

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in the middle of the slide.

September Bible Study Series:
How To Handle Criticism

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Lesson Four:
Giving and Receiving
Godly Criticism



Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

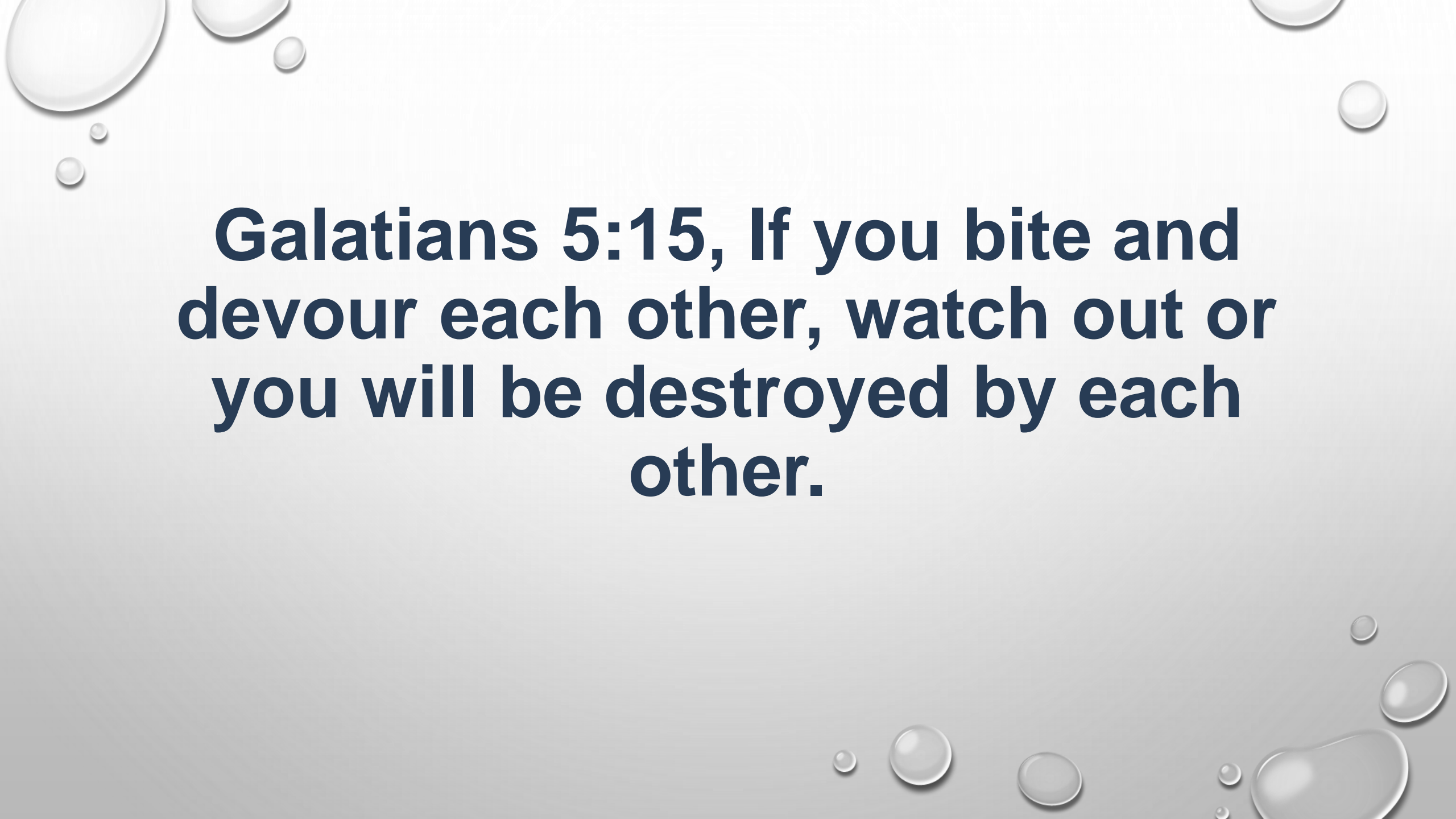


What Is Godly Criticism?

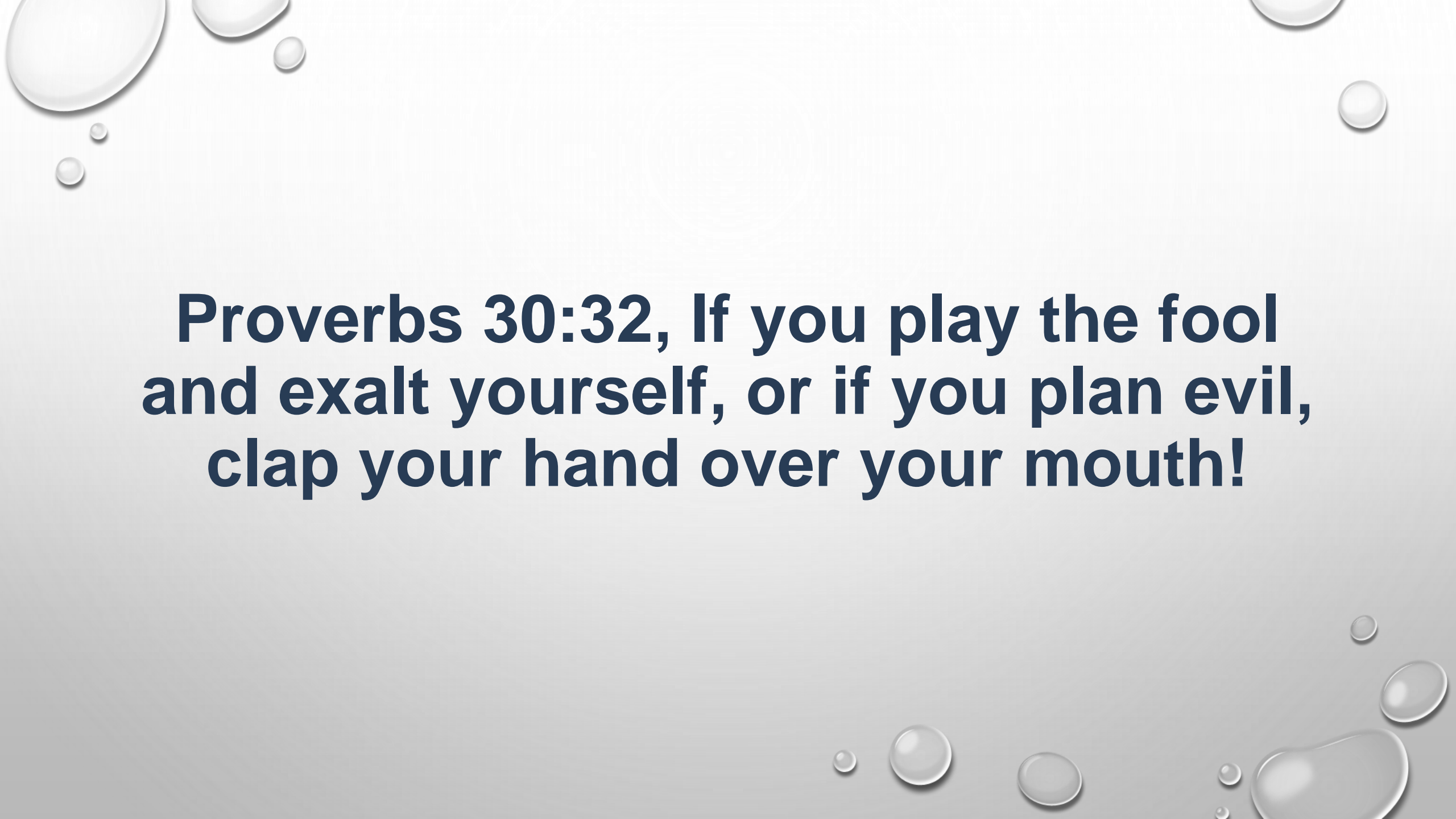
Godly criticism is to give a corrective evaluation of another person and their service to the Lord with the intent of helping that person grow in faithfulness to God.

I Corinthians 3:1-3, brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

James 3:14-16, But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice..



