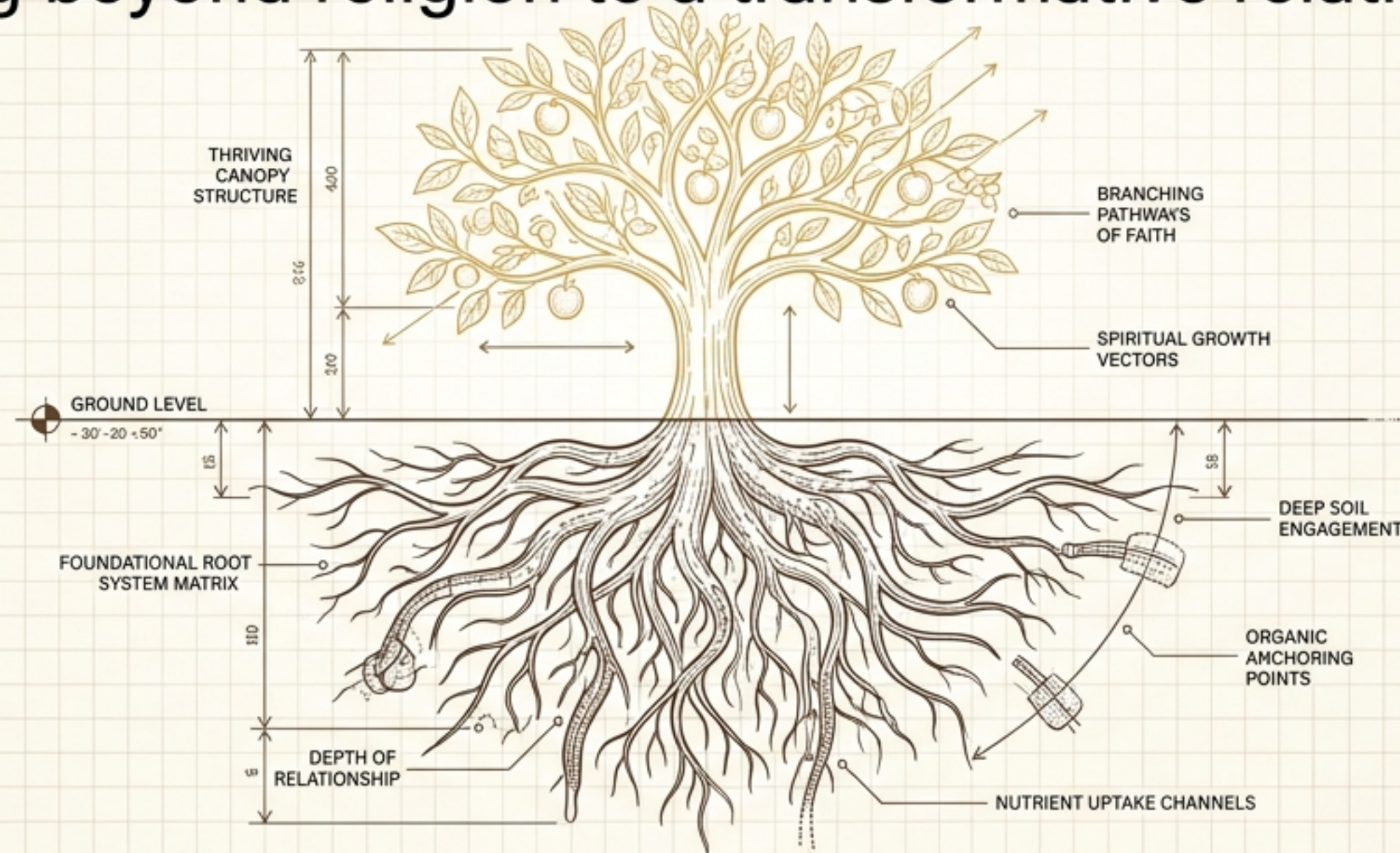


# Relating to God

Moving beyond religion to a transformative relationship.

