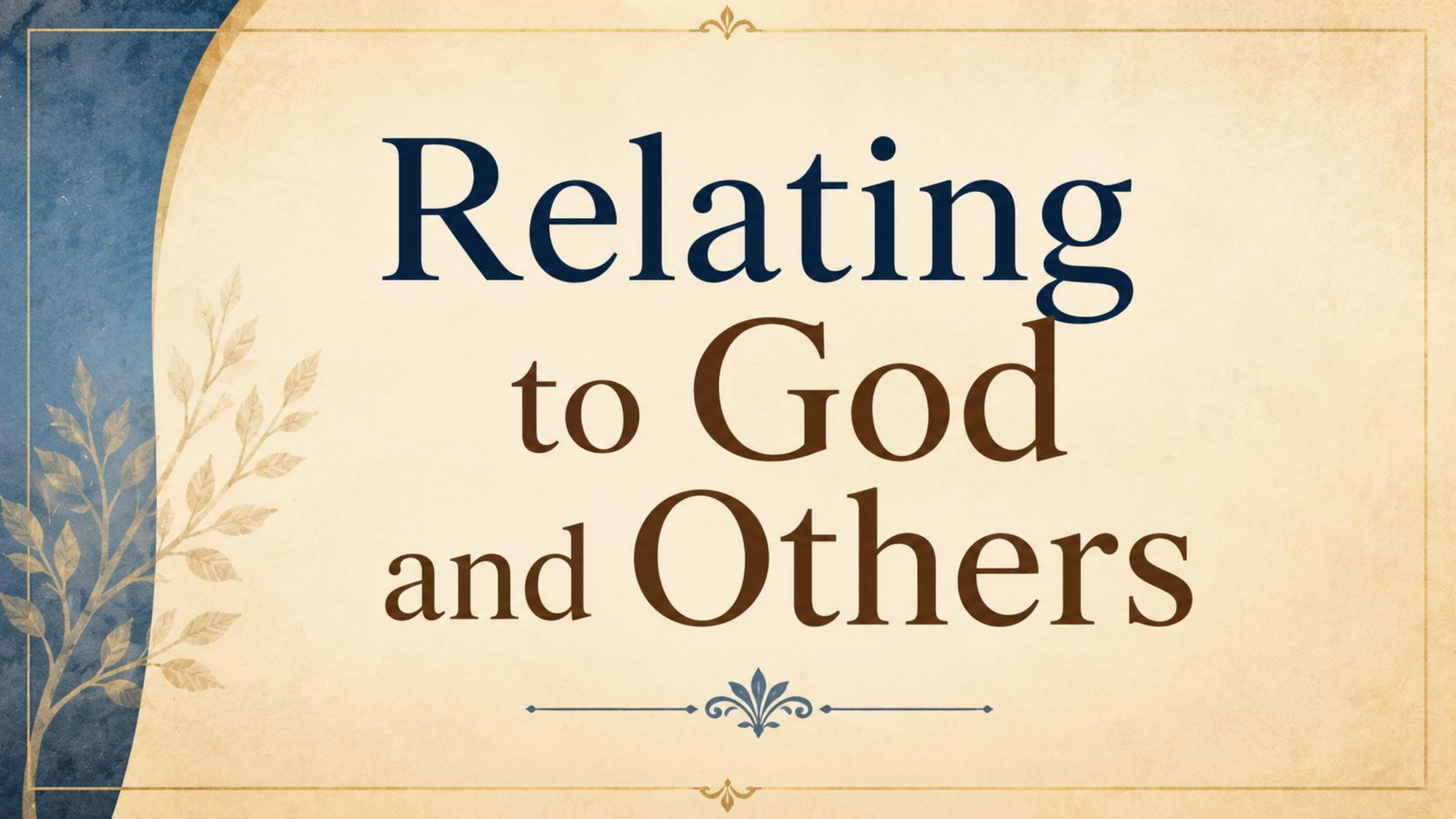
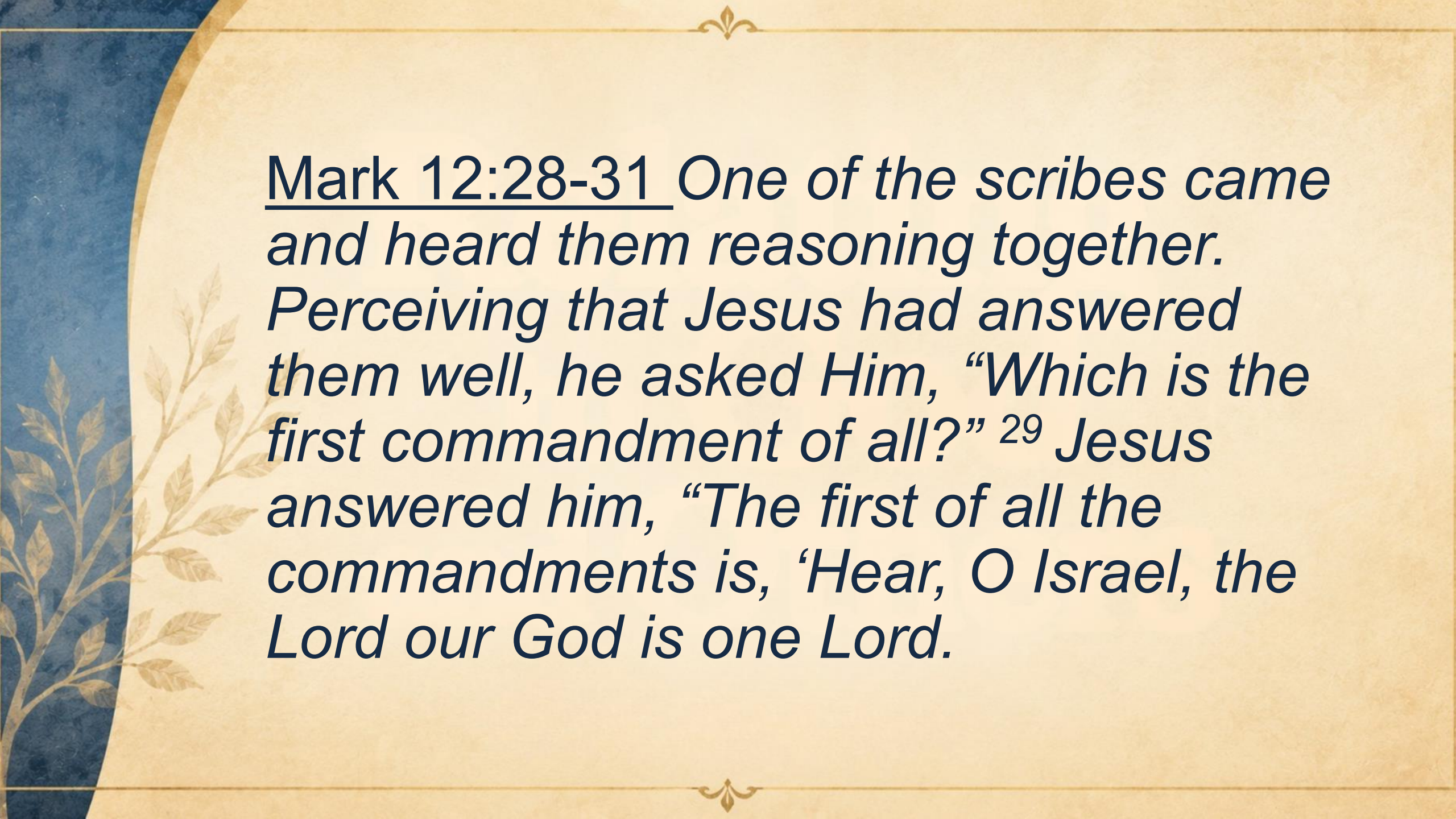


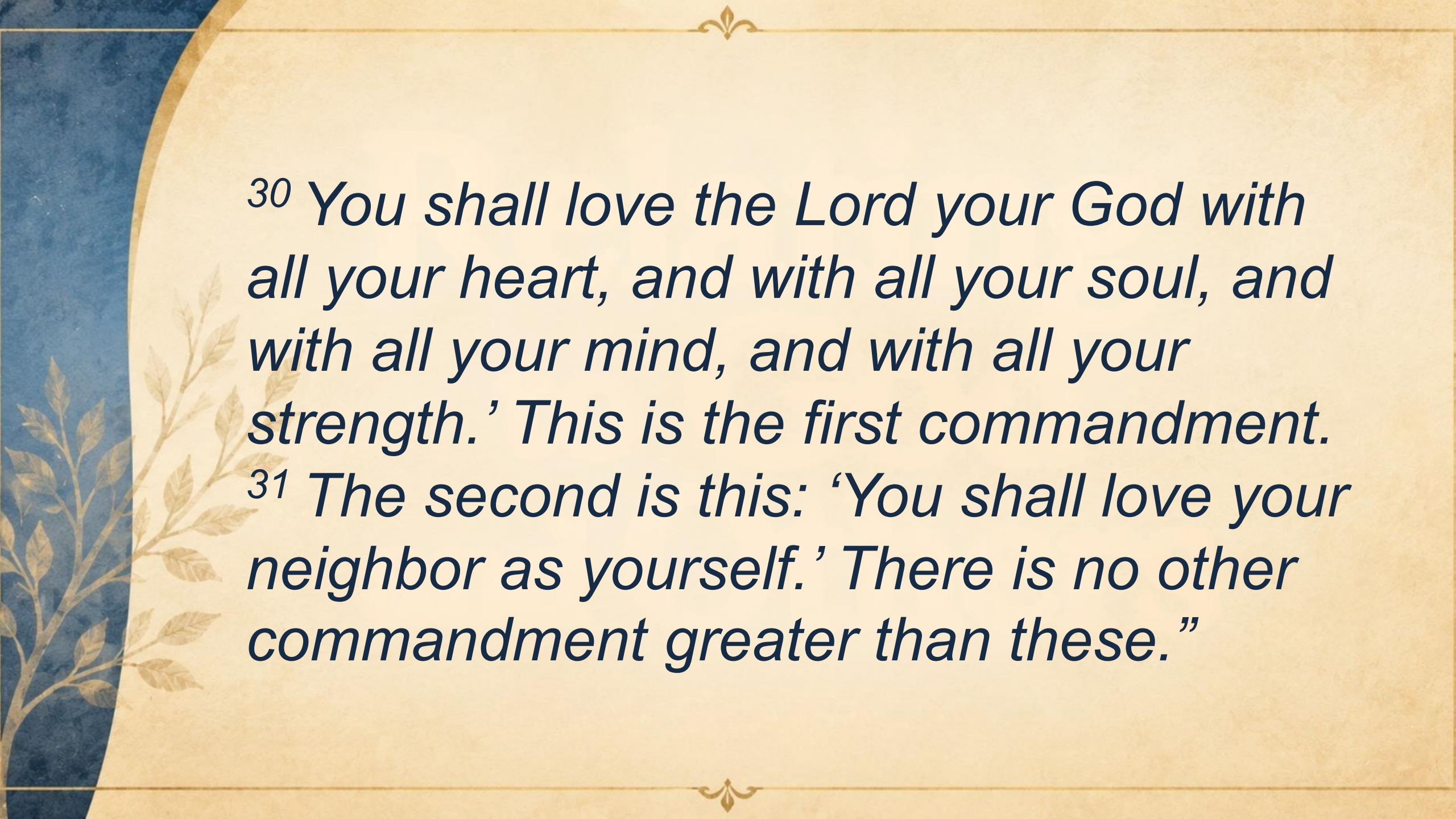


Relating to God and Others





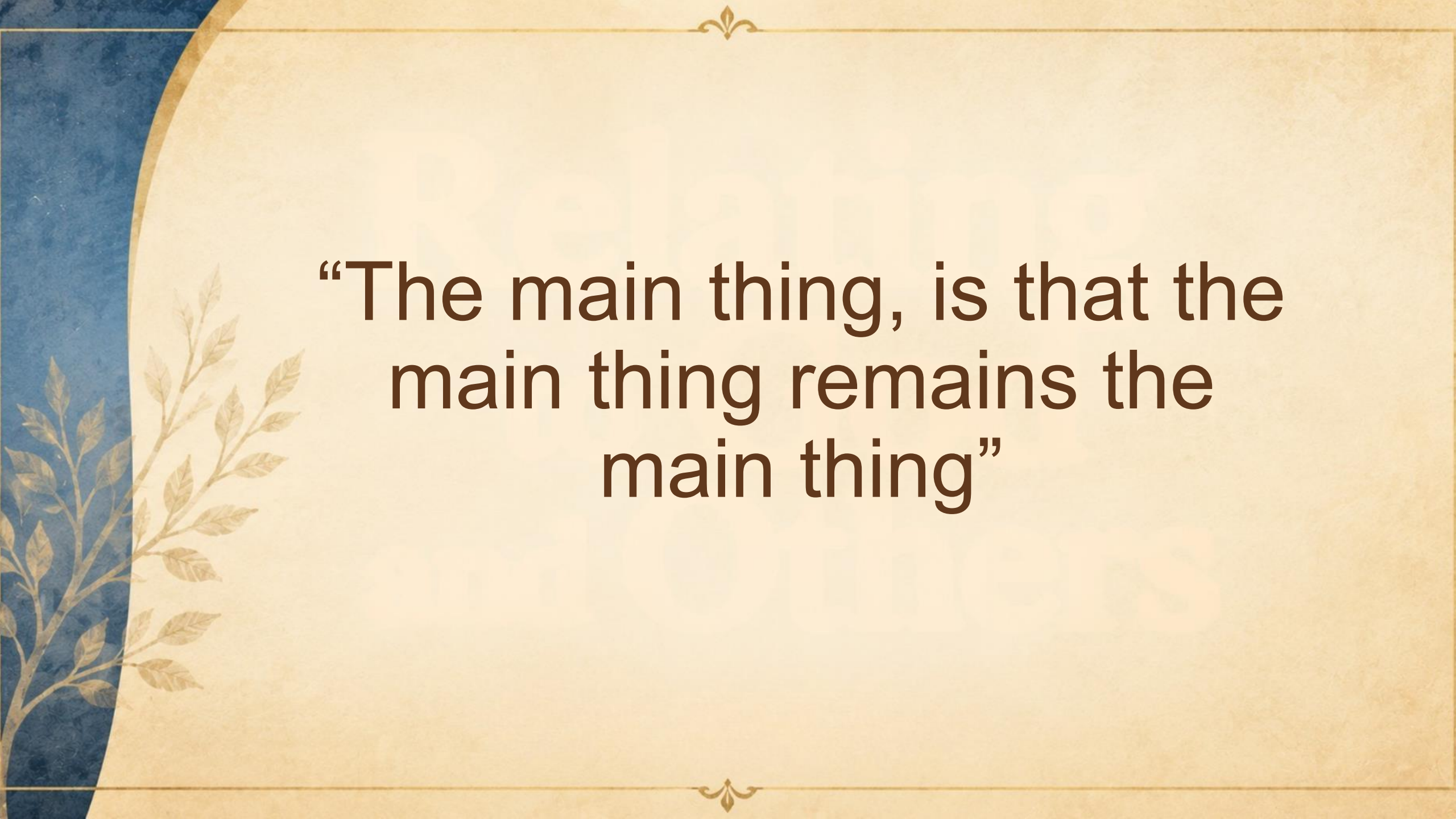
Mark 12:28-31 *One of the scribes came and heard them reasoning together. Perceiving that Jesus had answered them well, he asked Him, “Which is the first commandment of all?”²⁹ Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is, ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord.*



