

“The Gospel of Freedom and the Things That Hinder”



Hindrances –

*Obstacles which keep us from
the freedom God offers*

Highways –

*Christ's solutions which
empower us to live in freedom*

The Performance Trap

The Justification Antidote

The Approval Trap

The Reconciliation Antidote

The Blame Trap

The Propitiation Antidote

The Shame Trap

The Regeneration Antidote

The Performance Trap



The Justification Antidote



Hindrances –

Obstacles which keep us from the freedom God offers

The Performance Trap

- *My work = my value*
- *DOING = BEING*

Highways –

Christ's solutions which empower us to live in freedom

The Justification Antidote

- *Jesus' perfect work for me.*
- *Jesus' valuing of me.*

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The Performance Trap

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The Approval Trap

The Approval Trap

*“I must gain the **approval** of certain people in order to feel good about myself.”*



The **New** Testament

1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Romans

1/2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1/2 Thessalonians

1/2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

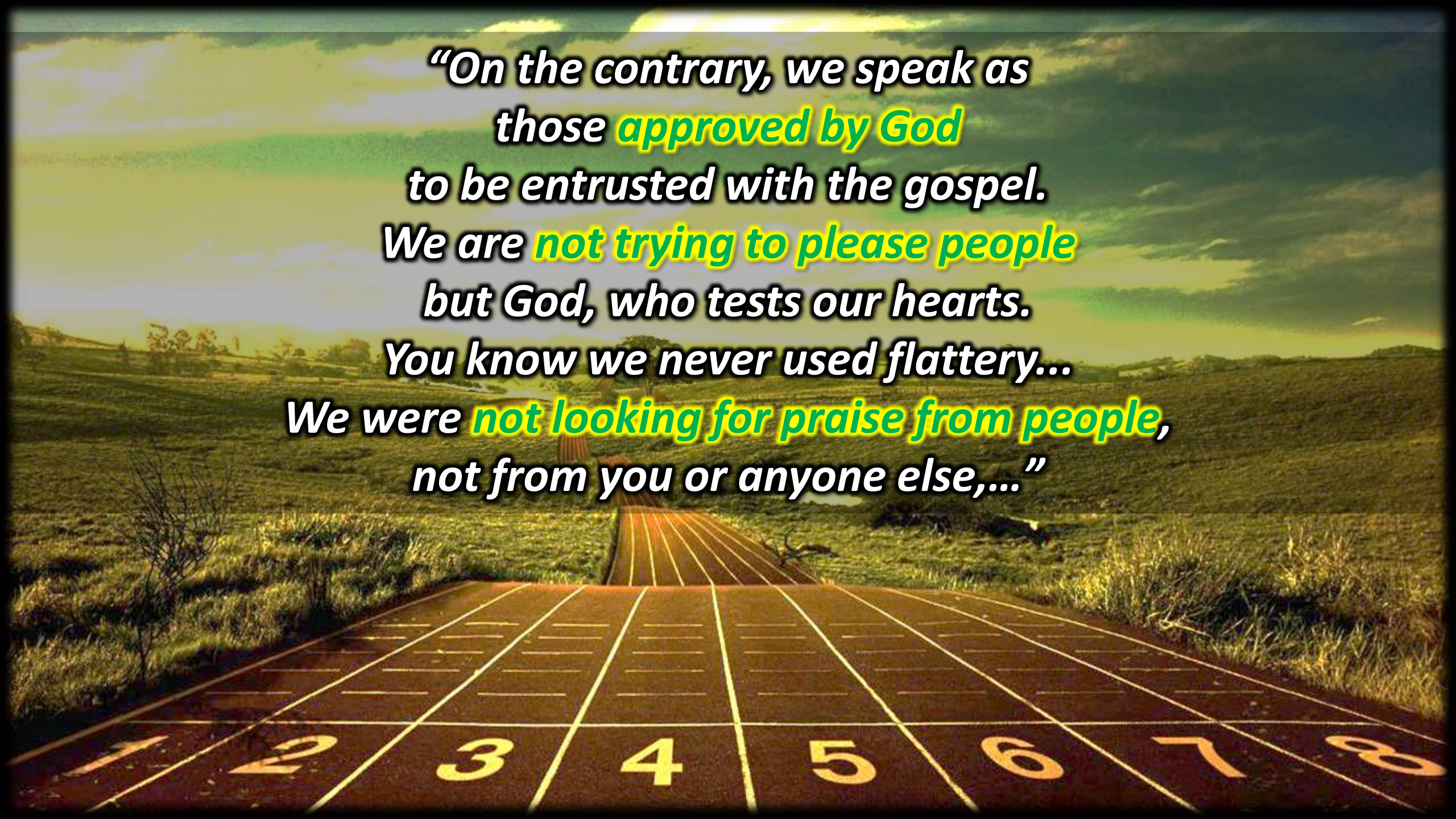
James

1/2 Peter

1/2/3 John

Jude

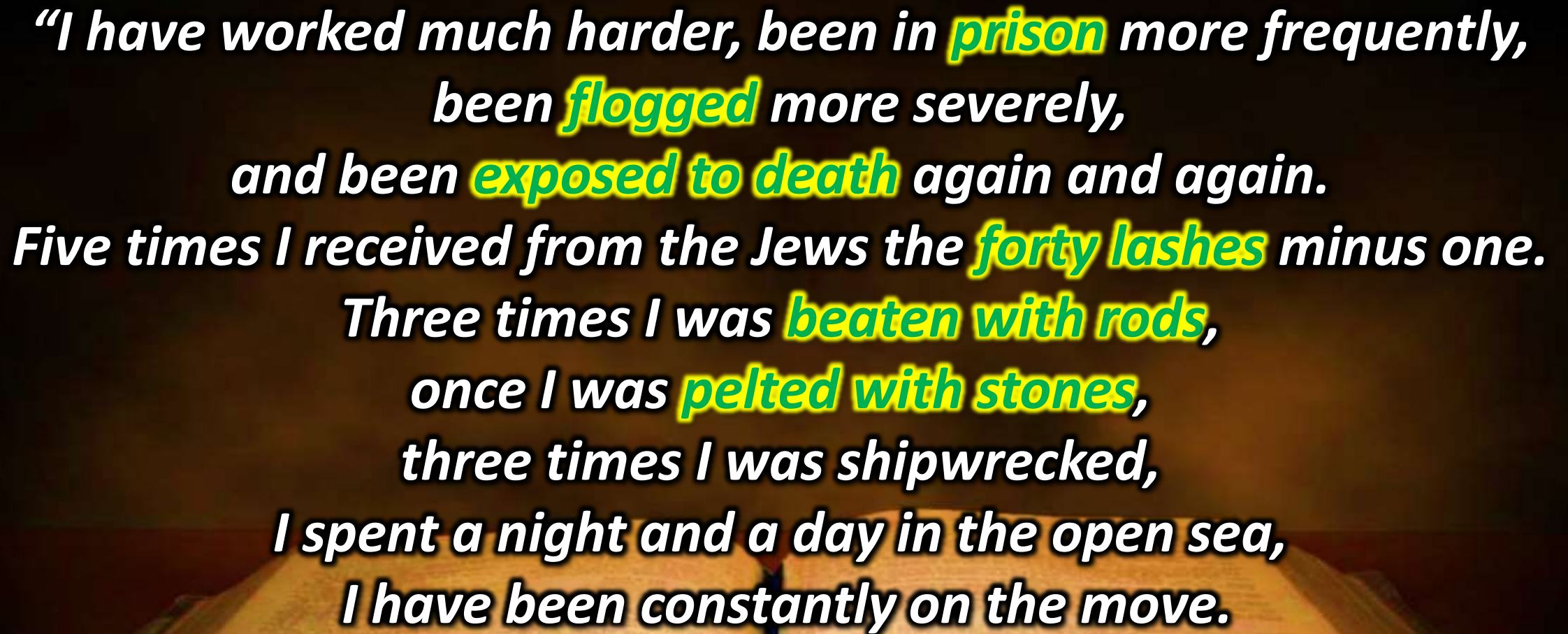
Revelation

A photograph of a running track in a field at sunset. The track is in the foreground, with lanes numbered 1 through 8. The background shows a grassy field and a sunset sky with clouds. The text is overlaid on the image.

***“On the contrary, we speak as
those **approved by God**
to be entrusted with the gospel.
We are **not trying to please people**
but God, who tests our hearts.
You know we never used flattery...
We were **not looking for praise from people,**
not from you or anyone else,...”***

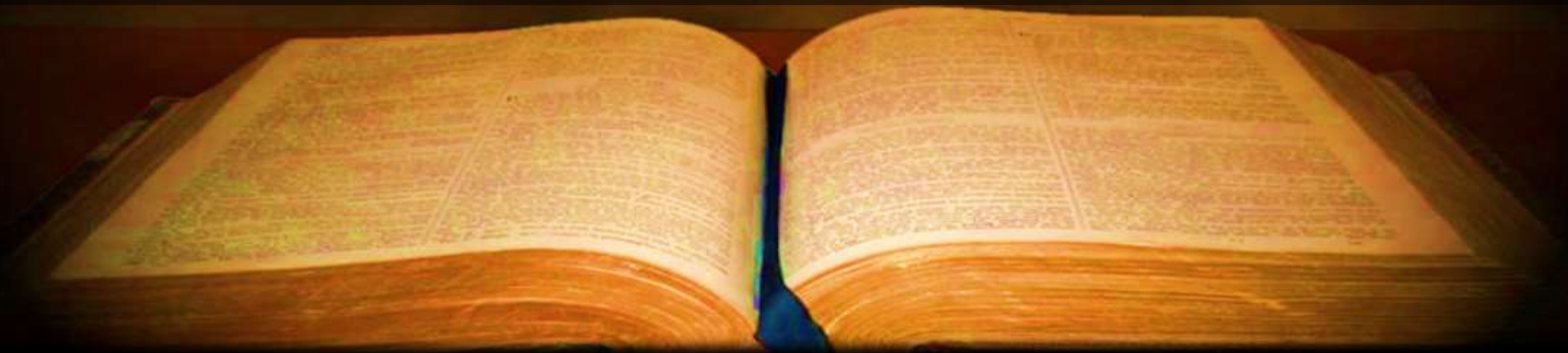
2 Corinthians 11:23-27