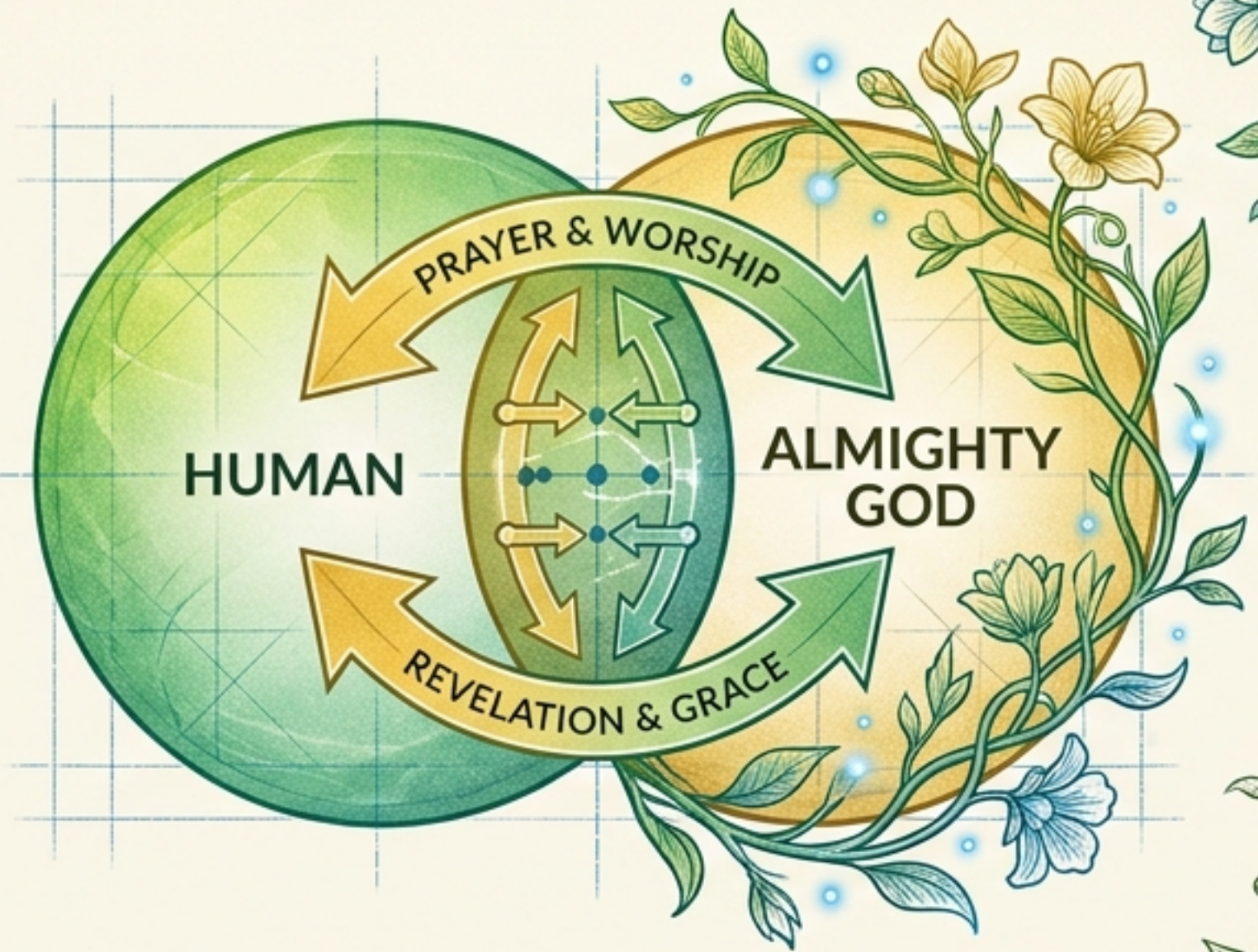


# The Paradigm Shift



The Christian life is not merely a new perspective or a set of moral interactions.

# The Reality



Because of His love, and through Christ's death and resurrection, we possess the profound privilege of knowing and communicating with the Almighty God.