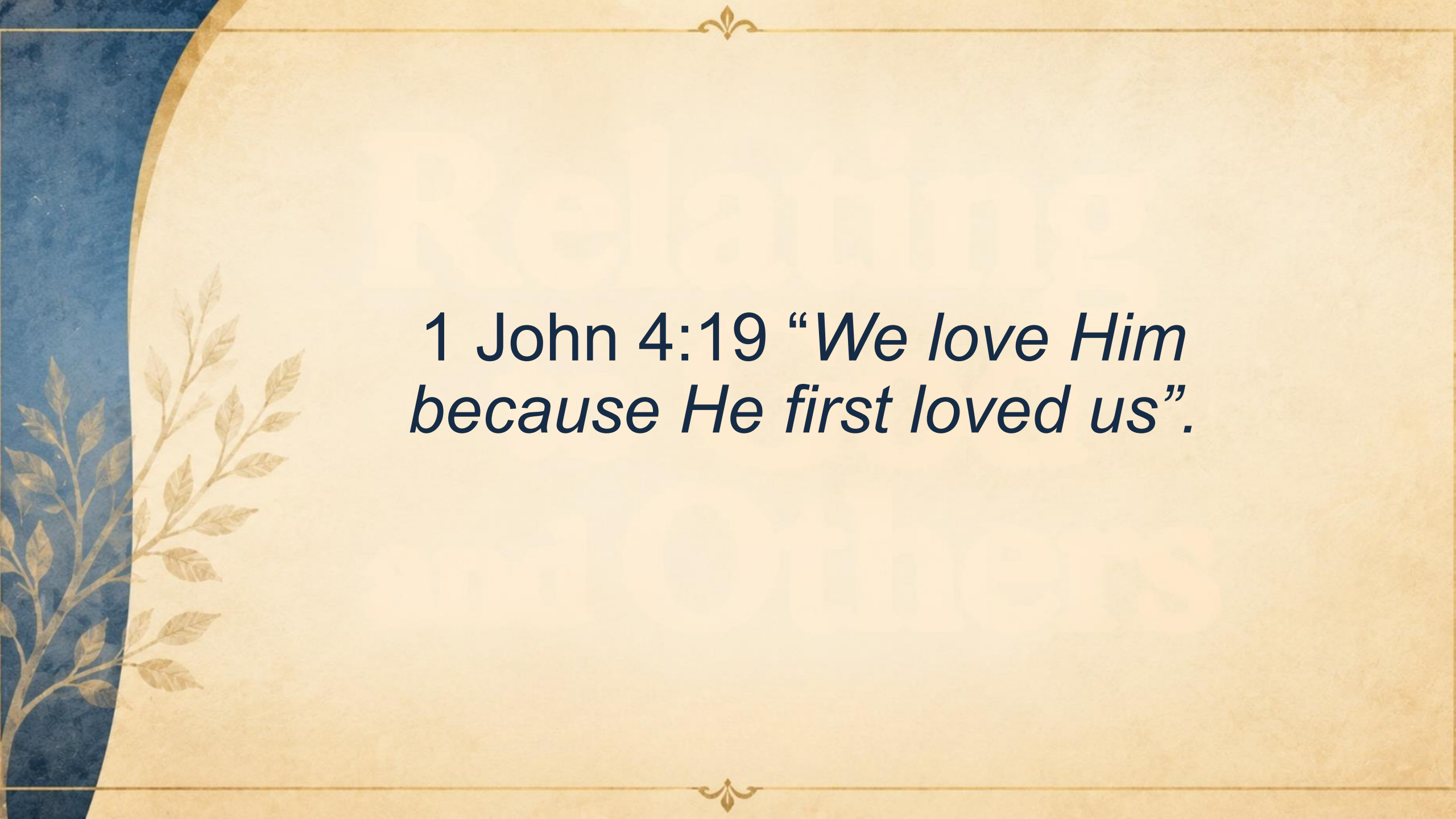
³⁰ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.

³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”





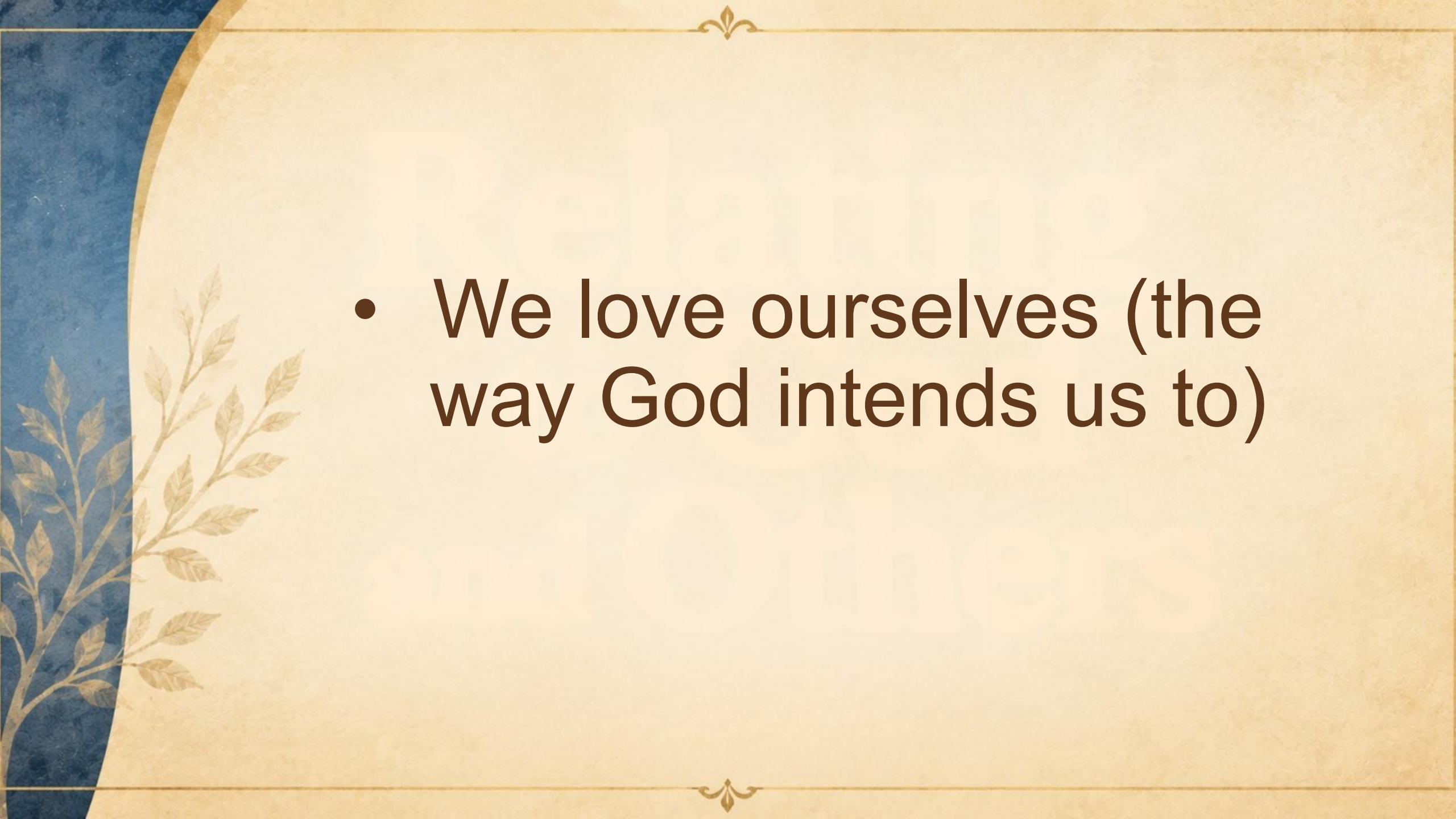
“The main thing, is that the
main thing remains the
main thing”



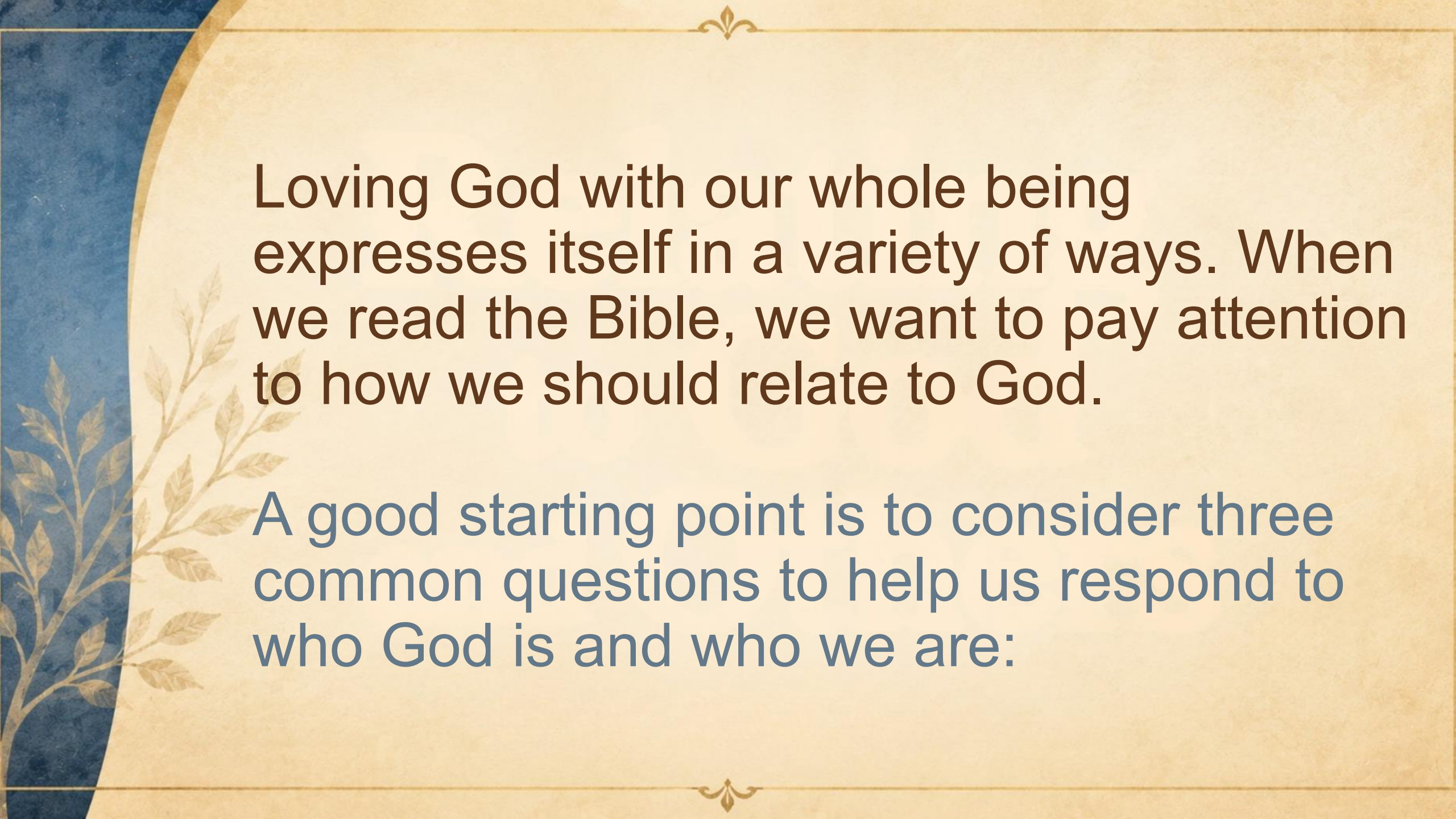
1 John 4:19 *“We love Him
because He first loved us”.*

- 
- God loves us.