Galatians 5:15, If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.



**Proverbs 30:32, If you play the fool
and exalt yourself, or if you plan evil,
clap your hand over your mouth!**

Luke 18:11-14, the Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people-robbers, evildoers, adulterers-or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

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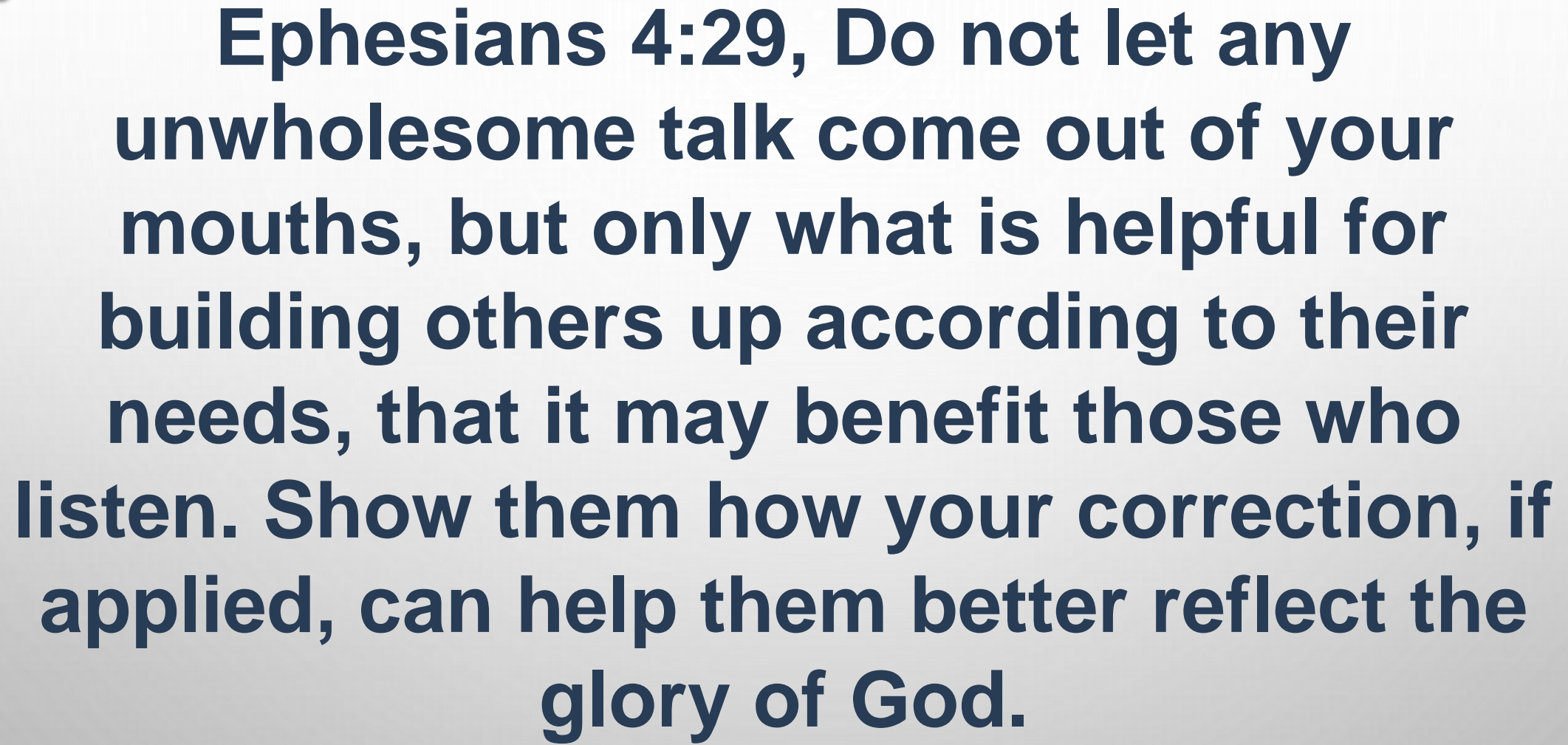
Eight Ways to Give Godly Criticism:

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1. The Goal is Growth.

Ephesians 4:14-15, That we should no longer be children, tossed to and from and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.

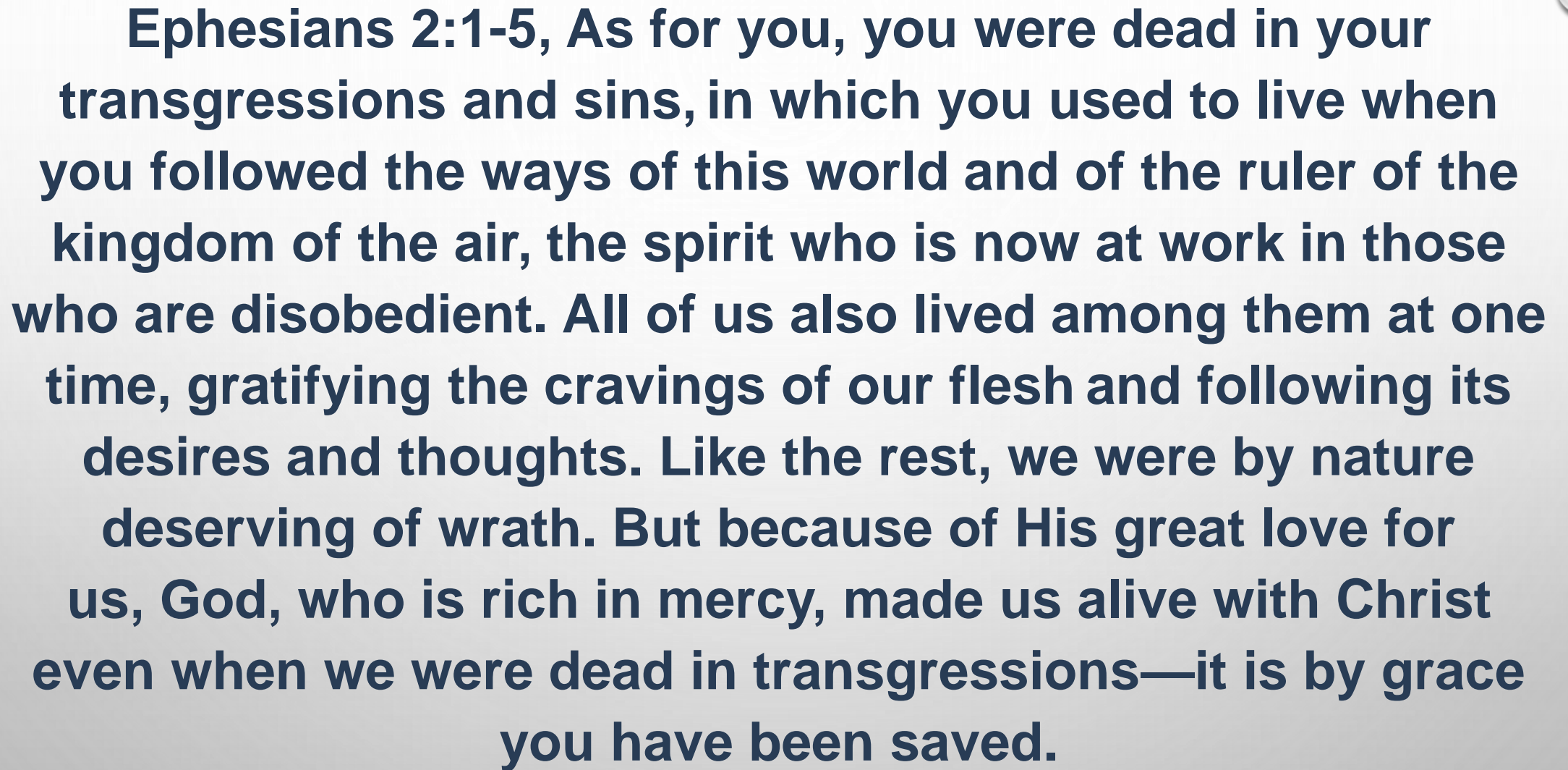
II Corinthians 13:10, This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come, I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority-the authority the LORD gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.



