

A photograph of two women jumping joyfully on a sand dune. The woman on the left is wearing a red t-shirt and denim shorts, while the woman on the right is wearing a light blue t-shirt and dark shorts. Both are barefoot and have their arms raised in the air. The background shows a vast desert landscape with rolling sand dunes and distant mountains under a clear blue sky. The scene is captured in bright, warm sunlight, creating a sense of freedom and joy.

Walking, Jumping, & Praising God

God's Amazing Love for and through His People



17 years

Married to Jill; 4 kids, 2 dogs

11.5 years

Pastor - Tallahassee, FL

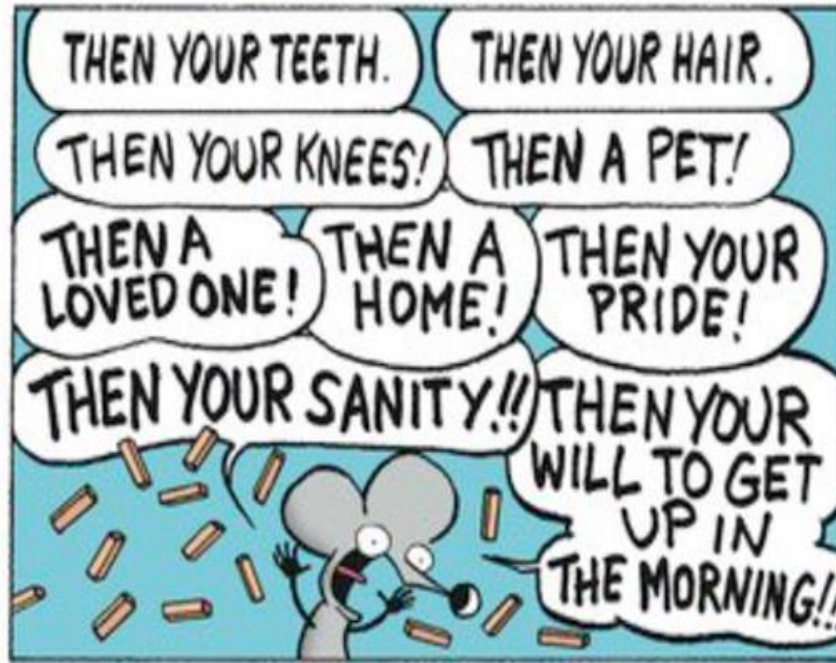
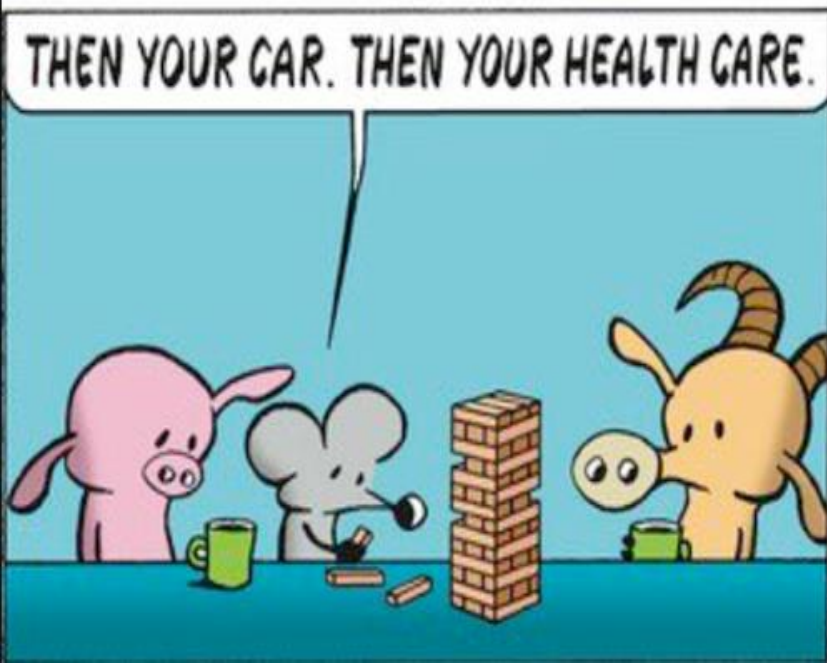
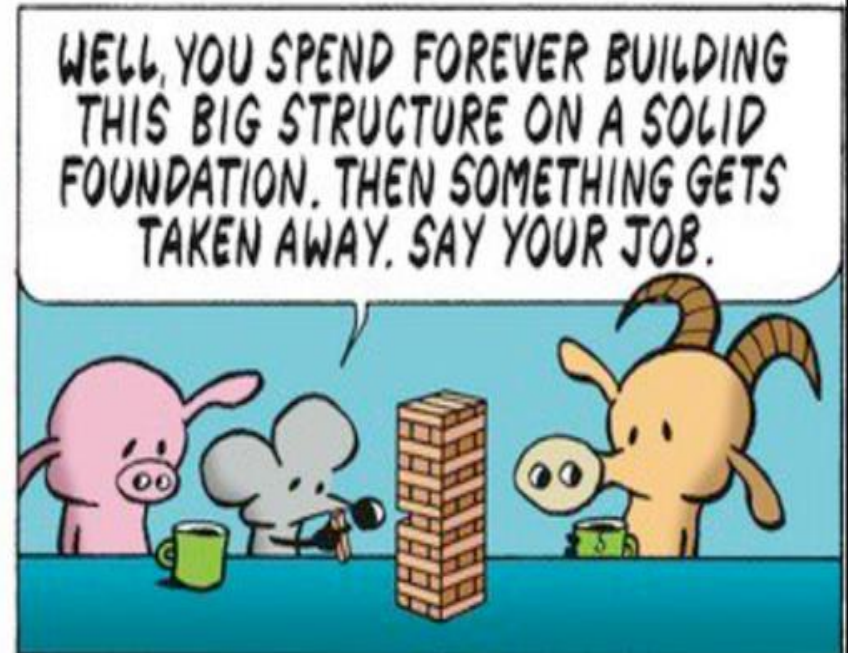
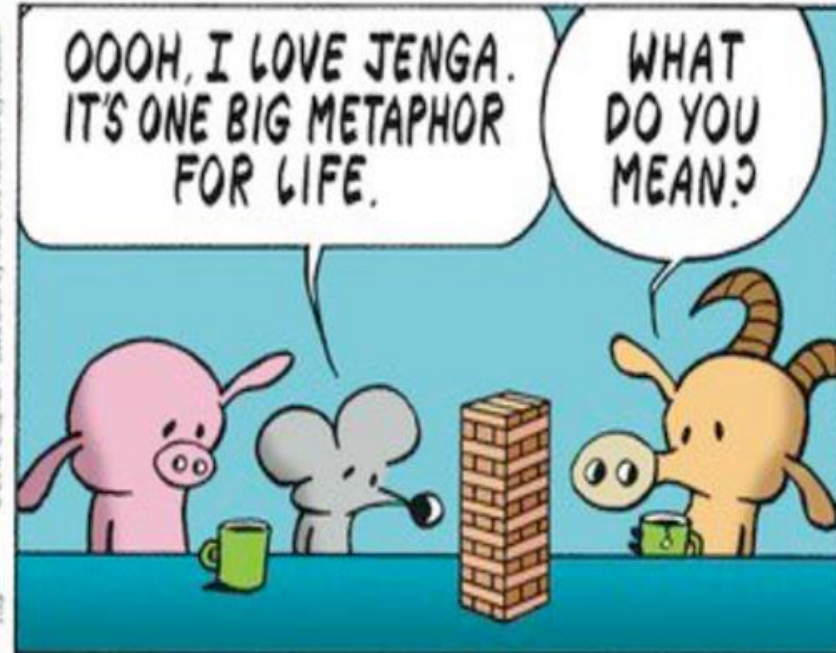
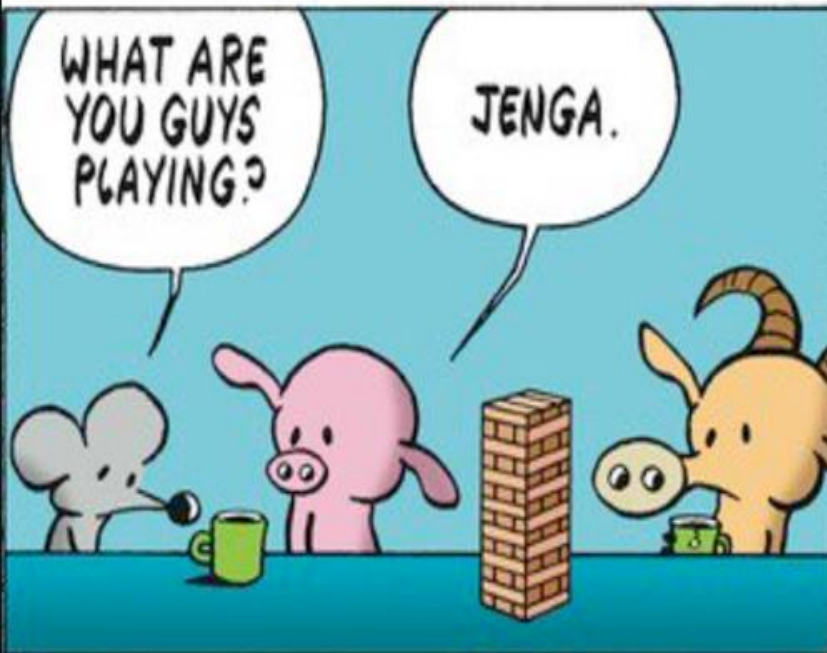
2.5 years