- 
- We love God

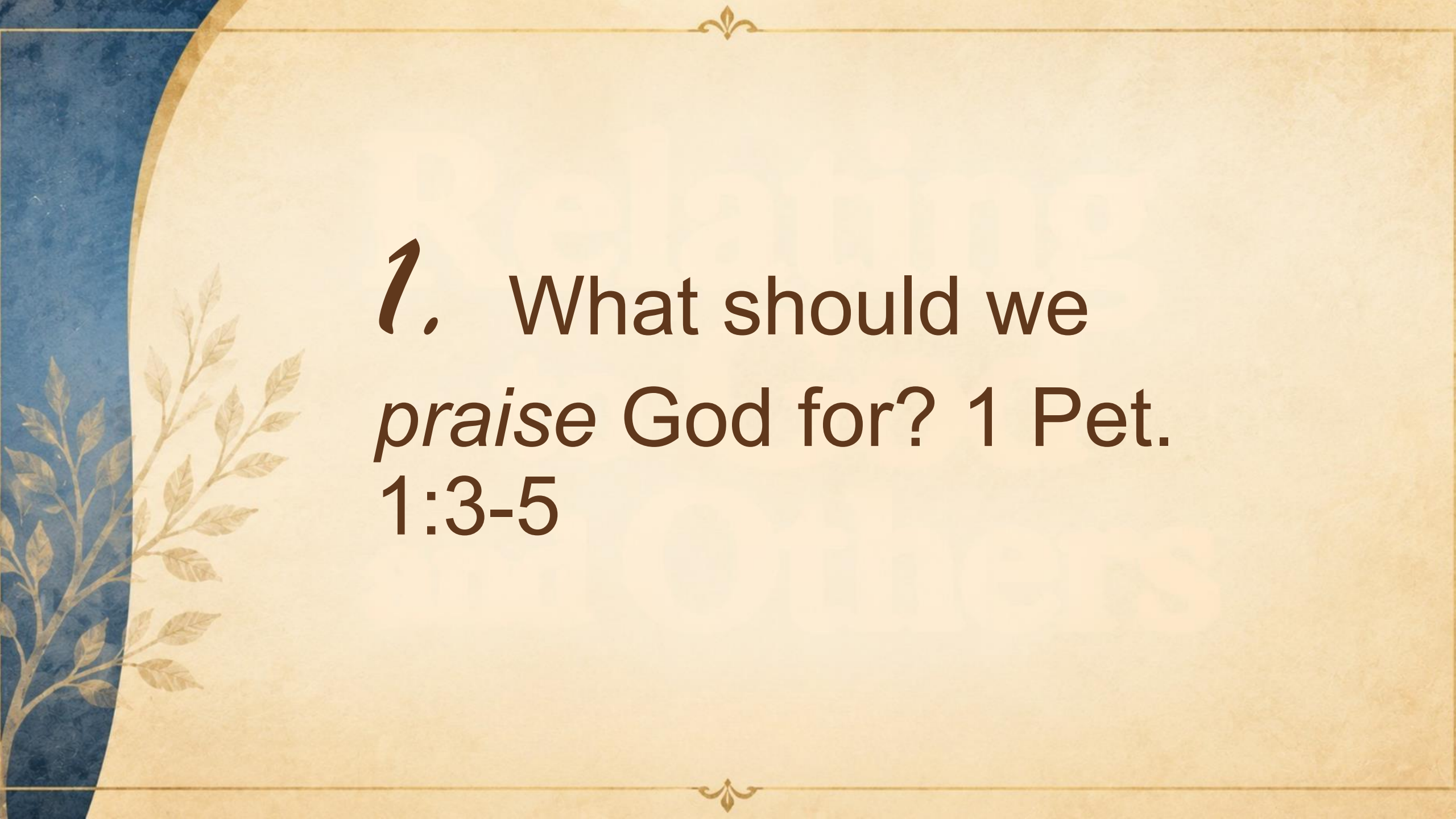
- 
- We love ourselves (the way God intends us to)

- 
- We love others

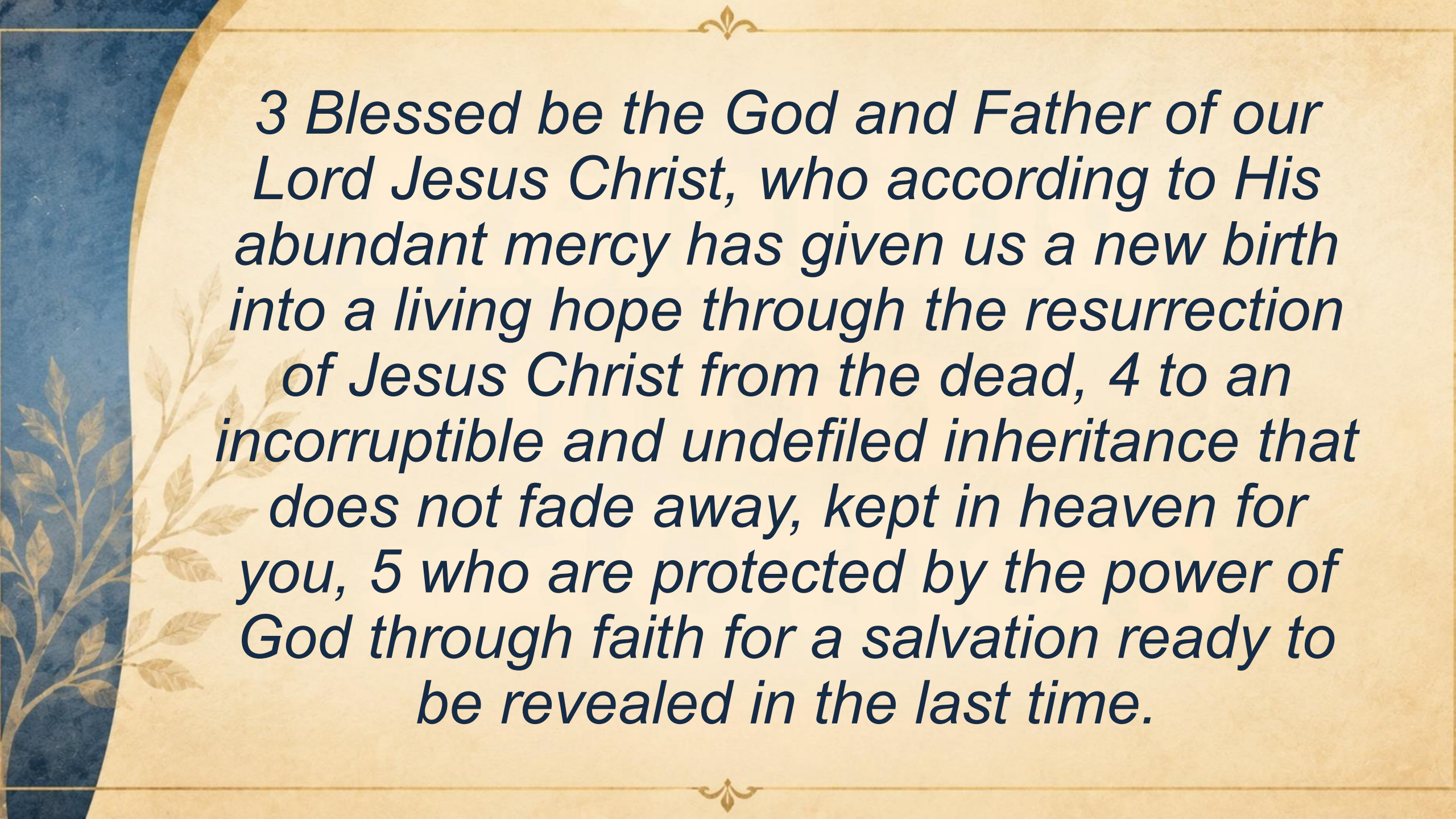


Loving God with our whole being expresses itself in a variety of ways. When we read the Bible, we want to pay attention to how we should relate to God.

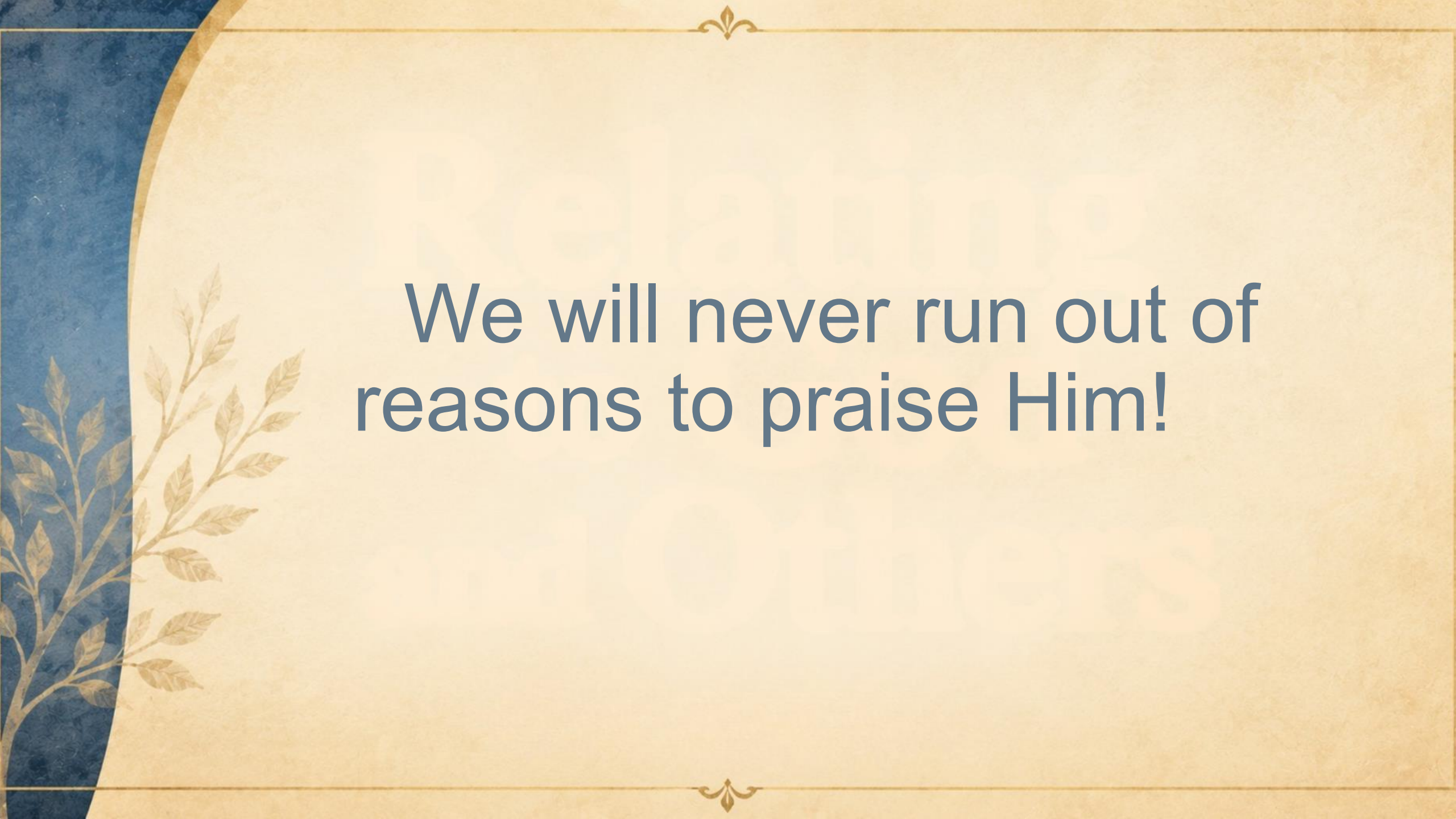
A good starting point is to consider three common questions to help us respond to who God is and who we are:



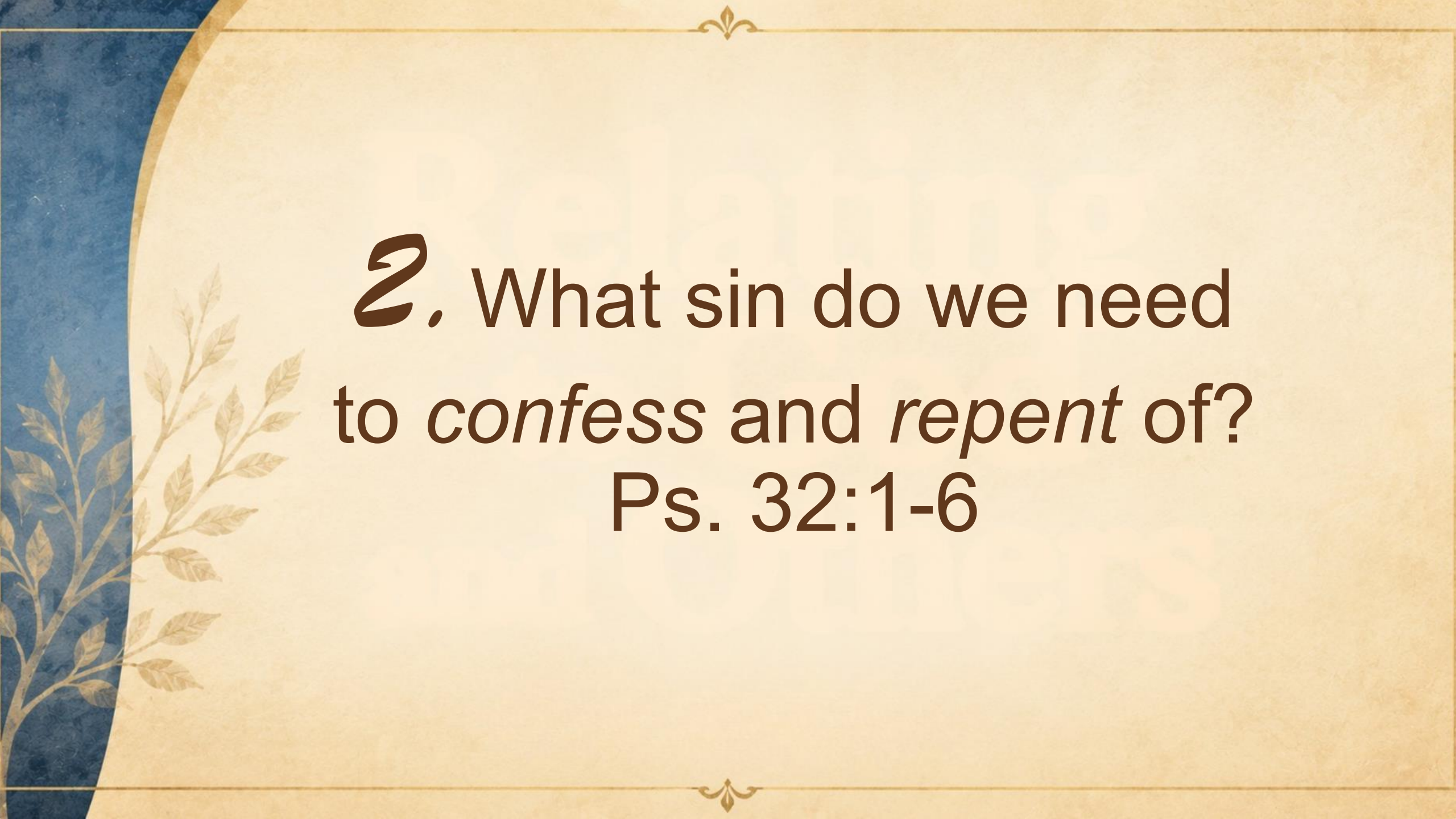
1. What should we
praise God for? 1 Pet.
1:3-5