*"I have worked much harder, been in **prison** more frequently,
been **flogged** more severely,
and been **exposed to death** again and again.
Five times I received from the Jews the **forty lashes** minus one.
Three times I was **beaten with rods**,
once I was **pelted with stones**,
three times I was shipwrecked,
I spent a night and a day in the open sea,
I have been constantly on the move.*

An open book with yellowed pages is shown from a top-down perspective. The book is open to two pages, and the text from the image is overlaid on top of the pages. The background is dark, making the book and the text stand out.

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

*“I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from **bandits**,
in danger from my **fellow Jews**, in danger from **Gentiles**;
in danger in the city, in danger in the country,
in danger at sea; and in danger **from false believers**.
I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep;
I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food;
I have been cold and naked.”*



The Approval Trap



*“I must gain the **approval** of certain people in order to feel good about myself.”*

The Approval Trap





1) What is the approval trap?

- A lie that says,

“I must gain the approval of certain people in order to feel good about myself.”

Hindrances –

Obstacles which keep us from the freedom God offers

The Performance Trap

***“I must meet
certain standards
to feel good about myself.”***

The Approval Trap

***“I must gain the
approval of certain people
to feel good about myself.”***

Hindrances –

Obstacles which keep us from the freedom God offers

The Performance Trap

The Approval Trap

Fear of failure

Fear of rejection

Hindrances –

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The Approval Trap

Fear of failure

Fear of rejection

Inward

Outward

2) What are some causes of the approval trap?



