

Yet Will I Trust Him

Job and the Mystery of Suffering



Good Help Is Hard to Find



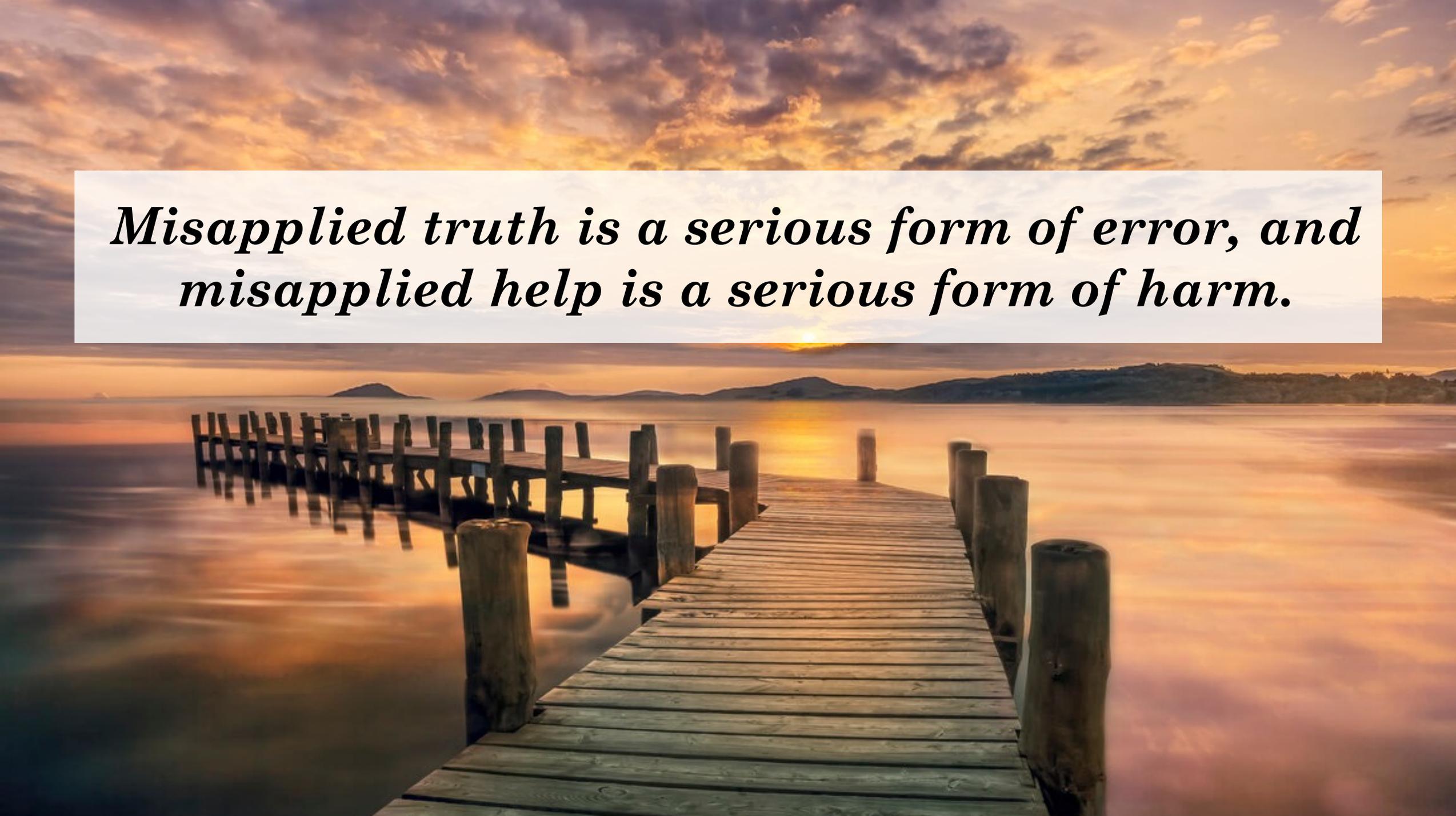
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Job 42:7

“Eliphaz...I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.”

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The tricky aspect of this situation is that sometimes the three friends do speak words of truth about God.

A serene landscape photograph of a wooden pier extending into a calm body of water at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm glow. The water is still, reflecting the colors of the sky. In the background, there are low hills or mountains. A white rectangular text box is overlaid on the upper portion of the image, containing the text.

