

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.

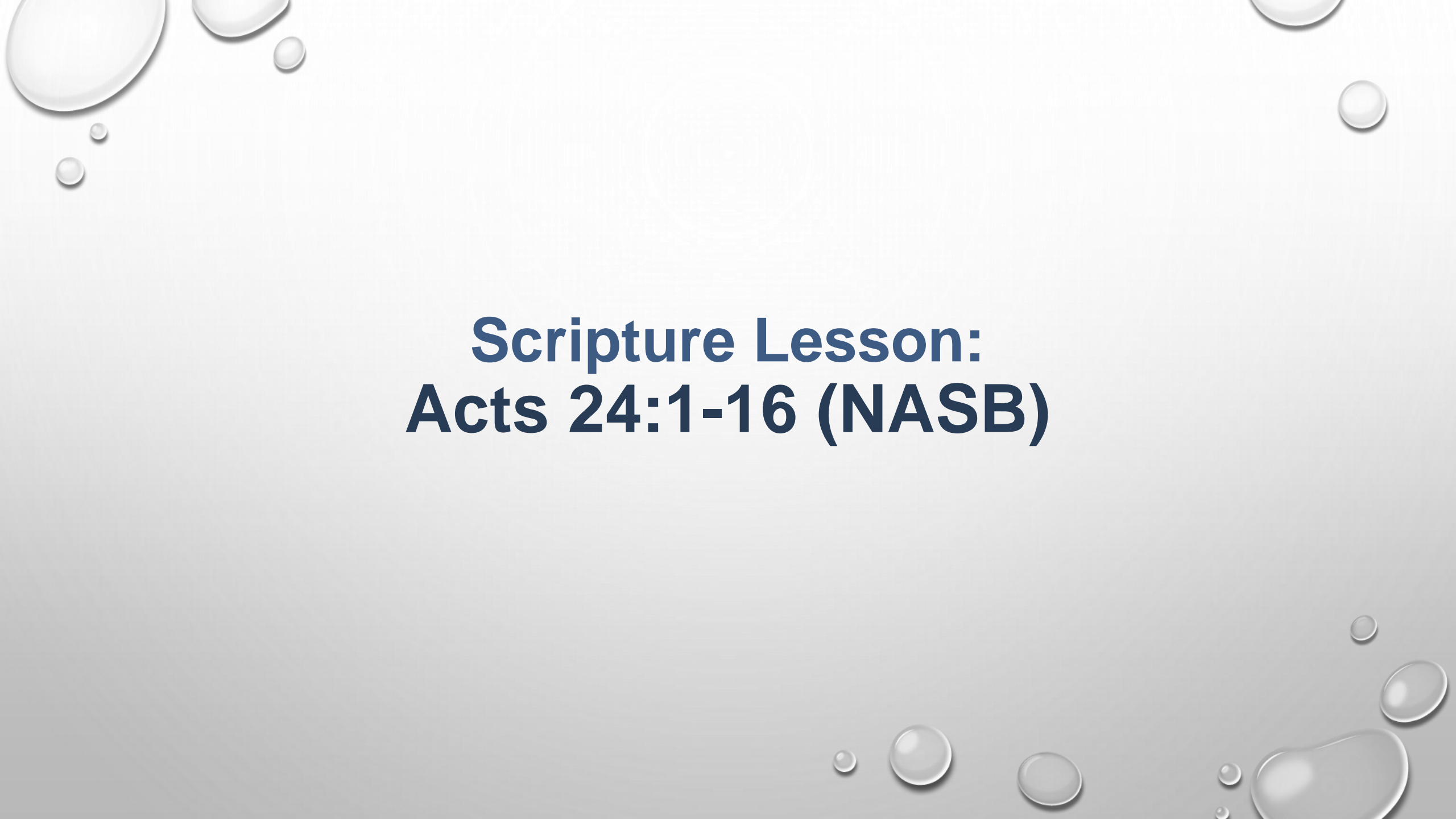
**September Bible Study Series:
How To Handle Criticism**

The background features a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered in the corners. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

Lesson Five:
Handling Criticism with
Grit and Grace

The background features a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered in the corners. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in a bold, dark blue font.