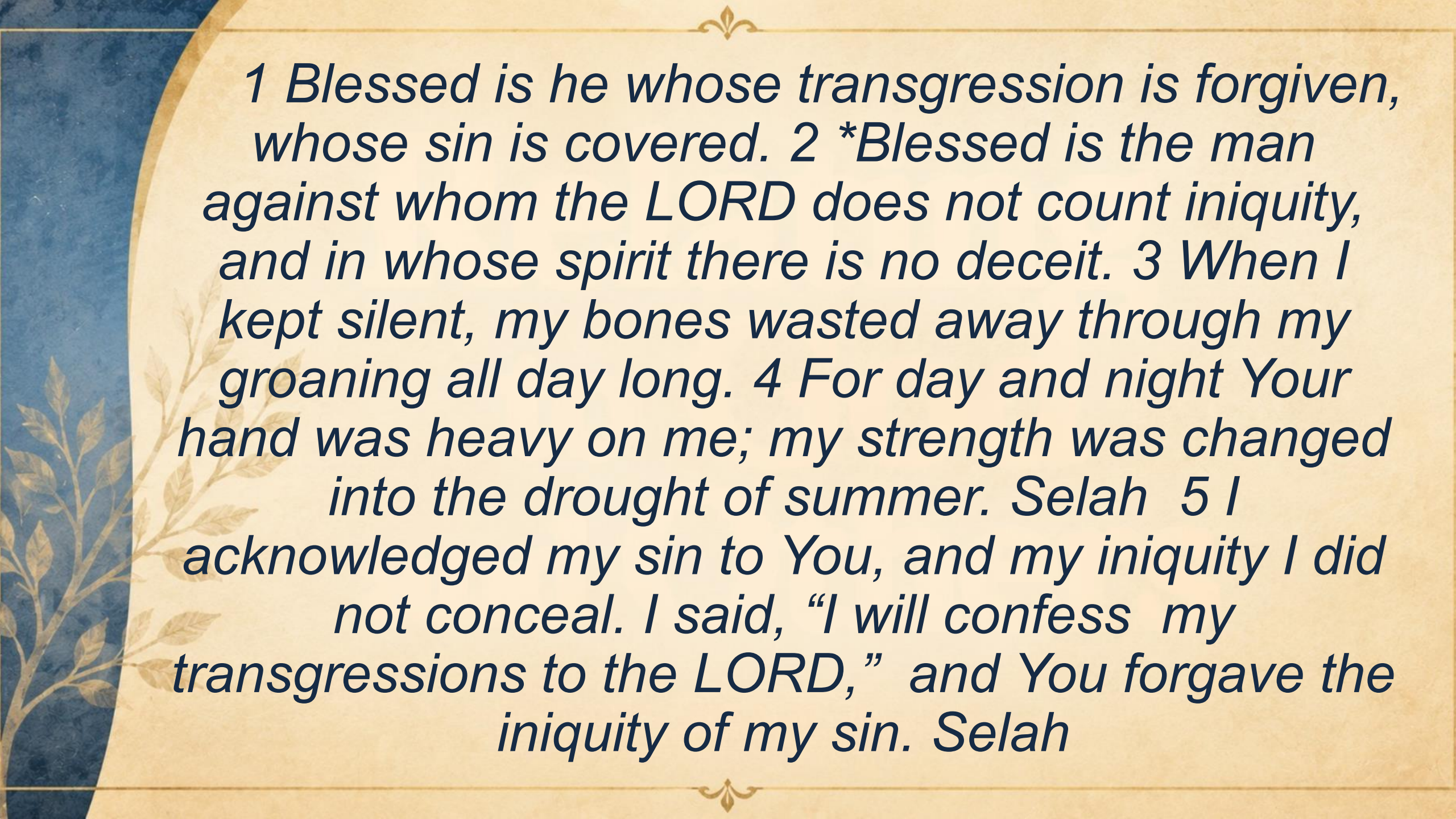
3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away, kept in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.



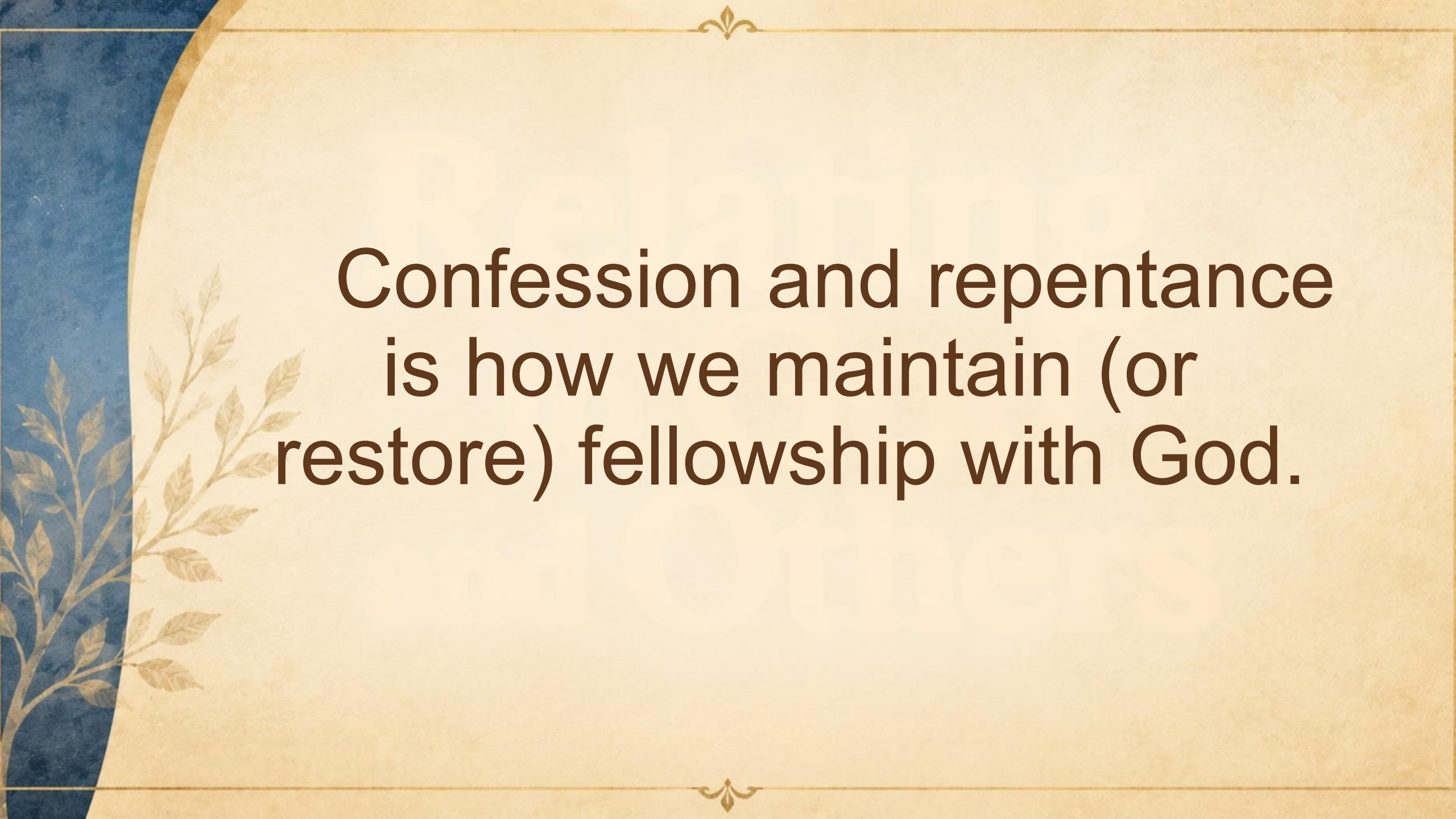
We will never run out of
reasons to praise Him!



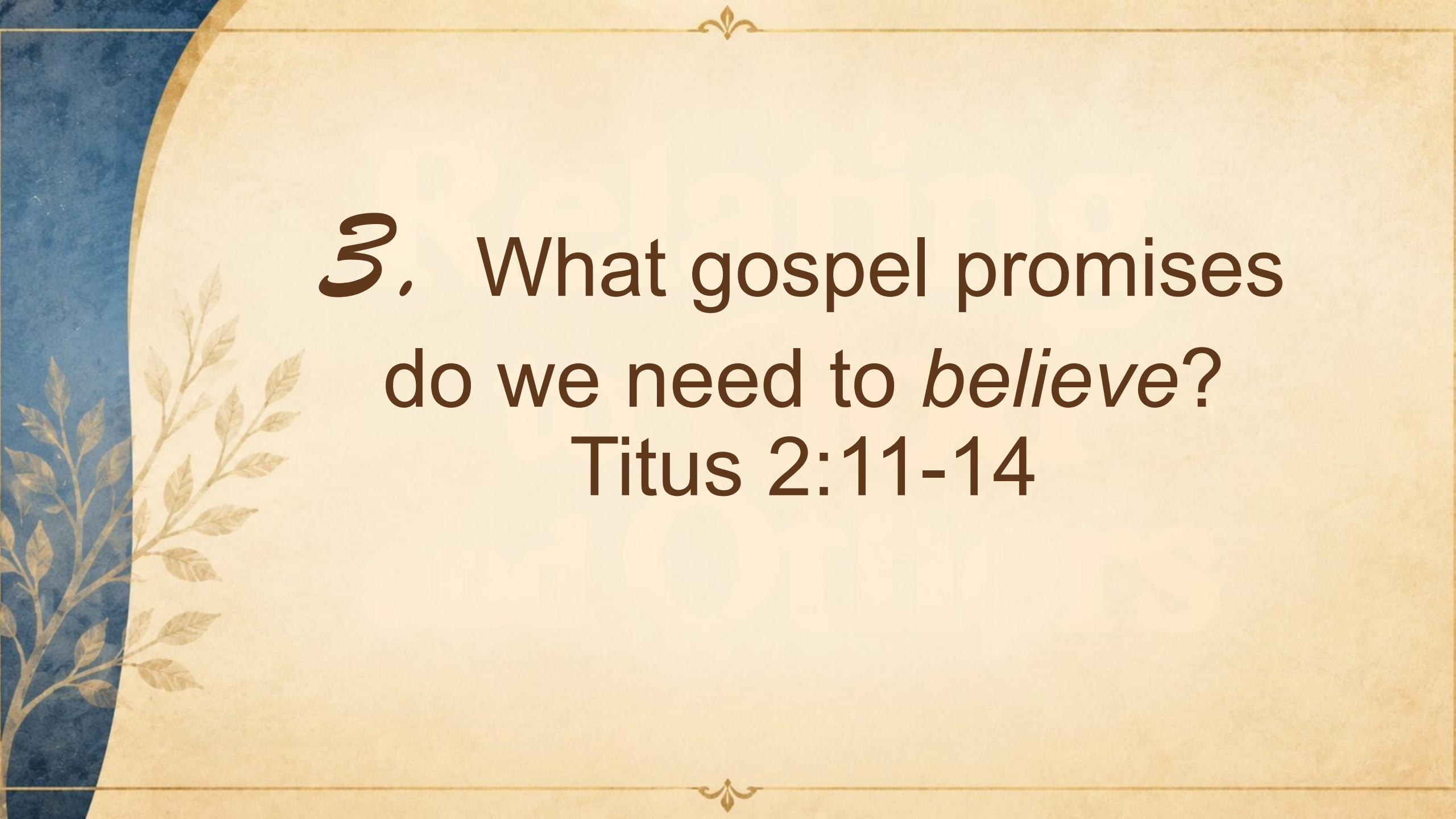
2. What sin do we need
to *confess* and *repent* of?
Ps. 32:1-6



