

The background of the slide is a solid dark green color. Overlaid on this background is a pattern of stylized, light green leaf outlines. The leaves are elongated and pointed, with simple black outlines, and are arranged in a way that suggests a branch or a cluster of foliage. The text is centered horizontally and vertically on the slide.

SCRIPTURE

PHILIPPIANS 4:4 – 9

PHILIPPIANS:



CONTENDING

5 Defining Dynamics of Spiritual Character

Go with your immediate intuitive answer

Dynamics of Spiritual Character

1. Sustaining Affection



What do you praise to others and emotionally feed on in your mind and heart?

Dynamics of Spiritual Character

2. Extroverted Attitude

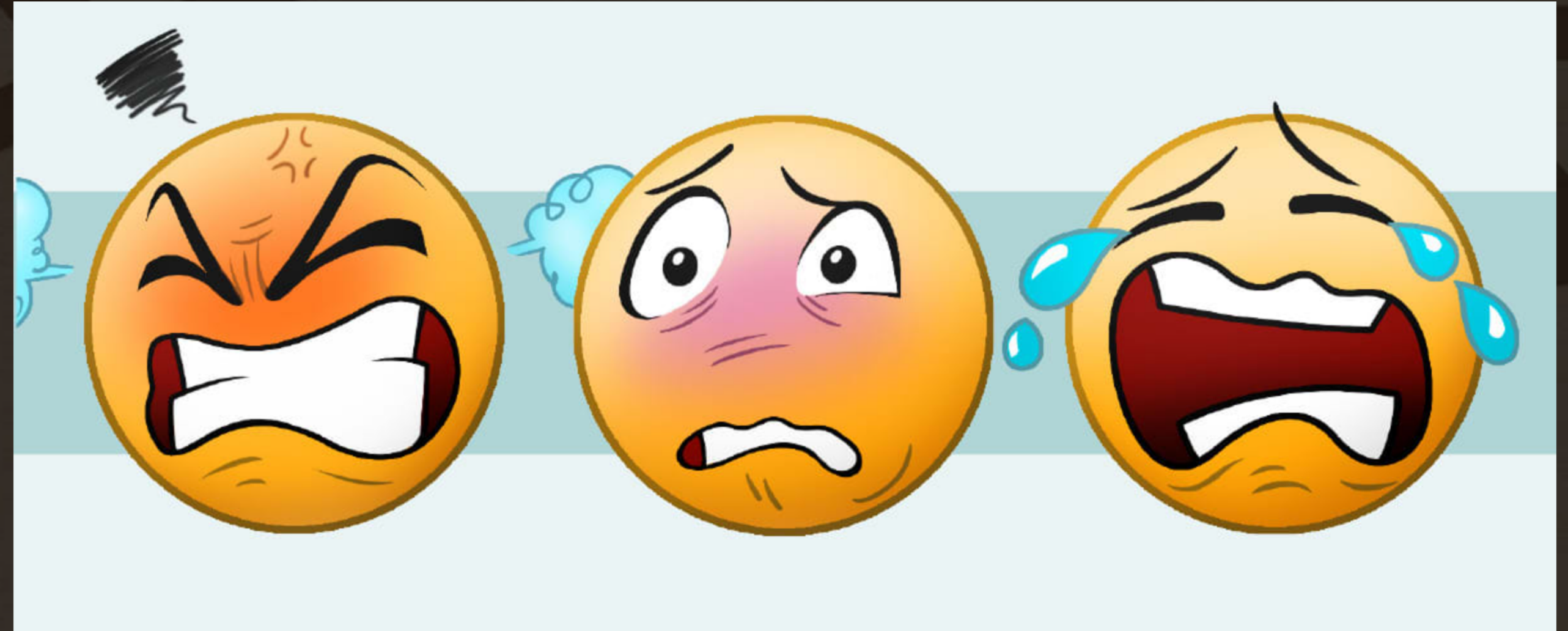


What's your baseline attitude and demeanor towards others?

What do you think, and what would they say?

