



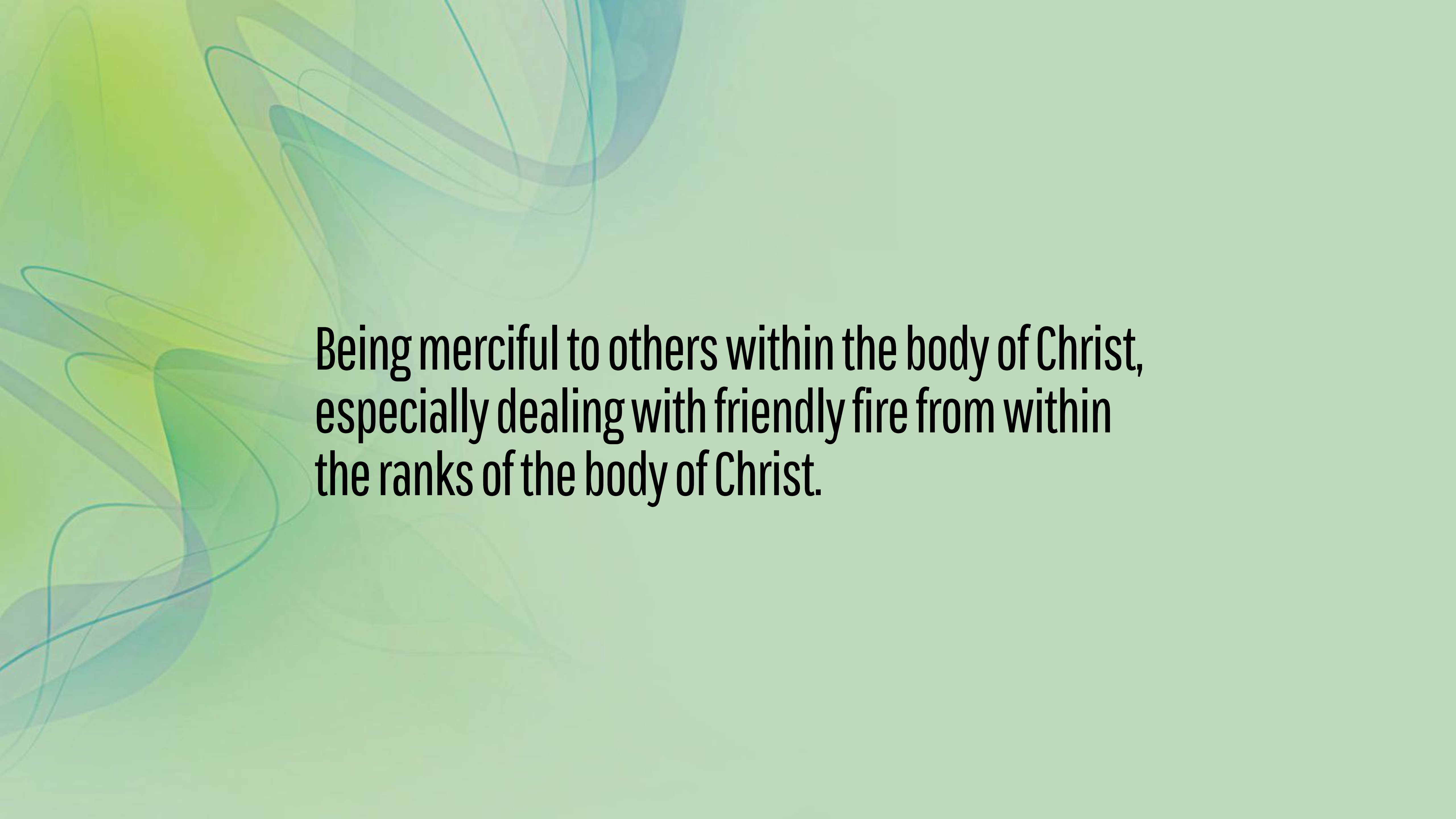
Mercy in Action

Dealing with Friendly Fire

THE BEATITUDES (6)

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Matthew 5:7



**Being merciful to others within the body of Christ,
especially dealing with friendly fire from within
the ranks of the body of Christ.**

8. Finally, all [of you] should be of one and the same mind (united in spirit), sympathising [with one another], loving [each other] as brethren [of one household], compassionate and courteous (tenderhearted and humble).
9. Never return evil for evil or insult for insult (scolding, tongue-lashing, berating), but on the contrary blessing [praying for their welfare, happiness, and protection, and truly pitying and loving them]. For know that to this you have been called, that you may yourselves inherit a blessing [from God—that you may obtain a blessing as heirs, bringing welfare and happiness and protection]

1 Peter 3:8-9 (Amplified Bible)

10. For let him who wants to enjoy life & see good days [good—whether apparent or not] keep his tongue free from evil & his lips from guile (treachery, deceit).
11. Let him turn away from wickedness & shun it, & let him do right. Let him search for peace (harmony; undisturbedness from fears, agitating passions, & moral conflicts) & seek it eagerly. [Do not merely desire peaceful relations with God, with your fellowmen, & with yourself, but pursue, go after them!]
12. For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous (those who are upright & in right standing with God), & His ears are attentive to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who practice evil [to oppose them, to frustrate, & defeat them].