Ephesians 4:29, Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Show them how your correction, if applied, can help them better reflect the glory of God.

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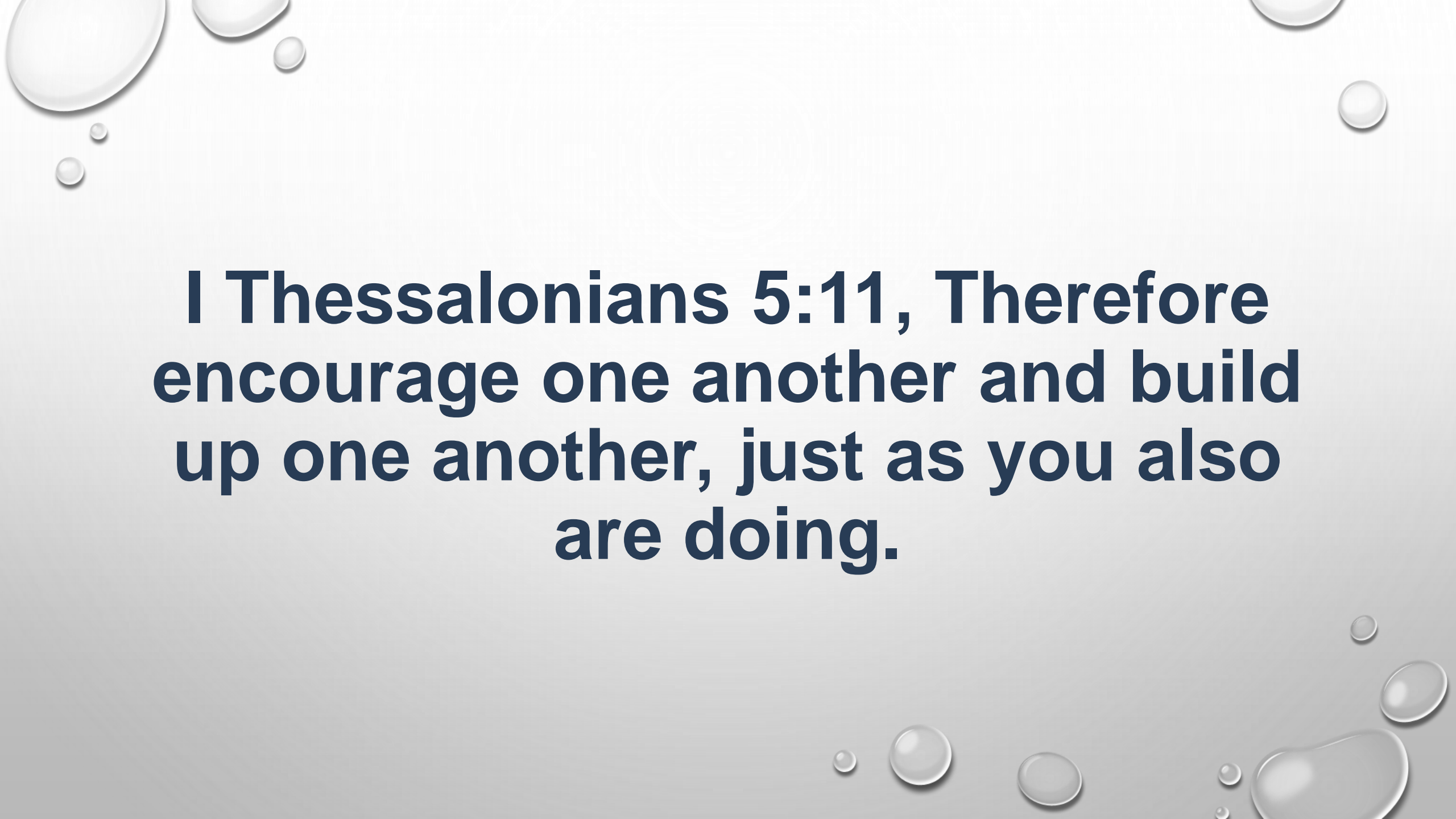
2. Criticize Humbly



Ephesians 2:1-5, As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

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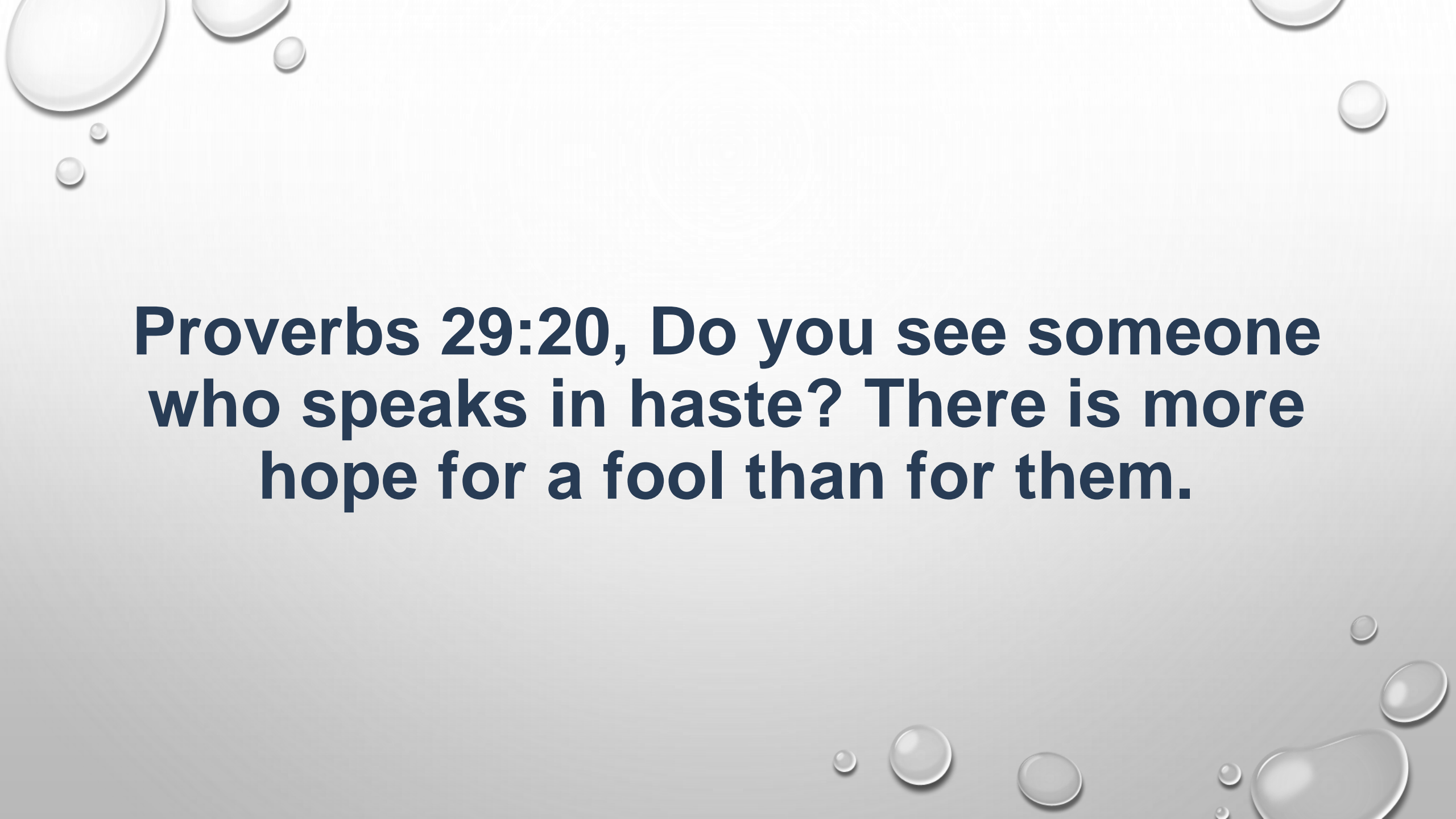
3. Give Encouragement with Your Critique.