Dynamics of Spiritual Character

3. Response to Negative Emotion

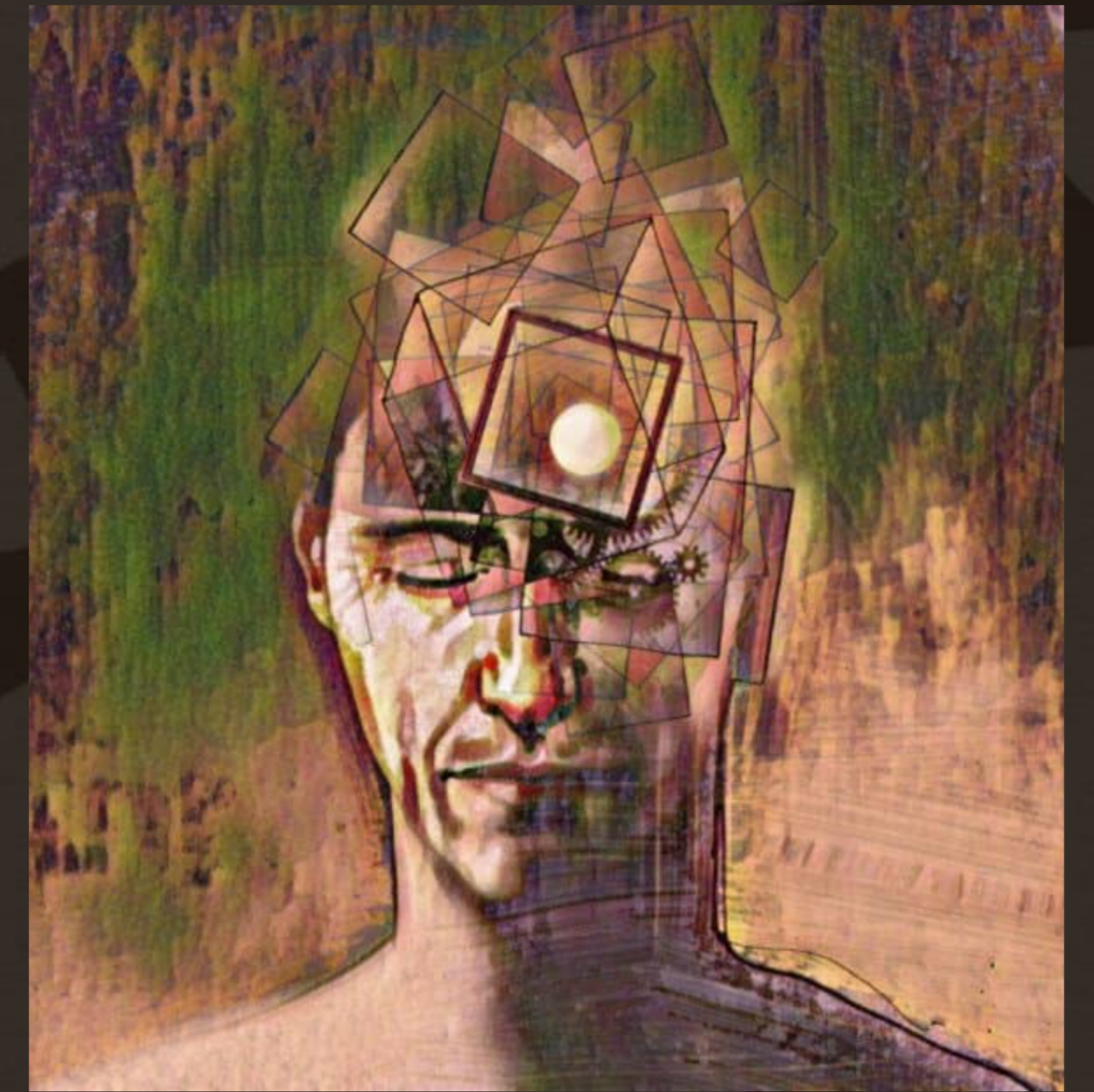


How do you mentally respond to negative emotion, fear and anxiety?

Dynamics of Spiritual Character

4. Mental Occupation

What does your free mind go to?
What do you think about when
you don't have to think about
something else?