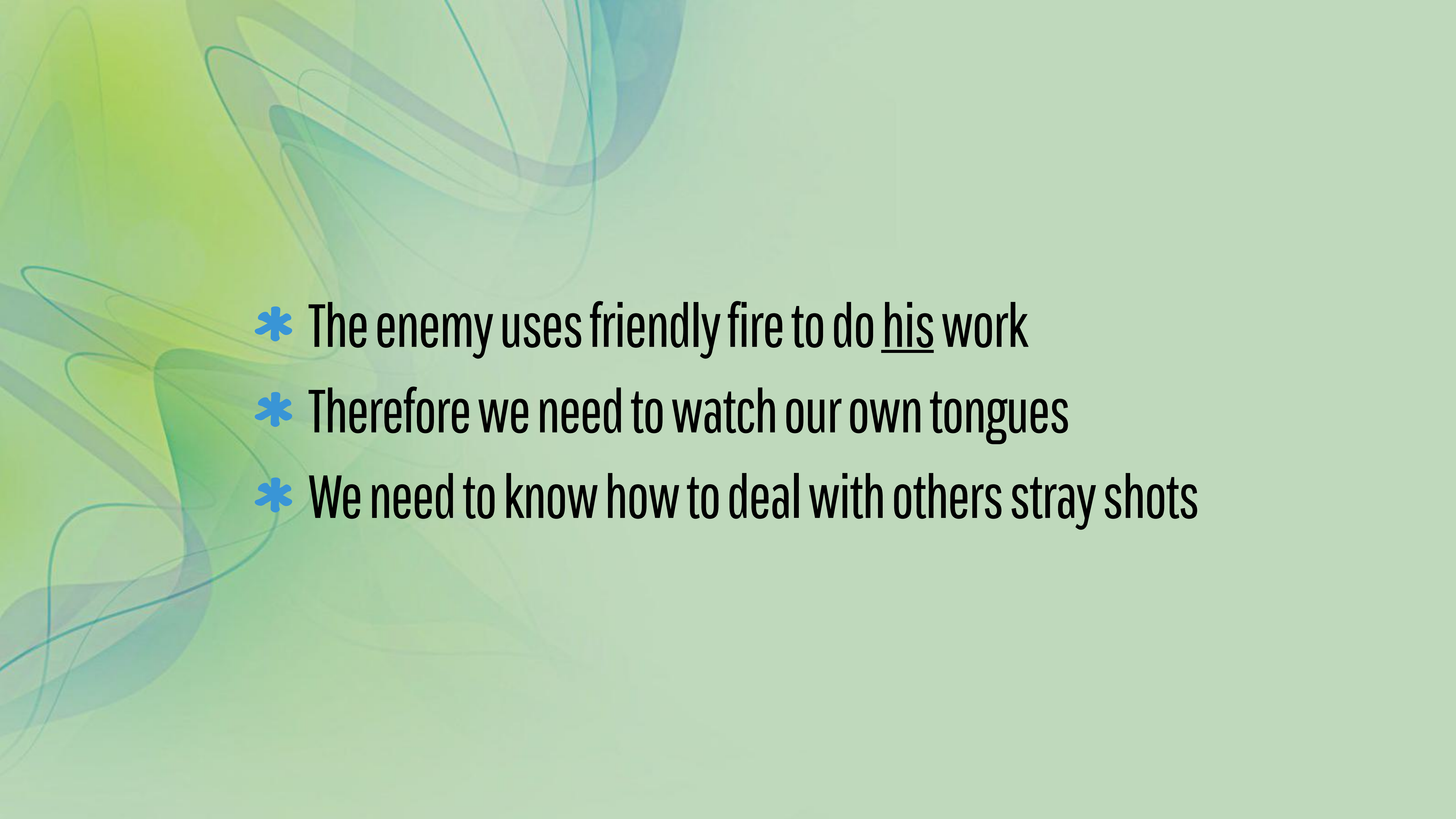
1 Peter 3:10-12 (Amplified Bible)

13. Now who is there to hurt you if you are zealous followers of that which is good?
14. But even in case you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, [you are] blessed (happy, to be envied). Do not dread or be afraid of their threats, nor be disturbed [by their opposition].
15. But in your hearts set Christ apart as holy [and acknowledge Him] as Lord. Always be ready to give a logical defence to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you, but do it courteously and respectfully.

