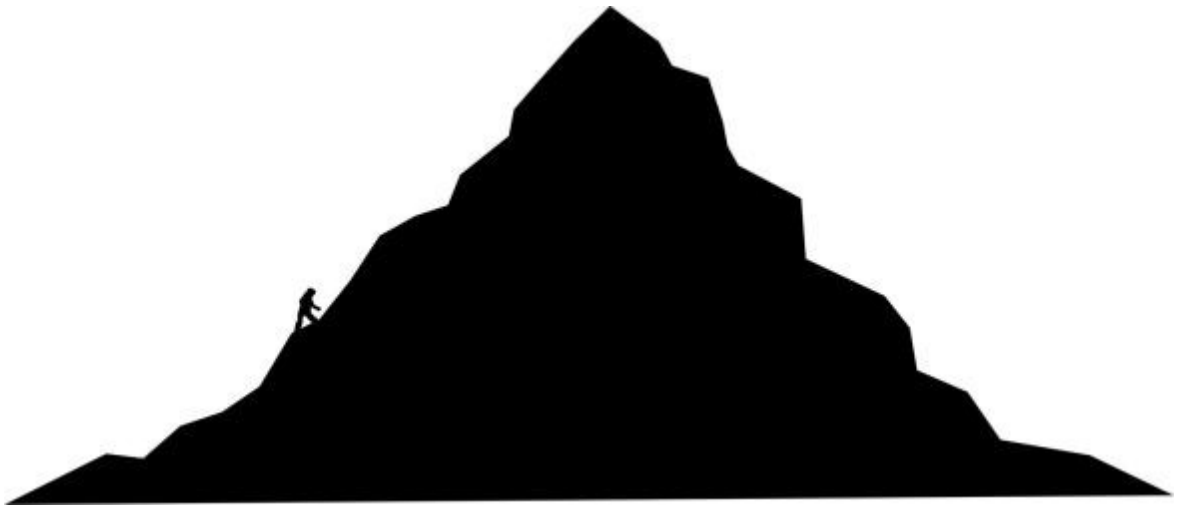
"What am I doing today?" . . . Oh yes - serving God.

"Where is God?" . . . I don't know. I sure don't feel Him or sense Him.

"Oh yes, now I remember!". . . I need to "find" Him. . . make "contact" with Him . . . serve Him.

A *new day* in God begins. . .

Everybody has to eventually "Climb the Mountain" every day…



We all have to get-up, and Love God and Serve God anew each day…

It starts all over every day…

GOD'S CALENDAR

Once we understand how vital our personal, private God-times are, we probably are going to want to violently schedule them. But, we also want these times to be spiritually enriching, "God-breathed", and efficacious (have a desired result) – otherwise we can begin to feel they are a waste of time and we quit. Quit privately seeking God and interacting with Him through His Word, because it seems dead, dry, and boring, and non-beneficial.

My advice is to first try to "get on God's Daily Calendar."



The point is, if we get on God's Calendar, He will be expecting us at that time, and we will be more apt to be seeking and "Finding" Him – and better experience His LIFE in all the different stuff we have talked about in this book.

Consider a prayer something like this: Lord, I want making contact with you, interacting with You, and building my friendship and service for You – as the center of every day – the priority of each day. ***Is there a time best for You?*** If there is, please show me. ***I'll be there!*** I love you. Thank you!

Some Biography

When I was a new Christian and attending church services, it seemed that only once in a while - during the time of music or "worship" - God's presence would come heavily - like a thick cloud. God was so close . . . and so was His Love and Peace and Joy!

These times of God's refreshing presence and heavy visitation to church meetings seemed way-too infrequent to me. They also seemed quite dependent upon the worship leaders, or the state of the congregation. Because I did not want to rely on them, I learned guitar chords to songs, so I could experience God in this way more frequently.

In time, during my own private, personal "services," I began to ask God what He liked to listen to and what He liked or wanted to hear. This changed the content and format of the songs quite a bit!

I found out that - for small and large group meetings, too - He often likes songs that allow participants to close their eyes - not being distracted by songbooks, song sheets, or words on an overhead screen. He often prefers simple, easy to remember, one-on-one, love songs and praise-type songs/phrases . . . sung to Him. . . to His face . . . as He is seated on His throne. . . songs of praise, thanksgiving. . . and love.

It is amazing what beautiful and moving melodies and profound simple choruses God can give us with this format. I began my own personal, private "services" everyday, beginning with playing the guitar and singing songs like this, for many years.

In time I learned we can experience God's loving presence in the same way, even without the aid of music, singing, and instruments.

Several years after becoming a Christian - back in the 80's - I had an experience that changed my life forever. I was in a room of my home "seeking God " for the purpose of "finding Him" and thus trying to obtain some peace for some stuff I was working-through.

Suddenly, in the corner of the room was the Lord Jesus. I could not see Him, *but He was there* in the corner. I was glad. I was a little alarmed. He seemed very serious. He seemed a little stern in attitude. He communicated to me inaudibly,

"Are you going ALL THE WAY" serving Me?"

(I had dedicated my life to Him several years prior. . . so I was somewhat saddened and dismayed.)

I answered, "Yes."

Then He asked, "I mean *ALL THE WAY?"*

I replied again, "Yes."

He then basically communicated to me to meet with Them (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) every morning, at a certain time. . . *"OR FORGET ABOUT IT."*

Then He was gone.

I thought, "No Problem!" . . . He could have asked me to go to the slums of China or India, witness for Him, and shortly thereafter be martyred.
It took me awhile to make my adjustments, and sometimes with some stiff resistance to keeping this commitment.

I had 5 young sons. I remember some pretty weird and crazy stuff happening in the middle of nights to keep me "fried-out" and/or to pressure me to sleep-in, or to be too tired to get up . . .

I did not say anything to other Christians for a number of years. I figured He asked everybody to do the same thing.

After some time, I realized I was thinking very differently than a lot of Christians, about a lot of different things. . . church-life. . . job attitudes and habits. . . rearing children. . . family matters. . . the way we should think. . . speak . . . act . . .

I believe, the more we hang-out with the Person of God, the more we become like Him and think like Him. This is different than just going to church meetings or casually reading the Bible.

Serving Jesus had a very different meaning to me. It meant scheduling each day around this time of meeting. I could not just show-up all sleepy and half-dead. That meant the scheduling bedtime the night before being very critical. That meant saying "no" to a lot of activities and people the night before.

Then there was the demonic resistance and attack. I believe that our personal prayer times are the most important activity of life (Luke 10). I believe it is the main "point of attack" in our lives. Minimize this activity - minimize that Christian.

Anyone scheduling their life around the activity of privately seeking God (and trying to encourage others to do so) - should probably expect some serious, ongoing counter-attack.

Then the rejection of most regular, working Christians . . . most are not interested in this lifestyle priority.

One of my major ongoing prayers as a new believer was that God would supernaturally keep me from falling away – from quitting being the best Christian I could be. What a shame this would be.

I knew my history. I would quit so many things in life – exercise programs, weight loss programs, dieting, studying, jobs, relationships, drugs, etc. I was the King of quitting things. When things got hard – many times I would just quit.

I believe God invited me into this daily scheduled time of seeking Him (as top priority) – as a great recipe for not ***FALLING AWAY FROM SERVING GOD***. . . for daily ***STAYING ALIVE IN GOD***. . . for ***GROWING SPIRITUALLY IN GOD***. . . for ***PLEASING GOD***. . . for ***BEING THE BEST CHRISTIAN I CAN BE***.

I mean, if ***YA GOTTA GET-UP AND FACE HIM EVERY DAY IN AN HONEST WAY - IT'S GOING TO BE HARD FALLIING AWAY!***

By God's Grace and Strength, I have been doing this every day for 40 years. . . ***IT WORKS!***

When small groups / friendship groups / cell groups / life groups began to be seen as more necessary and needed and useful and integral in the Christian "Church Life" back in the late 80's, I realized that many times these types of meetings could be very spiritually dead if most of the participants had little or no personal God-times during the week.

It is hard to experience a verse like this in large group setting,

> **"When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification."** 1 Cor. 14:26)

It is hard to experience a verse like this in a *small* group setting - especially if we are detached from the Lord for days.

Many times, these small group meetings were just "another meeting" a church member "had to attend" because church leaders told them they were important - Yuck!

That is when I really stepped-up trying to convince Christians to schedule personal God-times . . . their personal private times to Seek Him and Find Him, and other things. (7 Spiritual Tools)

If we do not schedule these times, we will probably privately seek God minimally or not at all . . . during the week . . . during the weeks. . . during the month . . . during the months . . . during the years . . . and we will probably end up with a history and lifestyle that we regret.

If we first model and then cast vision for The Big 4Four lifestyle. . . especially the profound power and importance of our own personal, private, closed-door God-times . . . exhorting young Christians to doggedly schedule these times amidst our society's crazy-busy lifestyles . . . and arm them better what to do *in* these private God-times, we can greatly help reduce a lot of needless damage and destruction in the next generation - and also help these young Christians better become "all they can be" - for God.

My mental aptitude is average – probably below average. I put myself through college. At that time, it seemed to be the best way to get a good paying job. College was hard. Each class had so many new concepts to try to understand, digest, and master. So much, that many students like me studied to just pass the tests - the joy of learning got crushed - departing after the first week of class. The tidal wave of concepts, facts, and information was too much to grasp and retain.

Average students like me found themselves “cramming” for midterm and final exams – reloading tons of information into *short-term memory* just before tests; it was too much information to hold and retain in *long-term memory*.

I did use the following strategy, however, to help me better hold-unto things. I mean, why pay for expensive tuition and leave the institution with minimal long-term retention?

After every class, I would go home and re-write my notes so they were clear, legible, & organized. Many times, it is all a student could do - to *just write down* the information during a lecture – sometimes furiously taking notes - let alone understand it, digest it, and load it into memory. This is what I did at home, so I could feel confident I mastered that day’s lectures.

On day 2, I did the same procedure, *BUT* – I included a quick review of Day 1's lectures. This was relatively easy to do. And so on. So, on Day 14, for example, reviewing all the lecture notes from 1-13 could be done rather quickly. Then I could retain it much better because it was being loaded into long-term memory. If this is not done, students will commonly find themselves on exam week trying to decipher all their earlier fuzzy semester notes and wonder what most of them even meant! … Those notes being full of gaps and questions!

In some classes, I brought a mini tape recorder, and relistened to the lecture in addition to rewriting the notes.

When I first became a born-again Christian, I remember coming to God for some more ***LIFE***. He communicated me something that basically went like this:

> "Matt, you are like a water bucket with a bunch of holes in the bottom. I fill up your bucket but most of it just runs out. You forget what I have taught you and you lose it. Now, you want to learn something more? *You need to hold-on to the things you were previously taught."*

"MY SON, DO NOT FORGET MY TEACHING,
LET YOUR HEART KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS…
WRITE THEM ON THE TABLET OF YOUR HEART…"
(Proverbs 3)

I was reminded of the way I studied, learned, mastered, and retained things in college – for long term memory.

Thus, reviews of multiple days' previous spiritual learning and instruction were to become my daily habit and lifestyle.

Is not God and the Kingdom worthy of our utmost diligence? Yes!

It seems like Spiritual concepts, revelations, promises, truths, God's opinions, God's mind on matters, etc. - are a different type of understanding than *academic educational knowledge* – requiring a whole different level of diligence to attain, retain, and remember.

Some people that are naturally "smart" with high IQ's, can more easily, if not even casually, *learn and retain great volumes of academic educational knowledge*. High aptitude and the ability for quick academic learning, however, does not necessarily carry over to the Kingdom of God.

All people have to apply their whole hearts, souls, minds, and strength – to acquire and retain - the Gold of God… the Knowledge of God… the Mind of God… the Friendship with God, etc. *AND IT REQUIRES WORK !*

We have huge, powerful, dark demonic forces that attack us daily – vigorously seeking to have us *question*, *forget,* or *even renounce* the Kingdom truths we learn and are given.

We can easily be a professing Christian for many years and in reality - still be a baby Christian – one of His sons or daughters that is not learning and growing and maturing into true Sonship.

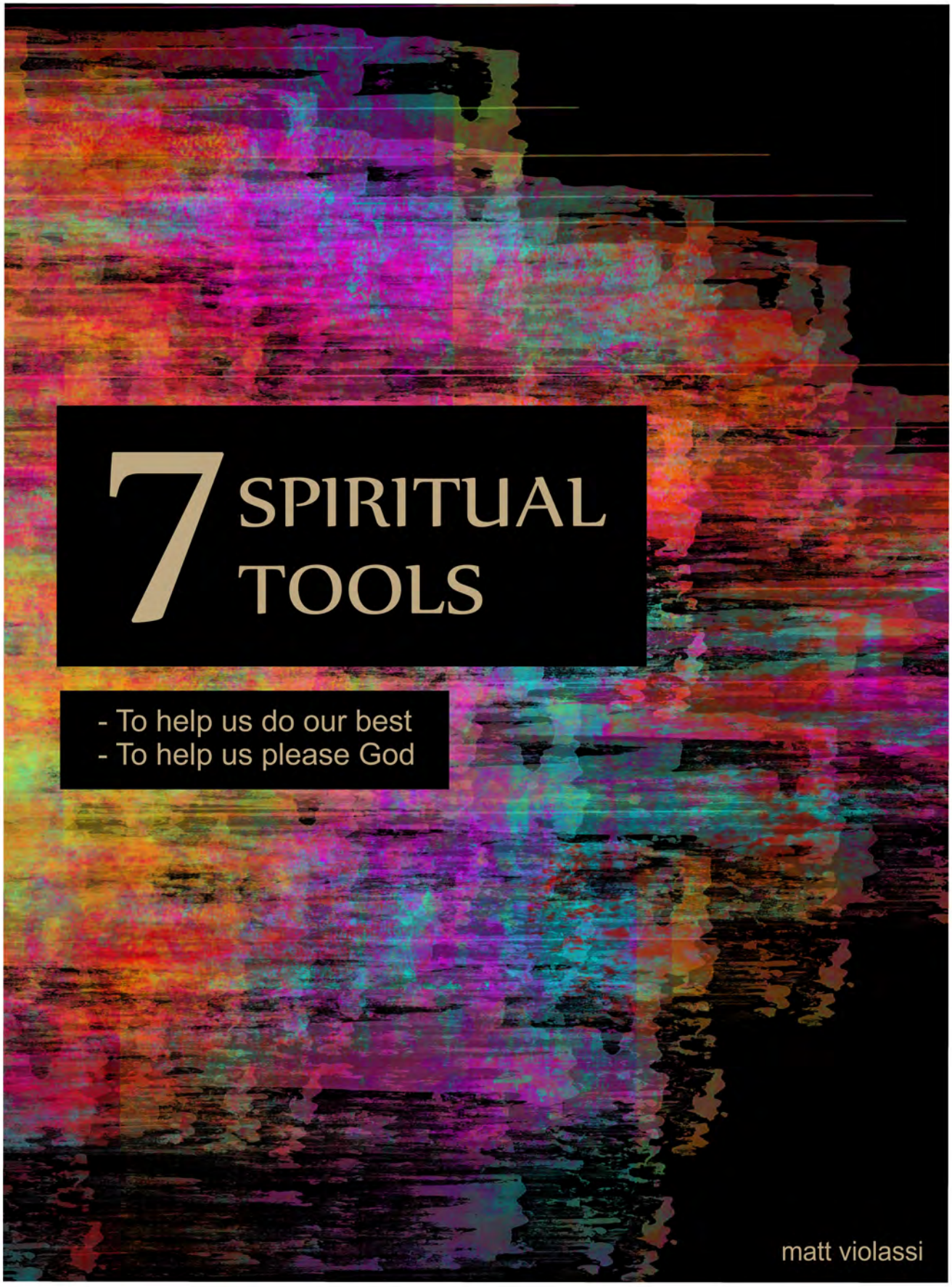
The Apostle Paul admonished churches that were full of men and women who had been Christians for too long – and were still baby infant Christians. They still needed spiritual "milk" rather than chewable spiritual food.

They had not learned to retain even basic Christian truths, and still had to have them retaught. How sad and tragic to be one of God's sons or daughters – and acting like an ignorant carnal unbeliever! Let us never find ourselves at this place. It is a shame to Him and the Kingdom.

We all need to daily re-grapple with…understand more fully…review every day…master…*AND THEN BELIEVE AND DO* - the things contained in what we are learning and purposing to daily do in our lives. . . I know you are like me. This is why we all need to do our best in our *Training for God*…

TRAIN WITH ME !

matt violassi


7 SPIRITUAL TOOLS
- To help us do our best
- To help us please God
matt violassi

TOOL 1 - GOOD THINGS TO DO IN OUR PRIVATE GOD-TIMES

"When you pray, go into your inner room, close the door and pray to your Father"
- Jesus Christ (Matt. 6:6)

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1. SEEK and FIND GOD and then TALK TO HIM ABOUT STUFF. There are many things we can do in our personal, private God-times. I believe the thing that brings God the most joy and pleases Him the most (in the context of an obedient lifestyle) is for people to: (1) Seek Him, (2) Find Him, and then (3) Talk to Him about stuff. **This was never intended to be a one-time experience:**

And God made man, "that they would SEEK God, if perhaps they might GROPE for Him and FIND Him, though He is not far from each one of us." (Acts 17:26-7)

Can you imagine being absorbed in any or every kind of Christian activity, but neglecting this one?

2. PRAYERFULLY READ and STUDY THE BIBLE.

"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me." (John 14:21)

Jesus defined the kind of person who loves Him: *the person who knows and does His commands*. We want to be known in heaven as a person who loves God - so, we need to find, study, memorize, and do His commands. It is wise to concentrate on the "red letters" (Bibles that contain Jesus's words that are printed in red.) We also find ***God's promises*** and ***knowledge about God*** while prayerfully reading the Bible. God frequently will communicate specific things to us to do or to believe while we are prayerfully reading the Bible. (*Prayerfully reading* the Bible is more powerful than just *reading* the Bible)

3. PRAY-THROUGH THE 7 TOPICS OF THE LORD'S PRAYER. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray; the "Lord's Prayer" was His answer. The Lord's Prayer contains an outline of the things He wants us to learn to dialogue with Him about. It is wise to pray about the things *He thinks* we should pray about:

- **Our Father who art in heaven.** Praying and meditating about how God is our Father and we are his children. I am a child of God? Wow. I can go talk to my Father, the Maker of the Universe? Wow.
- **Hallowed be thy name.** May His name be honored as it should be in our lives and in the lives of others around us. The results from human effort without prayer are many times minimal.
- **Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.** Lord, what do you want accomplished today? In my life? Around me? How would this be done/run in heaven? More can be accomplished in prayer than by human endeavor and effort. Through the Holy Spirit, our prayers can stop wars, stop famines, change lives. . .
- **Give us this day our daily bread.** Jesus taught to include this request when we prayed. We can lack provisions because we neglect to ask for them. He has linked provision with relationship.
- **Forgive us our trespasses *as we forgive those who trespass against us*** (sins). He has linked getting His forgiveness to the manner we forgive others. He will forgive us quickly for our wrongdoing if we forgive others quickly for their wrongdoing. What if they keep offending us, hurting us, damaging us, etc., and won't stop? Then we are to ask God to talk to them - and even spank them if necessary. "Vengeance is mine," God says (Duet. 32:35). He wants us to turn them over to him, rather than us do the paying-back.

  It is wise to have self-examination time every day. We need to get "reality checks" from God. We need to repent from our sins every day and get clean and stay clean. The human heart

perpetually thinks it is okay, and it is okay with God (Prov 21:2). It is wise to ask and *make sure* we are okay with God.

- **Lead us not into temptation**. We need to pray that the Lord will lead us every day, and that He will lead us away from temptation. We need to make sure we are doing *our* best, however, to stay away from temptations.
- **Deliver us from evil.** We probably walk alongside the brink of disaster more than we realize. Praying to ask God to deliver us from all the evil around us, in all its various forms and manifestations, is wise.

4. THANK and PRAISE GOD for A WHILE: Tool 2. Cultivating a Thankful Heart - Entering into a Spirit of Thanksgiving. God likes us to come to Him with a thankful heart,

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise." (Psalm 100:4)

Being a thankful person is a quality that is very important to God. More important than thanking Him for the fact that most of us enjoy more luxuries and live at a higher standard of living than the riches kings of history, God wants us to be thankful for our ***salvation***. Jesus told His disciples to rejoice foremost over their salvation as opposed to the fleeting thrills of Kingdom exploits (Luke 10:20). In His mind, we should be thankful for this over all other things. We can enter a "wow" state of thanksgiving that can carry us more highly above the trials and troubles of the day. It can also keep us from the dangerous sin and mindset of grumbling and complaining, which brings unwanted disciplines from heaven (1 Cor. 10). The Israelites got seriously "whacked" with some very serious disciplines from God for participating in grumbling and complaining. The New Testament warns us to not make the kinds of mistakes they did. We don't want to have to rely on calamities and mission trips to make us thankful and to help us fulfill the commandment, **"Always give thanks for all things."** (Ephes. 5:20).

5. REVIEW OBEDIENCE LIST: Tool 3. Can you imagine having a son or daughter that you would periodically find studying a list of all the things you want them to do? No more needless reminding and nagging! No more needing to administer disciplines that could have easily been avoided. What a complete pleasure they would be, and what a joy to be around!

Have you every heard of a child like this? ***We can be this kind of child to God!*** That is what this tool is all about.

6. PRAY AWAY ANXIETIES AND FEARS.

"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life." - Jesus (Matt 6:25)
"So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." - Jesus (Matt 10:28)

These are ***commands*** out of *concern and care for us!* It is wise to pray worries and fears *away.* God does not want us walking around bummed out, so He commands us to not be fearful or depressed. Every command is a promise in reverse. If He gives us a command not to worry, He gives us the power and strength to not worry. It is wise to "find" God and unload our stuff everyday. It is hard to be "otherly" and think about other people's problems when our own hearts are bogged-down with anxieties and fears. It is wise to daily unload our fears and troubles to God. Oftentimes, we need to "pray-through" issues and problems to find God's perspective on them, or to find *God's solutions to them*. This takes time. Many times, God allows trials in our lives that are normally not needed to drive us closer to Him. Why lead a lifestyle that needs a whip and rod for discipline all the time?

7. **PRAY OVER OUR FLOCKS.** God gives us people to take care of: spouses, children, employees, family members, church folks, congregations, etc. The biggest thing we can ever do for those people God has given us to take care of - is to pray for them. Prayer is the most powerful thing. **God will do things for others through our prayers, that He would otherwise not do if we had not asked**. Praying for them gets us thinking about them. Praying for them postures us to get God's perspective and heart for them - and helps us direct actions and words toward them that are supernaturally energized. A 3-minute heart-to-heart conversation with a person can be way-more powerful than a 3-day canoe trip that contains little or no meaningful heart-to-heart communication.

8. **PRAY FOR ALL AUTHORITIES AND ALL MEN. -** We are supposed to pray for "all who are in authority" and "on behalf of all men" (1Tim. 2:1-2). Bosses, the president, cabinet, congress, world leaders, sheriffs, army, generals, governors, mayors, city councils, business leaders, FBI and CIA guys, spiritual leaders, etc. There is a blessing and reward and promise for doing this:

"**so that we may lead a tranquil and quite life in all godliness and dignity.**" (1Tim. 2:2)

We are also suppose to be on the alert praying for *all the saints*. (Eph. 6:18)

9. **SEEK TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.** The Bible says we are to "get filled" with the Spirit:

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but *be filled with the Spirit*." (Ephes. 5:18)

This is not a one-time experience:

"The disciples were *continually filled with Joy and the Holy Spirit.*" (Act 13:52)

God will help us and lead us in getting filled with the Spirit as often as *we want to*. We just need to see our need and then start asking and seeking to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Finding God, and then asking and seeking to be filled with the Spirit, is a wise place to start. It is a lot easier being a Christian - and accomplishing all that being a Christian entails - if we are filled with the Holy Spirit versus being spiritually dry, dead, or empty. It is wise to try to get filled with the Holy Spirit *everyday.*

10. **RENEW OUR EMOTIONAL LOVE FOR GOD.** Obedience TELLS God and speaks to God loud and clear - "I LOVE YOU!"

Jesus said, **"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."** (John 14:15)

So, **OBEDIENCE means I LOVE YOU** to God. **Obedience = I love God.** But it is also wise and good to *emotionally love God* too. It is hard to obey God if we have become emotionally detached from Him, just as it would be hard to love and serve a spouse if we have become emotionally detached from them. As we "love on" God, by telling him we love Him over and over again in a somewhat repetitive way, we begin to feel His love for us. This allows us to fall emotionally in love with God all over again. *Renewing our emotional love for God empowers us to love Him through action and obedience.* We don't need music playing to do this.

11. **MAKE A PRAYER LIST: Tool 4.** This is a list of the things we are asking God for. Reviewing this list reminds us of what to keep asking and trusting God for. Reviewing our list of answered prayers elevates our faith and trust in Him.

12. **REVIEW OUR ULTIMATE DAY FOR GOD: Tool 5.** This is a list of things we personally would do to give God our ultimate day, with the attitude that we only had a few months to live. How much daily prayer? Bible reading? Evangelism? Making amends? Fasting? Giving? Review this list to help prioritize these activities.

13. **RELOAD / REVIEW / RE-EXPERIENCE OUR LIFE VERSES: Tool 6.**

14. **INTERCESSION / PRAY IN THE SPIRIT FOR AWHILE.** Cry out to God for others, world events, our cities, etc. Jesus lives now - today - to make intercession for the saints. (Hebrews 7:25) W e can join Him in this "flow." Jesus spoke in Hebrew and Aramaic. The languages of Germanic peoples gave rise to the English language. The English language has undergone extensive changes over the years, and even Old English is unintelligible to us nowadays. Jesus prays now. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us now (Rom 8:26). They both live inside of us now. It is somewhat ludicrous to think They pray in Modern English! We can get in more touch with Them if we want to.

15. **ASK GOD OUR LIFE'S QUESTIONS.** He is not offended, nor does He mind. Many times, He enjoys these questions - just as an earthly father enjoys answering questions to his children. Many times, it is a sign of an honest and truth-seeking heart - which He also likes.

    Many times, asking and seeking answers to our questions is actually the pathway to our continued spiritual growth, *and* the major pathway to our better knowing and trusting God. Like questions concerning the loss of a loved one, or enduring a lengthy sickness or infirmity, or financial hardship. It is not wise to let unanswered questions or lack of closure obstruct us from getting-up and serving God everyday (Rather than living in a state of fog and chaos for years). We cannot get-up and serve a loving Father - whom we really don't trust and believe is a good and loving Father - because of unanswered questions or lack of supernatural closure. Let us attack our questions - rather that living in darkened *no-man's land* for years or decades.

    Often perhaps, we can be fearful or intimidated to question our doctrine and/or our church leaders - and carry this mindset over to our relationship with God. Not good. It is wise to be aware of our questions - deep or small - and to be seeking answers to them.

    Sometimes the answers come "in time." Because of their complexity, some answers take time to be explained. (Like teaching calculus to a kindergartner.)

    However, many times we *CAN* obtain quick supernatural understanding, revelation, and answers to our questions. It is wise *to expect* to receive quick understanding, but we should always be testing it and discerning wisdom, **"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy."** (James 3:17) Understanding from God will not break these rules.

    Sometimes God will not give us answers to our questions, because the answers or understanding will

only bring us into more misery and pain - pain that He does not want us to experience, **"Because in much wisdom there is much grief, and increasing knowledge results in increasing pain."** (Eccles 1:18)

Some deep things God will not reveal to man. (Deut 29:29)

16. **THE LORD'S TOP 1-2 PRIORITIES FOR ME TODAY**. These priorities could be a general mindset to possess, particular things to do or accomplish, or be about getting-with a certain person or people, etc. - something to overall concentrate-on or be focused-on **TODAY**. ***THIS ACTIVITY IS TREMENDOUSLY POWERFUL***. By asking this simple question "What are your top priorities for Me today, Lord?" we align our whole day (and life) around God and His top Kingdom purposes. Asking God what His one or two top priorities for us to concentrate on **TODAY** and accomplish **TODAY** - really moves God - and cultivates a closer friendship and intimacy with Him.

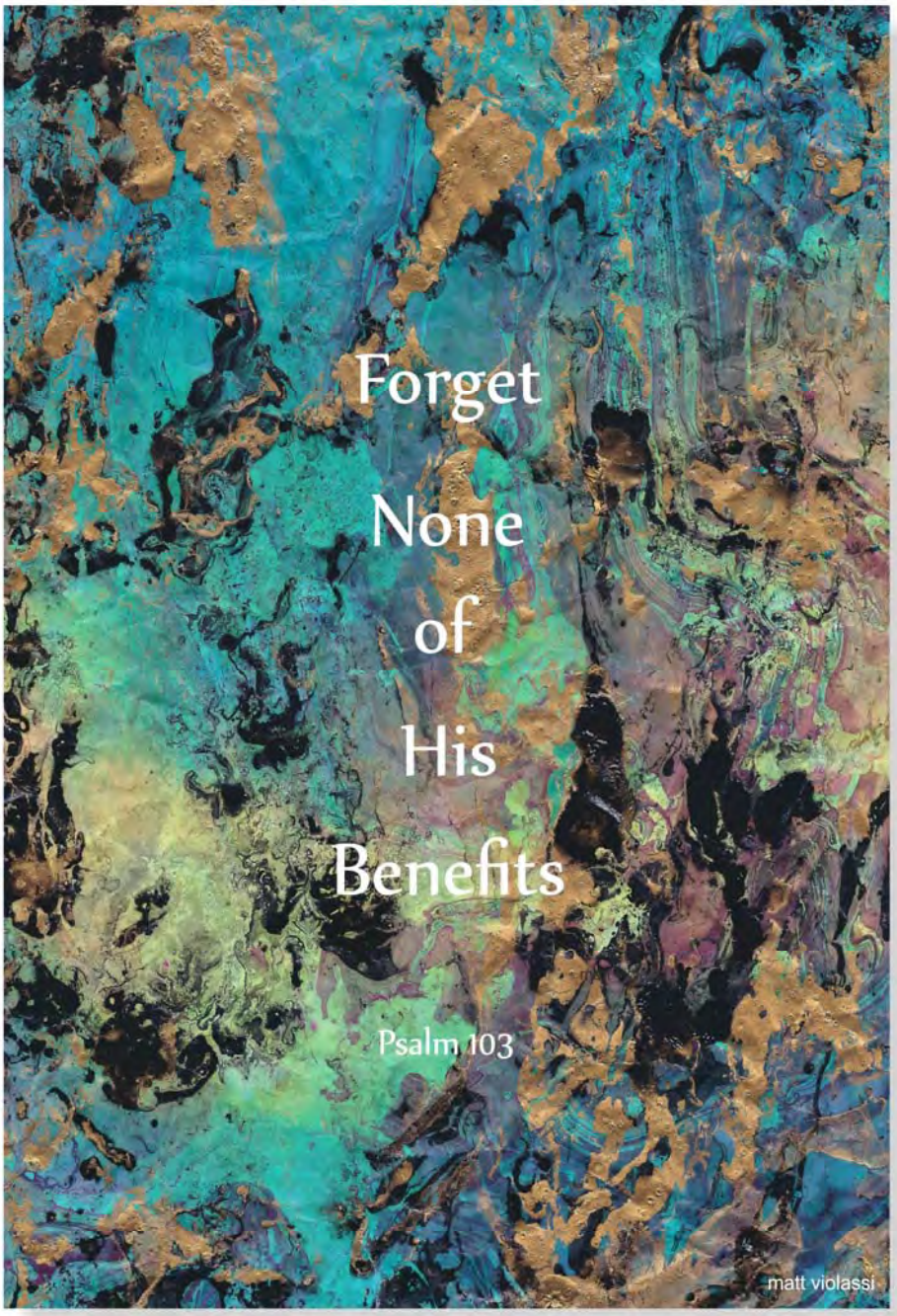
THANKSGIVING EVERY DAY

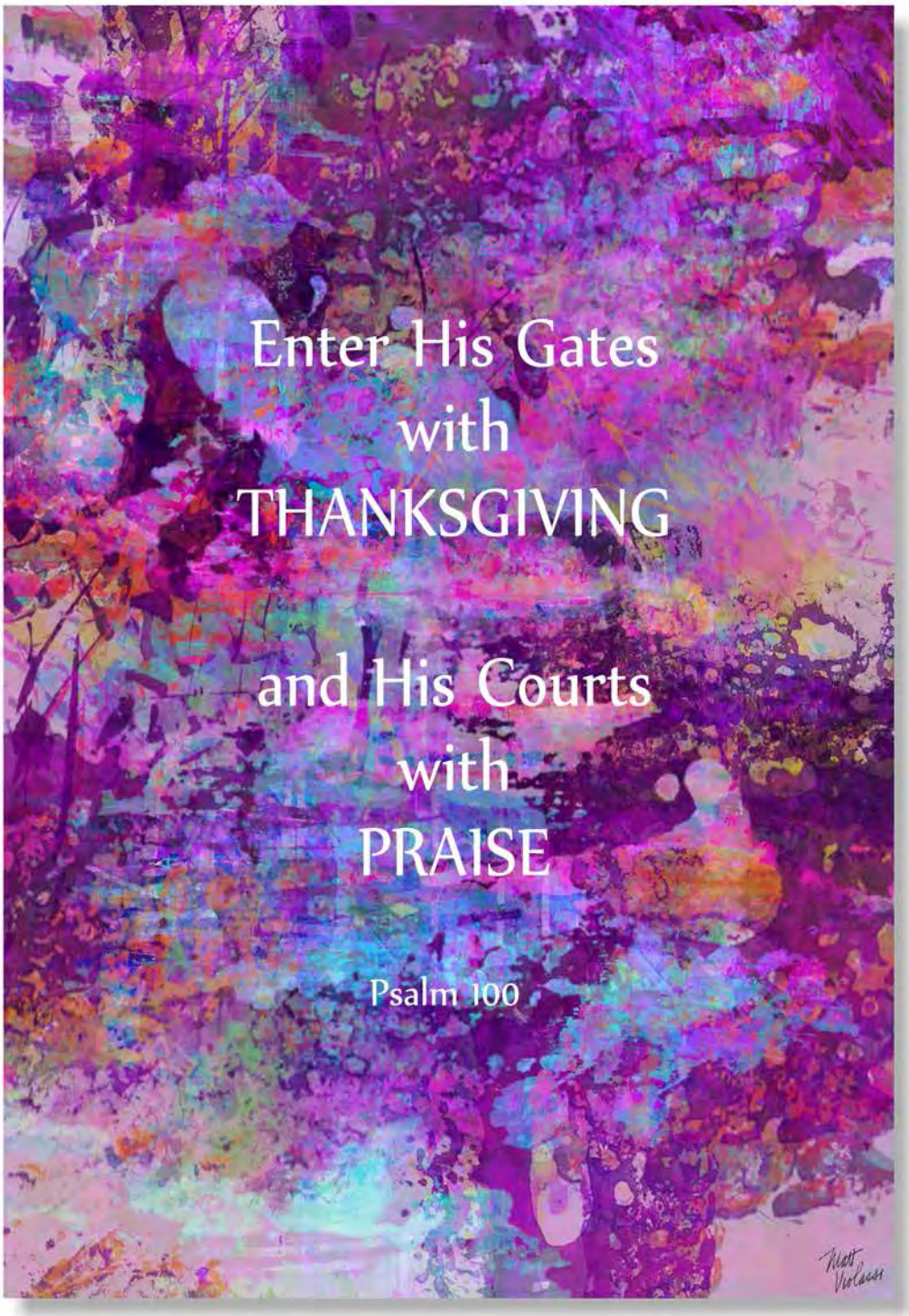


TOOL 2

matt violassi


Always
give
thanks
for
all
things
Ephes. 5:20


Forget
None
of
His
Benefits
Psalm 103
matt violassi


Enter His Gates
with
THANKSGIVING
and His Courts
with
PRAISE
Psalm 100

TOOL 2 - BECOMING A THANKFUL PERSON

One item at a time. Connect with each one. Then thank God.

"Always give thanks for all things." (Ephes. 5:20)

"Forget none of His benefits" (Psalm 103)

"Enter His gates with Thanksgiving and His courts with Praise" (Psalm 100:4)

1. PRICELESS ETERNAL THINGS: (These cannot be taken from us.)

- What a Great Person He Is: All-Knowing, All-Powerful, Perfect in everything and in every way, Omnipresent, Majestic, Eternal . . .

- **Possessing**: All Authority Knowledge, Wisdom, Dominion, and Glory…

- **Full Of**: Graciousness, Compassion, Loving-kindness, Truth (God explains Himself – Exodus 34) Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control Mercy, Humility (Gal. 5:22) God is a very nice person, whom anyone *would want* to Love and Serve.

- **A Perfect Ruler, A Perfect Leader, A Perfect Ruler Father…**

- **Rejoice that our names our written in Heaven!** (Luke 10:20)

- **No Hell! Get to go to Heaven!** (Luke 10:20)

- **We are a son or daughter of the Maker of the Universe!! A CHILD OF GOD!** (1 John 3)

- **We can come to God anytime, come into His actual presence,** come before His throne anytime and talk to Him! (Hebrews 4:16)

- **HIS FEROCIOUS, BURNING, VIOLENT, BURNING LOVE FOR ALL HIS CHILDREN** (Jer. 31:3) (This is displayed and seen in His creation of the momma bears ferociously guarding their cubs)

- **JESUS LOVES US IN THE SAME WAY, MANNER, AND DEGREE - THAT THE FATHER LOVES HIM."** (John 15:9)
  What?

- **Overall, we have a Happier, more Peaceful and Joyful Heart!**

- **The God of the Universe lives inside of us!** (1Jn 4:13)

- **God's Provision, Protections, Guidance, and Deliverances** (The Lord's Prayer – Matt 6)

- **God gives us His Wisdom & Perspective, especially when we ask for it.** (James 1:5)

- **Ongoing forgiveness of sins, and freeing us from sin!** (1 John 1:9)

- **We continually get changed into His image and character!** (2 Cor 3:18)

- **God *Likes Us*! God Loves Us!**

- **Our God is a good God**, who does no evil, wrong, or make mistakes.

- **King Jesus will be our Friend** when no one else will. (John 14:21)

- **God grants requests and answers prayer**. We can get help from God! "Everyone who Asks Receives." (Matt 7:8)

- **Partake in His Eternal Ministry** - Work with God and partake in the joy of His Work.

- **Depth of Biblical Revelation**! "Many prophets and kings longed to see what you see…" (Luke 10:24 NET)

- **Thanks to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for being tortured and dying for me –** instead of me.

- **The option of a heart free from troubles and fear. A command, really.** (John 14:27)

- **The option to be continually filled with Joy and the Holy Spirit** (Acts 13:52, John 15:11, John 16:24) A command, really. (Ephes. 5:18)

- **All those people God sent into our life to help us . . .**

- **You came and got each of us…when we were lost and in darkness… AND ALL THE PAIN YOU EXPERIENCED AND EXPERIENCE. . .**

- **All the pain You endure as you oversee the millions of Your children…**

- **All the pain You endure as You work to save all the millions who are lost and in darkness. . .**

- **Because God now lives inside of us, we now have the power over all sin**, power to control ourselves, power to completely obey all of Jesus's commands (and thus obey "The Law"), and power to fully please God - through Him! **WE HAVE GOD INSIDE OF US.**

- We are now the walking miracle of a changed person who now wants to do what is right 24/7.

- *WE ARE ABLE TO "FIND HIM!" – make "contact" with Him!* (Matt 11:28, Jer. 29:13)

- *The Loving Command* - to not only Come to Him and before His Throne (Hebrews 4:16). . . **BUT, TO EMBRACE, CLEAVE, CLING, HUG HIM – WITHOUT SHAME OR FEAR!** (Deut 13:4)

2. OTHER PRICELESS THINGS: (These can be taken from us.)

- **Good Health** - Physical? Emotional? Mental? Spiritual?

- **Get up daily and be able to Walk and Talk**?

- **Good friend(s)?** Do you have any good friends?

- **Good spouse**? Priceless!

- **Is our spouse also a good friend?** Priceless!

- **Is our spouse still our boyfriend/girlfriend?! *Priceless*!**

- **Children?** Abraham had to wait until his late 90's for his first child from the Lord.

- **Good Children?** Are your kids pretty good kids? ("I have no greater joy than to hear my children walk in the truth." (3John 1:4)

- **Enjoy your Job/Work?** "A gift from God." - Eccles. 3:13

- **Freedom to worship** without being jailed, tortured, etc.?

- **Good church leadership?** Wise, God-filled leadership with integrity? Priceless.

3. PERSONAL JOYS GOD LETS US DO/HAVE: (These can be taken from us.)

Examples:

- **Fun Spouse or friends. *Fun dates? Trips?***
- **Watch good movies.**
- **Enjoy beautiful scenery**.
- **Drive vehicle that doesn't break down all the time**.
- **Have air conditioning.**
- **Have my favorite foods or desserts.**
- **Do my favorite hobby.**
- **Safe Neighborhood? Infrequent break-ins/ robberies?**

4. DELIVERANCES - 4 TRIALS of LIFE

- Health? How has God delivered you or your loved ones in this arena? Write these instances down and be able to recite them easily.

- Finances? Besides just steadily providing for us, how has He bailed us out in particularly large financial crises? List and review.

- Relationships? How has He intervened in our loneliness, strained relationships, broken relationships, lost relationships, etc.?

- Demonic Oppressions/Depressions?

5. LUXURIES THAT THE KINGS OF HISTORY DID NOT HAVE:

- **Electricity!** - Provides tons of conveniences and pleasures!

- **Air Conditioning** - It is a gnawing burden to live, work, and try to sleep in hot climates without air conditioning!

- **Abundant Food** - even most poor street people in our Western cities can easily get a meal from the multiple soup kitchens, food banks, food pantries, Salvation Army centers, churches, Federal food stamps, etc.

- **5-Star Restaurant Food Recipes** & how to make them - easily available on the internet/TV

- **Modern Heating Systems!** - The traditional chore of heating a home through the gathering and preparing of firewood can be a ton of work!

- **Light Bulbs!** Flick a switch for bright light!

- **Window Screens!** - *Said to be the largest contribution to the sanity of man!* Not invented until early 1800's!

- **Clean Water** - Many in the world do not enjoy this luxury and suffer not having it through increased sickness & diseases, and poorer health.

- **Indoor Plumbing** - Need a drink, turn the tap. Need a nice hot shower, turn the dial. So nice.

- **Sewer Systems** - Flush and it's gone!

- **Appliances** - Refrigerators, Freezers, Ice Makers/Ice Cube (Emperors made runners run up mountains to fetch them their ice for a cold drink),

- **Washing Machines, Dryers, Microwaves, Stoves, Garbage Disposals**

- **DVD Players and Digital Music Players**

- **Symphonies on Demand! Quality Motion Pictures** on demand!

- **Cars, Boats, Motorcycles, Airplanes, and Trains** - And the fun of riding in them!

- **Television** - Travel the world from your living room!

- **Computers and the World Wide Web!**

- **Glass** - Magnifying glass, Microscopes, Windows, Telescopes, etc.

- **Eye Glasses and Contacts!** Surgeries. To be able to see well! ***Fantastic!***

- **Photography and Home Moviemaking.** No one dreamed to become a common luxury.

- **Telephones and Smart Phones** - Talk to anyone on earth in real-time!

- **SMART PHONES** - ONE DEVICE: Phone, Clock/Watch, Calculator, GPS, Music, Movies, Quality Camera, Video Recording, Mail, Texting, Book Library, Flashlight, Live News from around the world, Photo Album, Encyclopedia Set, Live Weather/Radar Map, Calendar, Internet, etc…and tons more!…What?...*INCREDIBLE*.

- **Video Gaming!** A ton of fun!

- The Gasoline Engine - allows for Lawn Mowers, Chain Saws, inexpensive Boats, Motorcycles, Snowmobiles, Generators, Cement Mixers and more!

- The Electric Motor - allows for Vacuum Cleaners, Electric Drills, Electric Saws, Kitchen Mixers, Can Openers, Sewing Machines and more!

- **The Bicycle**! (Remember your first bike?)

- **Book Binding and The Printing Press** vs. hand written scrolls. (Everything had to be laboriously hand-copied)

- **Calculators** - the first commercial pocket calculators were very expensive.

- **Dentistry** (alleviates a lot of misery!)

- **Medicines & Pharmaceuticals** - Many children died prematurely from the common cold that progressed to inner ear infections then to the brain - incurable until the invention of antibiotics. Other diseases and plagues dominated through field of medicine: leprosy, polio, typhus, typhoid, measles, etc.

- **Plastics** (Allows for creation of inexpensive toys and all types of things for everybody)

- **Ice Cream!** Jokingly said to be able to solve most of the world's problems.

- **The Match!** (Instant fire!)

- **Inexpensive Paper, Ink, and Pens !**

- **Radios. Now, advanced space communication technologies.**

- **Rubber and Rubber Balls!** Fairly difficult to manufacture.

- **Inexpensive Watches.** These used to cost a lot of money. Now cheap.

- **Batteries.** Not long ago difficult to store electricity cheaply & easily.

- **Guns!** (Lions and other big cats once ruled the night and struck fear into the hearts of men for ages. Guns helped end this.)

- **Elevators** (allowing for high-rise construction, the decrease of heart attacks, and laborious stair climbing.)

- **Welding.** A fantastic invention of fusing many materials together.

- **Photocopying!** Instant replication of documents!

- **Nuclear Power**

- **Transistors and Solid-State Electronics**

- **Vitamins**

- **Aerosol Cans** (We are now able to propel many atomized materials)

- **Commodes/Toilets and Toilet Paper**

- **The Hot Water Heater - Hot Showers!**

- **Amusement Parks and Rides!**

- **Concrete!** (Inexpensive man-made rock!)

- **Concrete and Asphalt Roads** (vs. mud roads)

- Cardboard and Cardboard Boxes

- **Vinyl Flooring and Vinyl Products**

- **Anesthetics!** (Imagine surgeries without these!)

- **Tape** (Clear wrapping tape, duct tape, packaging tape - all types!)

- **Aspirin** - a very inexpensive pain reliever

- **The Mirror!**

- **Sound Amplification** (Imagine innumerable meetings and gatherings without this luxury)

- **Microscope** (Opened up new galaxies to explore, and the germ world to be exposed, identified, and dominated)

- **Zipper** (vs. having to hand-button everything)

- **Shoe Technologies** (inexpensive, quality footwear)

- **Foam Rubber** (We spend a lot of our time sitting)

- **Fiberglass and Fiberglass Insulation**

- **Wealth of Dental and Medical knowledge**, skill, and expertise (Alleviating tons of pain and misery) (quackery also minimized)

- **MRI and CAT Scan Technologies** (to help see through tissues and better diagnose ailments)

- **Inexpensive Wall-to-Wall Carpet and Carpet Technologies**

- **Cotton Usage from the Cotton Plant** (allows for inexpensive clothing)

- **Weaving, Loom, and Textile Machine Technologies** (Inexpensive clothing)

- **Inexpensive 4-Color Home Printers!**

- **Plastic Garbage Bags and Twist Ties**

- **Online Educational Classes of All Types** (The knowledge of how to do almost anything more easily and quickly)

- **Inexpensive Safety Razors for Shaving**

- **The Fax Machine** (Almost instant document transmission around the world)

- **Glass, Plexiglas, Safety Glass, and Acrylic Glass**

- **The Rubber Band, The Scissors, The Stapler, the Paper Clip**, and other practical tools. Easy to take these for granted.

- **Wire Technologies!** (Allows for the ability to produce wiring for everything from paper clips, sewing needles, dental braces, window screens, much- needed inexpensive fencing - to wire for the transmission of electricity, etc.)

- **Our Own Personal Set(s) of Holy Scriptures** (Centuries ago a luxury; few could own their own Scripture)

- **Innumerable Bible Study Guides, Study Aids, Commentaries, Translations, Classes**, etc.

- **Bronze Age to Iron Age to Steel Age to Stainless Steel and Aluminum and Metal Alloys** (Cars used to rust away quickly.)

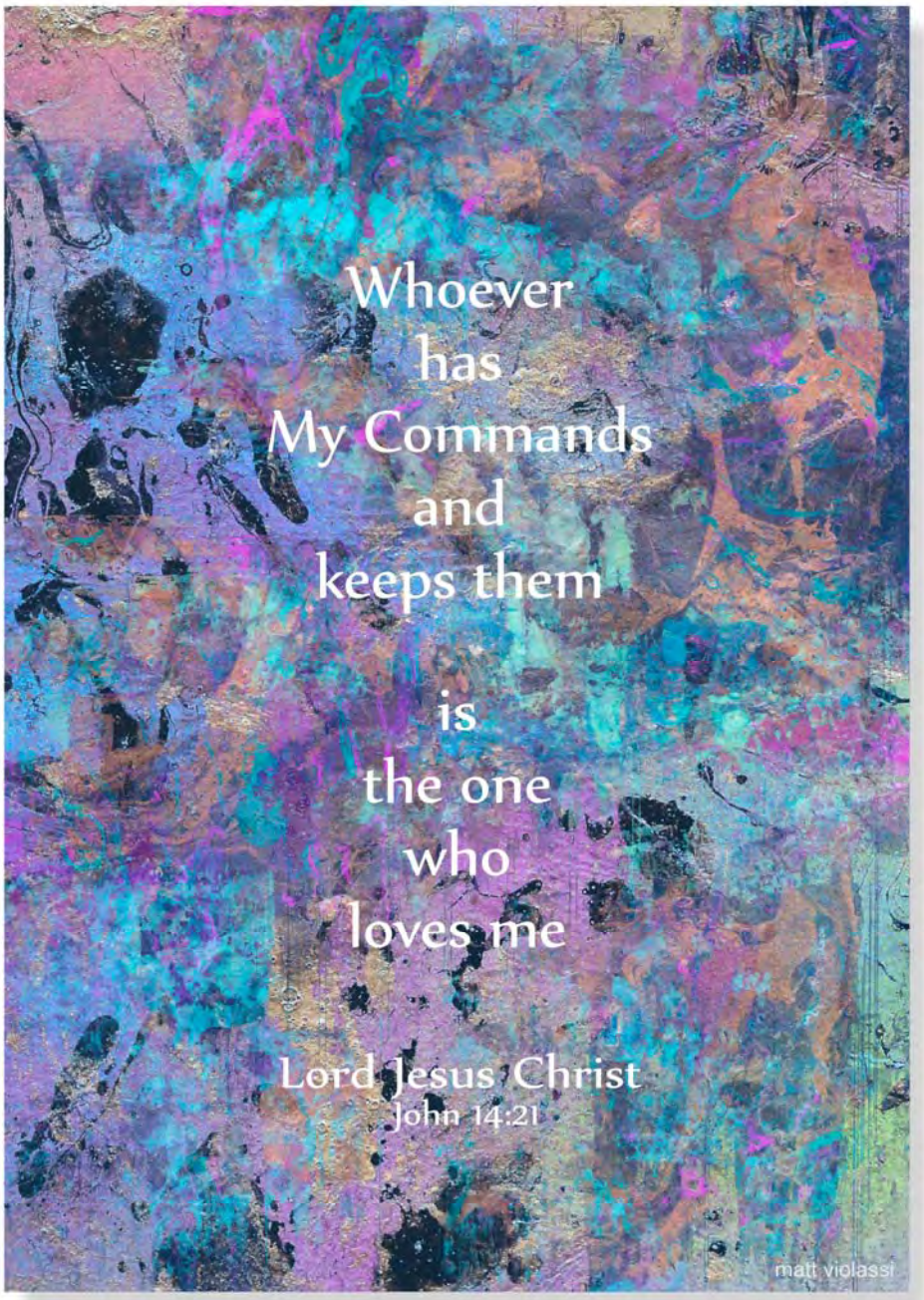
- **Machine Design & Construction** (allows for inexpensive mass-production of almost every type of product - so more people can enjoy them)

- **Instant Messaging & Email** (No more waiting days or weeks for a telegram or a conventional letter in the mail - once coming by horseback and/or by sea! Communicate to almost anyone almost instantaneously!)

-

6. My Book of Remembrance

- Document, Date, Write-down & Remember - the momentous things God did for us Individually. Things that He did that really helped us. . . Thank Him forever.


Whoever
has
My Commands
and
keeps them
is
the one
who
loves me
Lord Jesus Christ
John 14:21
matt violassi

TOOL 3 - MY OBEDIENCE JOURNAL

" If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

- Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:15)

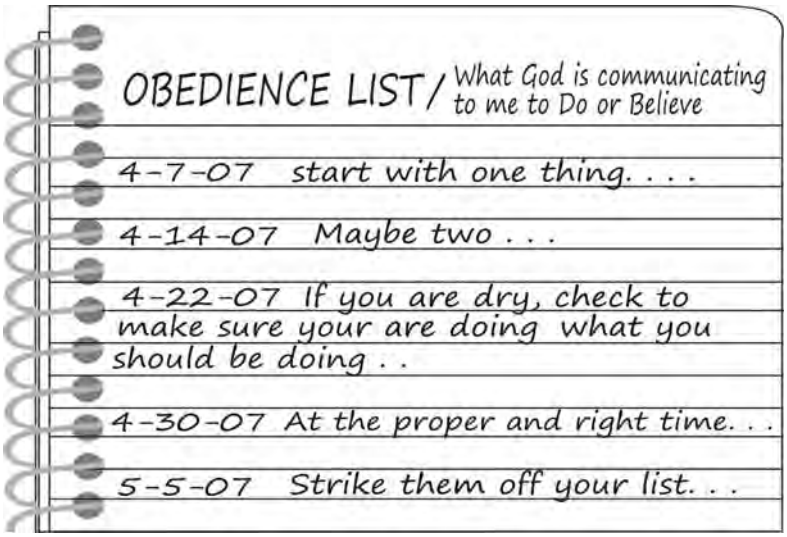
Obedience defines if we love God or not. What is God communicating to you *to do* or *believe?*

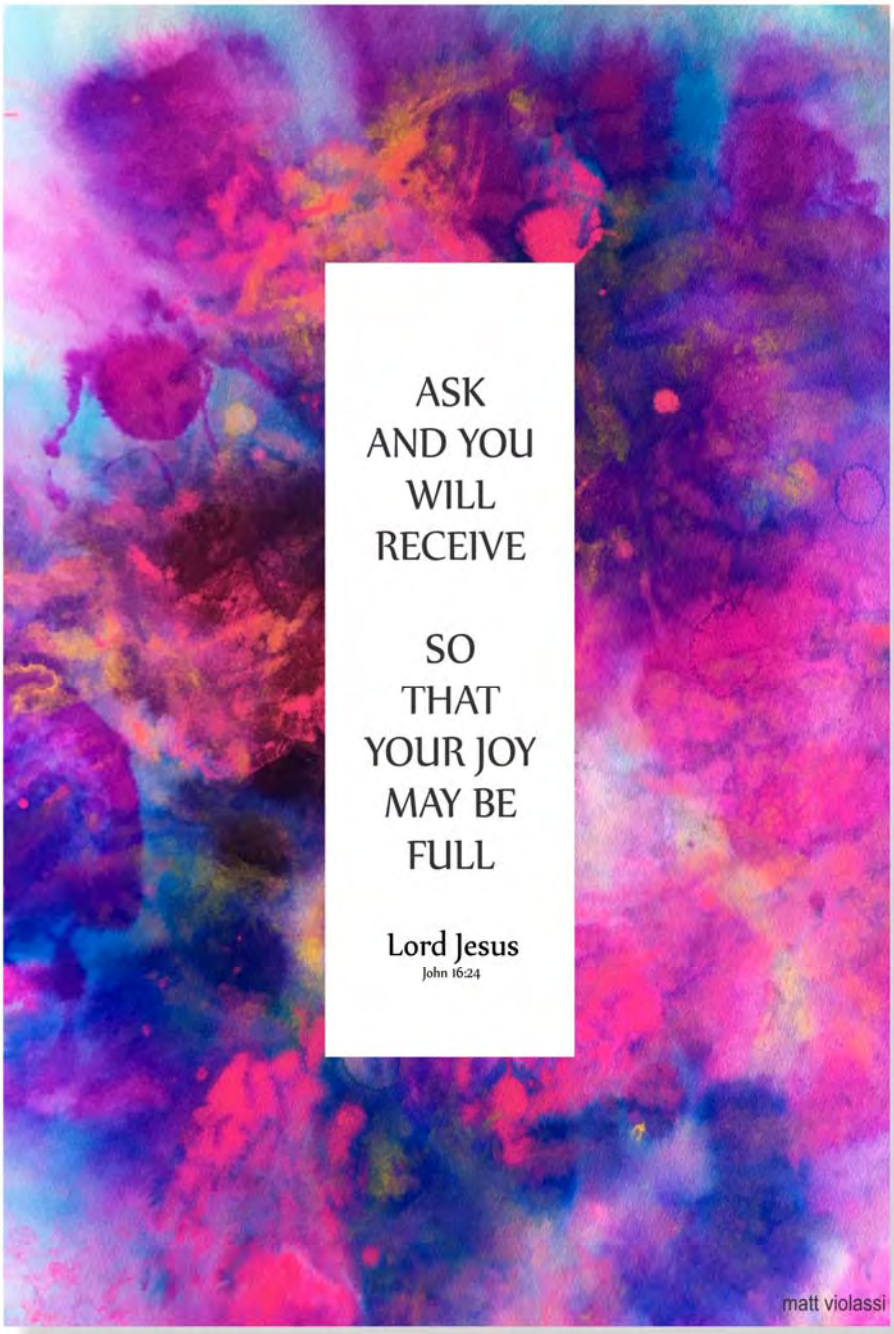
Benefits of This Tool:

- Can you imagine having a son or daughter that, on their own initiative, ***constructs*** and ***studies*** a notebook with a list containing everything you want them to do - make their bed, keep their room clean, keep clothes off the floor, brush their teeth after every meal, eat right, sleep right, do their homework and chores cheerfully and on time and carefully, be nice and looking out for their siblings and people, etc. - so you don't have to remind and nag them all the time? This kind of child would blow everybody's mind! Who has ever heard of such a son or daughter?
  We can be that kind of child to God. That is what this tool is about.
- At the end of our days, we will all have to give an account to God. It will all boil down to this - Did we obey Him? Did we accomplish what He had for us to do on earth in our lifetime? Did we walk close Him and do the things He was telling us to do? This simple, humble journal is a testimony to ourselves - and to God - that we walked with Him and obeyed Him.