Dynamics of Spiritual Character

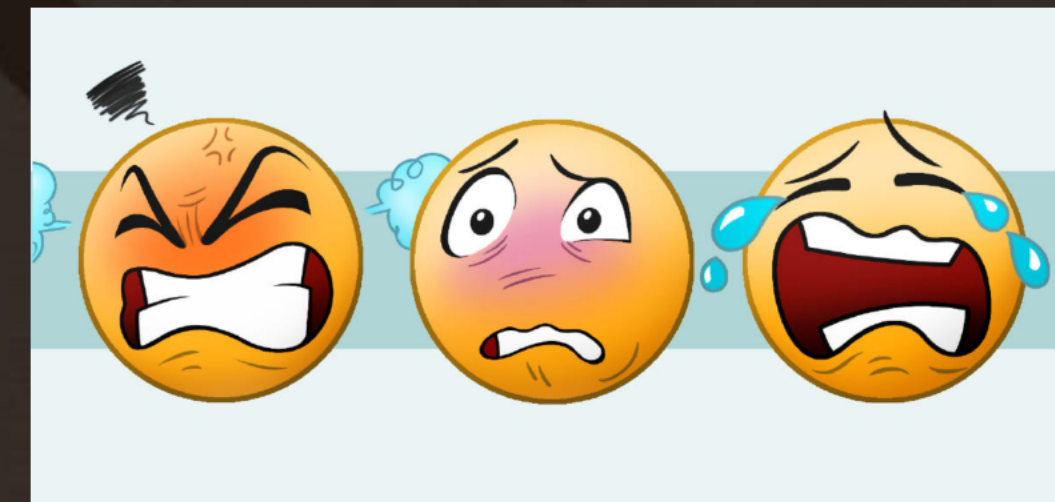
5. Personal Emulation



Who's your influencer? Who do you intuitively immitate or know you want to be more like?

5 Defining dynamics of Spiritual Character

1. Sustaining Affection
2. Extroverted Attitude
3. Response to Negative Emotion
4. Mental Occupation
5. Personal Emulation



In Christ,
**You have
decisive
influence over
all of these.**



(Though not immediate control over results)

Philippians 4

Spiritual Character

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Sustaining Affection | Rejoice in the Lord |
| 2. Extroverted Attitude | Gentleness |
| 3. Response to N.Em. | Prayer |
| 4. Mental Occupation | The T,N,R,P,L,A,E,P |
| 5. Personal Emulation | Sp. Imitation |