Rooted and grounded in Him by faith.  
Colossians 2:7

### Our Feelings and Experiences

The branches and leaves are the highly visible, rapidly changing elements of our lives.

### Our Faith

The roots act as the anchor and the primary intake system for spiritual nutrients.

### God and His Word

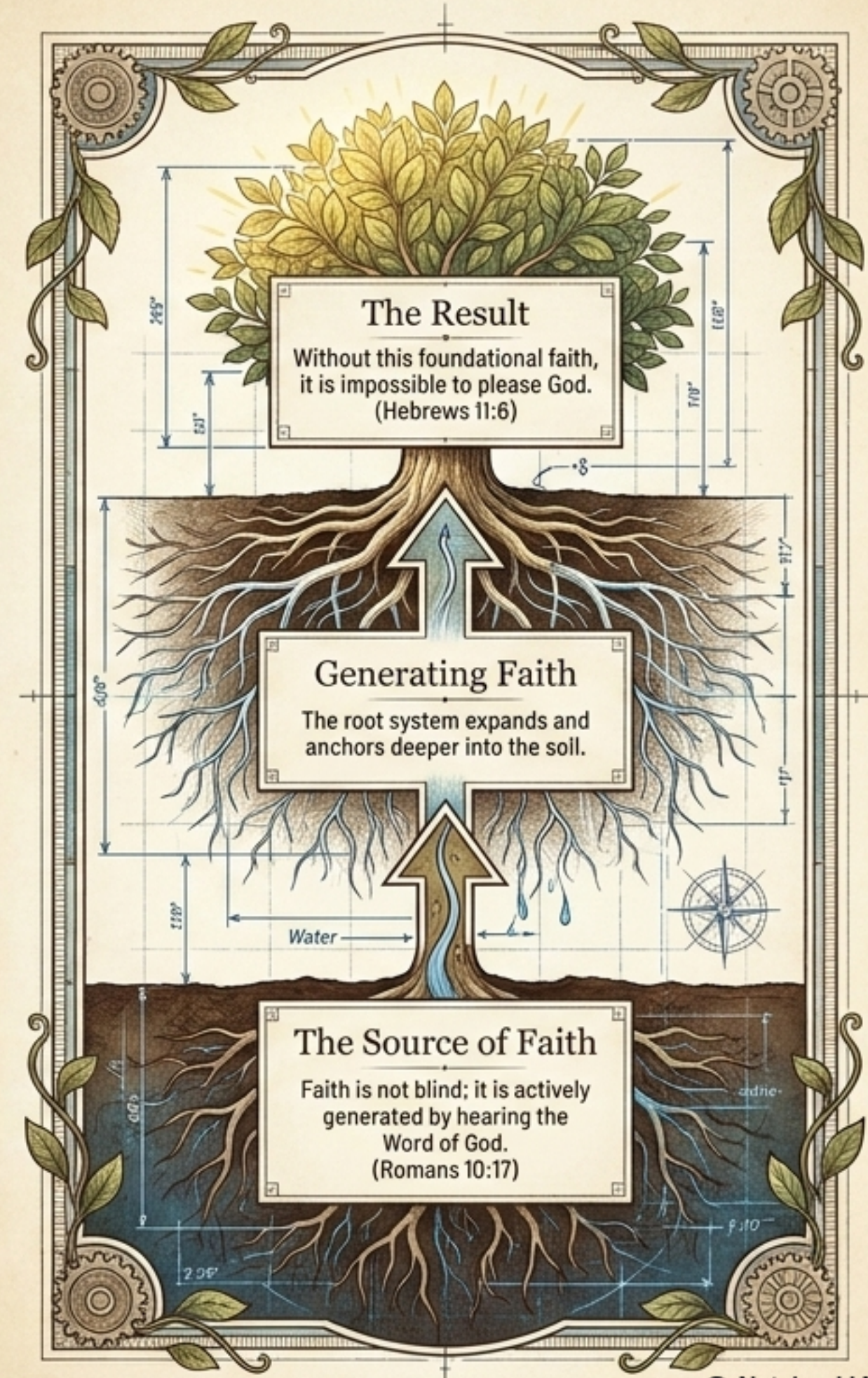
The ground represents the unchangeable fact and foundation of our existence.



