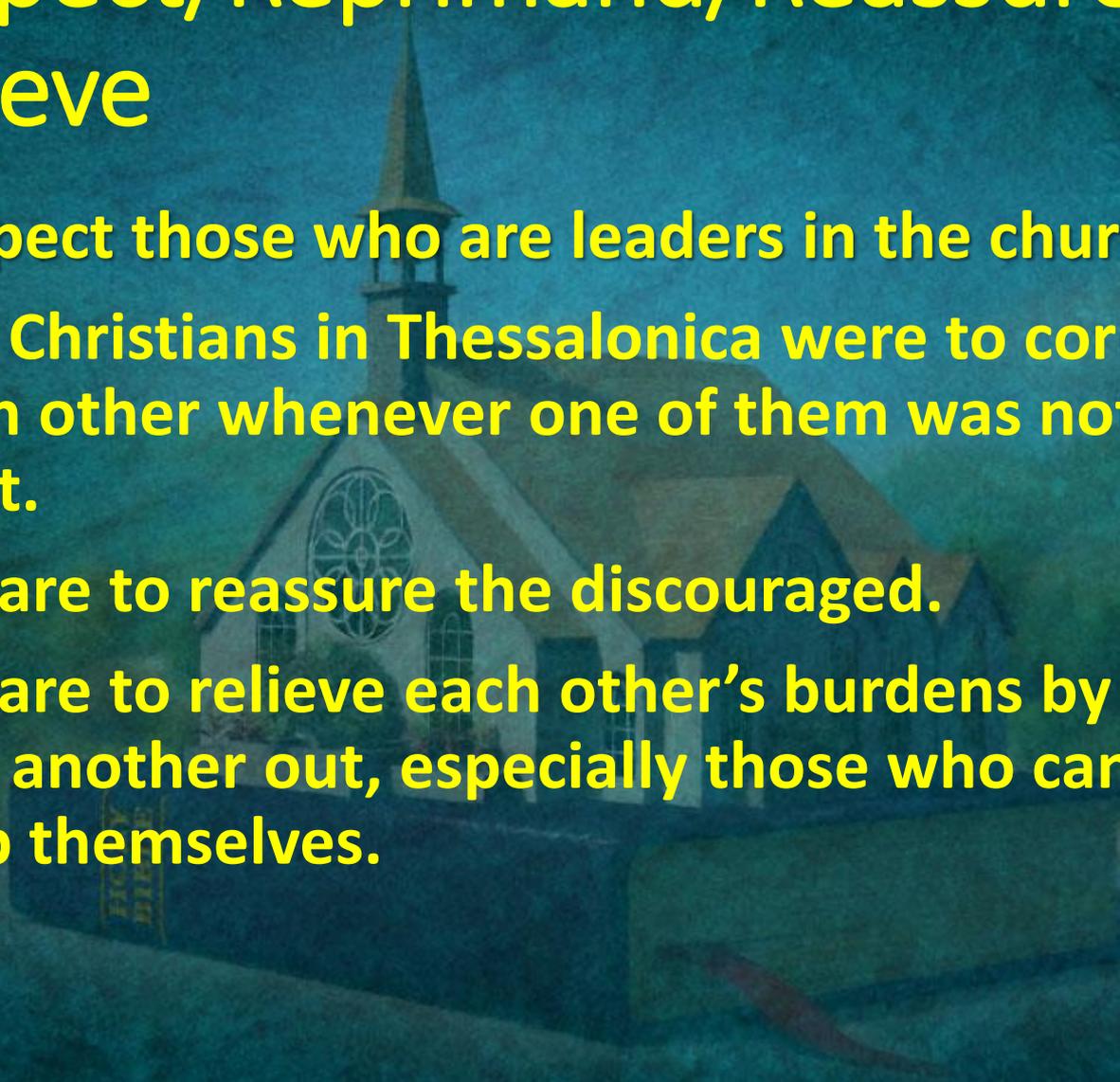


# An Encouraging Church

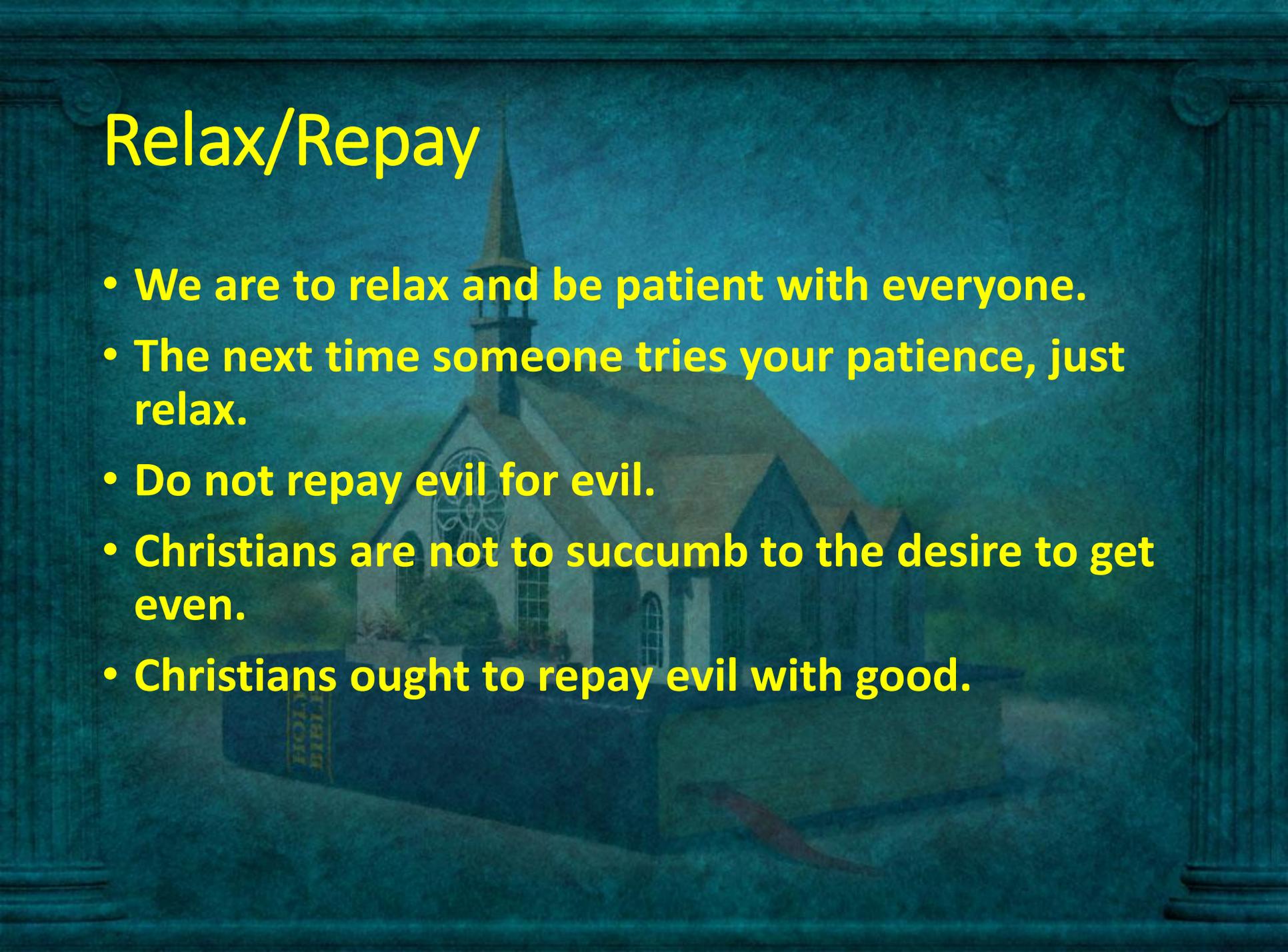
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

# Respect/Reprimand/Reassure/ Relieve

- Respect those who are leaders in the church.
- The Christians in Thessalonica were to correct each other whenever one of them was not living right.
- We are to reassure the discouraged.
- We are to relieve each other's burdens by helping one another out, especially those who cannot help themselves.