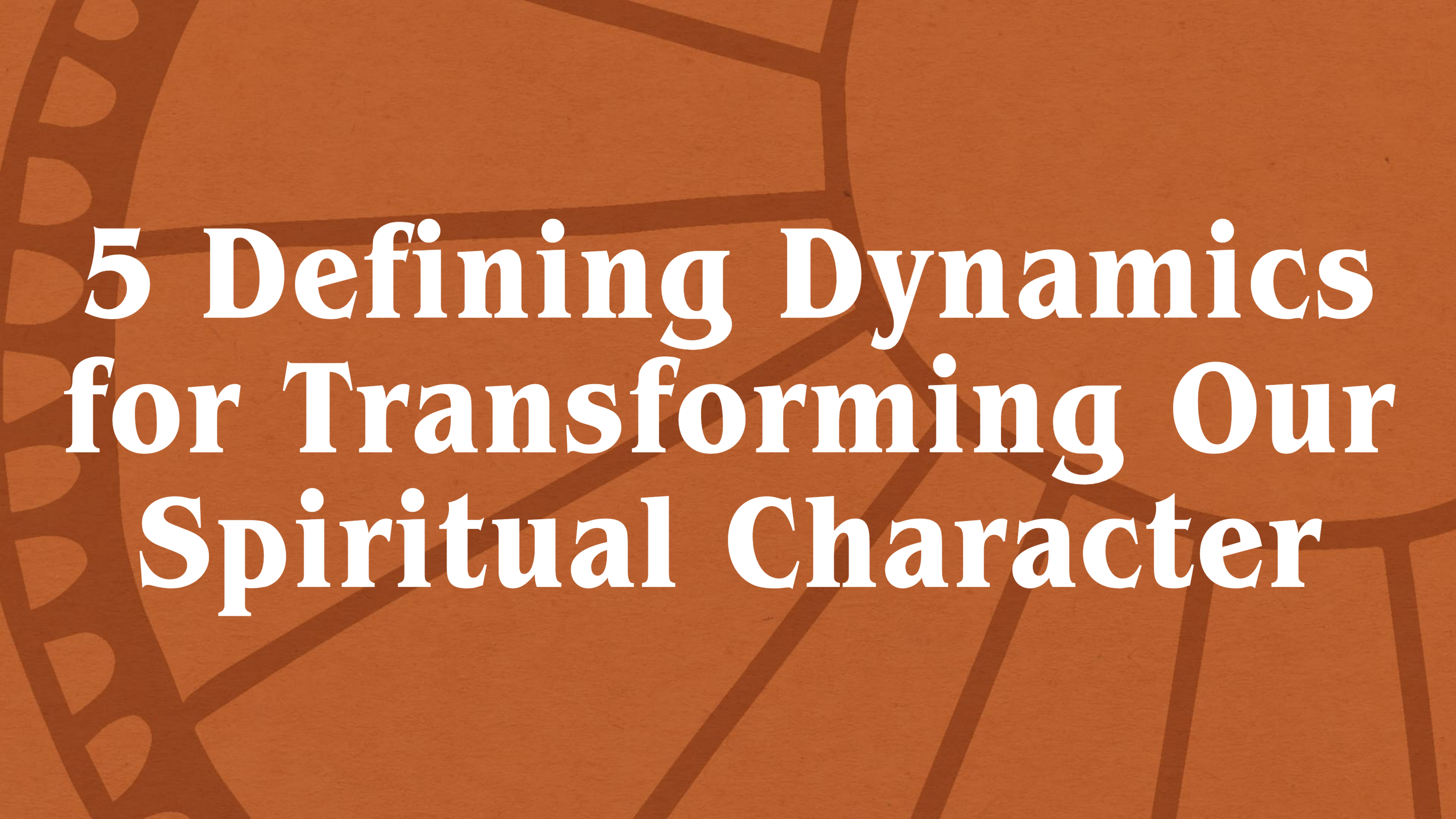


God reforms our Spiritual Character
through and in his church.

Therefore:

The faithful local church is a community of
passion for spiritual growth.





5 Defining Dynamics for Transforming Our Spiritual Character



1.

**Union with Christ is our
sustaining affection**



"Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!"

See: Philipians 3

Sermons:

Confidence is belonging
to Jesus Christ pt I & II

10.30.22 & 11.06.22



Direct attention on God

Inhibition in spiritual expression
is not a virtue.



Discipline + Expression +
Environment = Growth



2.

**Jesus' gentleness
becomes our
extroverting attitude**

Philippians 4:5

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