1 Peter 3:13-15 (Amplified Bible)

16. [And see to it that] your conscience is entirely clear (unimpaired), so that, when you are falsely accused as evildoers, those who threaten you abusively and revile your right behaviour in Christ may come to be ashamed [of slandering your good lives].
17. 17 For [it is] better to suffer [unjustly] for doing right, if that should be God's will, than to suffer [justly] for doing wrong.

1 Peter 3:16-17 (Amplified Bible)

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- * The enemy uses friendly fire to do his work
 - * Therefore we need to watch our own tongues
 - * We need to know how to deal with others stray shots

Friendly Fire - Definition

A tactical warfare definition includes:

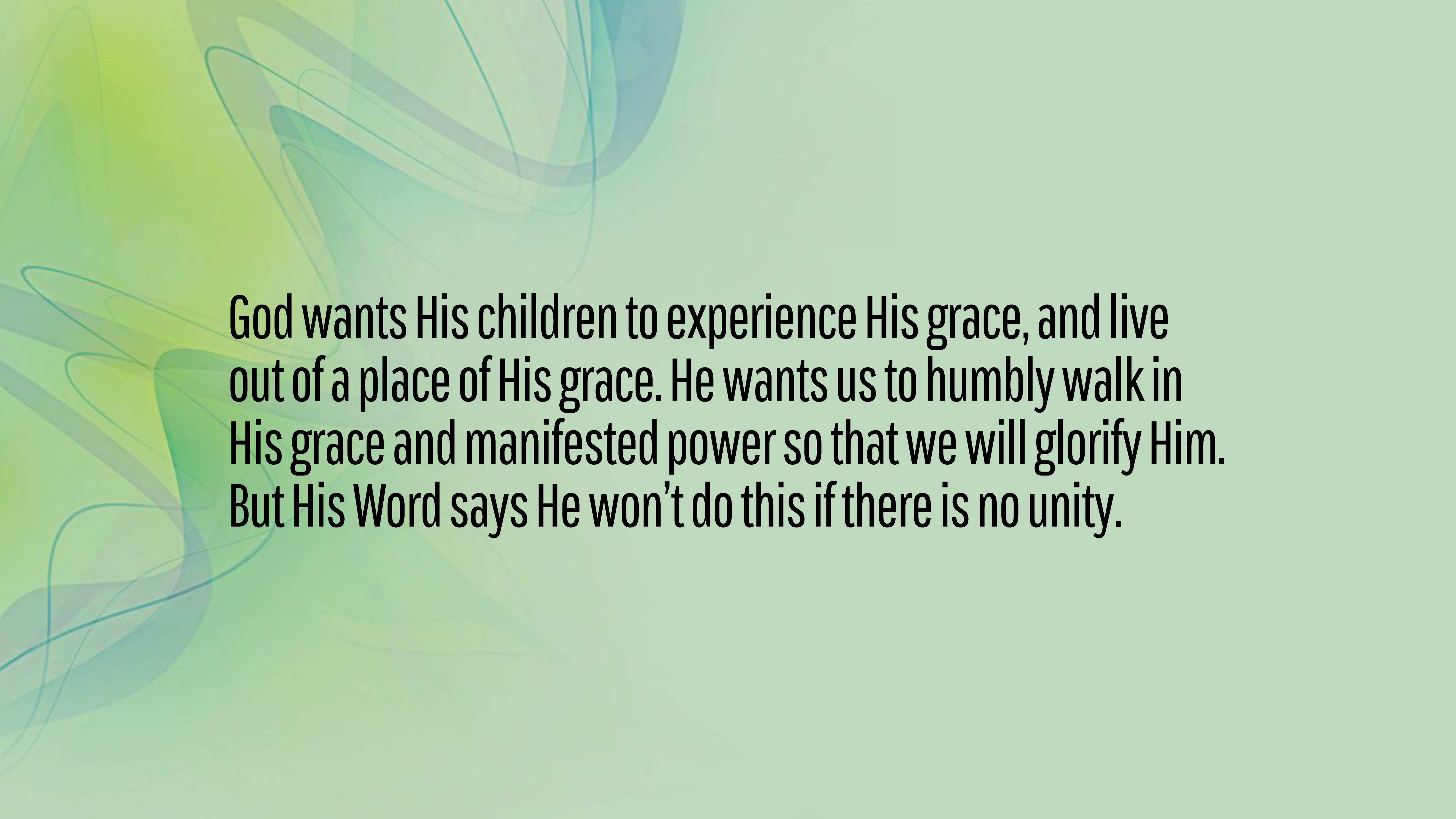
Friendly fire is an attack by a military force on friendly forces while attempting to attack the enemy, caused either by misidentifying the target as hostile, or due to errors or inaccuracy. Such attacks often cause injury or death.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 Peter 4:12

God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [continually] to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it).