1 Thessalonians 5:11, Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

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4. Be Thoughtful



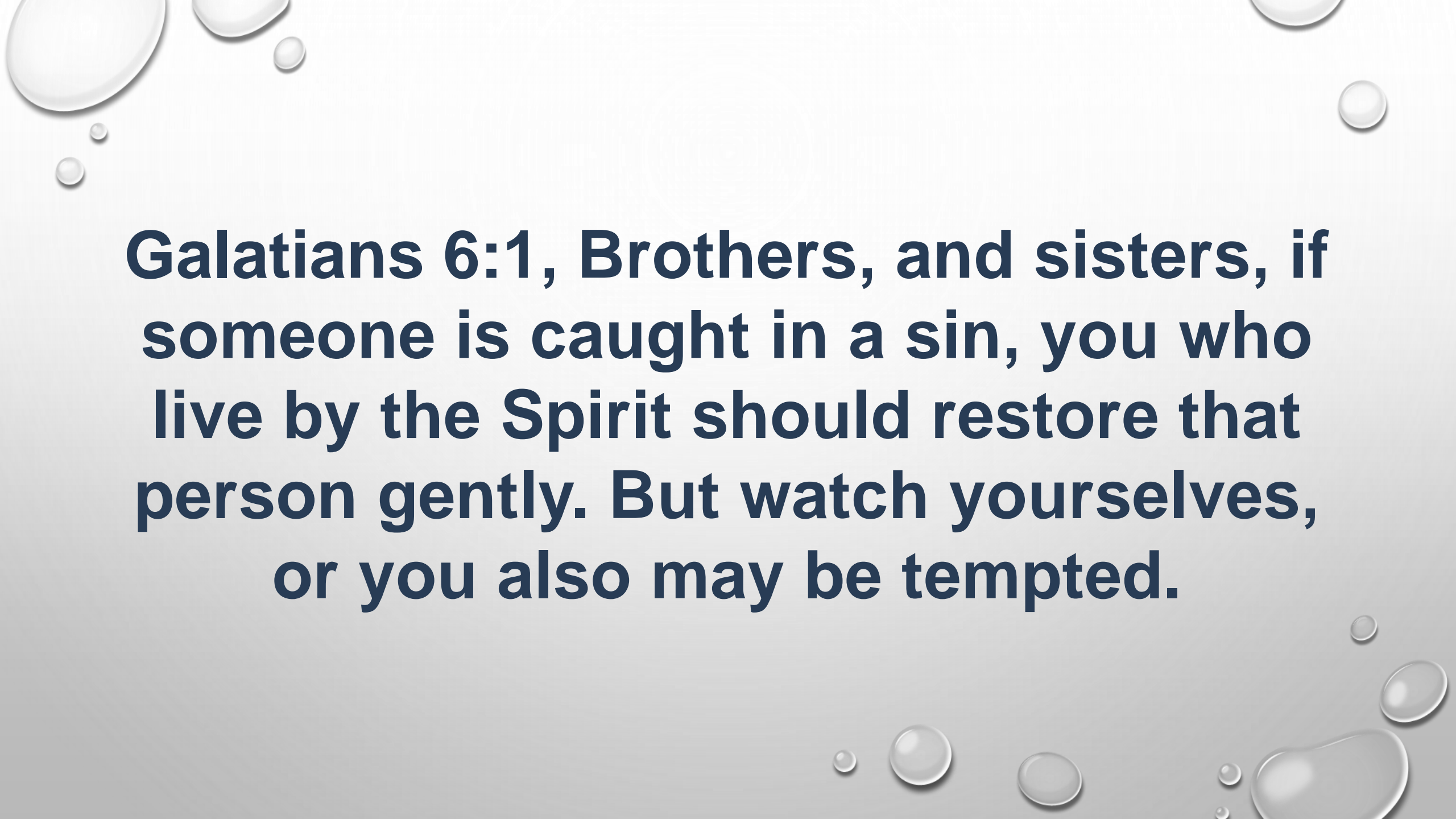
Proverbs 29:20, Do you see someone who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for them.

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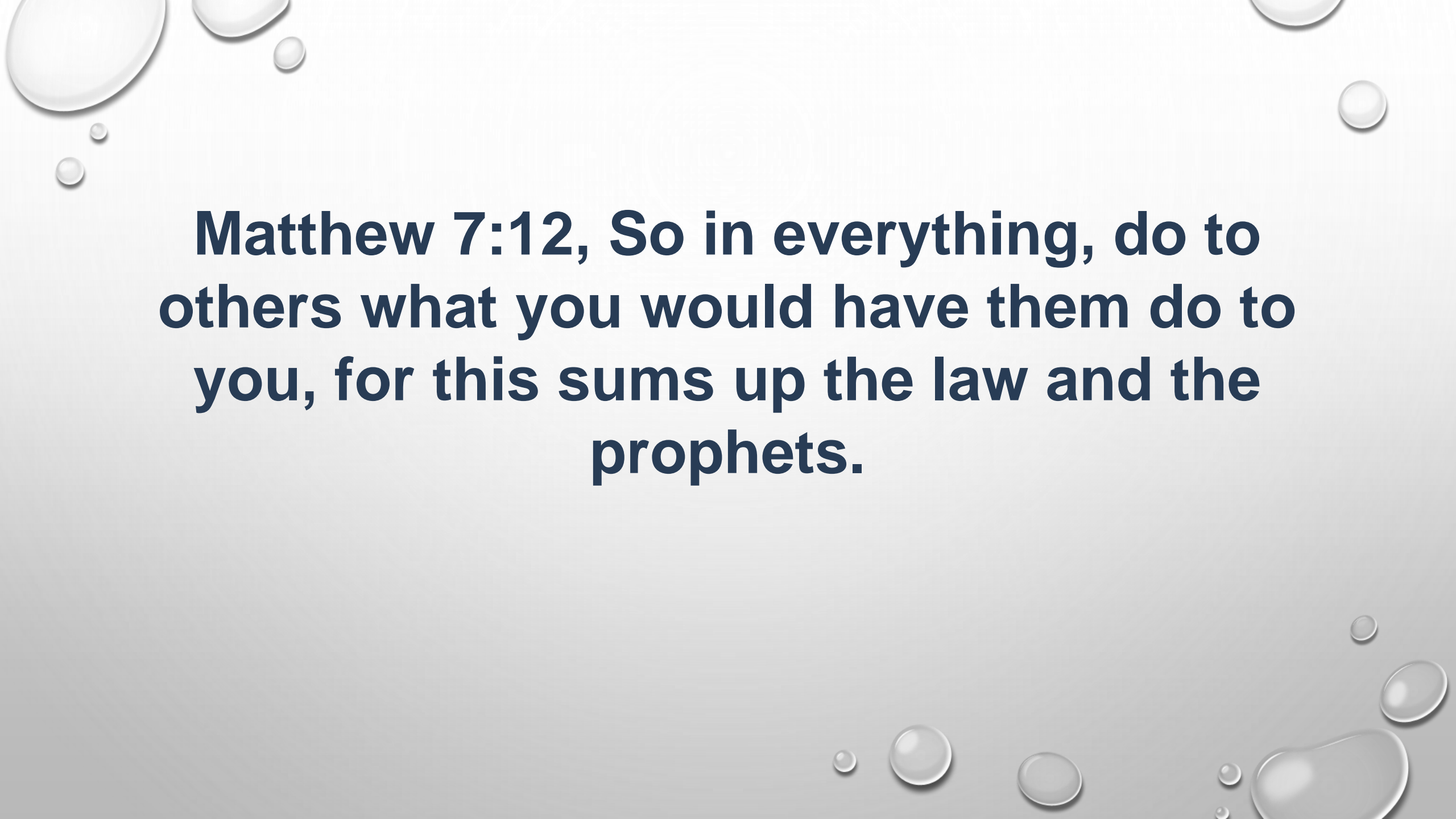
5. Be Clear