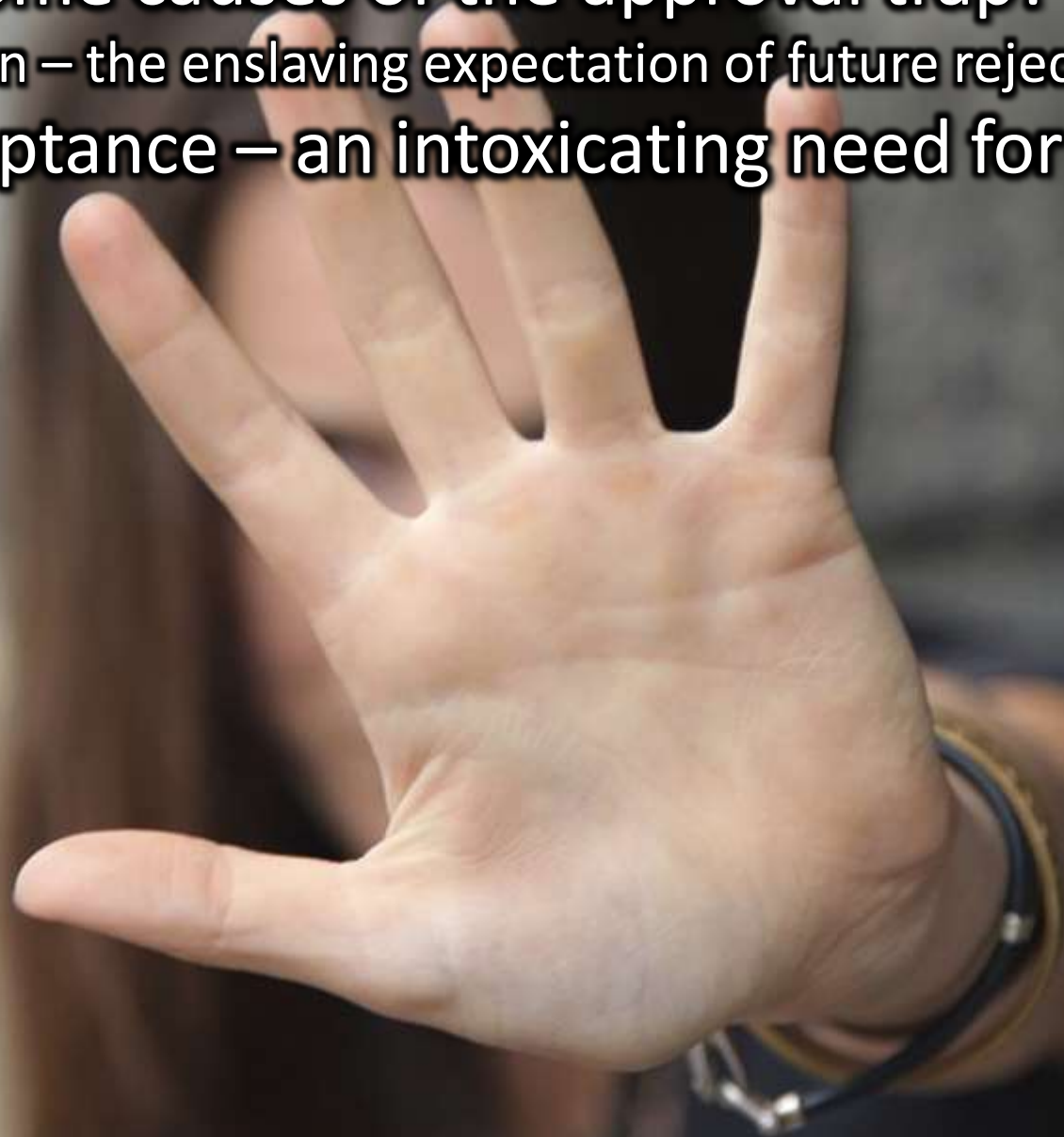
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- Past rejection – the enslaving expectation of future rejection.