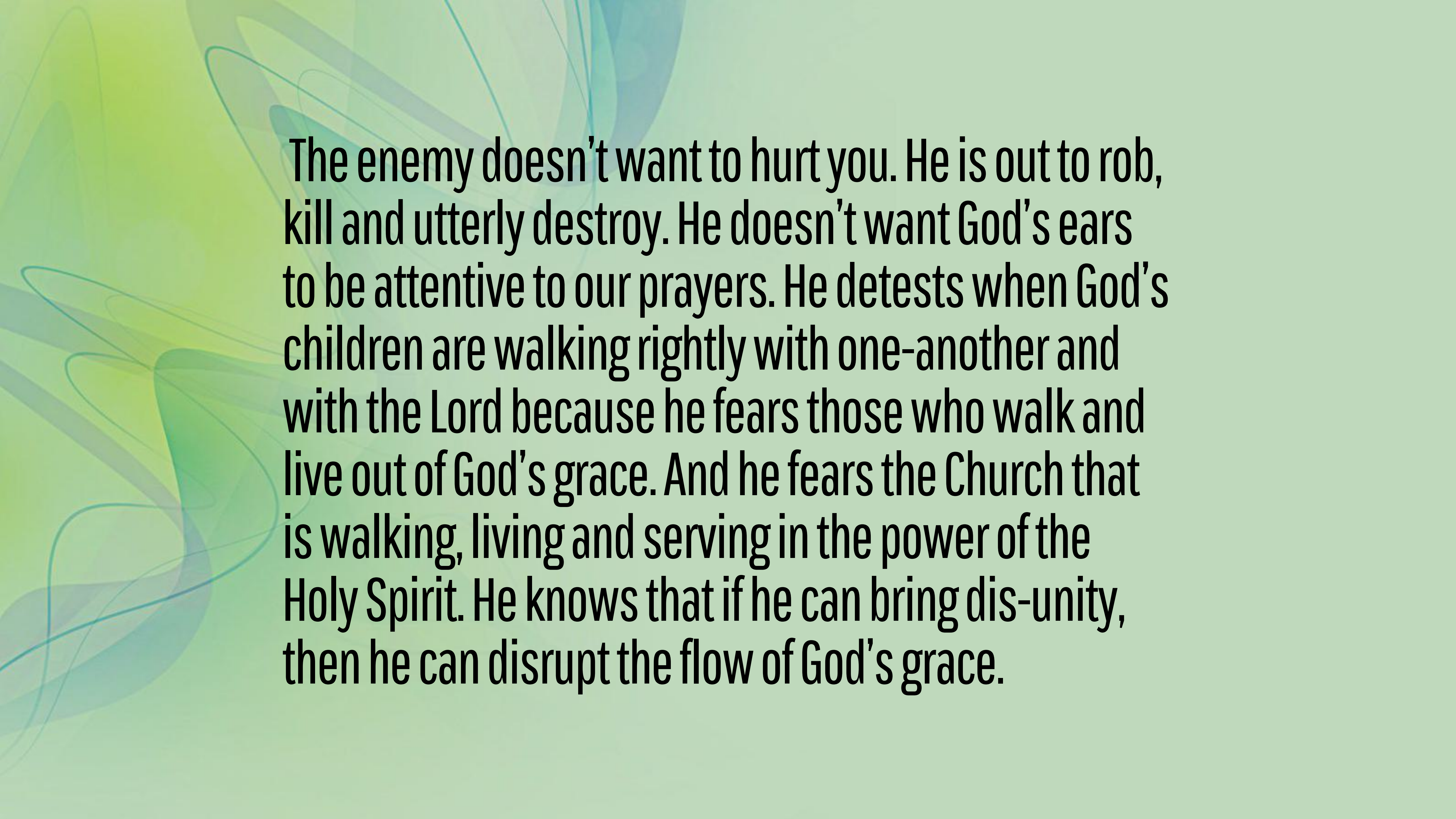
James 4:6 (Amplified Bible)



God wants His children to experience His grace, and live out of a place of His grace. He wants us to humbly walk in His grace and manifested power so that we will glorify Him. But His Word says He won't do this if there is no unity.

For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with God), and His ears are attentive to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who practice evil [to oppose them, to frustrate, and defeat them].

1 Peter 3:12 (Amplified Bible)



The enemy doesn't want to hurt you. He is out to rob, kill and utterly destroy. He doesn't want God's ears to be attentive to our prayers. He detests when God's children are walking rightly with one-another and with the Lord because he fears those who walk and live out of God's grace. And he fears the Church that is walking, living and serving in the power of the Holy Spirit. He knows that if he can bring dis-unity, then he can disrupt the flow of God's grace.