The Lord is near.



2 Corinthians 10:1 – 2

By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" when away! I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be towards some people who think that we live by the standards of this world.

Gentleness shows:

1. Humility
2. Recognition of the "tragic"
3. From personal peace
4. Sincerity – reverses flattery

**But what if
you don't
have peace?**

**What if you're
anxious and
angry?**





3.

The Lord is Our
Counselor in Anxiety



Philippians 4:6 – 7

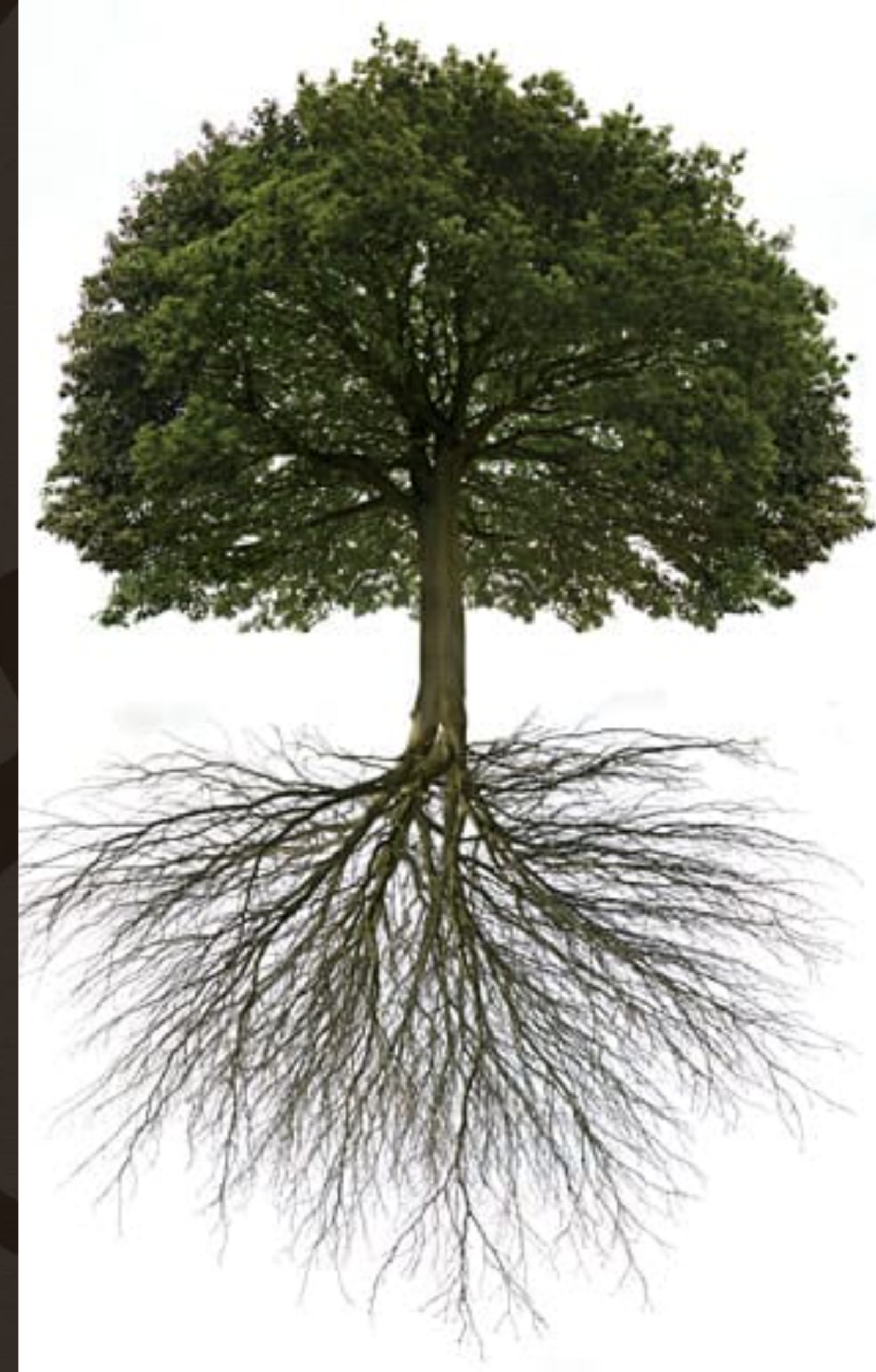
Do not be **anxious about anything**, but in **everything**, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, **present your requests to God**. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Anxiety