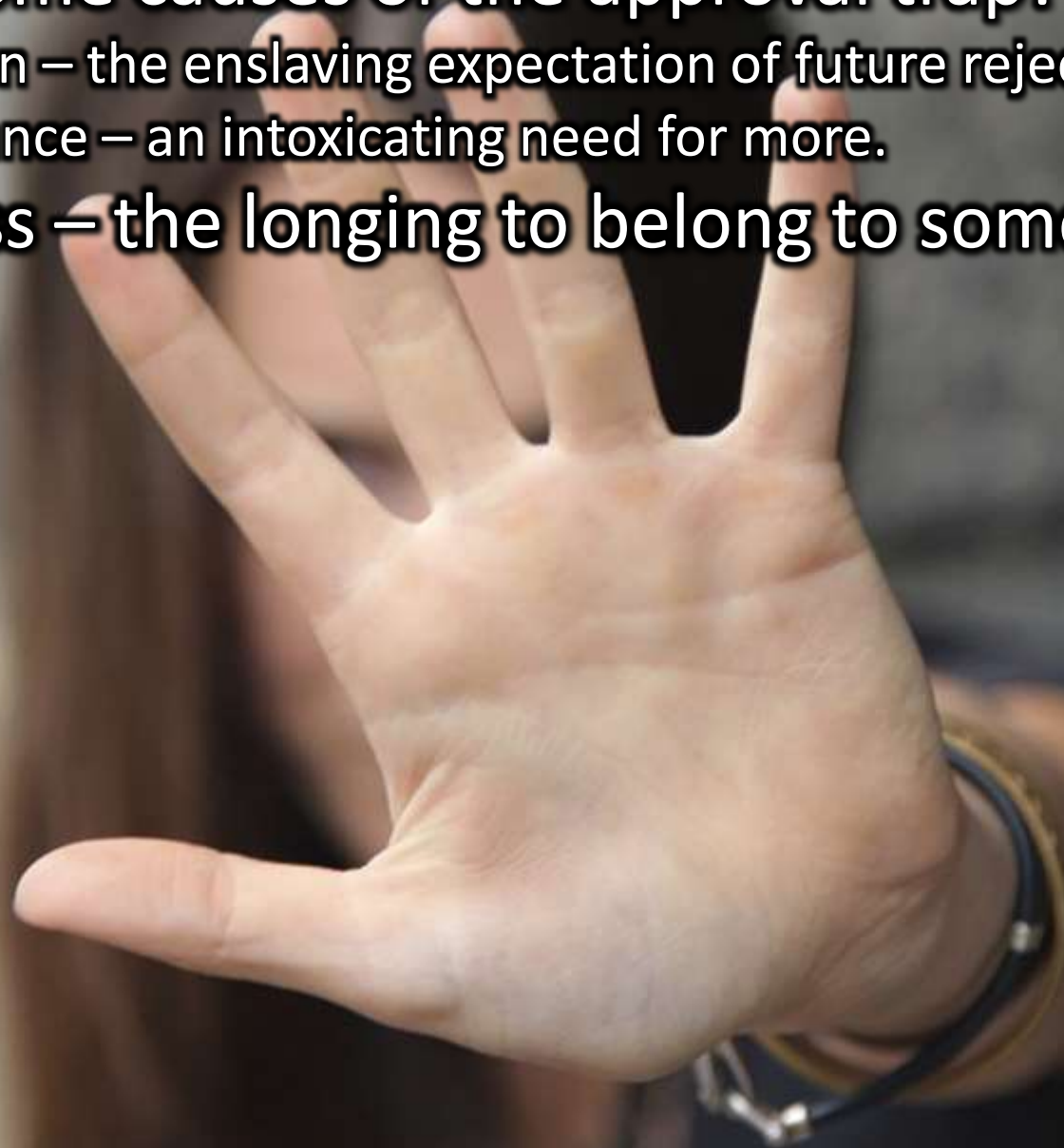
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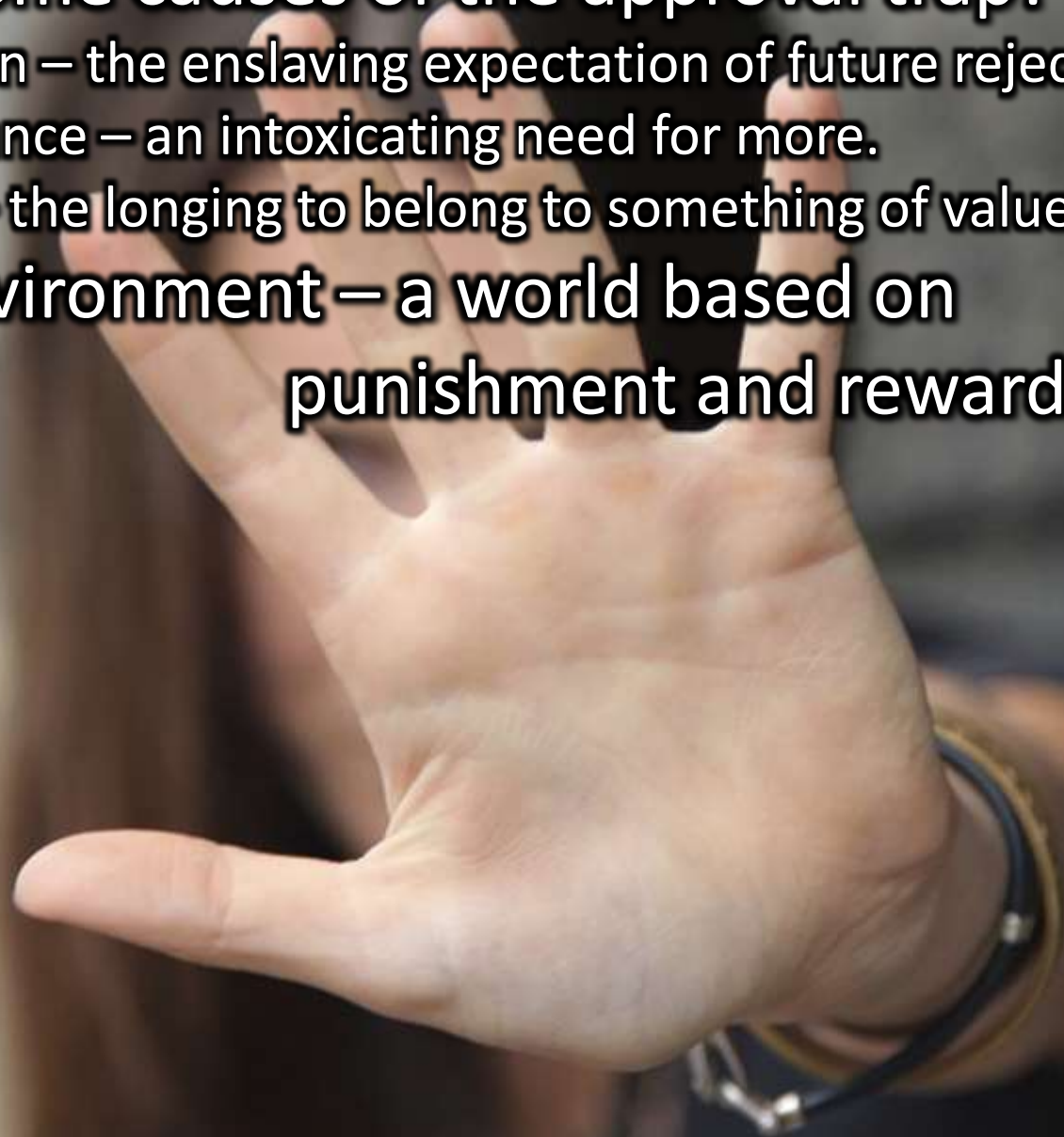
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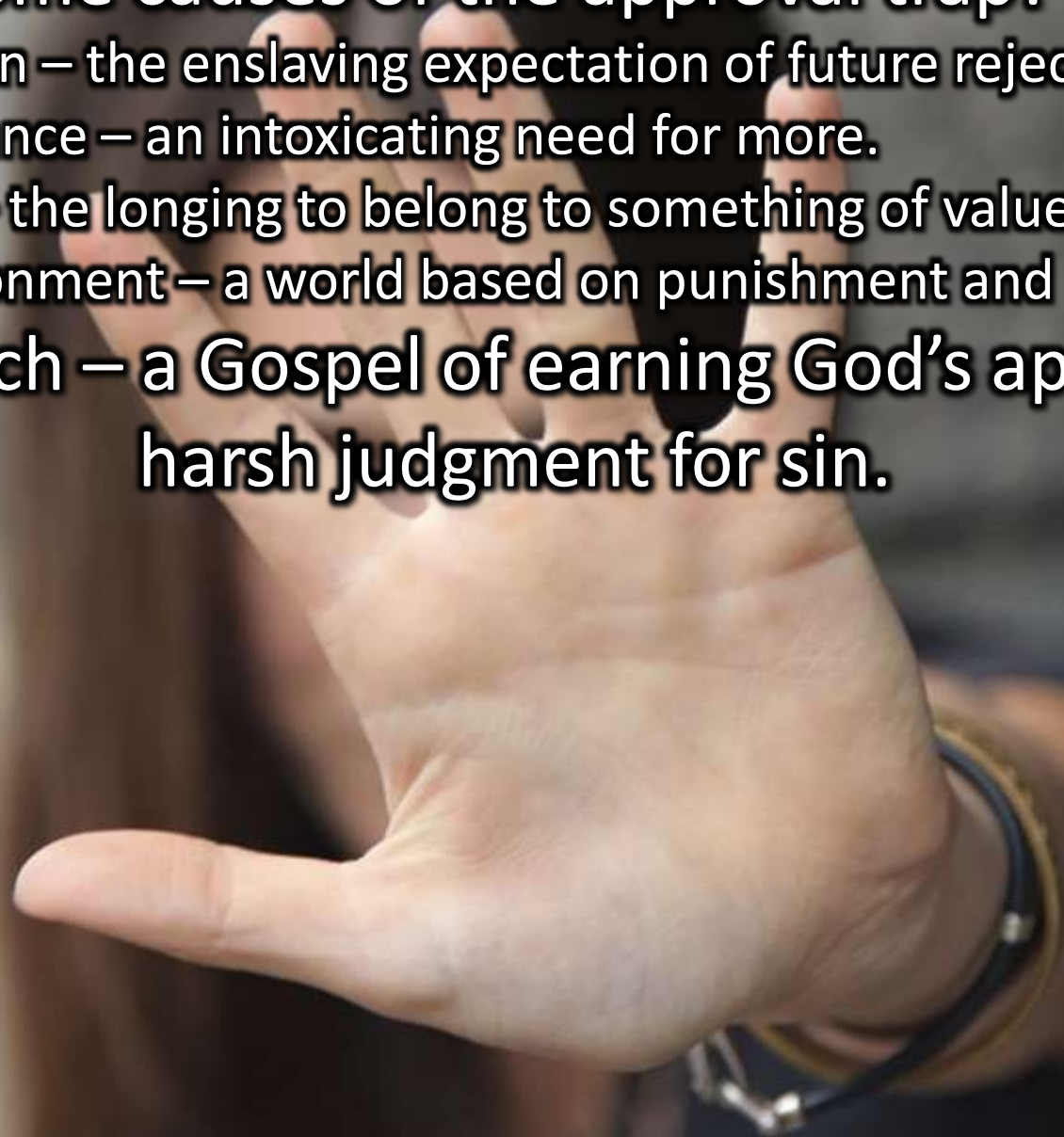
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- **The Church – a Gospel of earning God's approval; harsh judgment for sin.**