Godly Strategies

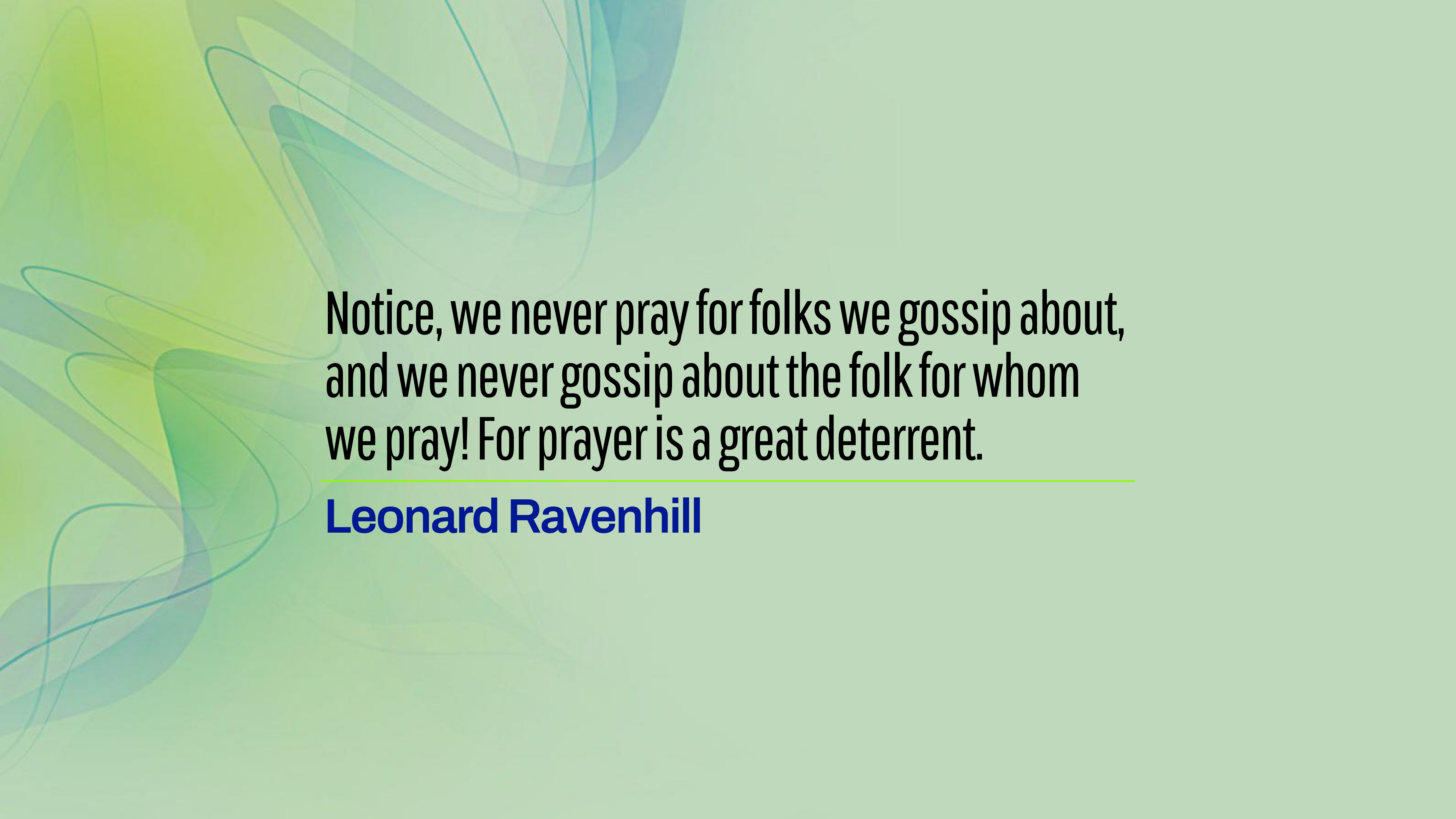
1. Watch our own tongue

For let him who wants to enjoy life and see good days,
keep his tongue free from evil and his lips from guile.

1 Peter 3:10

2. For we all often stumble and fall and offend in many things. And if anyone does not offend in speech [never says the wrong things], he is a fully developed character and a perfect man, able to control his whole body and to curb his entire nature.
5. Even so the tongue is a little member, and it can boast of great things. See how much wood or how great a forest a tiny spark can set ablaze! And the tongue is a fire. [The tongue is a] world of wickedness set among our members, contaminating and depraving the whole body and setting on fire the wheel of birth (the cycle of man's nature), being itself ignited by hell (Gehenna).

James 3:2 & 5 (Amplified Bible)



Notice, we never pray for folks we gossip about,
and we never gossip about the folk for whom
we pray! For prayer is a great deterrent.

Leonard Ravenhill

Godly Strategies

1. Watch our own tongue
2. Be grounded - like a lightning rod diffuse and dissipate the electrical charge

Godly Strategies

Be well-grounded in God.

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

Luke 6:27

Pray for their welfare, happiness, and
protection, and truly pity and love them.