Professor - Mequon, WI



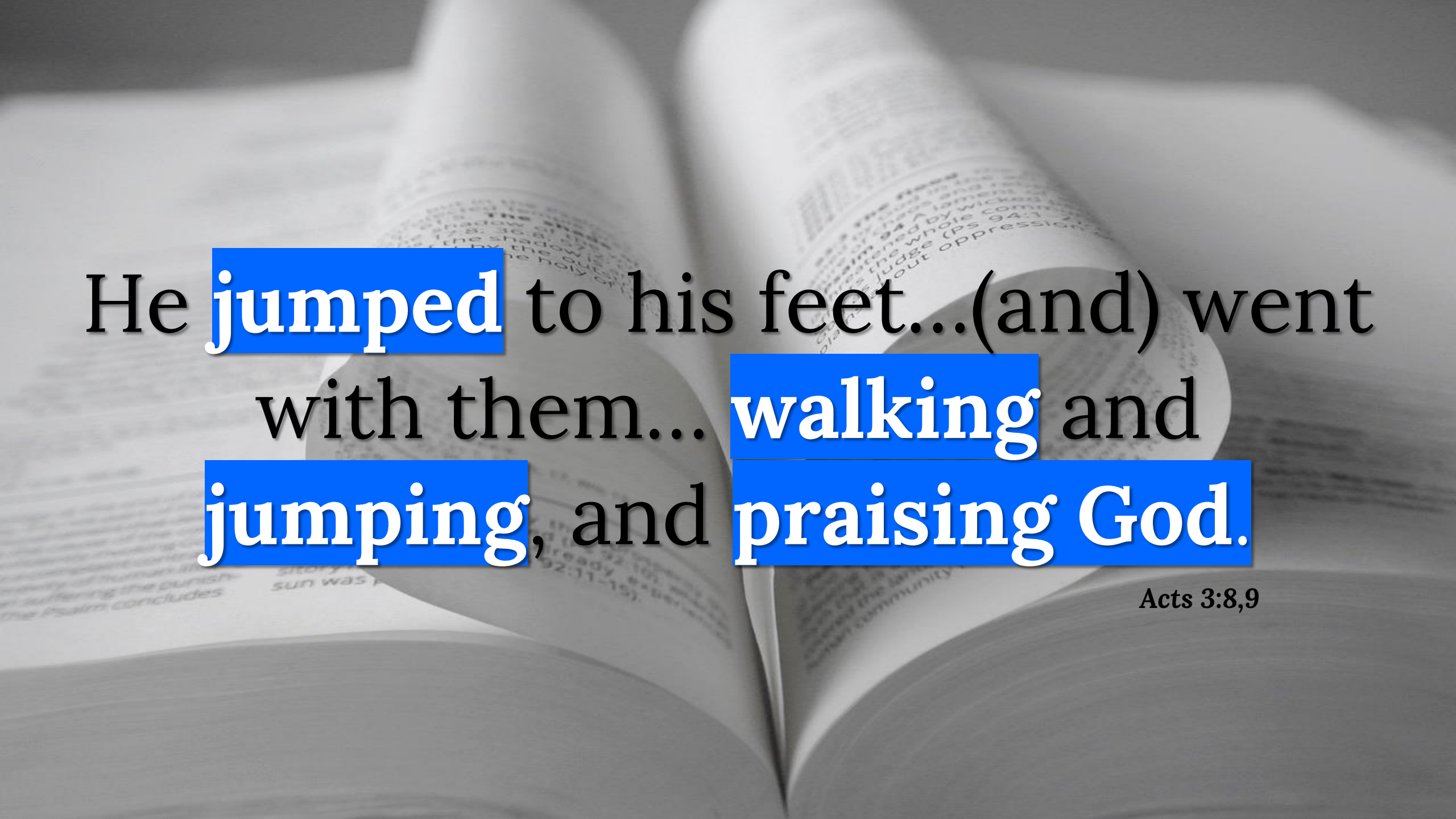
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS





Acts 3

An open book is shown in a grayscale, slightly blurred background. The pages contain faint, legible text, including phrases like "The shadow of the great God", "Psalm 94", and "A lame man". Overlaid on the book is a large text in a serif font. The words "jumped", "walking", "jumping", and "praising God." are highlighted with blue rectangular boxes. The text is arranged in three lines: "He jumped to his feet...(and) went", "with them... walking and", and "jumping, and praising God.".