Grounding Skills (Creature, restoring)

&

Elevating Disciplines (Image Bearer, reforming)



Activities of Peace

1. Don't resign to OR deny the anxiety
2. Come to God with all and every anxiety
3. Prayer is not analysis, it's expression
4. Petition – ask for help
5. Thankfulness – The helper is good to you
6. Move toward consolation and quiet
7. Repeat ritually; it's spiritual, not magical.

Sounds of Heaven:



Music
and
Silence



Sounds of Hell: Noise



**How do you
fill the
silent space
partly with
music?**





4.

**Nobility Intentionally
Occupies the
Spiritual Mind**



Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, **whatever** is true,
whatever is noble, **whatever** is right,
whatever is pure, **whatever** is lovely,
whatever is admirable—if **anything** is
excellent or praiseworthy—think
about such things.



Other things rush into an undirected mind

Patterns, anxieties,
greivances, obsessions,
fleshly intrigues, illicit
curiosity, etc...

News
I know

Emails/work I'm secure

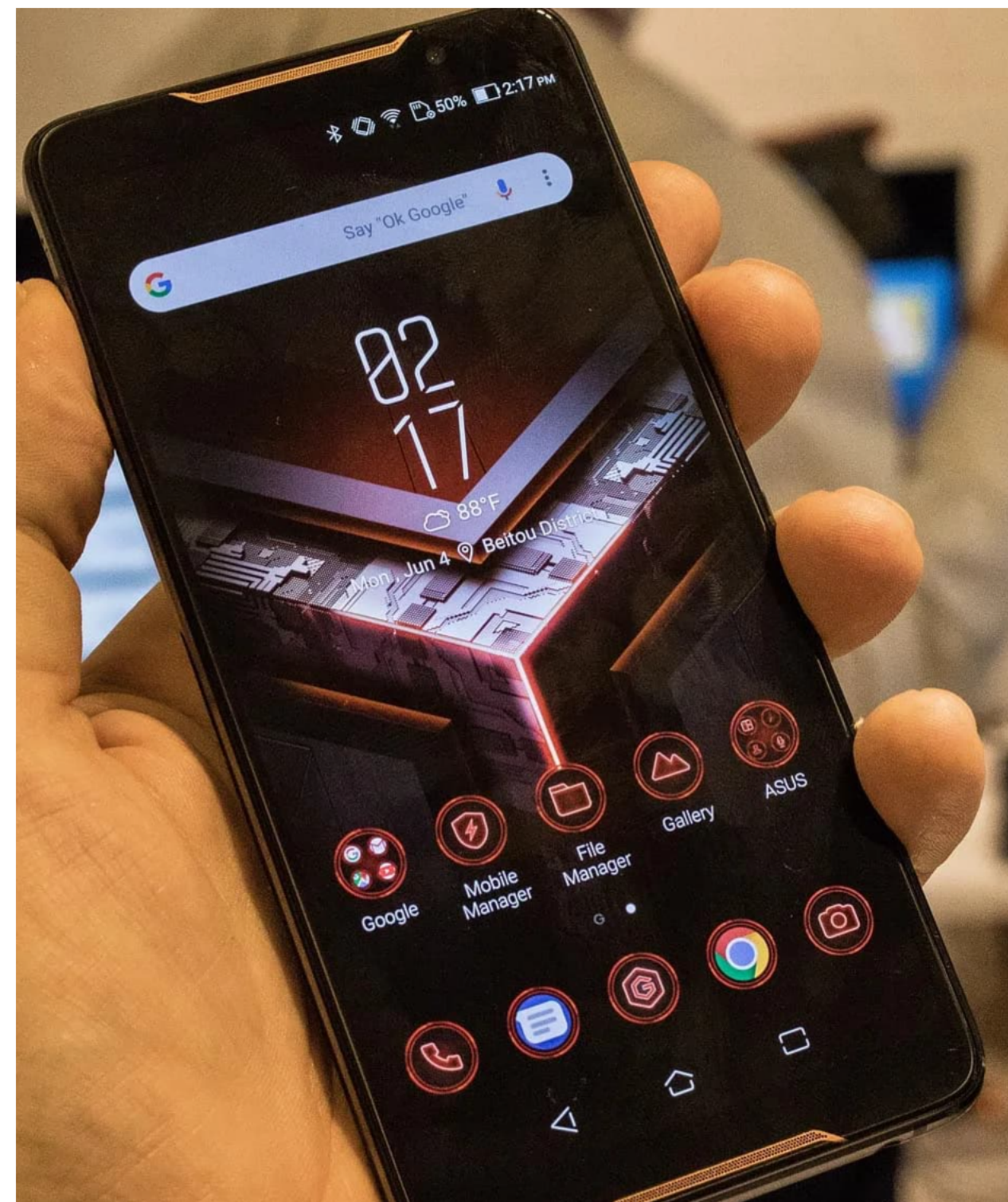
Pods/video
I'm growing

Memes
Amuse me

Likes
I'm Approved

Snaps
Paying attention?

Slack/text/etc
Everything ok?



'Smart' articles
I'm smart

Celeb Gossip
I'm in

Anything is
good enough
I'm uncomfortable

Mental occupation?

Anything and everything,
as God would consider it.

(the intentional converse of our
spontaneous anxieties)

The Church: context for mental nobility

1. Fellowship and spiritual conversation
2. Worship and prayer
3. Study of scripture
4. Ministering to others
5. Media, teaching, ministries...

Personal

1. Daily Quiet time
2. Reading great **recommended** books
3. Listening to **curated** trustworthy content
4. Read Christian biographies
5. Mentoring or Spiritual Direction
6. Anything – in creation and redemption



What if that is
totally dizzying?

Seek someone
of Spiritual
Character





5.

The church is God's
storehouse of
incarnate influence.



Philippians 4:9

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—**put it into practice**. And the God of peace will be with you.

Hebrews 13:7 – 8

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. **Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

1 Corinthians 4:15 – 17

Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I urge you to imitate me. For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

Imitation and incarnation

You can't immitate someone you are not with.

Jesus is in heaven.

Paul is too.

You must imitate and emulate who you can see and be with. Be discerning, not picky.



Who HPC will be:

The faithful local church will...



1.

**We will attend directly
to God, especially in
prayer and rejoicing**

2.

**Our personal and church
extroversion will be
gentleness**

We may be tough, but never mean.
This takes incredible emotional discipline.

3.

**Our leaders will exhibit
kind spiritual hands- not
just a truth backbone**



2 Timothy 2:24 – 3:1

And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he **must be kind to everyone**, able to teach, not resentful. **Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope** that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

4.

**We will focus heavily on
spiritual theology in an
inhuman culture**

We have to be great at **spiritual theology**,
not only **doctrinal theology**

Anxiety and depression will get worse.

5.

**We will pursue holiness
of mind
&
nobility in conversation**

6.

**We believe in examples
to emulate**

We have a passion to accept and become
worthy models and mentors. Not perfect
gems, but stone foundations.

PHILIPPIANS:



CONTENDING