Godly Strategies

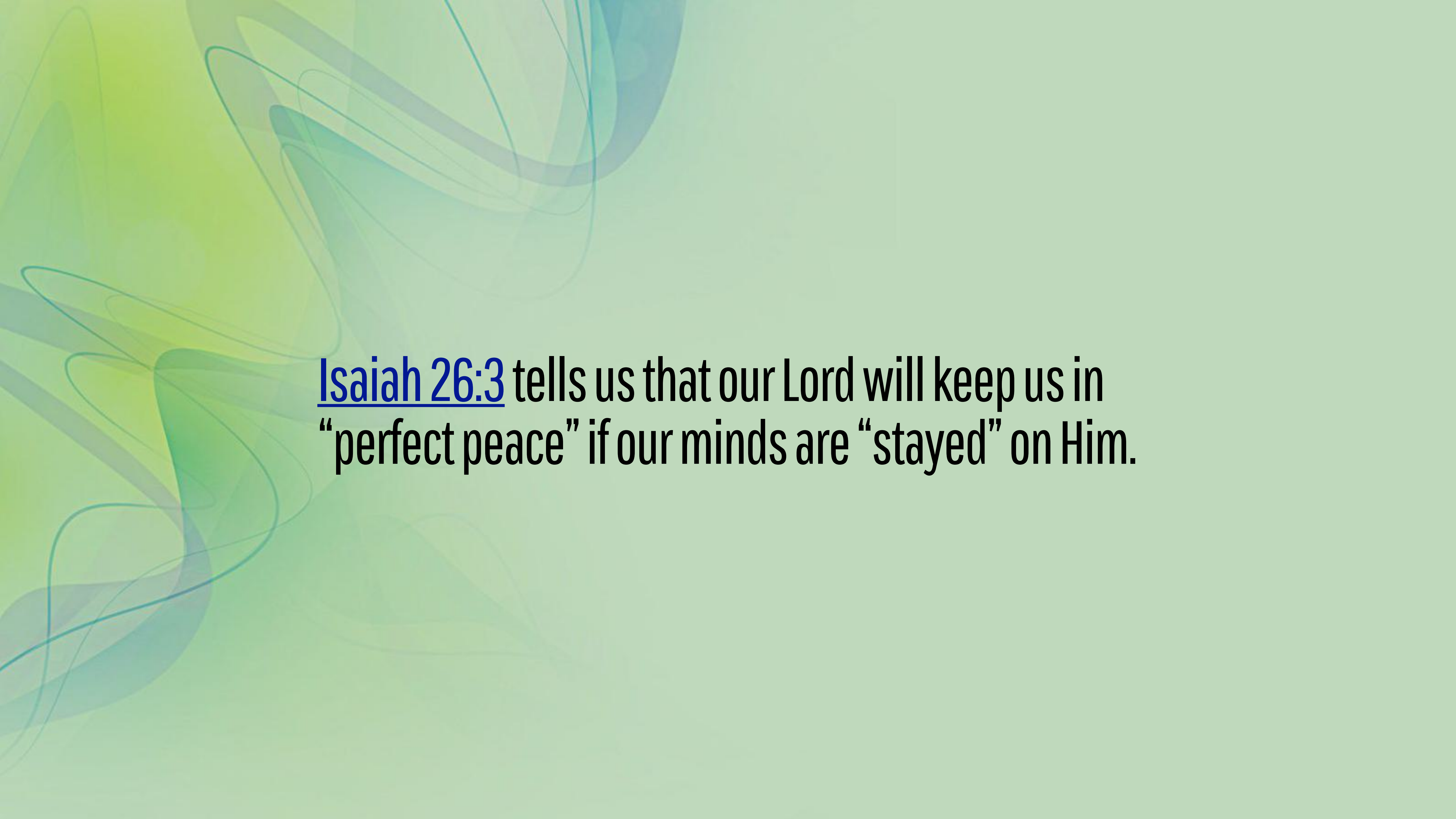
1. Watch our own tongue
2. Be grounded - like a lightning rod diffuse and dissipate the electrical charge
3. Be alert - recognise friendly fire for what it is

14. But even in case you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, [you are] blessed (happy, to be envied). Do not dread or be afraid of their threats, nor be disturbed [by their opposition].
16. [And see to it that] your conscience is entirely clear (unimpaired), so that, when you are falsely accused as evildoers, those who threaten you abusively and revile your right behaviour in Christ may come to be ashamed [of slandering your good lives].