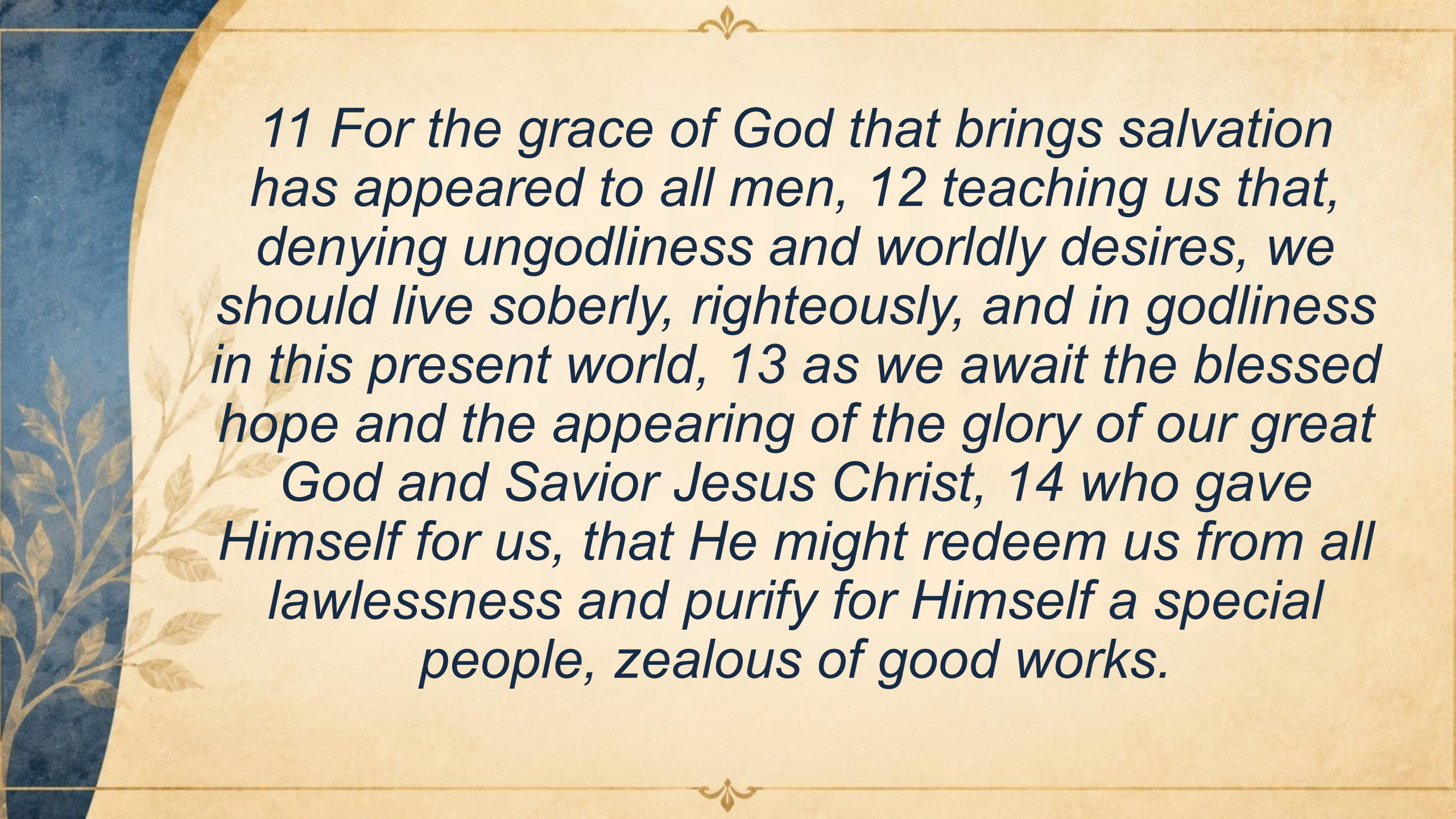
*1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered. 2 *Blessed is the man
against whom the LORD does not count iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 When I
kept silent, my bones wasted away through my
groaning all day long. 4 For day and night Your
hand was heavy on me; my strength was changed
into the drought of summer. Selah 5 I
acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did
not conceal. I said, "I will confess my
transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the
iniquity of my sin. Selah*



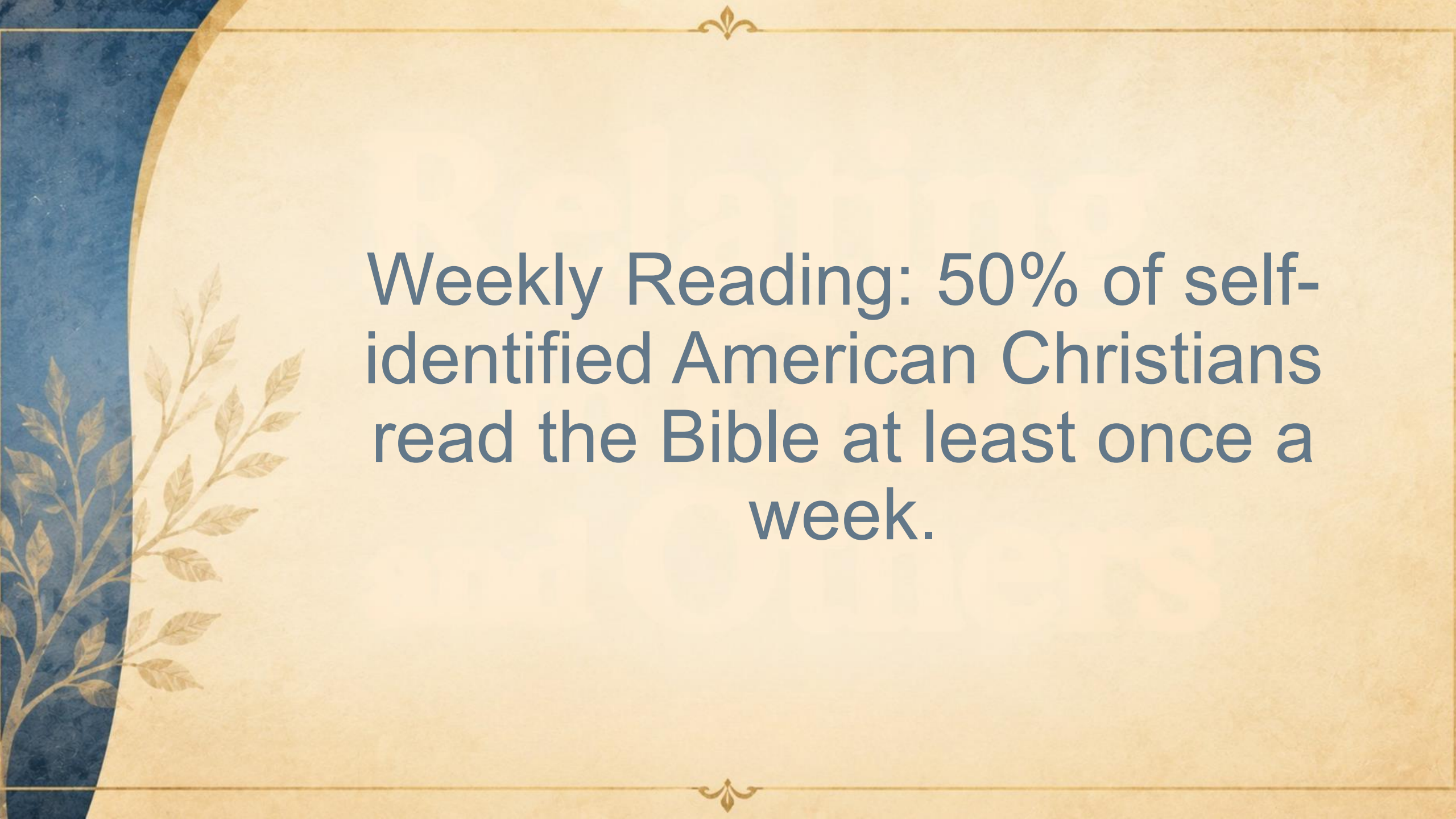
Confession and repentance
is how we maintain (or
restore) fellowship with God.



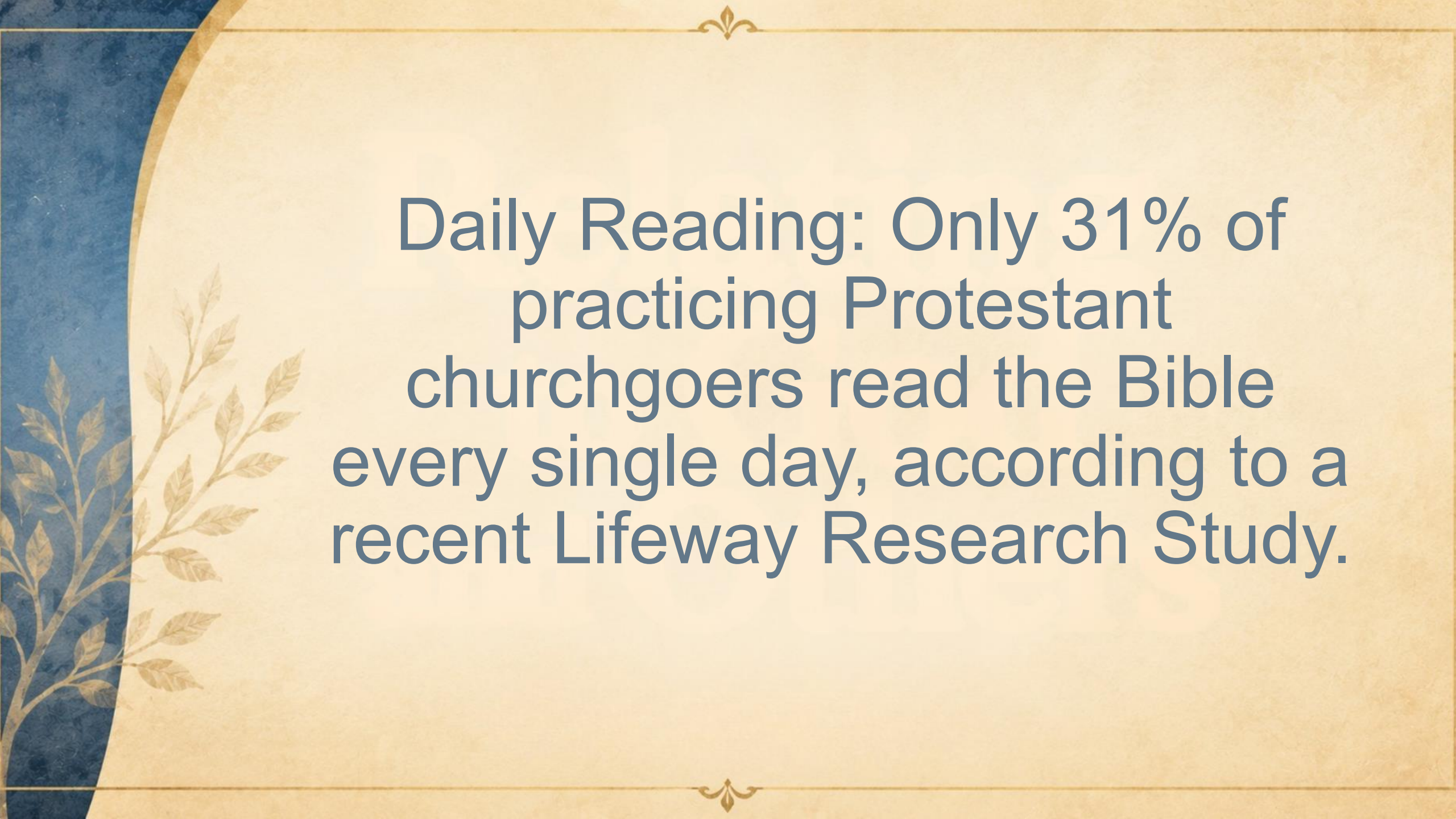
3. What gospel promises
do we need to *believe*?
Titus 2:11-14



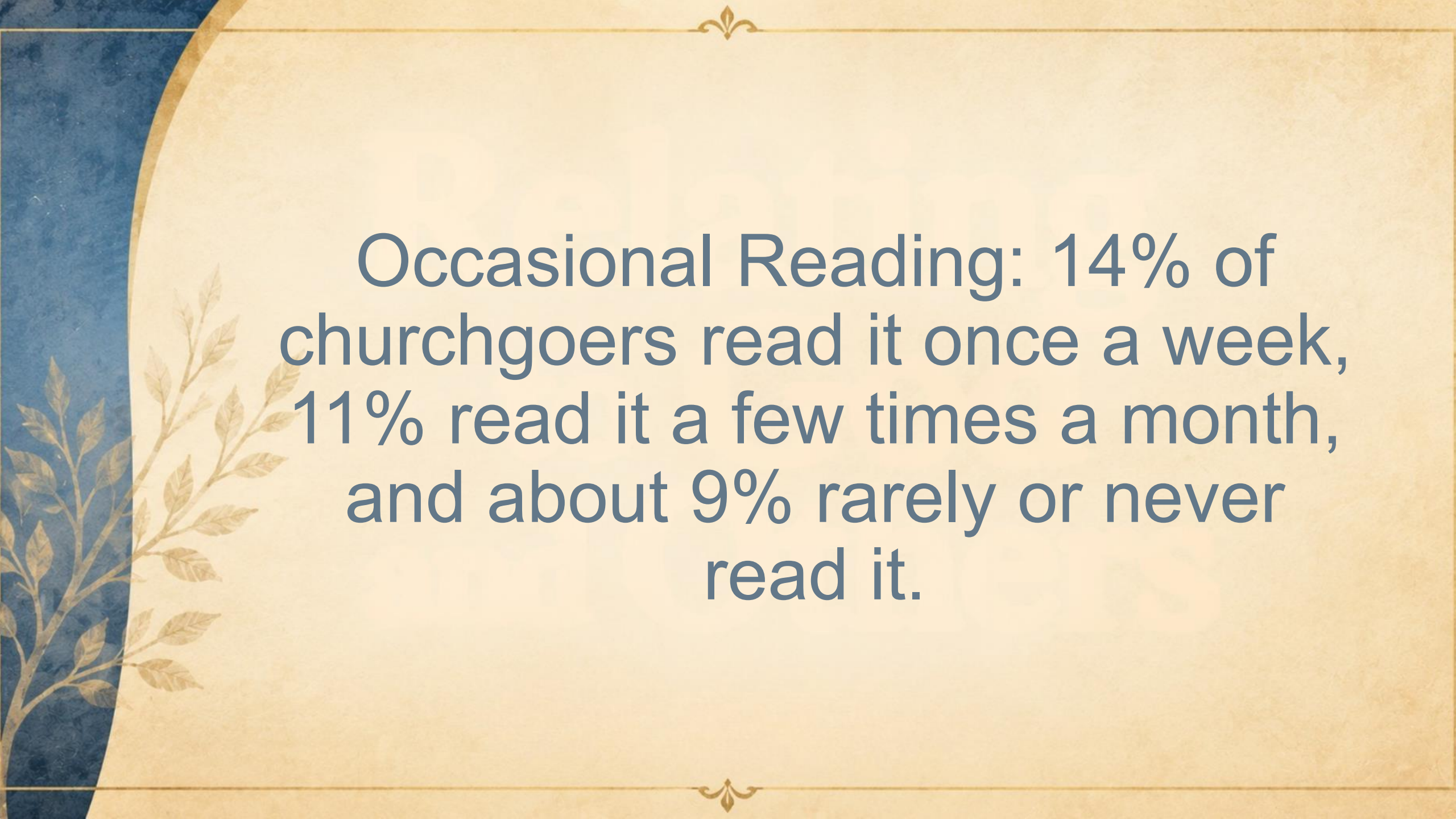
*11 For the grace of God that brings salvation
has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that,
denying ungodliness and worldly desires, we
should live soberly, righteously, and in godliness
in this present world, 13 as we await the blessed
hope and the appearing of the glory of our great
God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave
Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all
lawlessness and purify for Himself a special
people, zealous of good works.*