Two Types Of Criticism: Constructive and Destructive

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

**Scripture Lesson:
Acts 24:1-16 (NASB)**

Now after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and an attorney named Tertullus, and they brought charges against Paul to the governor. After Paul had been summoned, Tertullus began accusing him, saying to the governor, “since we have attained great peace through you, and since reforms are being carried out for this nation by your foresight, we acknowledge this in every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, with all thankfulness. But that I may not weary you further, I beg you to grant us a brief hearing, by your kindness.

For we have found this man a public menace and one who stirs up dissensions among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes (Christians). And he even tried to desecrate the temple, so indeed we arrested him. By interrogating him yourself concerning all these matters, you will be able to ascertain the things of which we are accusing him.” The Jews also joined in the attack, asserting that these things were so. And when the governor had nodded for him to speak, Paul responded:

“Knowing that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, I cheerfully make my defense, since you can take note of the fact that no more than twelve days ago, I went up to Jerusalem to worship. And neither in the temple did they find me carrying on a discussion with anyone or causing a riot, nor in the synagogues, nor in the city itself. Nor can they prove to you the things of which they now accuse me. But I confess this to you, that in accordance with the way, which they call a sect,

I do serve the god of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the law and is written in the prophets; having a hope in god, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. In view of this I also do my best to maintain a blameless conscience both before god and before other people, always.



FOUR ACCUSATIONS:

1. He Was “A Real Pest.”

2. He Stirred Up “Dissension.”

3. He Was A Leader Of “The Sect Of The Nazarenes.”

4. He “Tried To Desecrate The Temple.”






**Seven Ways to Maintain a Tender
Heart and a Tough Hide while
Enduring Criticism.**

The image features a light gray background with a subtle gradient. In the top-left and bottom-right corners, there are several realistic water droplets of various sizes, rendered with soft shadows and highlights to give them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

**1. He Refused to be Caught up in
the Emotion of the Charges.**



Proverbs 14:17, Short-tempered people do foolish things, and schemers are hated.

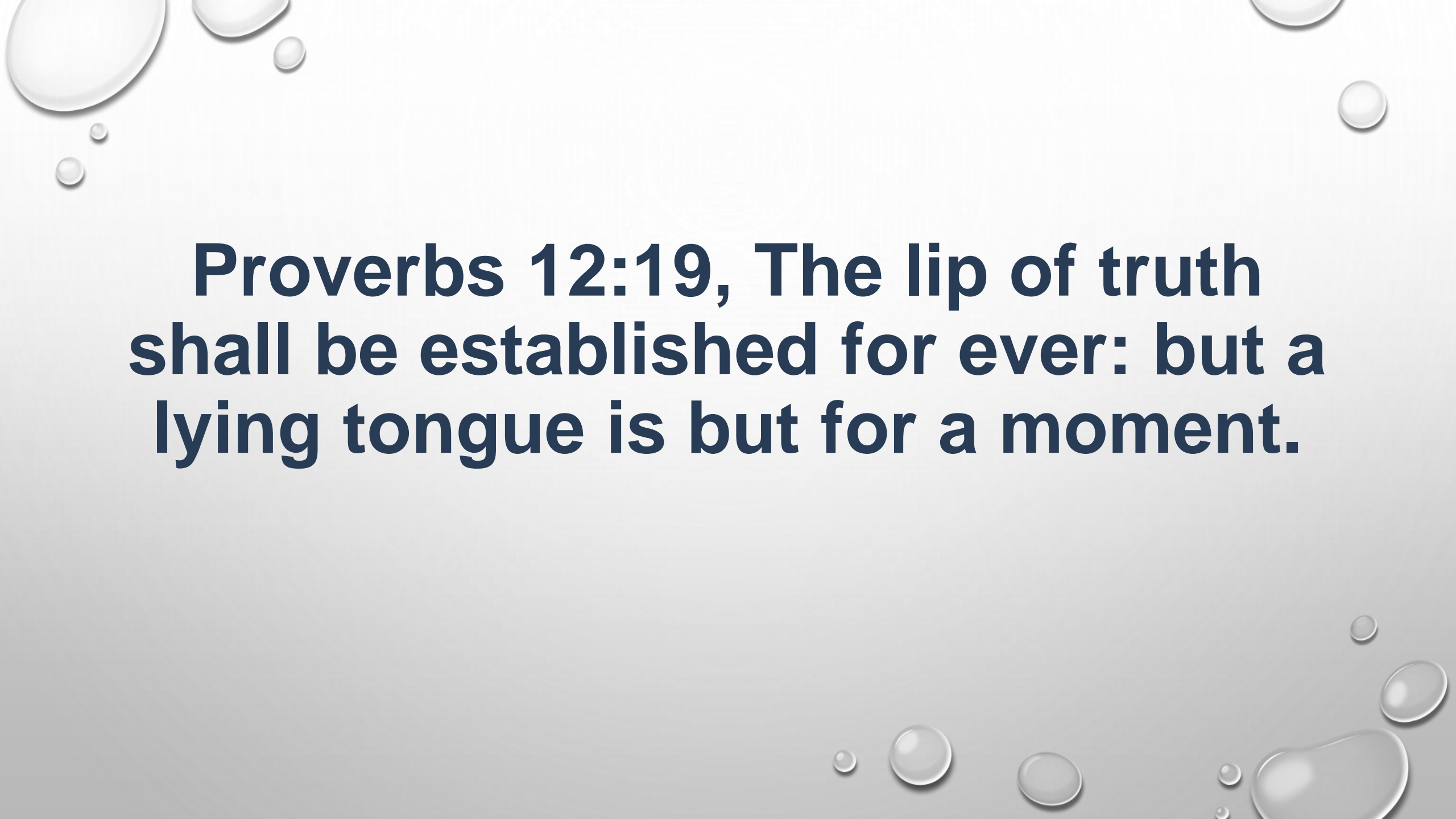
Proverbs 29:22, An angry person starts fights; a hot-tempered person commits all kinds of sin.