1 Peter 4:14 & 16 (Amplified Bible)

Godly Strategies

1. Watch our own tongue
2. Be grounded - like a lightning rod diffuse and dissipate the electrical charge
3. Be alert - recognise friendly fire for what it is
4. Be focussed on Jesus



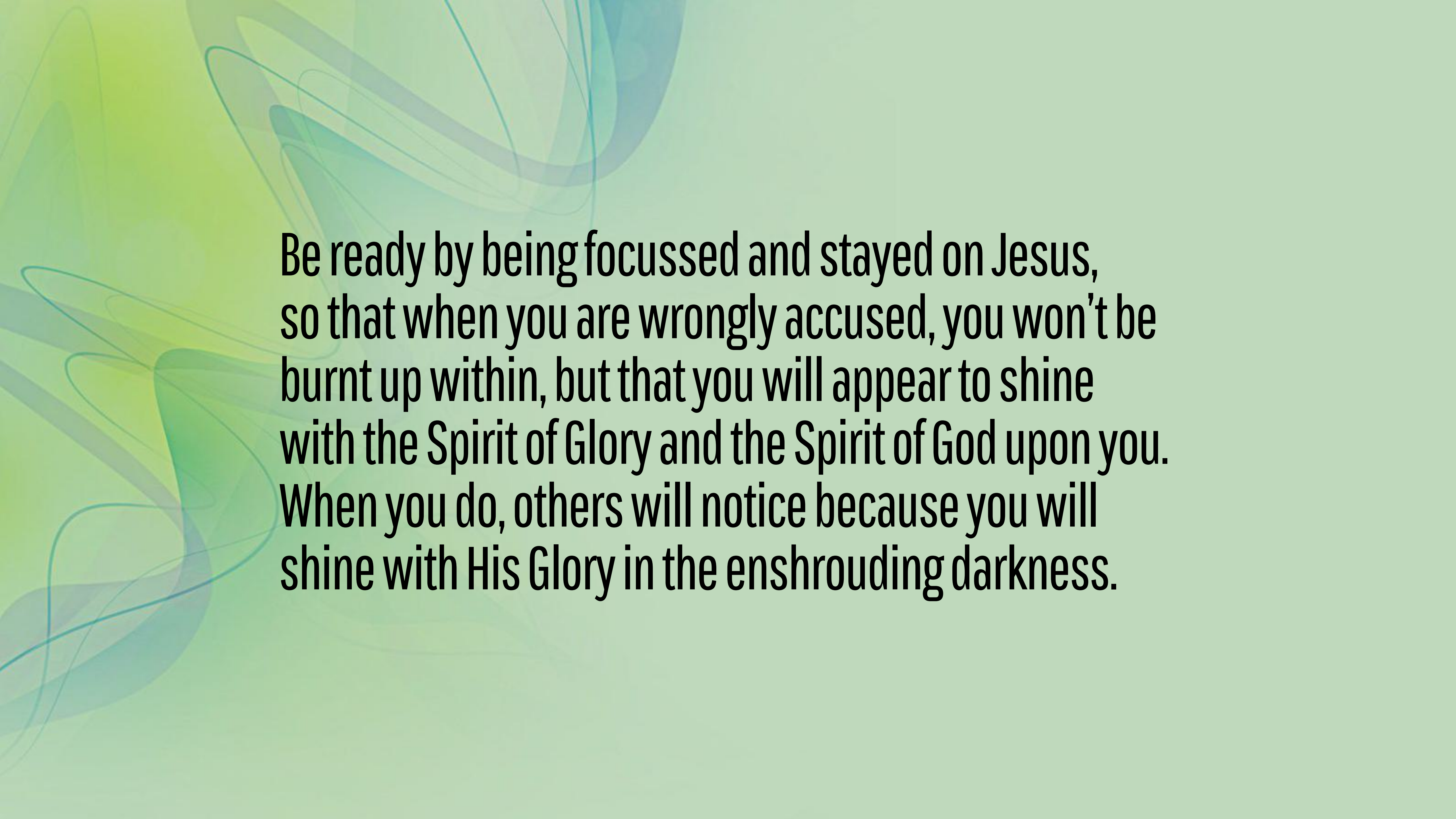
Isaiah 26:3 tells us that our Lord will keep us in
“perfect peace” if our minds are “stayed” on Him.

And God's peace, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, ...and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot, that peace which transcends [goes beyond] all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