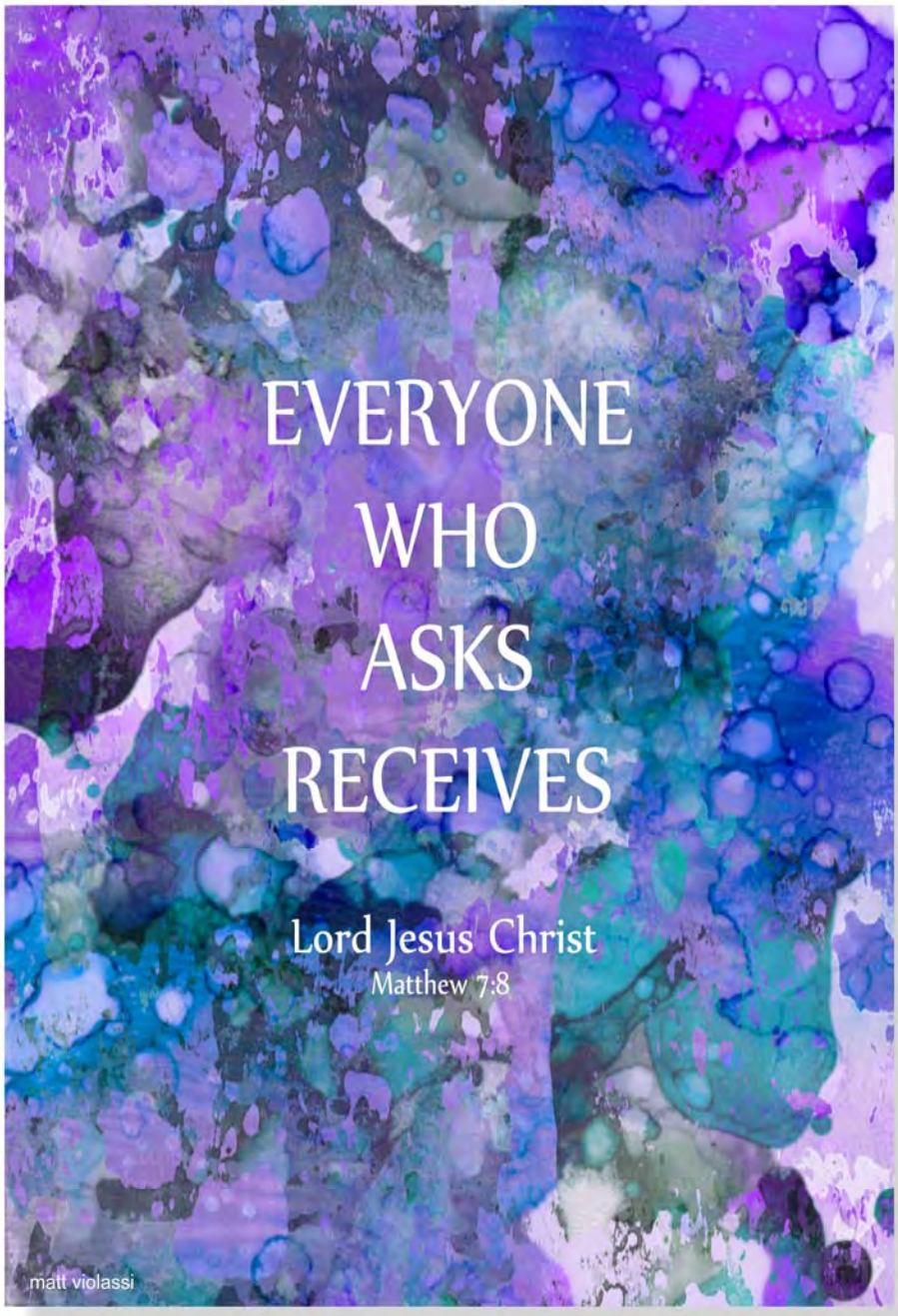
Directions for Use of This Tool:

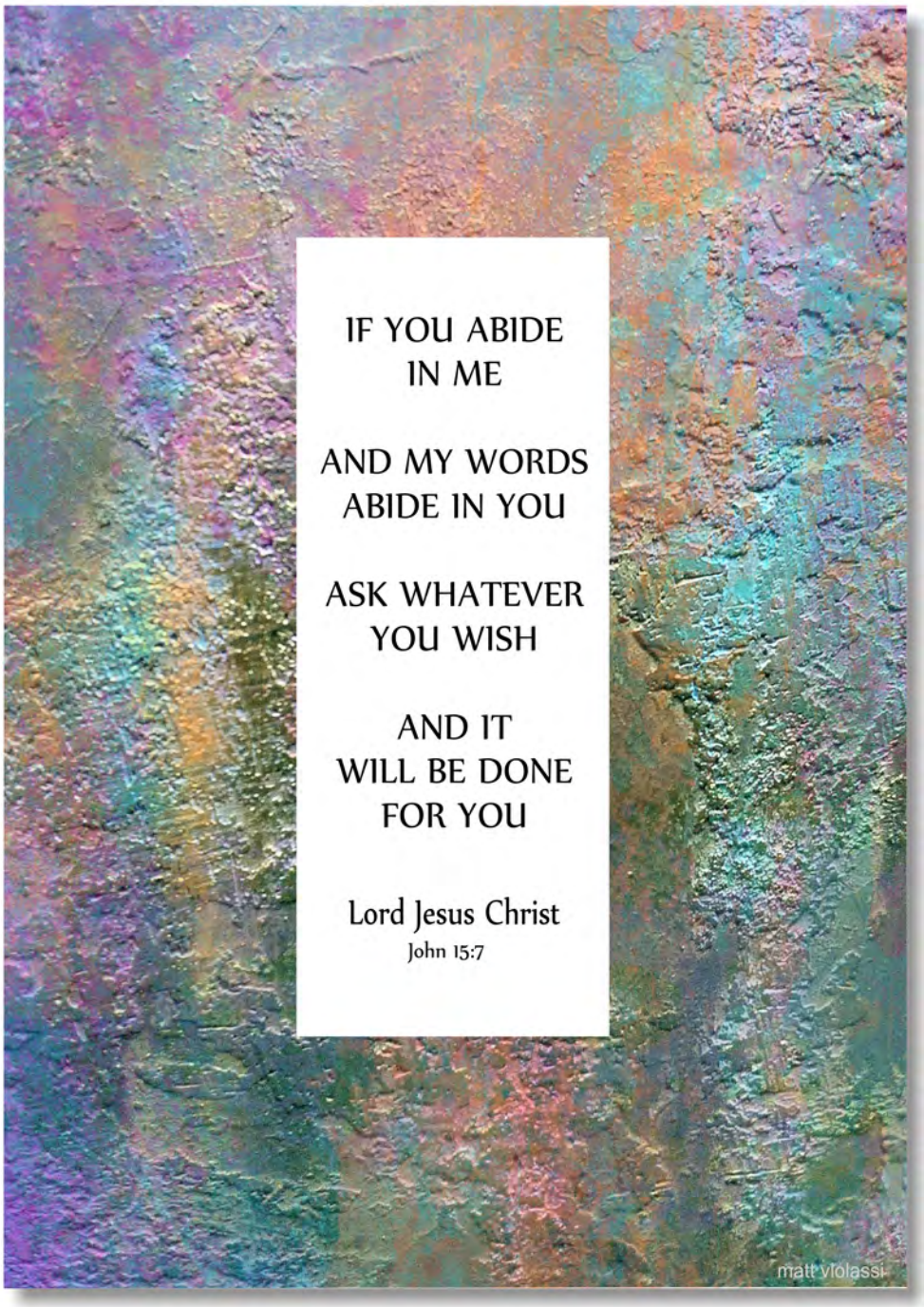
1. Create a list of all the things God is communicating for you to do or believe. This tool is the list of that stuff He is telling us to do each week, each month - throughout our lifetime. This list can contain both general commands of the Bible in addition to personal things God commands us to do, obey, or believe.
2. Be prepared to record God's commands. We would bring a notebook and pen to the Oval Office if we were summoned by the president of the United States for service. We know to bring a notebook and pen to any college class we desire to excel at. This is God we are serving; let's not take Him for granted!
3. Try to review the list daily.
4. Pray about the things on the list.
5. Ask God to help you accomplish the things on the list. Ask God to ***transform you*** into the character commands on the list.




ASK
AND YOU
WILL
RECEIVE
SO
THAT
YOUR JOY
MAY BE
FULL
Lord Jesus
John 16:24
matt violassi


All things
you ask for
in prayer,
believing,
you will
receive
Lord Jesus Christ
Matthew 21:22
matt violassi


EVERYONE
WHO
ASKS
RECEIVES
Lord Jesus Christ
Matthew 7:8
matt violassi


IF YOU ABIDE
IN ME
AND MY WORDS
ABIDE IN YOU
ASK WHATEVER
YOU WISH
AND IT
WILL BE DONE
FOR YOU
Lord Jesus Christ
John 15:7
matt violassi

TOOL 4 - MY PRAYER JOURNAL

"And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

- Jesus Christ (Matt. 21:22)

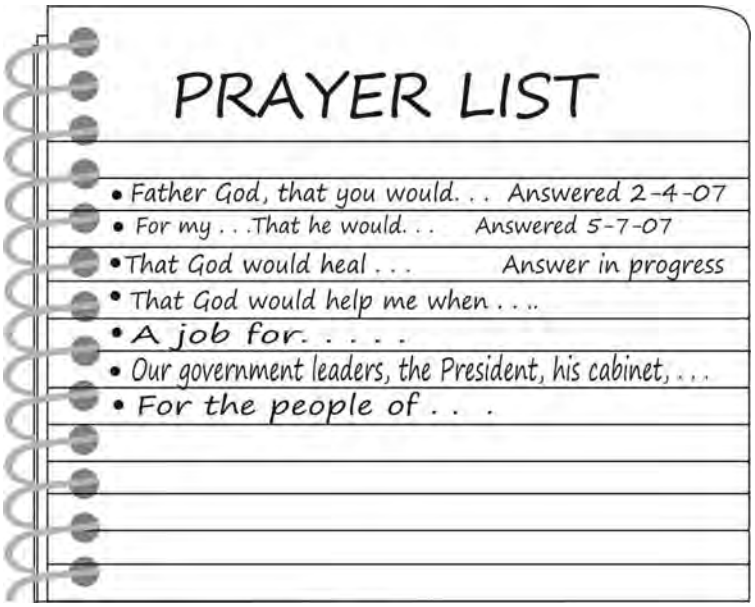
Benefits of This Tool:

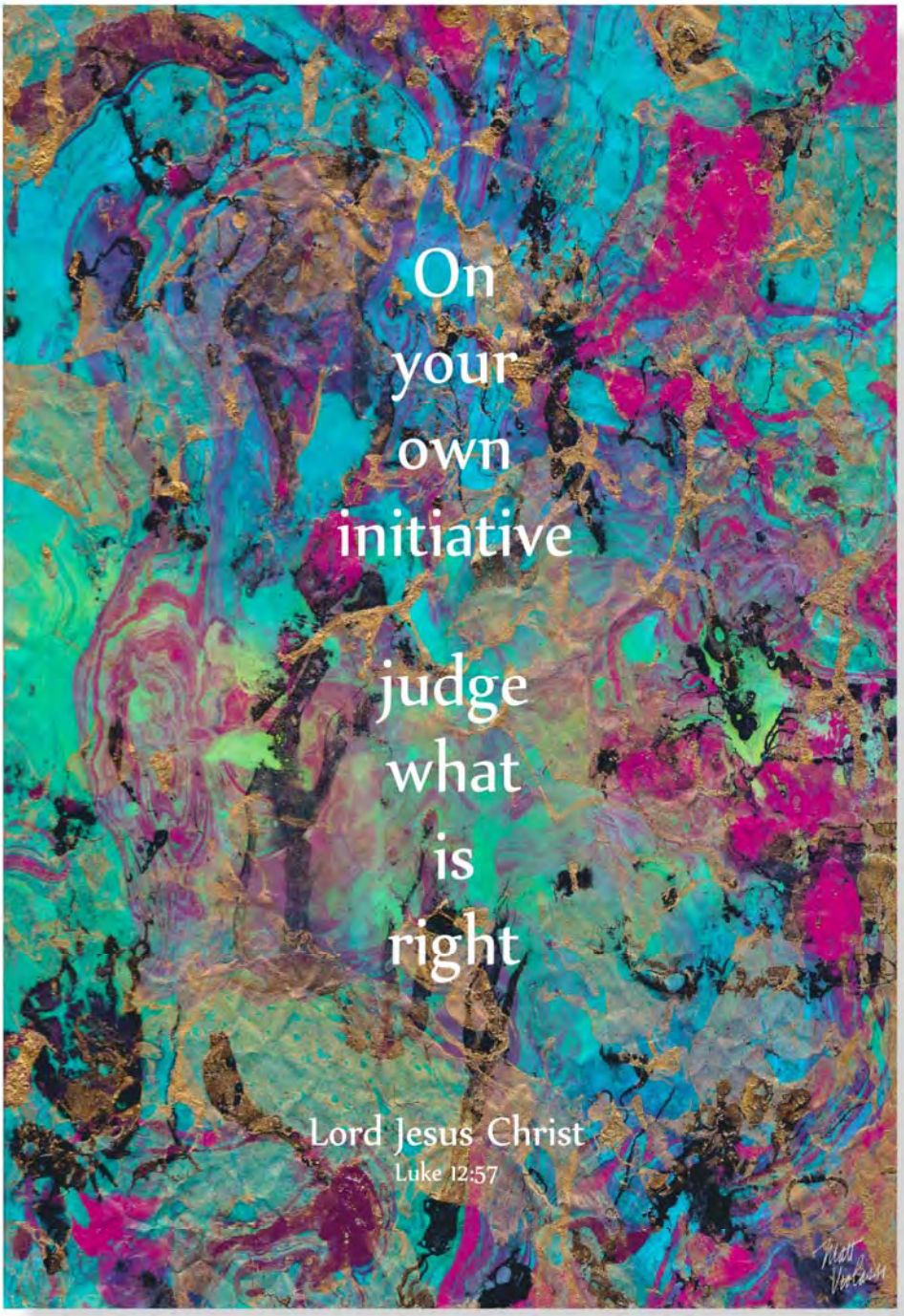
- It helps us persevere in prayer for the things we are currently trusting God for.
- As we see the list of answered prayers increase over the years, it builds our trust in God.
- We can be more in tune with the things that cause us anxiety, making us better able to unload those concerns in prayer to God.

Directions for Use of This Tool:

1. Write down the things you are praying to God and trusting Him for. I recommend a spiral notebook.
2. Review the list as often as possible, re-asking and believing God for each item.
3. When a prayer is answered, write "answered" next to it with the date.
4. Thank Him.

Example. . .




On
your
own
initiative
judge
what
is
right
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 12:57

TOOL 5 - PLANNING MY ULTIMATE DAY FOR GOD

On your own initiative, judge what is right

- Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 12:57)

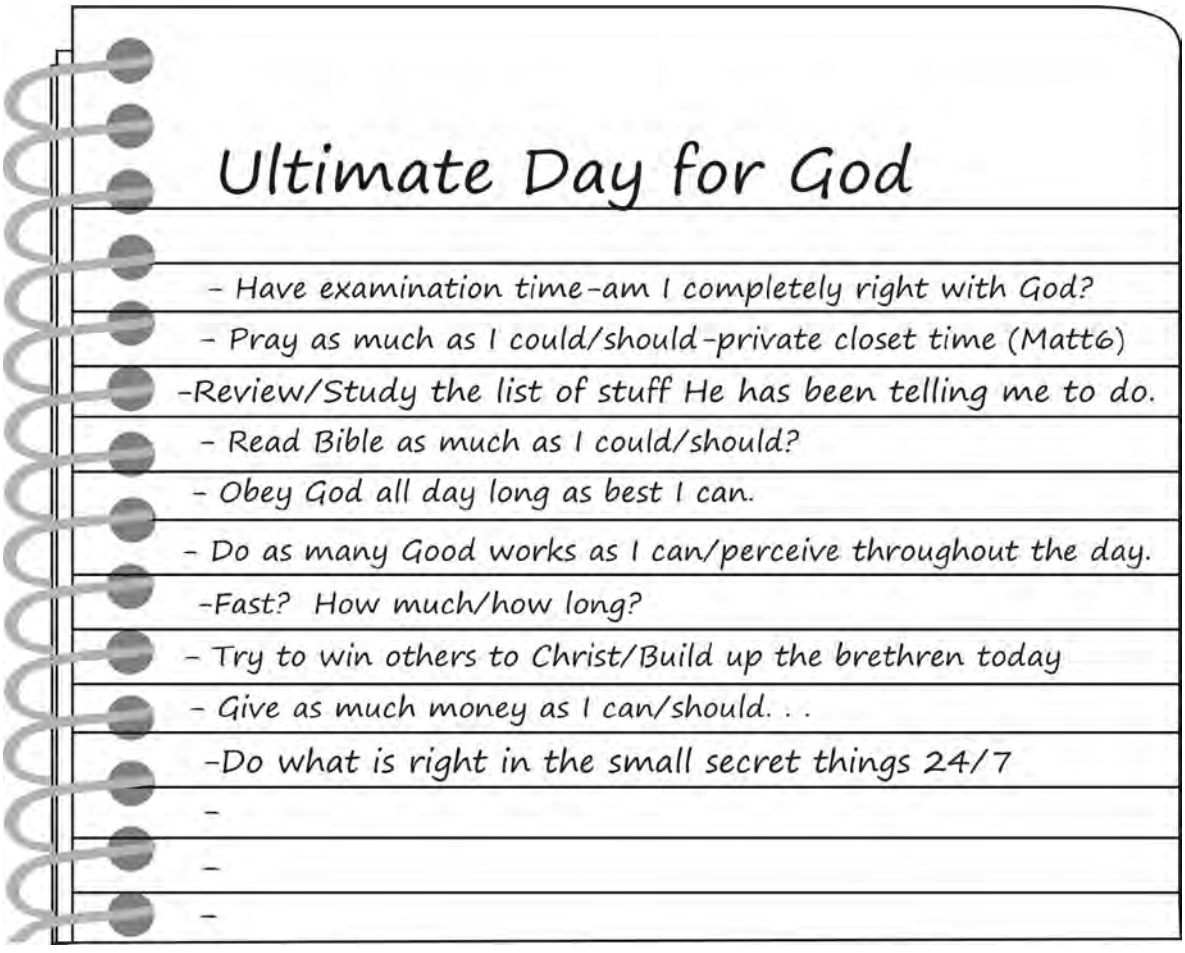
Benefits of This Tool:

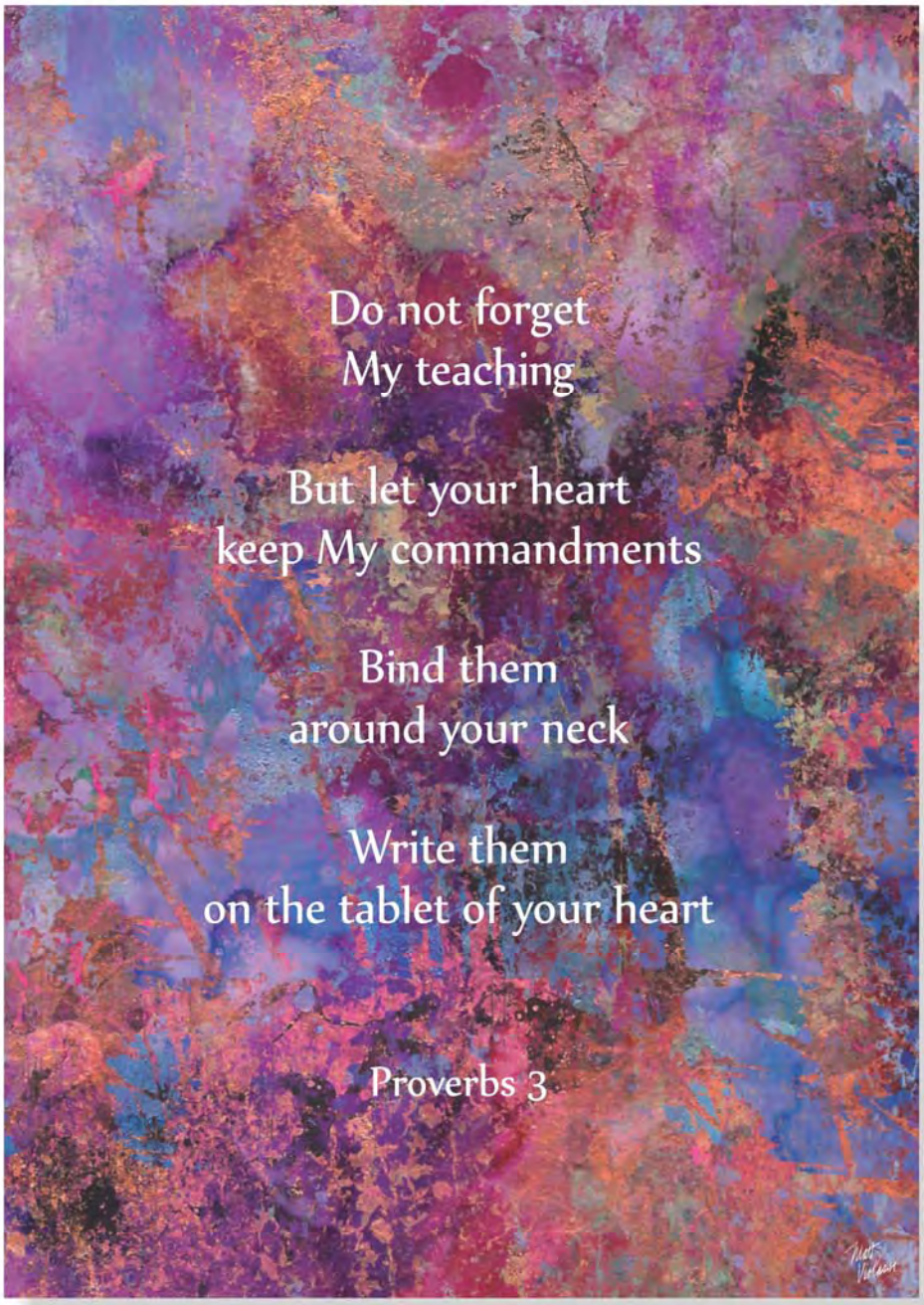
- Planning our ultimate day helps us give God our best day, one day at a time, by reminding us of what our best day looks like. Then we can purpose to do it and ask God to help us give Him our best day.

Directions for Use of This Tool:

1. Prepare a list of what your ultimate day for God would look like. Prepare it using the viewpoint that it could be your last day(s) on earth - maybe your last month or months. **I suggest this because this strips away all of our own current short-term personal goals.** This allows us to identify the personal goals that are actually driving us. We need to be able to identify heart goals and desires before we can stop them from ruling us. What would your ultimate day for God look like - your most holy, righteous day - one that you could sustain for several months?
2. ***Prayerfully*** construct this list - because we can otherwise have some whacko ideas of what pleases God.
3. Try to review it daily and repurpose to live your "Best Day For God." Then get-up and do it again tomorrow.

Example . . .




Do not forget
My teaching
But let your heart
keep My commandments
Bind them
around your neck
Write them
on the tablet of your heart
Proverbs 3

TOOL 6 - Renew and Reload Our "Life" Verses

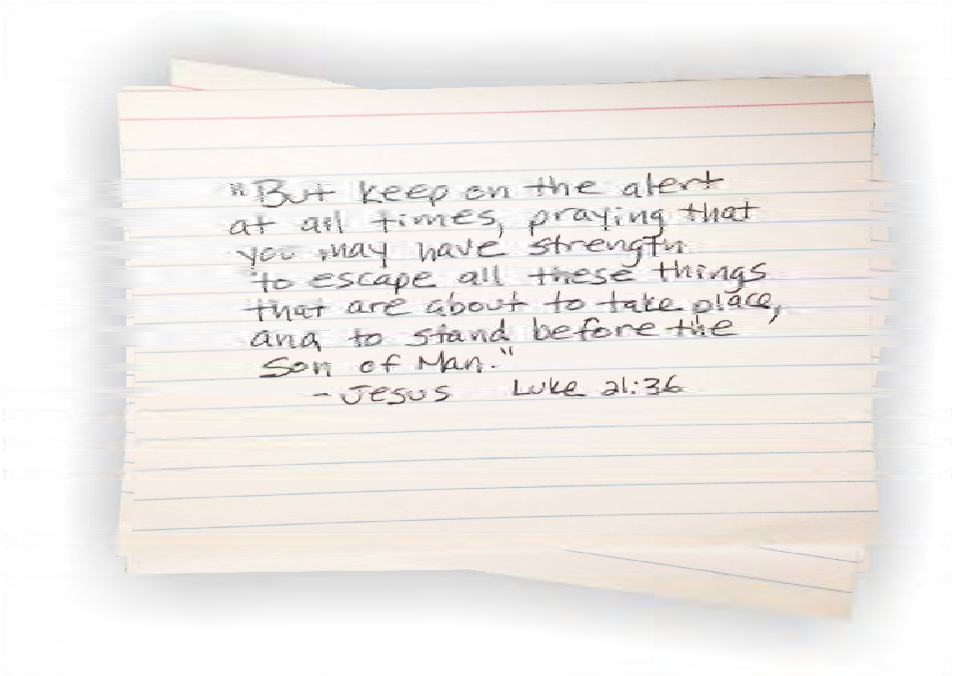
"My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments . . . Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."
(Proverbs 3)

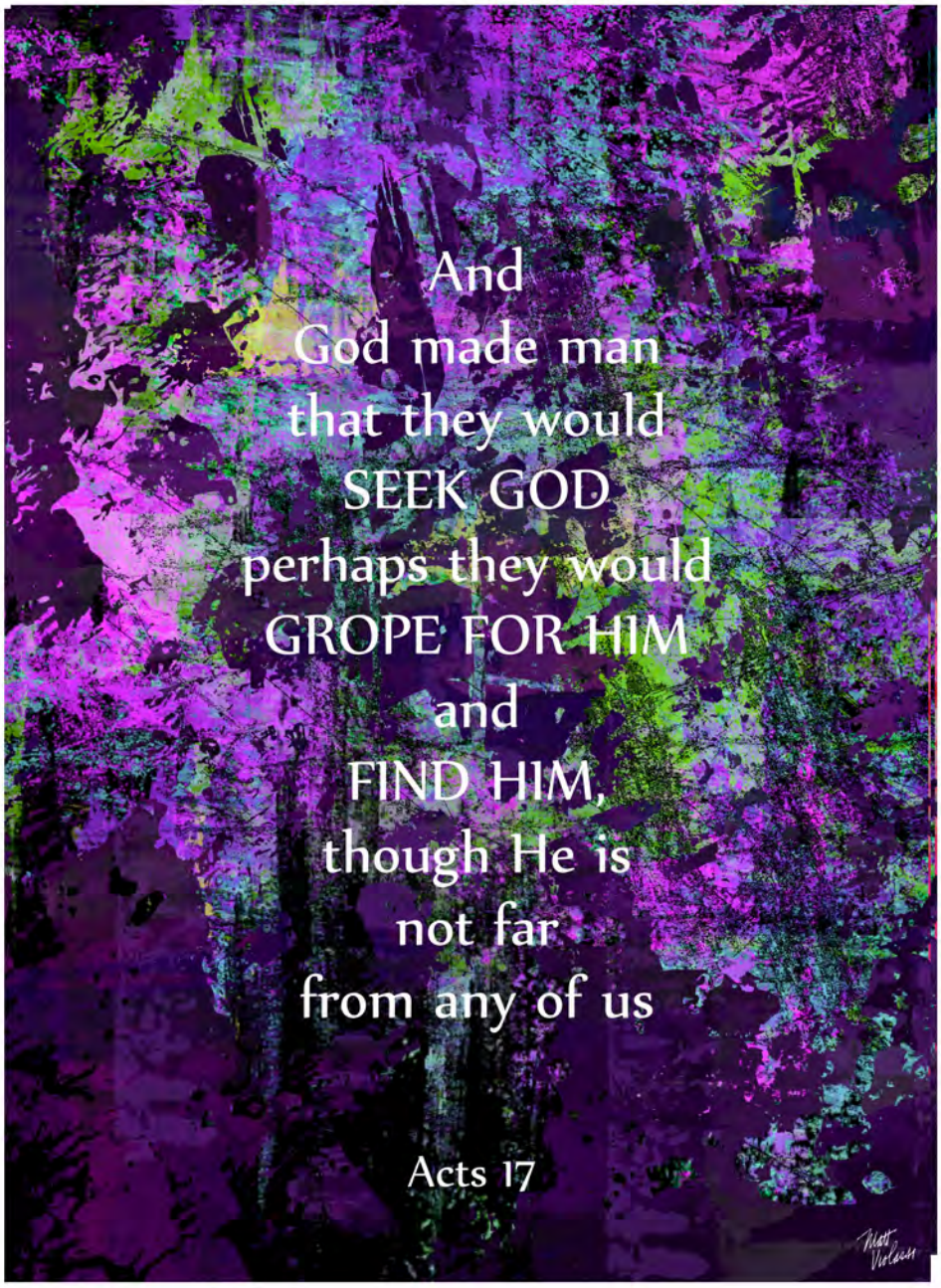
Benefits of This Tool:

- This tool is a list of your current top life verses. These are truths that you want to better hold on to, verses that you want to reload into your mind. (We can easily and quickly lose truths.) These could be verses that God wants you to particularly concentrate on and "know." These could merely be your favorite or meaningful Bible verses or truths. They could be part of your spiritual calling, spiritual gifting, or individual particular Spiritual DNA that you should deeply hold on to. They could simply be verses you saw in past times, but want to keep reminding yourself of.

Directions for Use of this Tool:

1. Construct a list of your most meaningful verses/life verses that you want to remind yourself of and be exhilarated with once again. You could also write these in a notebook or could also write one verse per index card.
2. Go through each verse, one at a time. Speak the verse to your soul. Speak the verse to God. **ASK GOD TO SPEAK THE VERSE TO YOU AGAIN**! Seek its full revelation and meaning again. Re-experience it. Savor it. Memorize it as best you can. Review it.
3. Move to the next verse and do the same.
4. Periodically edit the list of verses.




And
God made man
that they would
SEEK GOD
perhaps they would
GROPE FOR HIM
and
FIND HIM,
though He is
not far
from any of us
Acts 17


YOU WILL
FIND ME
WHEN YOU
SEEK ME
WITH ALL
YOUR HEART
Almighty God
Jeremiah 29:13
matt violassi

TOOL 7 - WAYS TO FIND GOD

"You will FIND ME when you SEEK ME with all your heart"

- God the Father (Jeremiah 29:13)

Purpose of this tool:

● To help us better and more easily "find God." (that experience when we know He is listening to us at a particular moment). **"*And if we know that He hears us* in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."** (1 John 5:15)

Although there are several ways to find God and His presence, these methods do not "work" every time. God is God, and He chooses when, where, how much, and how often He decides to reveal Himself to us.

At times, God "hides" Himself from us for a variety of reasons. Sometimes He hides Himself from us so that we "dial-up" our intensity of seeking Him - so we pay closer attention to what He is saying to us. Sometimes He hides Himself so we just don't take Him for granted - take our relationship and friendship with Him for granted - and begin to treat Him casually.

How to Find God? In many ways, He leaves this part of the journey up to us. I believe this part is His greatest joy . . . . to see who will: 1) Seek Him . . 2) Find Him . .. and 3) Talk to Him about stuff!

---

1. SEEK GOD WITH YOUR *WHOLE* HEART

God the Father Himself spoke,

"You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13)

2. DRAW NEAR TO GOD

"Draw near to God and *He will* draw near to you" (James 4:8)

If we just sit for a protracted period of time and concentrate on the person of God, with the purpose of perceiving and experiencing His presence, we will begin to sense His presence coming closer and closer to us. This promise works.

3. GO BEFORE HIS THRONE

In the book of Hebrews, we are told to come boldly before God's throne when we need Him.

"Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

If we are told to come before His throne (and therefore to come before Him), then it is implied that we can somehow perceive that we are *actually before God* and we are *actually before His very throne*. We can come before His throne and know we are "there," sensing His presence. We can grow in this experience if we want to.

4. <u>THANK AND PRAISE HIM FOR A WHILE</u>

Another way of "finding" God is to thank and praise Him for an extended amount of time (See Tool 2.) He instructs us to come to Him doing this:

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name" (Psalm 100:4 NIV).

Many times our attitude is far from being thankful for all God has done, and far from the realization of who God is. This activity will correct our thinking and attitude, and invite His interaction. It is a privilege to be able to come into His presence; however, He wants us to come to Him with the right attitude.

5. "<u>LOVE-ON" GOD FOR A WHILE</u>

One way to "find" the Lord is to "love on" the Lord. If we start telling God how much we love Him and how much He means to us (over and over for awhile), many times God's presence comes closer to us. It might seem cold, mechanical, and even sterile at first, but many times God seems to quickly come to meet with people who want to re-"fall in love" with Him again. This is because that is what He is all about - having a loving relationship with mankind! ***He searches for people who want to come into this love relationship with Him - not just one of obedience - but a relationship that contains emotion and passion!*** I believe God is very *quick* to come and visit with anyone who is seeking to rekindle their emotional love for Him! . . . And you don't have to have music around to do it!

6. <u>GO TO A PRIVATE ROOM TO PRAY, CLOSE THE DOOR</u>

A great way to ***know*** that the God of the Universe is actually watching us ***that moment*** is to go to a private room to pray and seek God, and shut the door. Jesus said that God is watching you the moment you turn the final doorknob. He also promises that you will be rewarded for going to pray and seek Him. (Matt 6:6)

7. <u>START FASTING</u>

Start fasting. Fast until you find Him. God really likes this.

8. <u>PRAY IN THE SPIRIT FOR A WHILE</u>

9. <u>HIS INTERESTS FIRST</u>

One of the easiest ways to find God is by asking Him this question: **"Lord, communicate to me 1 thing (or 3 things) you want me to do today or to accomplish today?"** Or put, **"Lord, tell me Your one priority (for me) today?"** This invites His interaction. He *loves* when people ask Him this question. When we start asking Him these kinds of questions, we better enter ***His World*** (what He is interested in). He is interested in people serving Him and His interests in ***His World***. . . Our flesh is determined to stay in ***our world***. We need to keep entering ***His World.***

10. <u>CHECK OUR OBEDIENCE</u> (See Tool 3)

This is a journal of the things we are to obey in - things to do or believe. Disobedience or laxness can kill God's presence.

11. GIVE GOD YOUR ULTIMATE DAY (See Tool 5)

12 . MAKE SURE YOU ARE GIVING ENOUGH OF YOUR MONEY TO GOD

Jesus said we cannot serve God and serve money. Sometimes we can find ourselves serving money. God instructs us to give Him the first of our income/money - a good amount - even when we think we can't afford to. Doing this cuts the tie to the god of money, and lets us know - and God know - who we serve. This brings His pleasure and presence.

13. CRY OUT TO GOD

Here is another way to find God. God has got a promise. If you cry out to Him, He will help you, and deliver you from your trouble (of not being able to find God). This works. You have to do it *His way*, however. You have to ***cry out***. In urban settings, I suggest you muffle your mouth with a pillow, so as not to unnecessarily alarm or frighten other people. The promise is,

"The righteous *cry out*, and the *Lord hears* them; *he delivers* them *from all* their troubles."

(Psalm 34:17 NIV)

14. HAVE CHRISTIANS LAY HANDS ON YOU, AND TOGETHER PRAY HARD

There can be tremendous power that can only be found in group prayer. Sometimes God requires us to humble ourselves before others to help us receive something from Him. If you can't find God for a while, have some trusted Christians pray and believe with you to feel and sense God's love and pleasure over your life.

Encouraging Note: God rewards us for diligently seeking Him - whether we "find" Him or not: **"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."** (Hebrew 11:6)



A TOOL 6

matt violassi

Foreword

Growing up, I had an impression that if a person was truly going to "go all the way" serving God (or completely dedicating their life to Him) - it would entail a life of fasting, prayer, poverty, sackcloth, ashes, hunger & thirst, meager existence, seeking God, self-denial, celibacy, preaching and teaching the Bible, witnessing, continually giving all our money away, spiritual & physical oppressions, demonic encounters. . . and then finally and probably - experiencing a tough martyrdom. Just like Jesus did.

I glimpsed in some readings of some of the early American Catholic priests who would travel and pioneer early wild America to bring the Gospel to the native Indians - how a number of them would be brutally tortured and die for God.

I mean, who would voluntarily sign-up for this kind of thing?

By the grace and work of God, by the age of 24, living in the 20th century United States of America, I dedicated my complete life to God. I intrinsically knew to go "all-out" meant to "max-out" in all the basic Christian disciplines that God liked and brought His pleasure: Fasting, Prayer, Bible study, Seeking God, Witnessing, Trying to get others to receive Christ, Attending & Helping at Church meetings, Giving money, Doing Good Works, and such.

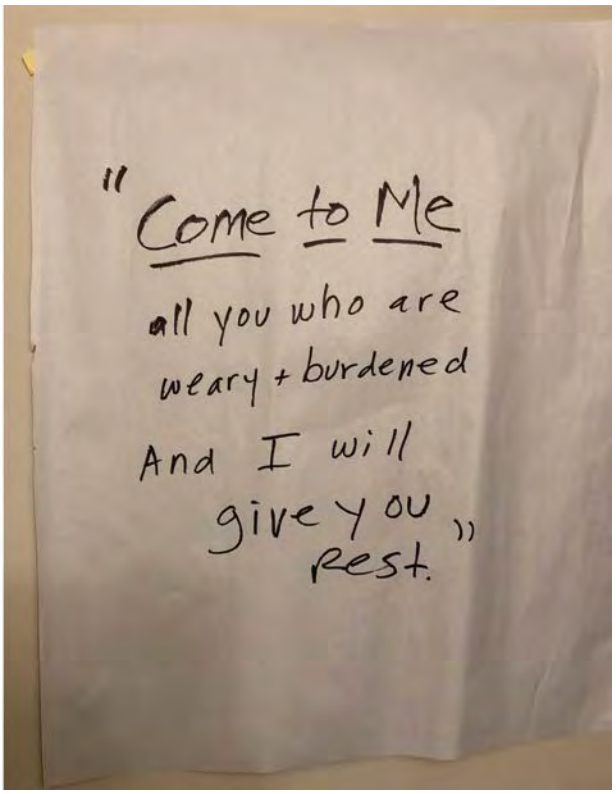
My first month into this new life, I believe I fasted about every day. My boss was very concerned about me, and thought something might be seriously wrong with me. I was pale, haggard, and gaunt . . . My eyes had black circles around them, and I had some bad dandruff going-on. I was probably pretty intense and scary looking.

After several years of daily attempting to "max-out" in these basic Christian disciplines - the life of God seemed to be waning from me. I was experiencing severe bouts of feeling dry, dead, and empty. The joy of God seemed to be fleeting. The answer must be to do more of the basic Christian disciplines. . . somehow going to a deeper spiritual level through more of them. They had previously brought the continued joy of the Lord.

I was in my car one evening while on a break at work. It was a cold, darkening grey Michigan winter day. I was trying to read my Bible and warm-up with a hot cup of coffee, while the cold kept creeping through my thin metal car doors and try to keep biting into me. I was reading a verse, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened…" (Matt 11:28). Slowly but suddenly, the Lord

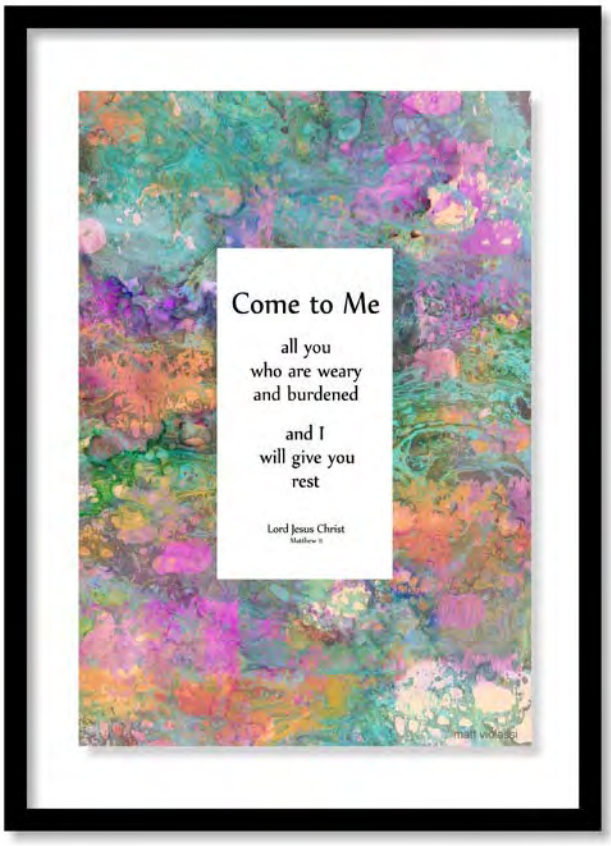
Jesus (invisibly) was sitting right next to me in my truck. It wasn't some wild vision or visitation - but *He was there, right next to me,* in my vehicle. I talked to him right there in person - *about anything*. He was closer and more real than I had experienced Him in a long time. ***It was a great, life-giving experience! It was exhilarating!*** I felt full of great joy and peace! It followed me home!

At home I posted a giant 2ft x 3ft sticky-note on some old art newsprint, on my mobile home wall, **to help remind me to keep doing this "top thing" every day. "Finding Him" and talking with Him** . . . Like what happened in my car earlier that day, was going to be my new priority in life. Doing all the Christian things that God liked, was now going to be second priority. *I believe these both are God's priorities for us.*



After several days, my gracious wife Barb asked me how long I planned on leaving that paper taped up on the wall. So, I began decorating my home "sticky-notes" as appropriate. (She was merely trying to be a good home-maker.) So

that is how all future large "sticky notes" began to be posted on artistic backgrounds . . .



I know how easily and quickly we can "lose" truths - even profound milestones in our Christian experience. (Jesus was astonished at the ten lepers whom He had healed and cleansed - with only one coming back to thank Him. *Talk about short-term memory loss!)*

If we don't keep our priorities "in our own face" in profound ways - we will probably forget them quickly and thus stop doing them. Jesus wants our "fruit to remain." This is why I push the spiritual training books . . . really just reminder lists. If we keep flushing ourselves with our priorities - they will better become part of us . . . *until they become us*. ("Train yourselves in righteousness." 1Tim. 4:7)

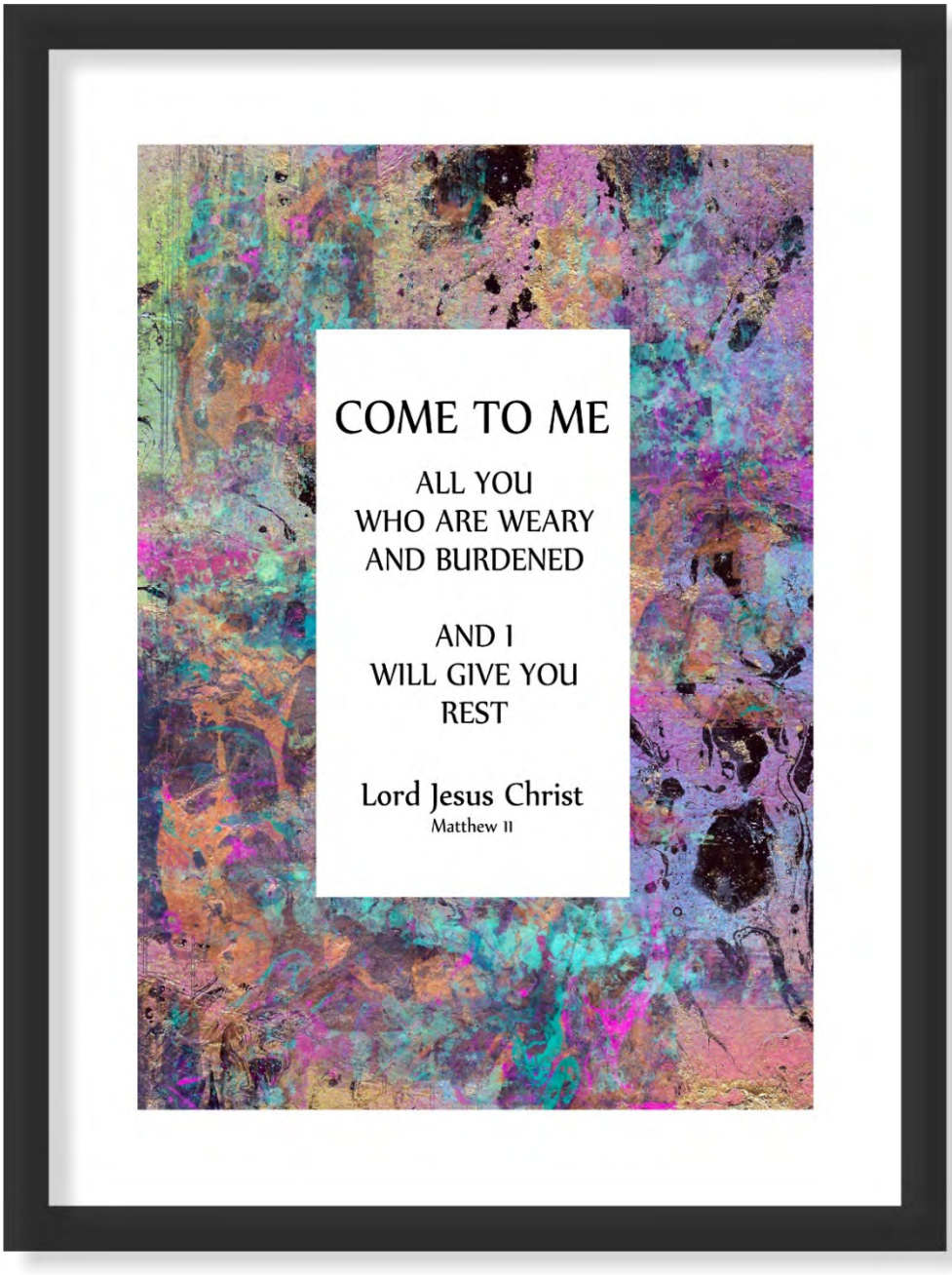
I firmly believe we need to strive to adhere to doing our best in all the Christian disciplines - while keeping the priority of our times of personally finding and interacting with the Lord Jesus Christ, God our Father, and the Holy Spirit.

I have many times seen Christians trying to maintain intimacy with God and neglecting - or even foregoing - the basic Christian disciplines. This does not work long term. God wants us all to grow up in Him and be like Him and act like Him. Jesus was our example here on earth. On the other hand, we have all probably experienced the distasteful and sometimes repugnant Christians who are glorying in their "Christian life" - full of Christian disciplines - *apart from personal intimacy with God.* Proud, boisterous, arrogant, unteachable, condemning - We all can become dangerous Pharisees - and destructive "Religious People" if we are not careful . . . We don't want the world to hate us for the wrong reason!

We need them both - frequent times of personal intimacy with God, and fulfilling all the basic Christian disciplines. We need to attend to them both. Life will not work correctly without them both - unless we chose to remain as immature, ignorant children.

This of course, just like anything, we cannot do on our own ("Apart from Me, you can do nothing." - Jesus Christ). We need God's help and direction and input and power. This is why we should prioritize and schedule and prepare and train in all these disciplines - ***with God. Train with God. Live with God.***

In this verse, Jesus invites us into a real, personal experience of coming to Him and interacting with Him. We all need to hold on to this truth - *forever!*



We all need to keep experiencing God. This verse keeps inviting us all back to this. There is even a promise contained in it! As we keep coming to Him, He is going to give us something. *He promises He is going to give us something*. **Peace and Joy and Rest! The very thing all humans desire and are seeking!**

matt violassi

Directions for Use of this Tool

Go through each verse, one at a time. Speak the verse to your soul. Speak the verse to God. Turn it into prayer. Do I believe this verse? Am I actually *doing it daily?* (It is easy to think that just because we know the verse - that we are also doing it! How dark we can be!) Honest reading of the Bible usually should send us to prayer and relationship with God. **We then need to ask God if we are obeying or believing a particular verse! What does He see? He will show us and convict us.**

Most verses in this tool are ***commands, promises, or knowledge*** about God and His Kingdom.

We can only believe and obey any of God's commands through His power, strength, and righteousness He gives us. Jesus said, **"Apart from Me, you can do *nothing*."** If we then need to repent, we repent. We *get* forgiveness. We ask to *make us* each verse. One of God's promises is that He will change us into His image and righteousness - *through yielding and complying with Him*.

We go on to the next verse.

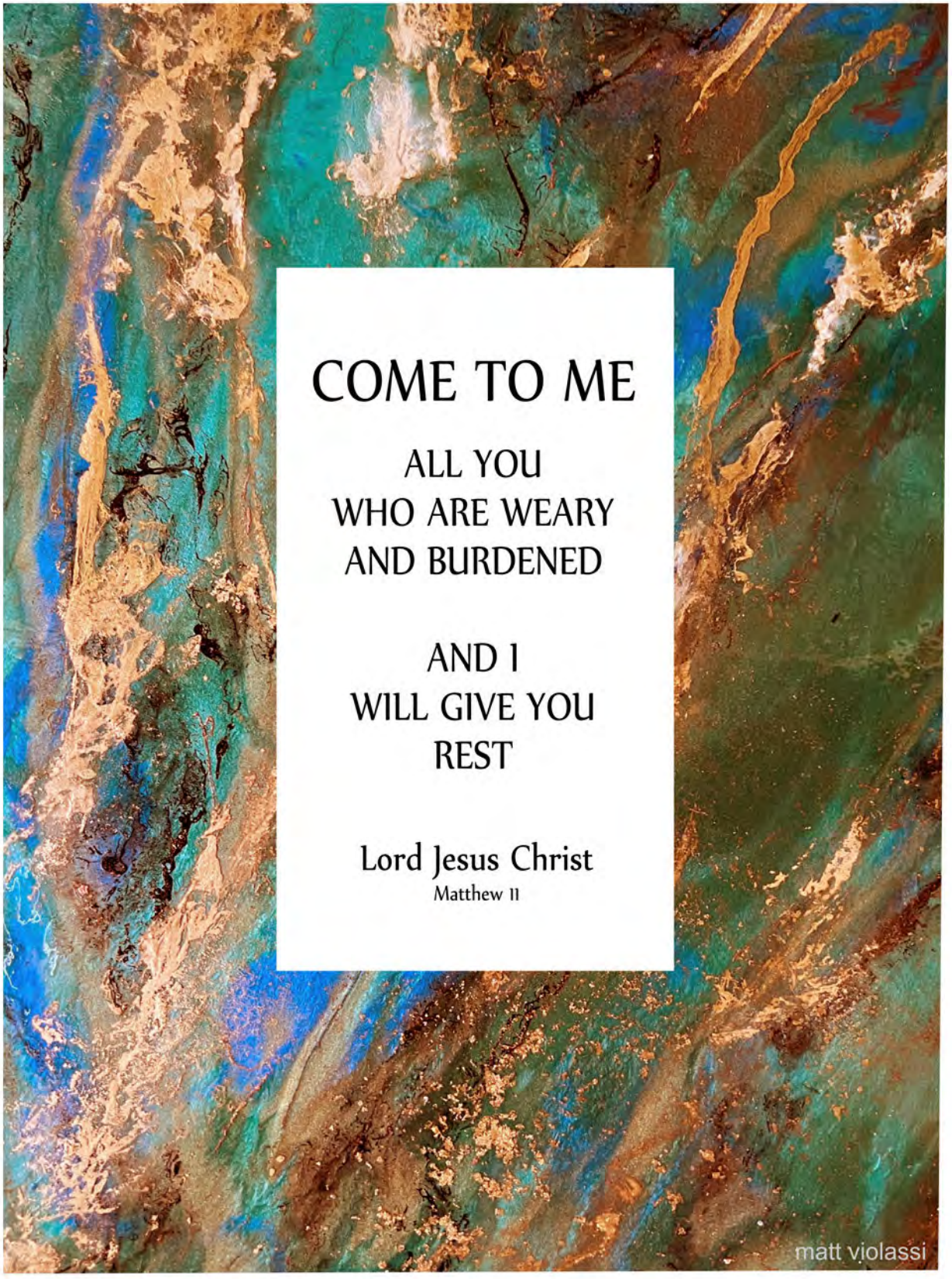
Again, I believe with any honest reading of the Bible - we will usually end-up finding ourselves in prayer. Even doing something as noble and religious and seemingly righteous as reading the Bible, can be a dark thing if we are doing it for selfish and wrong reasons. God accused many Jewish Scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees of doing this. Through their own carnal reading and study of the Scriptures - they ended up in heresy, hating and opposing God, and even hating the Messiah they were waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ. **We can all easily do the same thing as those religious folks.** Some bad motives when reading the Bible can include - to look good to others, to feel good about ourselves, to try to be more important, etc.

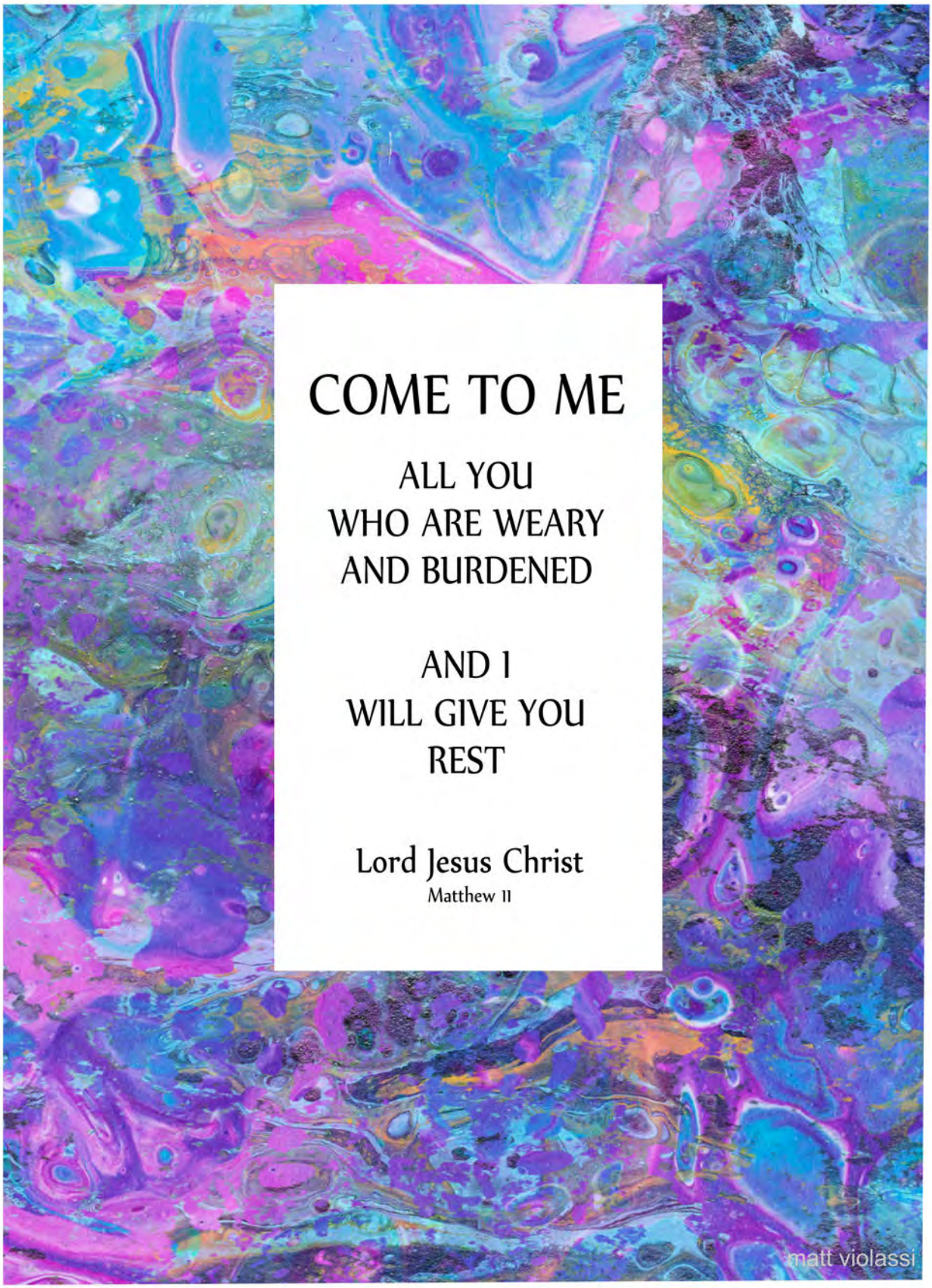
The verses in this tool are probably some of the most important, most quoted and used verses in the Bible in Protestant/ Full Gospel circles today.

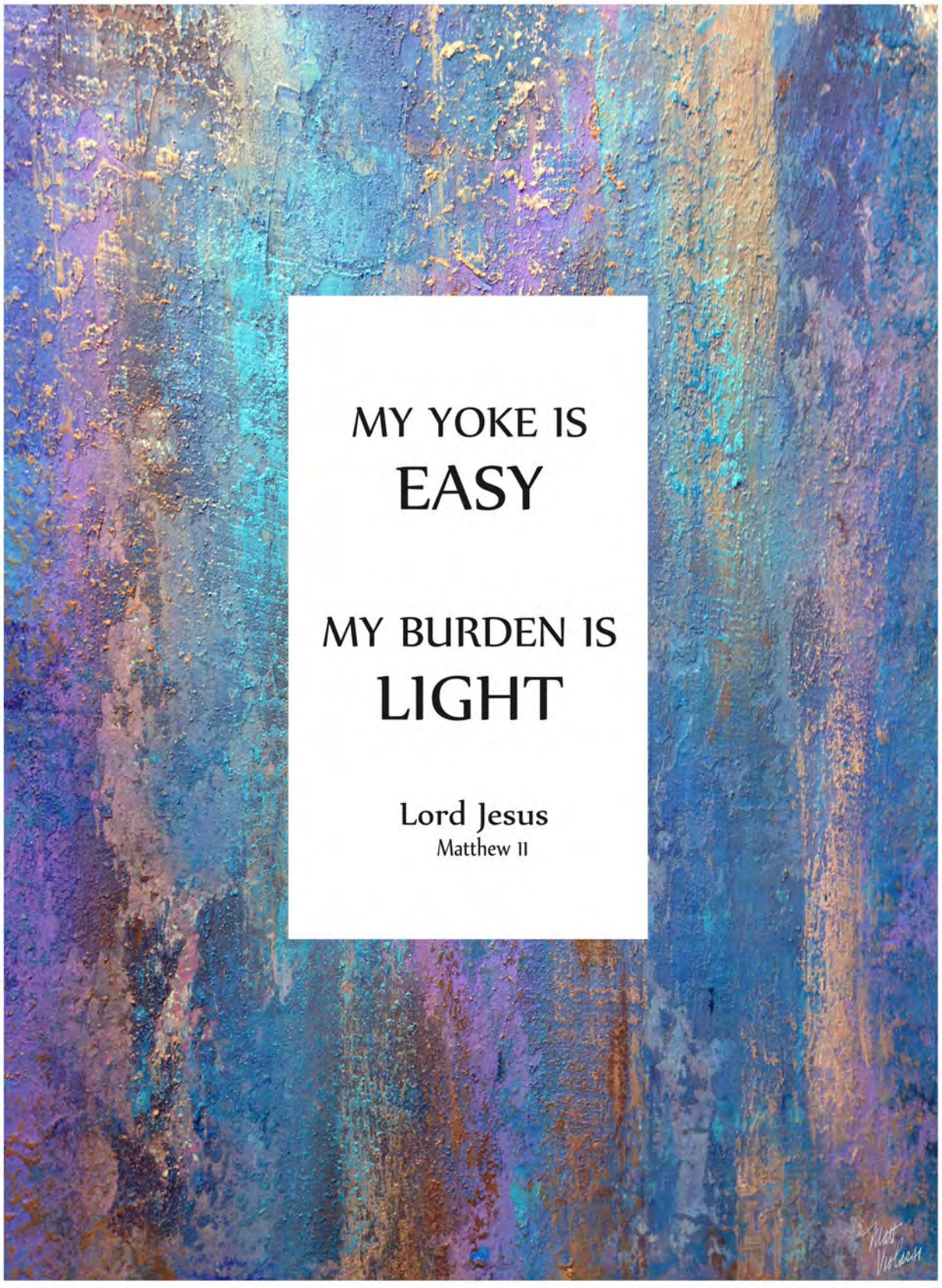
It is this author's desire that each reader would ultimately compile their own Tool 6 and train with it. When we flush our soul's and minds with God's Commands, Promises, and Knowledge of Him (preferably daily), we will find ourselves not only continually being *cleansed* by His Word - but actually *becoming it.*

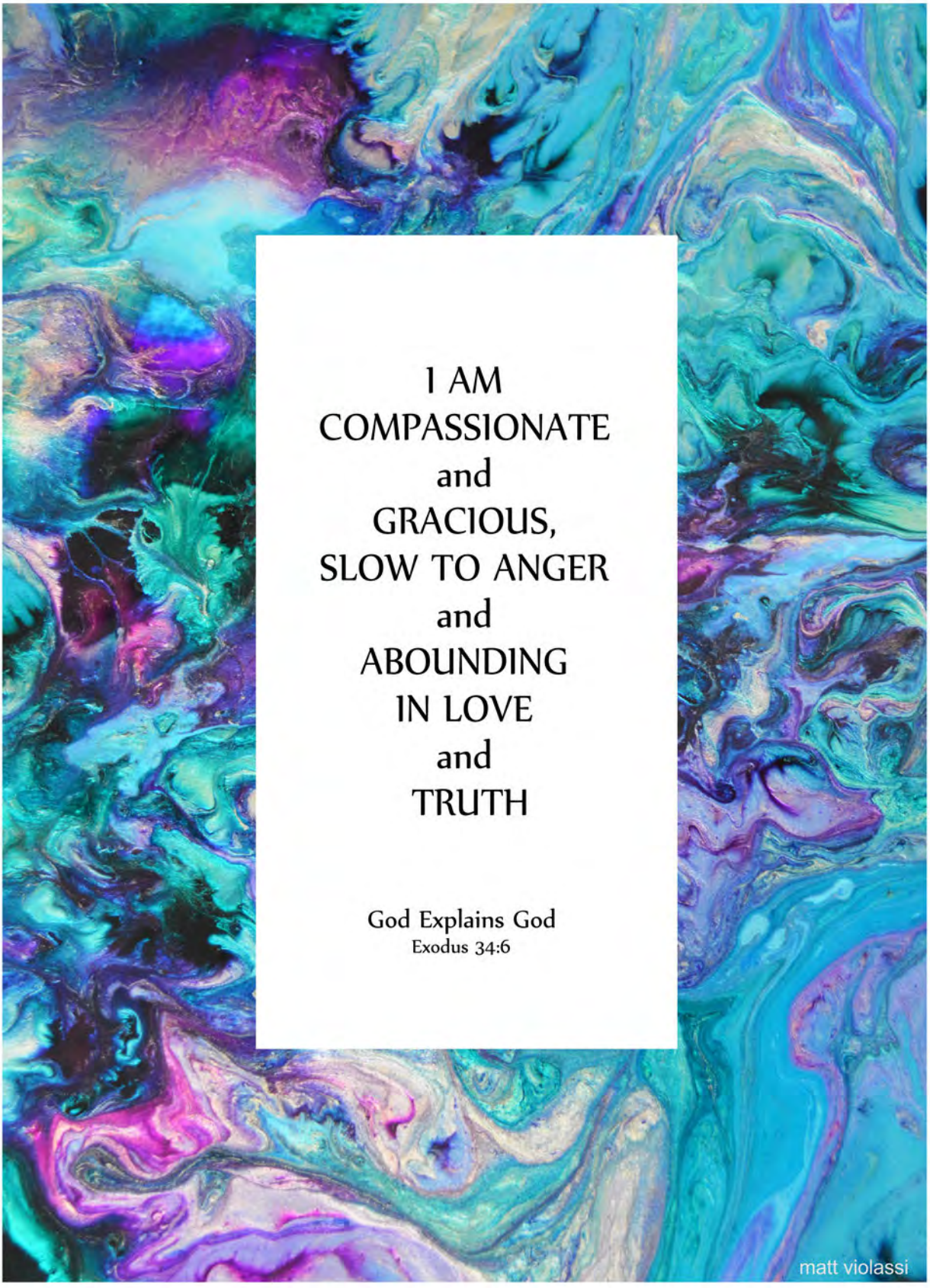
Many times, Christians frequently study the Bible to learn new and exciting things about God. This is good. It is commonly known, believed, and confessed by Christians that most know way more than they are actually doing.