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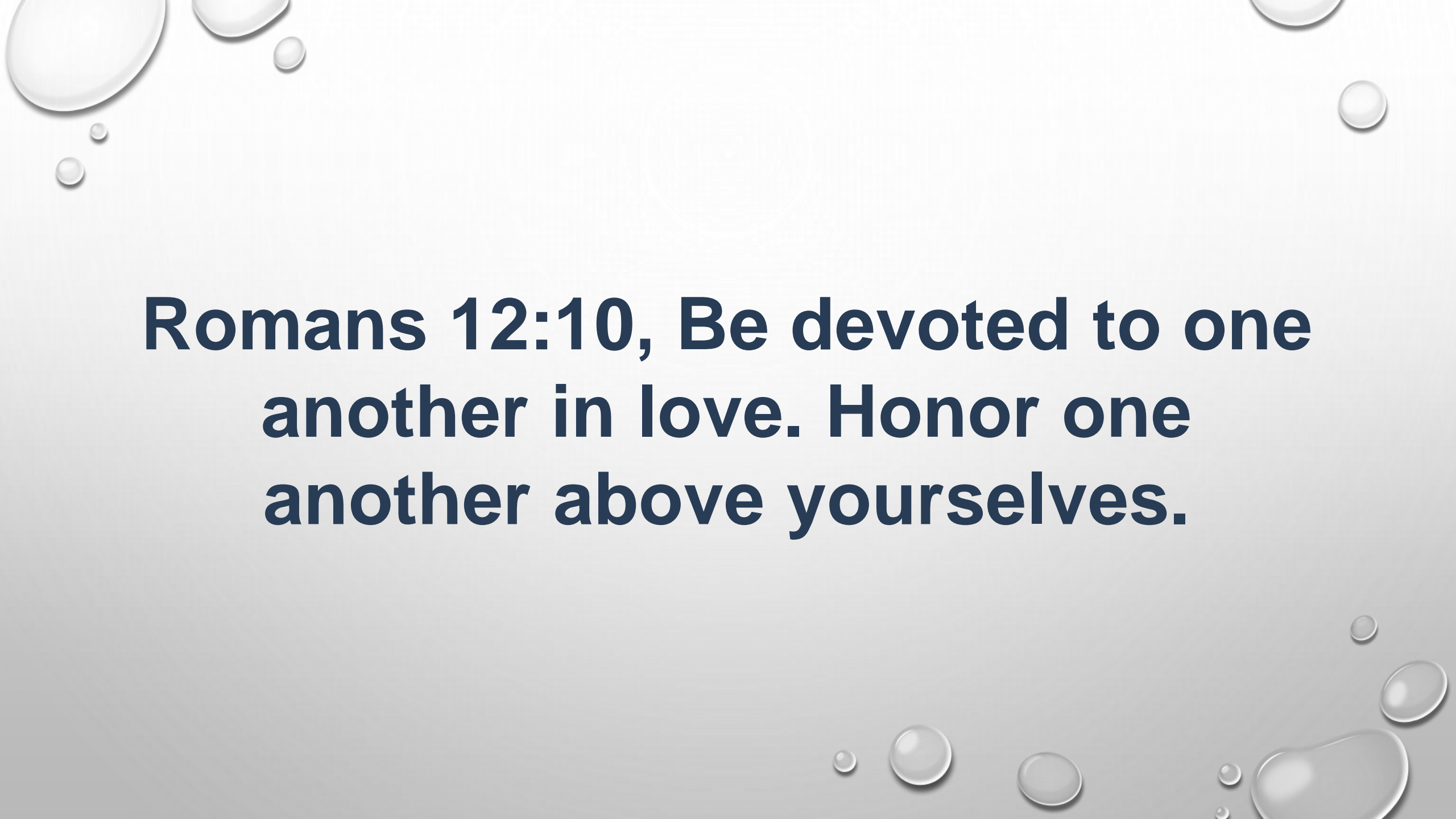
6. Be Gentle



Galatians 6:1, Brothers, and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

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Matthew 7:12, So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the law and the prophets.

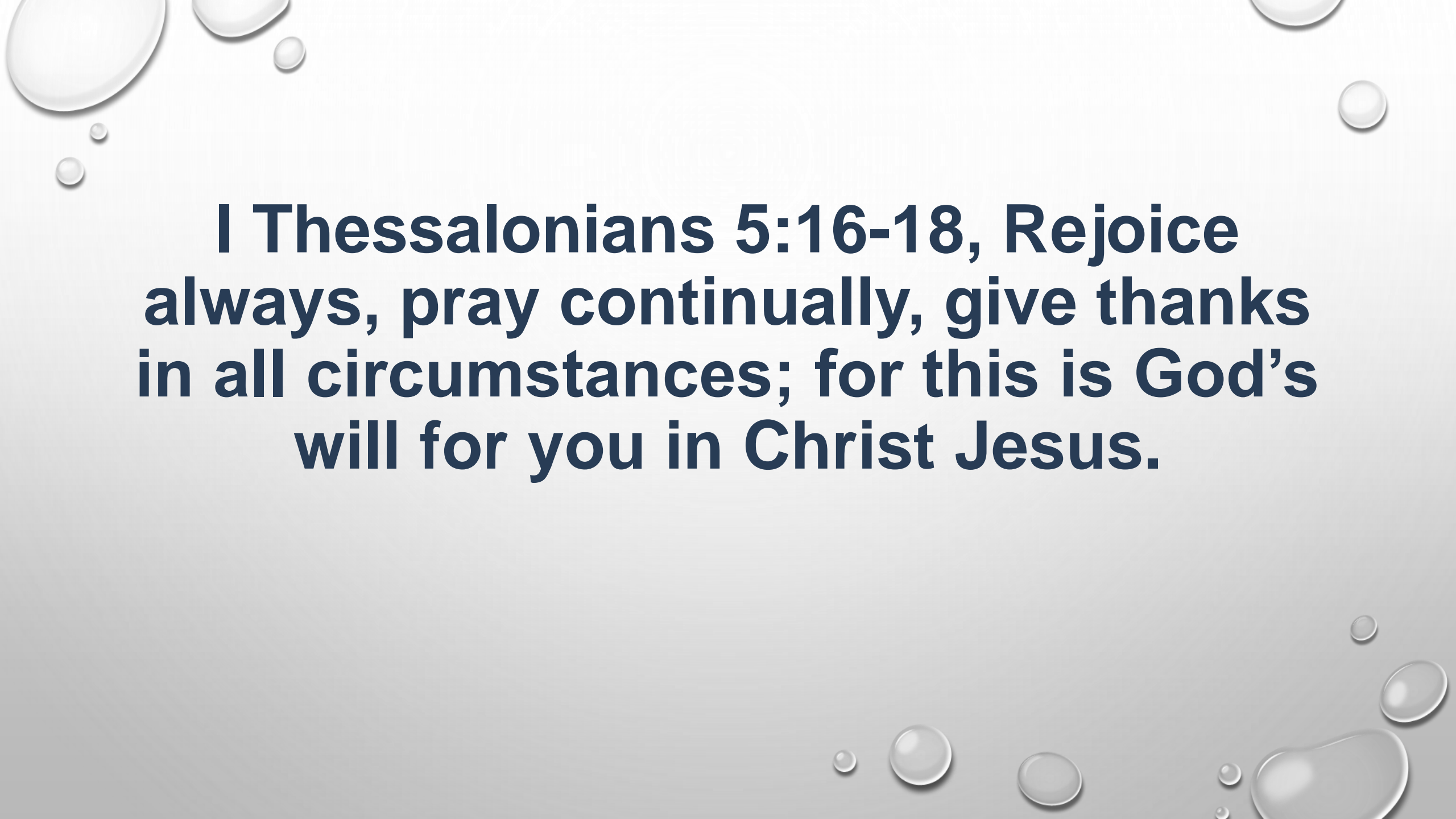
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Romans 12:10, Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