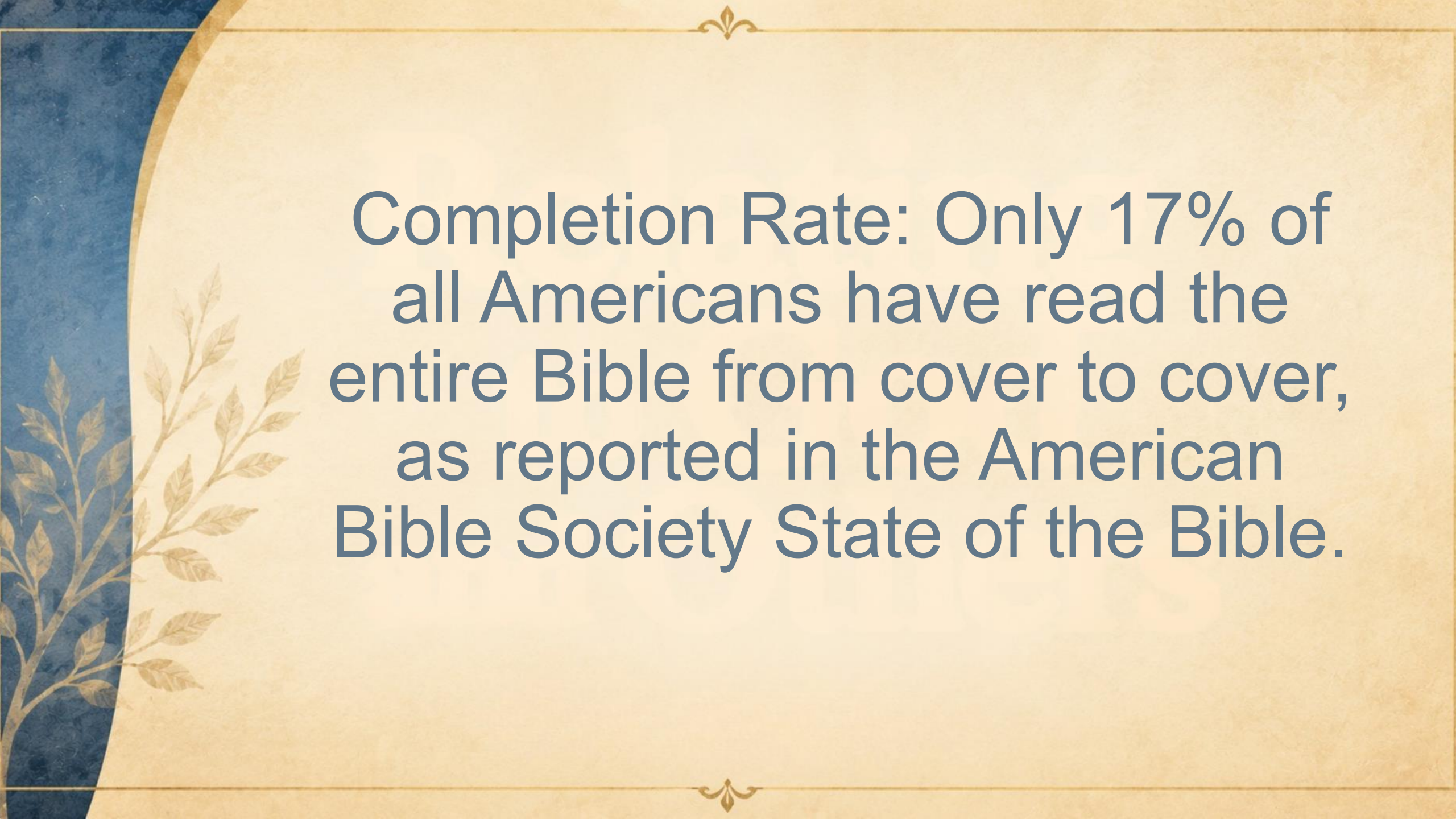
Weekly Reading: 50% of self-identified American Christians read the Bible at least once a week.



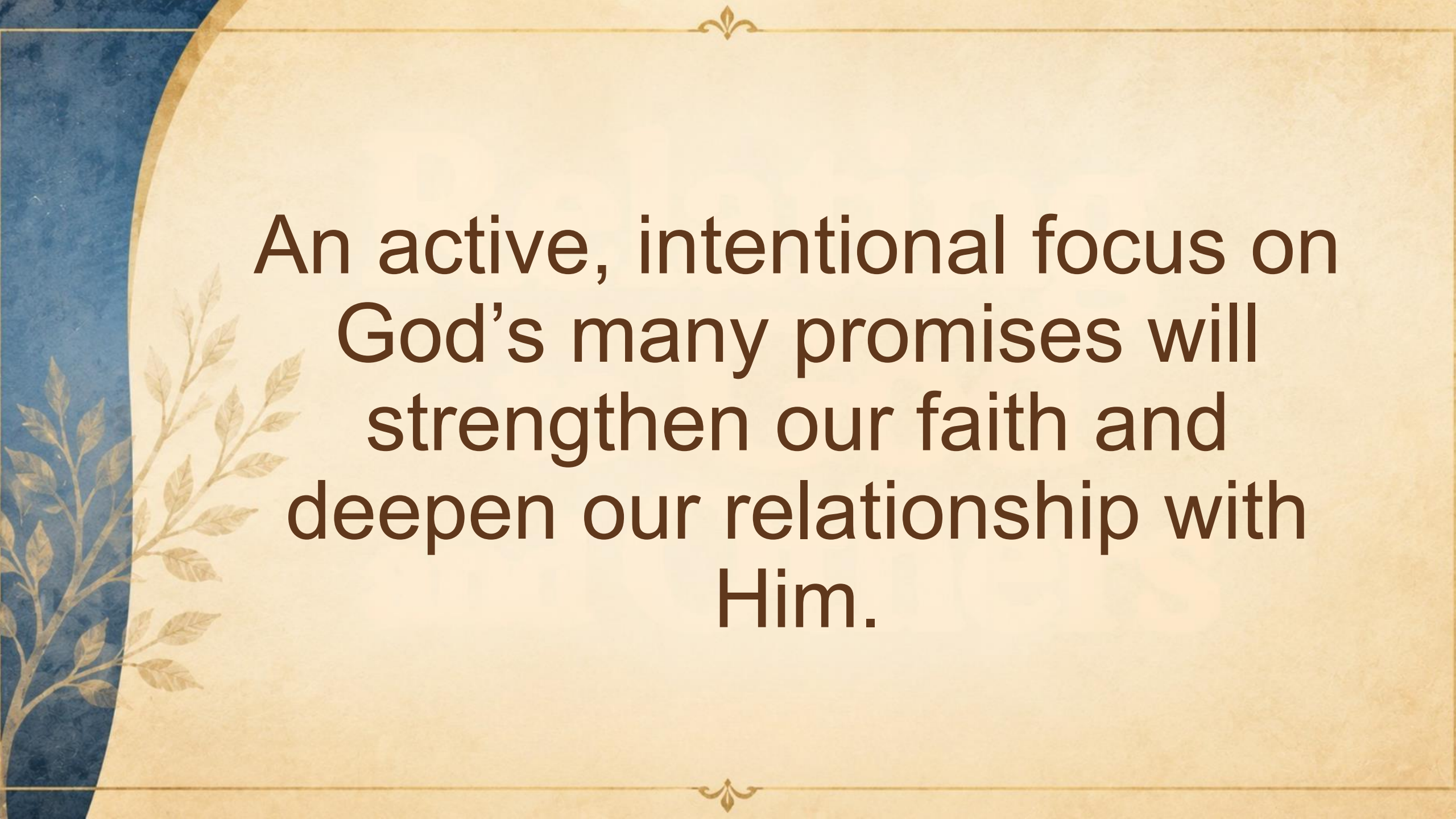
Daily Reading: Only 31% of practicing Protestant churchgoers read the Bible every single day, according to a recent Lifeway Research Study.



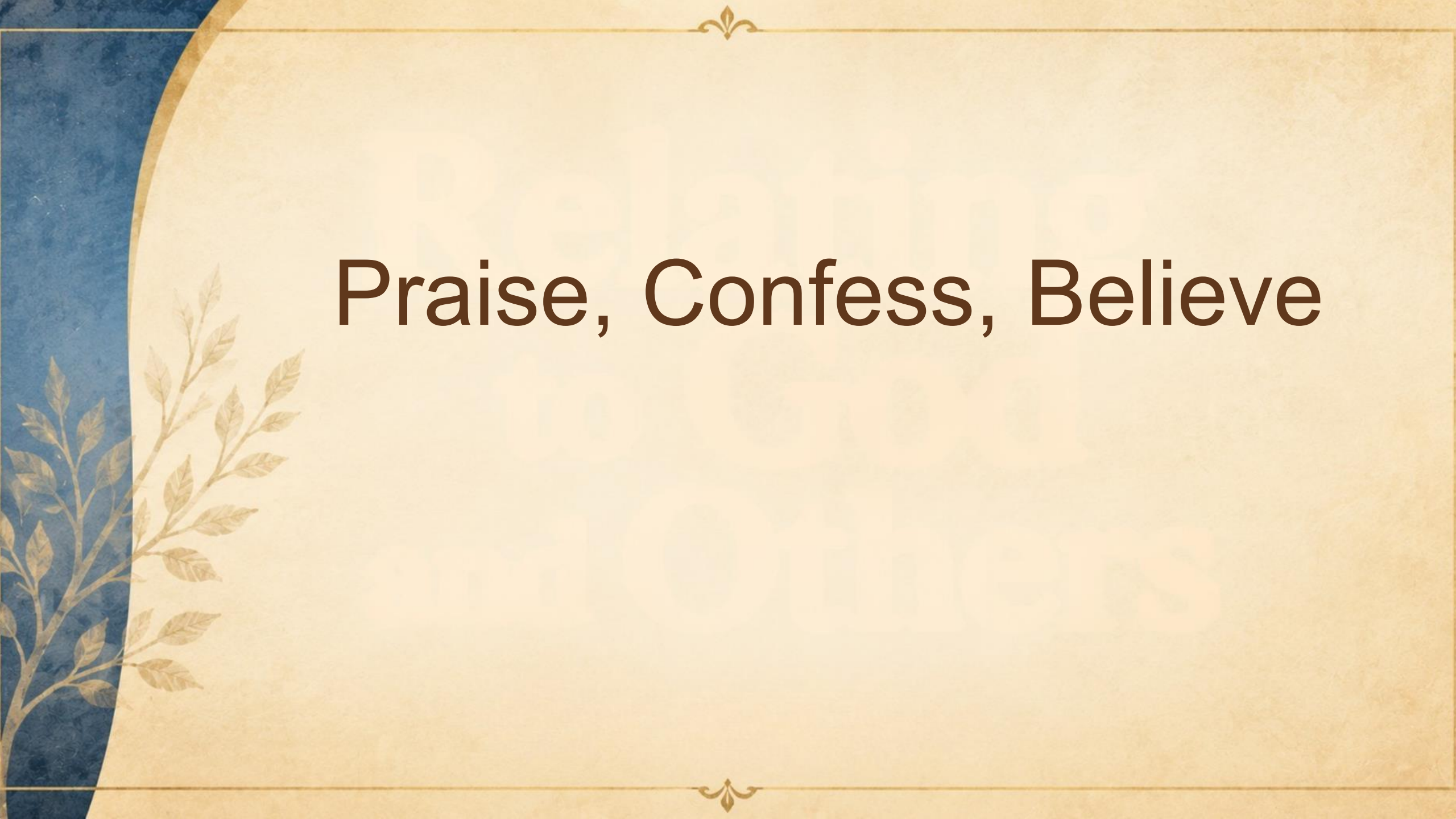
Occasional Reading: 14% of churchgoers read it once a week, 11% read it a few times a month, and about 9% rarely or never read it.