*Misapplied truth is a serious form of error, and
misapplied help is a serious form of harm.*

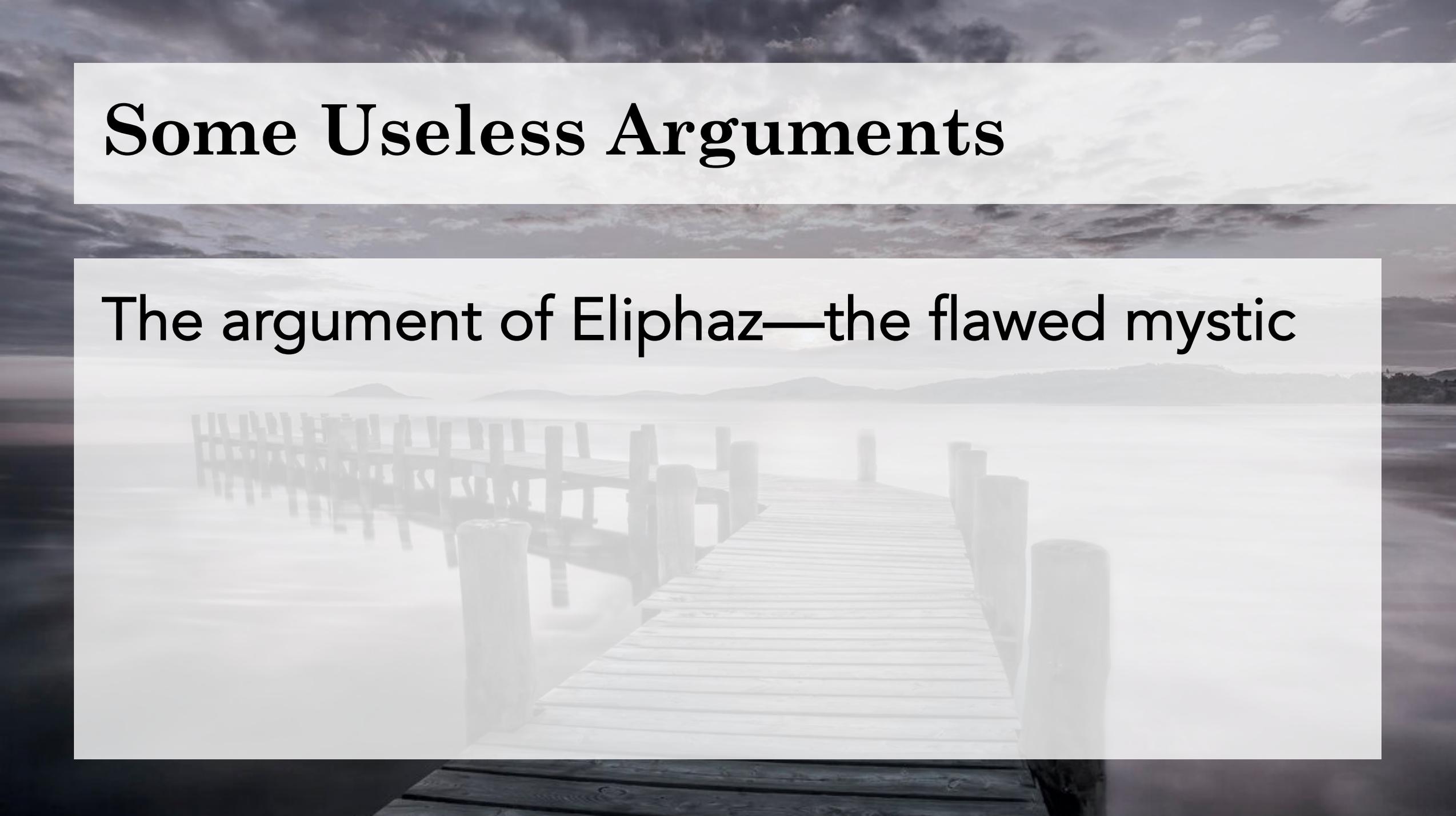


Some Useless Arguments



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The argument of Eliphaz—the flawed mystic

A photograph of a wooden pier extending into a misty lake. The pier is made of dark wood and has several vertical posts. The water is calm and reflects the sky. In the background, there are mountains under a cloudy sky. The overall mood is serene and somewhat melancholic.

Some Useless Arguments

The argument of Eliphaz—the flawed mystic

The argument of Bildad—the false mediator

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Some Useless Arguments

The argument of Eliphaz—the flawed mystic

The argument of Bildad—the false mediator

The argument of Zophar—the faulty minister

The argument of Elihu—the flimsy moderator



Some Useful Advice

When you are the friend wanting to help



Some Useful Advice

When you are the friend wanting to help

1. Don't offer canned answers.

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2. Don't assume that the one who is suffering is being punished by God.

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3. Comfort the one who suffers.