3) What are some symptoms of the approval trap?



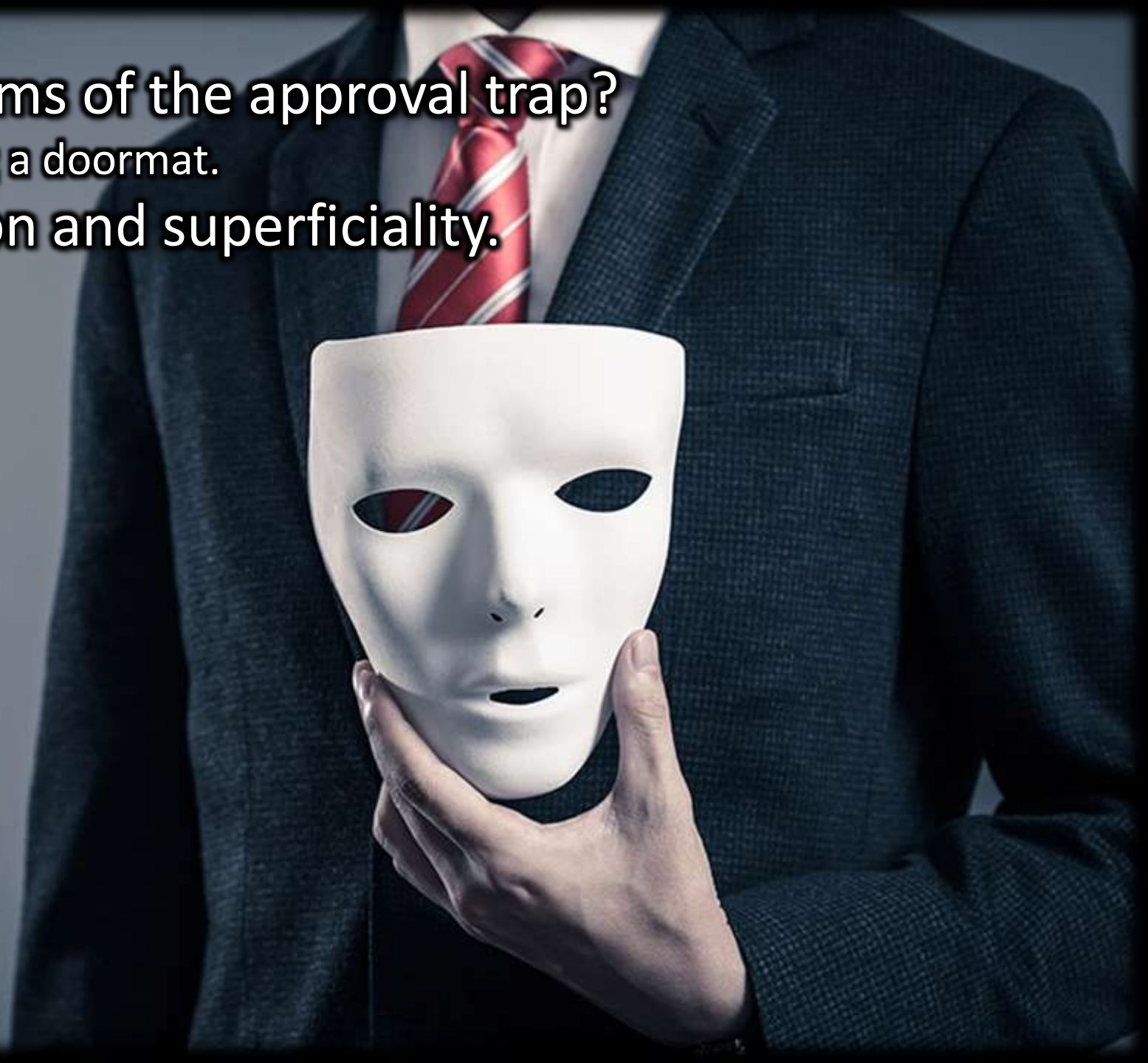
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- Falseness – pretension and superficiality.
- Low self-esteem – living by past rejection.
- Isolation – from loneliness to aloneness.
- Defensiveness – unable to hear even constructive criticism.
- A critical spirit –
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tendency
to
see
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downside.



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When people approve:

- Addiction – to activities that gain more approval.