He **jumped** to his feet...(and) went
with them... **walking** and
jumping, and **praising God.**

Acts 3:8,9





With glad and sincere hearts, **praising God**

Acts 2:42

All the people were **praising God**

Acts 3:9, 4:21

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, **rejoicing**

Acts 5:41



Join the Doxology of the Early Christian Church!

A circular stained glass window featuring a central dove with its wings spread, surrounded by flames in shades of red, orange, and blue. The background is dark, making the colors of the glass stand out.

1

It is written in book of Psalms Acts 1:20

This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel Acts 2:16

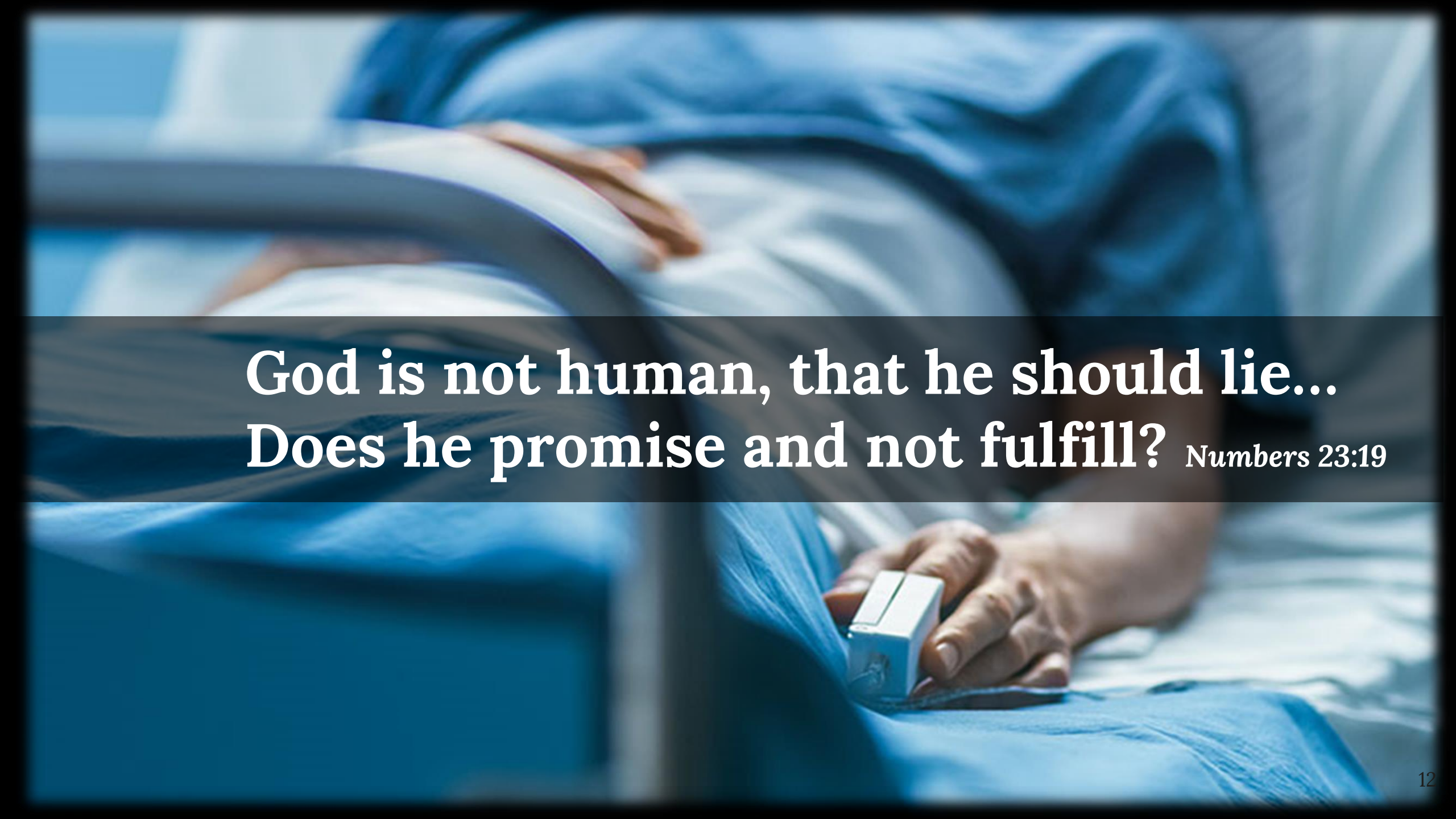
David said... Moses said... Acts 2:25, 2:34, 3:22