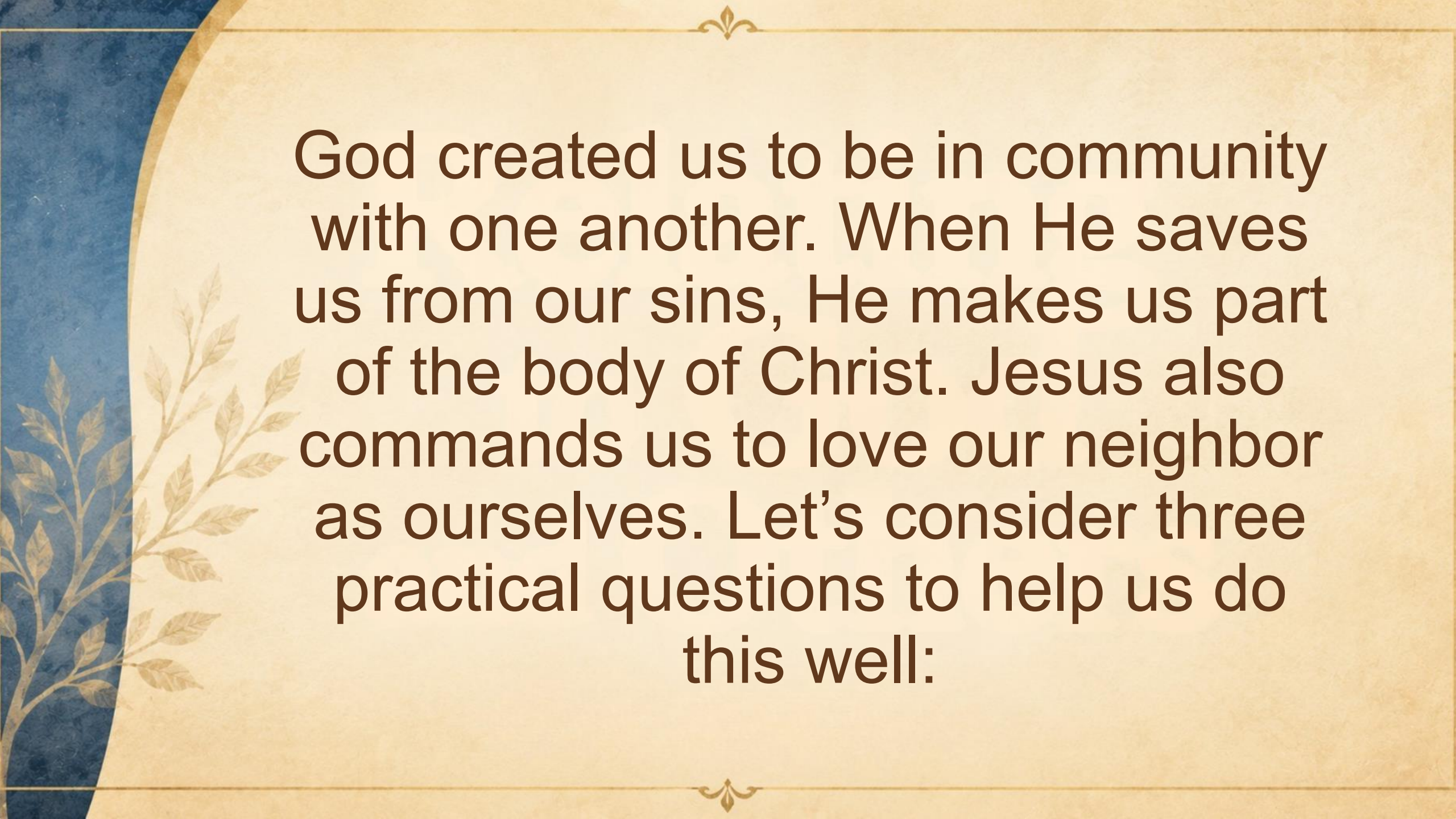
Completion Rate: Only 17% of
all Americans have read the
entire Bible from cover to cover,
as reported in the American
Bible Society State of the Bible.



An active, intentional focus on
God's many promises will
strengthen our faith and
deepen our relationship with
Him.



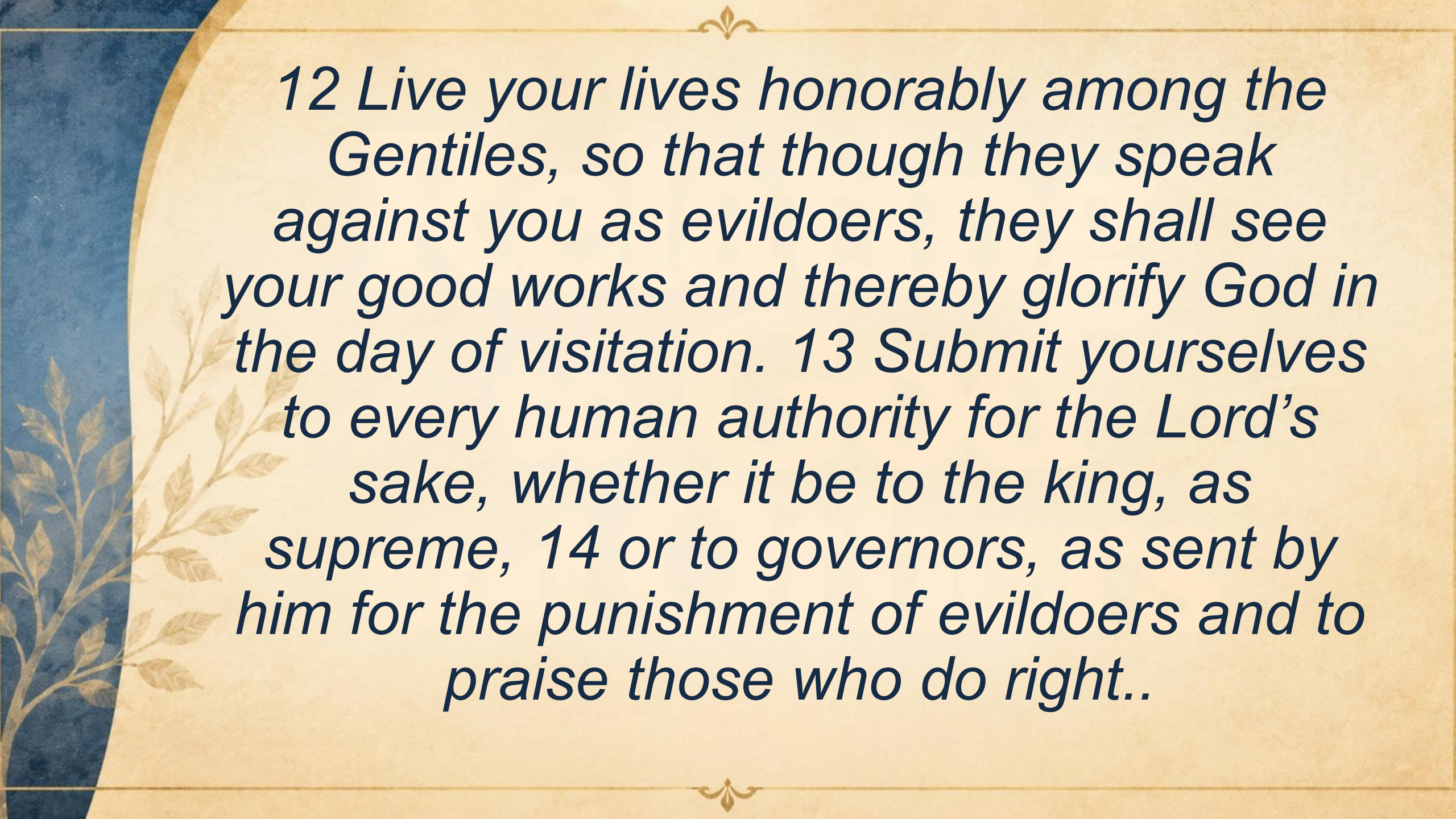
Praise, Confess, Believe



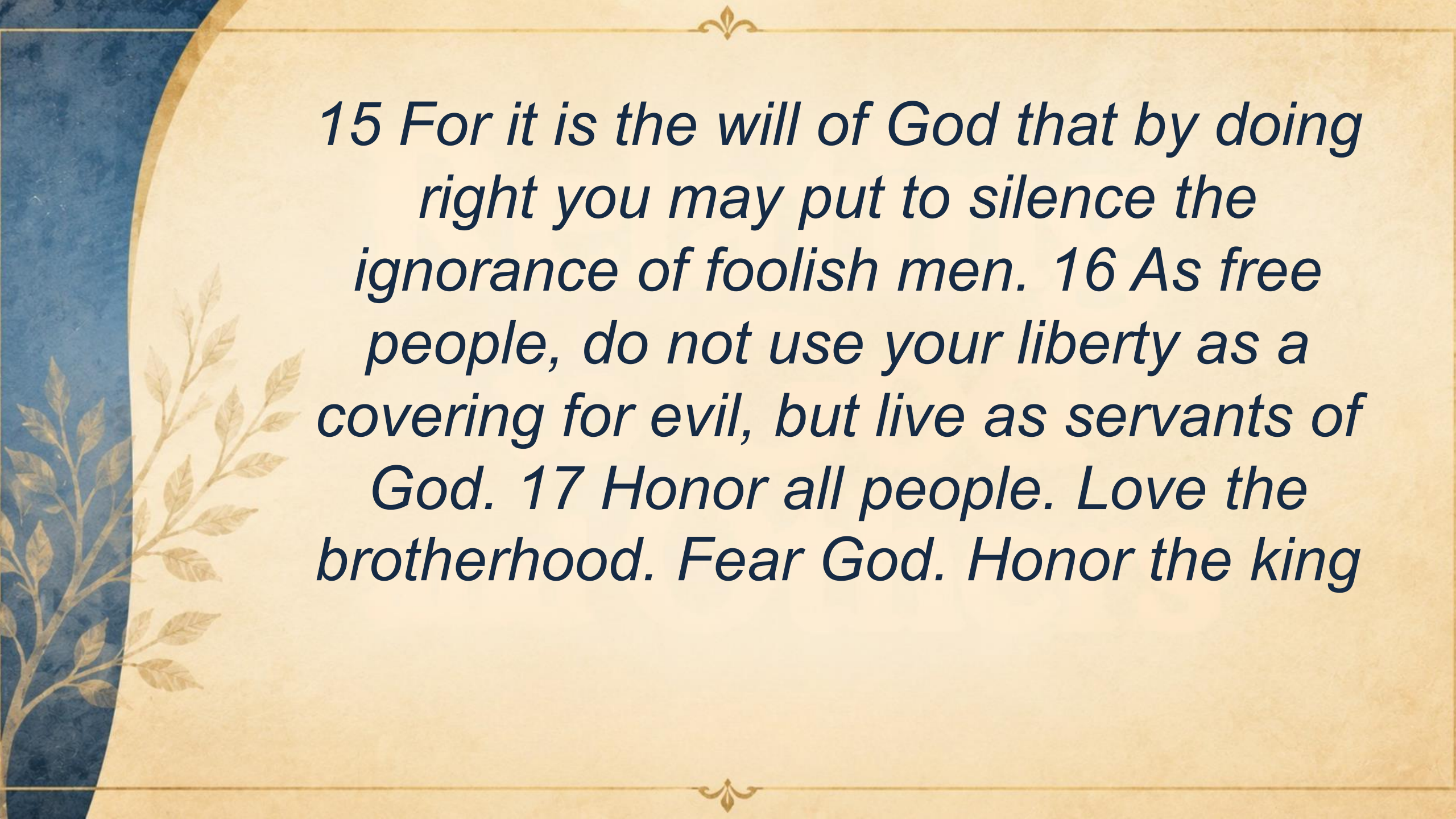
God created us to be in community with one another. When He saves us from our sins, He makes us part of the body of Christ. Jesus also commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Let's consider three practical questions to help us do this well:

1. How do we live and *interact* rightly
with others? 1 Pet. 2:12-17

- 
- God has wisdom for every level of relationship we have.



12 Live your lives honorably among the Gentiles, so that though they speak against you as evildoers, they shall see your good works and thereby glorify God in the day of visitation. 13 Submit yourselves to every human authority for the Lord's sake, whether it be to the king, as supreme, 14 or to governors, as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and to praise those who do right..

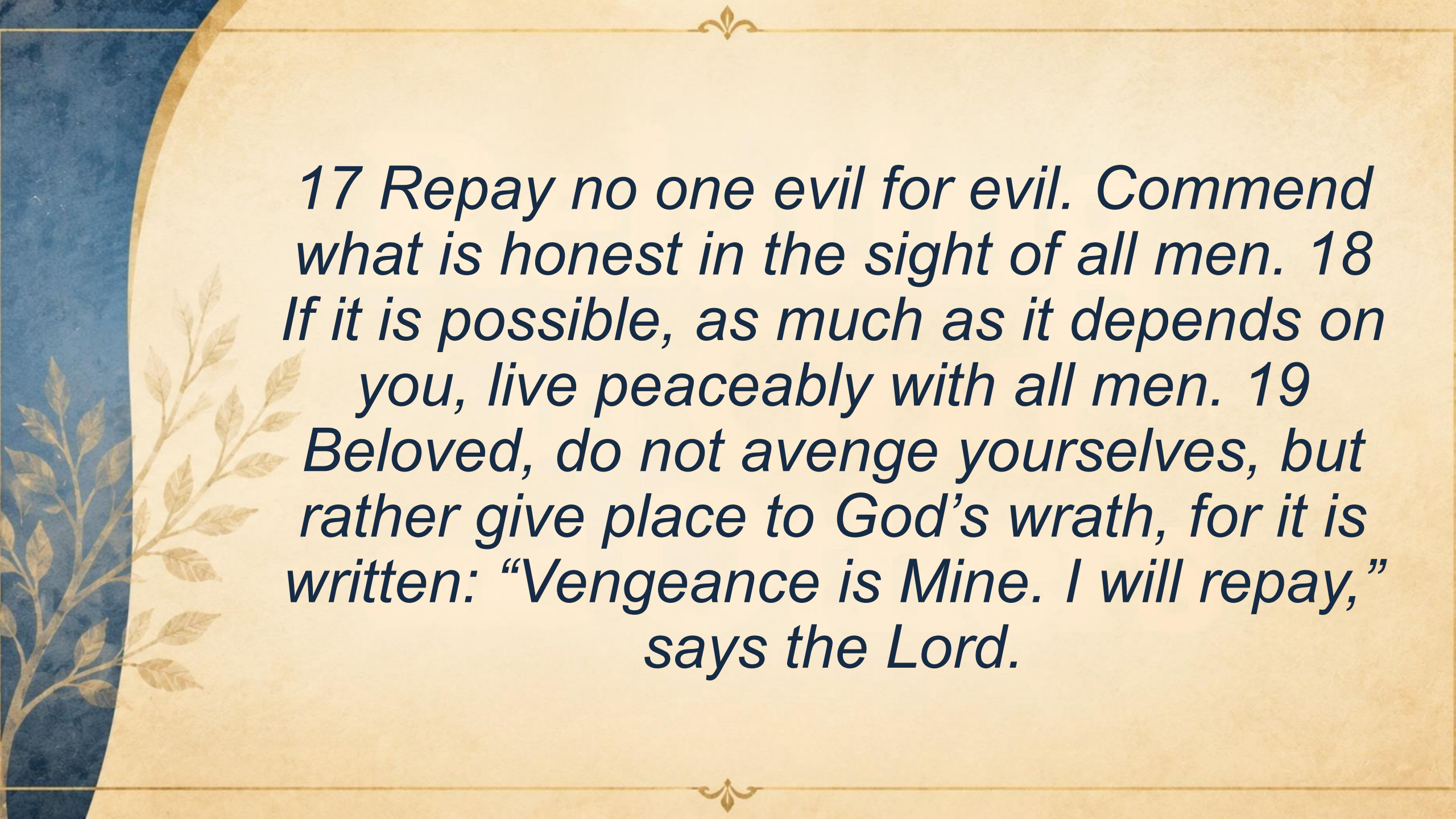


15 For it is the will of God that by doing right you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. 16 As free people, do not use your liberty as a covering for evil, but live as servants of God. 17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king



2. How do we reconcile with people we are at odds with? Rom. 12:17-19

- We are to be proactive about pursuing peace with everyone—Even the difficult people.