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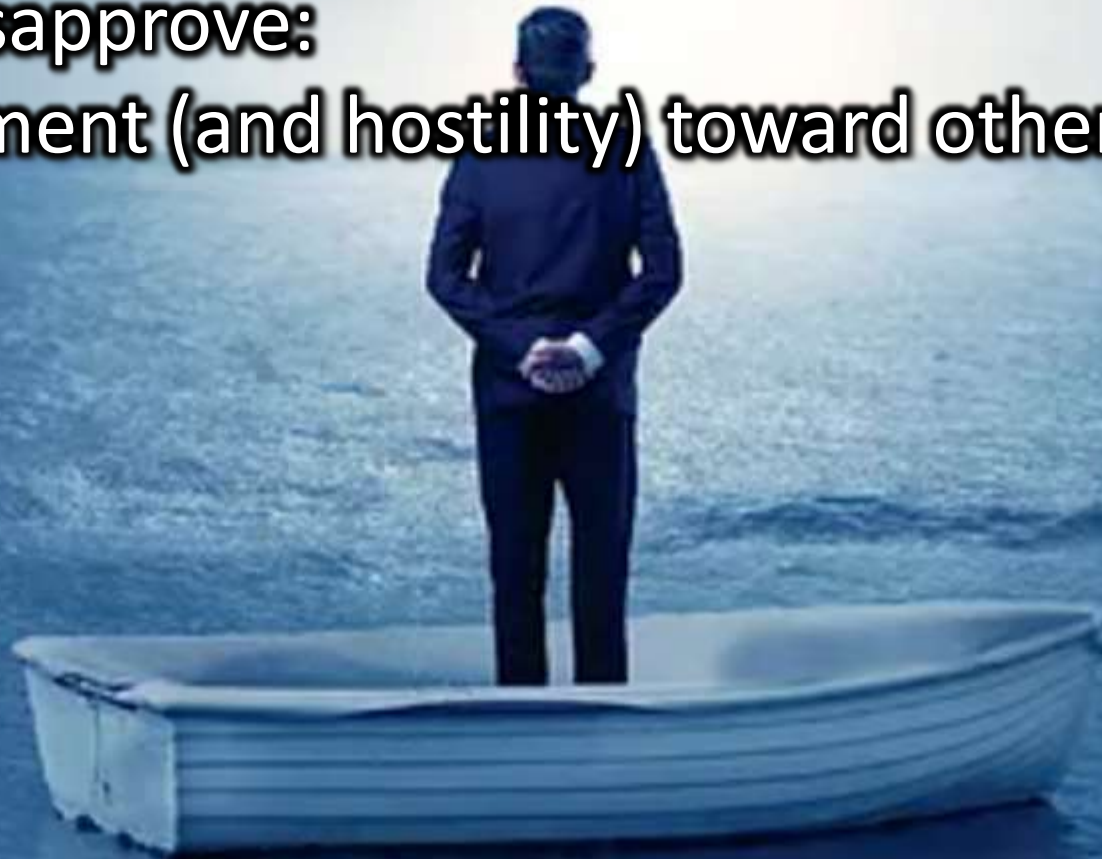
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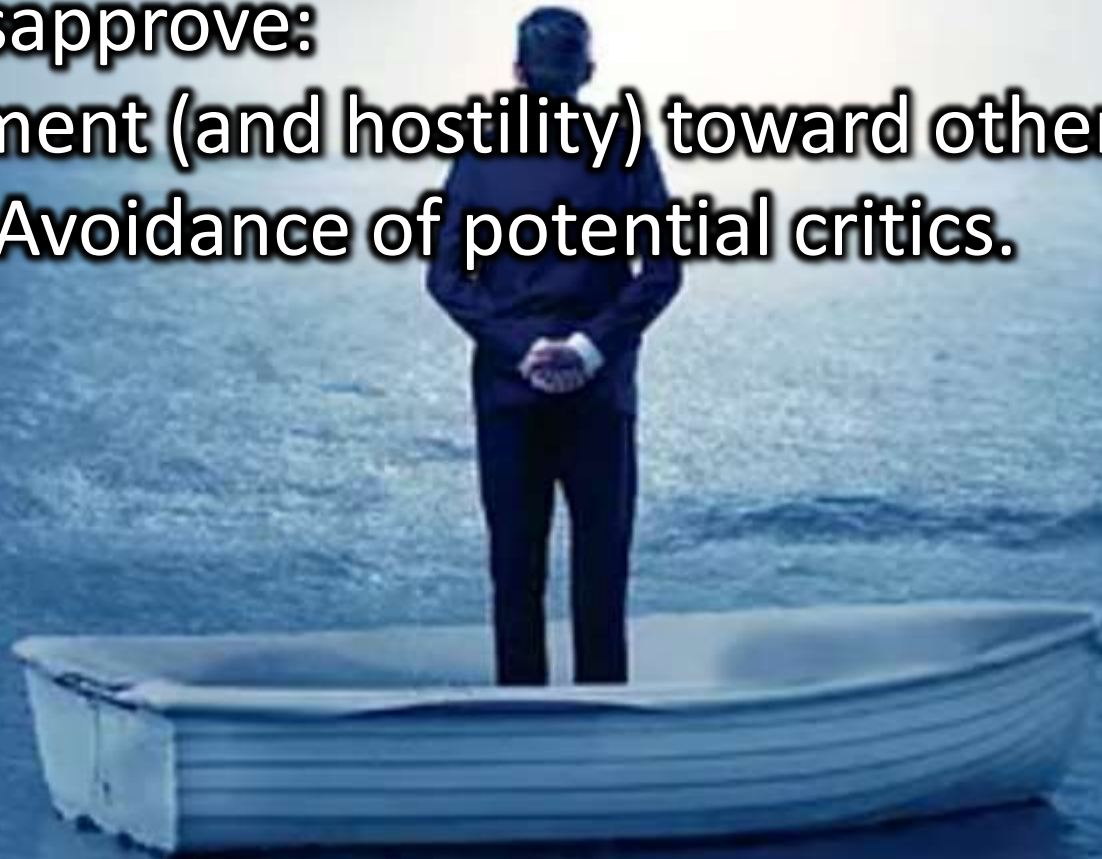
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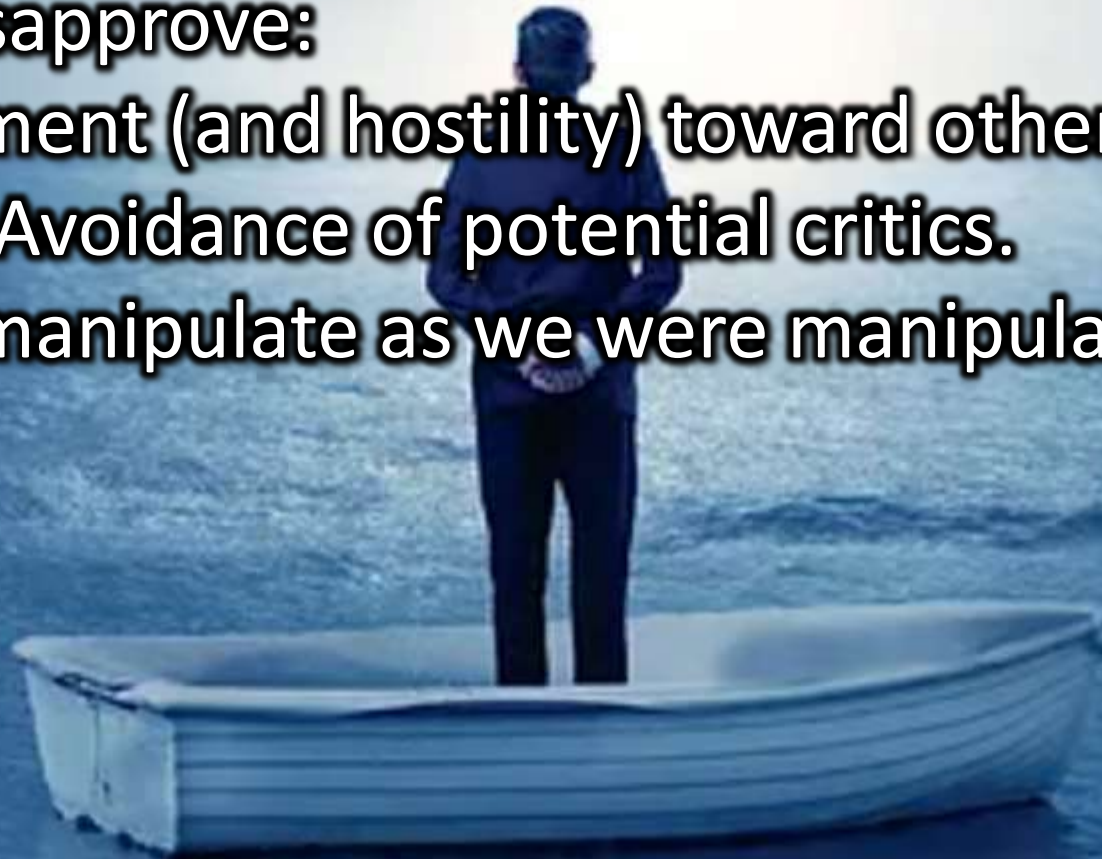
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Summary – We become takers rather than givers in all relationships.