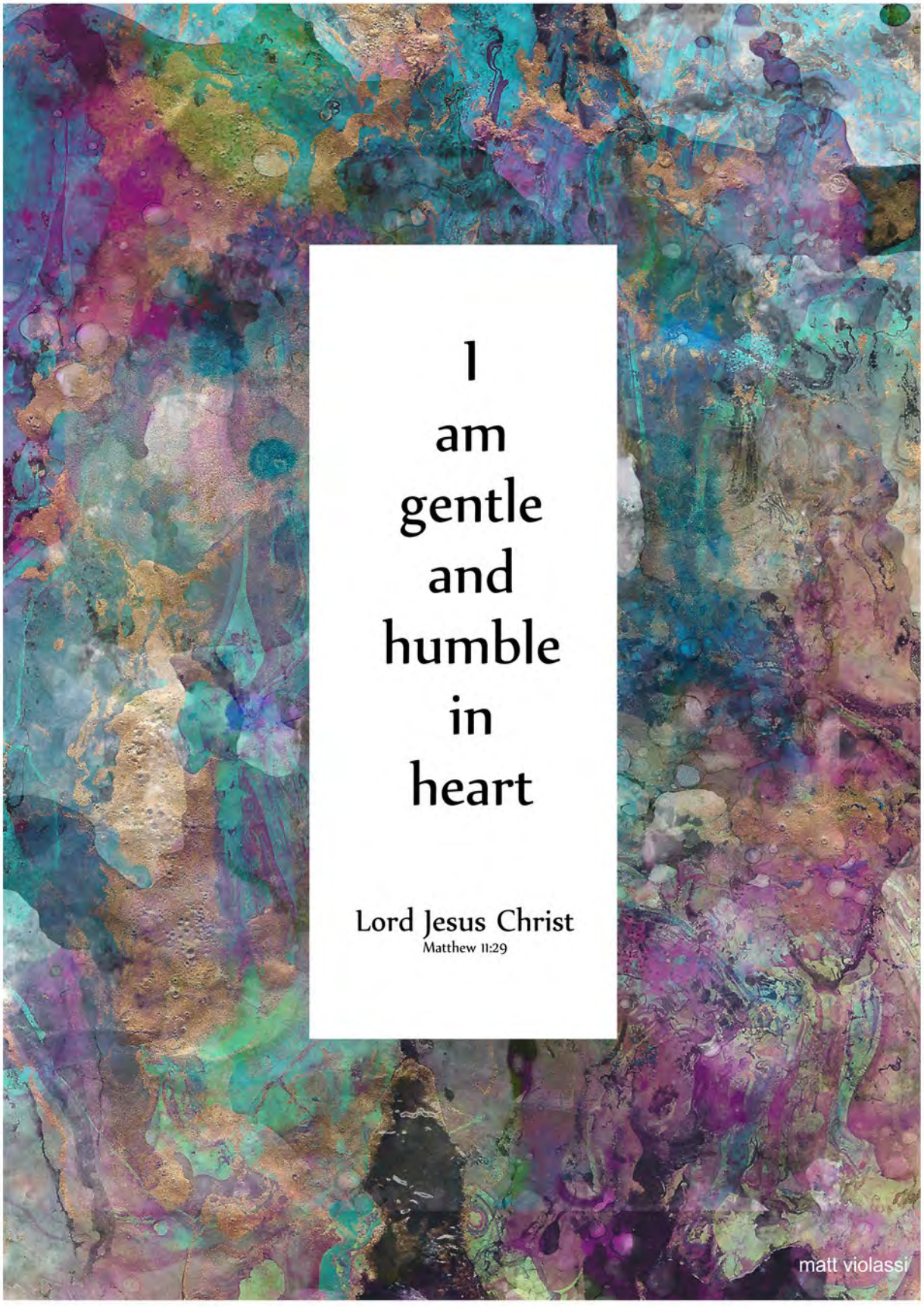
Why learn more things when we are not doing what we already know? A tool like this can help keep this from happening. Let's make sure we are practicing and doing what we know – or at least trying to!!


COME TO ME
ALL YOU
WHO ARE WEARY
AND BURDENED
AND I
WILL GIVE YOU
REST
Lord Jesus Christ
Matthew 11
matt violassi

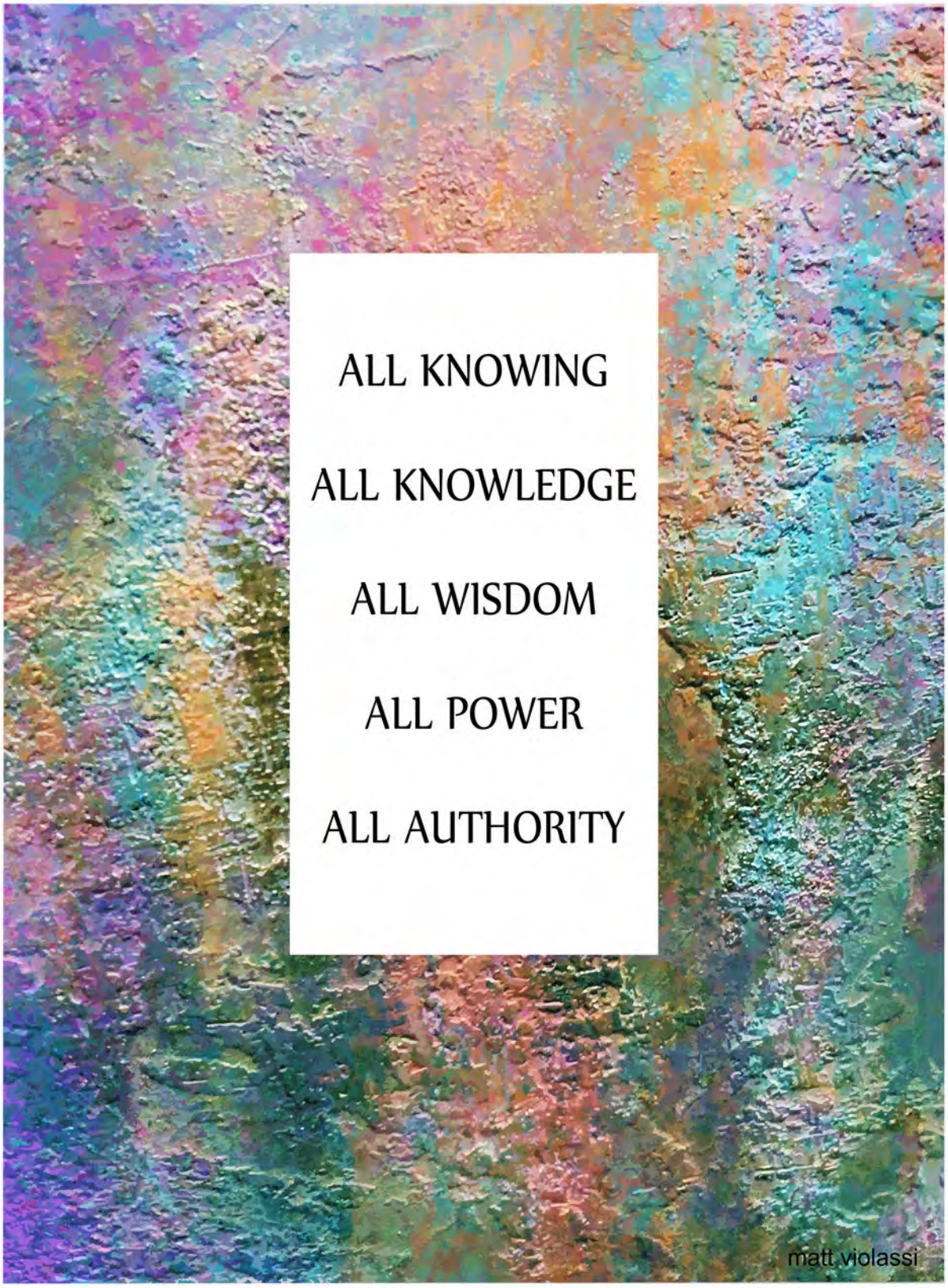

COME TO ME
ALL YOU
WHO ARE WEARY
AND BURDENED
AND I
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REST
Lord Jesus Christ
Matthew 11
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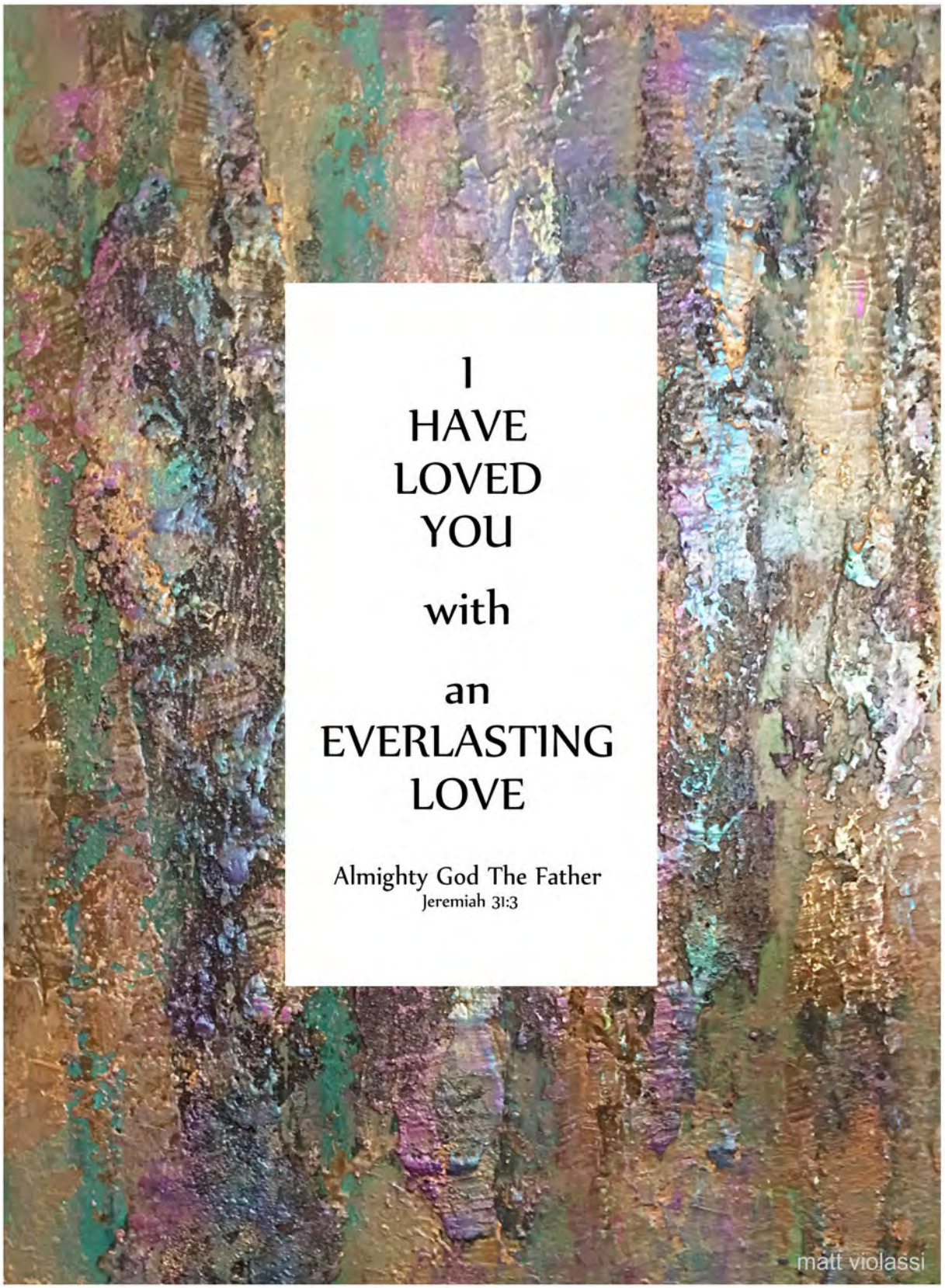

MY YOKE IS
EASY
MY BURDEN IS
LIGHT
Lord Jesus
Matthew 11

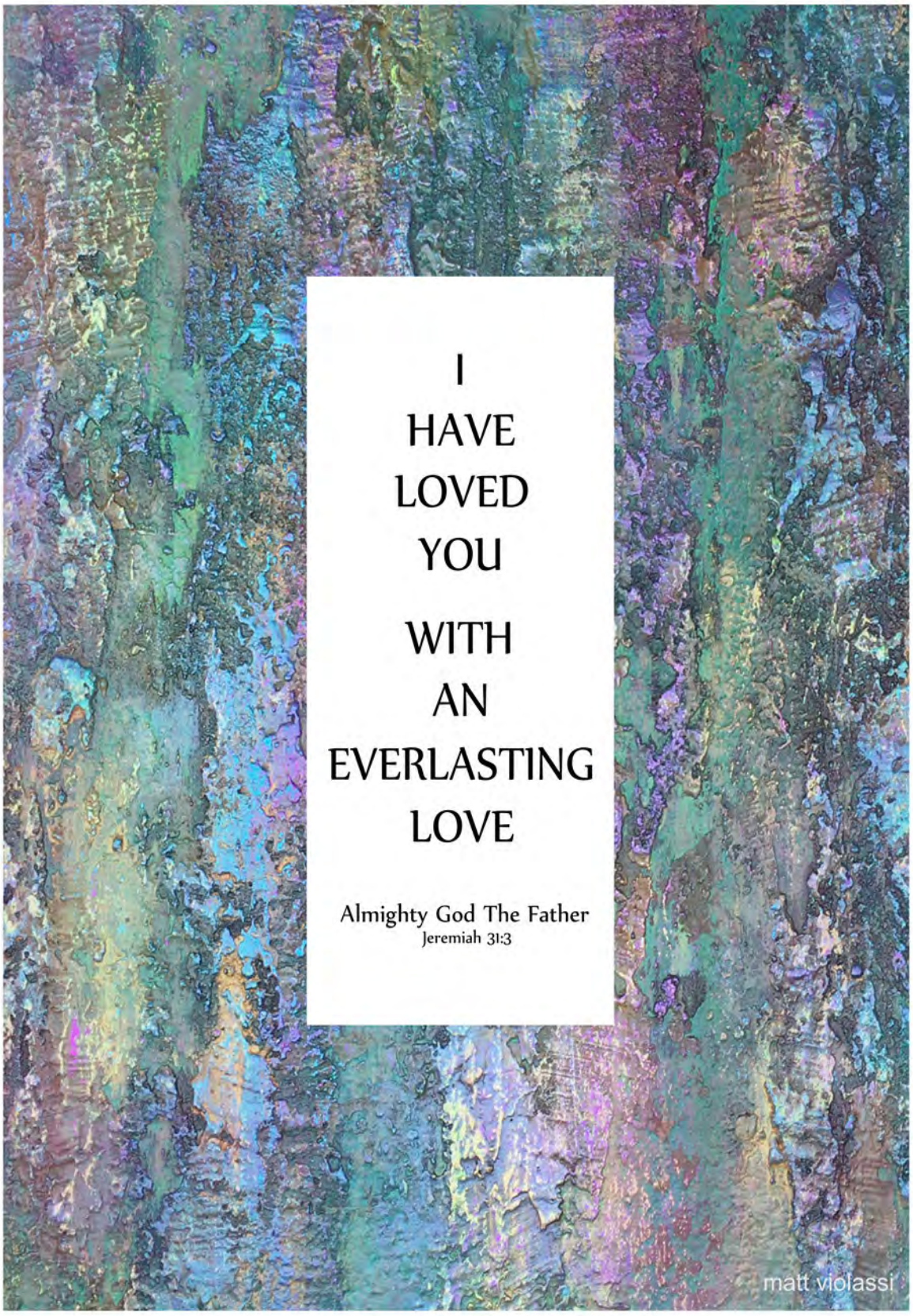

I AM
COMPASSIONATE
and
GRACIOUS,
SLOW TO ANGER
and
ABOUNDING
IN LOVE
and
TRUTH
God Explains God
Exodus 34:6
matt violassi

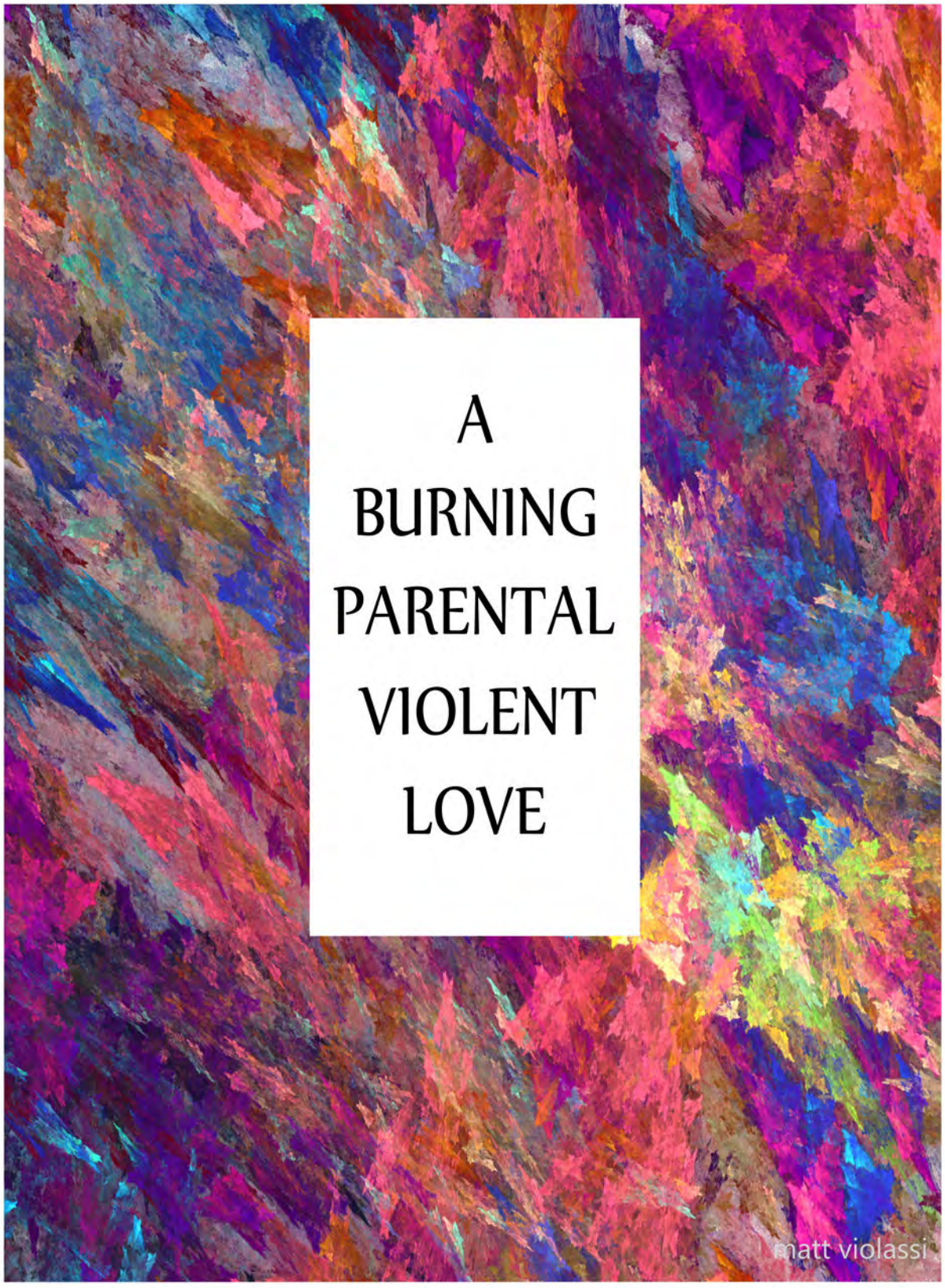

I
am
gentle
and
humble
in
heart
Lord Jesus Christ
Matthew 11:29
matt violassi

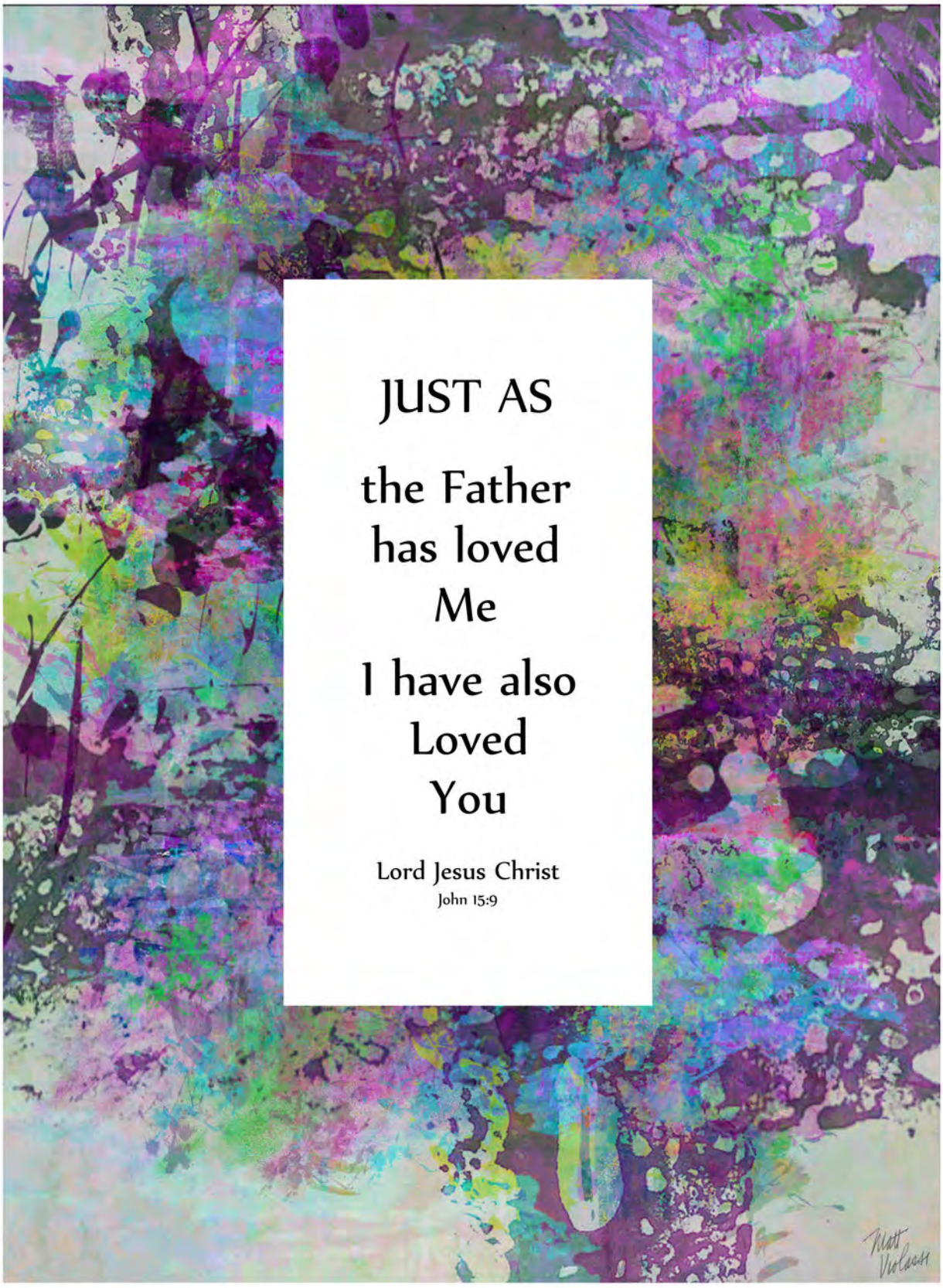

Full of
LOVE
JOY
PEACE
PATIENCE
KINDNESS
GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS
GENTLENESS
SELF CONTROL
Galatians 5:22
matt violassi

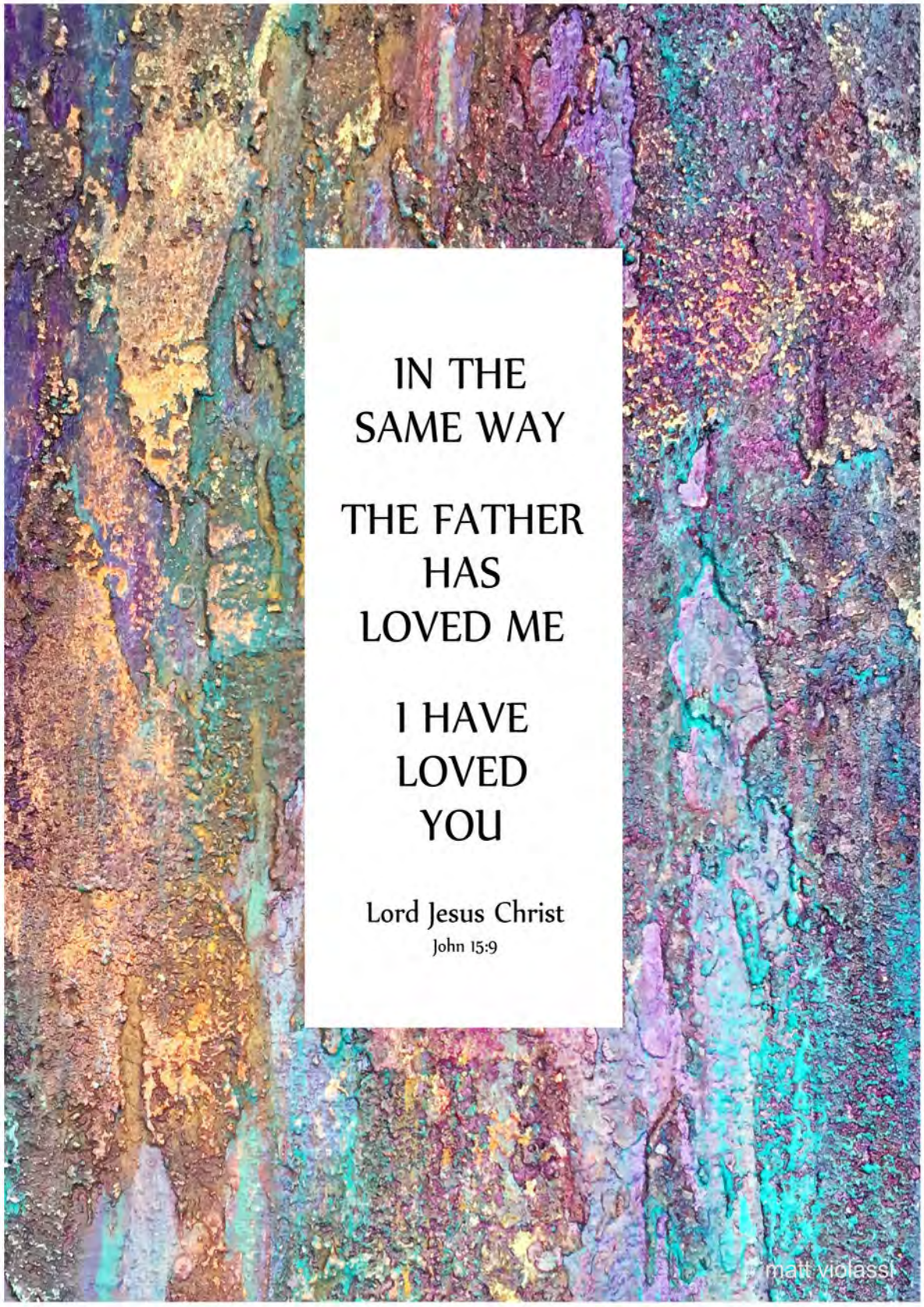

ALL KNOWING
ALL KNOWLEDGE
ALL WISDOM
ALL POWER
ALL AUTHORITY
matt violassi

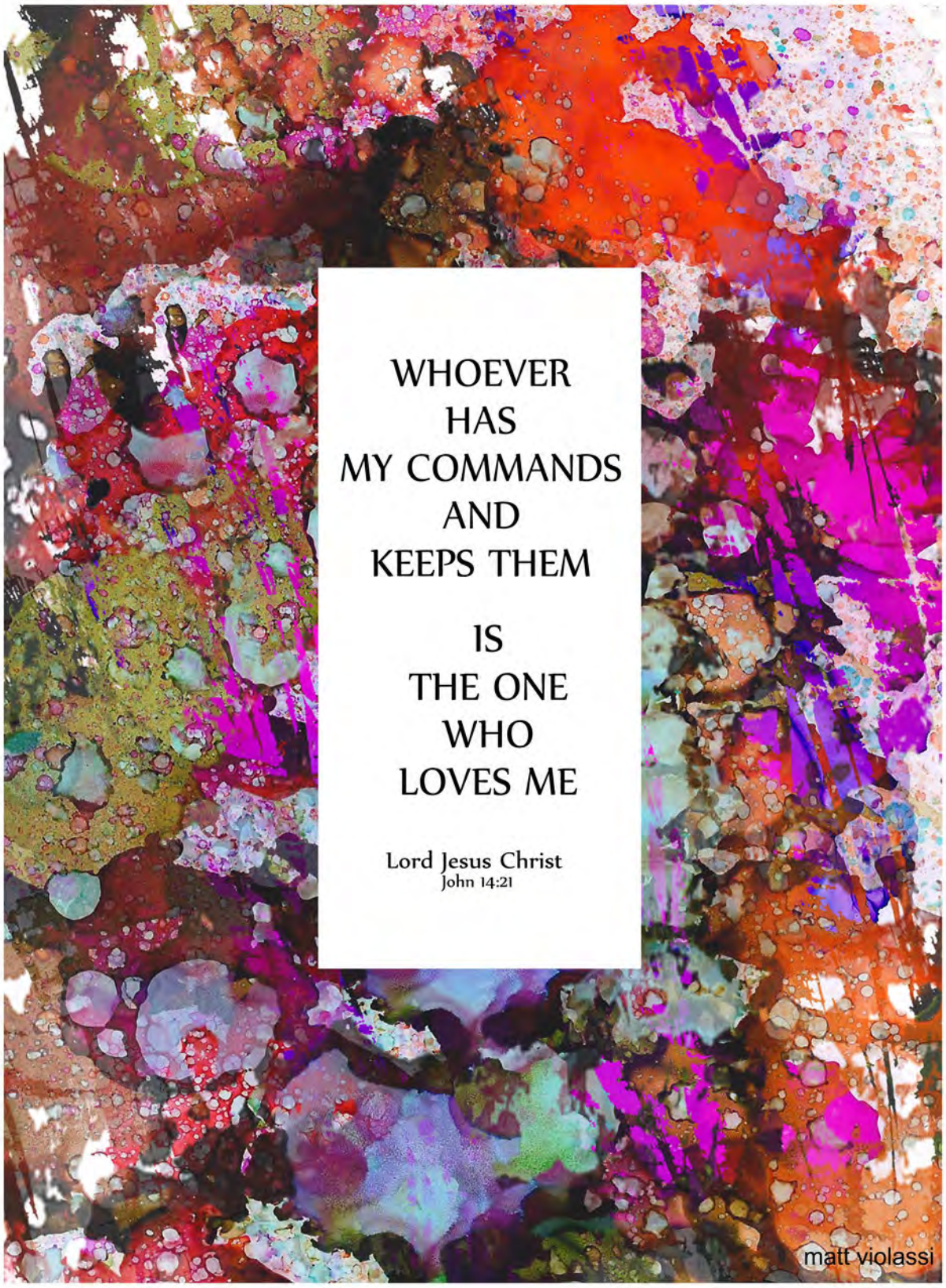

I
HAVE
LOVED
YOU
with
an
EVERLASTING
LOVE
Almighty God The Father
Jeremiah 31:3
matt violassi

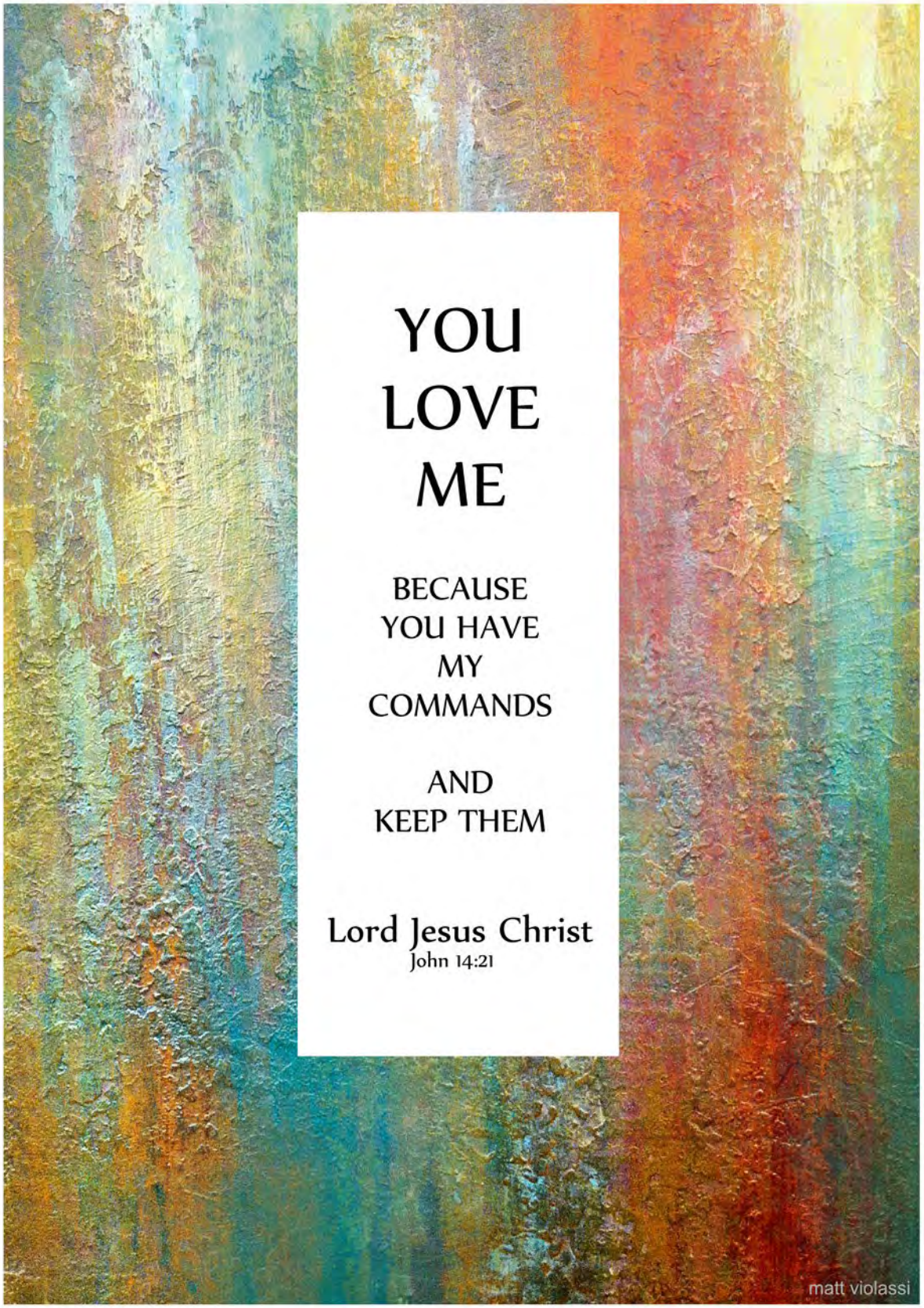

I
HAVE
LOVED
YOU
WITH
AN
EVERLASTING
LOVE
Almighty God The Father
Jeremiah 31:3
matt violassi


A
BURNING
PARENTAL
VIOLENT
LOVE
matt violassi

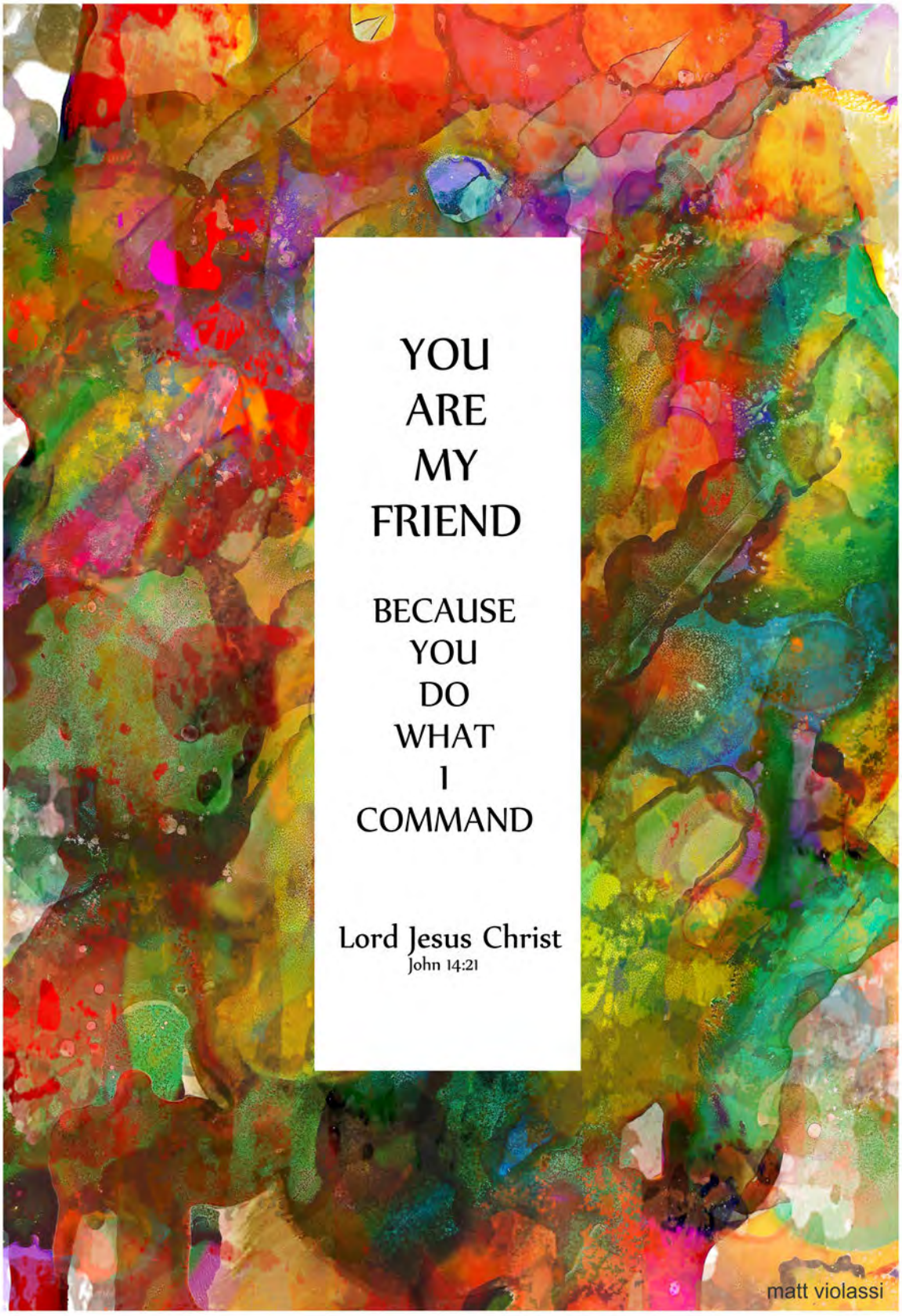

JUST AS
the Father
has loved
Me
I have also
Loved
You
Lord Jesus Christ
John 15:9


IN THE
SAME WAY
THE FATHER
HAS
LOVED ME
I HAVE
LOVED
YOU
Lord Jesus Christ
John 15:9
matt violassi

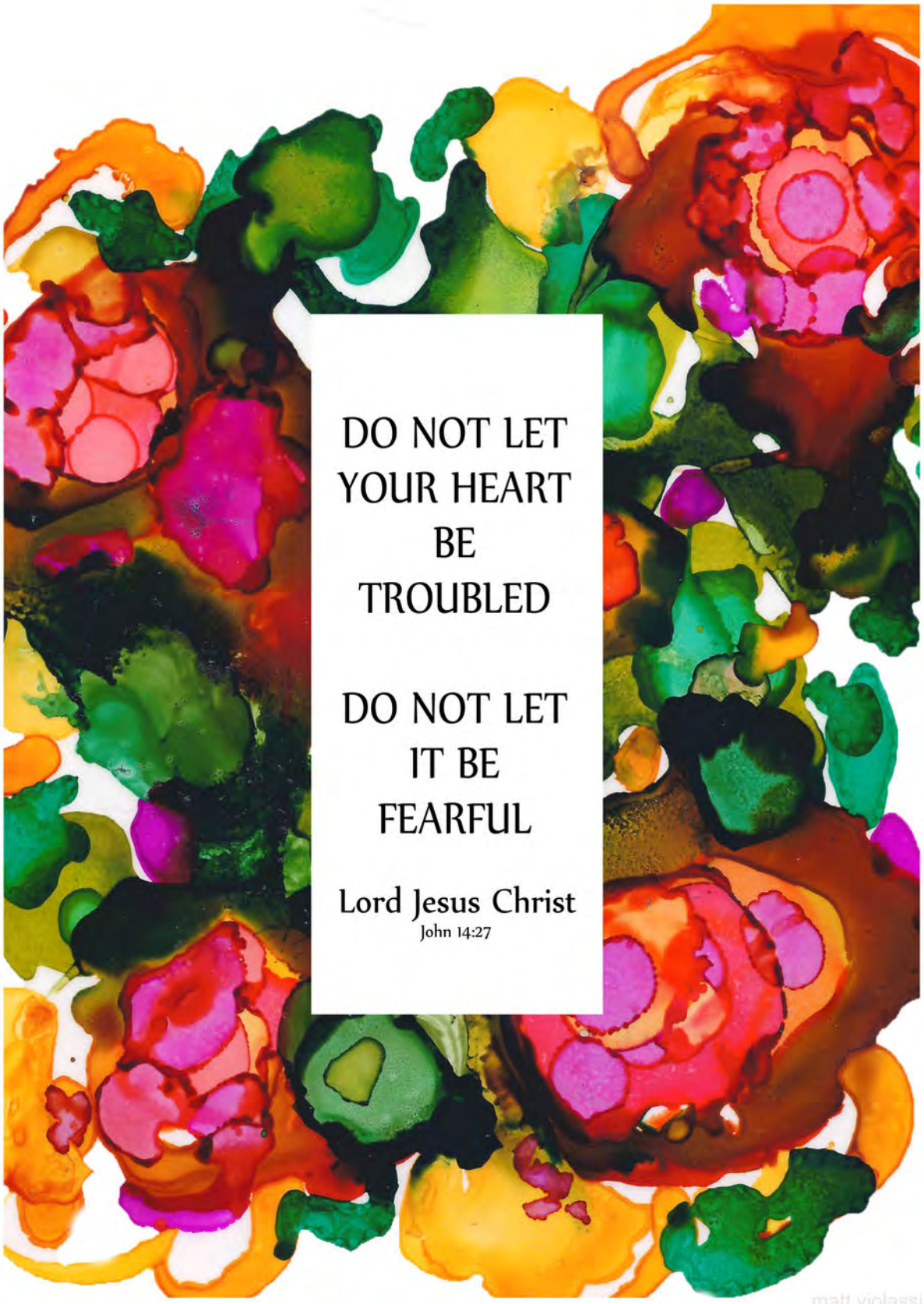

WHOEVER
HAS
MY COMMANDS
AND
KEEPS THEM
IS
THE ONE
WHO
LOVES ME
Lord Jesus Christ
John 14:21
matt violassi

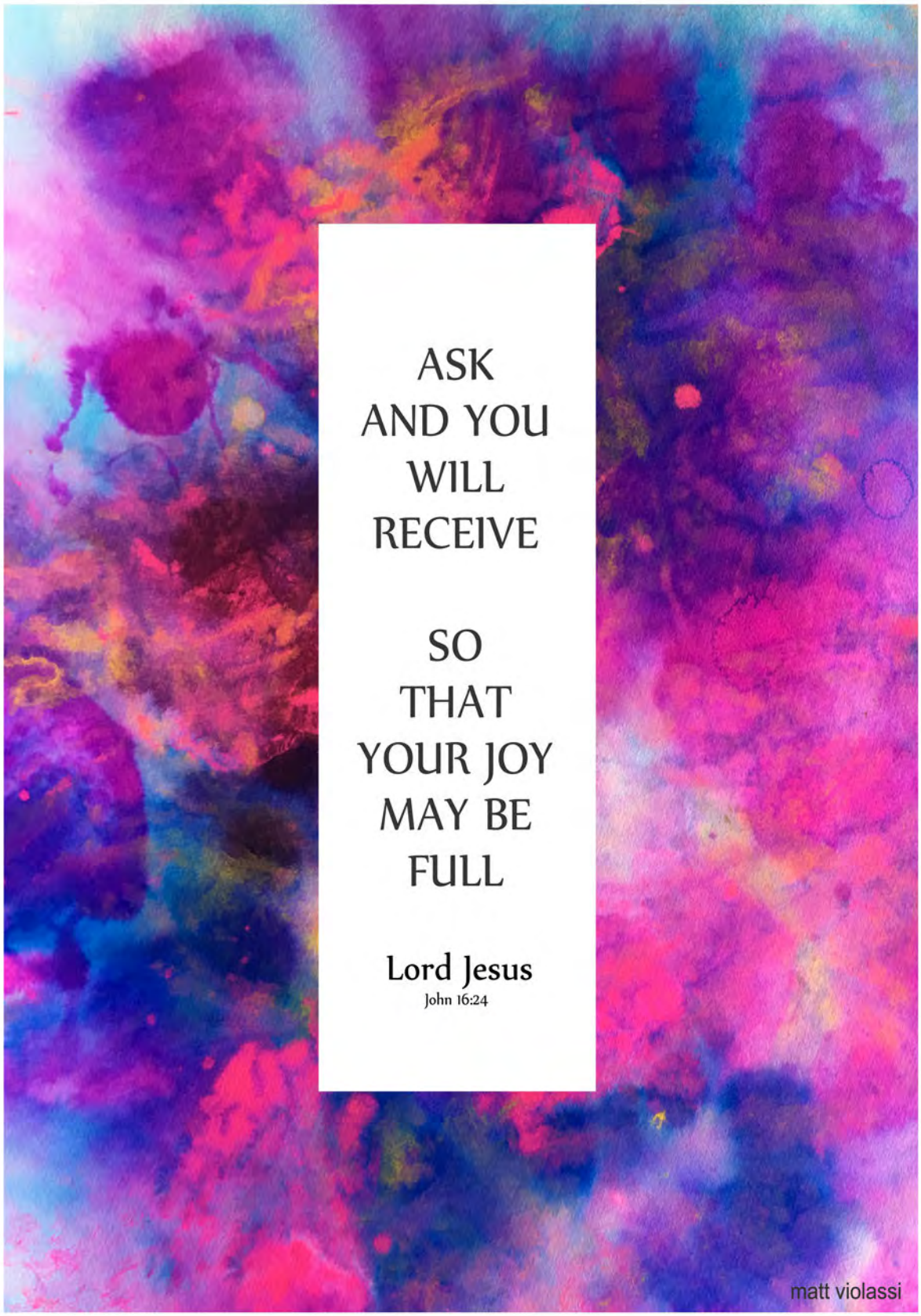

YOU
LOVE
ME
BECAUSE
YOU HAVE
MY
COMMANDS
AND
KEEP THEM
Lord Jesus Christ
John 14:21
matt violassi

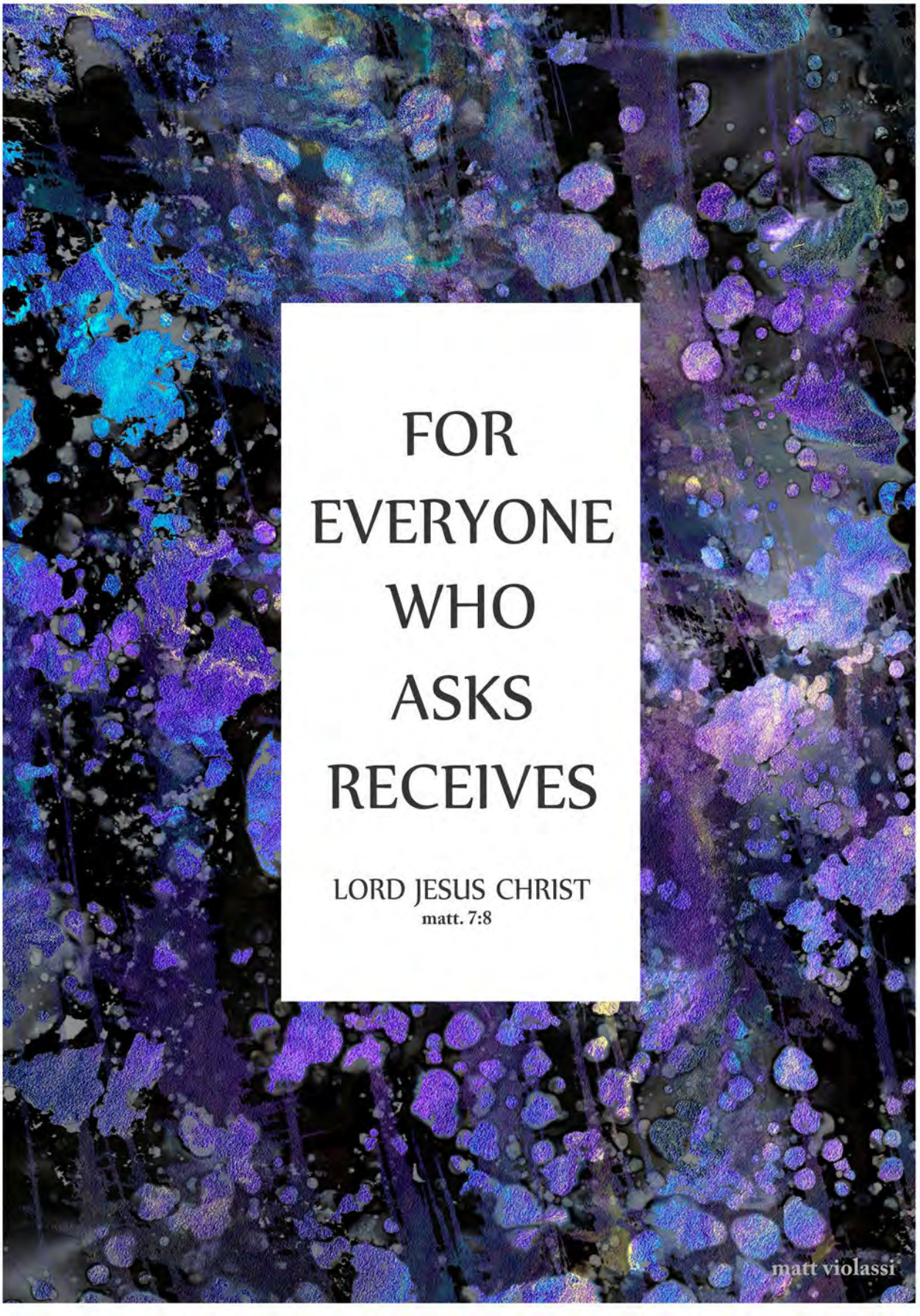

YOU
ARE
MY
FRIENDS
IF
YOU DO
WHAT
I
COMMAND
Lord Jesus Christ
John 14:21
matt violassi


YOU
ARE
MY
FRIEND
BECAUSE
YOU
DO
WHAT
I
COMMAND
Lord Jesus Christ
John 14:21
matt violassi


Do not let
your heart
be
troubled
Do not let
it be
fearful
Lord Jesus Christ
John 14:27

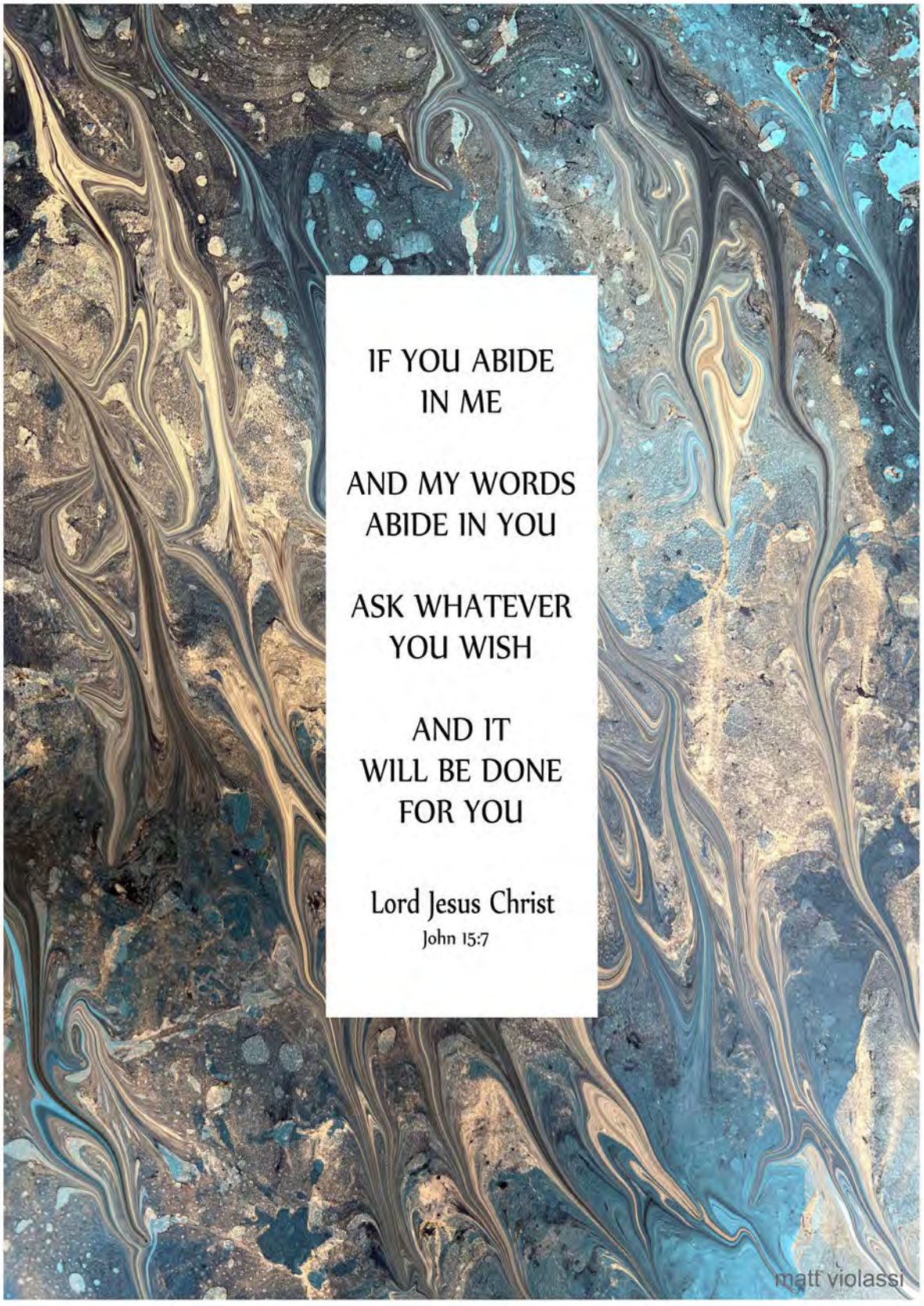

DO NOT LET
YOUR HEART
BE
TROUBLED
DO NOT LET
IT BE
FEARFUL
Lord Jesus Christ
John 14:27
matt violassi