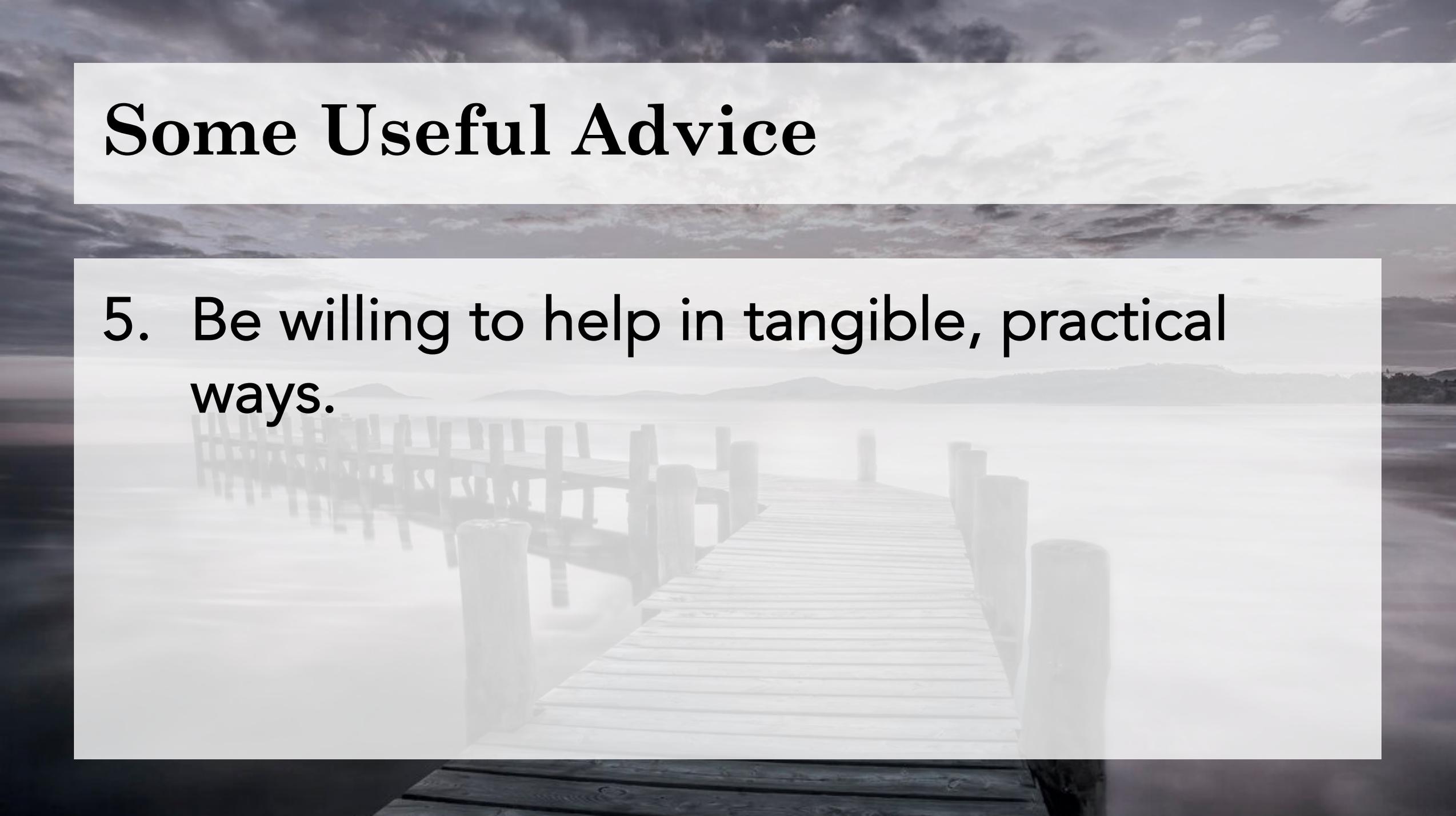
Some Useful Advice

When you are the friend wanting to help

1. Don't offer canned answers.
2. Don't assume that the one who is suffering is being punished by God.
3. Comfort the one who suffers.
4. Be a good listener.

Some Useful Advice

5. Be willing to help in tangible, practical ways.

A background image showing a wooden pier extending into a calm body of water. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. The water is still, reflecting the sky and the pier. The pier is made of dark wood and has several vertical posts along its length. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Some Useful Advice

5. Be willing to help in tangible, practical ways.
6. Don't feel compelled to respond to every statement.

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6. Don't feel compelled to respond to every statement.
7. Don't try to speculate why God has allowed your friend to suffer.

Some Useful Advice

8. Be aware that you might be talking to a beloved child of God who is far more righteous and pleasing to God than yourself.

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9. Sometimes the best thing you can do is be quiet.