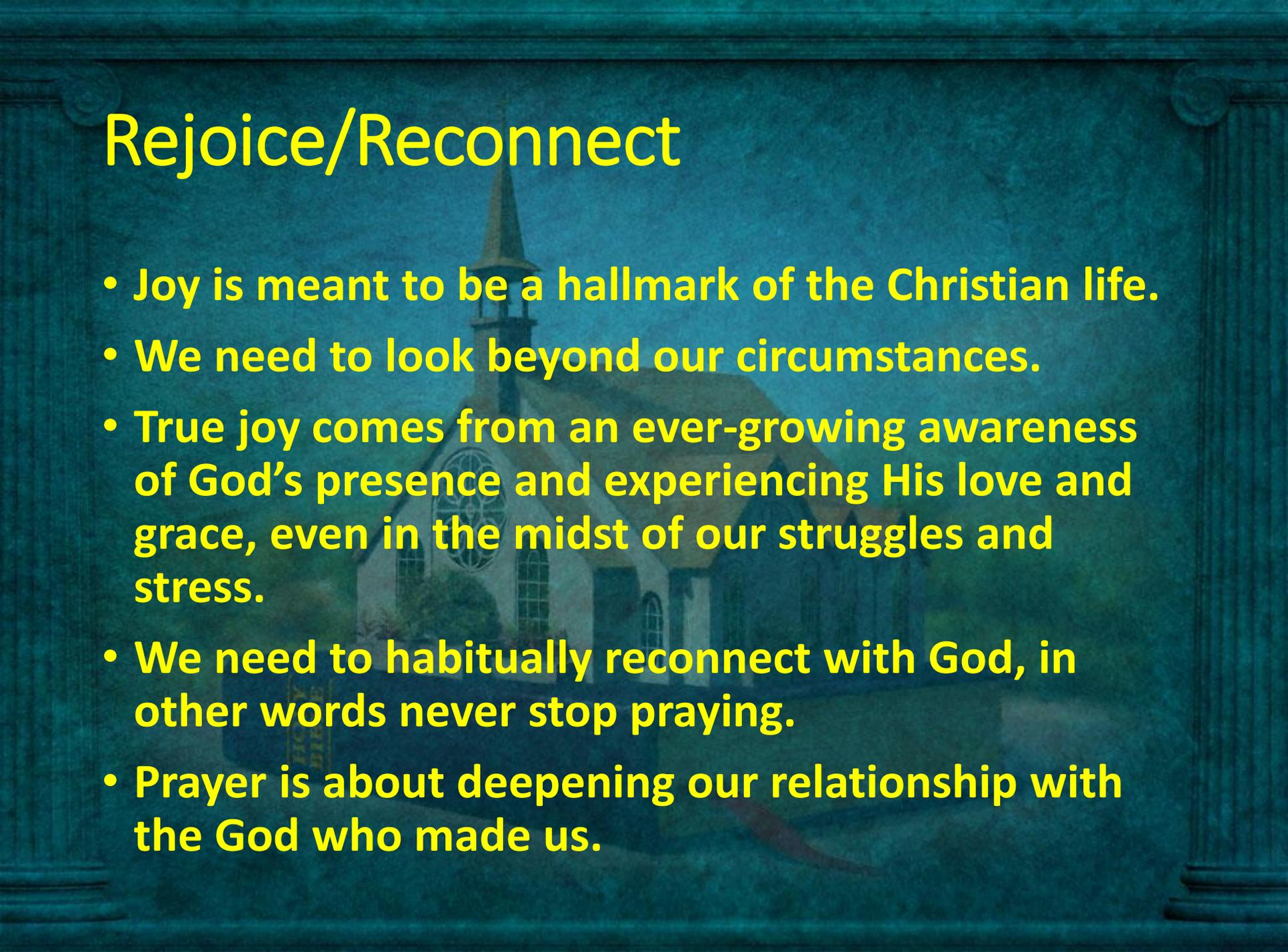


# Relax/Repay

The background of the slide features a church with a prominent steeple and a large, ornate window. In the foreground, a large, dark book with the words 'HOLY BIBLE' written vertically on its spine is visible. The entire scene is set against a dark, textured blue background with faint architectural columns on the left and right sides.