Luke 16:19-31

Reason for Praise

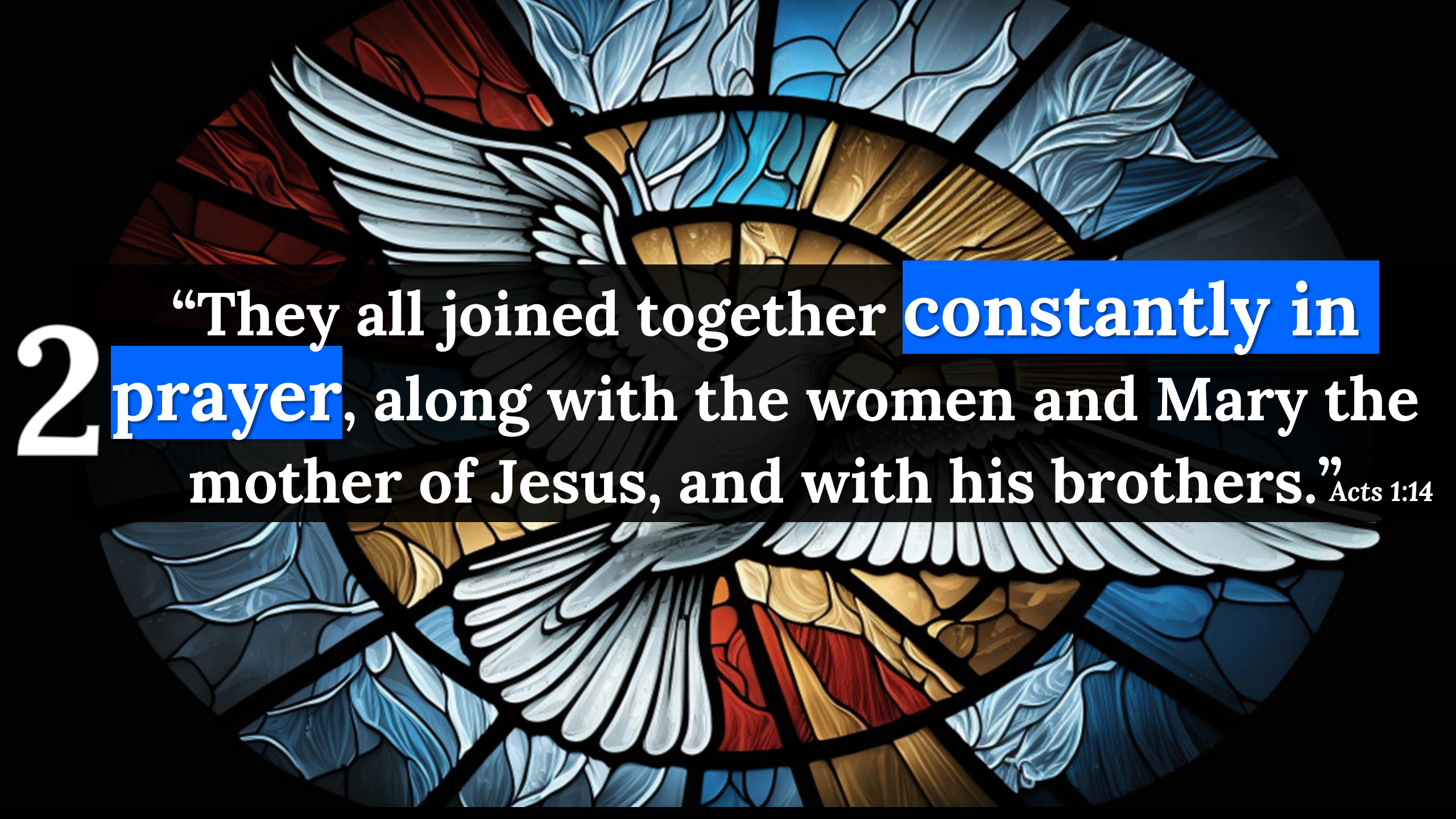
**We have God's sure and certain
Word (and the Holy Spirit does NOT
and CANNOT lie)!**

A photograph of a person lying in a hospital bed, covered with a blue blanket. A hand is visible, holding a small white object, possibly a medical device or a small box. The background is blurred, showing the hospital bed and some medical equipment.

God is not human, that he should lie...
Does he promise and not fulfill? *Numbers 23:19*

The Christian Reflects

- A) What are (two) lies the devil works hard to get you to believe?
- B) What are (two) truths that you need to be reminded of often in 2024?

A circular stained glass design featuring a dove with its wings spread, set against a background of flames. The dove is rendered in white and light blue, with its wings reaching towards the top and bottom edges of the circle. The flames are depicted in shades of red, orange, and yellow, with blue and white highlights. The entire design is set against a dark background.