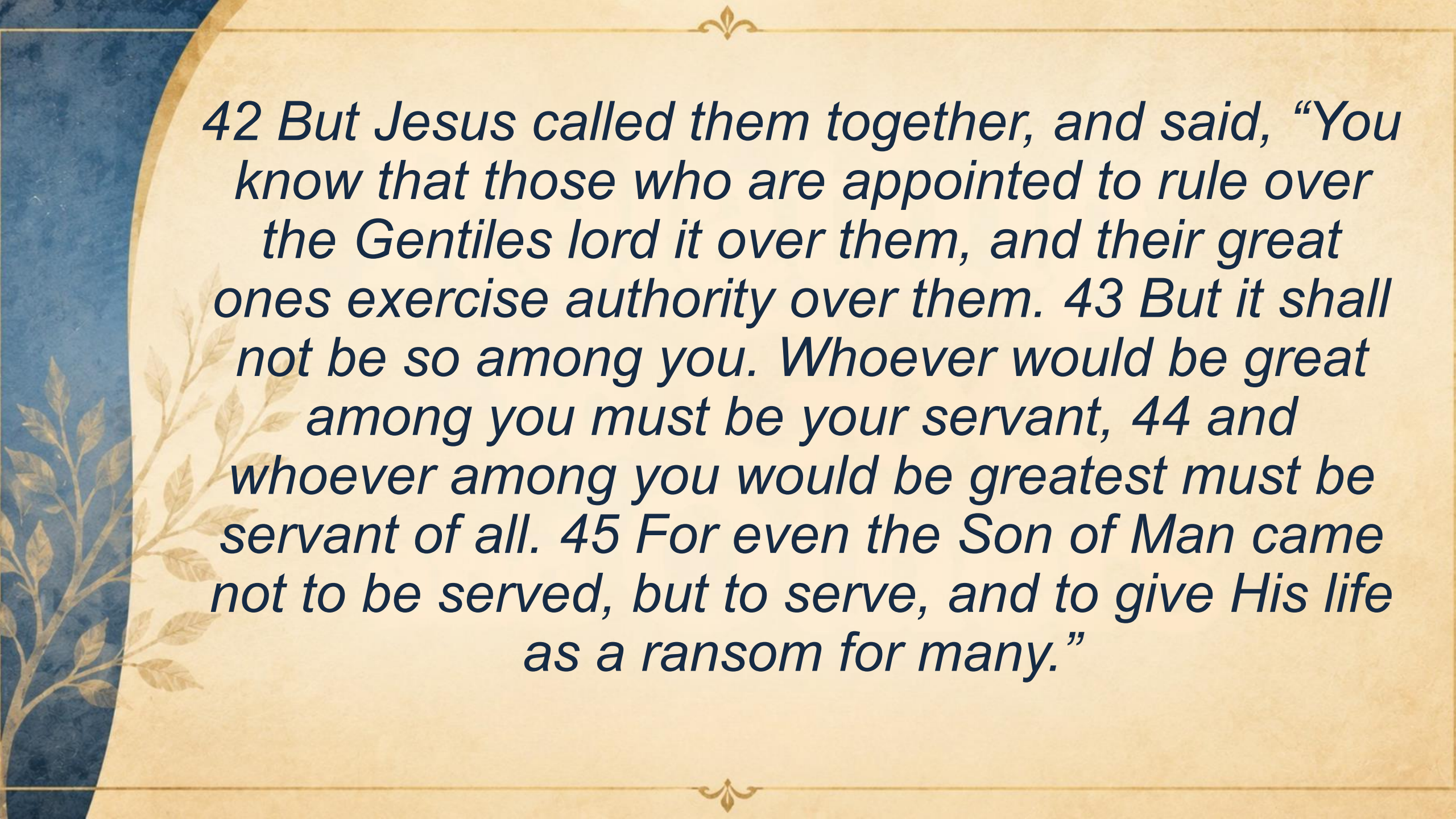
*17 Repay no one evil for evil. Commend
what is honest in the sight of all men. 18
If it is possible, as much as it depends on
you, live peaceably with all men. 19
Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but
rather give place to God's wrath, for it is
written: "Vengeance is Mine. I will repay,"
says the Lord.*



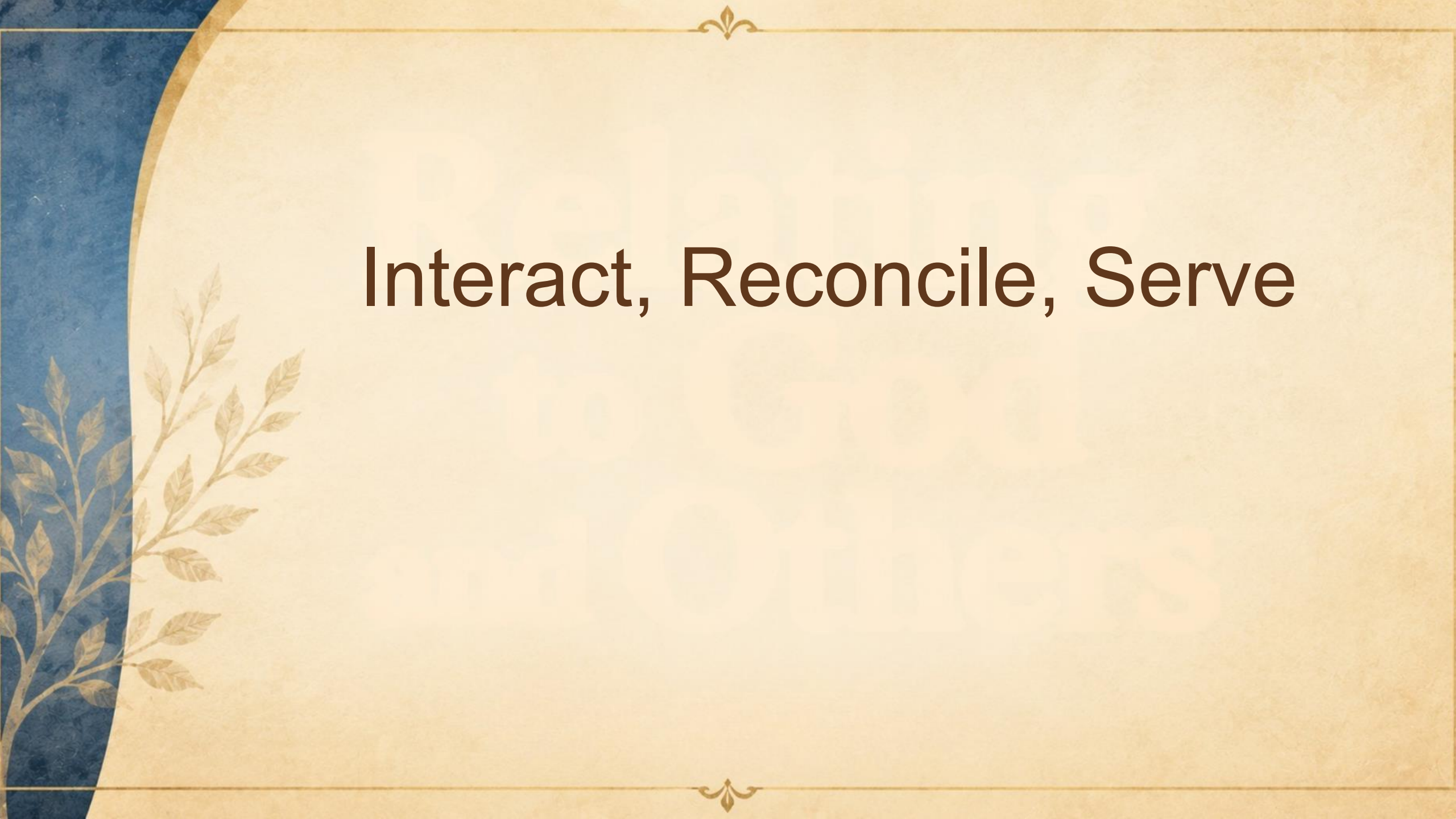
3. How do we love, serve, and care for others the way Christ modeled it for us?

Mark 10:42-45

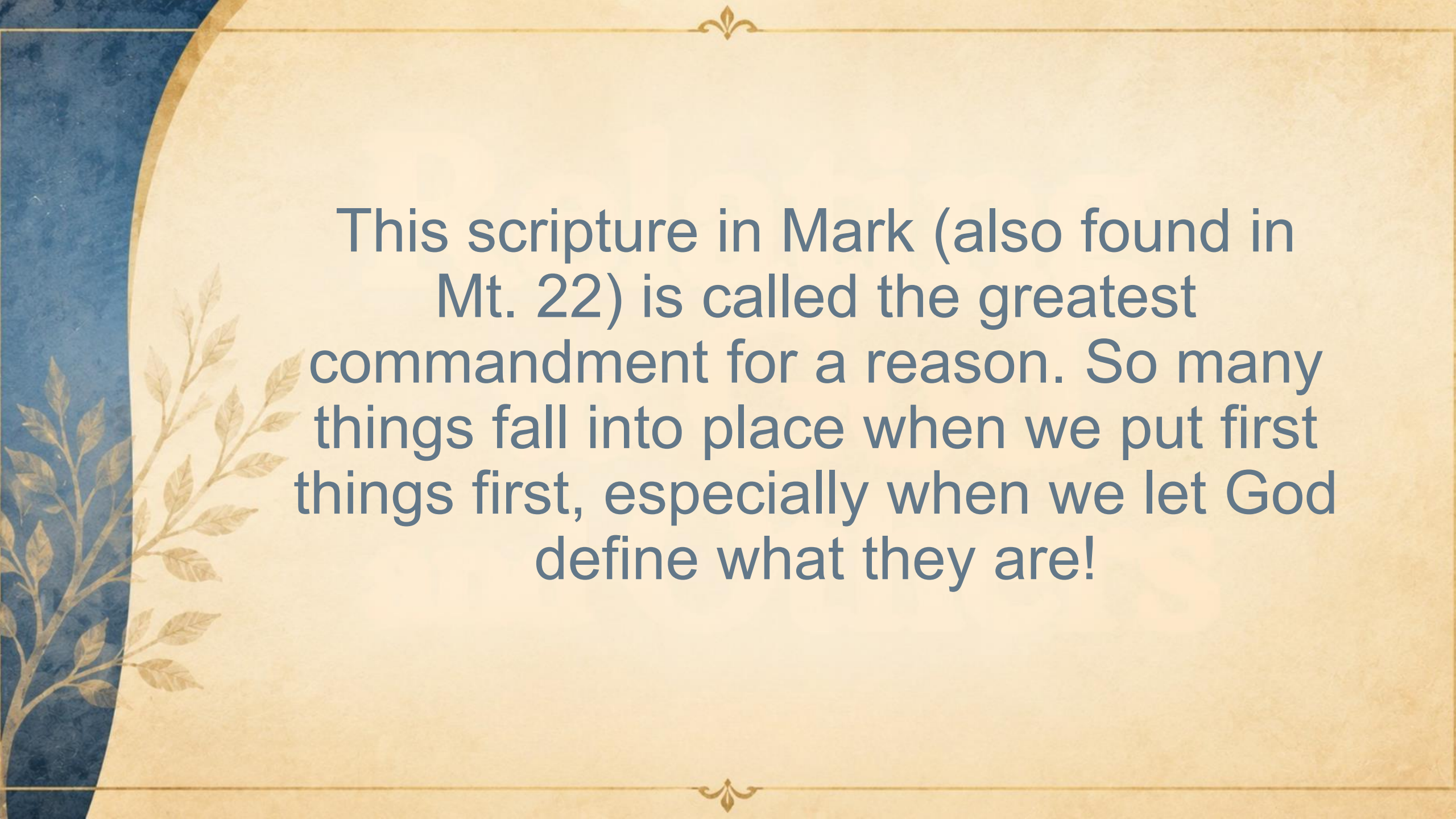
- Our attitude and treatment of those who can do nothing for us reveals our true character.



42 But Jesus called them together, and said, "You know that those who are appointed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever among you would be greatest must be servant of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."



Interact, Reconcile, Serve



This scripture in Mark (also found in Mt. 22) is called the greatest commandment for a reason. So many things fall into place when we put first things first, especially when we let God define what they are!