5) How do we defeat the approval trap?
Just like Jesus...

Mark 1:11

A painting of Jesus from behind, wearing a brown robe, with his arms raised in a gesture of praise or surrender. He is standing in a body of water, with splashing water droplets visible around him. The background is a bright blue sky with a sunburst effect at the top center. The overall mood is one of triumph and divine approval.

***“And a voice came from heaven:
‘You are my Son, whom I love;
with you I am well pleased.’”***

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- Receive God's reliable approval through Jesus.

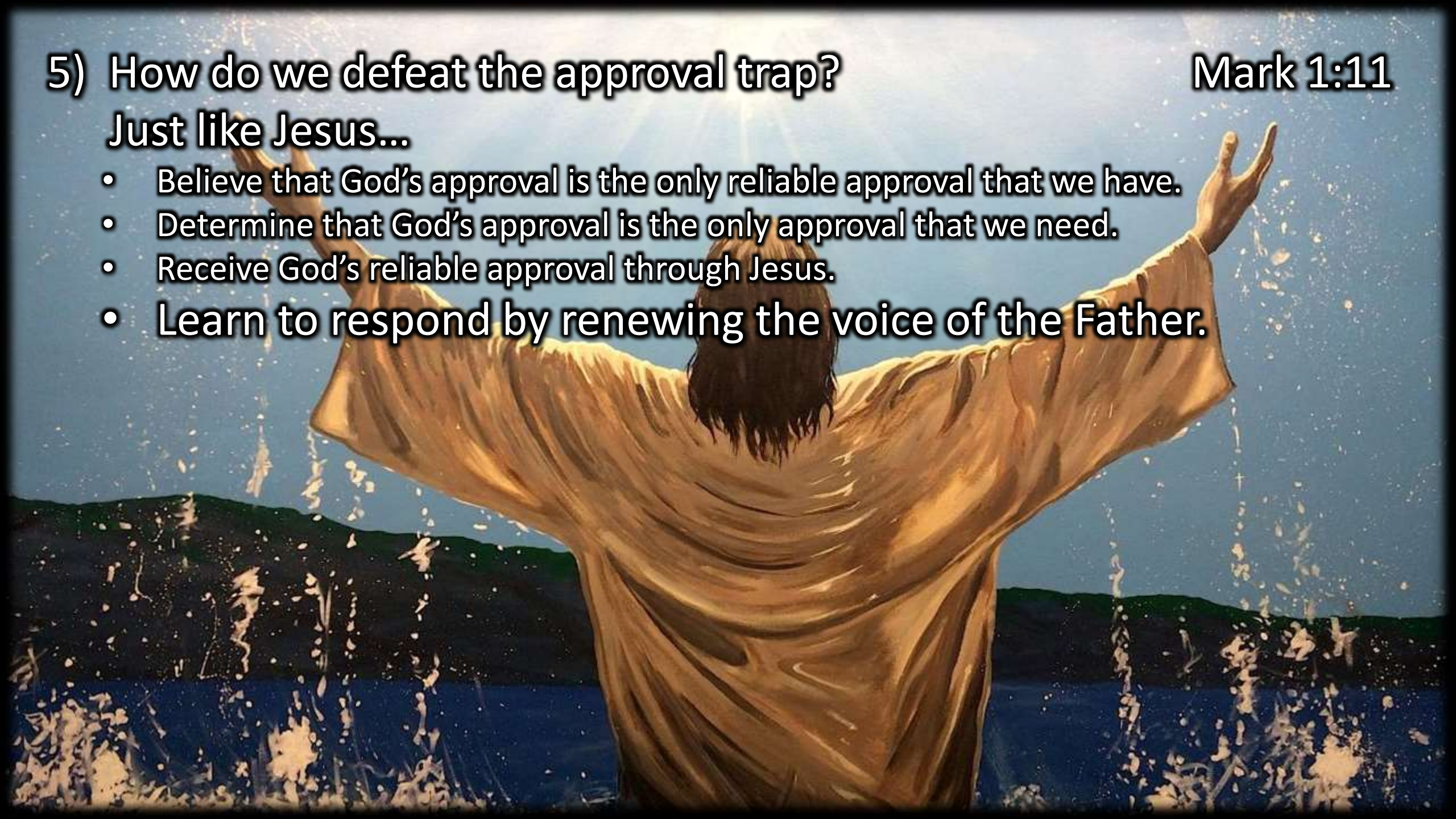


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- Learn to respond by renewing the voice of the Father.