2 “They all joined together **constantly in prayer**, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.” Acts 1:14



They devoted themselves to...prayer

Acts 2:42

They raised their voices together in prayer

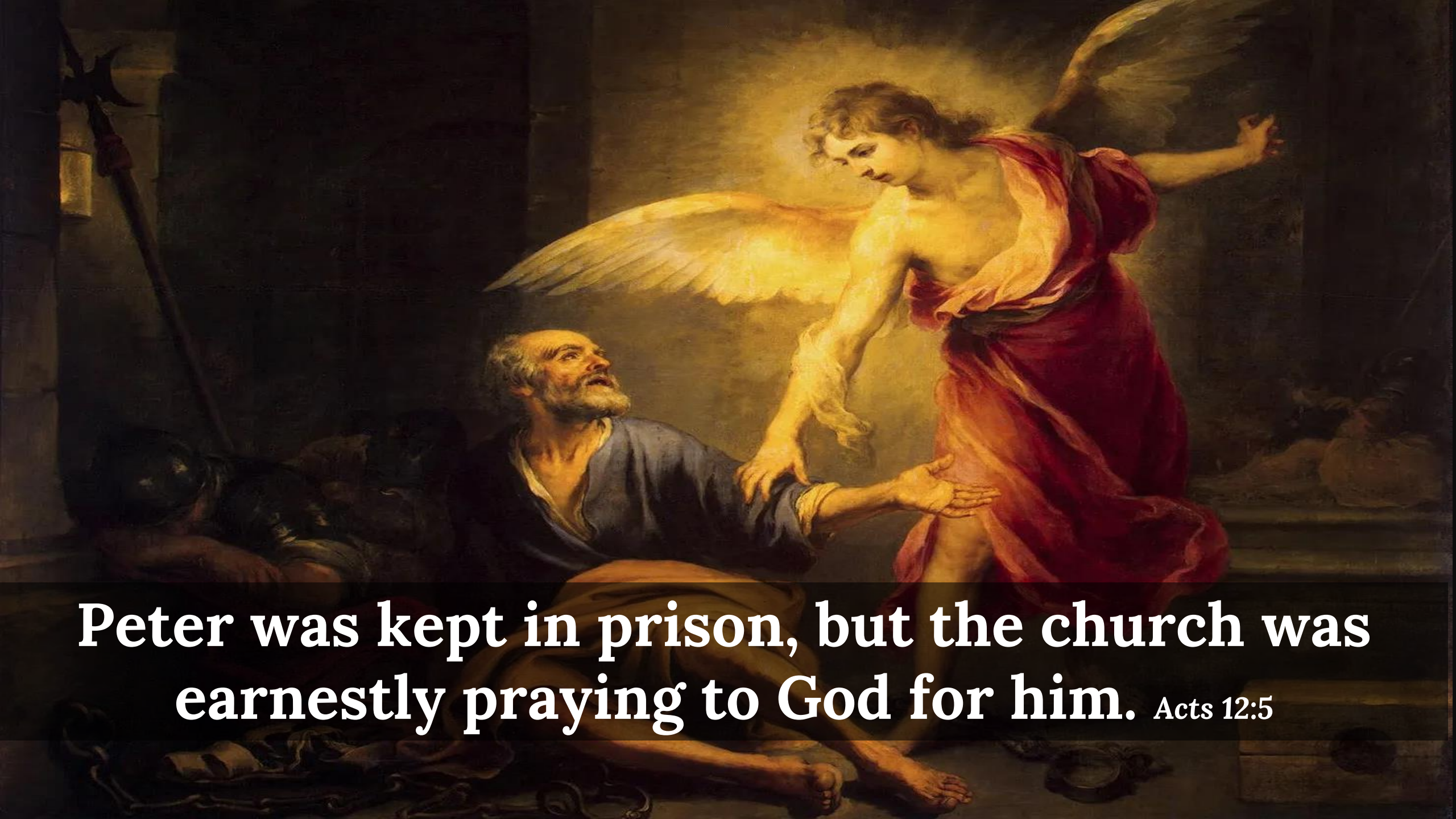
Acts 4:24

(We) will give our attention to prayer

Acts 6:4

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed

Acts 7:59



Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. Acts 12:5

Reason for Praise

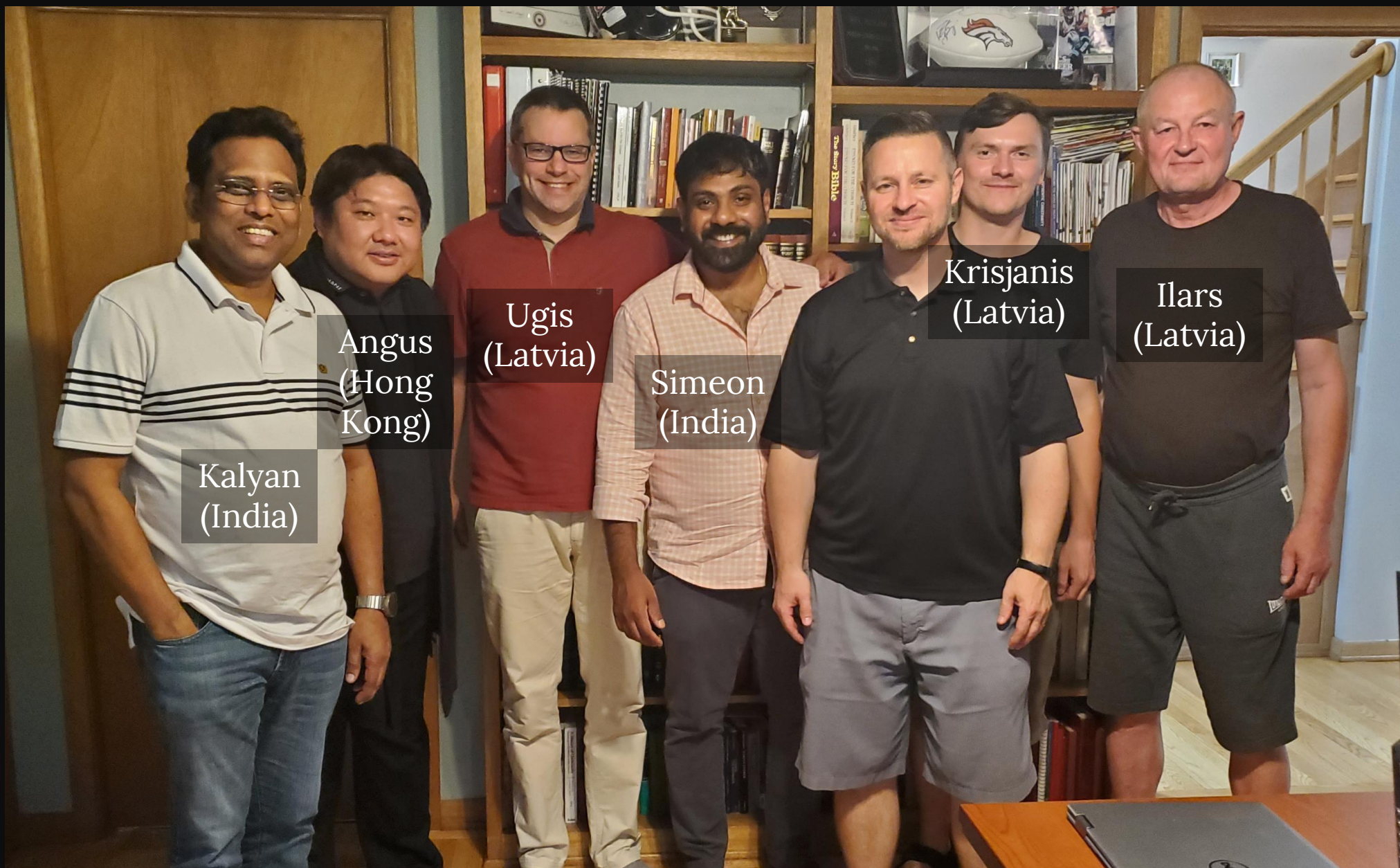
**We may approach God with
freedom and confidence.**

Ephesians 3:12



The Christian Reflects

- A) Complete the statement: *Some of the best prayer advice/encouragement I received was...*
- B) Ask a neighbor: *What can I pray for you?*



A circular stained glass design featuring a central sunburst or starburst pattern in shades of gold and yellow. Radiating from this center are two large, white angel wings with detailed feather patterns. The background is composed of various colored glass panes in shades of blue, red, and dark blue, creating a rich, textured effect.

3

The apostles left...rejoicing because they
had been counted worthy of suffering
disgrace for the Name.” Acts 5:41

Reason for Praise

**The adjectives about
our crosses are true.**

Lg Catechism, 3rd Petition



The cross is not limited to persecution for the faith but includes **all the suffering a Christian endures** in this life.

- WLS Systematic Theology Notes II, p. 451

The Suffering a Christian May Endure:

- 1. Suffering because we share a message of foolishness**
- 2. Outward division**
- 3. Animosity from the world because we belong to Christ**
- 4. Division within closest human relationships**
- 5. Learning to let go of or hold lightly life's possessions**
- 6. Troubles and Hardships in a sinful world** (Acts 14:22, Romans 8:18)
- 7. Daily crucifying our old self and hating all our old self does**




For where God's Word is preached,
accepted, or believed, and bears fruit,
there the **holy and precious** cross
will also not be far behind. And let no one
think that we will have peace; rather we
must sacrifice all we have on earth. -LC, III, 65





The Christian Reflects

Identify a cross in your life, family, or church. For what reasons has the Spirit led you to call that cross “holy and precious?”