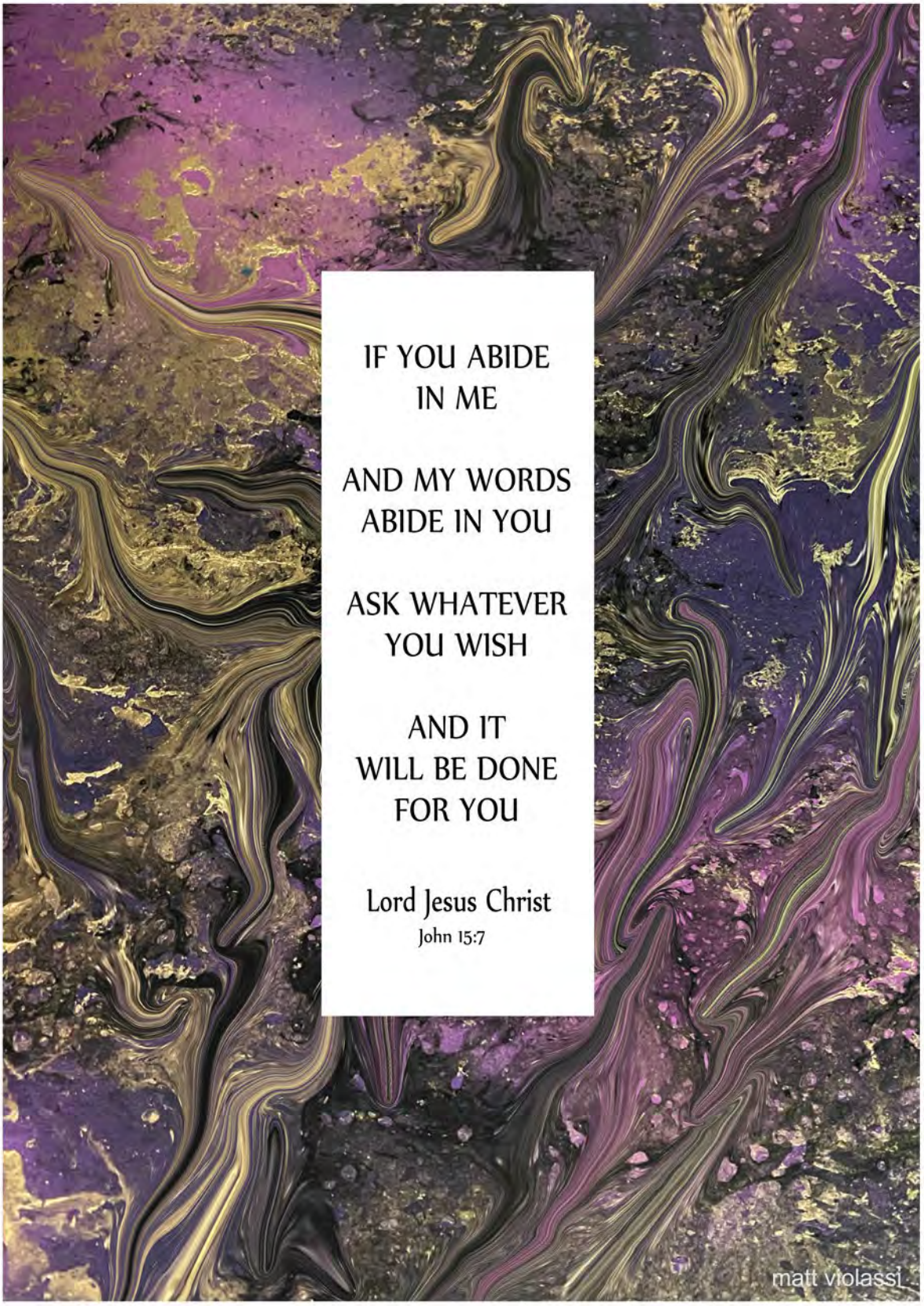

ASK
AND YOU
WILL
RECEIVE
SO
THAT
YOUR JOY
MAY BE
FULL
Lord Jesus
John 16:24
matt violassi

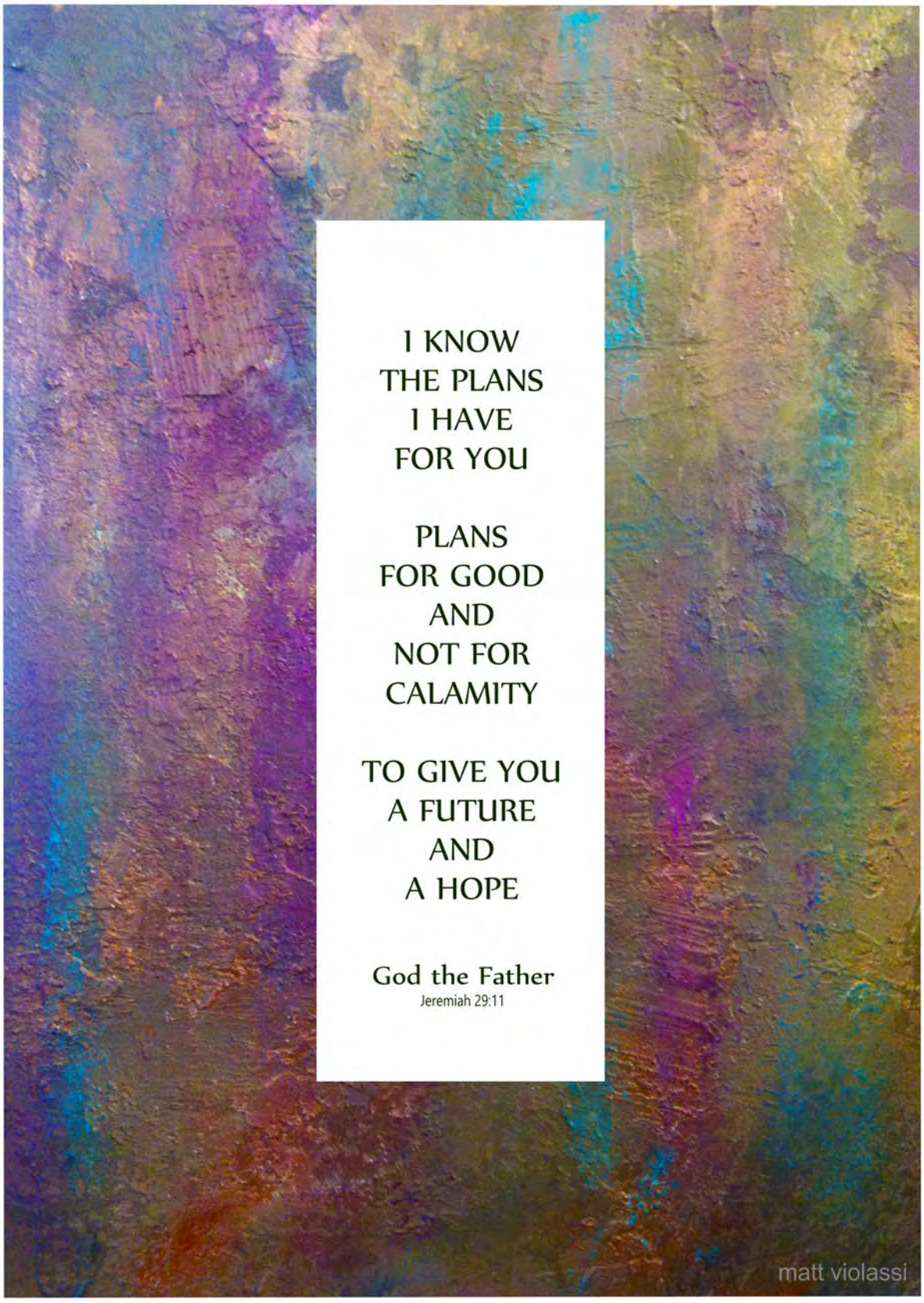

FOR
EVERYONE
WHO
ASKS
RECEIVES
LORD JESUS CHRIST
matt. 7:8
matt violassi

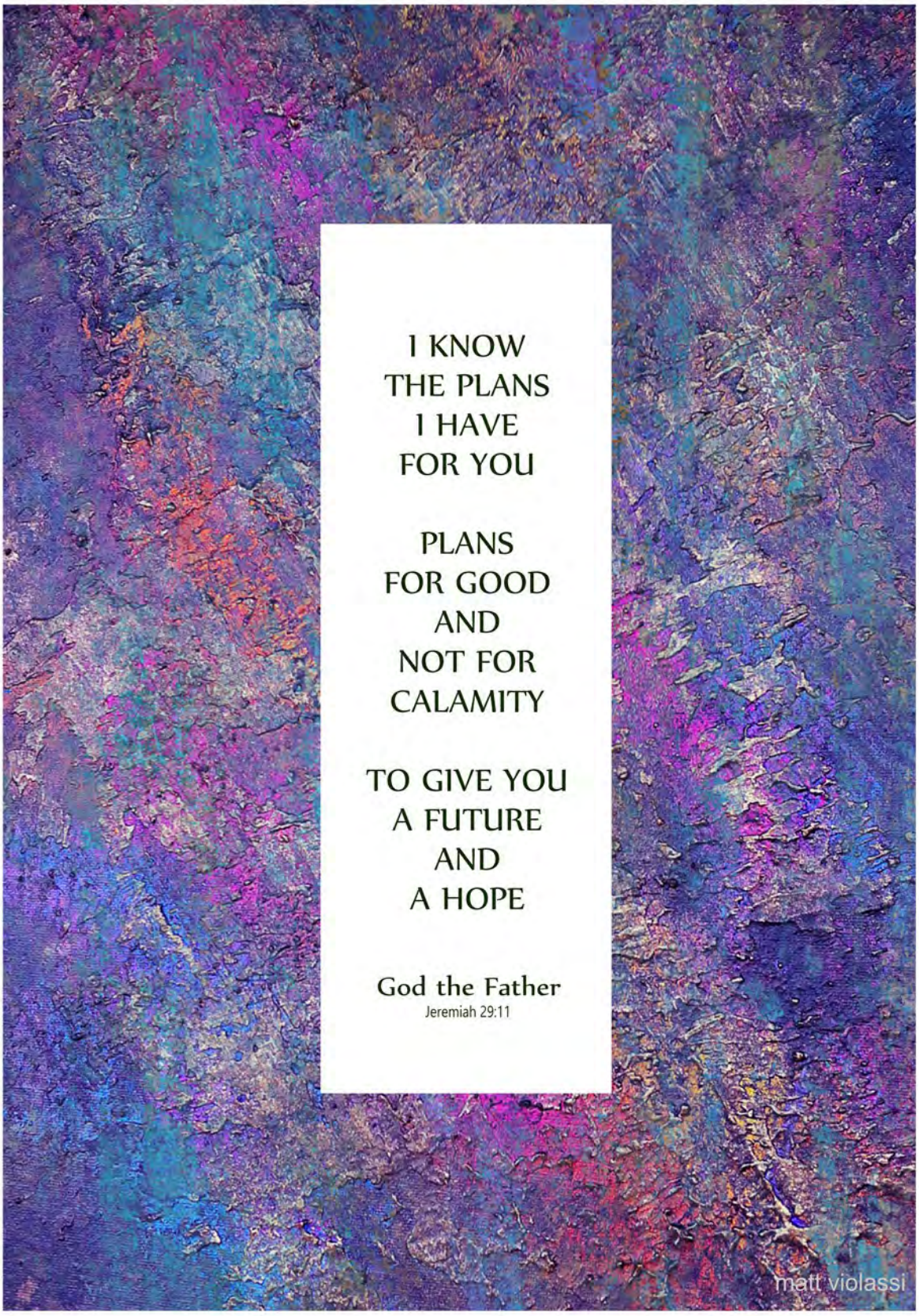

ASK
AND YOU
WILL
RECEIVE
SO
THAT
YOUR JOY
MAY BE
FULL
Lord Jesus
John 16:24
matt violassi

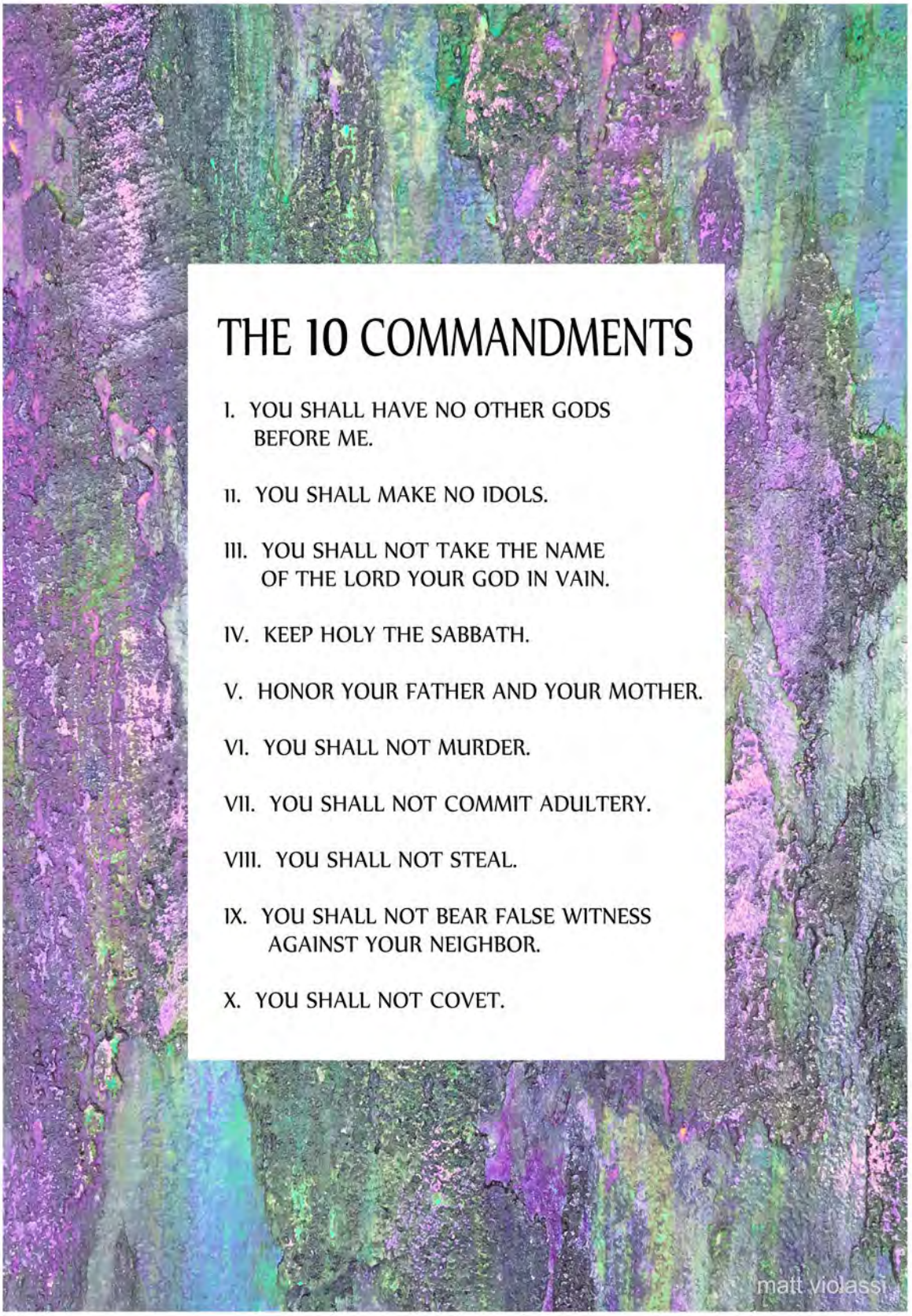

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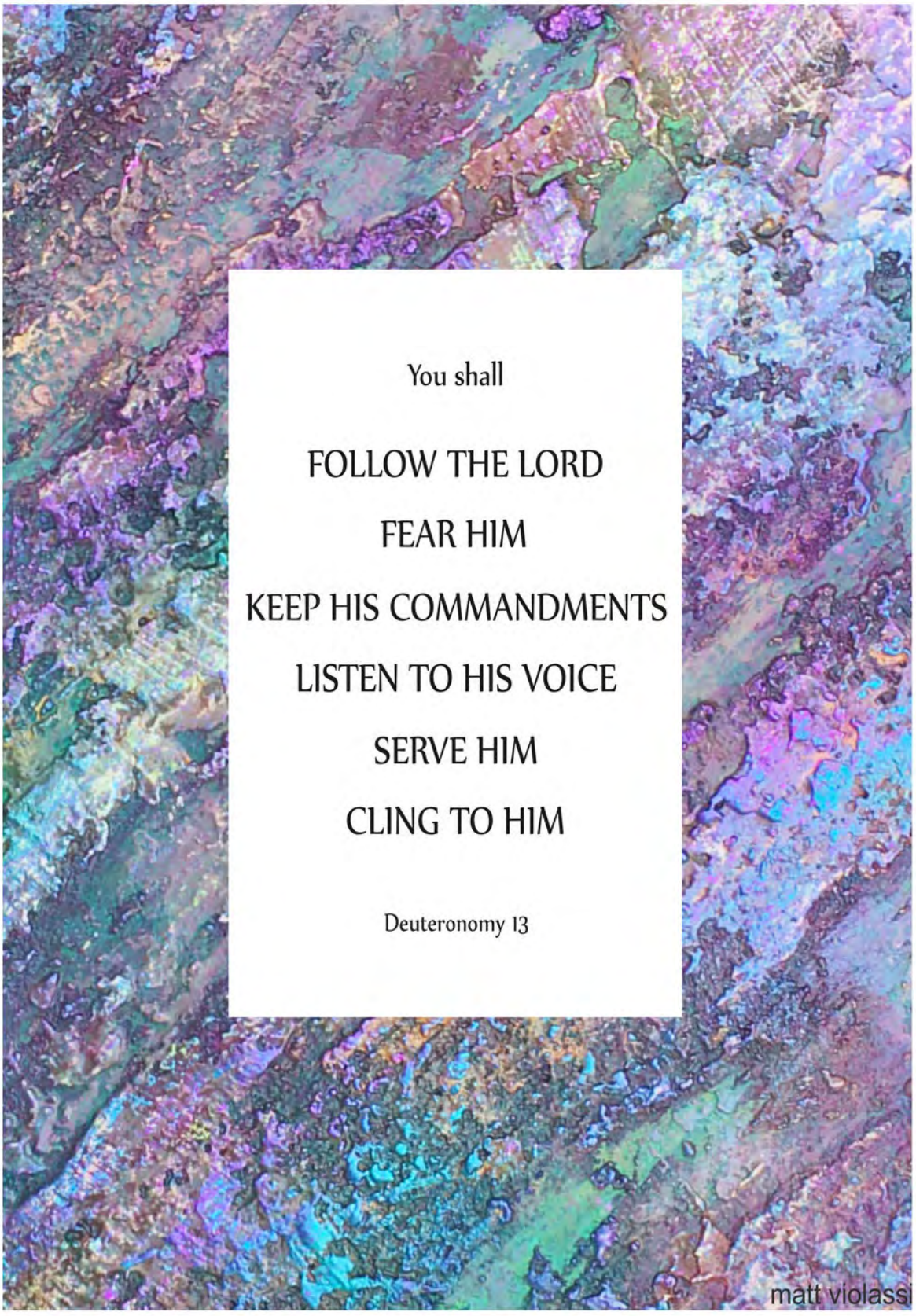

IF YOU ABIDE
IN ME
AND MY WORDS
ABIDE IN YOU
ASK WHATEVER
YOU WISH
AND IT
WILL BE DONE
FOR YOU
Lord Jesus Christ
John 15:7
matt violassi

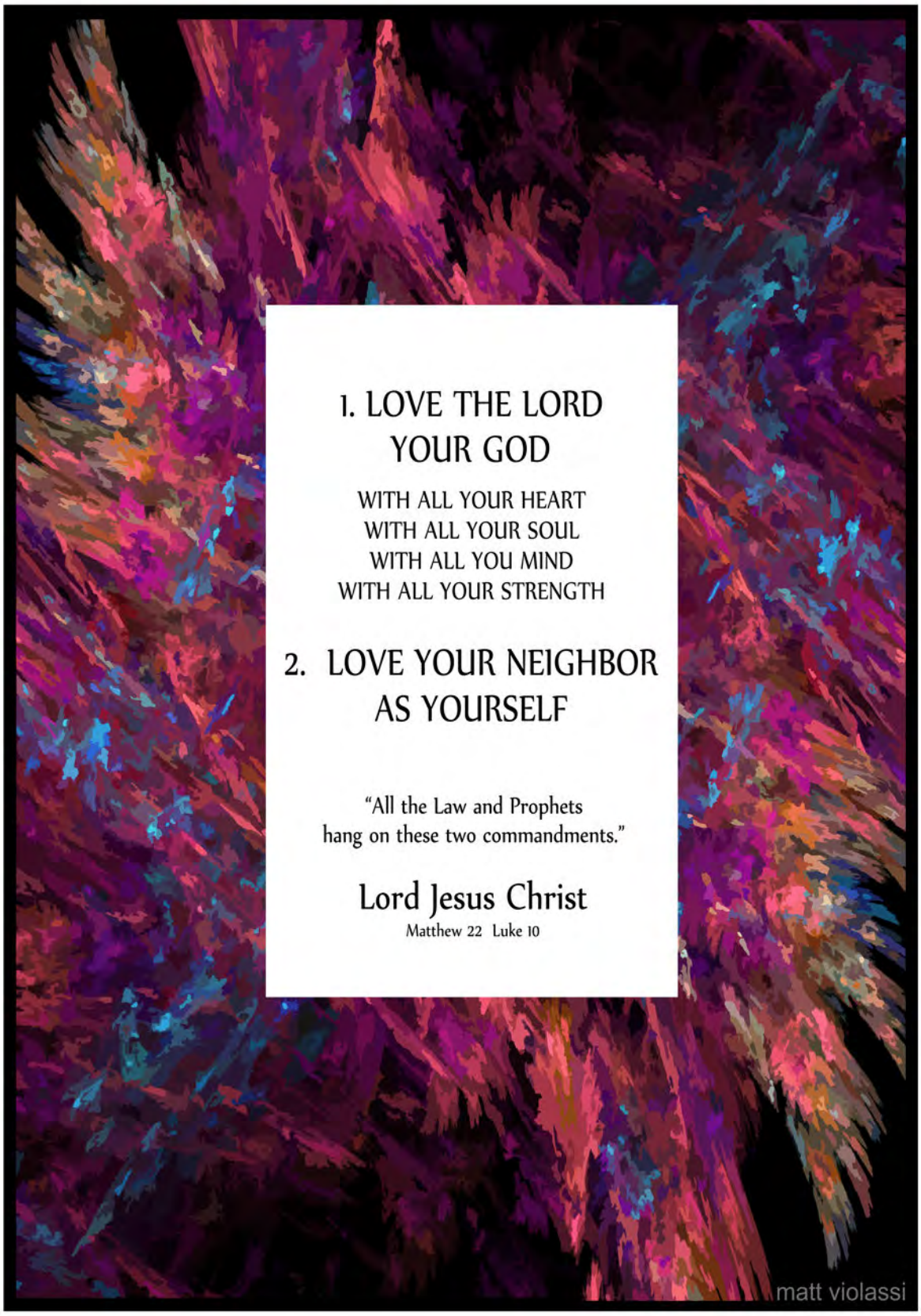

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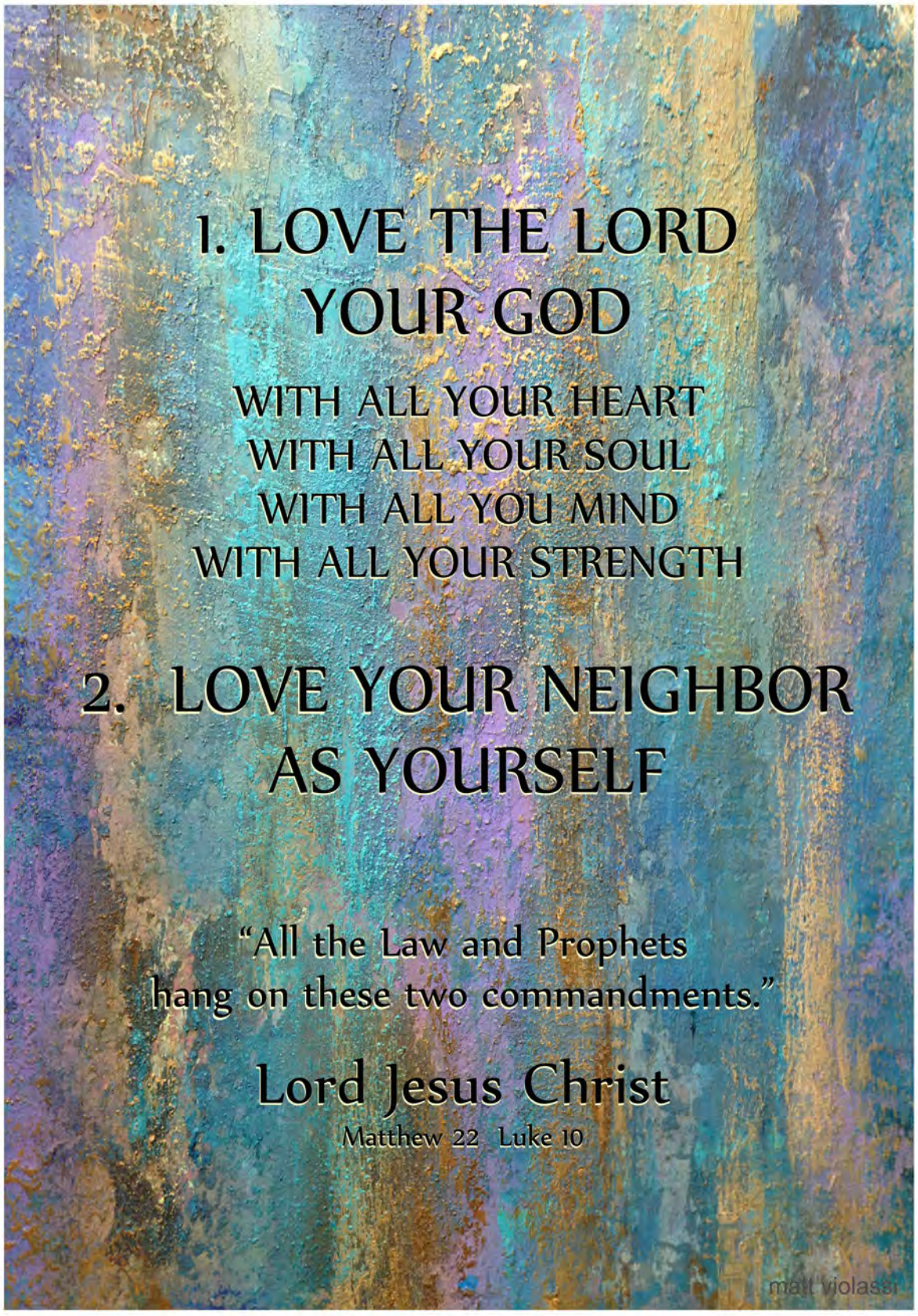

I KNOW
THE PLANS
I HAVE
FOR YOU
PLANS
FOR GOOD
AND
NOT FOR
CALAMITY
TO GIVE YOU
A FUTURE
AND
A HOPE
God the Father
Jeremiah 29:11
matt violassi


I KNOW
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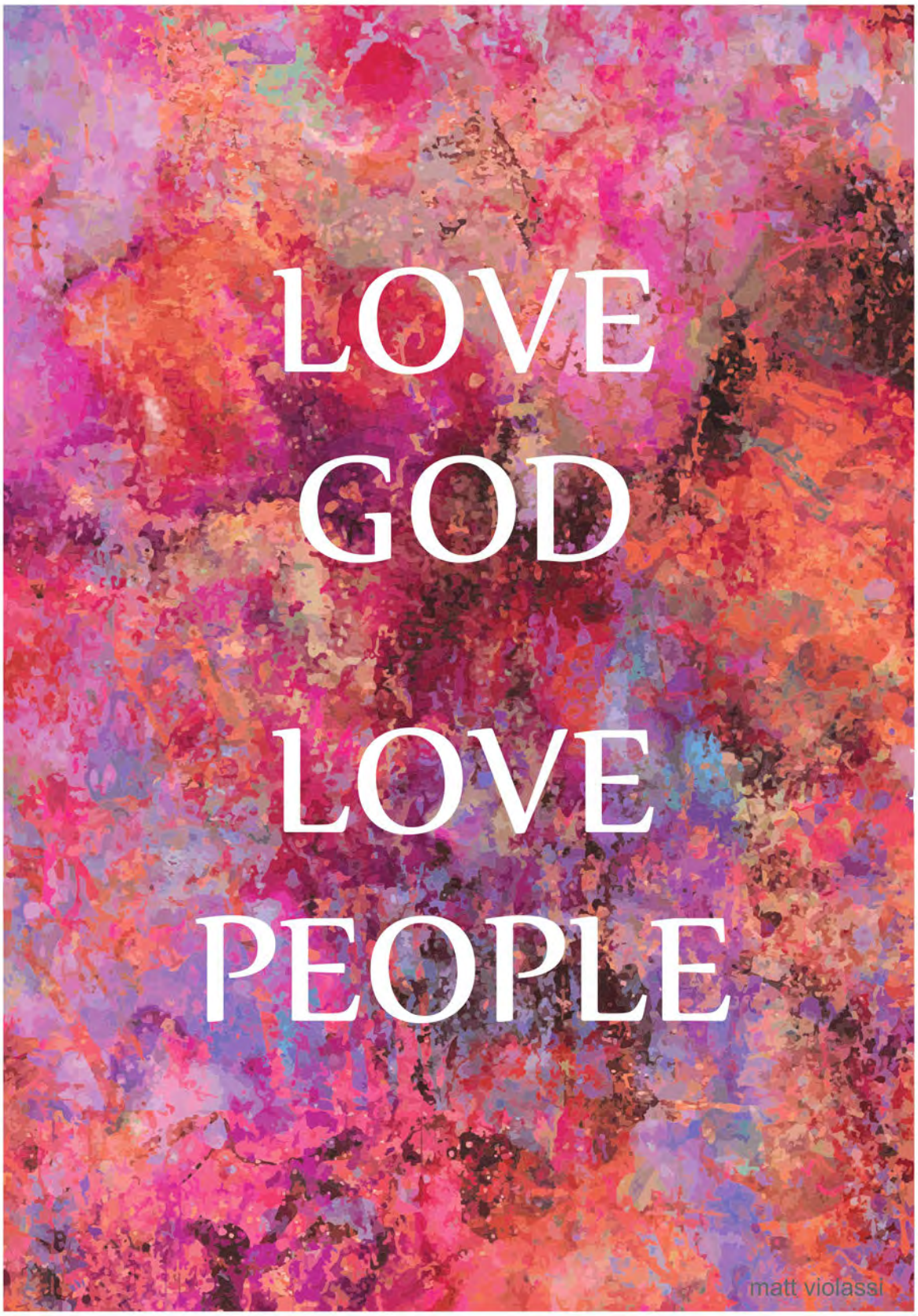

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS
I. YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.
II. YOU SHALL MAKE NO IDOLS.
III. YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD IN VAIN.
IV. KEEP HOLY THE SABBATH.
V. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER.
VI. YOU SHALL NOT MURDER.
VII. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.
VIII. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.
IX. YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR.
X. YOU SHALL NOT COVET.
matt violassi


You shall
FOLLOW THE LORD
FEAR HIM
KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS
LISTEN TO HIS VOICE
SERVE HIM
CLING TO HIM
Deuteronomy 13
matt violassi


1. LOVE THE LORD
YOUR GOD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART
WITH ALL YOUR SOUL
WITH ALL YOU MIND
WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH
2. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
AS YOURSELF
"All the Law and Prophets
hang on these two commandments."
Lord Jesus Christ
Matthew 22 Luke 10
matt violassi

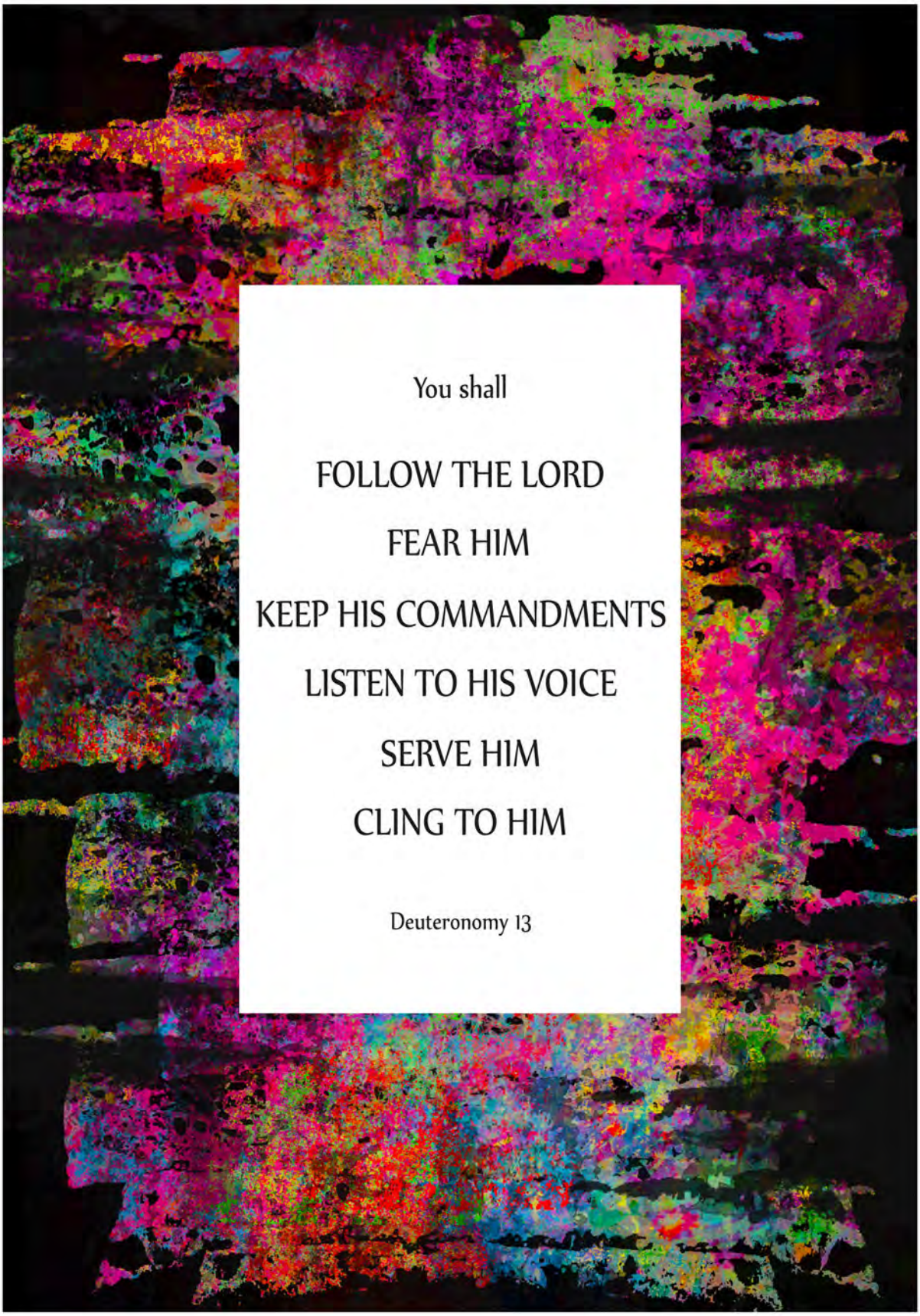

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Lord Jesus Christ
Matthew 22 Luke 10
matt violassi


LOVE
GOD
LOVE
PEOPLE
matt violassi

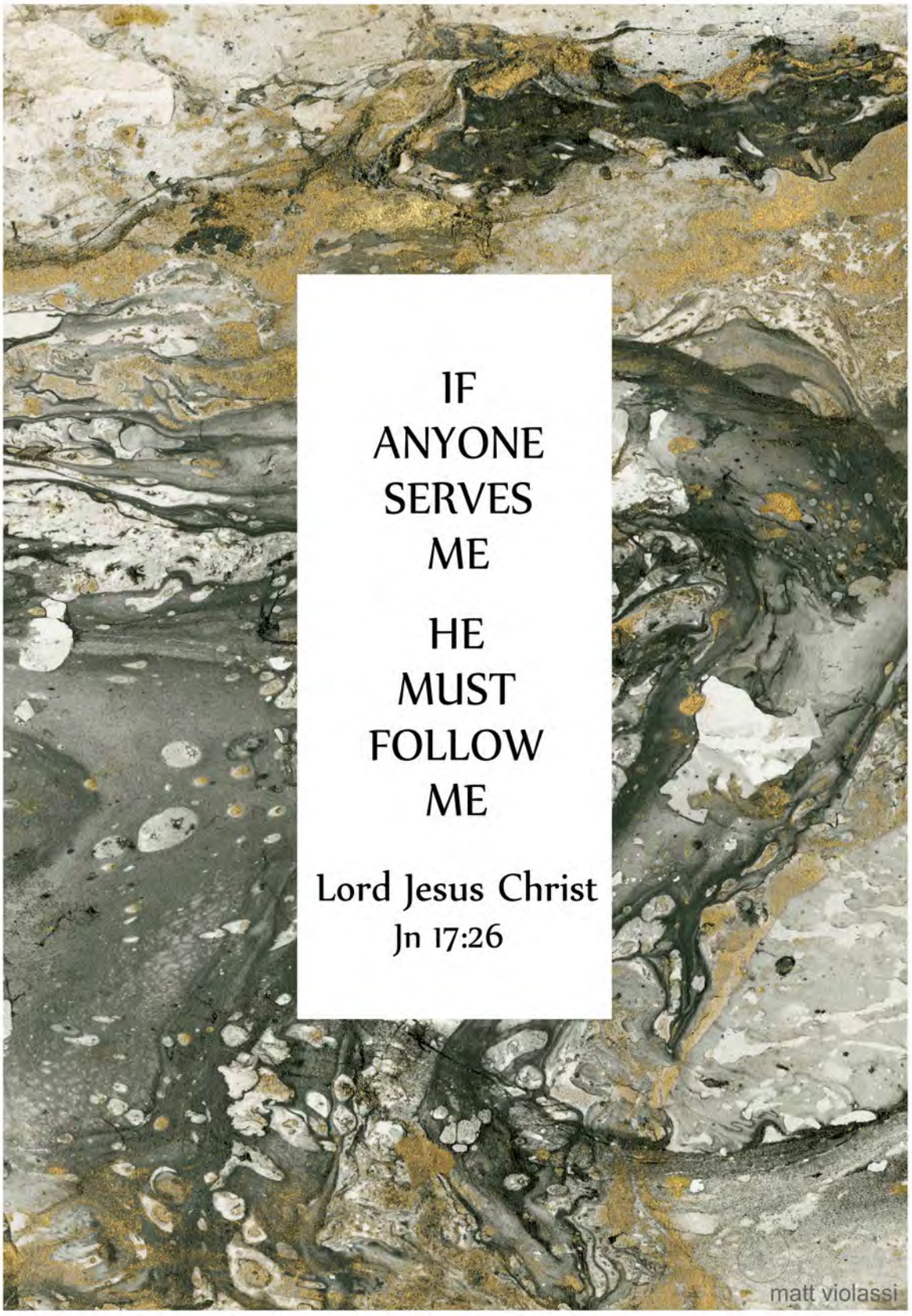

LOVE
GOD
LOVE
PEOPLE
matt violassi

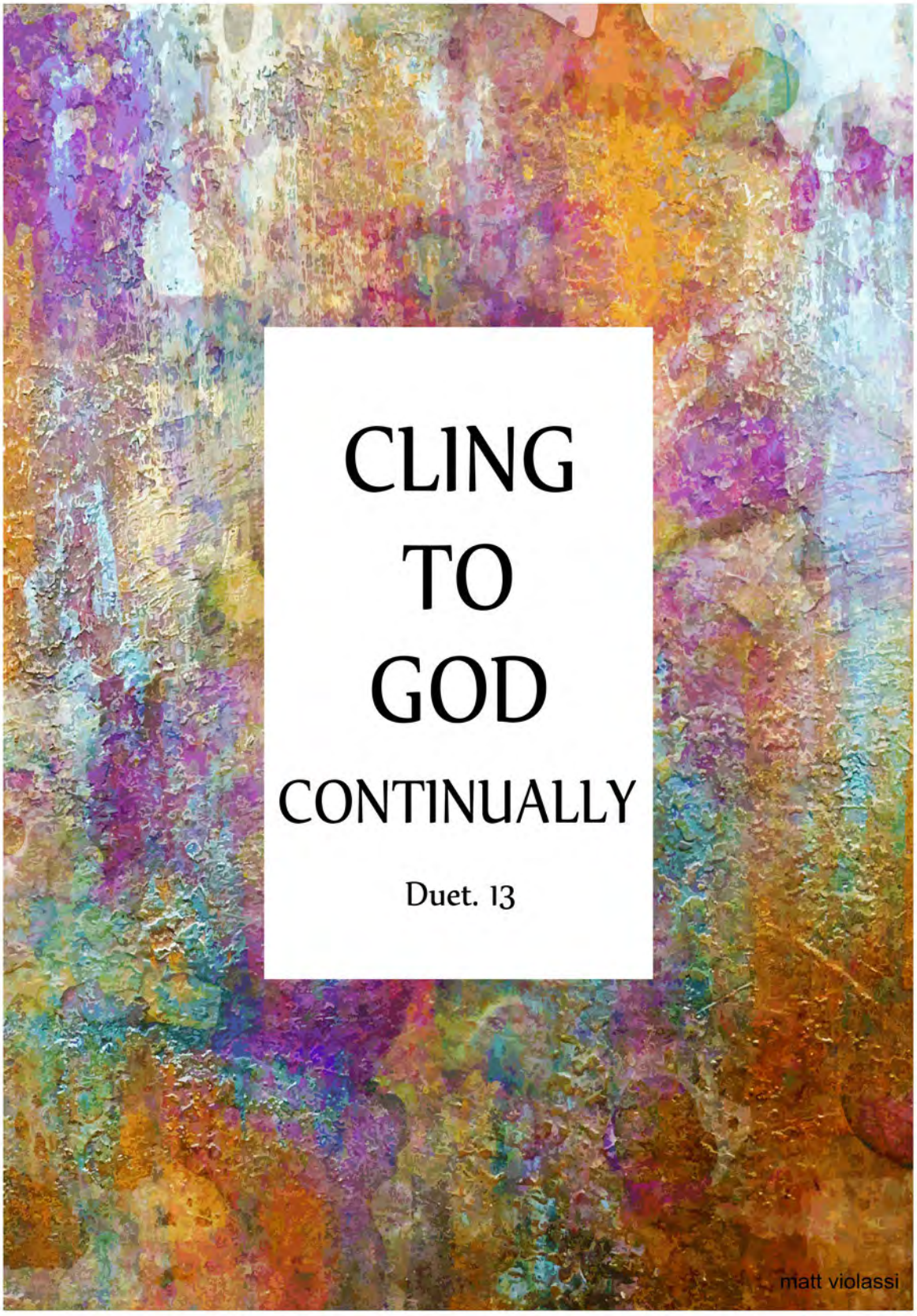

LOVE
GOD
LOVE
PEOPLE
matt violassi

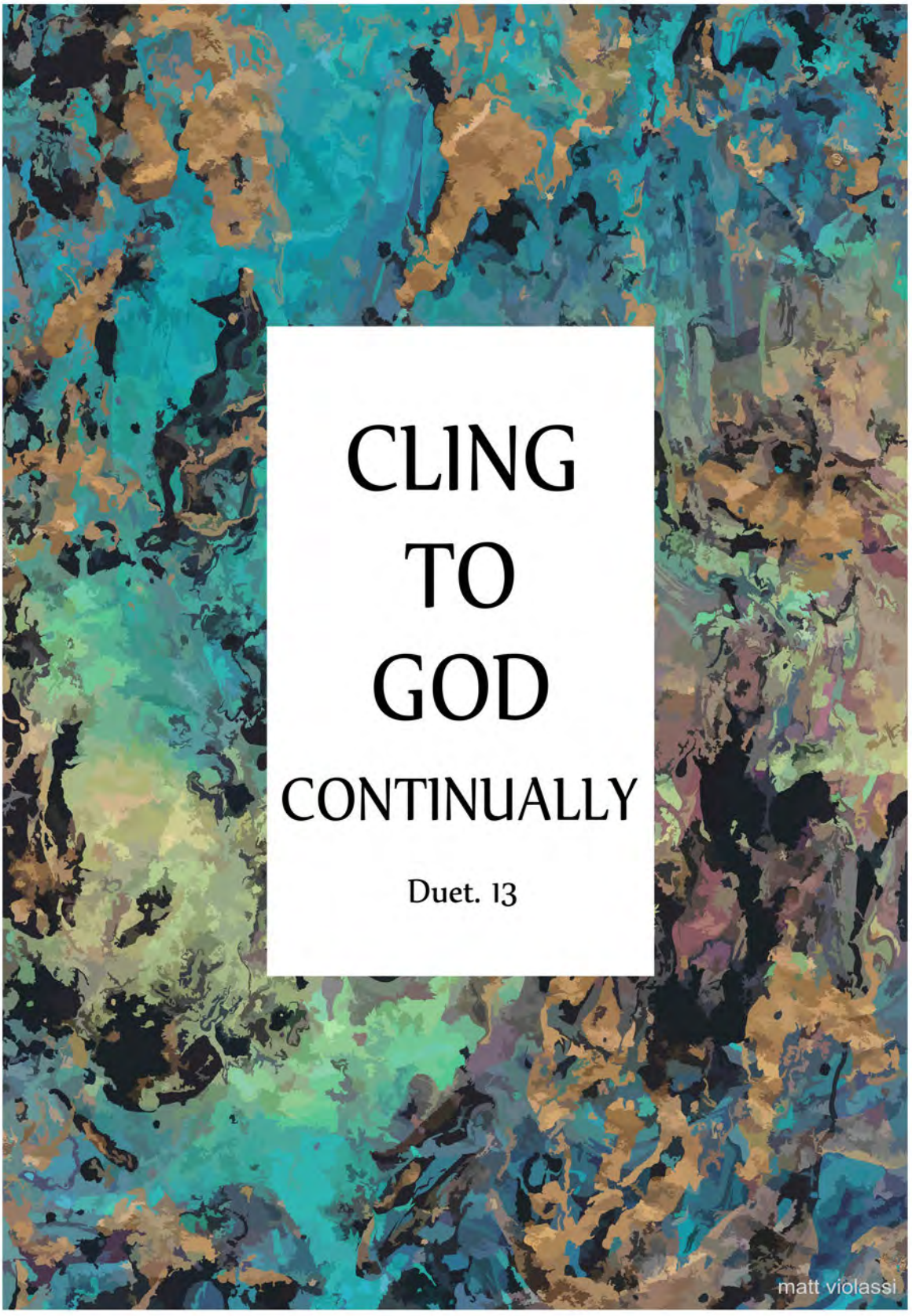

A NEW
COMMANDMENT
I GIVE YOU
LOVE ONE ANOTHER
IN THE WAY
I HAVE
LOVED YOU
LORD JESUS CHRIST
John 13:34
matt violassi

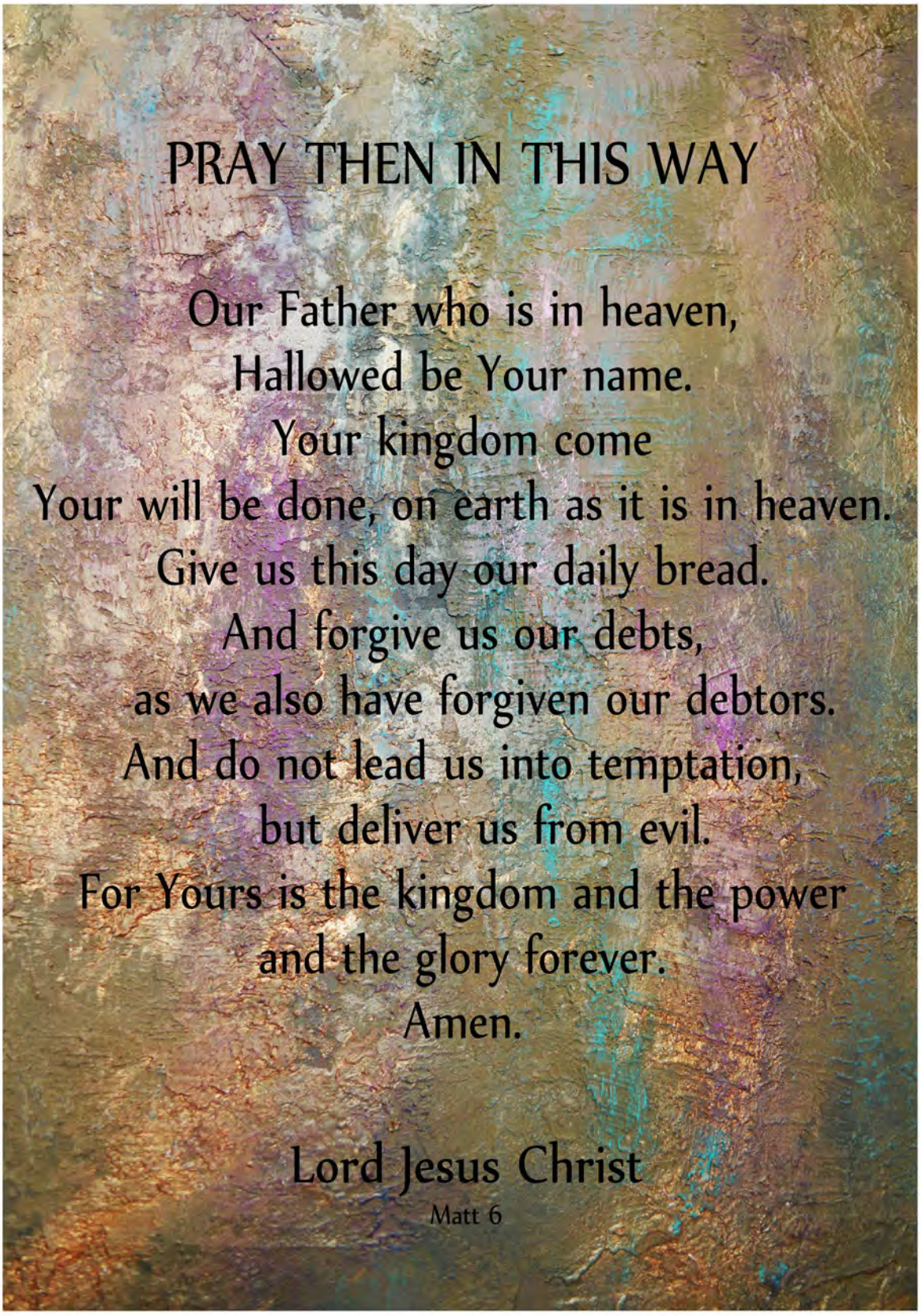

You shall
FOLLOW THE LORD
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SERVE HIM
CLING TO HIM
Deuteronomy 13
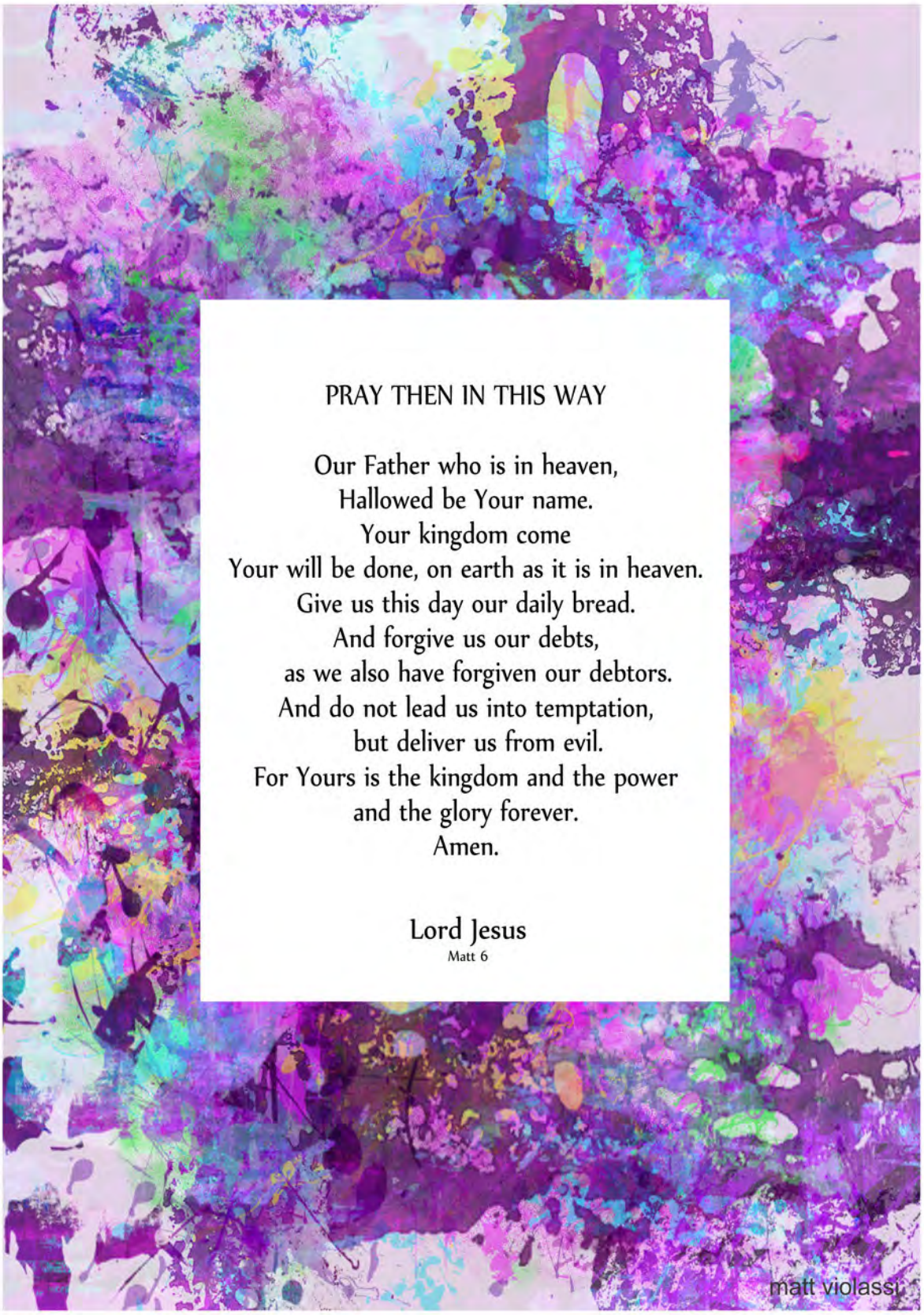

YOU SHALL
WORSHIP
THE LORD YOUR GOD
AND SERVE HIM
ONLY
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 4:8
matt violassi