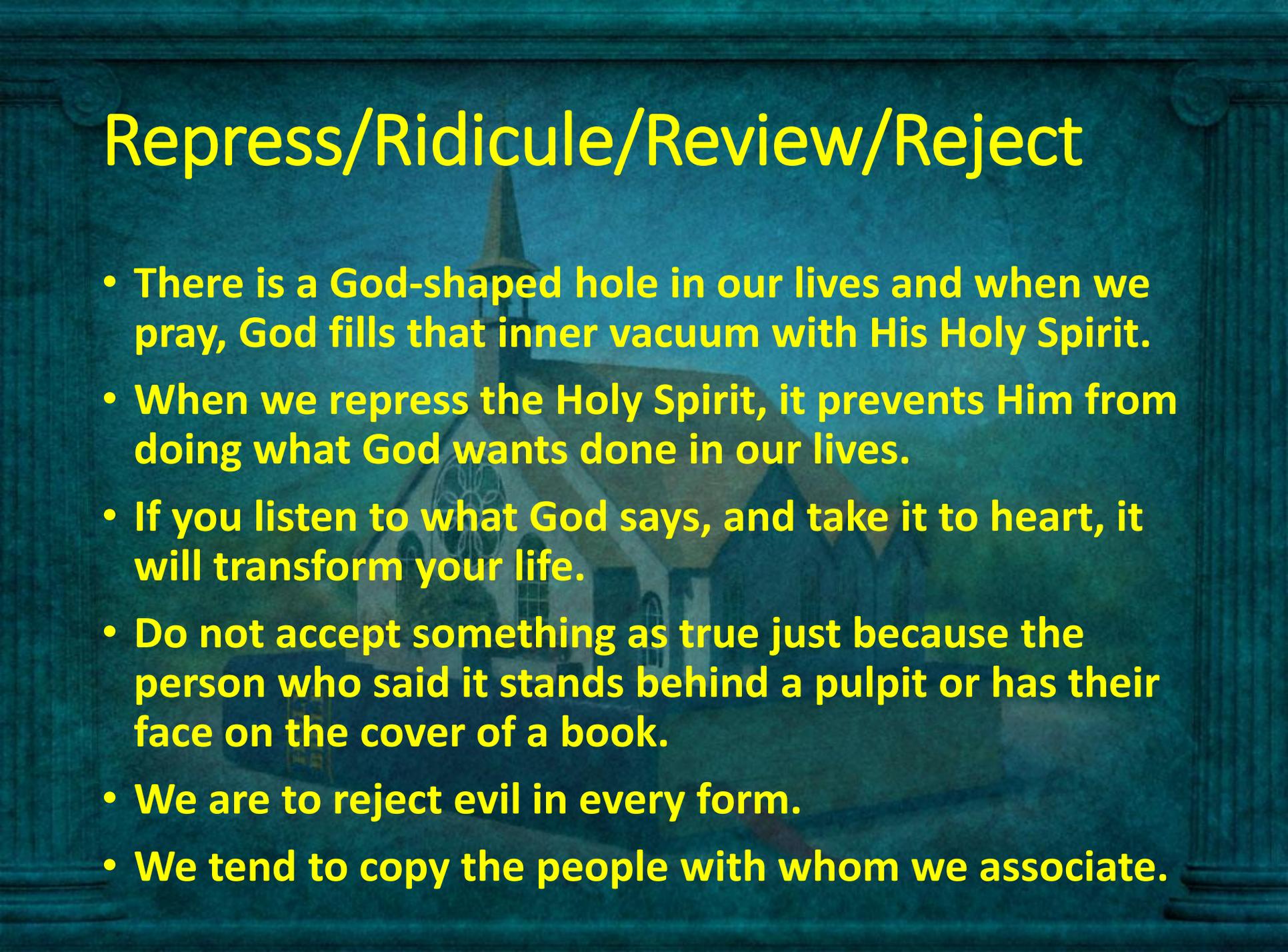
- We are to relax and be patient with everyone.
- The next time someone tries your patience, just relax.
- Do not repay evil for evil.
- Christians are not to succumb to the desire to get even.
- Christians ought to repay evil with good.

# Rejoice/Reconnect



- Joy is meant to be a hallmark of the Christian life.
- We need to look beyond our circumstances.
- True joy comes from an ever-growing awareness of God's presence and experiencing His love and grace, even in the midst of our struggles and stress.
- We need to habitually reconnect with God, in other words never stop praying.
- Prayer is about deepening our relationship with the God who made us.

# Repress/Ridicule/Review/Reject



- There is a God-shaped hole in our lives and when we pray, God fills that inner vacuum with His Holy Spirit.
- When we repress the Holy Spirit, it prevents Him from doing what God wants done in our lives.
- If you listen to what God says, and take it to heart, it will transform your life.
- Do not accept something as true just because the person who said it stands behind a pulpit or has their face on the cover of a book.
- We are to reject evil in every form.
- We tend to copy the people with whom we associate.

# Conclusion

- No Church today is identical to the church in Thessalonica.
- Every Church should be an example to others.
- Churches come to have these vital characteristics only as the members of the church have them.
- Grace Fellowship is more than capable of being a mighty church when we practice and employ all the marks of a mighty church.