4 All the believers were one in heart and mind.

Acts 4:32

Reason for Praise

**Action flows from being;
identity defines activity.**

(The Care of Souls, H. Senkbeil, p. 16)

Action flows from being; identity defines activity

You are the light of the world



Let your light shine

Raised with Christ



Set mind on things above

God's holy, dearly loved people



**Clothe self with compassion,
kindness, humility, patience**

“One in heart and mind”

“You are the body of Christ”



**Ate together, fellowship,
“Barnabases”, met needs,
prayer, “others focused”**



“Christian, grower of hair”



Wigs for Kids



The Christian Reflects

- A) When did you receive timely encouragement from a sister in Christ (or who is someone you can encourage)? Send that person encouragement!**
- B) Consider all the vocations you have and who you are in Christ. What actions and activities flow from that to bless your neighbor and glorify God?**

A circular stained glass window featuring a central dove with its wings spread, set against a background of flames. The dove is rendered in white and light blue, with its wings showing detailed feather patterns. The flames are depicted in shades of red, orange, and yellow, with blue and white highlights. The entire scene is framed by a dark, possibly black, border.

5

**“Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band
together against the Lord and against his anointed one.”**

Acts 4:25,26

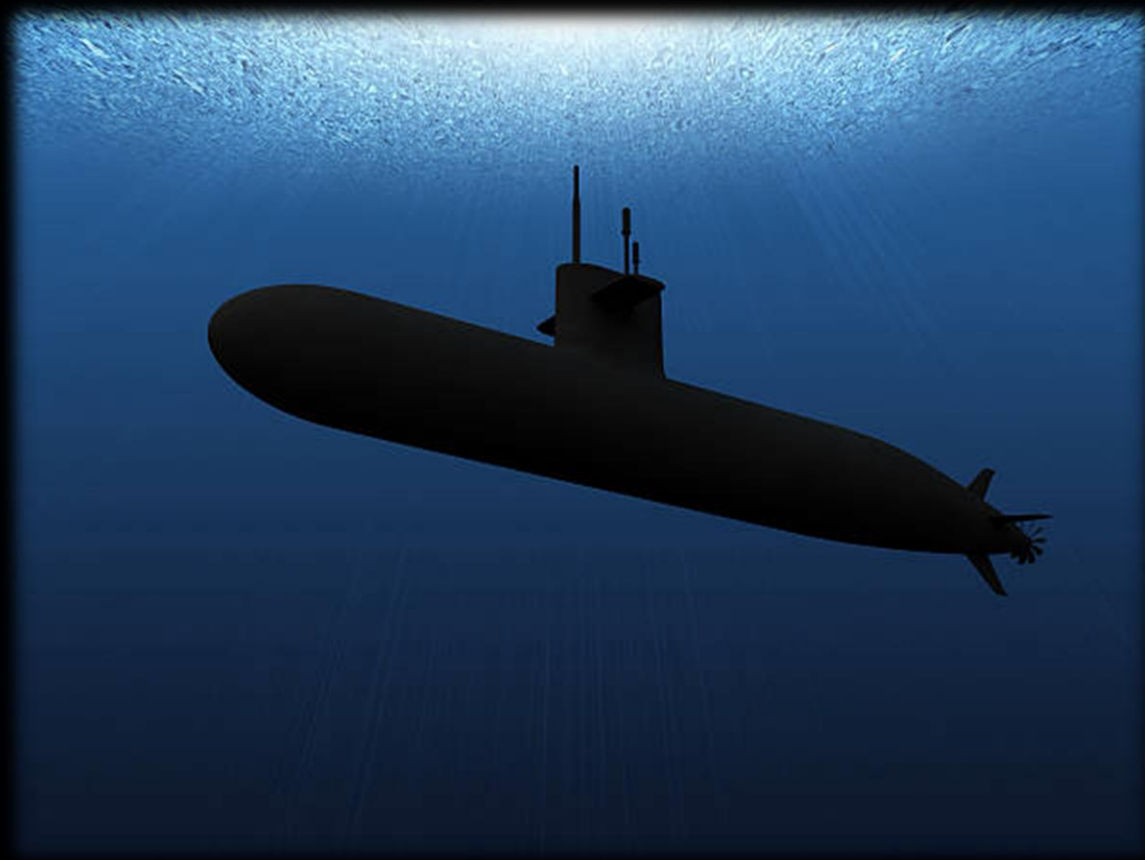


She is clothed with
strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the
days to come. Proverbs 31:25



Reason for Praise

The king is the
castle and his flag
is flying at full mast!



Happiness vs. Joy



The Christian Reflects

- A) What is one thought/takeaway you want to remember?
- B) Think of a B-W-Ws from the past year. Why can you laugh as you think about these things?

EVOL|S|DOOG