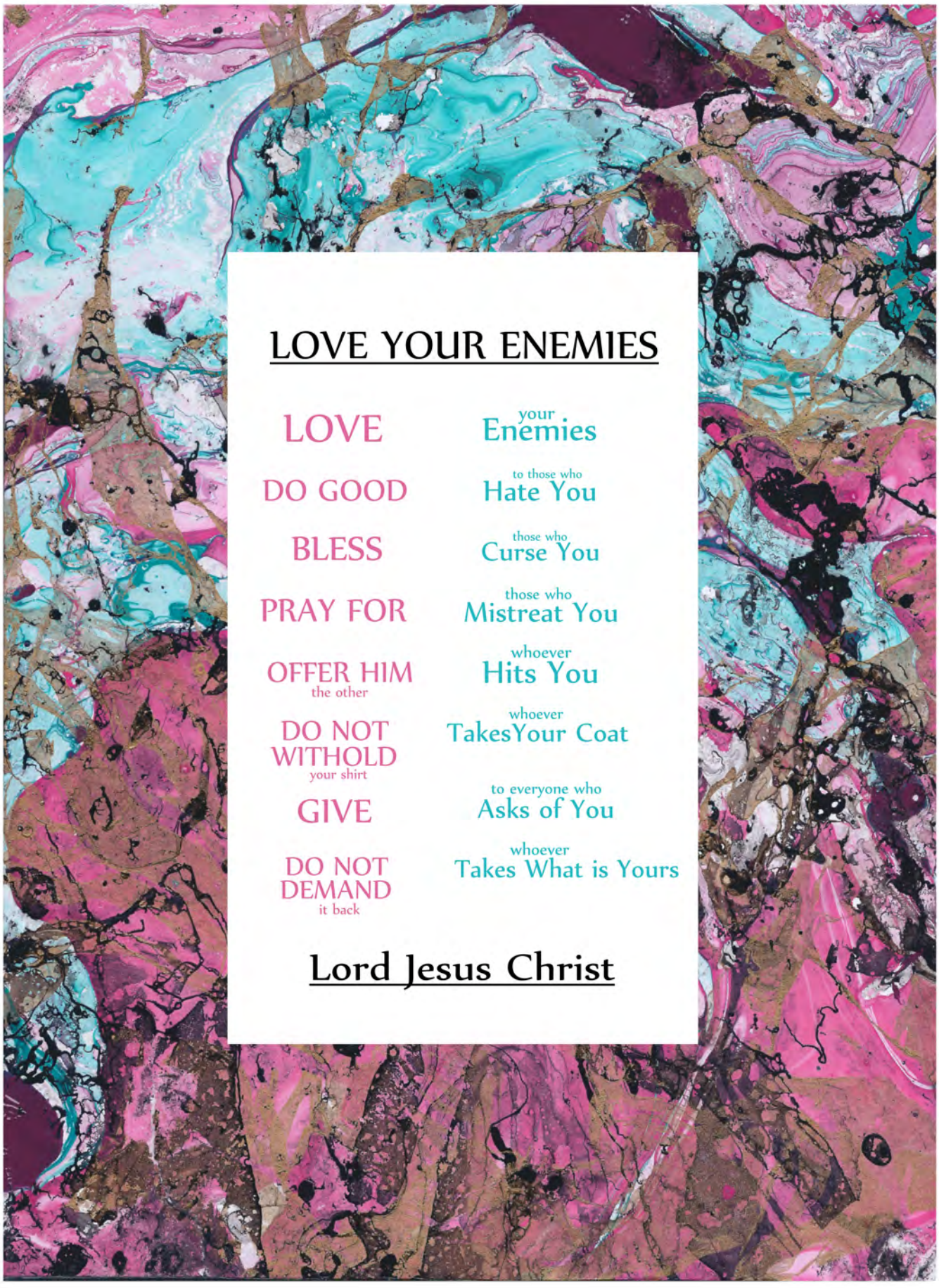

IF
ANYONE
SERVES
ME
HE
MUST
FOLLOW
ME
Lord Jesus Christ
Jn 17:26
matt violassi

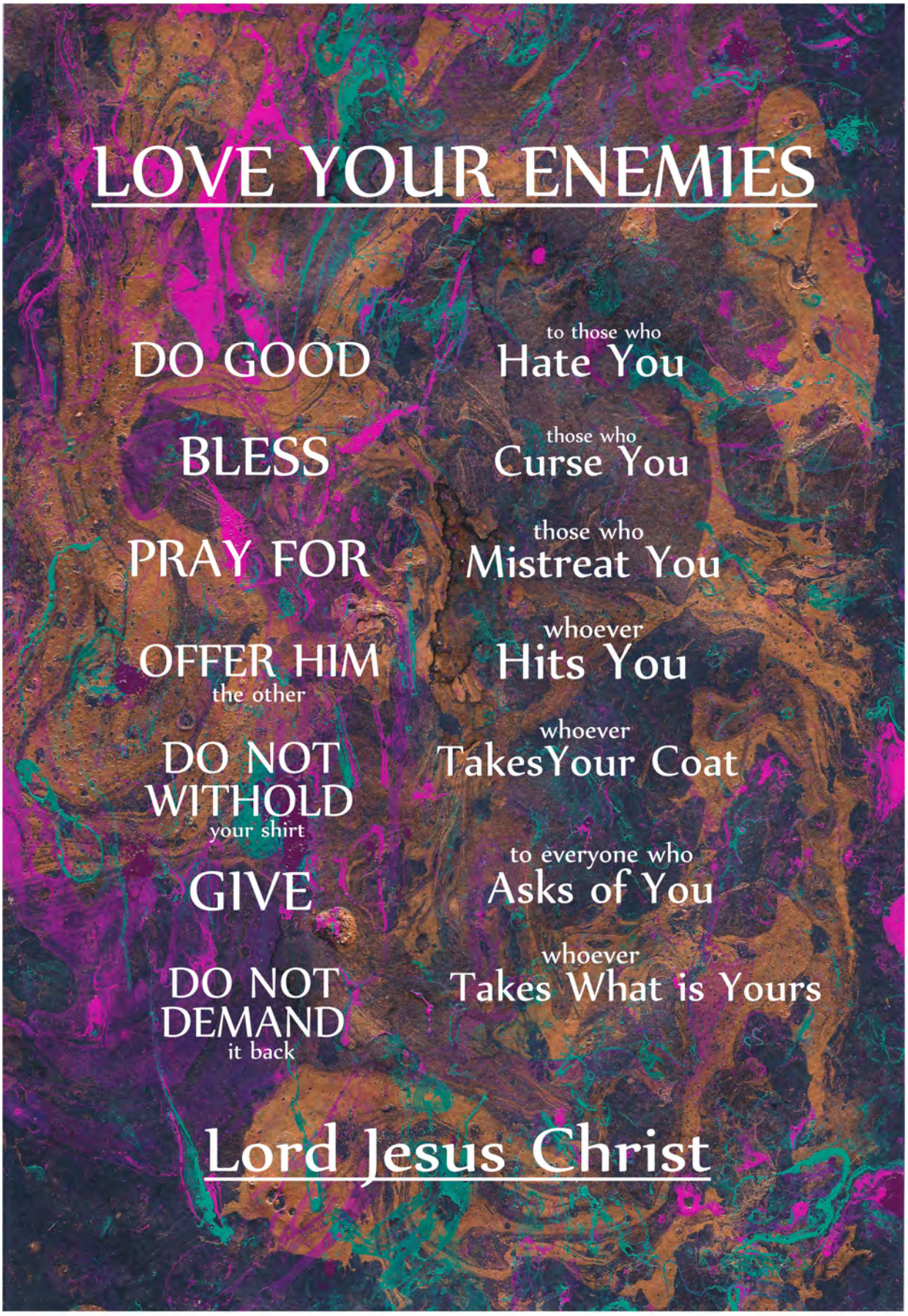

CLING
TO
GOD
CONTINUALLY
Duet. 13
matt violassi

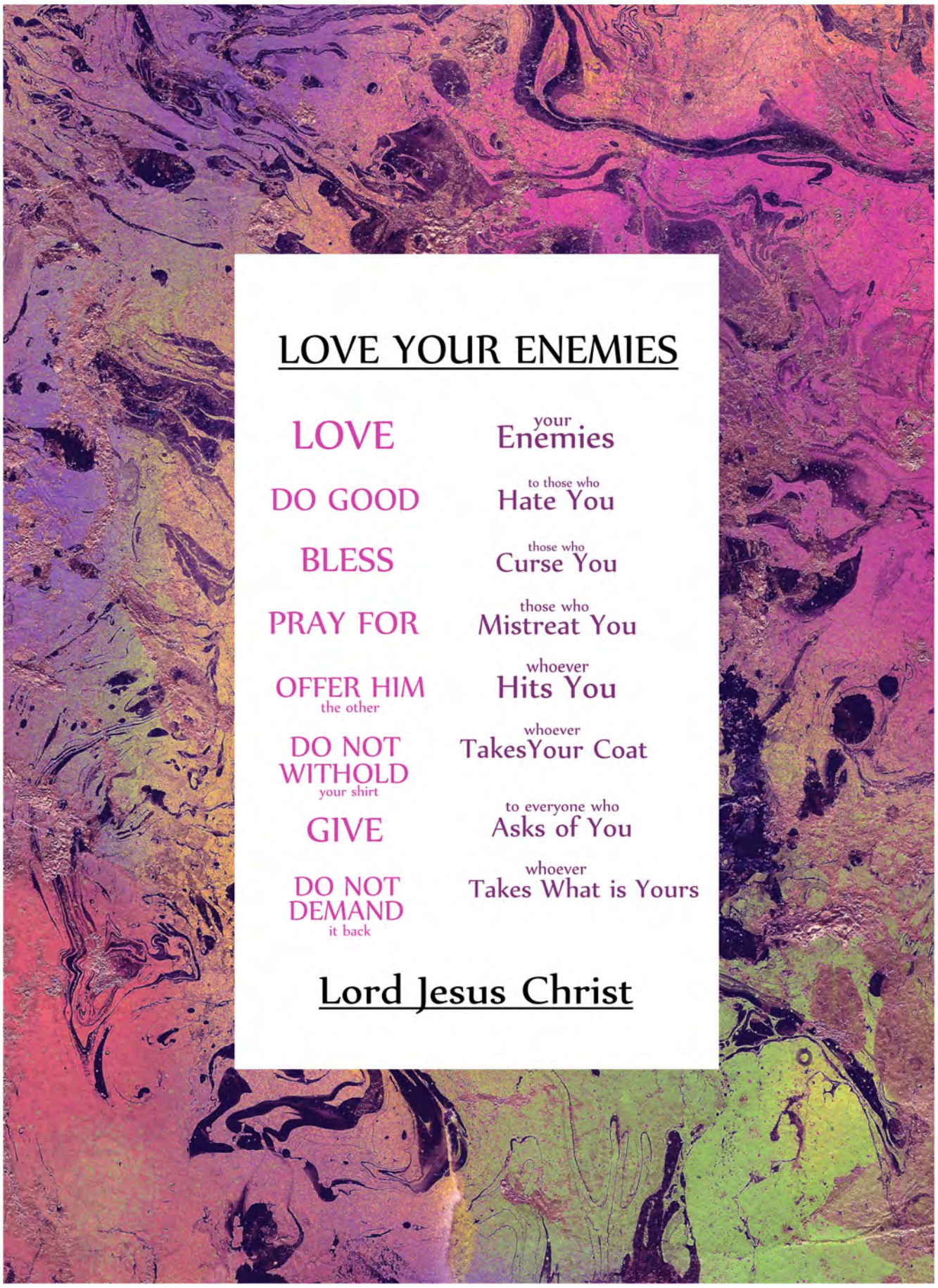

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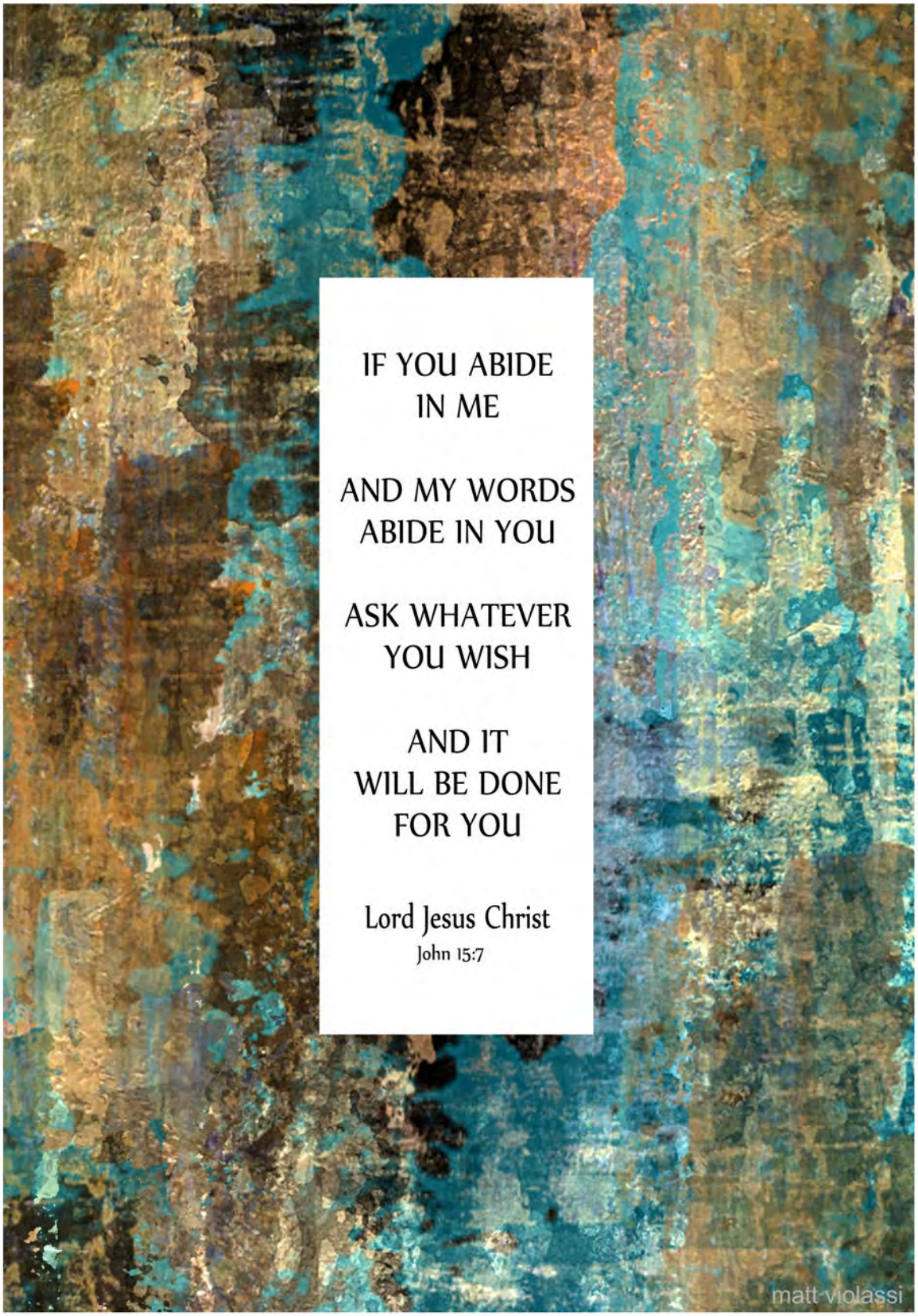

PRAY THEN IN THIS WAY
Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen.
Lord Jesus Christ
Matt 6

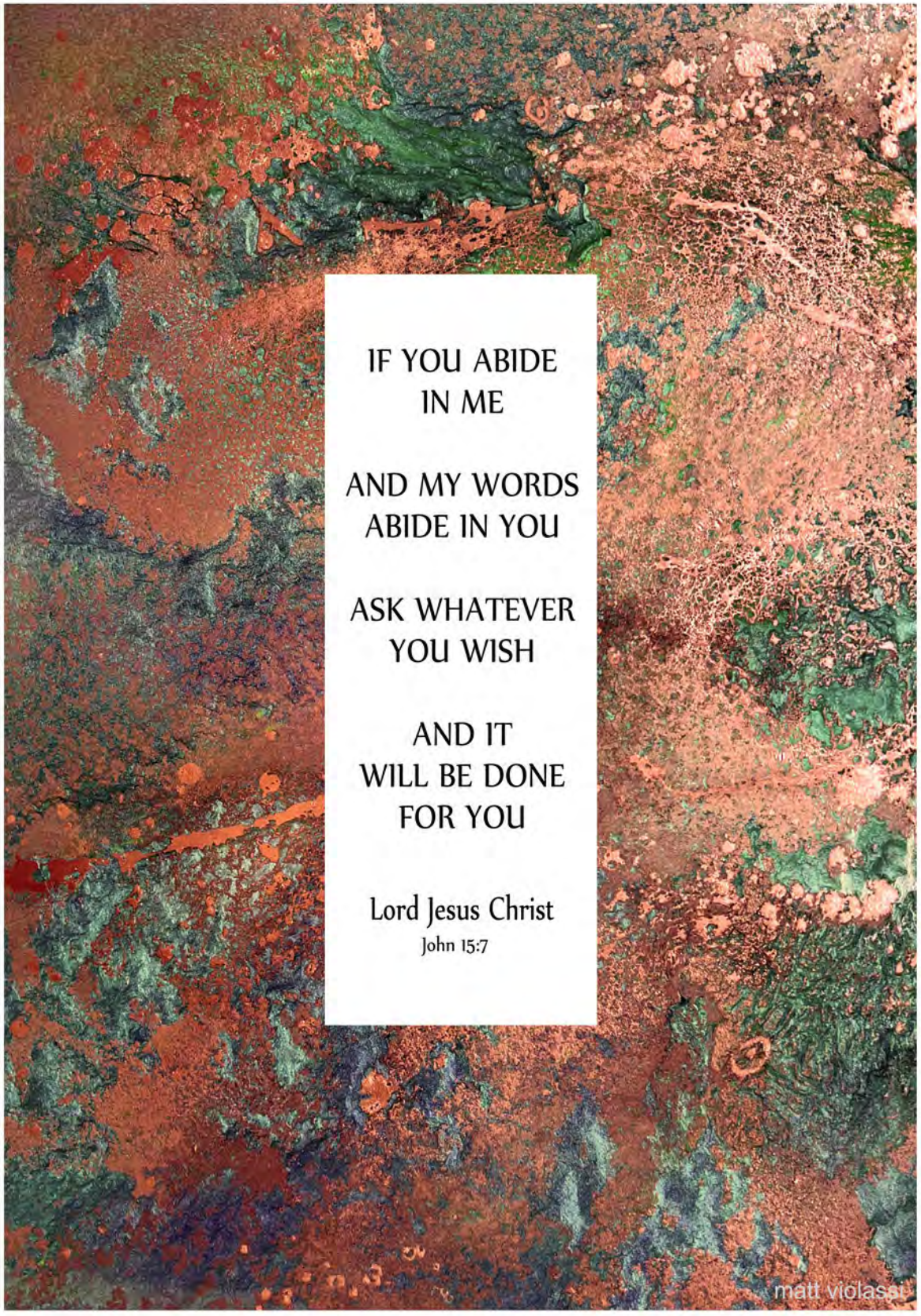

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Lord Jesus
Matt 6
matt violassi

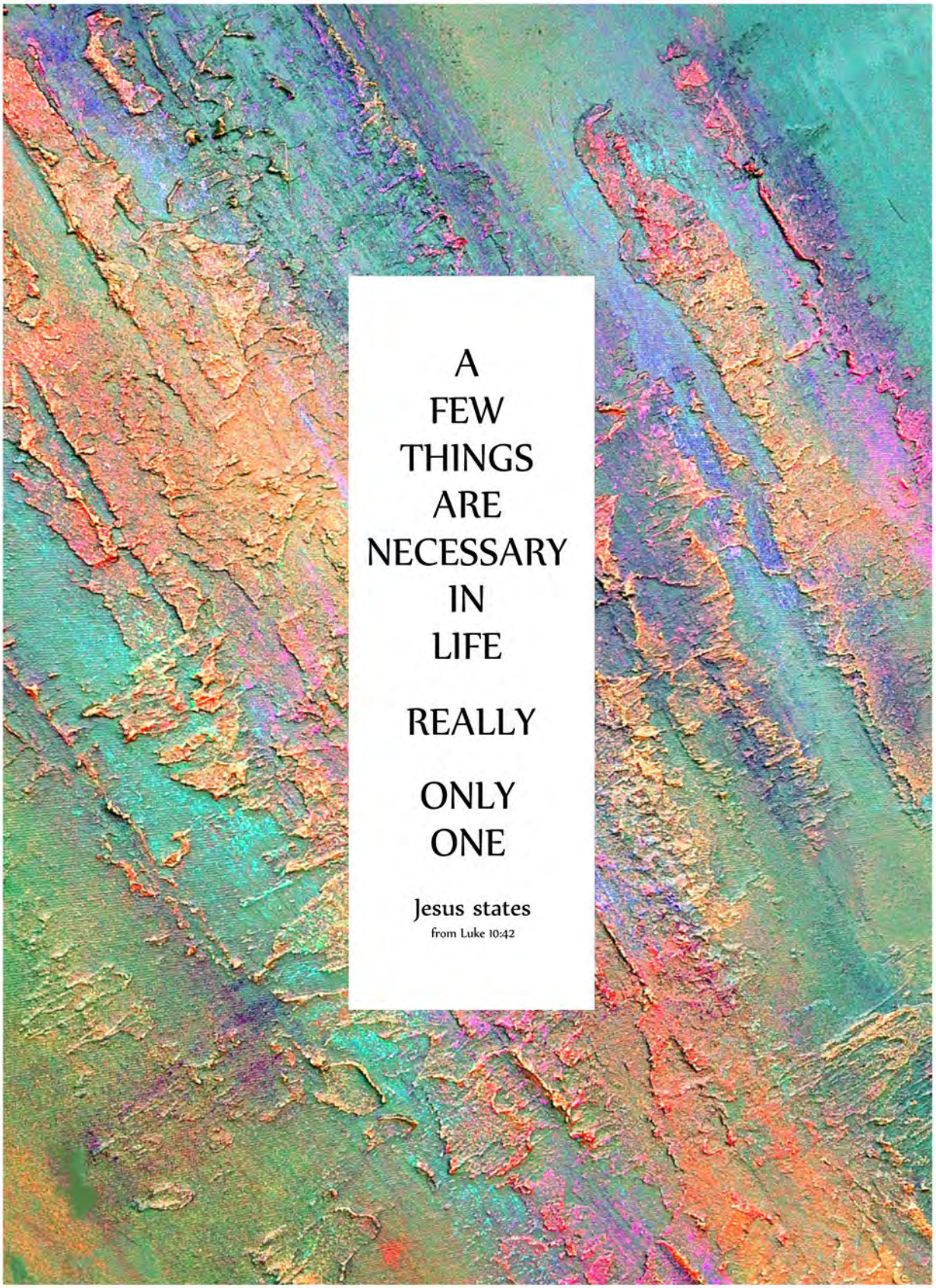

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES
LOVE
your Enemies
DO GOOD
to those who Hate You
BLESS
those who Curse You
PRAY FOR
those who Mistreat You
OFFER HIM the other
whoever Hits You
DO NOT WITHOLD your shirt
whoever TakesYour Coat
GIVE
to everyone who Asks of You
DO NOT DEMAND it back
whoever Takes What is Yours
Lord Jesus Christ

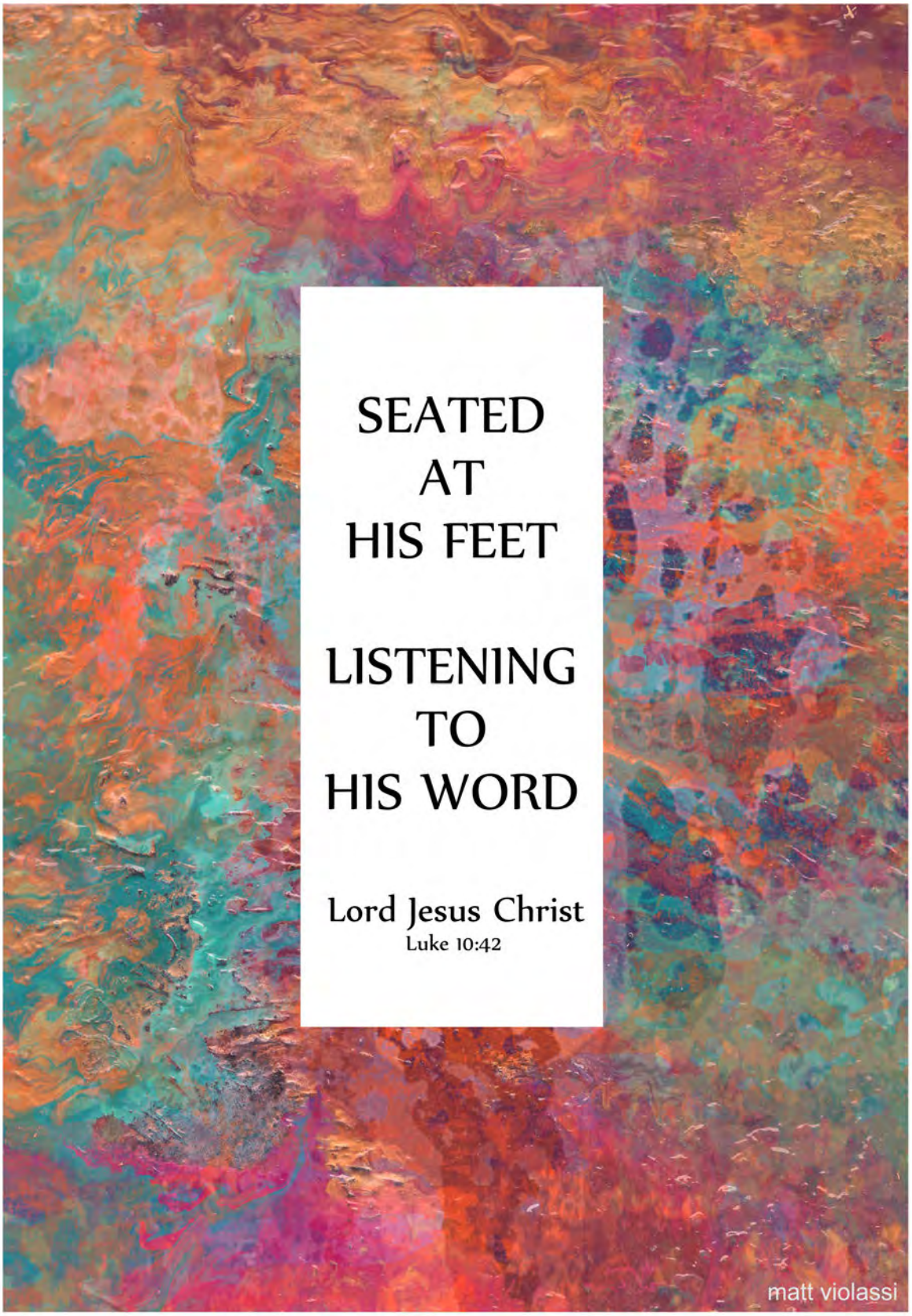

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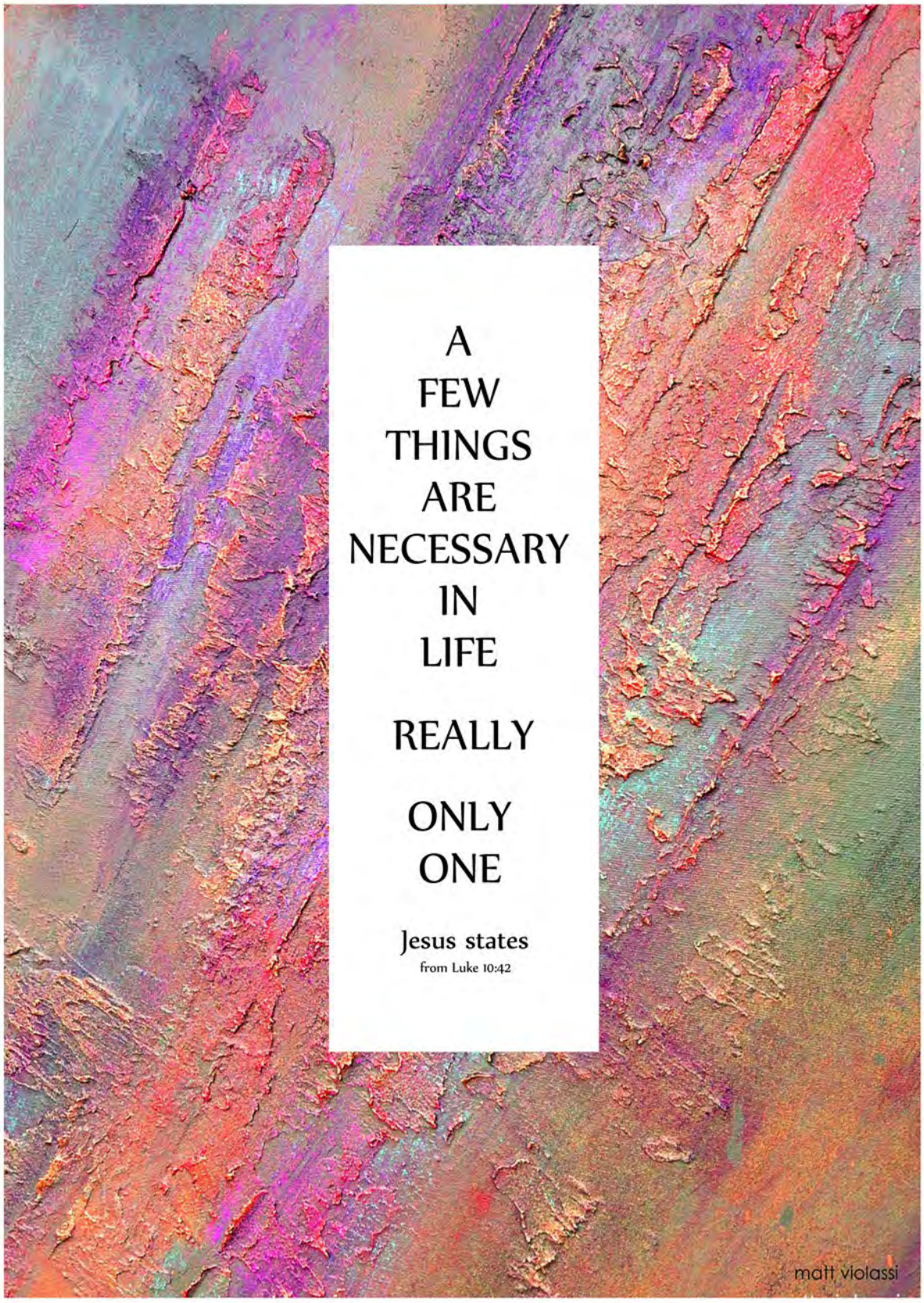

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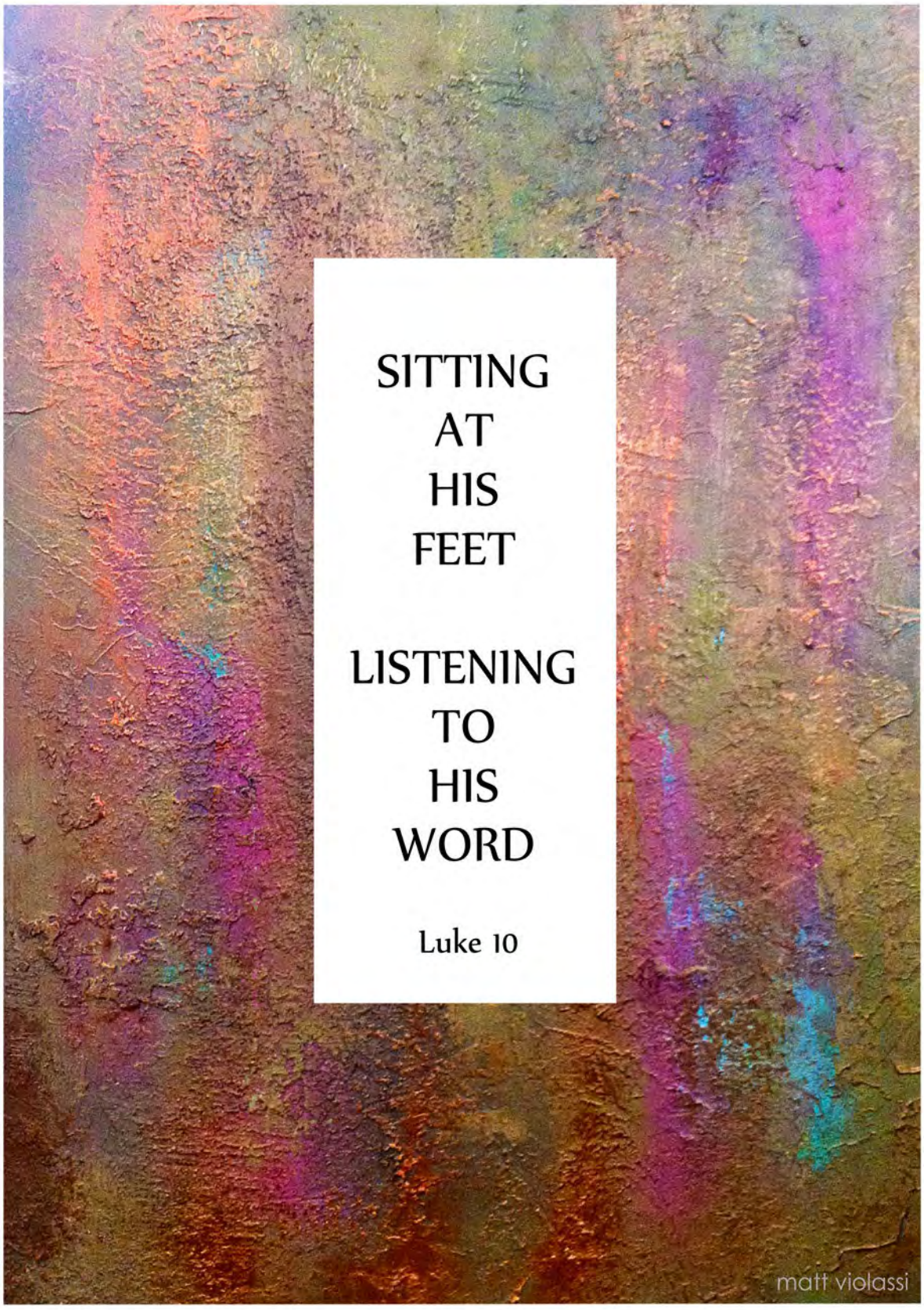

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ABIDE IN YOU
ASK WHATEVER
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AND IT
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Lord Jesus Christ
John 15:7
matt violassi

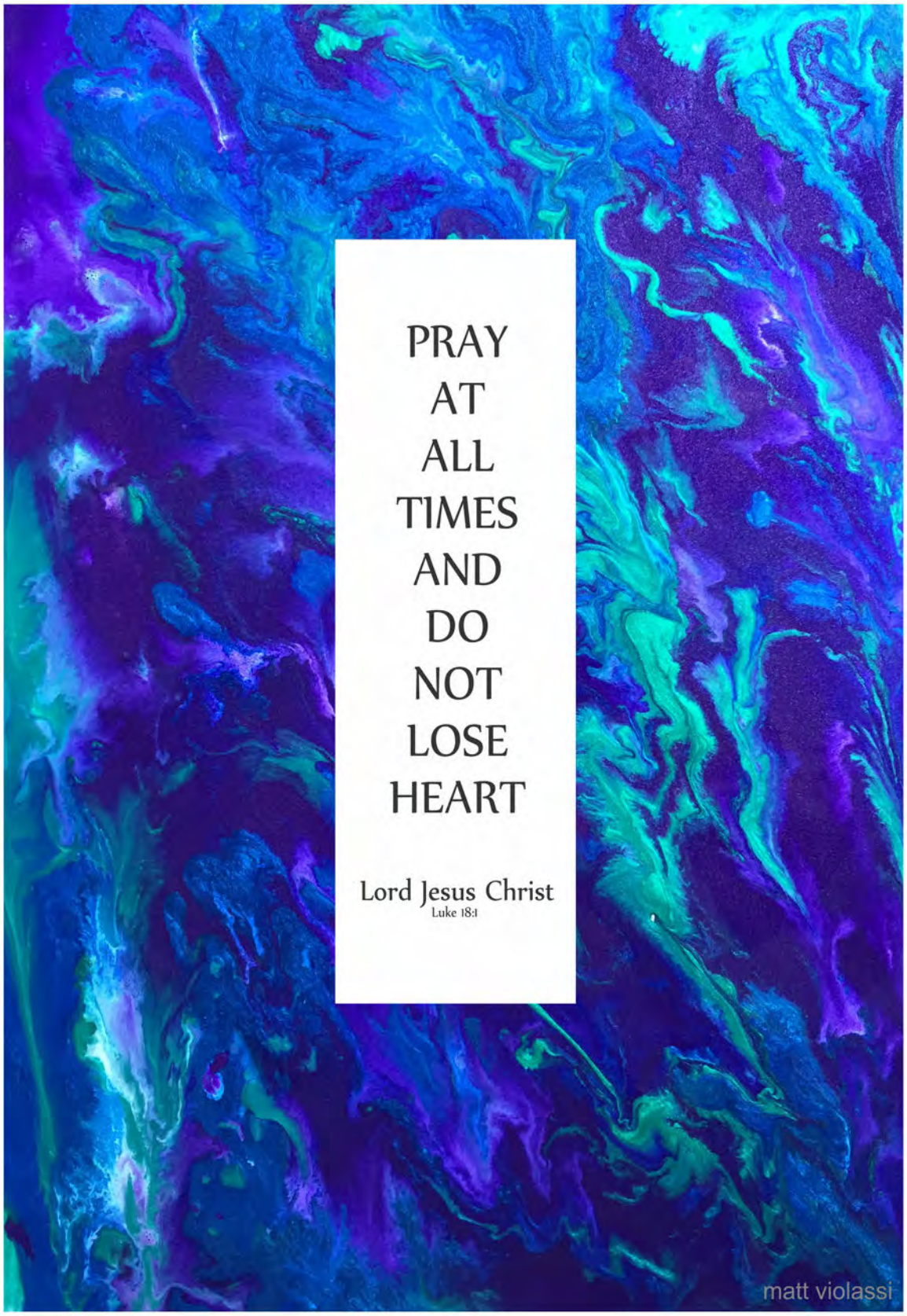

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John 15:7
matt violassi

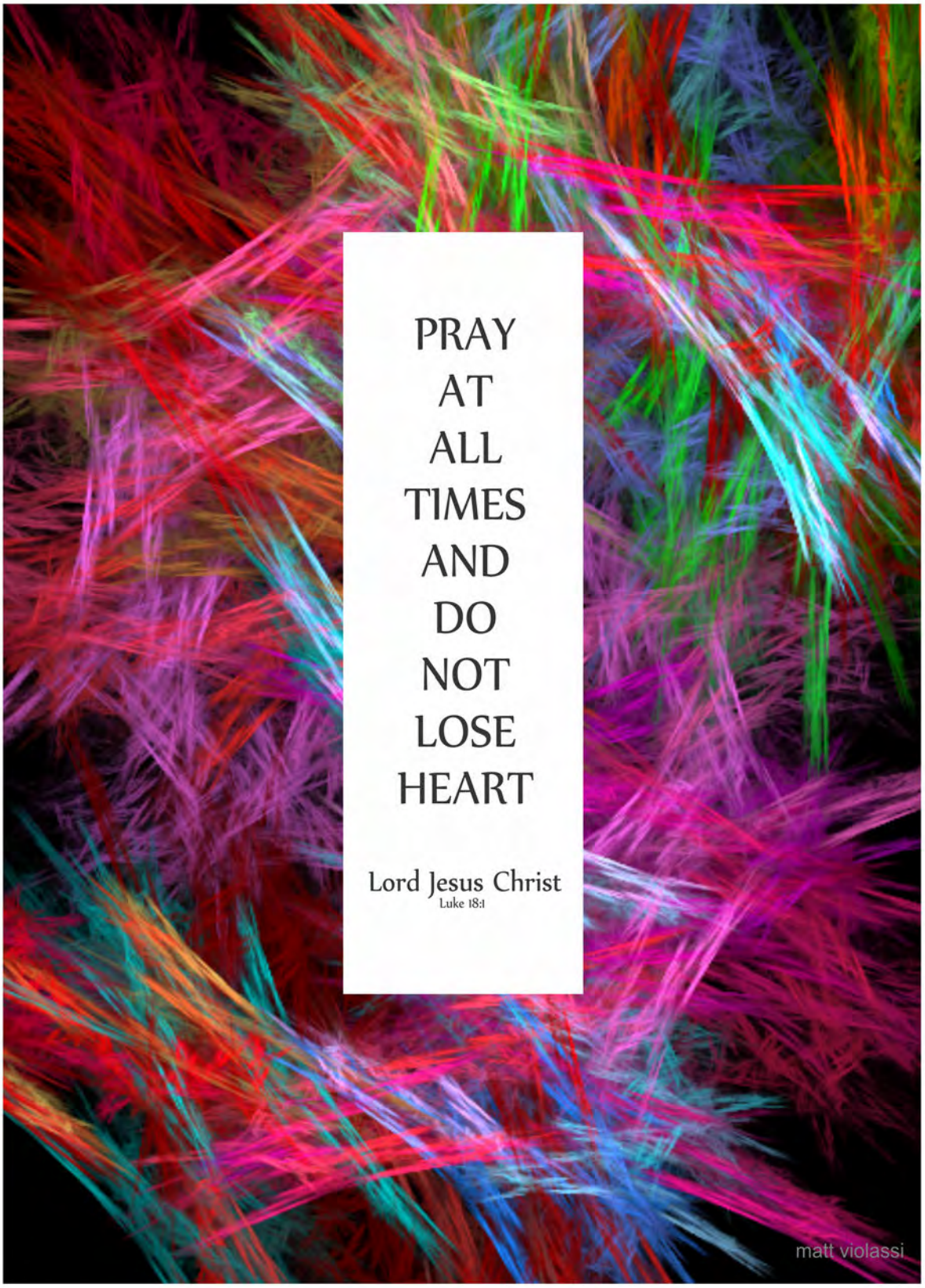

A
FEW
THINGS
ARE
NECESSARY
IN
LIFE
REALLY
ONLY
ONE
Jesus states
from Luke 10:42

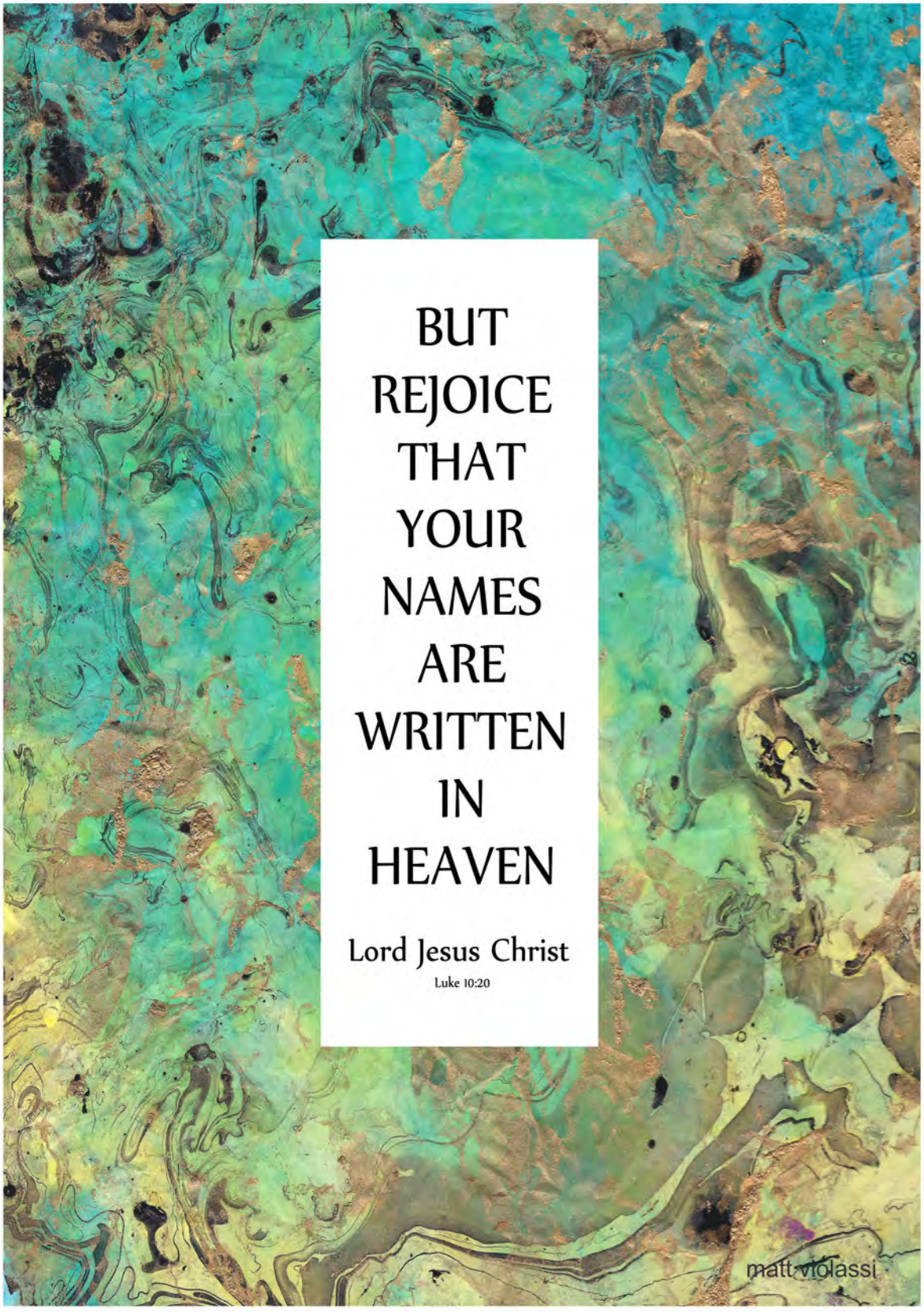

SEATED
AT
HIS FEET
LISTENING
TO
HIS WORD
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 10:42
matt violassi


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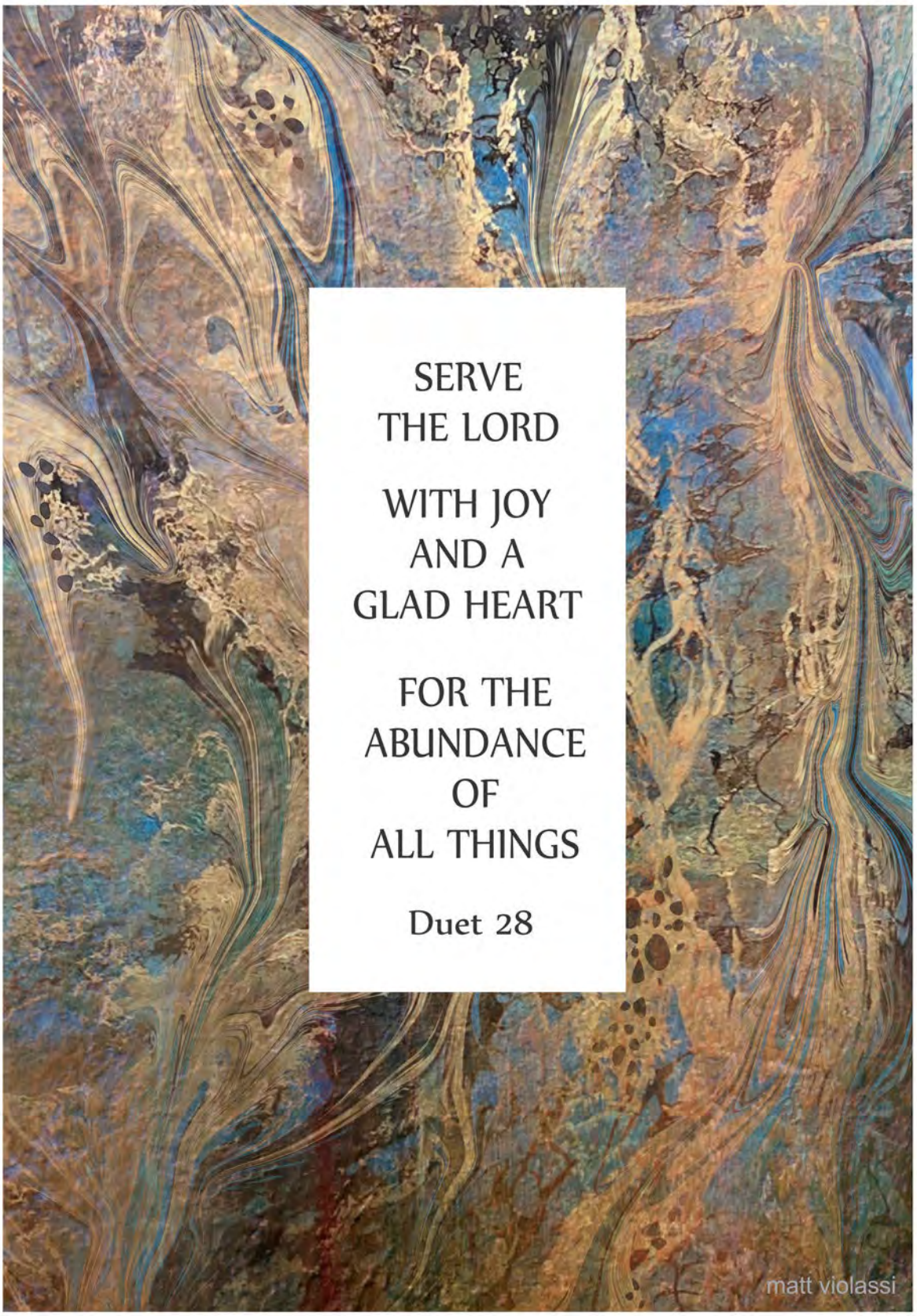

SITTING
AT
HIS
FEET
LISTENING
TO
HIS
WORD
Luke 10
matt violassi

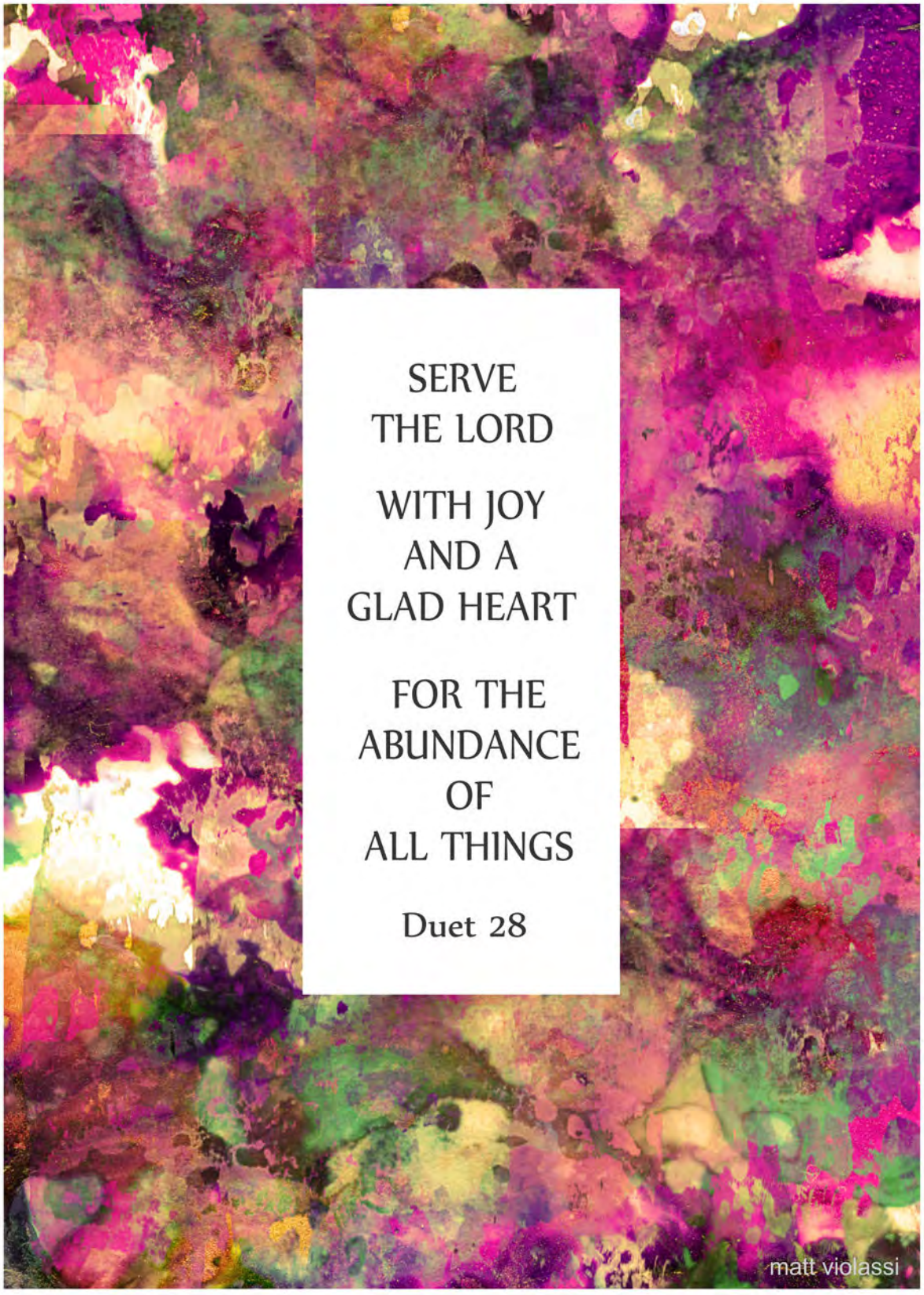

PRAY
AT
ALL
TIMES
AND
DO
NOT
LOSE
HEART
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 18:1
matt violassi

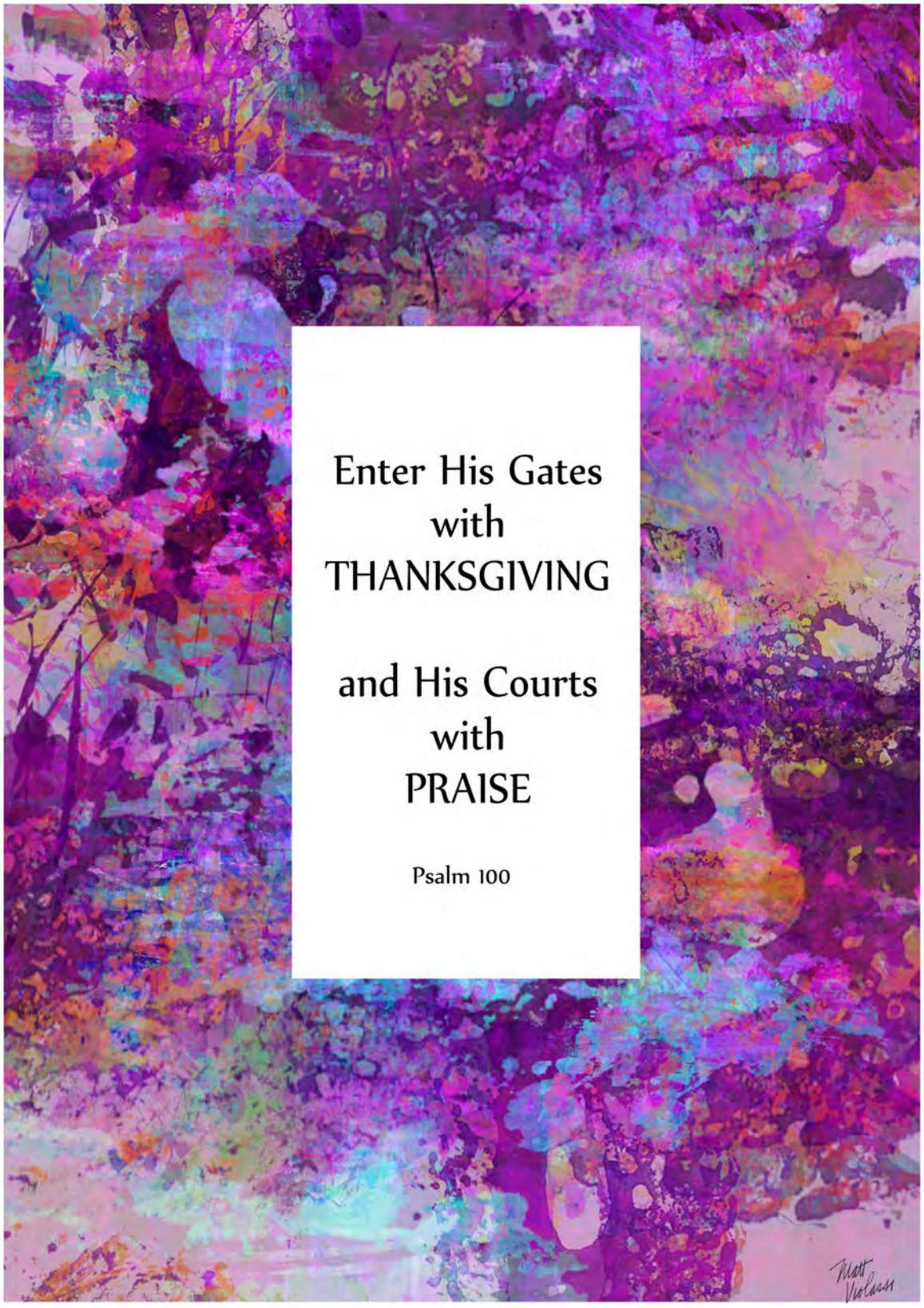

PRAY
AT
ALL
TIMES
AND
DO
NOT
LOSE
HEART
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 18:1
matt violassi


BUT
REJOICE
THAT
YOUR
NAMES
ARE
WRITTEN
IN
HEAVEN
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 10:20
matt violassi

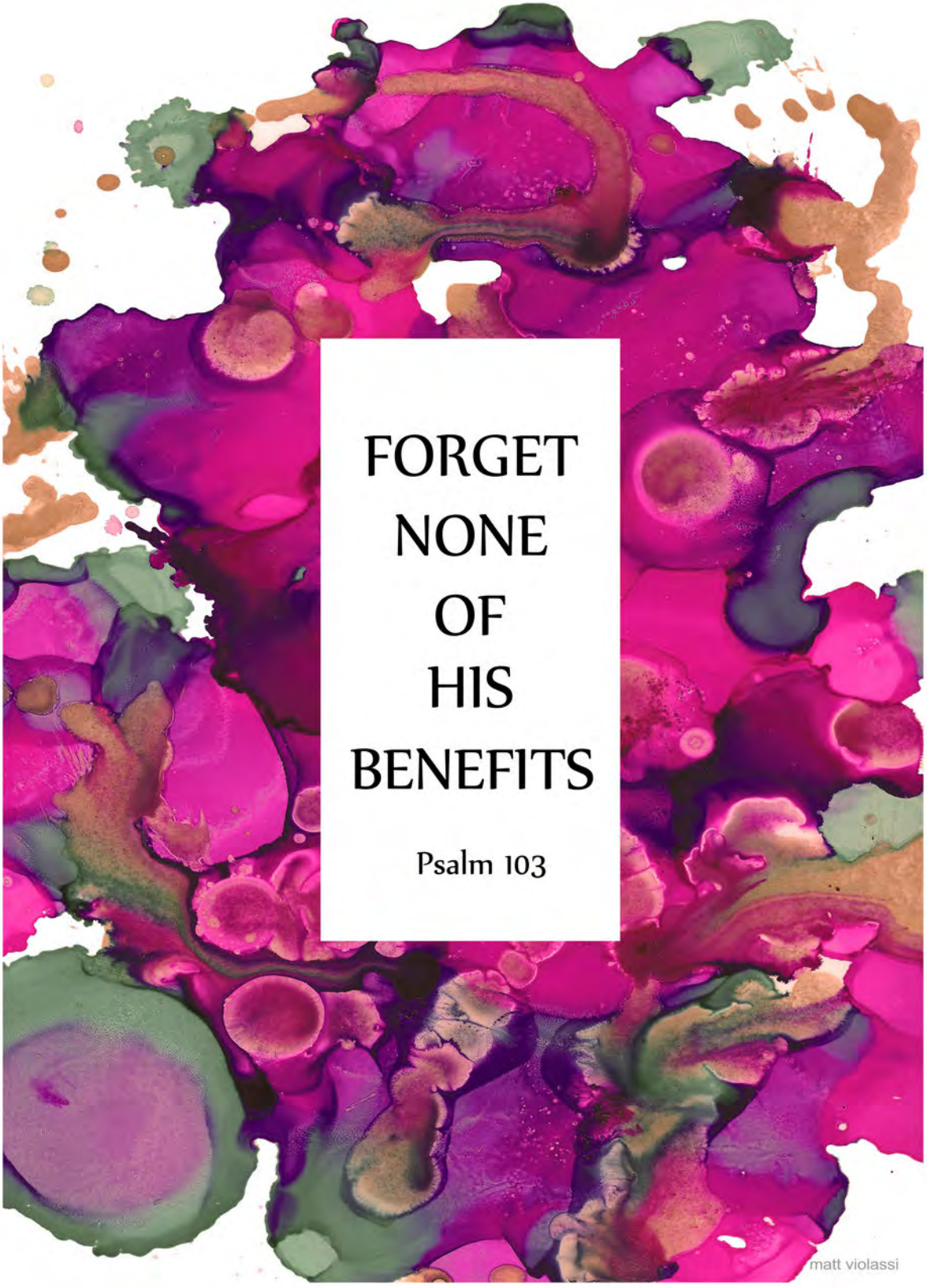

BUT
REJOICE
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YOUR
NAMES
ARE
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IN
HEAVEN
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 10:20
matt violassi

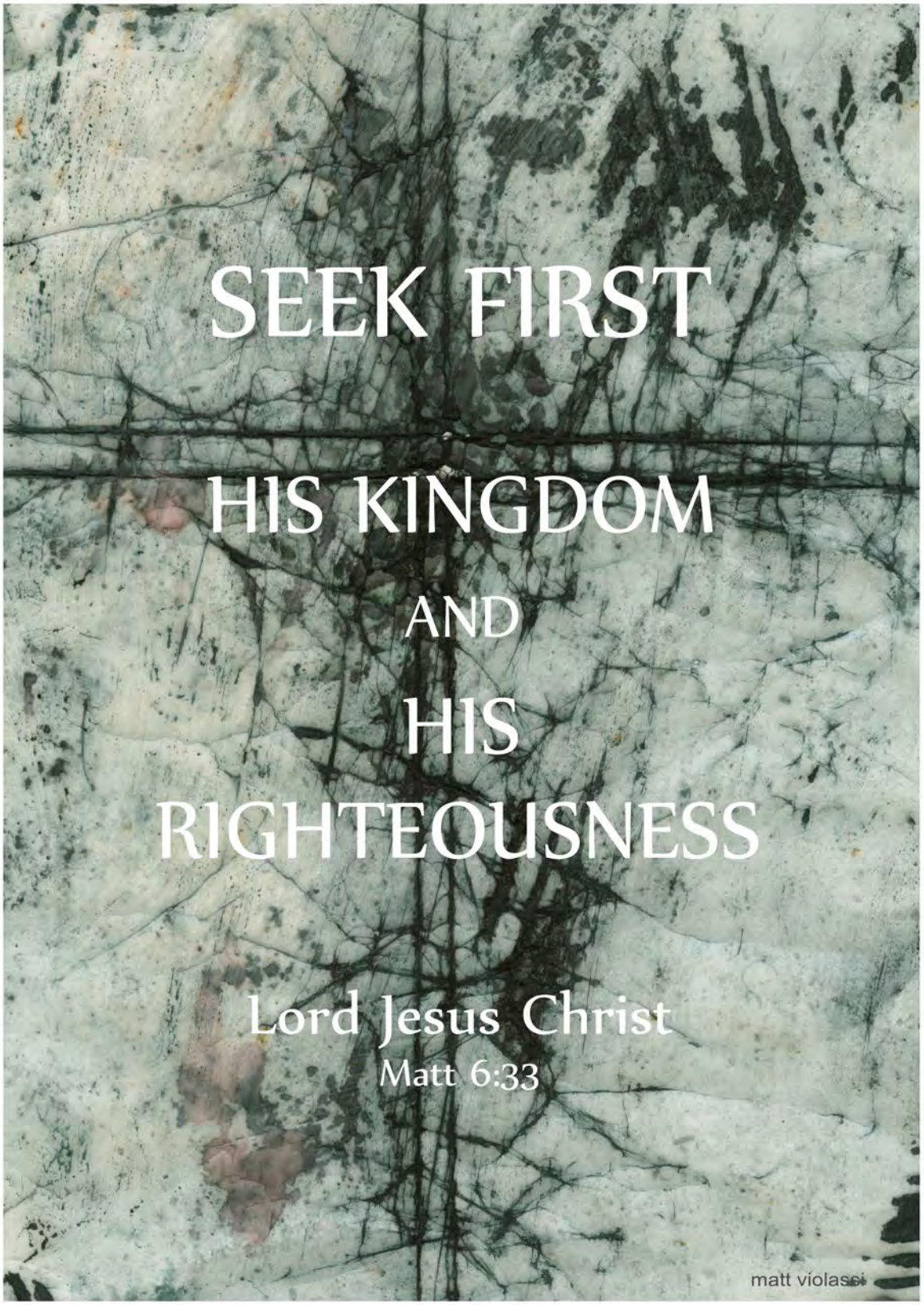

SERVE
THE LORD
WITH JOY
AND A
GLAD HEART
FOR THE
ABUNDANCE
OF
ALL THINGS
Duet 28
matt violassi