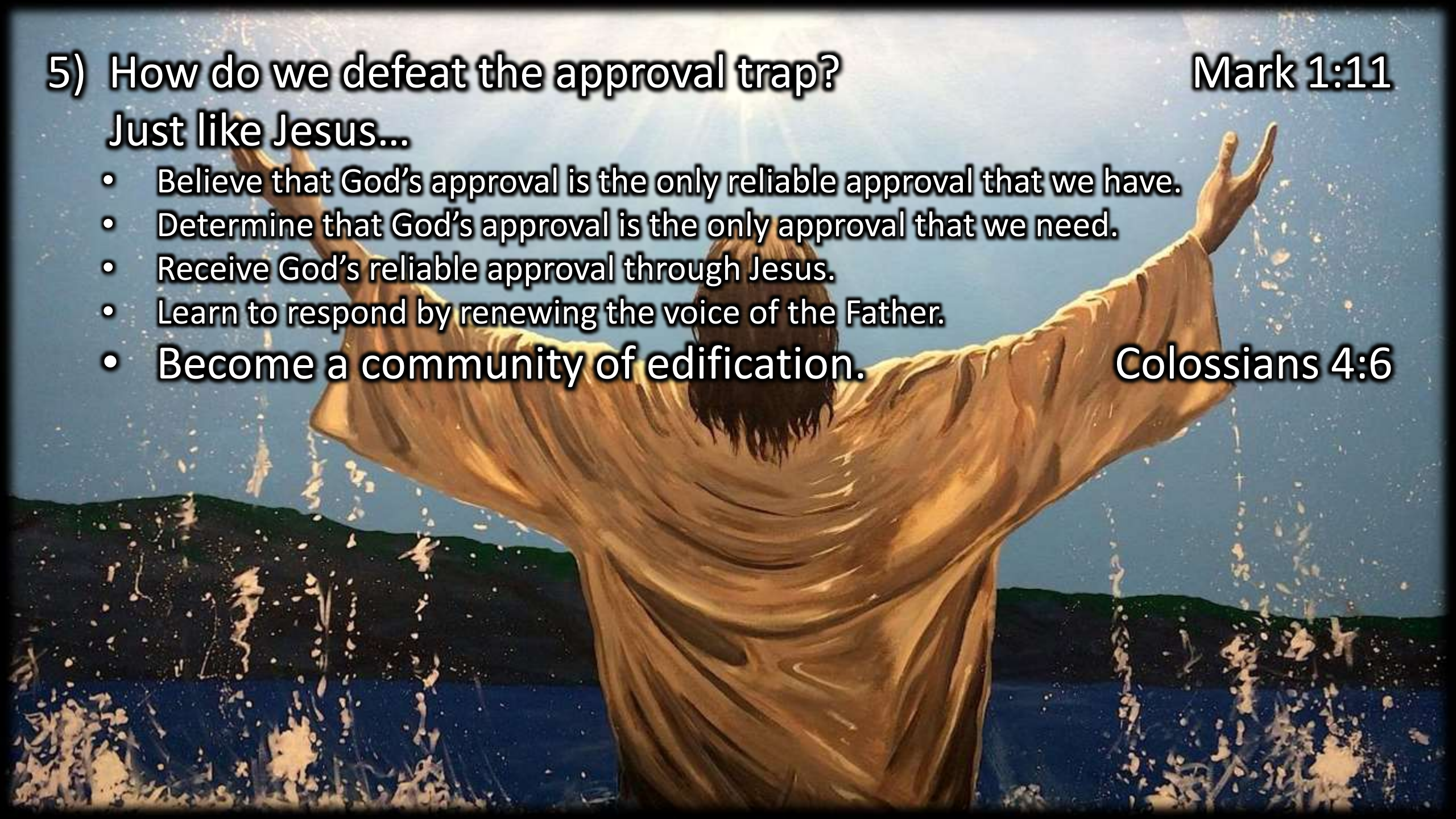
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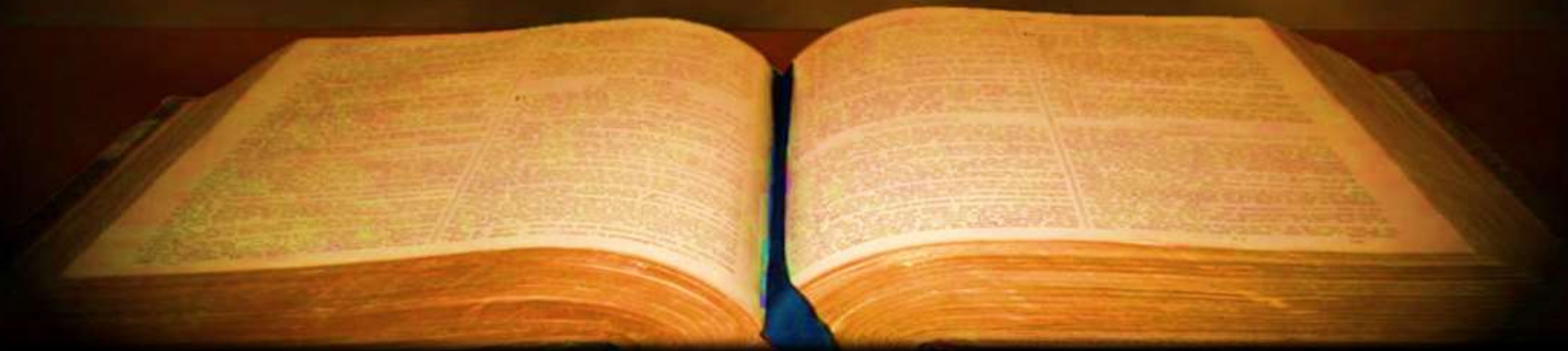
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- Receive God's reliable approval through Jesus.
- Learn to respond by renewing the voice of the Father.
- **Become a community of edification.**

Colossians 4:6



Colossians 4:6

*“Let your conversation be always **full of grace,**
seasoned with salt, so that you may know
how to answer everyone.”*



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