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7. Be Patient

8. Be Prayerful



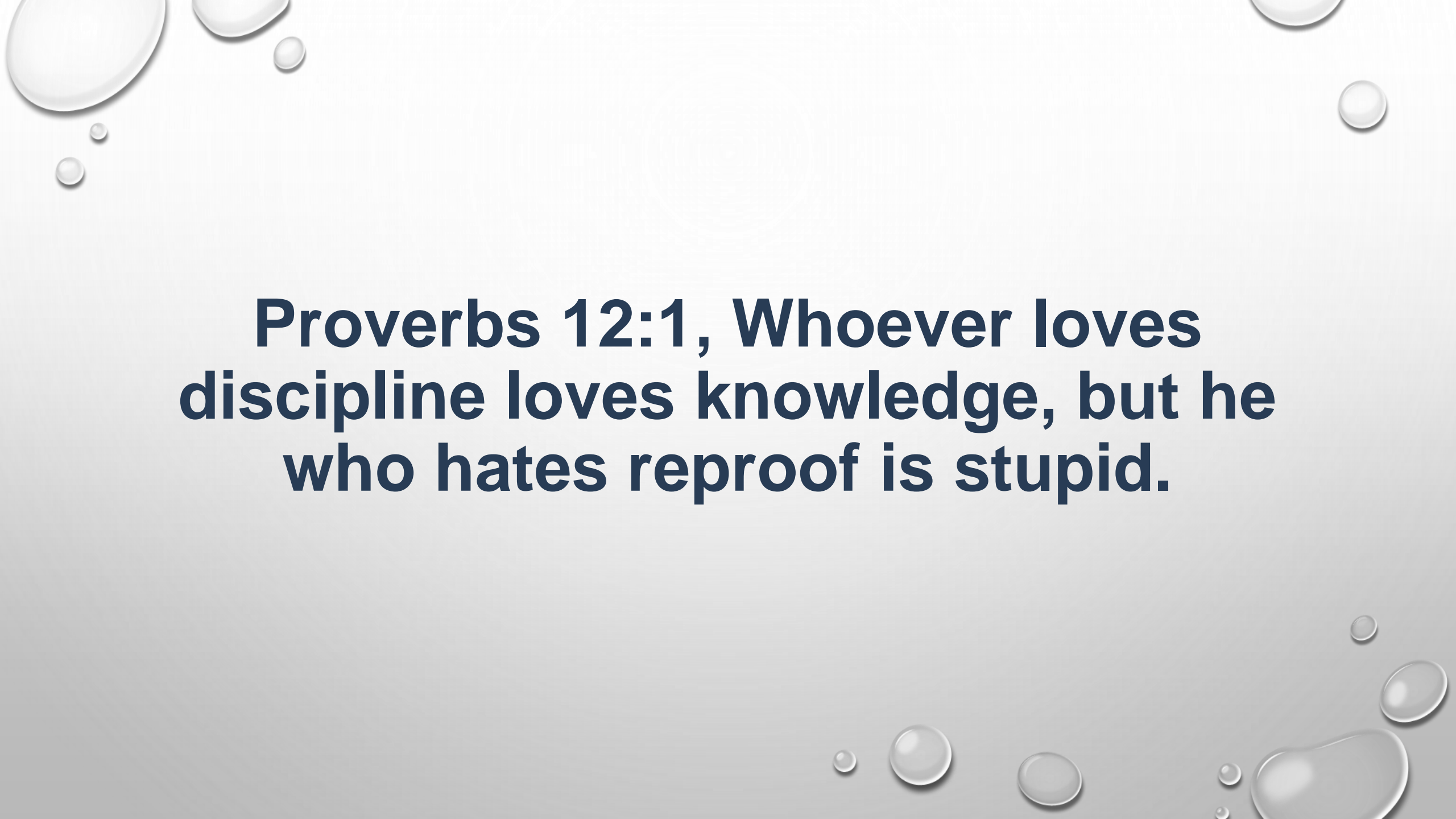
**I Thessalonians 5:16-18, Rejoice
always, pray continually, give thanks
in all circumstances; for this is God's
will for you in Christ Jesus.**

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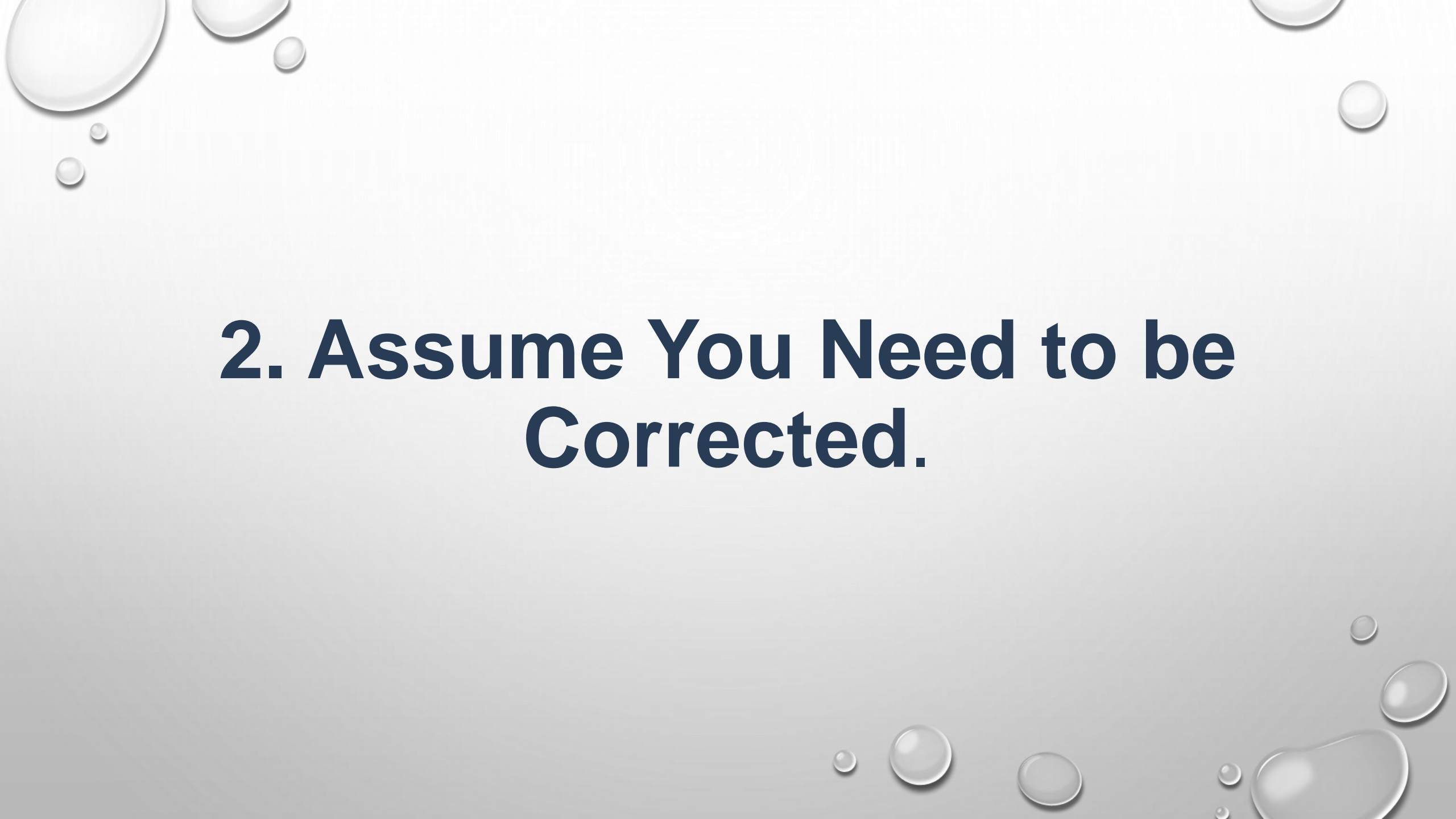
Six Ways to Receive Godly Criticism:

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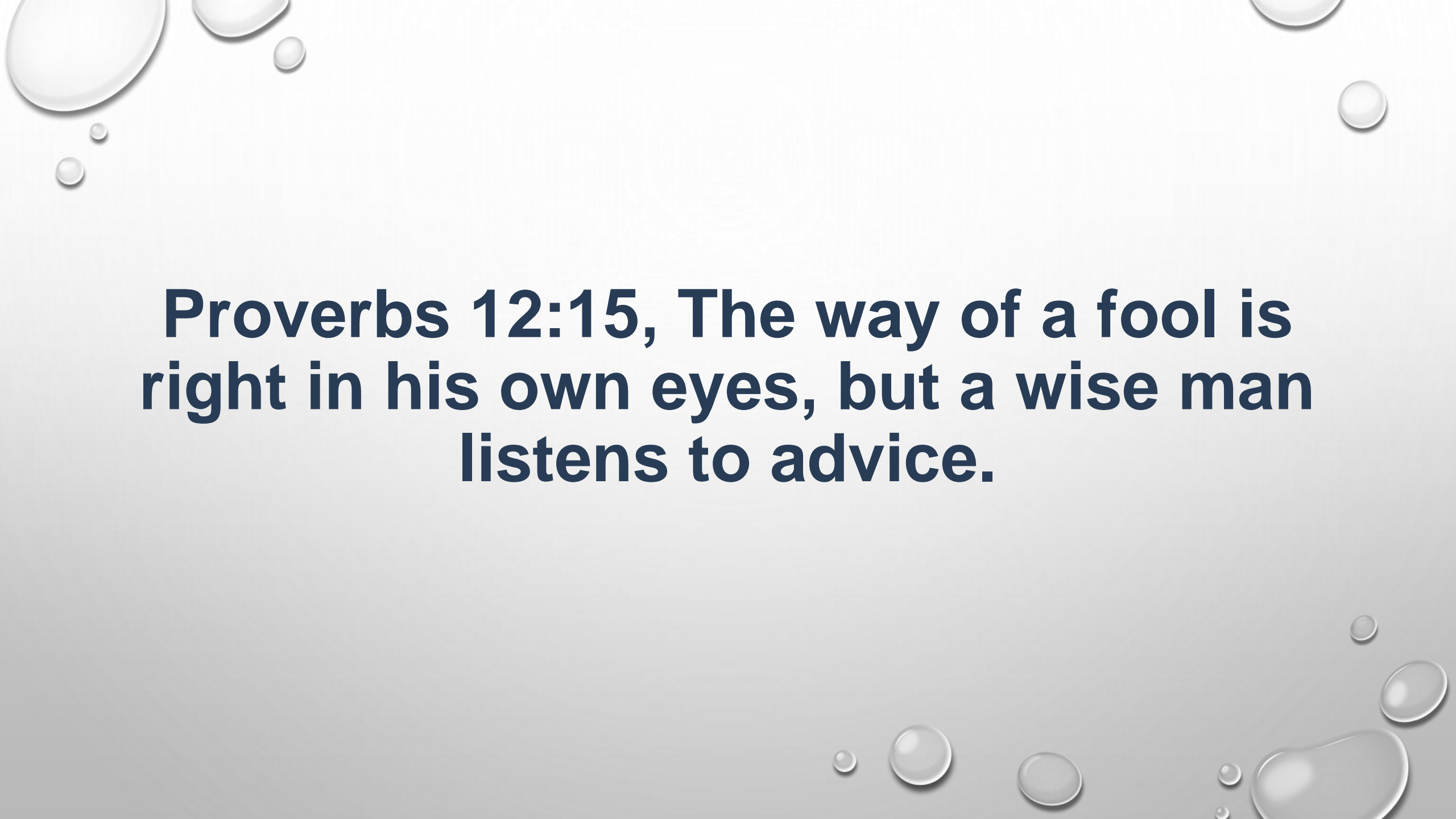
1. Be Hungry to Grow.

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**Proverbs 12:1, Whoever loves
discipline loves knowledge, but he
who hates reproof is stupid.**

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2. Assume You Need to be Corrected.



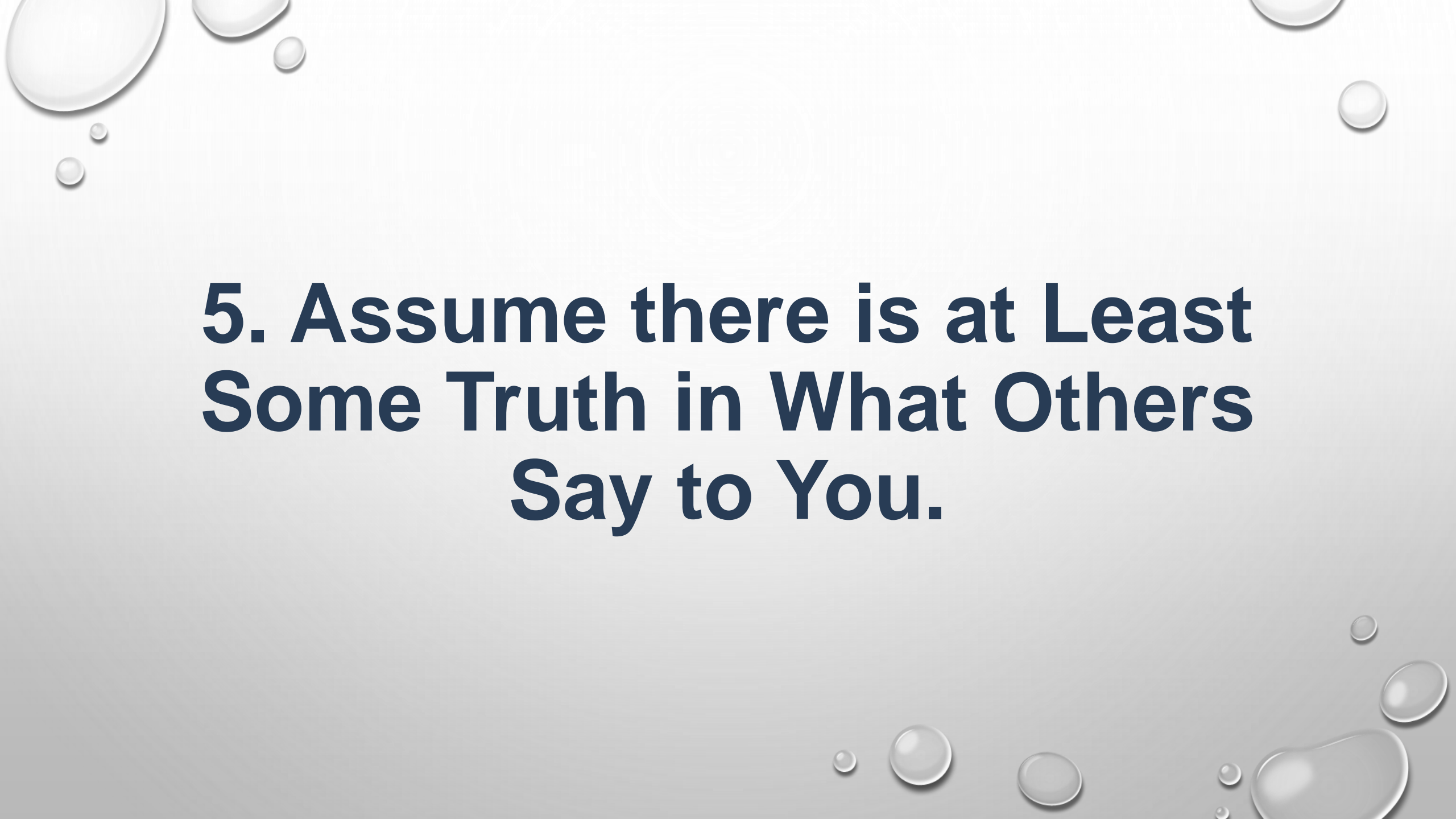
Proverbs 12:15, The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

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3. Don't Be Easily Offended.

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4. Ask Clarifying Questions.