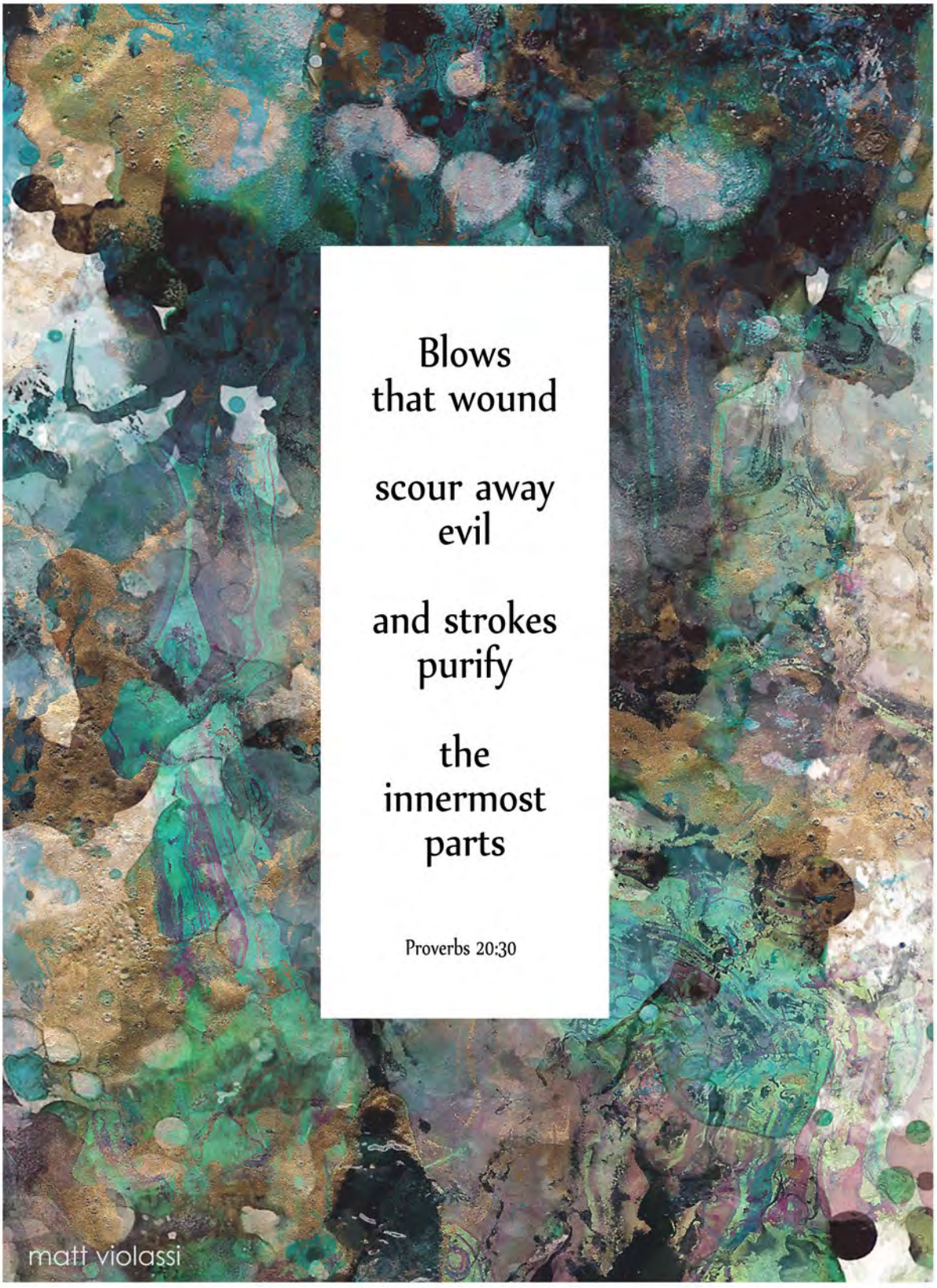

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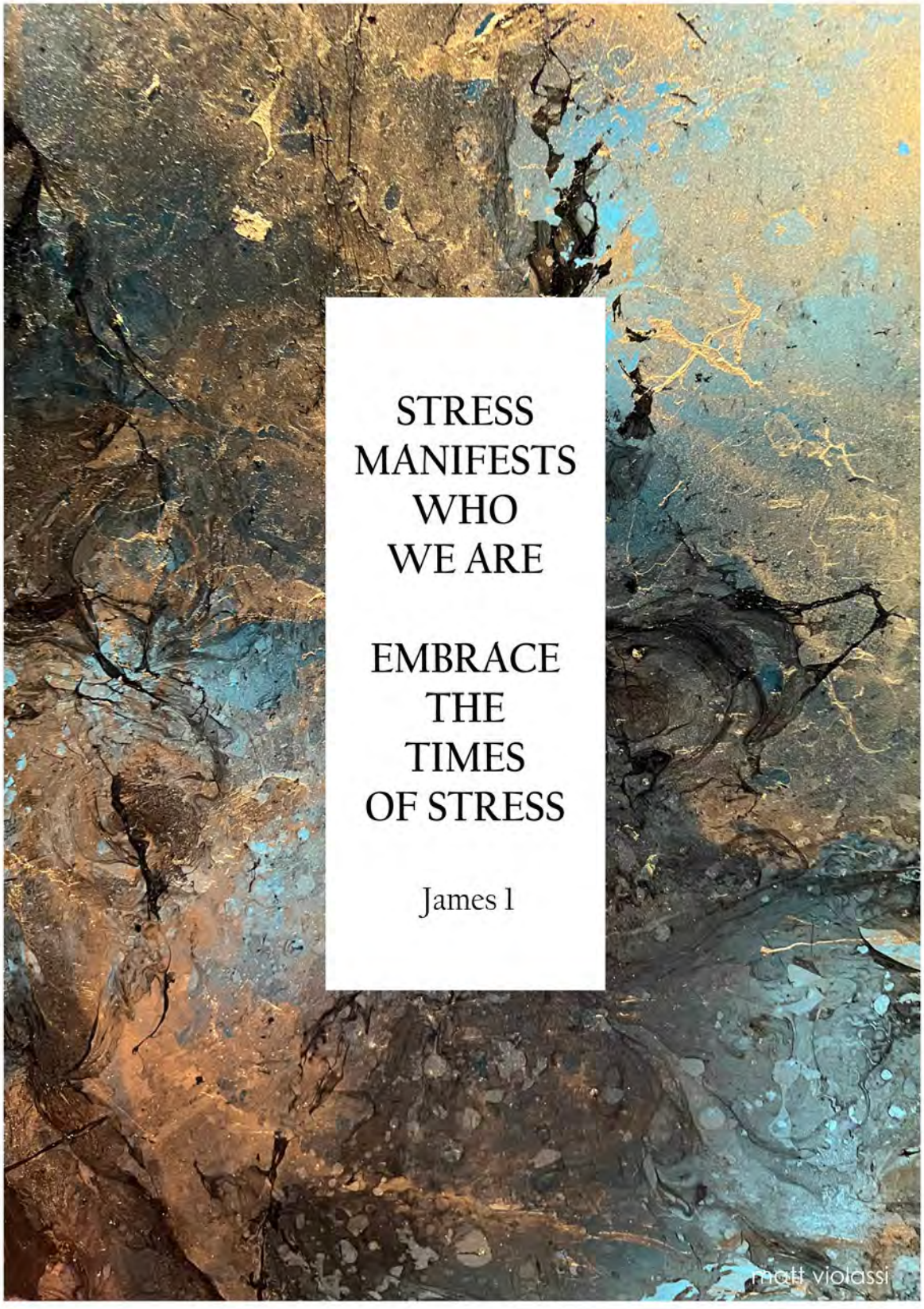

Enter His Gates
with
THANKSGIVING
and His Courts
with
PRAISE
Psalm 100


ALWAYS
GIVE
THANKS
FOR
ALL
THINGS
Ephes. 5:20
matt.violassi

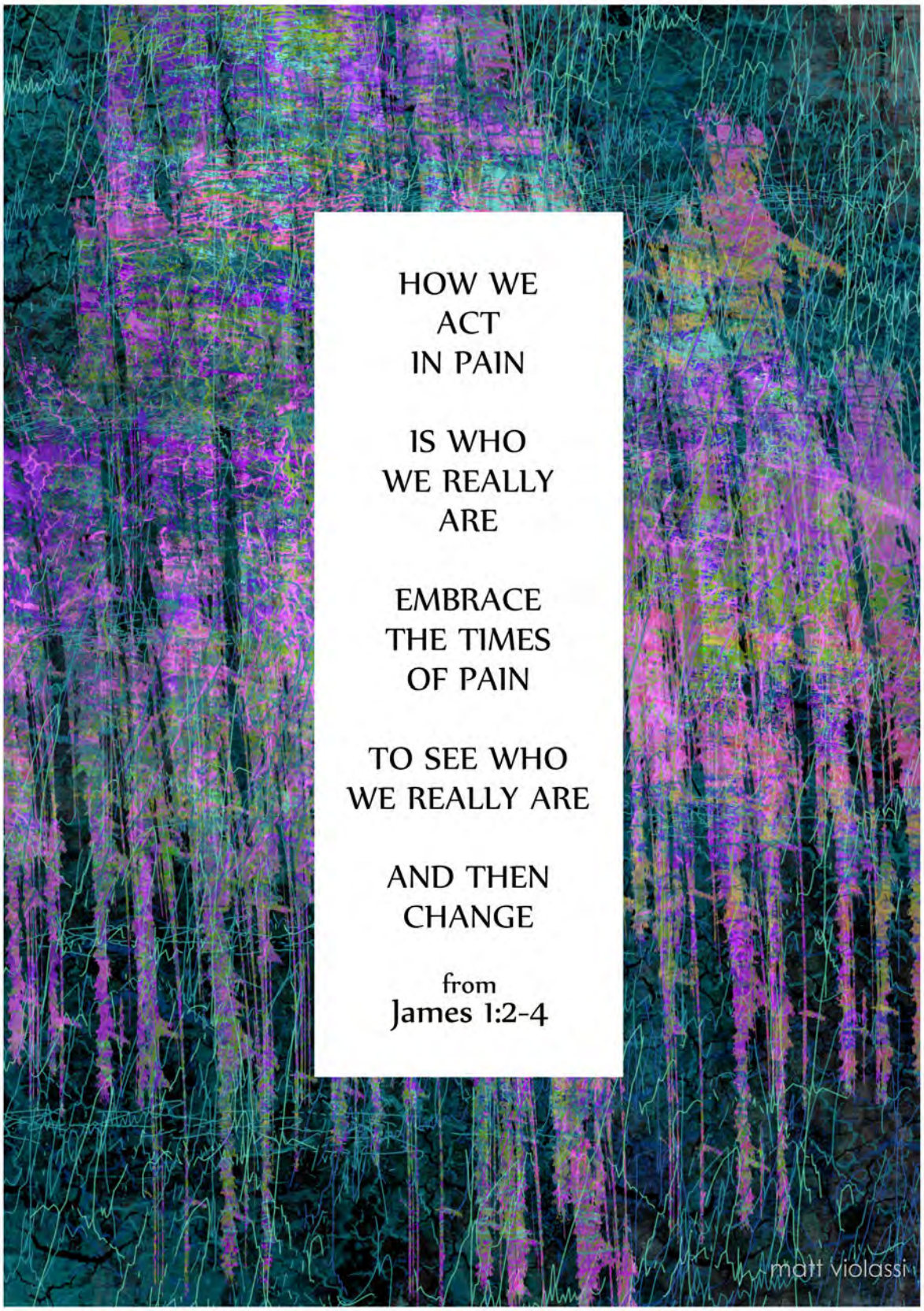

FORGET
NONE
OF
HIS
BENEFITS
Psalm 103
matt violassi


SEEK FIRST
HIS KINGDOM
AND
HIS
RIGHTEOUSNESS
Lord Jesus Christ
Matt 6:33
matt violassi

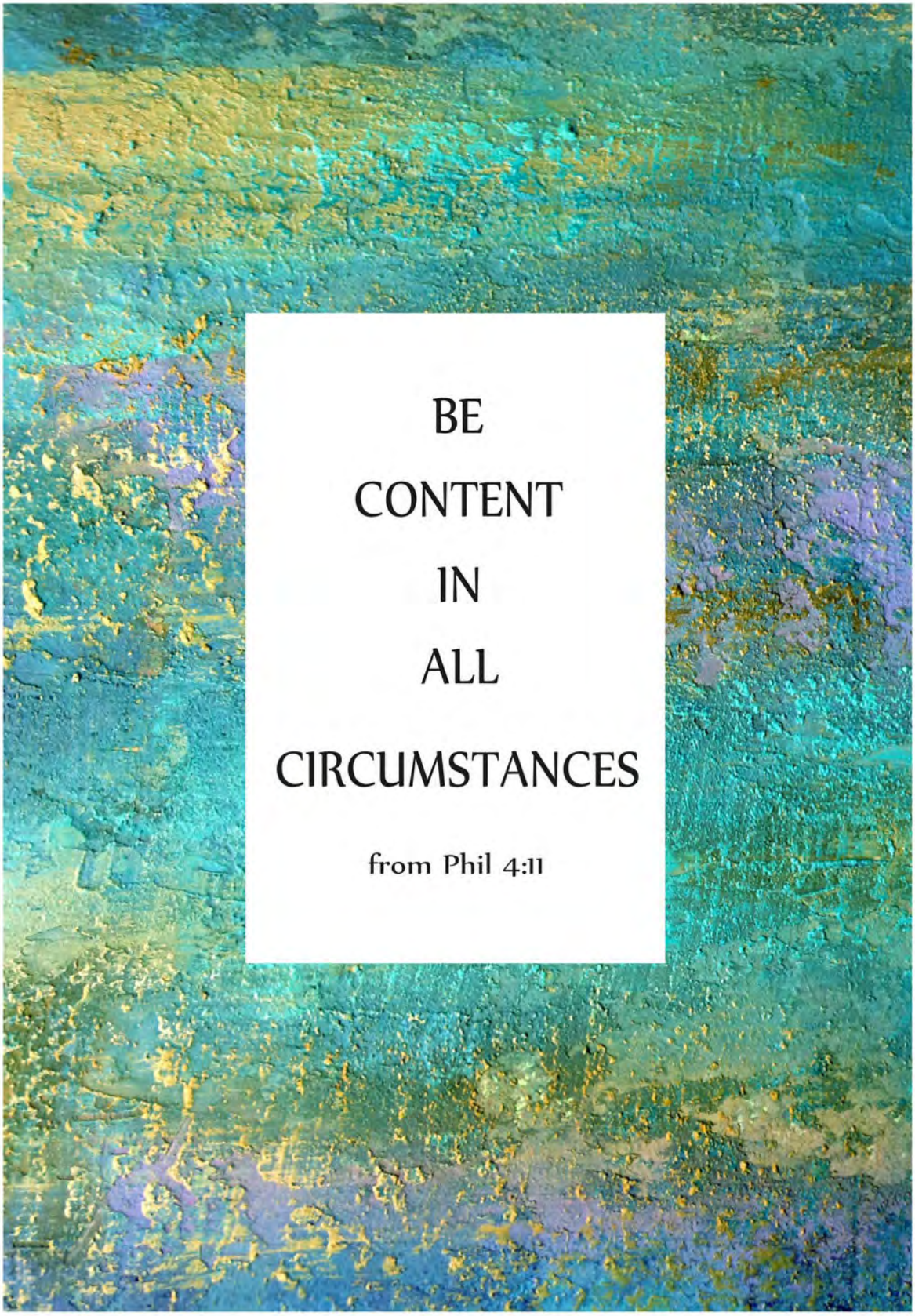

Blows
that wound
scour away
evil
and strokes
purify
the
innermost
parts
Proverbs 20:30
matt violassi

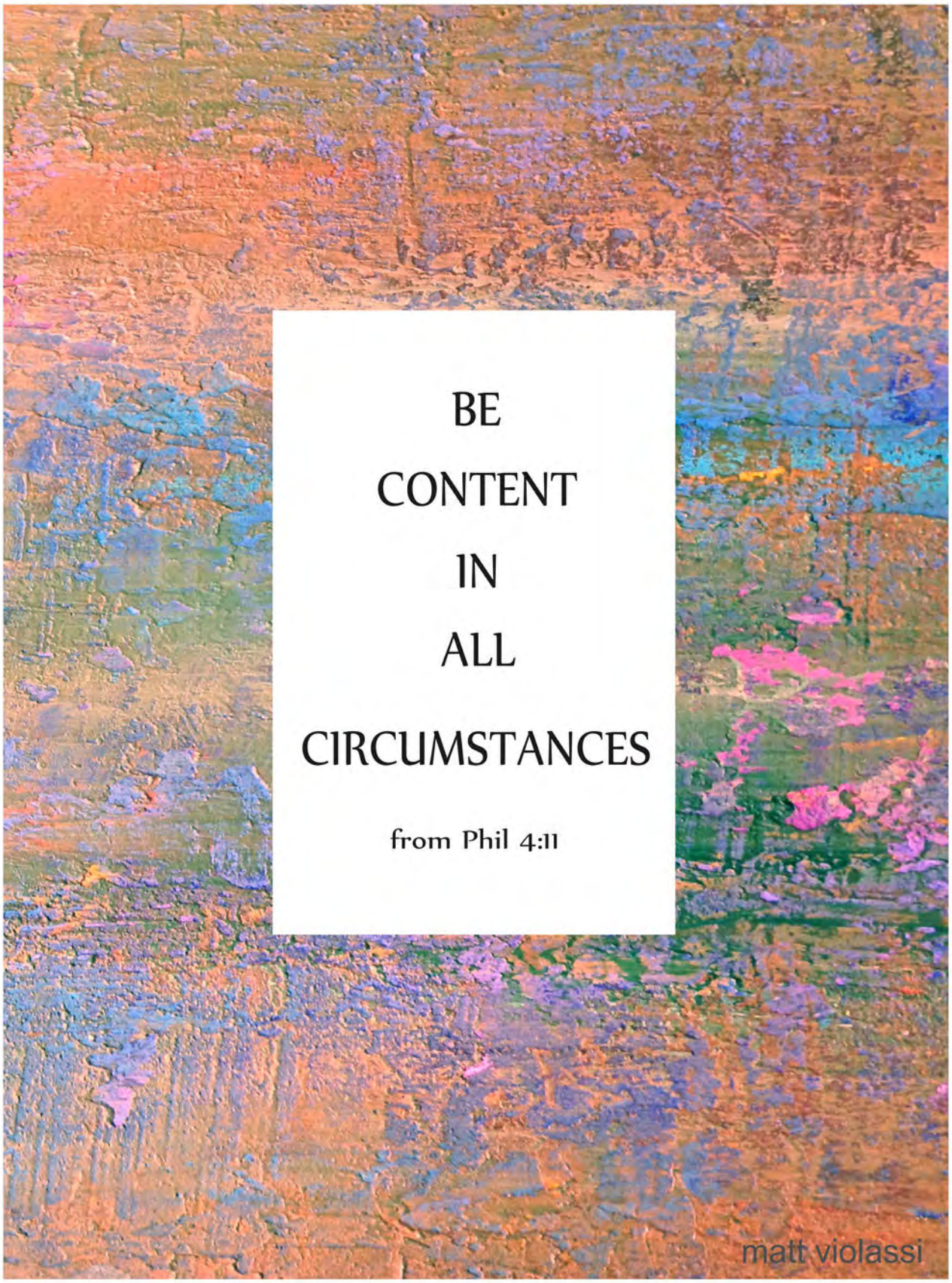

STRESS
MANIFESTS
WHO
WE ARE
EMBRACE
THE
TIMES
OF STRESS
James 1
matt violassi

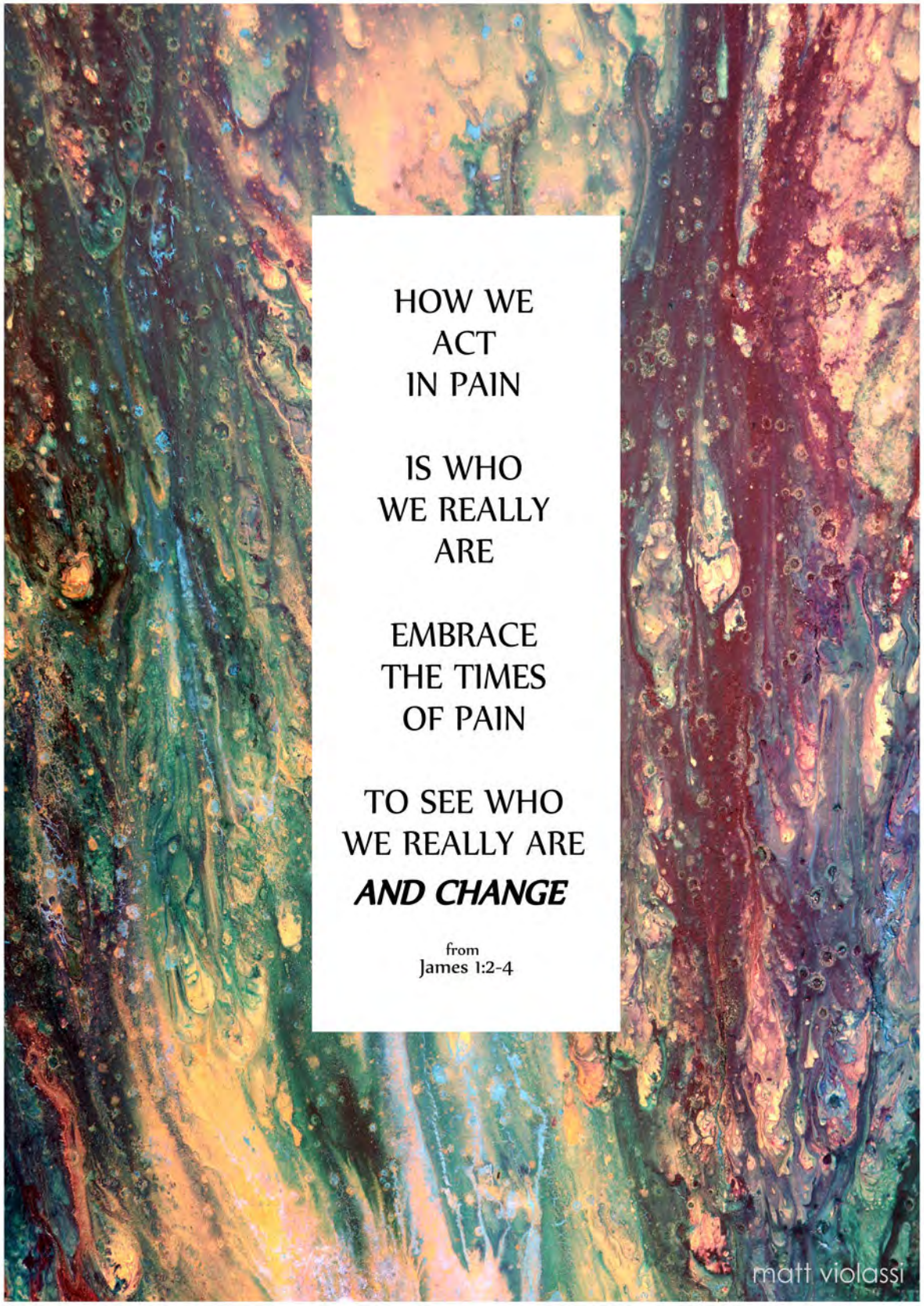

BE
JOYFUL
IN
PAINFUL
TIMES
WE
GET TO
SEE
OUR TRUE
CHARACTER
from
James 1:2-4
mattvelassi

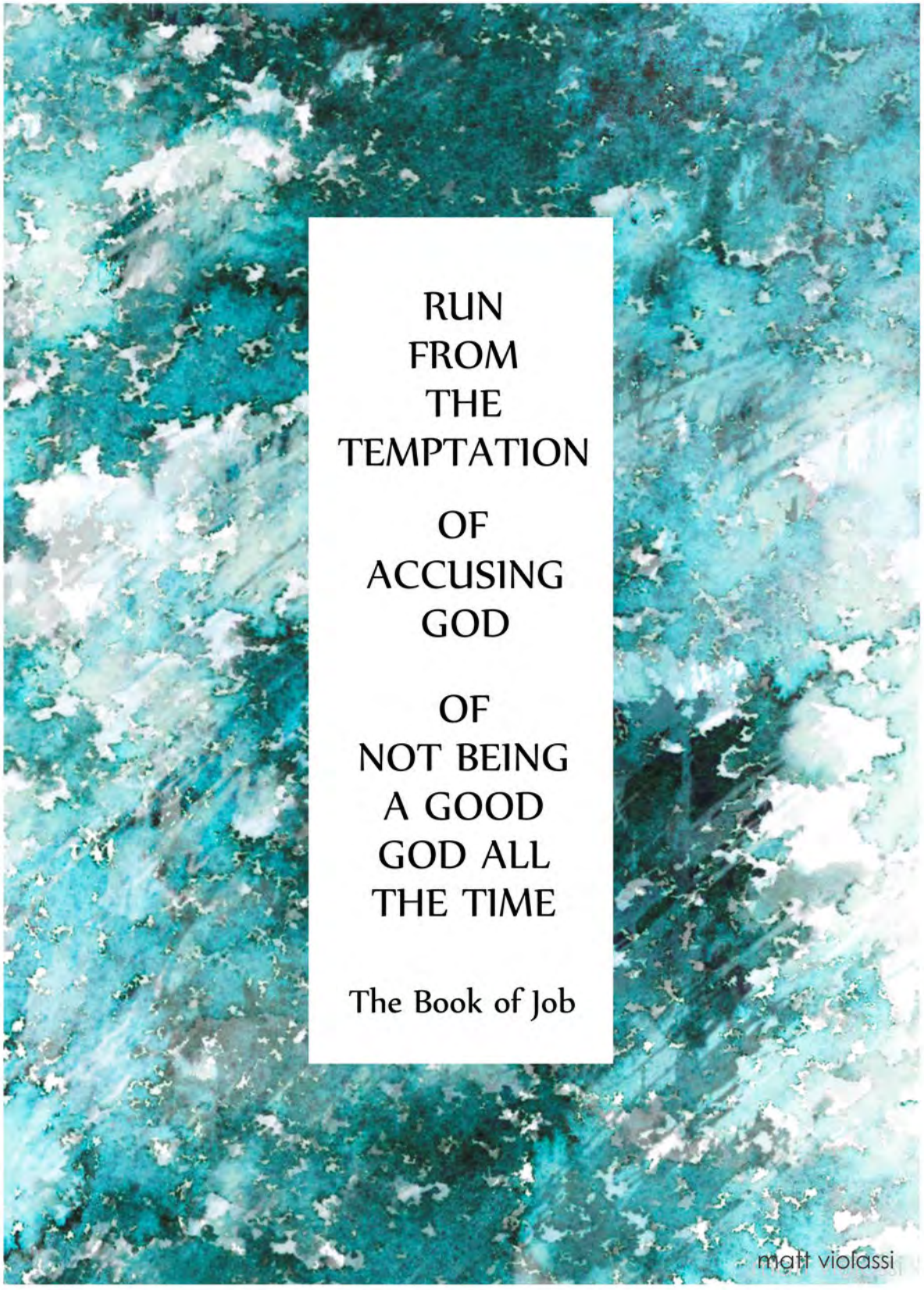

HOW WE
ACT
IN PAIN
IS WHO
WE REALLY
ARE
EMBRACE
THE TIMES
OF PAIN
TO SEE WHO
WE REALLY ARE
AND THEN
CHANGE
from
James 1:2-4
matt violassi


GOD
WANTS
TO
SEE WHAT
WE GOT
GOD
WANTS US
TO
SEE WHAT
WE GOT
matt violassi

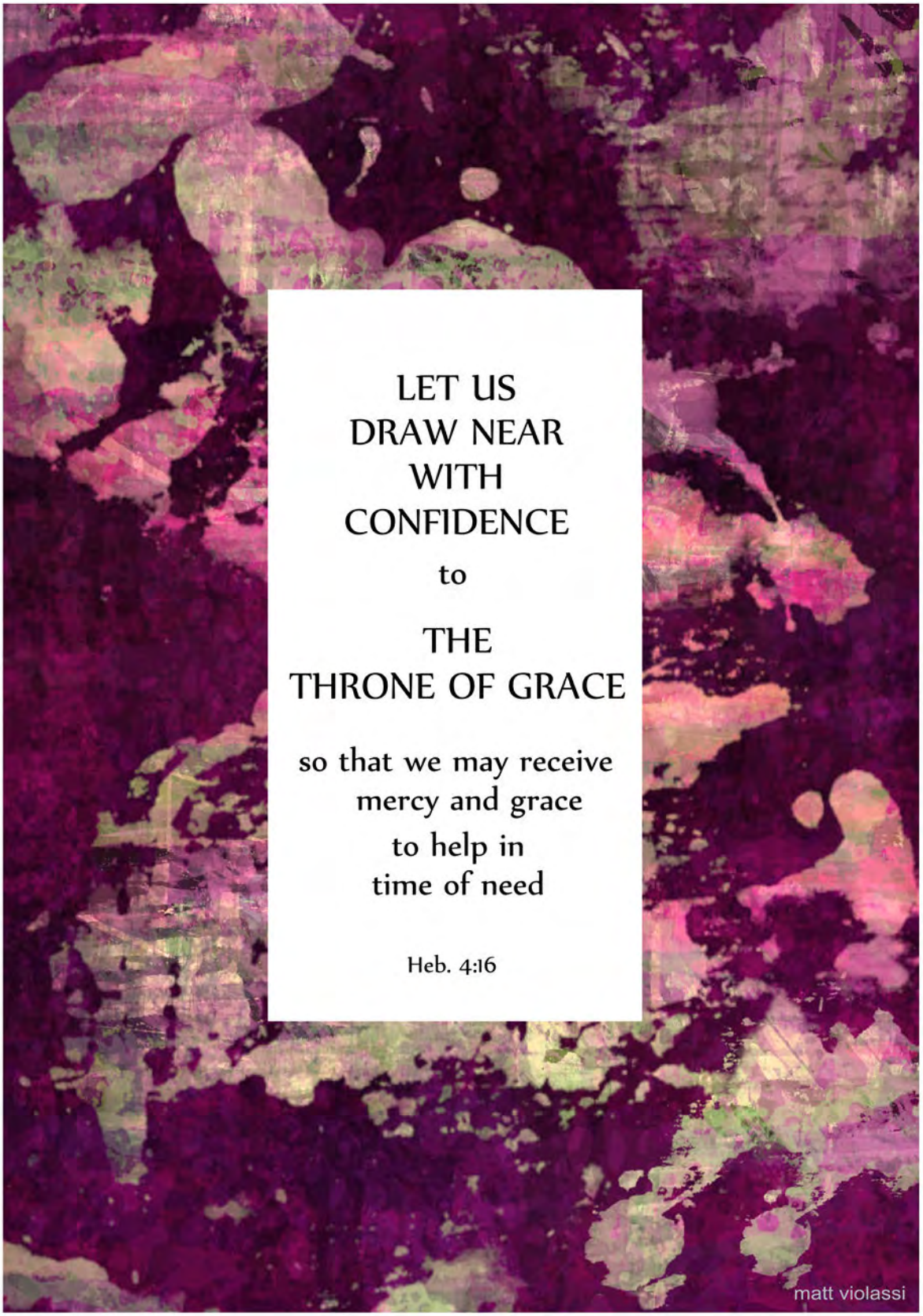

BE
CONTENT
IN
ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES
from Phil 4:11

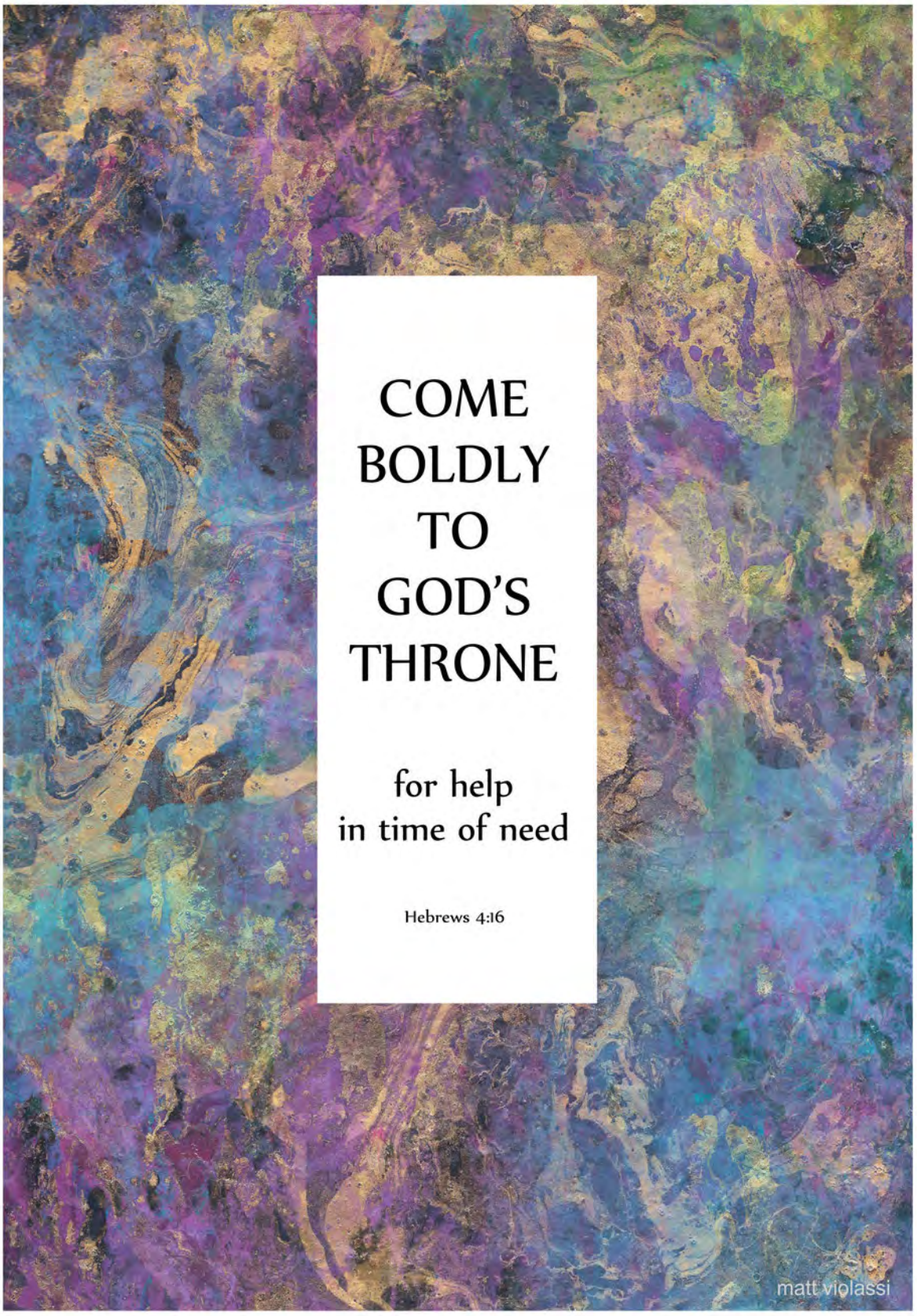

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CONTENT
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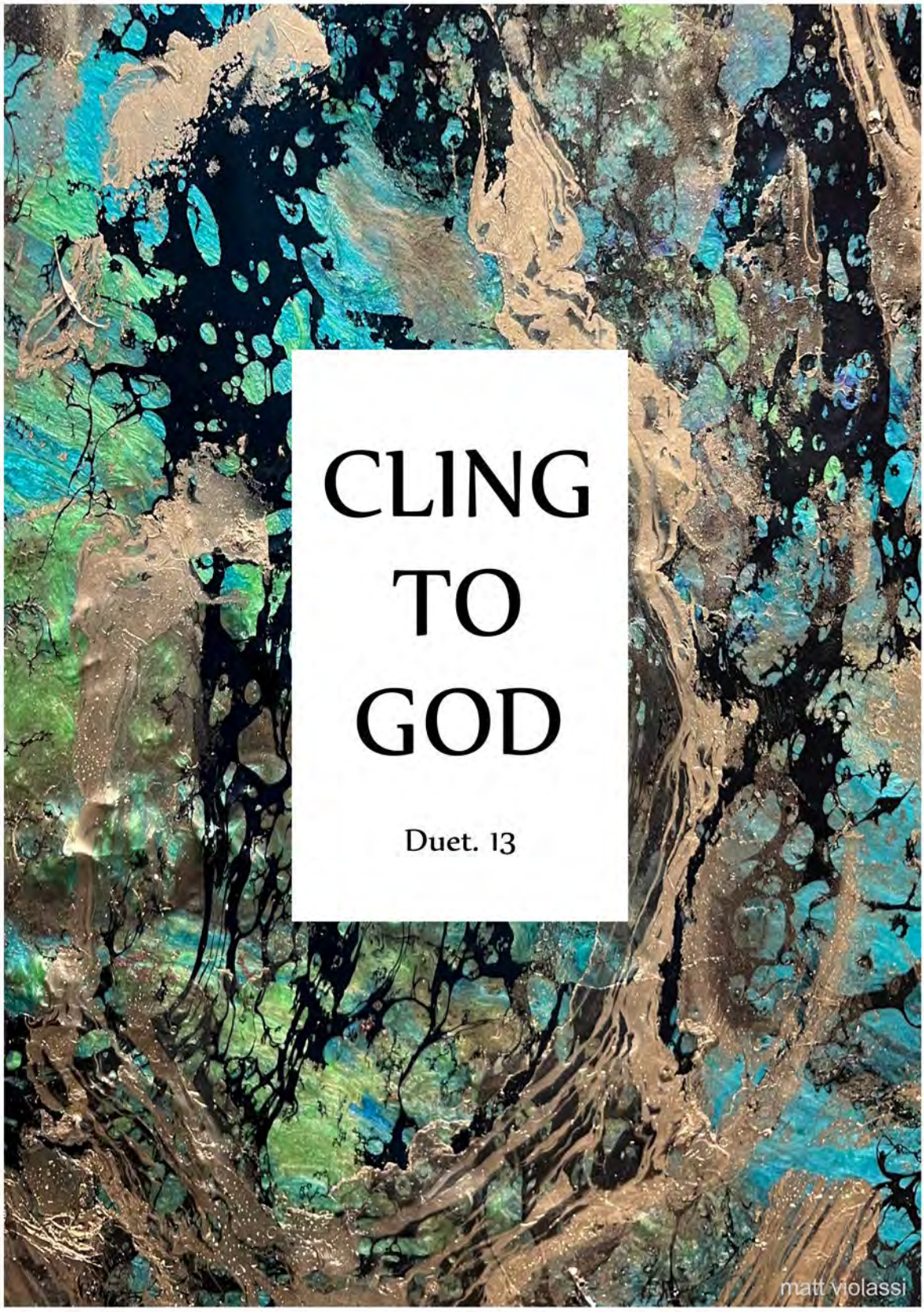

HOW WE
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TO SEE WHO
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James 1:2-4
matt violassi

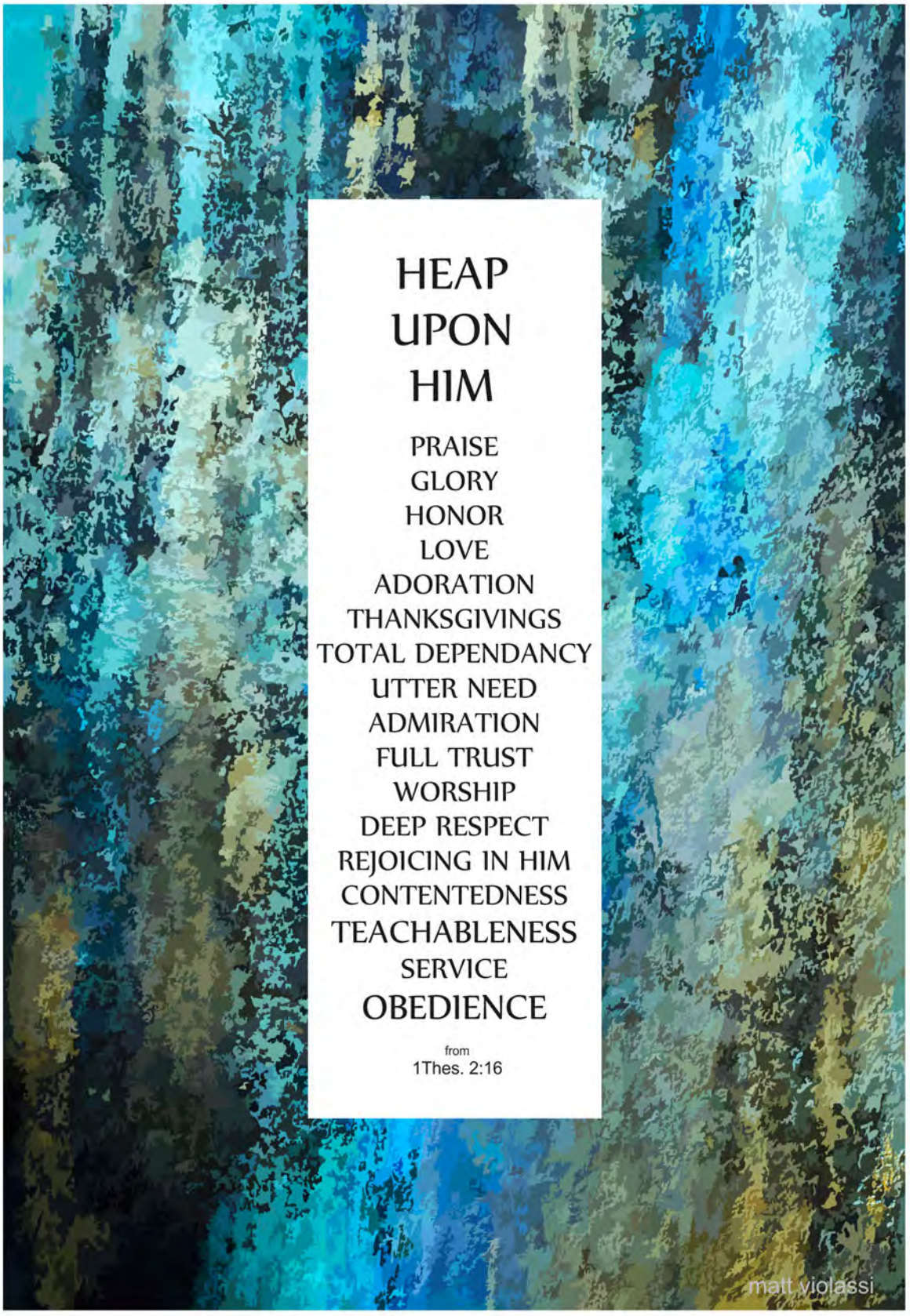

RUN
FROM
THE
TEMPTATION
OF
ACCUSING
GOD
OF
NOT BEING
A GOOD
GOD ALL
THE TIME
The Book of Job
matt violassi

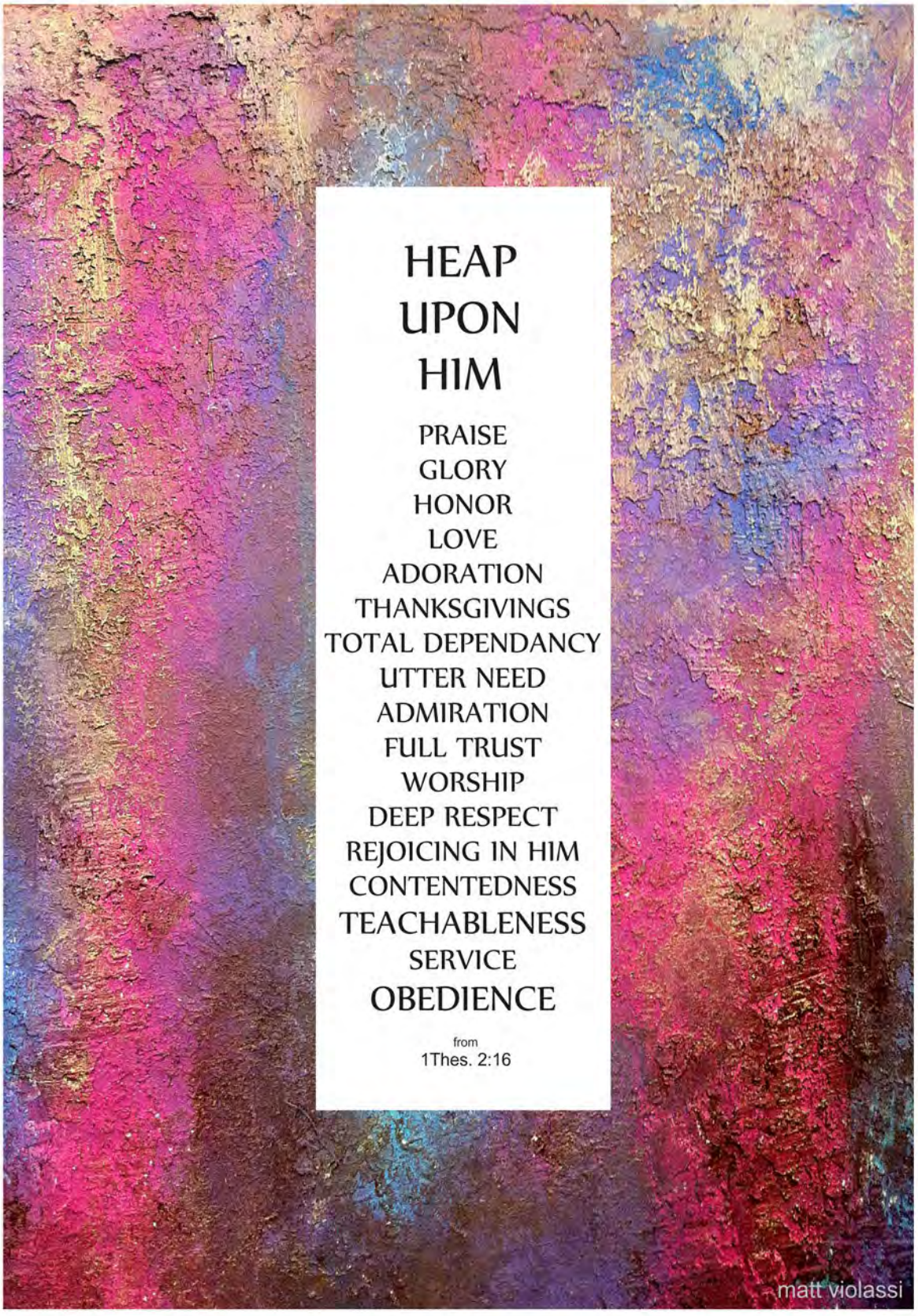

WHO
WE
ARE
AT
HOME
IS
WHO
WE
REALLY
ARE
from
Luke 8:17
matt vigiassi

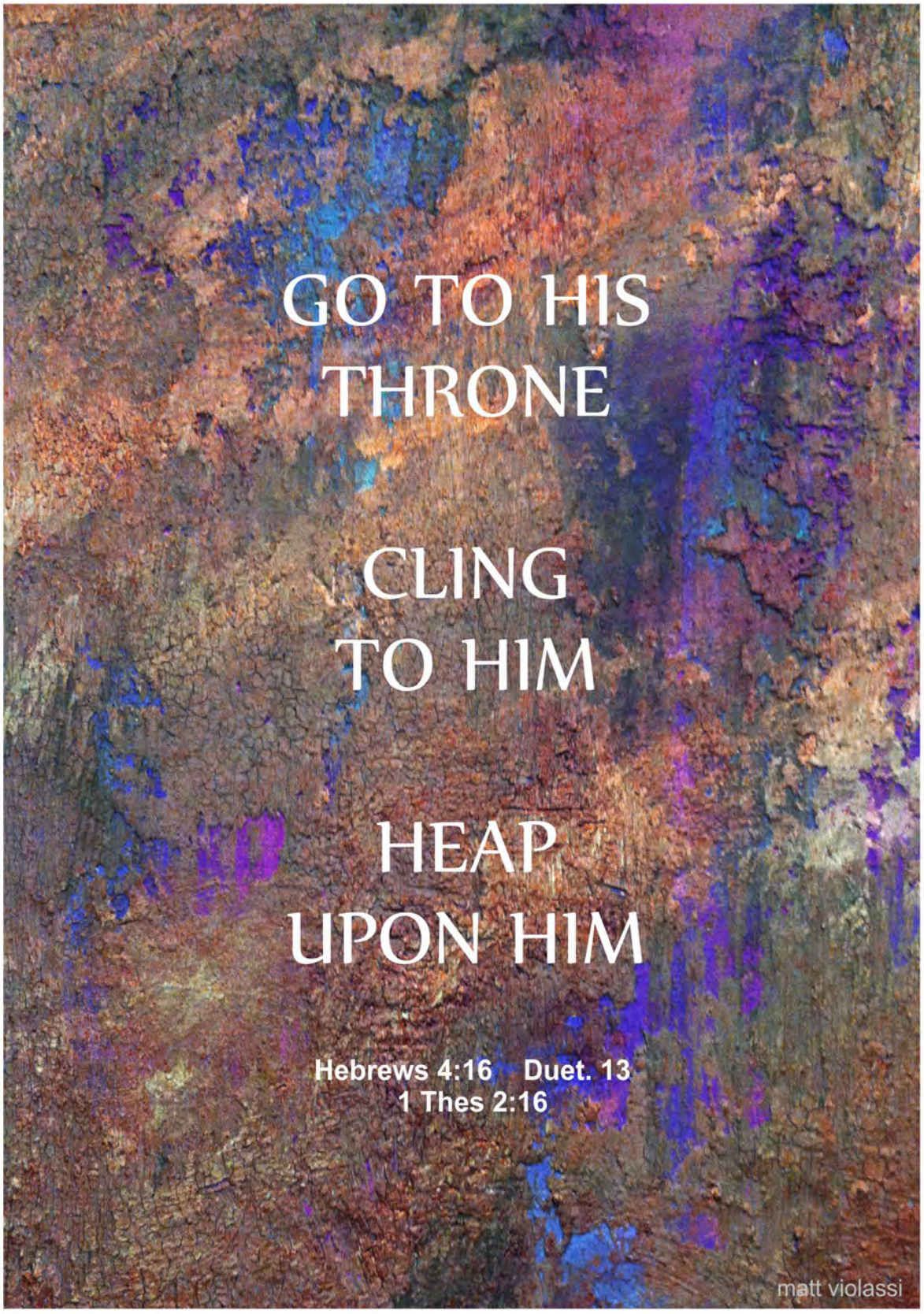

LET US
DRAW NEAR
WITH
CONFIDENCE
to
THE
THRONE OF GRACE
so that we may receive
mercy and grace
to help in
time of need
Heb. 4:16
matt violassi


COME
BOLDLY
TO
GOD'S
THRONE
for help
in time of need
Hebrews 4:16
matt violassi

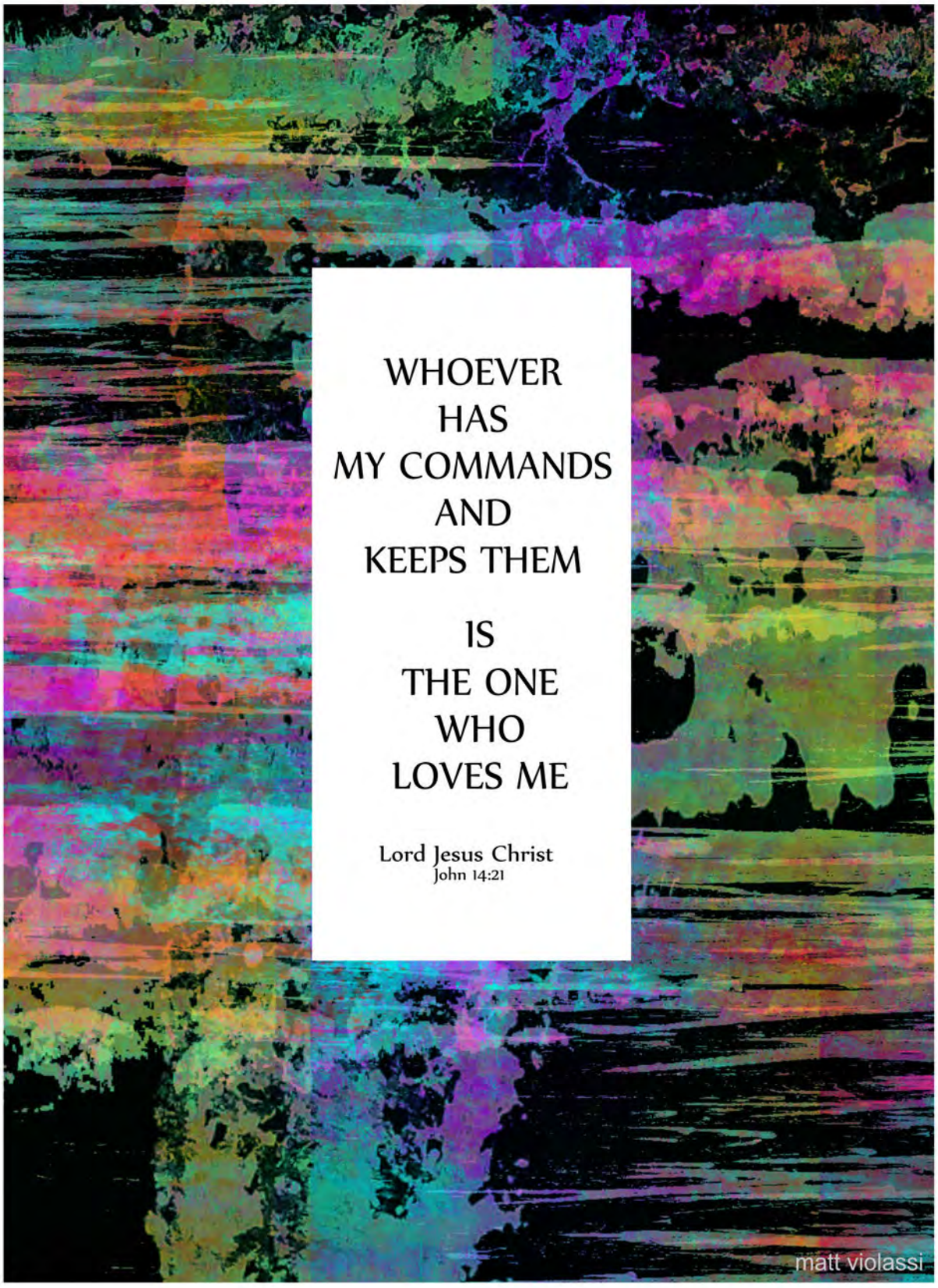

CLING
TO
GOD
Duet. 13
matt violassi

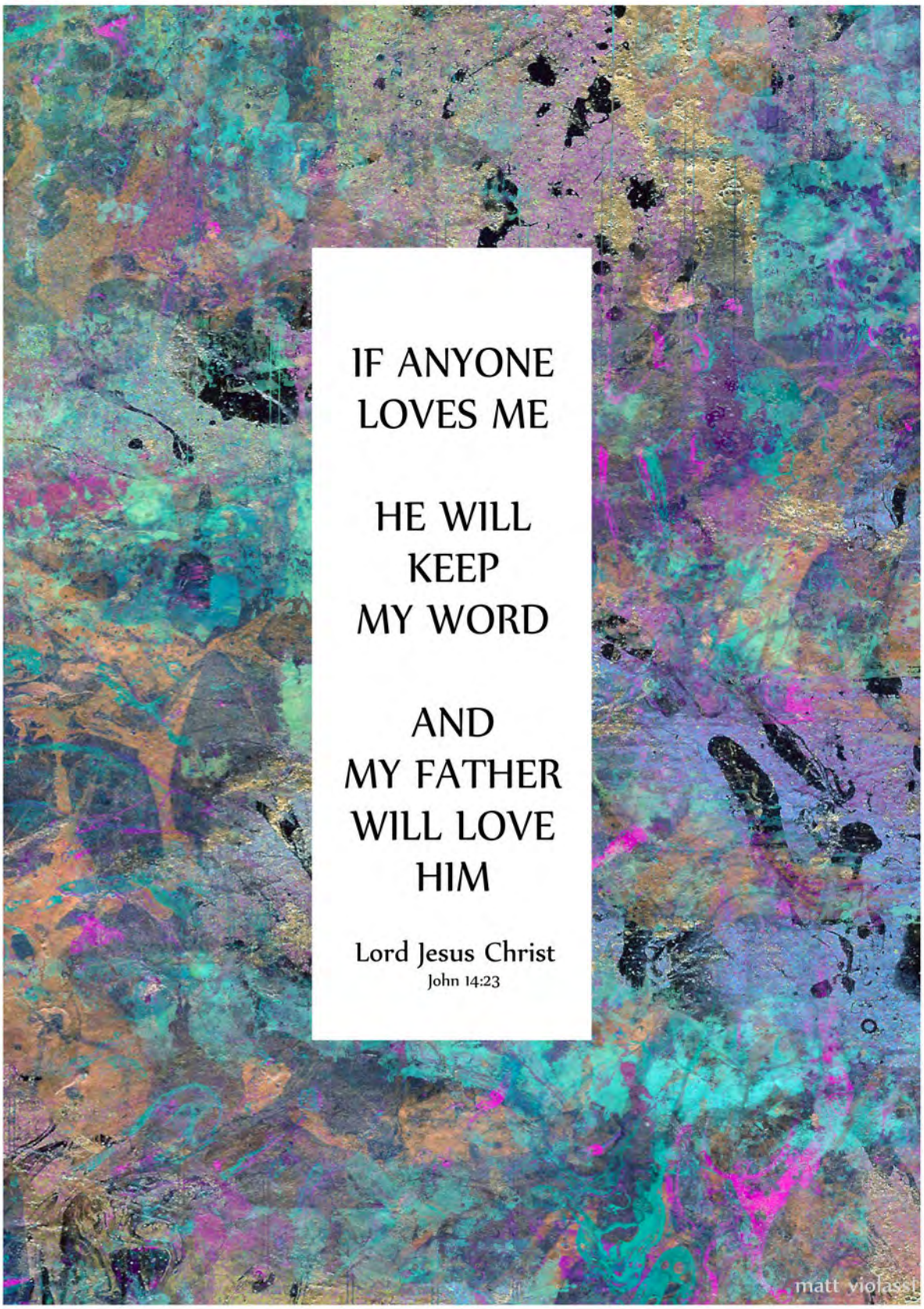

HEAP
UPON
HIM
PRAISE
GLORY
HONOR
LOVE
ADORATION
THANKSGIVINGS
TOTAL DEPENDANCY
UTTER NEED
ADMIRATION
FULL TRUST
WORSHIP
DEEP RESPECT
REJOICING IN HIM
CONTENTEDNESS
TEACHABLENESS
SERVICE
OBEDIENCE
from
1Thes. 2:16
matt violassi