Some Useful Advice

10. Follow the Golden Rule.



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When you are the friend wanting to help



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Some Useful Advice

When you are the friend wanting to help

1. Don't accept canned or traditional explanations.
2. Express your feelings honestly to God.
3. Share your suffering and anguish with trusted others.

Some Useful Advice

4. Expect to receive a certain amount of bad counsel.

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5. Seek to better understand God and his ways.

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5. Seek to better understand God and his ways.
6. Don't lose sight of God's power.
7. Don't lose sight of God's love for you.

Good Help Is Hard to Forget



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When believers came around my family...



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When believers came around my family...

“When one has a heartache, we all shed a tear.”

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Jesus has a middle name (“With”).

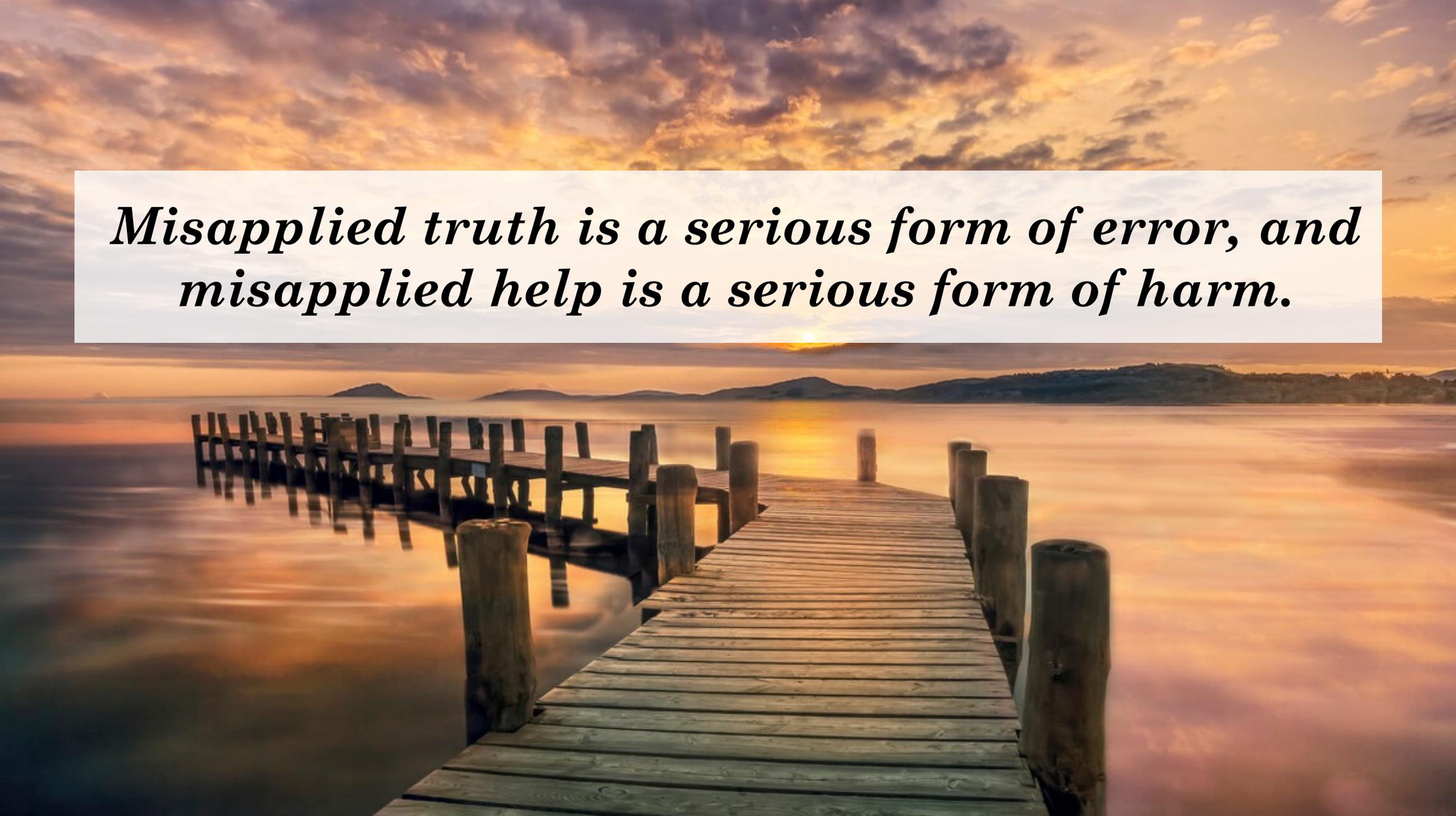
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The ultimate “witness” is a “withness.”

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