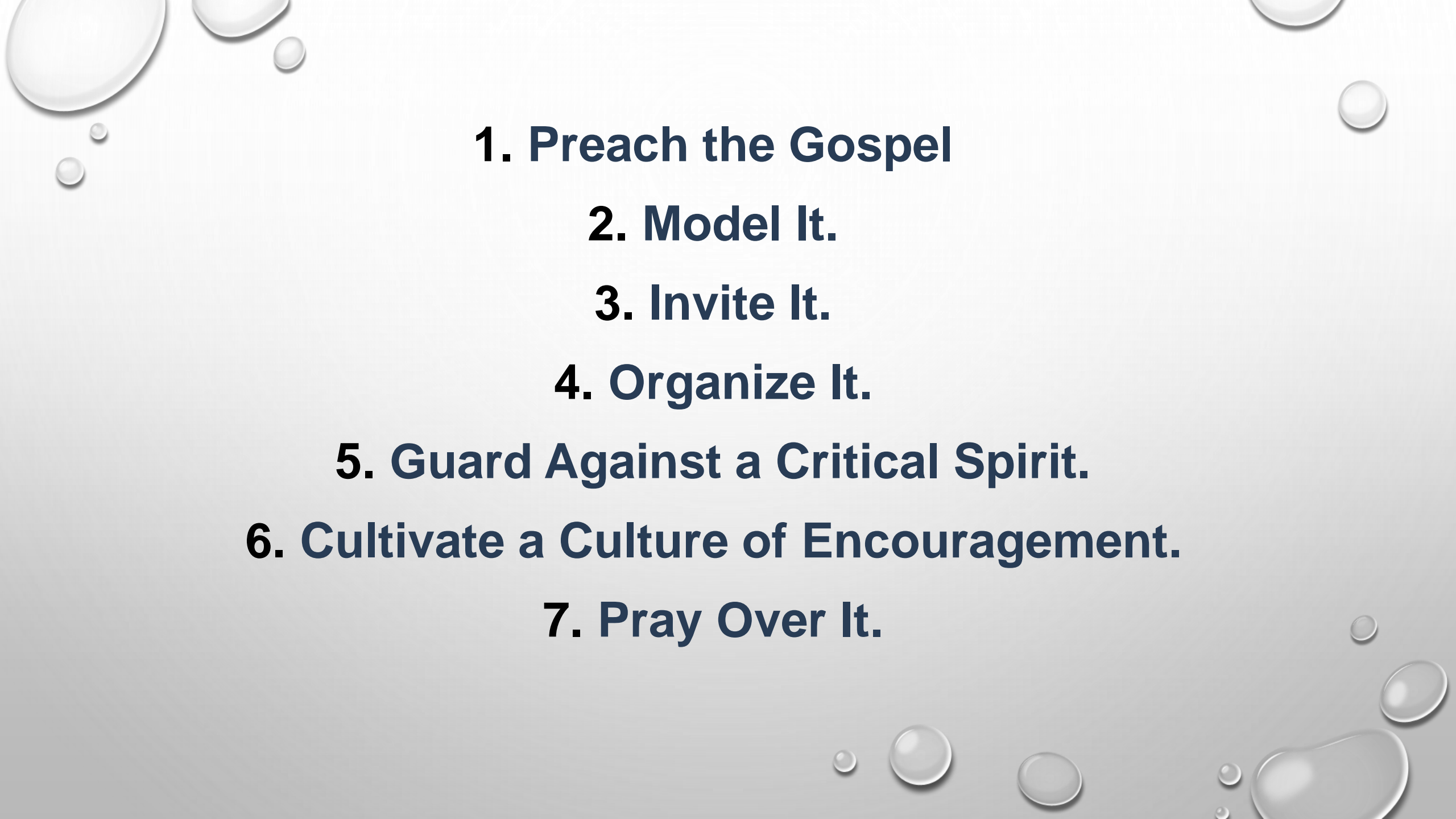
**5. Assume there is at Least
Some Truth in What Others
Say to You.**

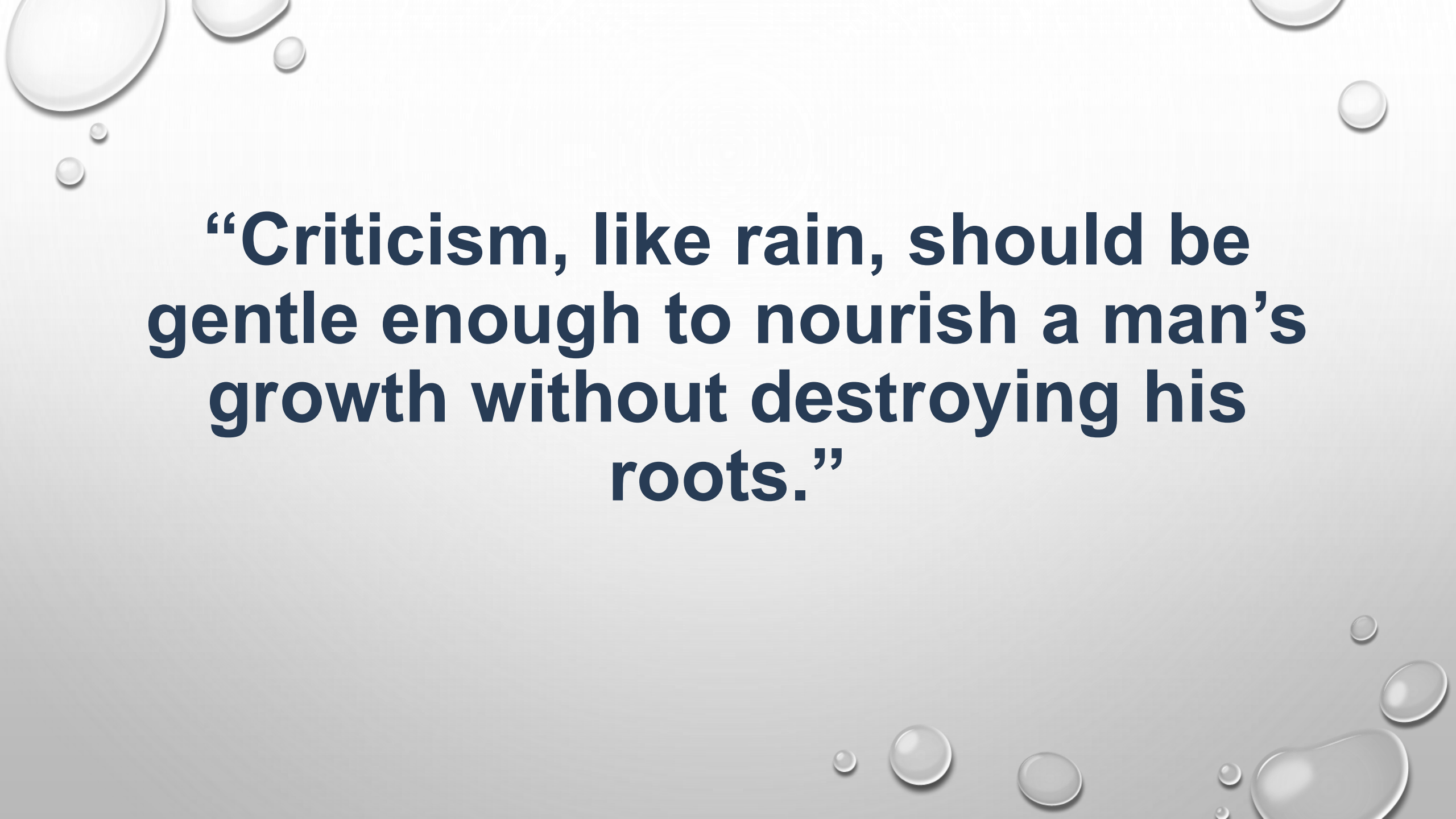
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6. Do it for God's Glory.



Ways to Create a Culture of Sharpening in the Church:

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- 1. Preach the Gospel**
 - 2. Model It.**
 - 3. Invite It.**
 - 4. Organize It.**
 - 5. Guard Against a Critical Spirit.**
 - 6. Cultivate a Culture of Encouragement.**
 - 7. Pray Over It.**



“Criticism, like rain, should be gentle enough to nourish a man’s growth without destroying his roots.”

Bible Study Follow Up Questions:

- 1. How well do you handle being corrected? Do you fully avoid it, fully embrace it, or evaluate it case-by-case?**
- 2. How do you impart criticism to others? What is your usual motivation for correcting others? Do you offer it out of love and for the other person's benefit?**
- 3. Sometimes our critics are our best friends and can see our blind spots where we cannot. Agree or disagree? Why?**
- 4. When criticized, is it best to remain silent and move on? Does it warrant a response? Is righteous anger appropriate?**
- 5. Sometimes relationships need to be ended. If so, why?**
- 6. "He has a right to criticize, who has a heart to help."**