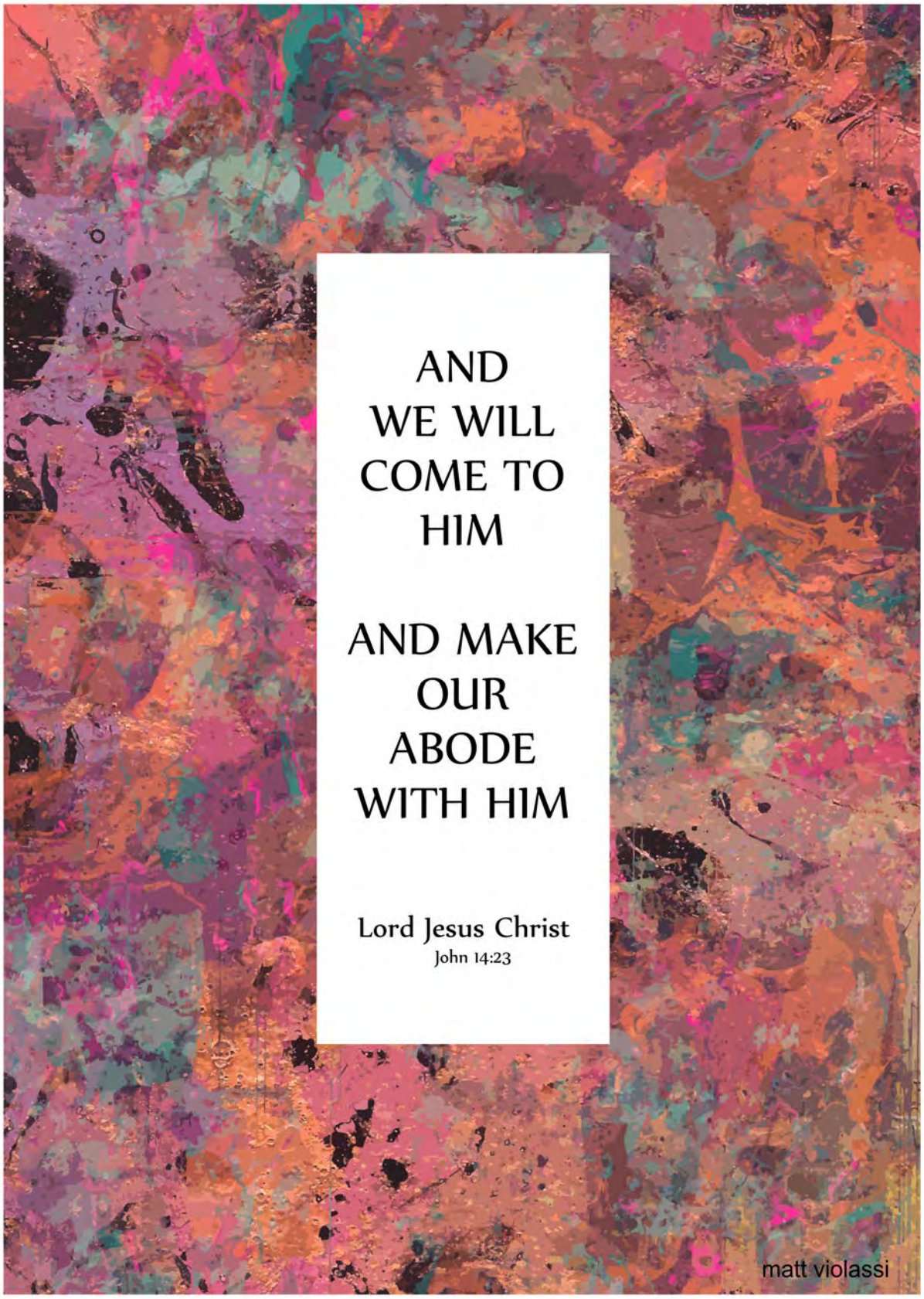

HEAP
UPON
HIM
PRAISE
GLORY
HONOR
LOVE
ADORATION
THANKSGIVINGS
TOTAL DEPENDANCY
UTTER NEED
ADMIRATION
FULL TRUST
WORSHIP
DEEP RESPECT
REJOICING IN HIM
CONTENTEDNESS
TEACHABLENESS
SERVICE
OBEDIENCE
from
1Thes. 2:16
matt violassi

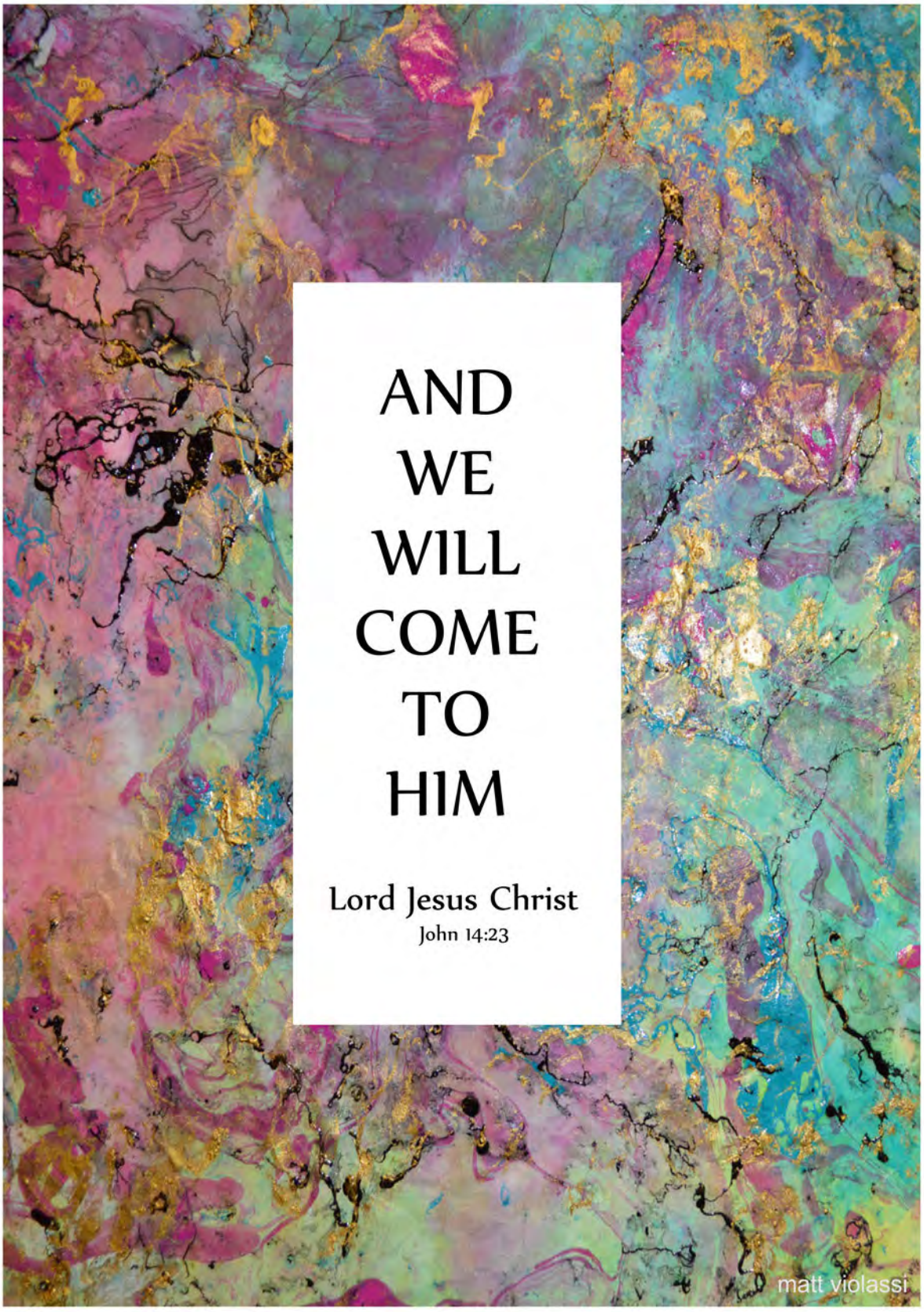

GO TO HIS
THRONE
CLING
TO HIM
HEAP
UPON HIM
Hebrews 4:16 Duet. 13
1 Thes 2:16
matt violassi

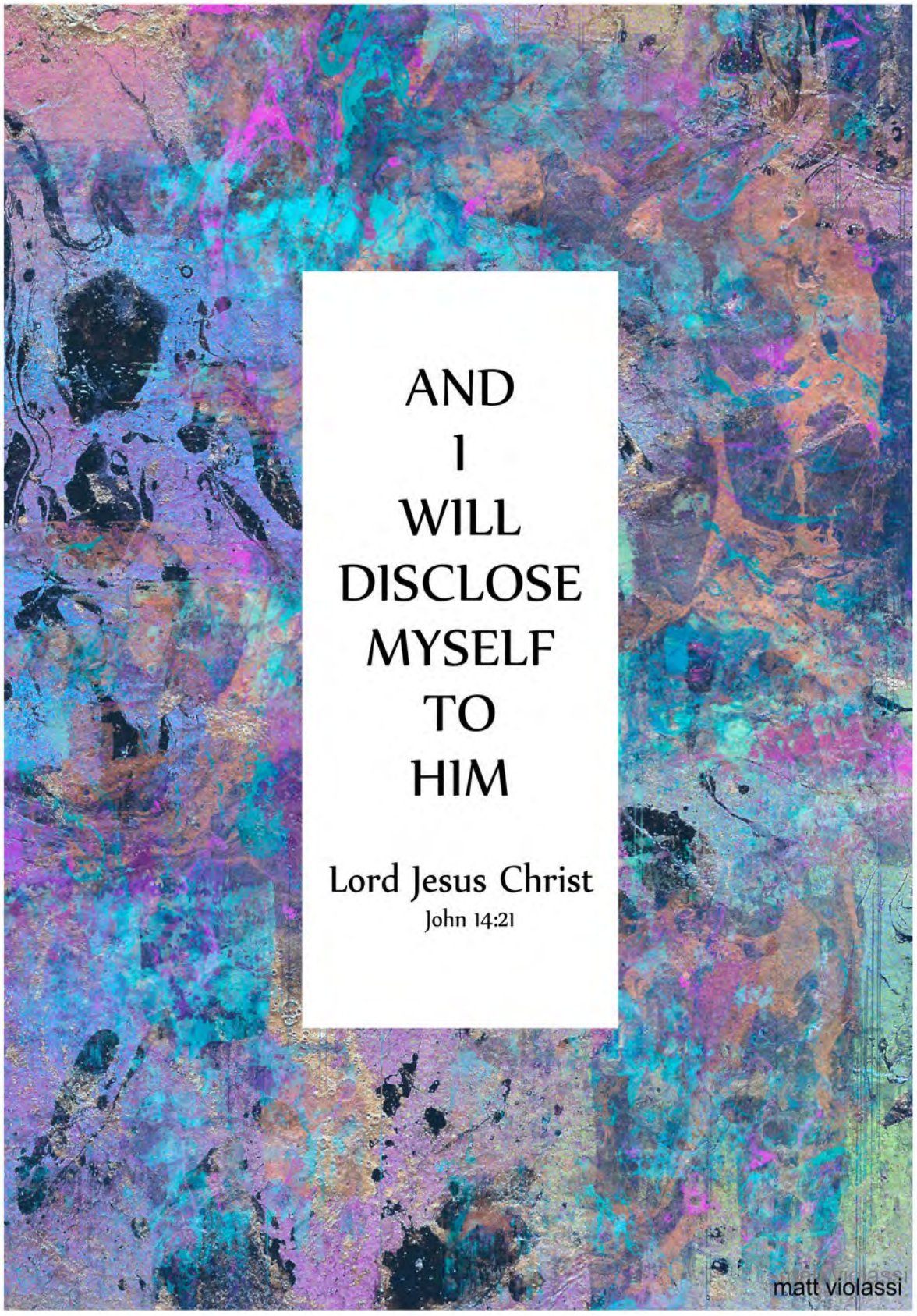

THRONE
Hebrews 4:16
CLING
Duet 13
HEAP
from
1Thes.2:16
matt violassi


WHOEVER
HAS
MY COMMANDS
AND
KEEPS THEM
IS
THE ONE
WHO
LOVES ME
Lord Jesus Christ
John 14:21
matt violassi


IF ANYONE
LOVES ME
HE WILL
KEEP
MY WORD
AND
MY FATHER
WILL LOVE
HIM
Lord Jesus Christ
John 14:23
matt violassi

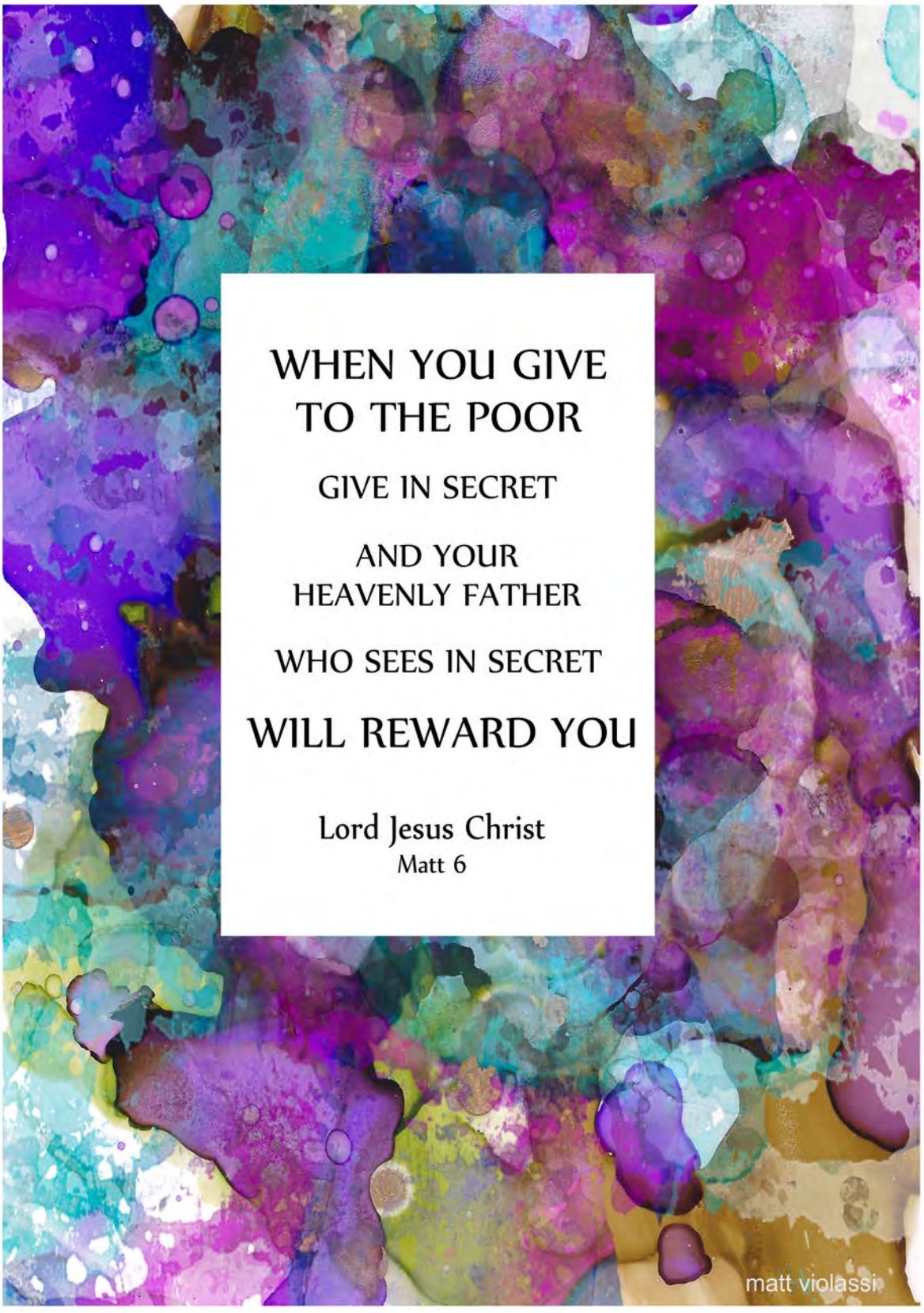

AND
WE WILL
COME TO
HIM
AND MAKE
OUR
ABODE
WITH HIM
Lord Jesus Christ
John 14:23
matt violassi


AND
WE
WILL
COME
TO
HIM
Lord Jesus Christ
John 14:23
matt violassi

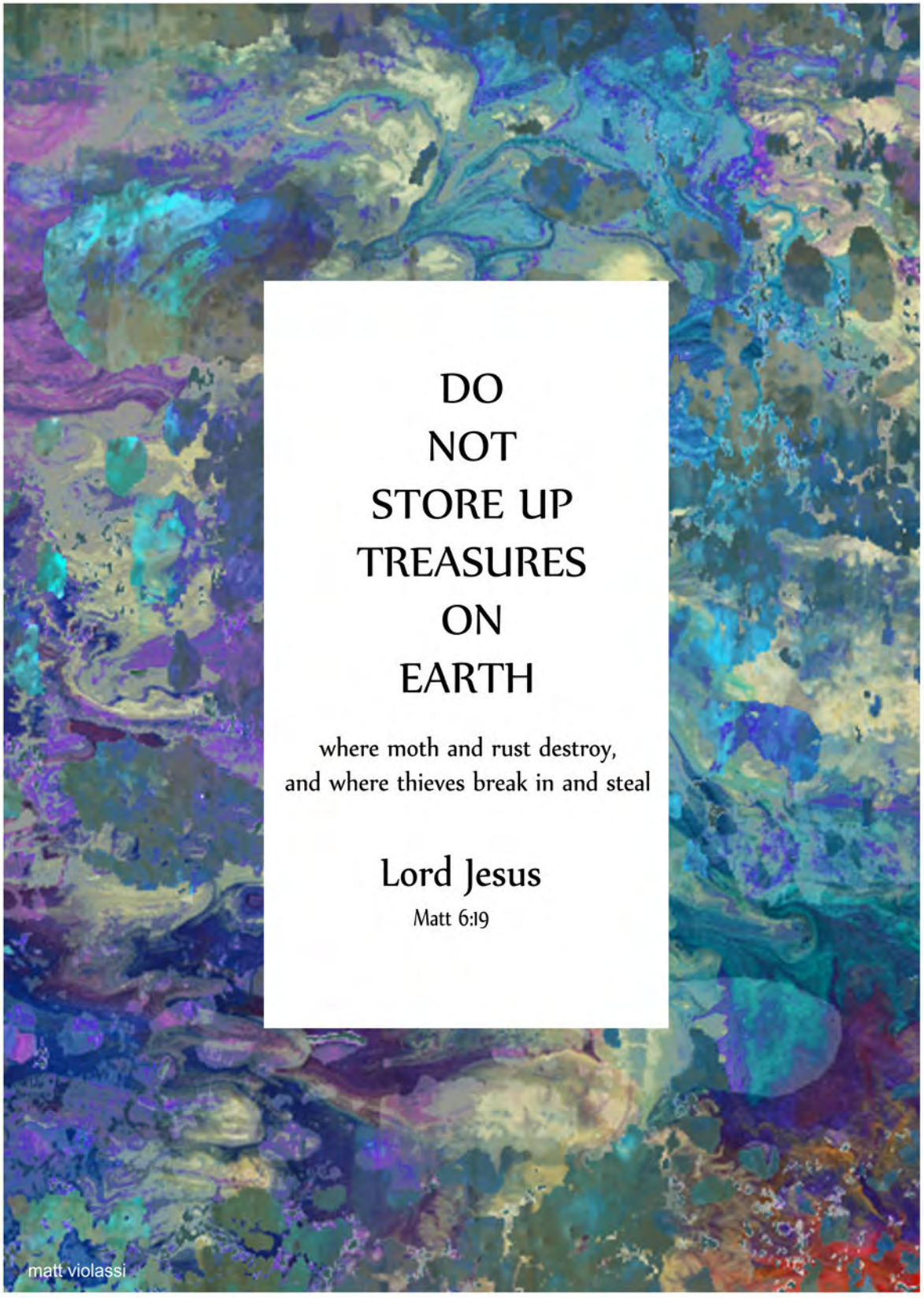

AND
I
WILL
DISCLOSE
MYSELF
TO
HIM
Lord Jesus Christ
John 14:21
matt violassi


WHEN YOU PRAY
GO INTO
YOUR PRIVATE ROOM
AND CLOSE
YOUR DOOR
AND PRAY
TO YOUR
HEAVENLY FATHER
WHO SEES IN SECRET
AND
HE WILL
REWARD YOU
Lord Jesus Christ
Matt 6
matt violassi

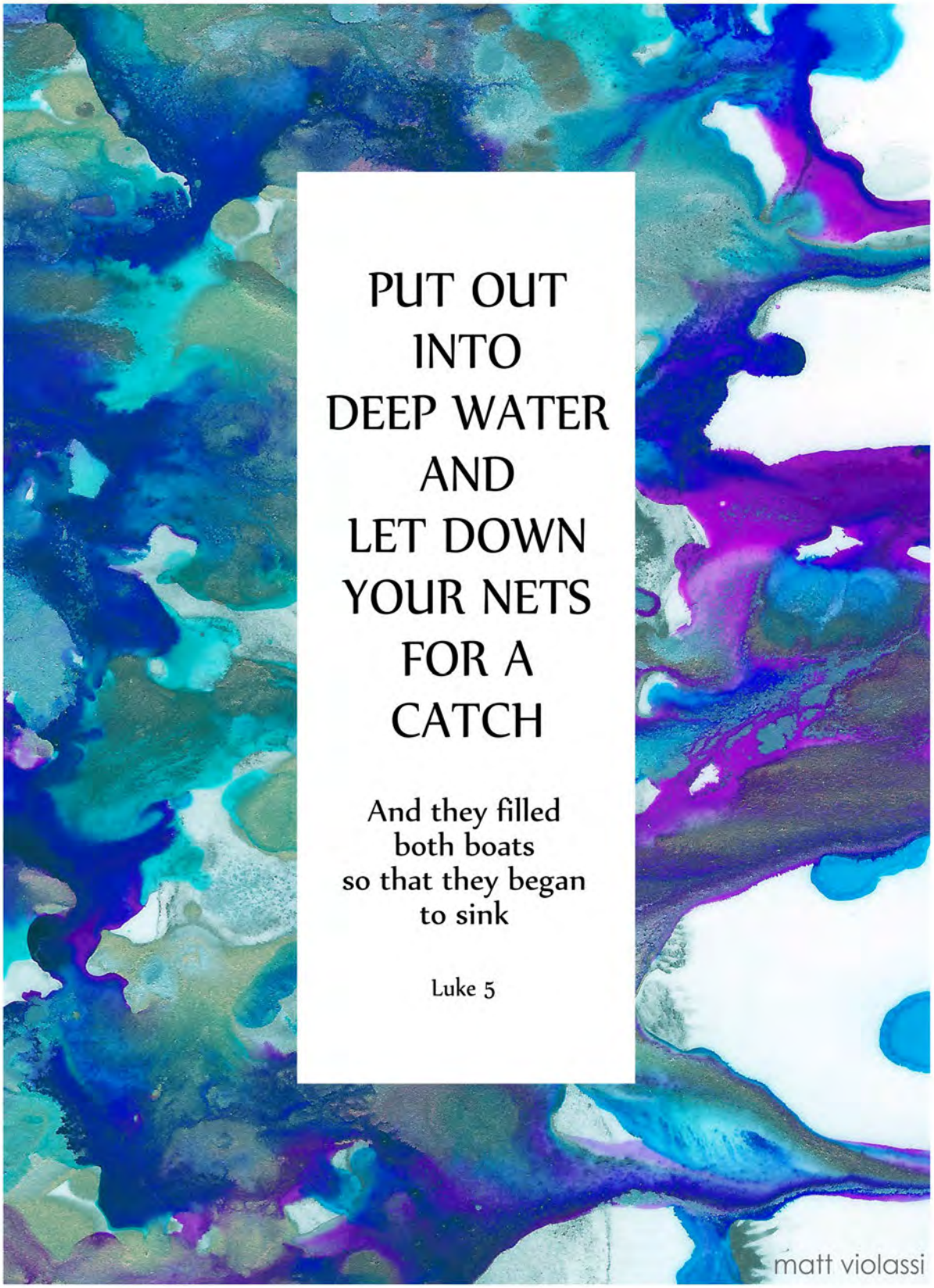

WHEN YOU FAST
FAST IN SECRET
AND YOUR
HEAVENLY FATHER
WHO SEES IN SECRET
WILL REWARD YOU
Lord Jesus Christ
Matt 6
matt violassi

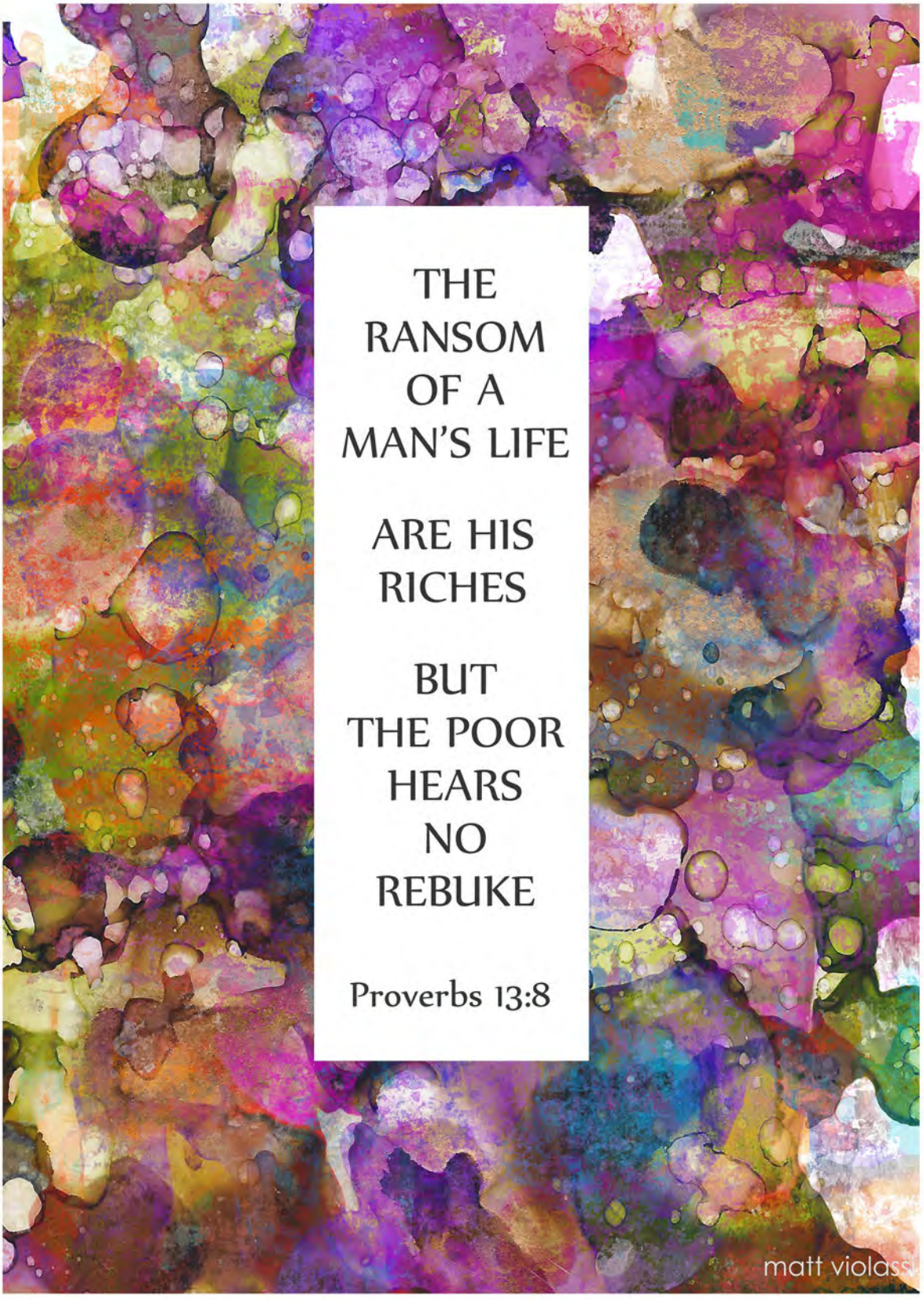

WHEN YOU GIVE
TO THE POOR
GIVE IN SECRET
AND YOUR
HEAVENLY FATHER
WHO SEES IN SECRET
WILL REWARD YOU
Lord Jesus Christ
Matt 6
matt violassi

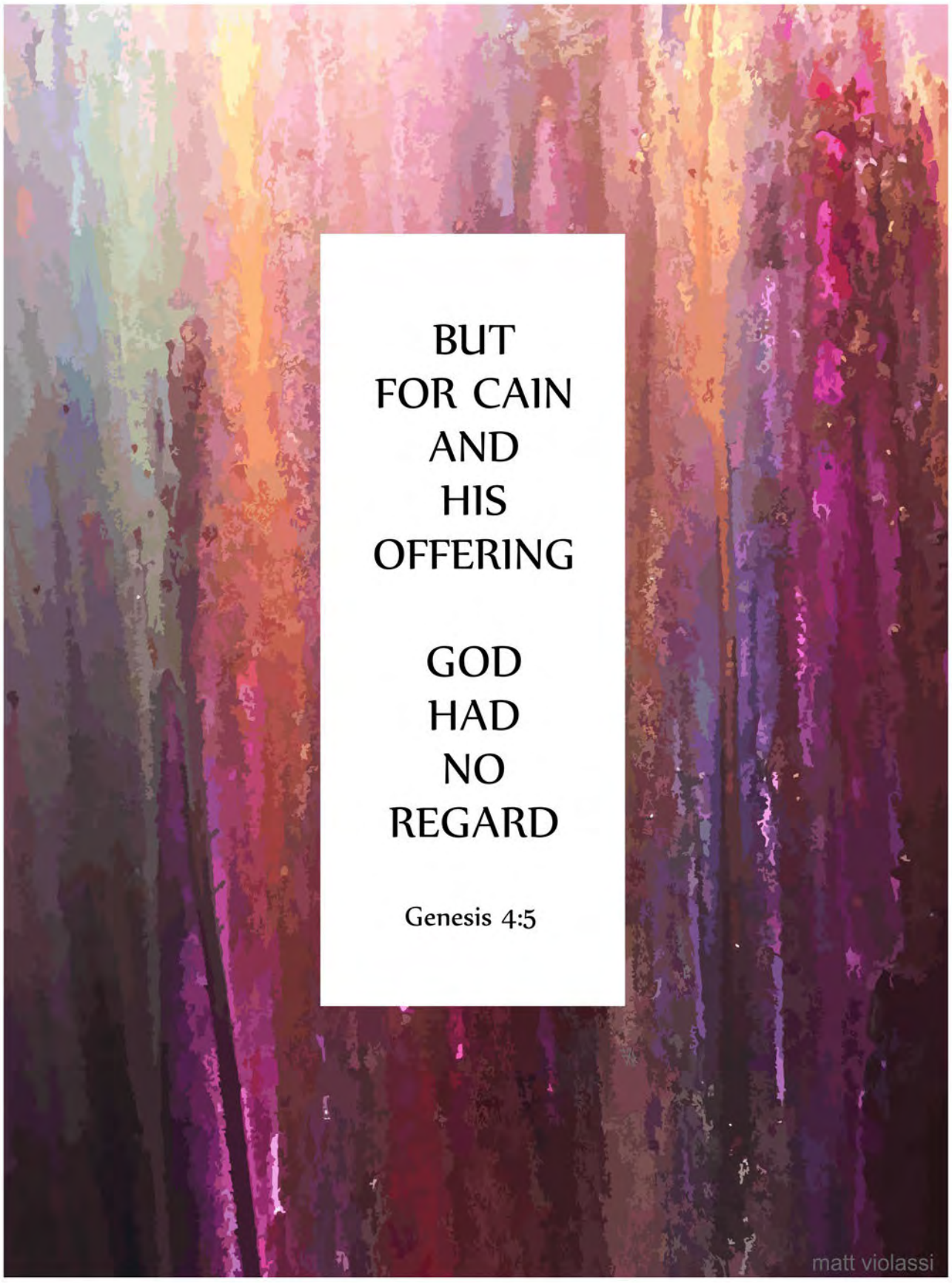

Honor
the Lord
from the
first
of your
produce
so that
your barns
will be
filled
with plenty
Prov 3:9

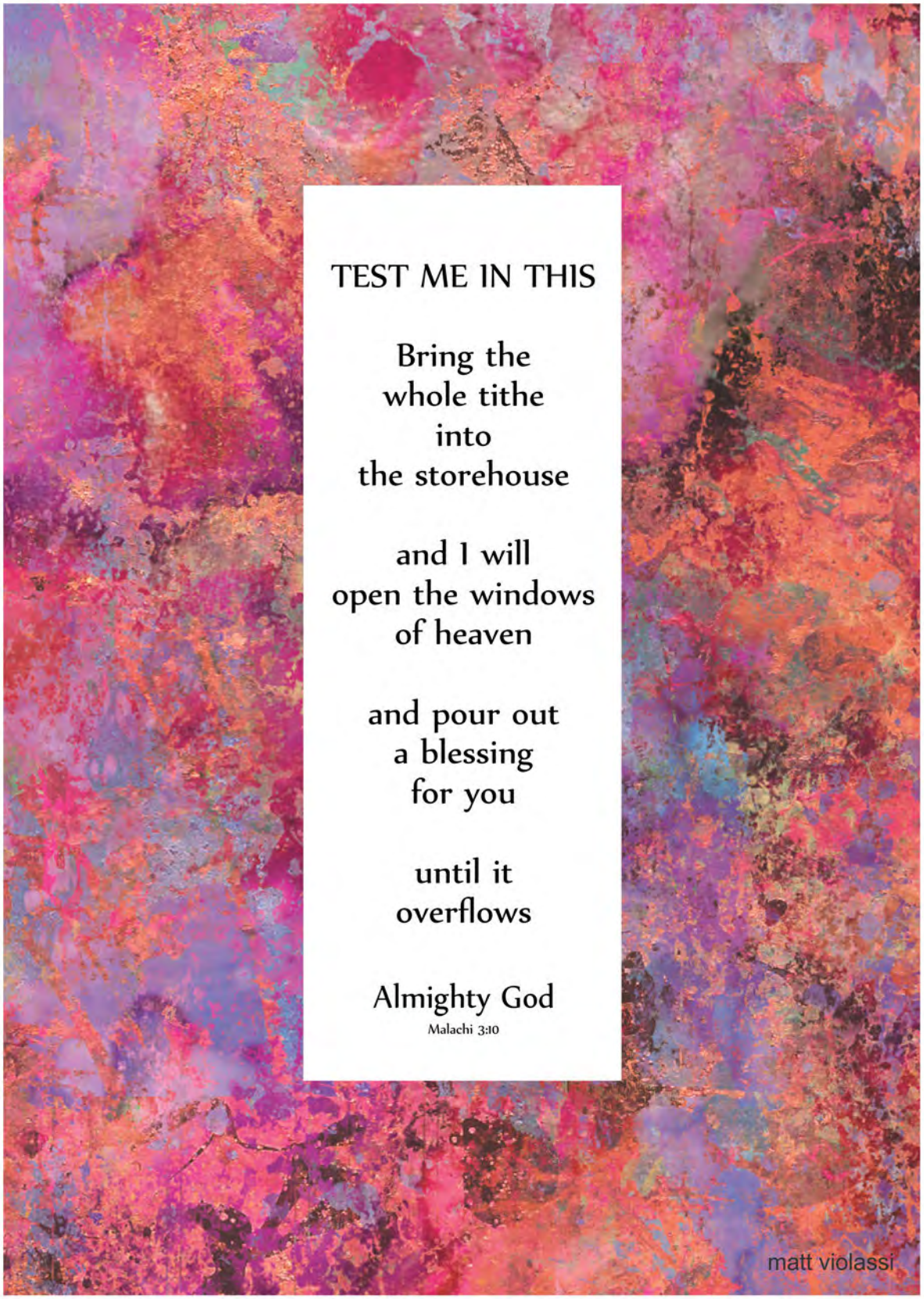

DO
NOT
STORE UP
TREASURES
ON
EARTH
where moth and rust destroy,
and where thieves break in and steal
Lord Jesus
Matt 6:19
matt violassi

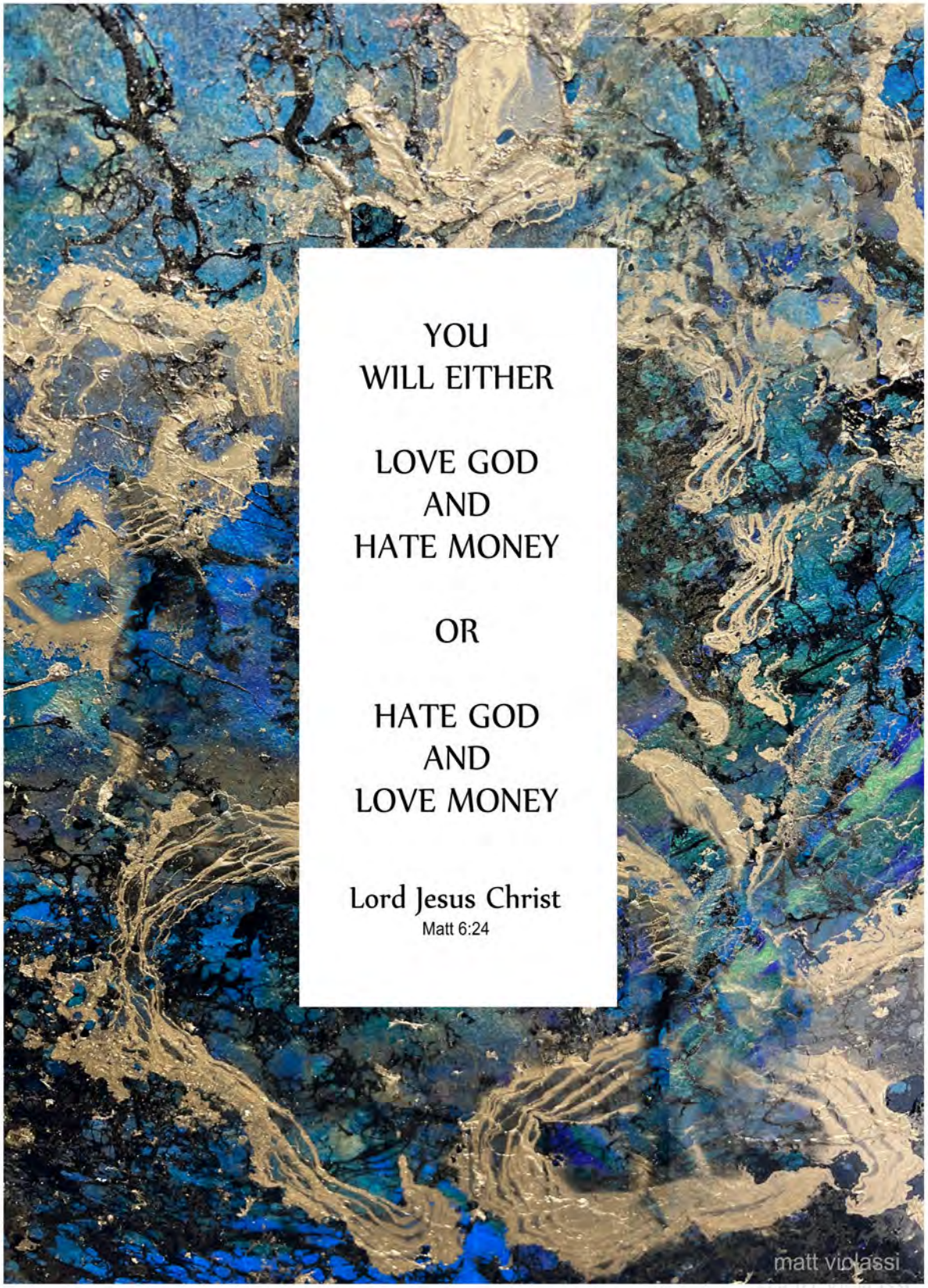

BEWARE
AND
BE ON
YOUR GUARD
AGAINST
EVERY FORM
OF GREED
FOR
EVEN WHEN
ONE
HAS AN
ABUNDANCE
DOES HIS
LIFE
CONSIST OF
HIS
POSSESSIONS
Lord Jesus
luke 12:15
matt violassi

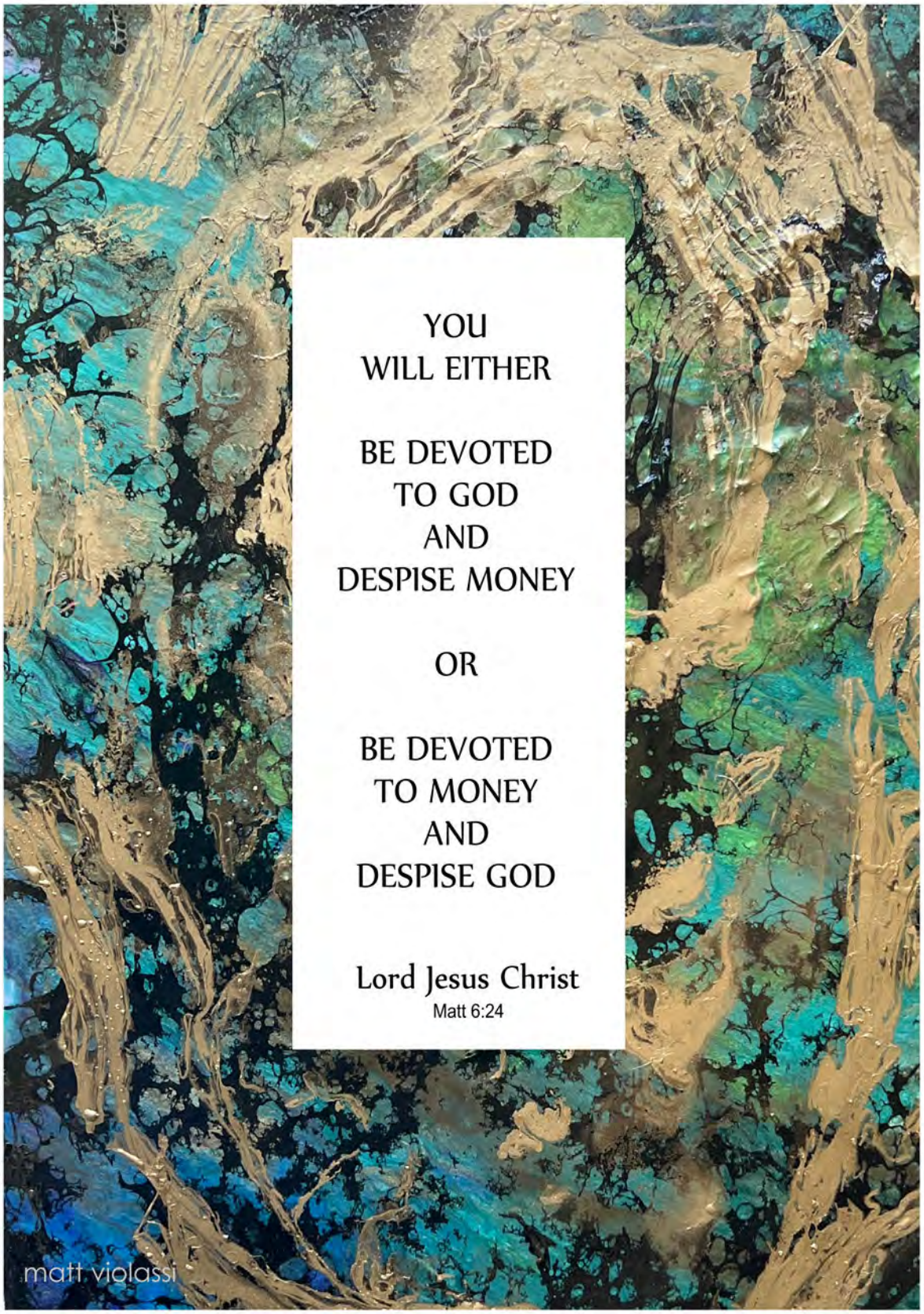

PUT OUT
INTO
DEEP WATER
AND
LET DOWN
YOUR NETS
FOR A
CATCH
And they filled
both boats
so that they began
to sink
Luke 5
matt violassi

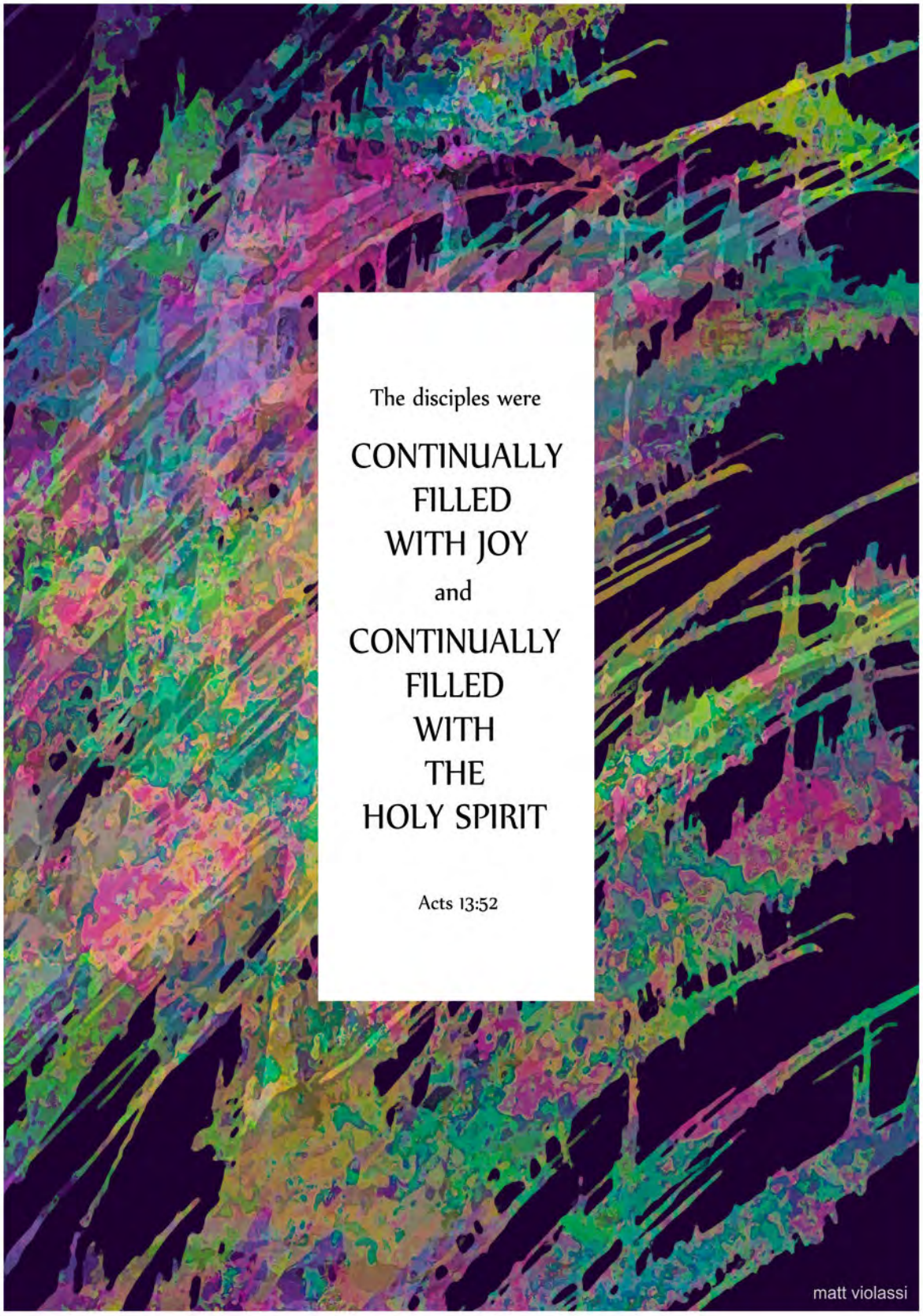

THE
RANSOM
OF A
MAN'S LIFE
ARE HIS
RICHES
BUT
THE POOR
HEARS
NO
REBUKE
Proverbs 13:8
matt violassi

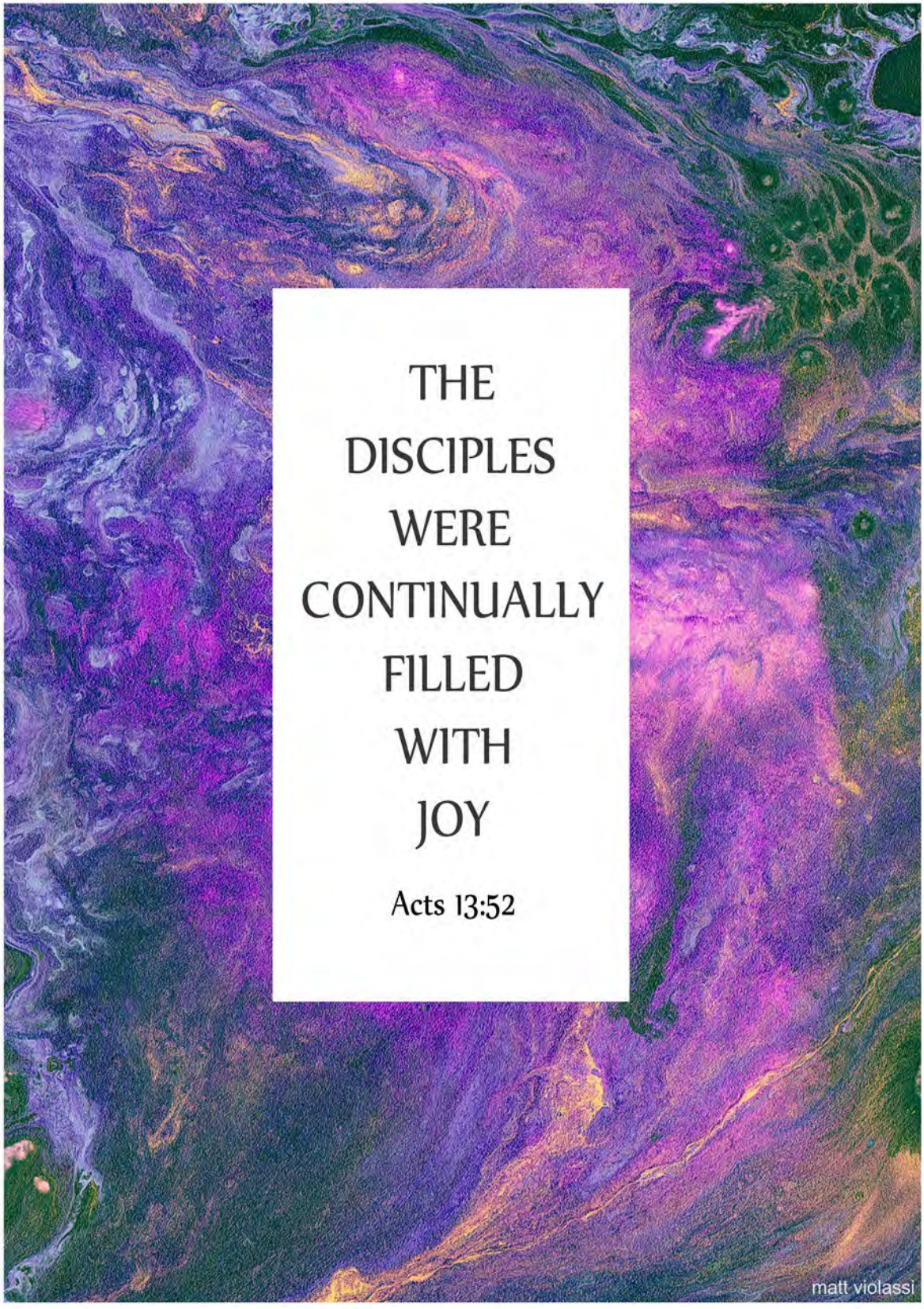

BUT
FOR CAIN
AND
HIS
OFFERING
GOD
HAD
NO
REGARD
Genesis 4:5
matt violassi

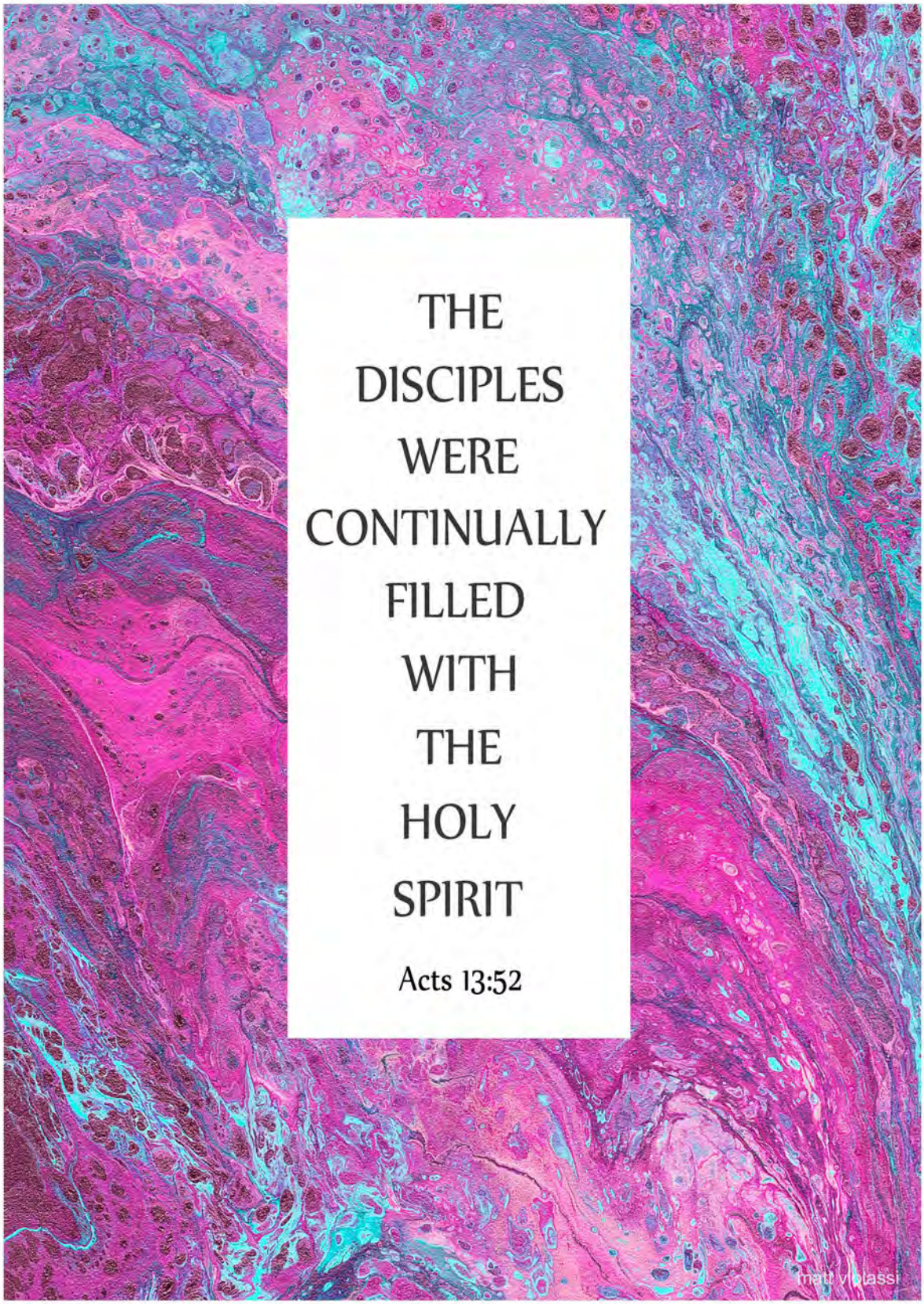

TEST ME IN THIS
Bring the
whole tithe
into
the storehouse
and I will
open the windows
of heaven
and pour out
a blessing
for you
until it
overflows
Almighty God
Malachi 3:10
matt violassi


YOU
WILL EITHER
LOVE GOD
AND
HATE MONEY
OR
HATE GOD
AND
LOVE MONEY
Lord Jesus Christ
Matt 6:24
matt viglassi

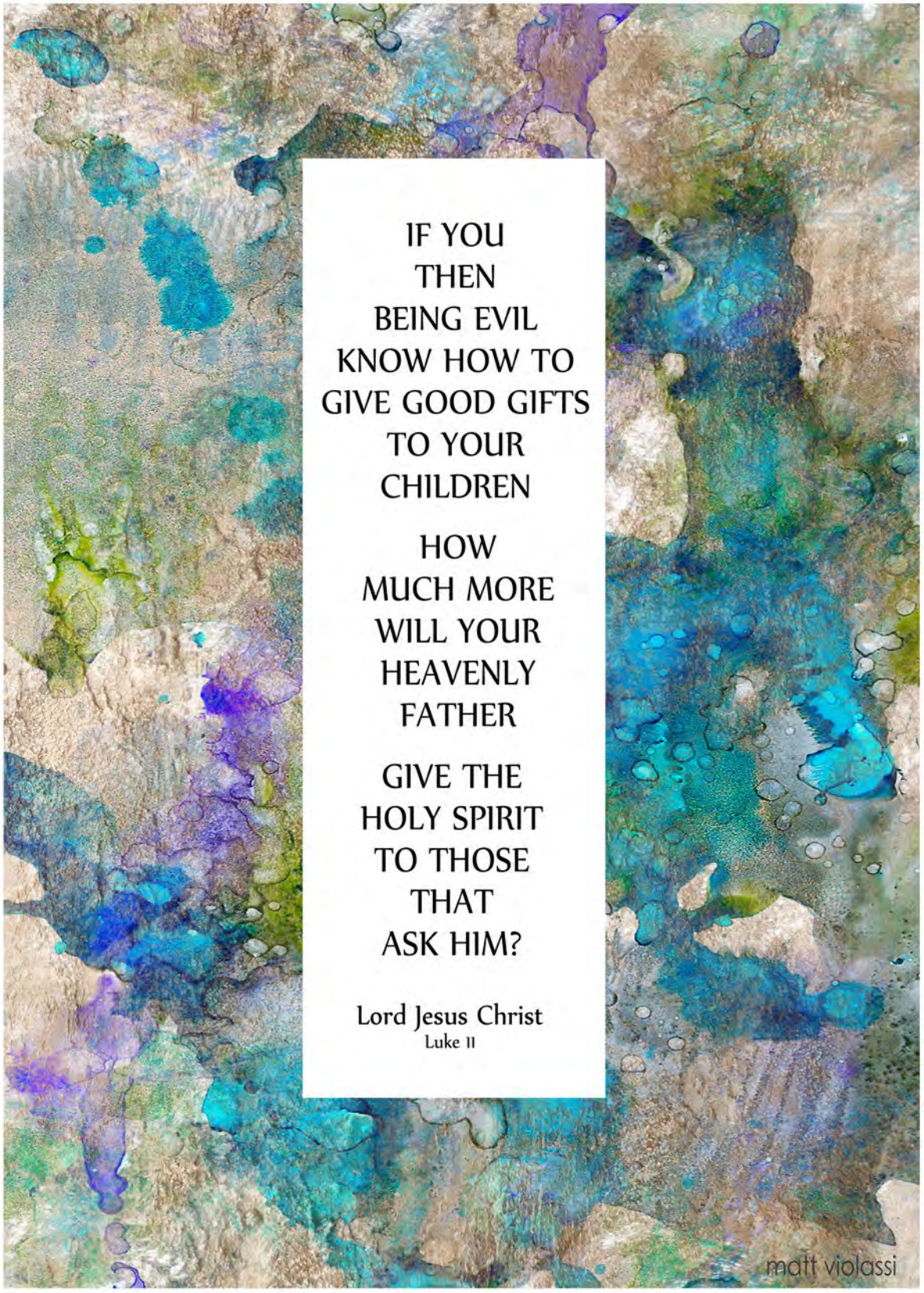

YOU
WILL EITHER
BE DEVOTED
TO GOD
AND
DESPISE MONEY
OR
BE DEVOTED
TO MONEY
AND
DESPISE GOD
Lord Jesus Christ
Matt 6:24
matt violassi