Ecclesiastes 7:9, Control your temper, for anger labels you a fool.



The background features a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered in the corners. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in the lower half of the image.

2. He Stayed with the Facts.




Proverbs 12:19, The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

The background features a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered in the corners. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

3. He Told the Truth with a Clear Conscience.


The image features a light gray background with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered in the corners. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The quote is centered in the middle of the page.

“A clear conscience laughs at a false accusation.”



Acts 23:1, Brothers, I have conducted myself before God in all good conscience to this day.

I Corinthians 4:4, For my conscience is clear, but that does not vindicate me. It is the Lord who examines me.



The image features a light gray background with a subtle gradient. In the top-left and bottom-right corners, there are several realistic water droplets of various sizes, rendered with soft shadows and highlights to give them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

**“There is no pillow so soft as a
clear conscience.”**

French Proverb

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

**4. He Identified the Original Source
of the Criticism.**

The image features a light gray background with a subtle gradient. In the top-left and bottom-right corners, there are several realistic water droplets of various sizes, rendered with soft shadows and highlights to give them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered horizontally and vertically on the page.

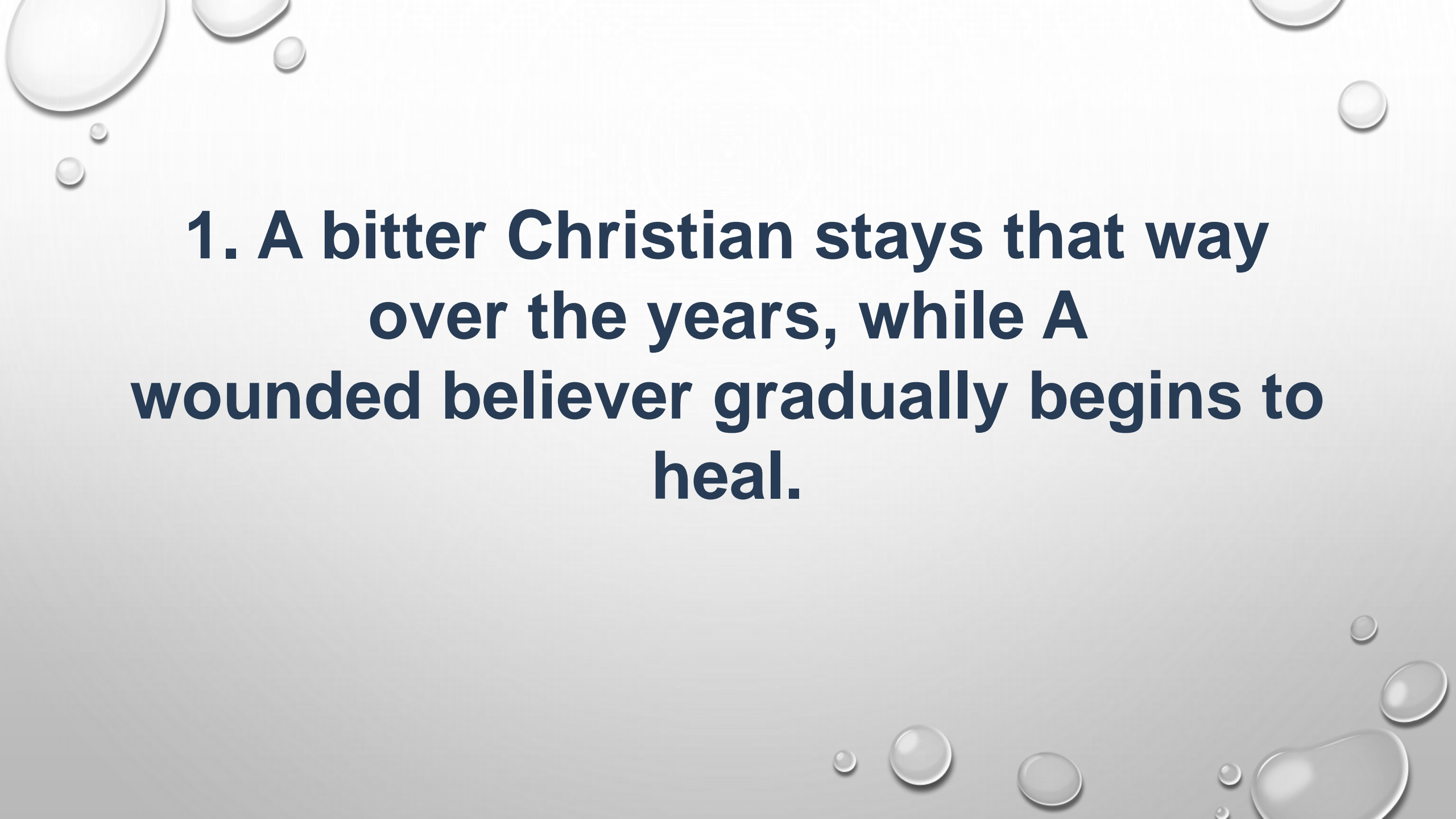
5. He Would Not Surrender or Quit.

The background features a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered in the corners. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

6. He Did Not Become Impatient or Bitter.

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

Three Contrasts Between Bitter and Wounded Christians:




1. A bitter Christian stays that way over the years, while A wounded believer gradually begins to heal.



2. A bitter Christian focuses on the injustice, while the wounded believer focuses on God's sovereignty.

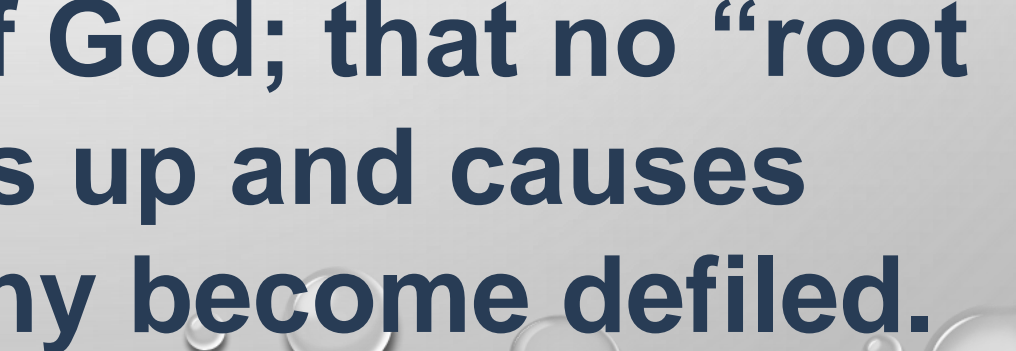


3. The bitter Christian won't forgive his/her assailant, while the wounded believer will.



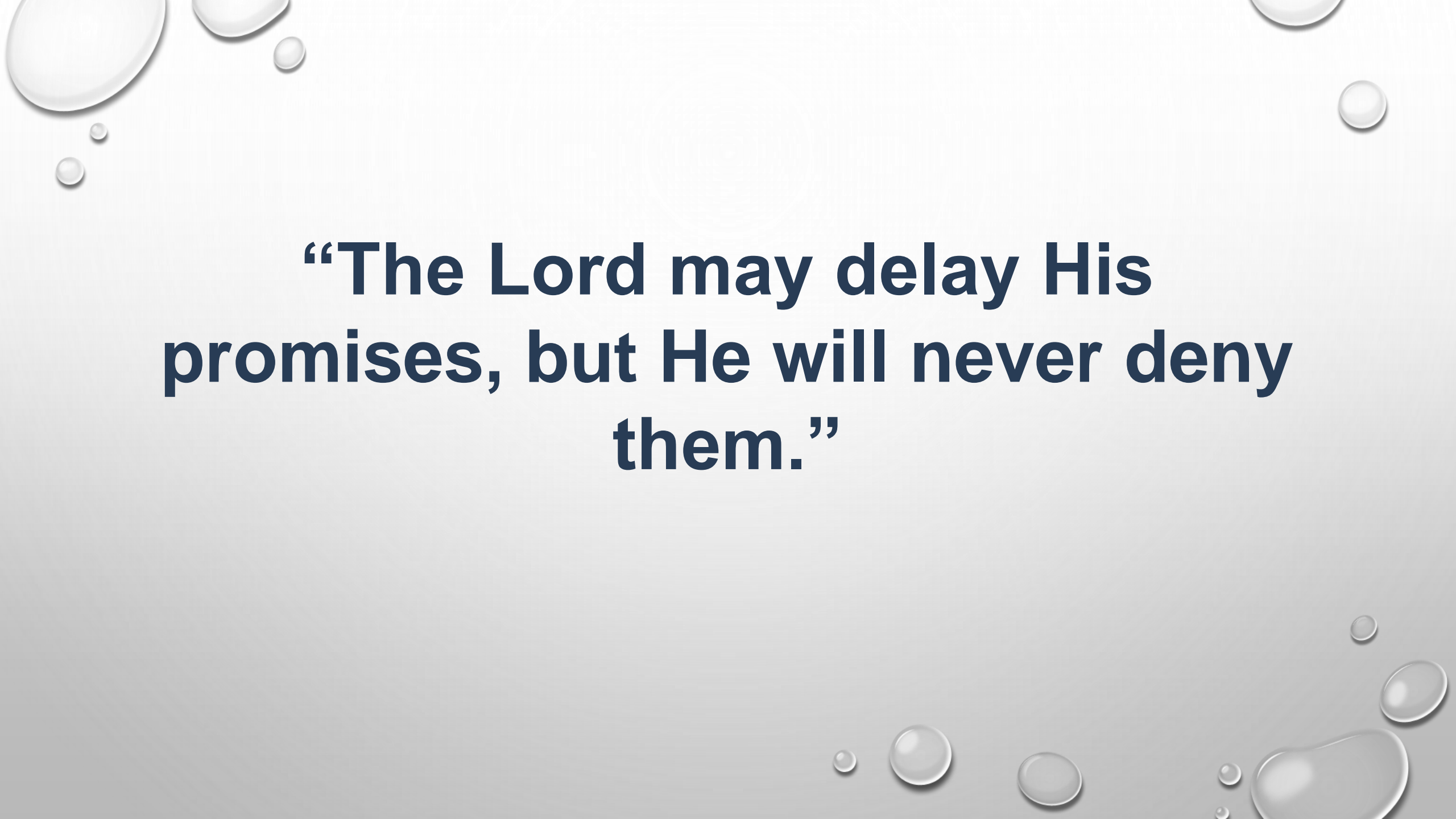
Ephesians 4:31, Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Hebrews 12:15, See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.



The background features a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered in the corners. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

7. He Stood on the Promise of God.

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient. In the top-left and bottom-right corners, there are several realistic-looking water droplets of various sizes, some overlapping. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

**“The Lord may delay His
promises, but He will never deny
them.”**



BIBLE STUDY CHAT FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- 1. How do you absorb criticism with grace?**
 - 2. “It’s not disagreement, but graceful disagreement that makes the world go round.”**
 - 3. When offered constructive criticism, pay special attention to your body language. Why?**
 - 4. Is there a difference between criticism and feedback? Explain.**
 - 5. Why is having a clear conscience important?**
 - 6. What is meant by being tactful?**
 - 7. In what way(s) was this lesson series helpful?**
- 