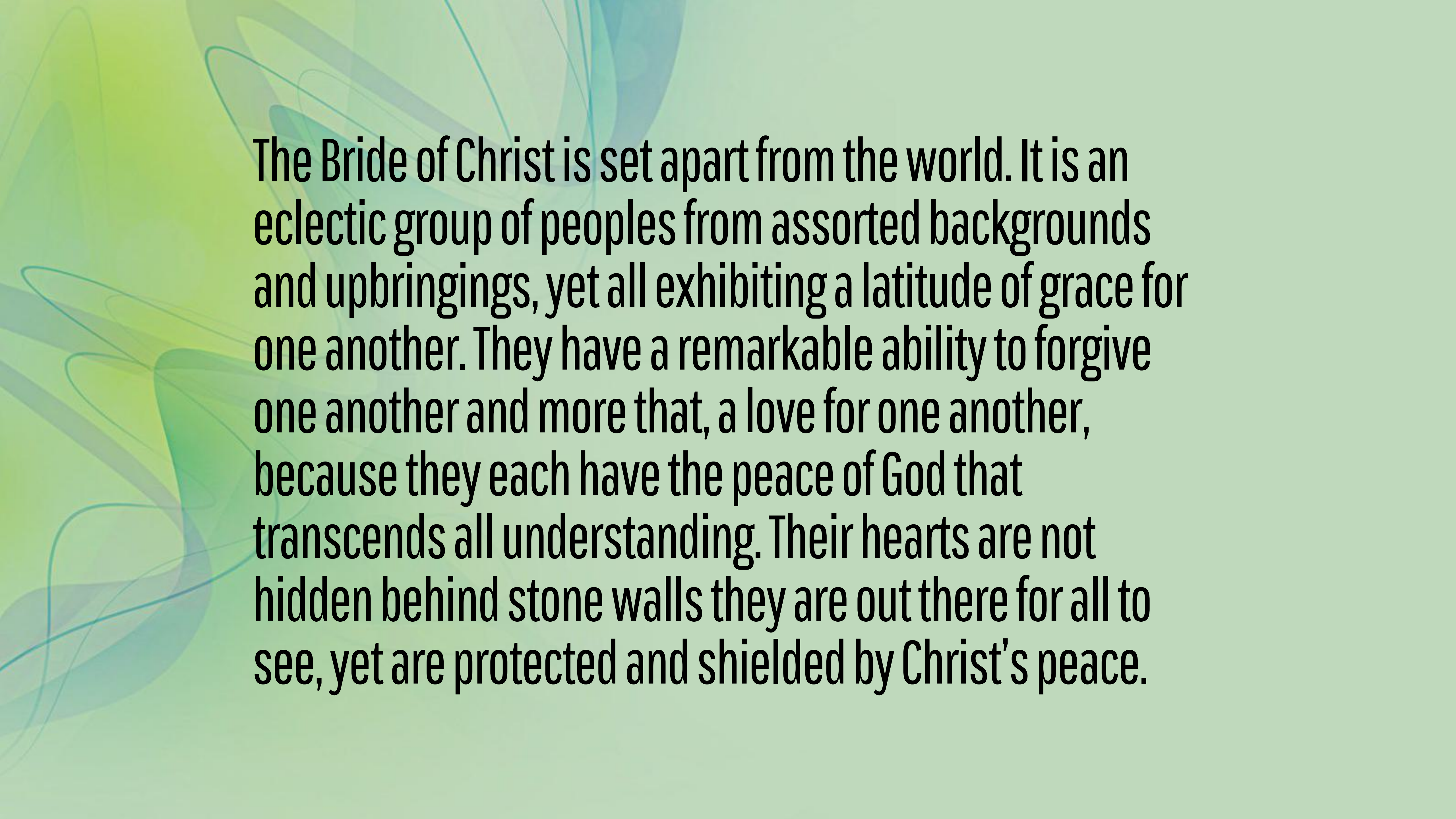
Philippians 4:7 (Amplified Bible)

But in your hearts set Christ apart as holy [and acknowledge Him] as Lord. Always be ready to give a logical defence to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you, but do it courteously and respectfully.

1 Peter 4:15 (Amplified Bible)



Be ready by being focussed and stayed on Jesus,
so that when you are wrongly accused, you won't be
burnt up within, but that you will appear to shine
with the Spirit of Glory and the Spirit of God upon you.
When you do, others will notice because you will
shine with His Glory in the enshrouding darkness.



The Bride of Christ is set apart from the world. It is an eclectic group of peoples from assorted backgrounds and upbringings, yet all exhibiting a latitude of grace for one another. They have a remarkable ability to forgive one another and more than that, a love for one another, because they each have the peace of God that transcends all understanding. Their hearts are not hidden behind stone walls they are out there for all to see, yet are protected and shielded by Christ's peace.

Dealing with friendly fire, remember these things:

- * The enemy uses friendly fire to do his work
- * Therefore we need to watch our own tongues
- * We need to know how to deal with others stray shots
- * Be grounded
- * Be alert, recognise it for what it is
- * Be focused on Jesus

Turn away from wickedness (that is, deflect it like a lightning rod) and let him do right. Let him search for peace and seek it eagerly. “Do not merely desire peaceful relations with God, with your fellowmen and with yourself, but pursue them and go after them.

1 Peter 3:11 (Amplified Bible)

We will not experience the full measure of God's grace in our lives if we do not have a peaceful relationship with the Lord or with our fellow brethren. We cannot pursue peaceful relationships with God, our fellow brethren or even ourselves if we have still got the handbrake on if we are still harbouring our own hurts from past shots.

If we are holding on to offence and resentments from things that have happened in the past, if we are harbouring un-forgiveness in our hearts, then we do not have unity within the body and we will not experience God's grace at work within the fellowship. That is not God's plan for us, nor Jesus' desire for His church.

For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with God), and His ears are attentive to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who practice evil [to oppose them, to frustrate, and defeat them].

1 Peter 3:12 (Amplified Bible)