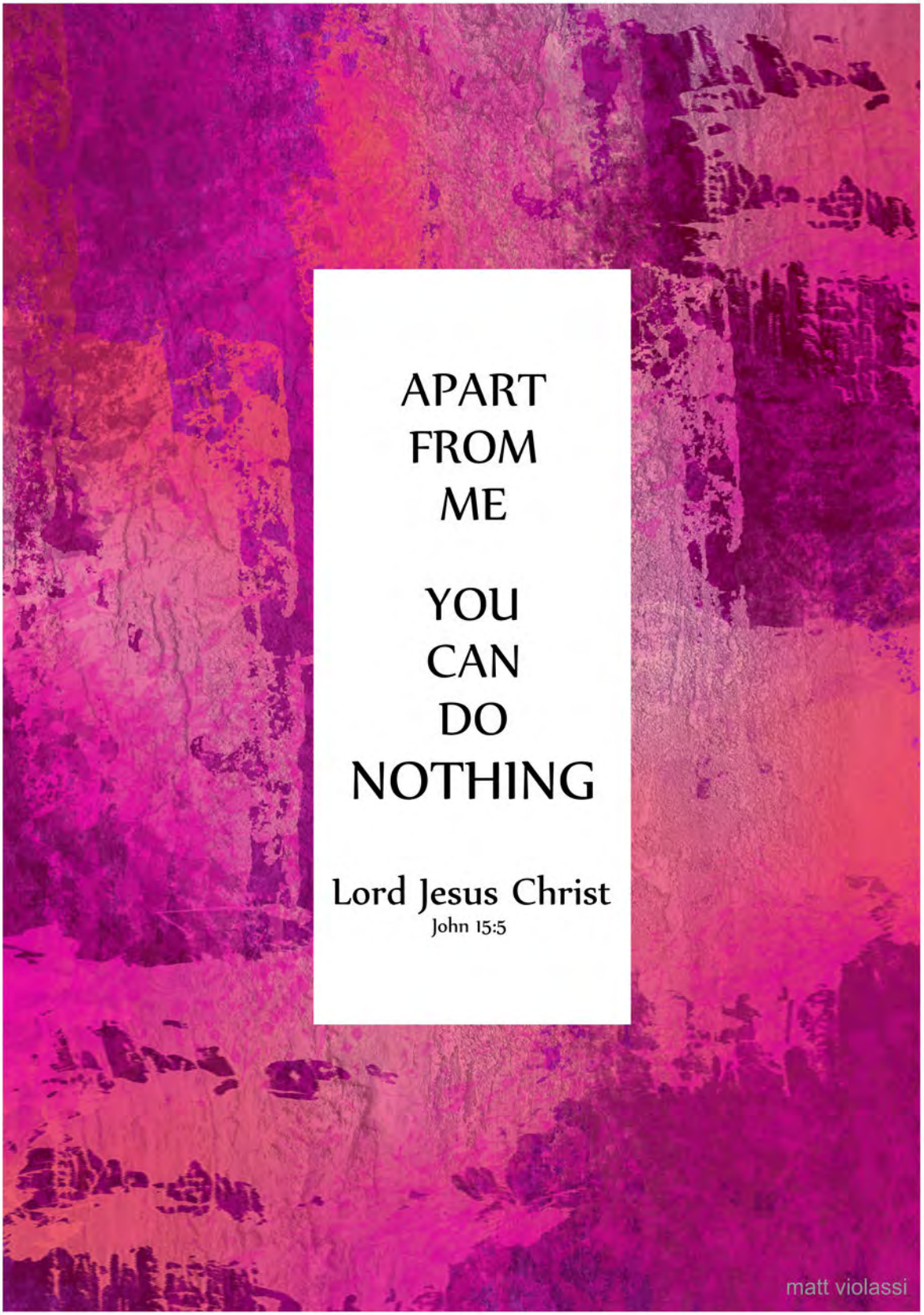

The disciples were
CONTINUALLY
FILLED
WITH JOY
and
CONTINUALLY
FILLED
WITH
THE
HOLY SPIRIT
Acts 13:52
matt violassi

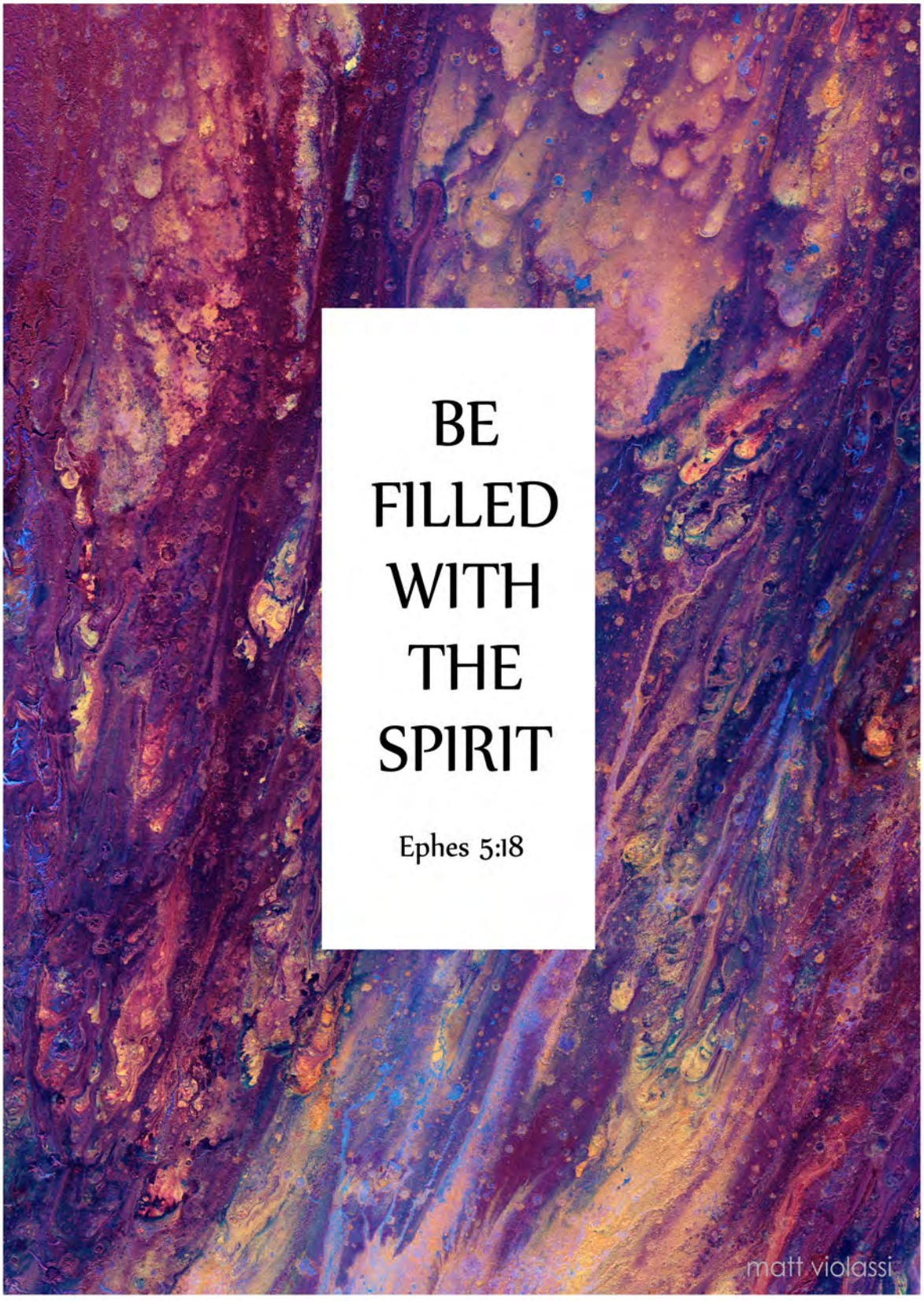

THE
DISCIPLES
WERE
CONTINUALLY
FILLED
WITH
JOY
Acts 13:52
matt violassi

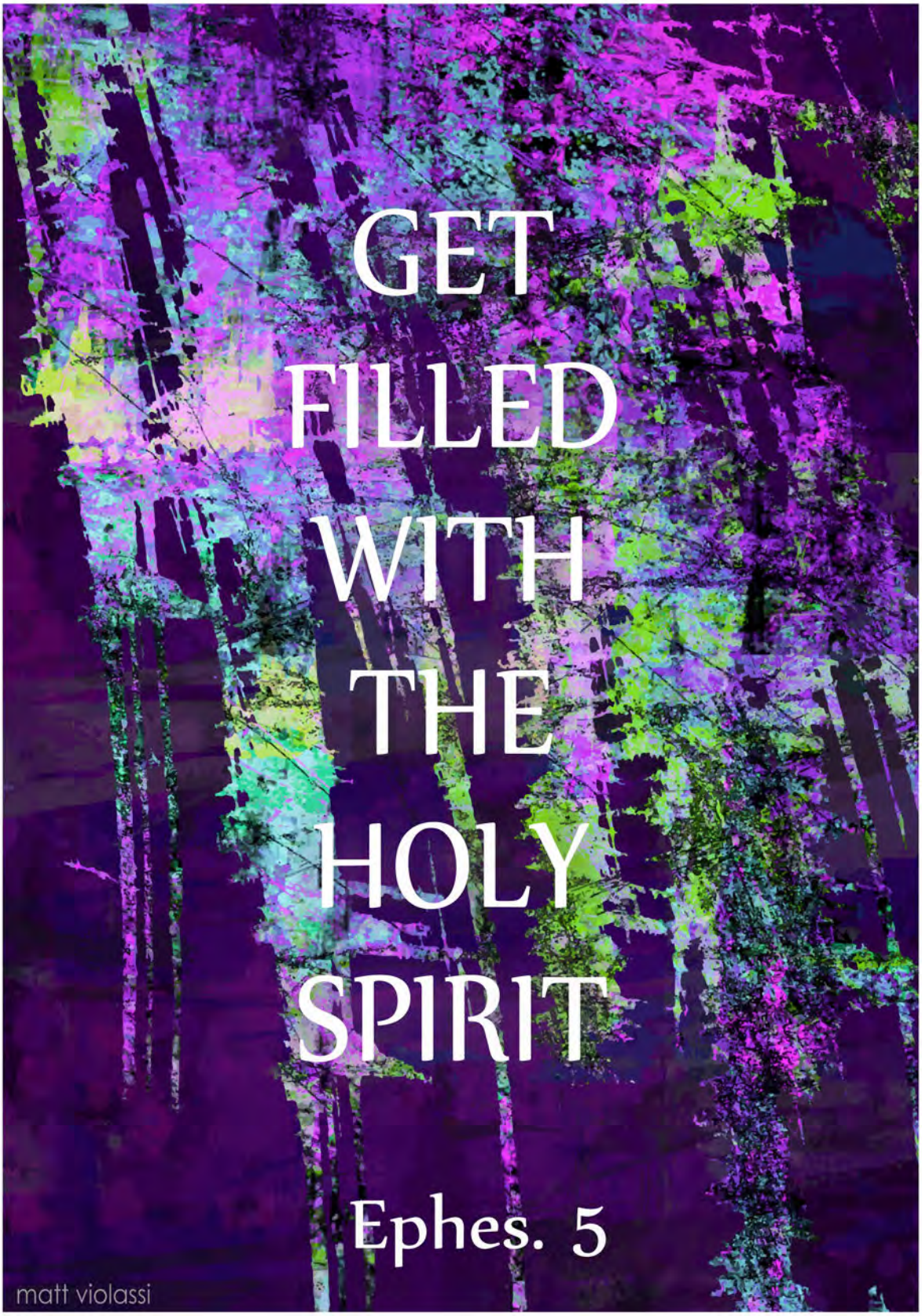

THE
DISCIPLES
WERE
CONTINUALLY
FILLED
WITH
THE
HOLY
SPIRIT
Acts 13:52

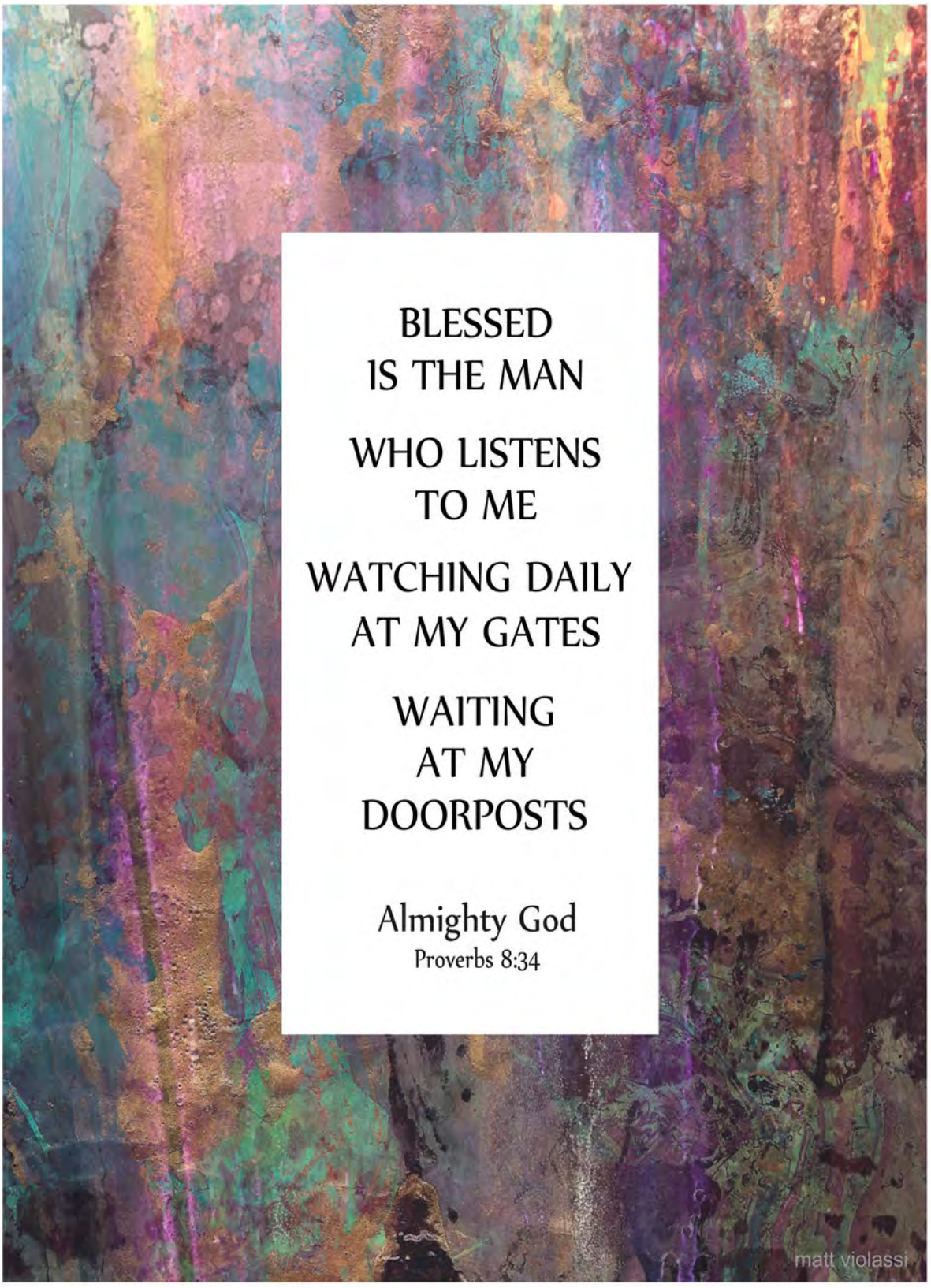

BE
FILLED
WITH
THE
SPIRIT
Ephes 5:18
matt violassi
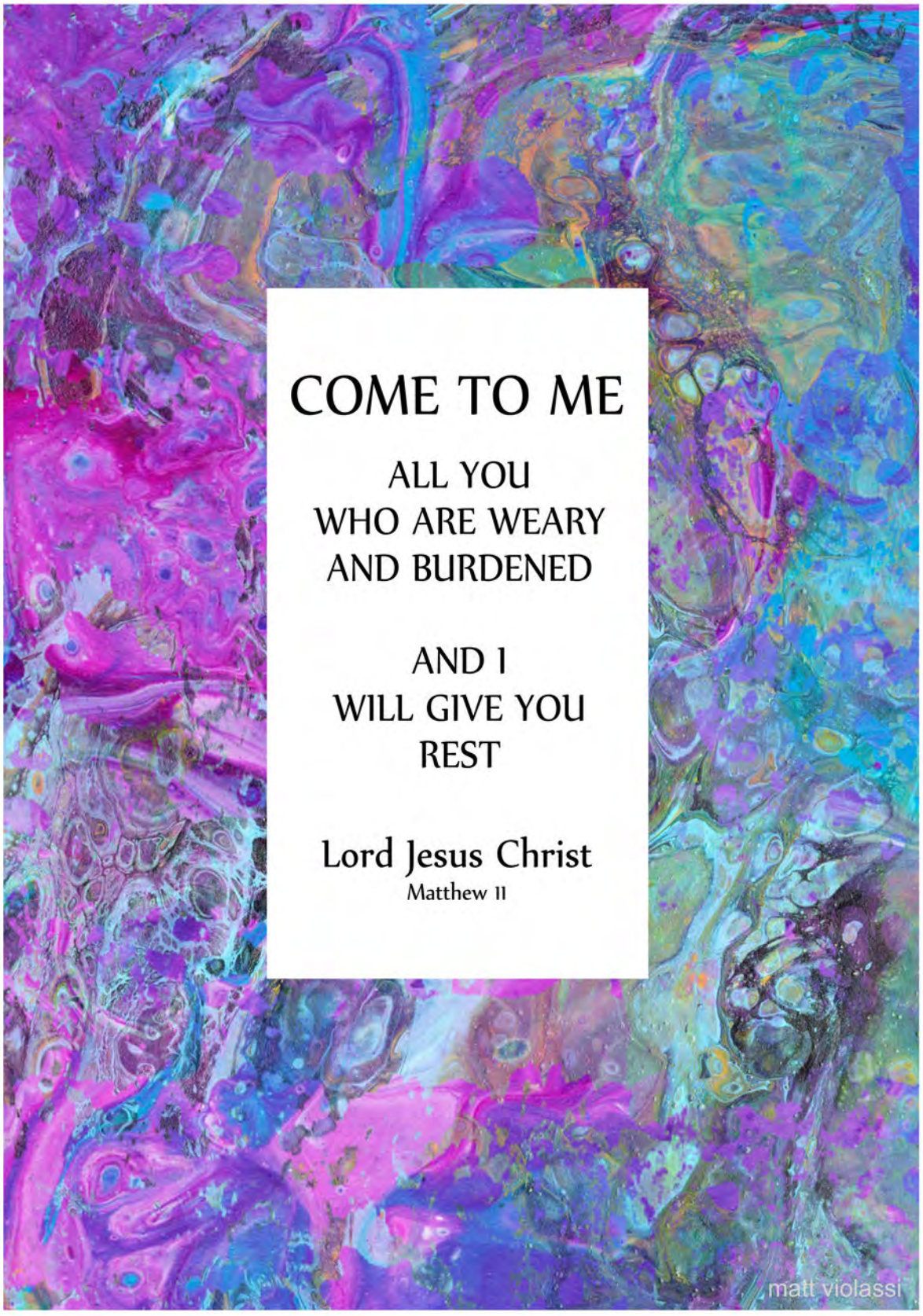

IF YOU
THEN
BEING EVIL
KNOW HOW TO
GIVE GOOD GIFTS
TO YOUR
CHILDREN
HOW
MUCH MORE
WILL YOUR
HEAVENLY
FATHER
GIVE THE
HOLY SPIRIT
TO THOSE
THAT
ASK HIM?
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 11
matt violassi


APART
FROM
ME
YOU
CAN
DO
NOTHING
Lord Jesus Christ
John 15:5
matt violassi


BE
FILLED
WITH
THE
SPIRIT
Ephes 5:18
matt violassi

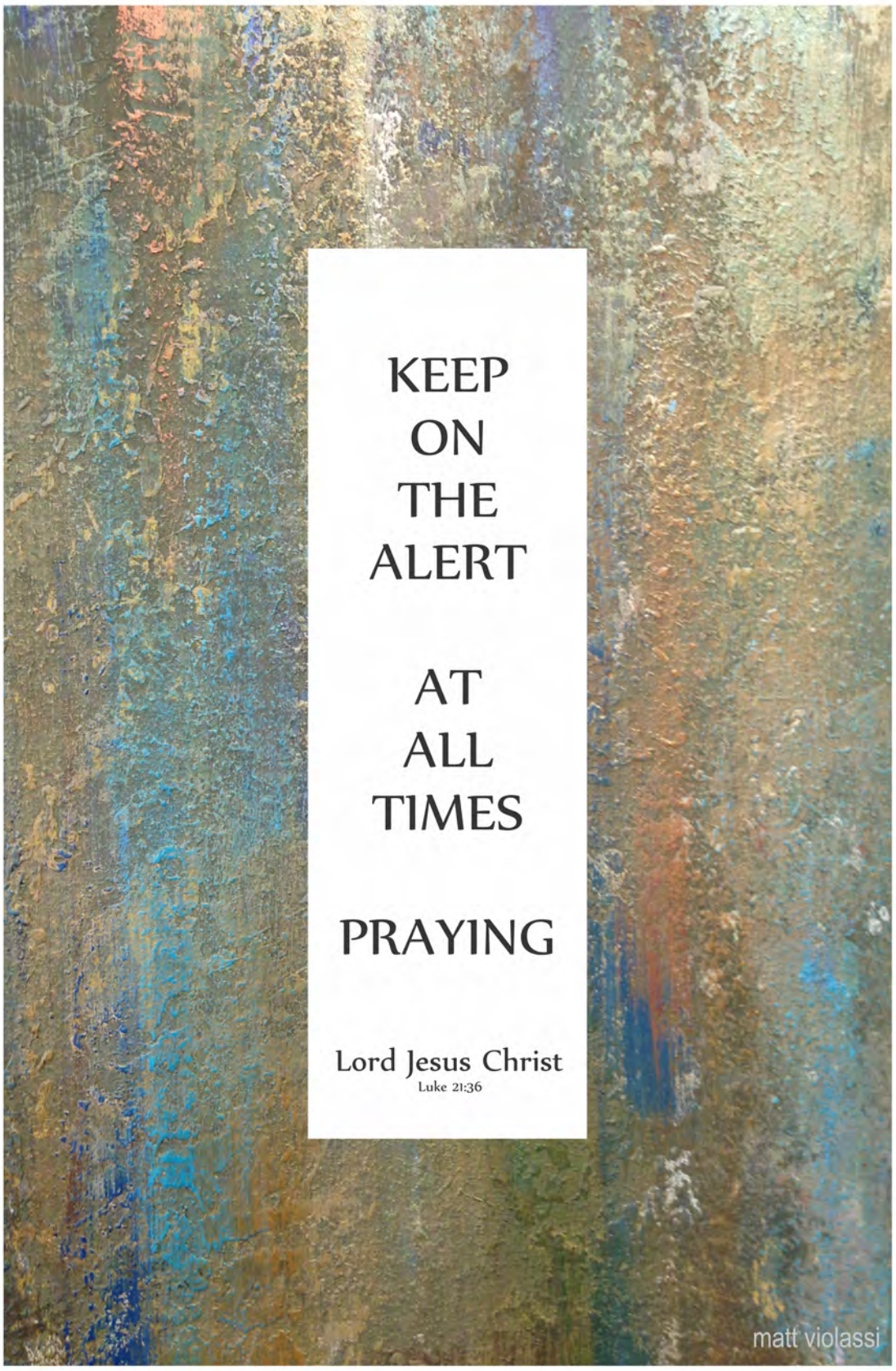

GET
FILLED
WITH
THE
HOLY
SPIRIT
Ephes. 5
matt violassi

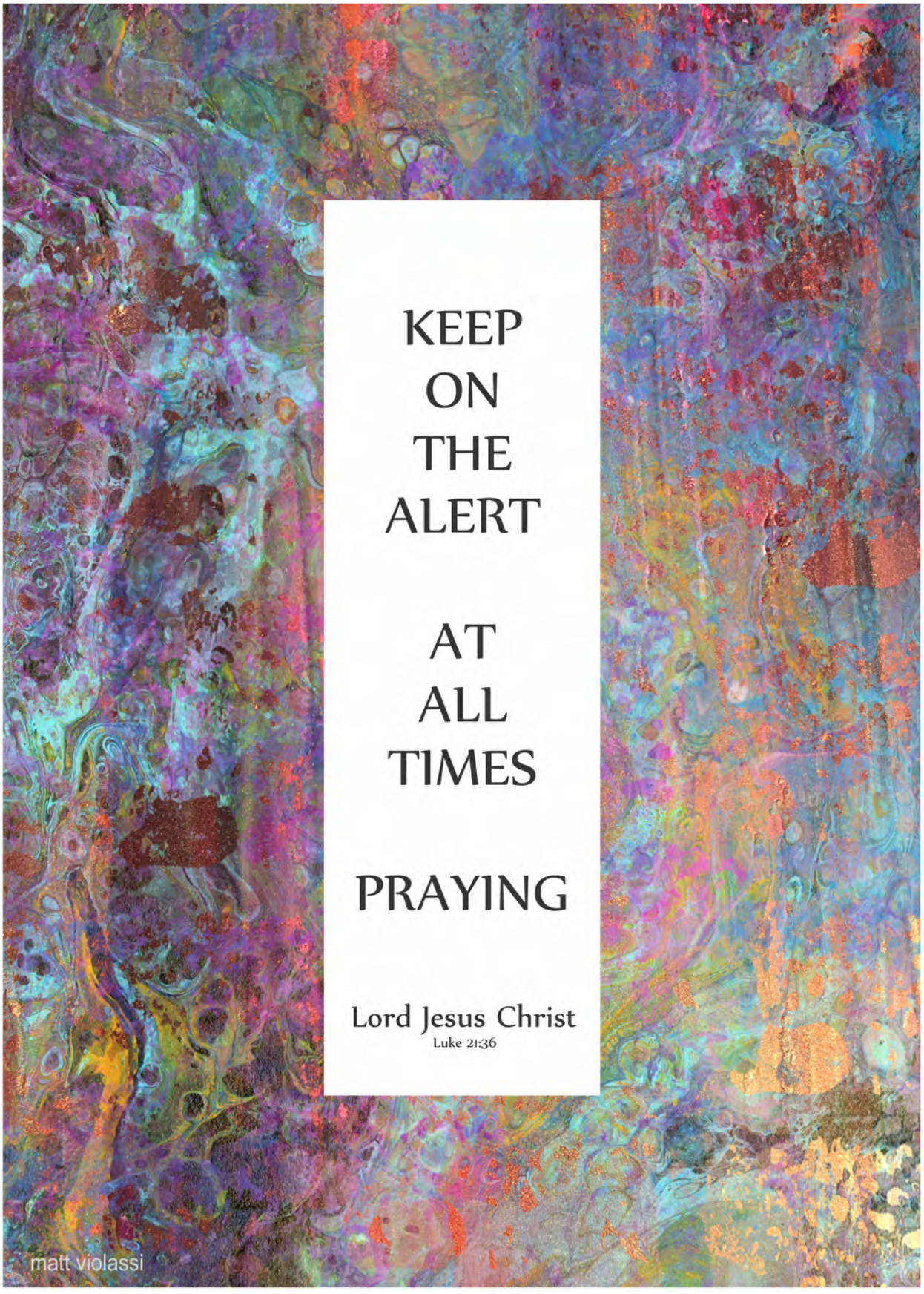

BLESSED
IS THE MAN
WHO LISTENS
TO ME
WATCHING DAILY
AT MY GATES
WAITING
AT MY
DOORPOSTS
Almighty God
Proverbs 8:34
matt violassi

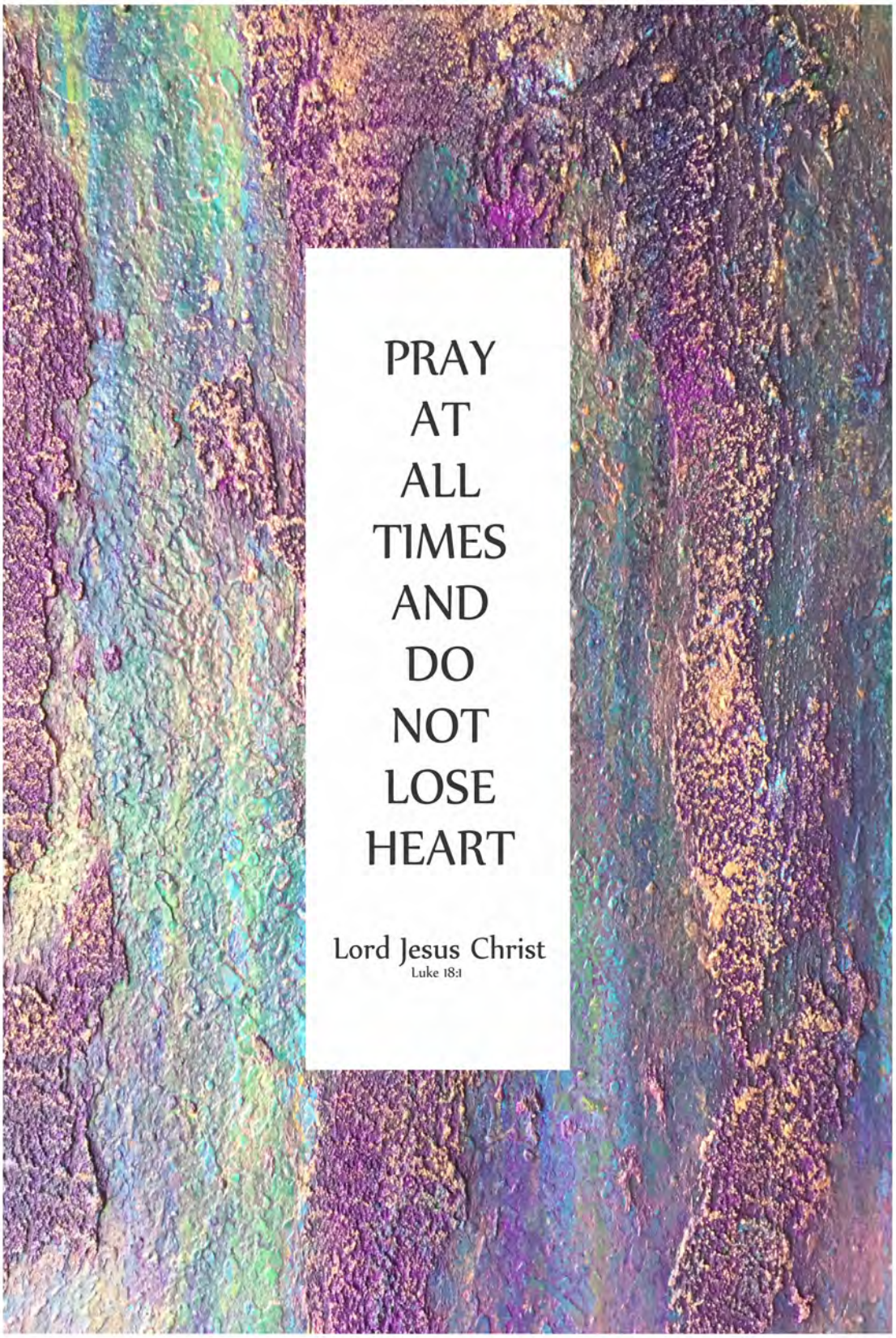

COME TO ME
ALL YOU
WHO ARE WEARY
AND BURDENED
AND I
WILL GIVE YOU
REST
Lord Jesus Christ
Matthew 11
matt violassi

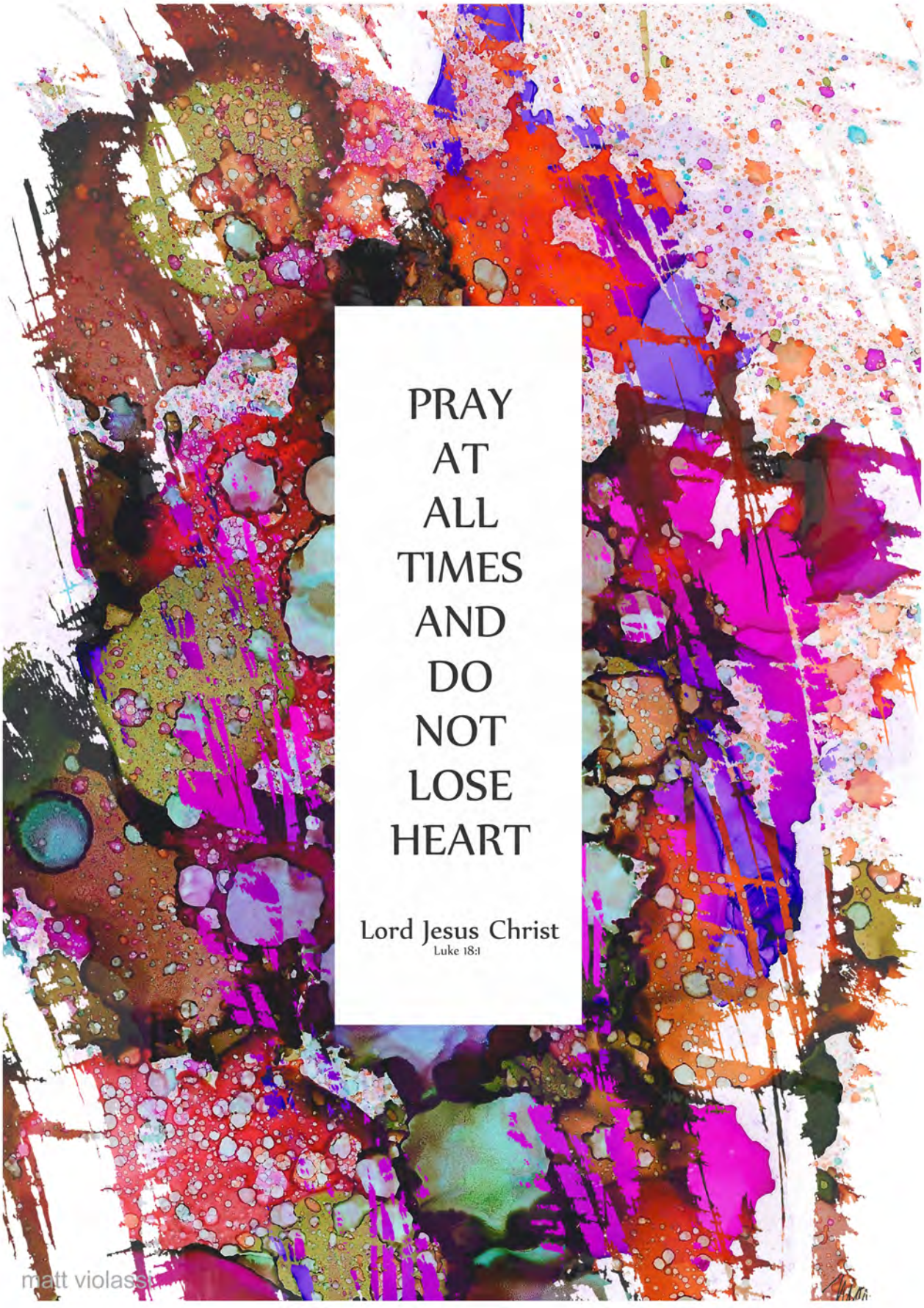

Pray
at
all
times
in
the
Spirit
Ephes 6:18

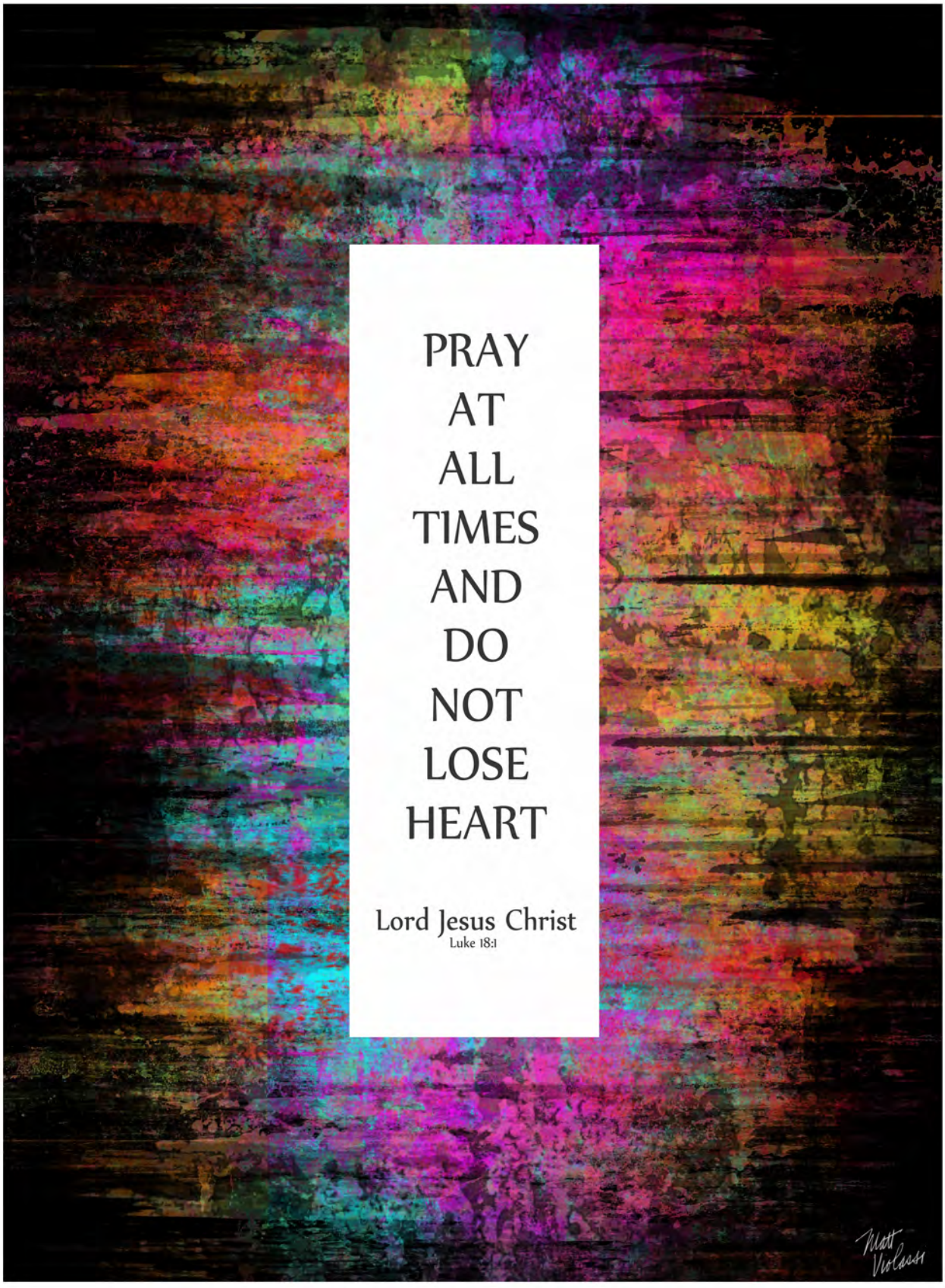

Pray
at
all
times
in
the
Spirit
Ephes 6:18
matt violassi

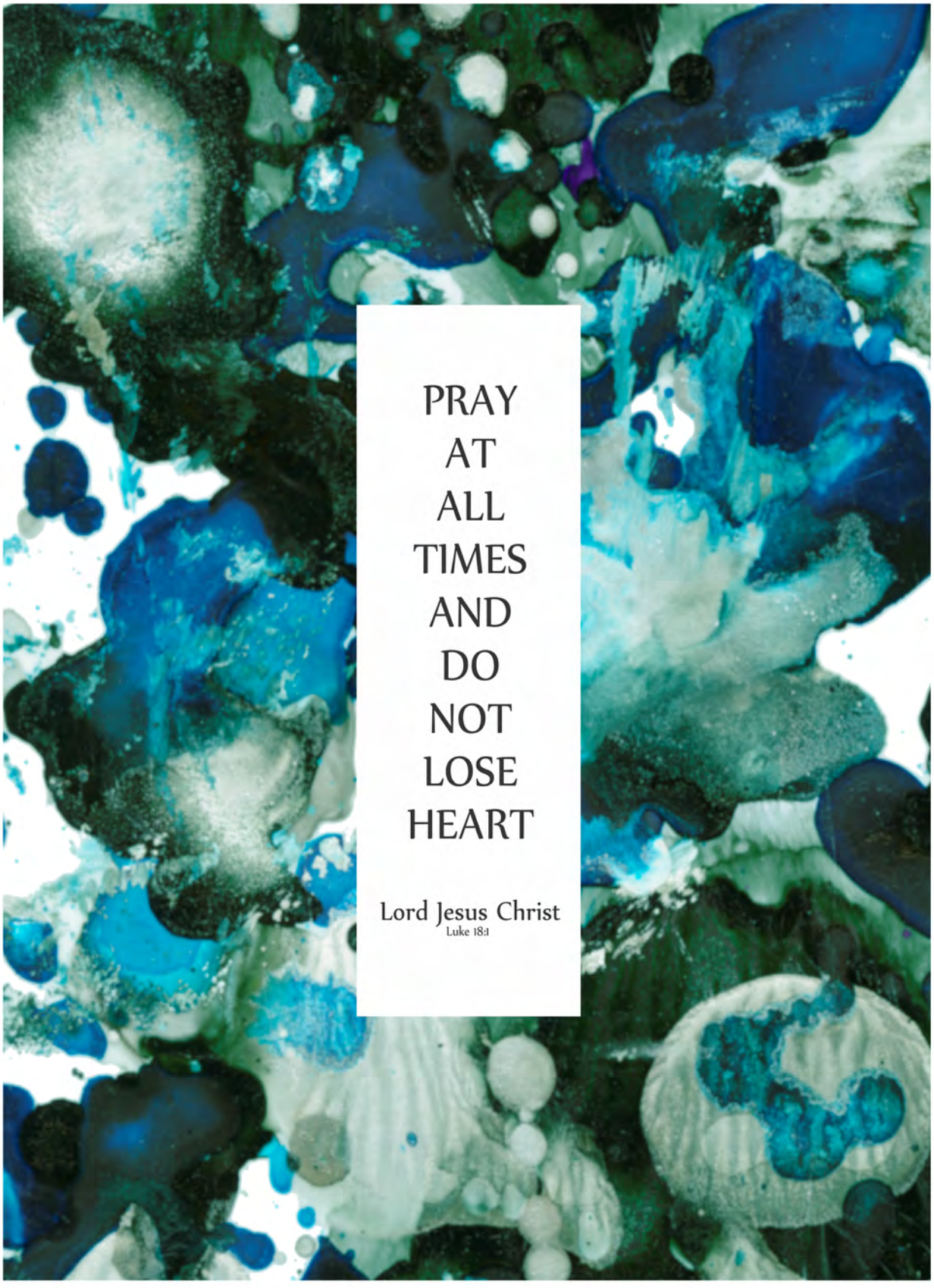

KEEP
ON
THE
ALERT
AT
ALL
TIMES
PRAYING
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 21:36
matt violassi

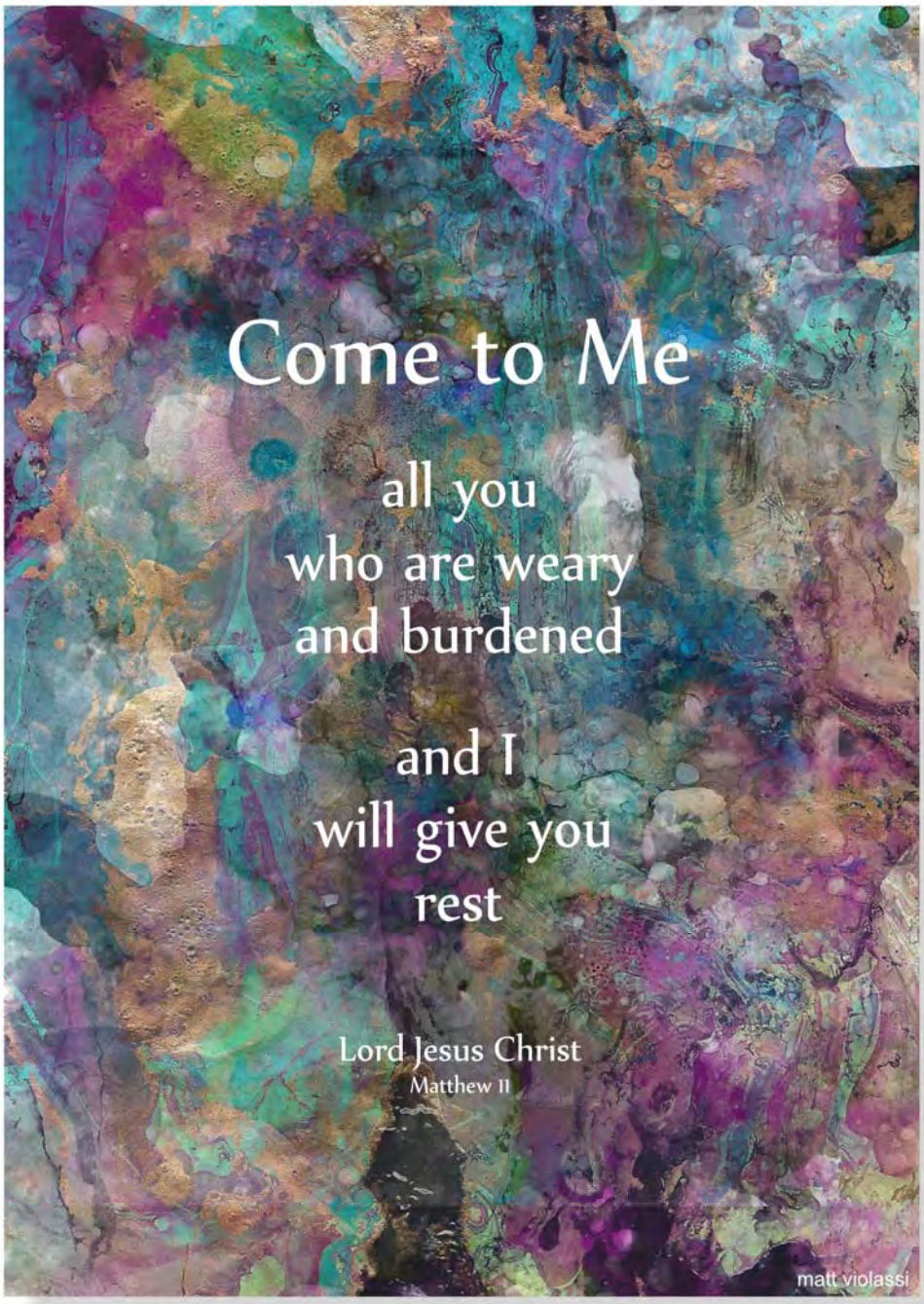

KEEP
ON
THE
ALERT
AT
ALL
TIMES
PRAYING
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 21:36
matt violassi

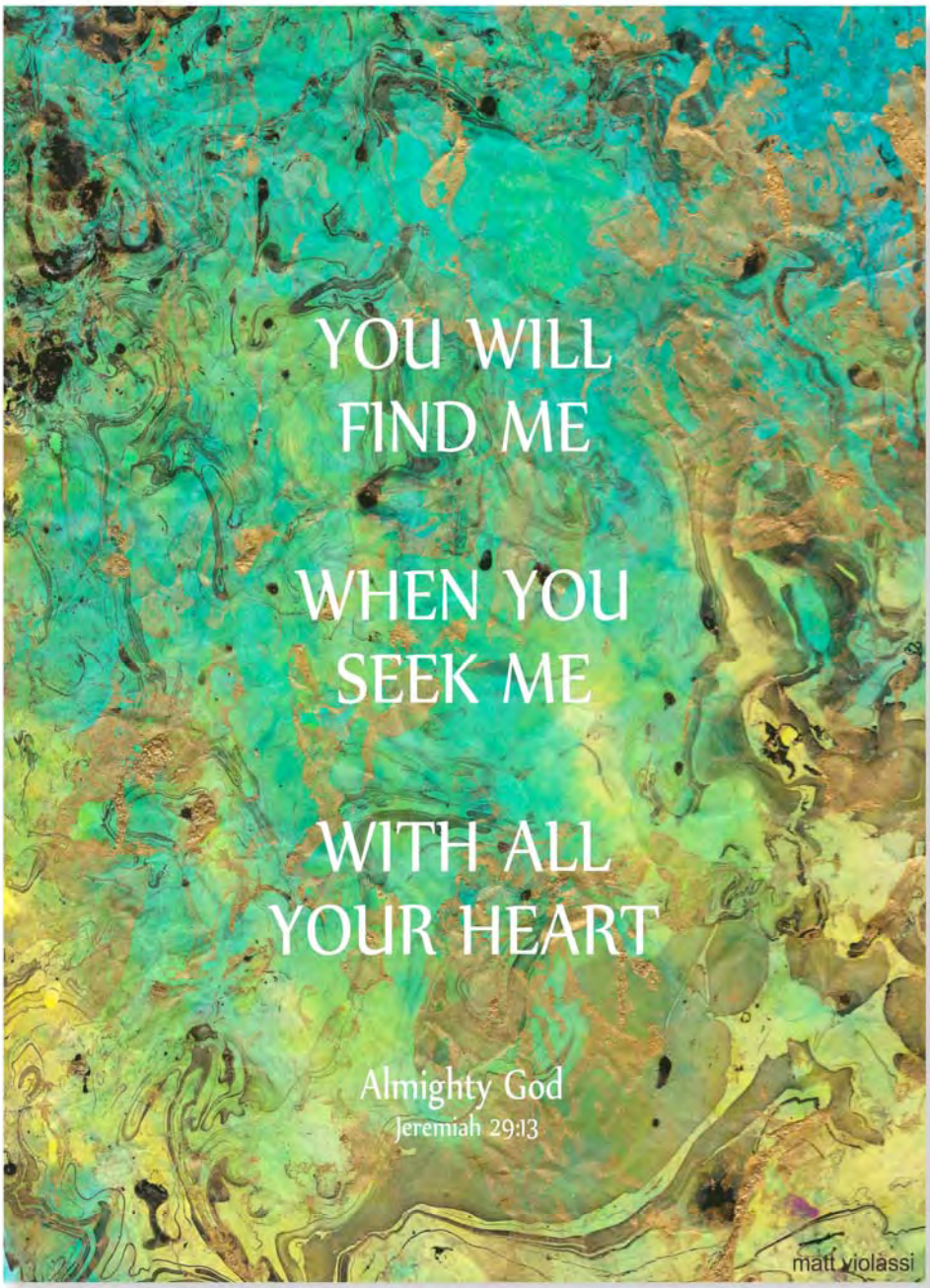

PRAY
AT
ALL
TIMES
AND
DO
NOT
LOSE
HEART
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 18:1

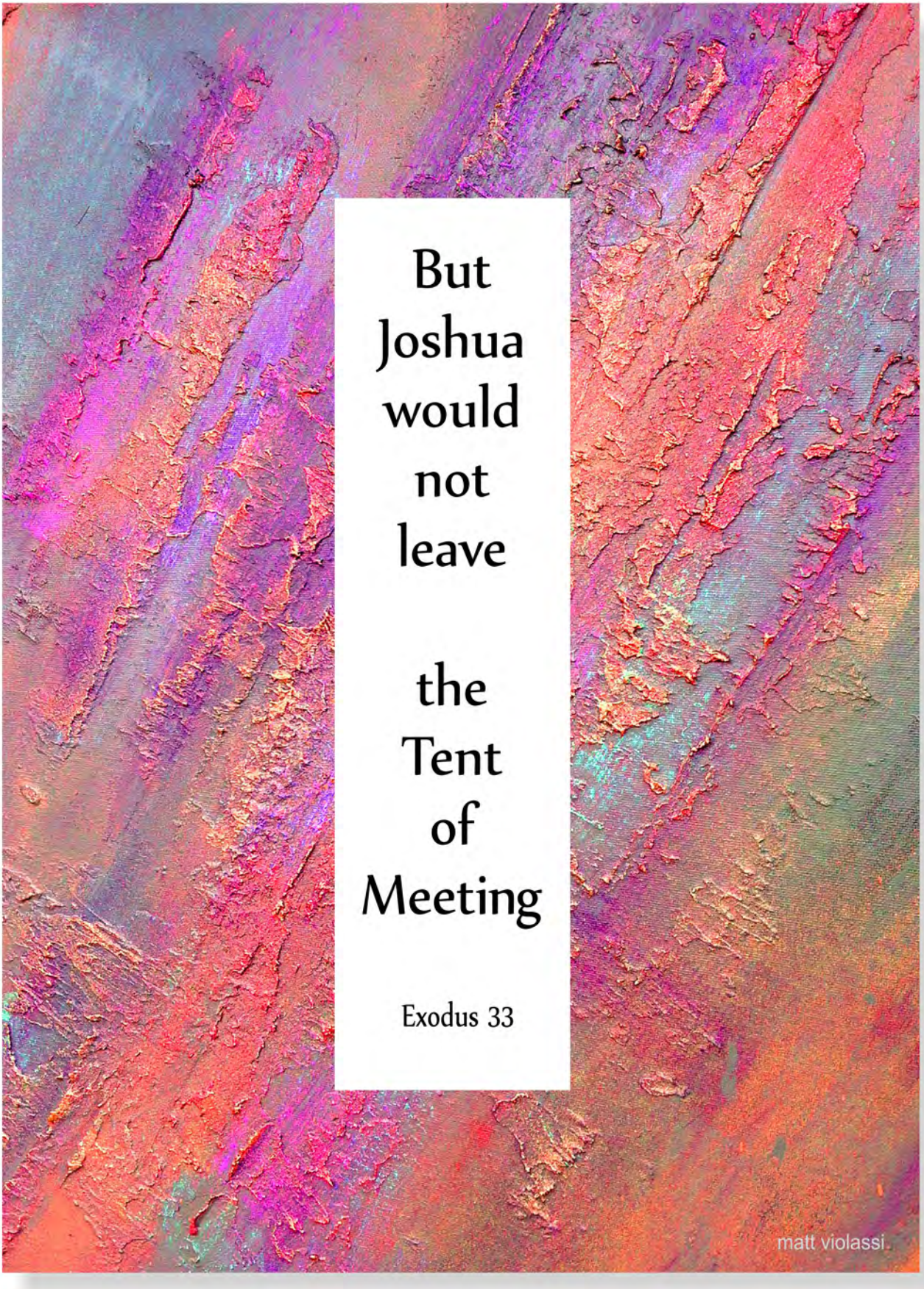

PRAY
AT
ALL
TIMES
AND
DO
NOT
LOSE
HEART
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 18:1
matt violassi

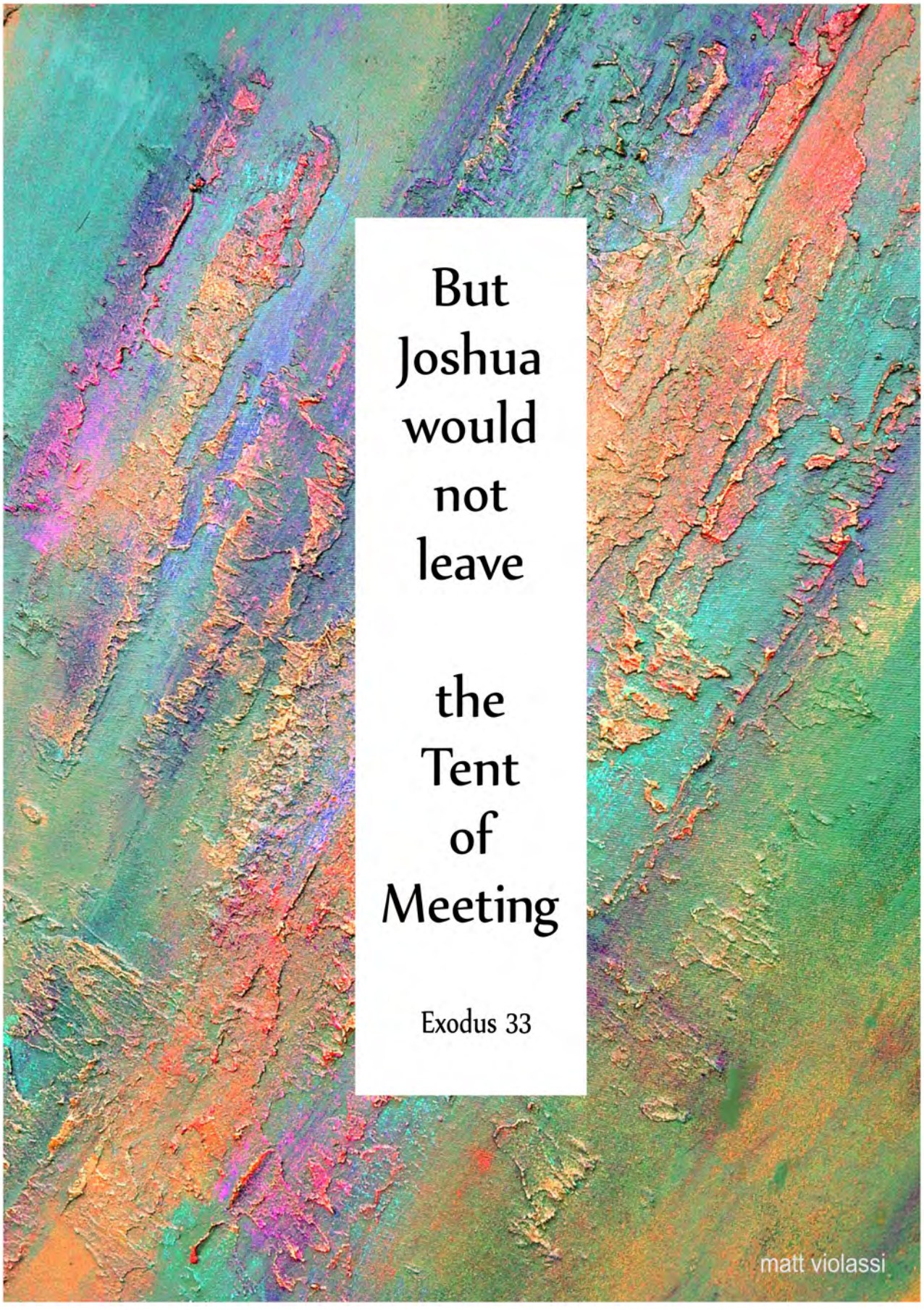

PRAY
AT
ALL
TIMES
AND
DO
NOT
LOSE
HEART
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 18:1
Matt Violassi


PRAY
AT
ALL
TIMES
AND
DO
NOT
LOSE
HEART
Lord Jesus Christ
Luke 18:1


Come to Me
all you
who are weary
and burdened
and I
will give you
rest
Lord Jesus Christ
Matthew 11
matt violassi


YOU WILL
FIND ME
WHEN YOU
SEEK ME
WITH ALL
YOUR HEART
Almighty God
Jeremiah 29:13
matt violassi


But
Joshua
would
not
leave
the
Tent
of
Meeting
Exodus 33
matt violassi


But
Joshua
would
not
leave
the
Tent
of
Meeting
Exodus 33
matt violassi