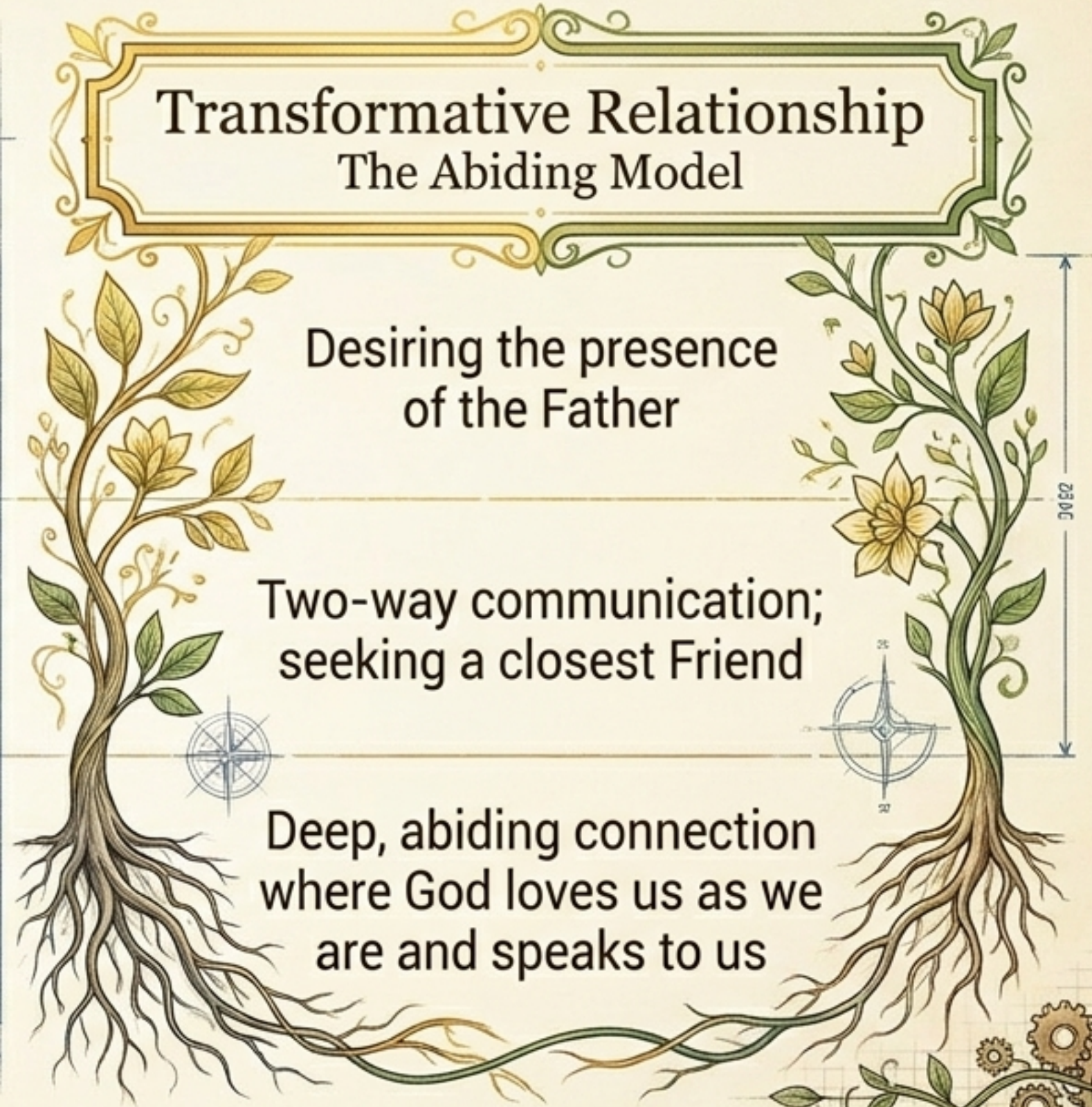
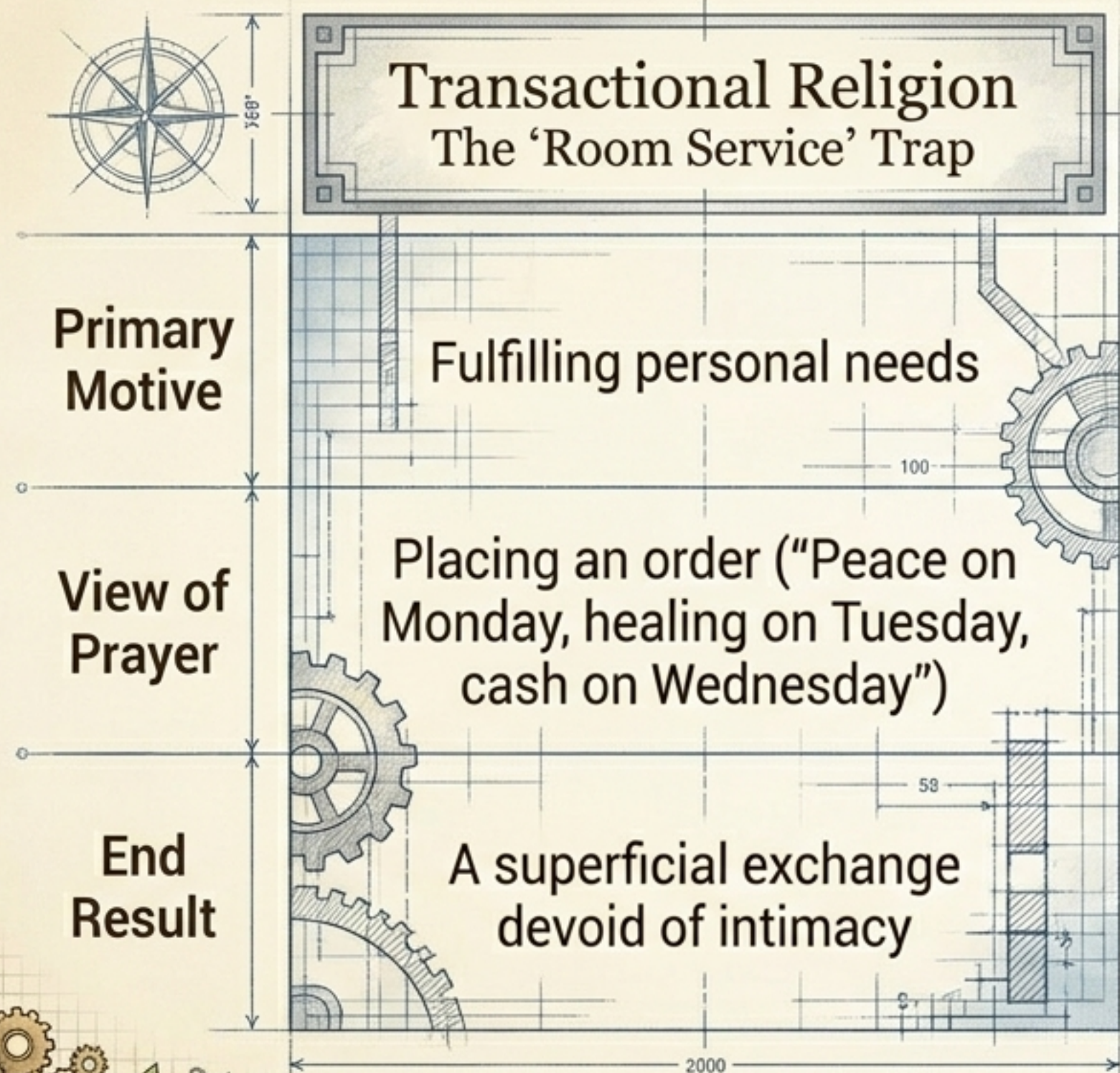
# Cultivating the Roots

# Cultivating the Roots

Faith is the key to our relationship with God. It requires believing that He is there and that He loves us.

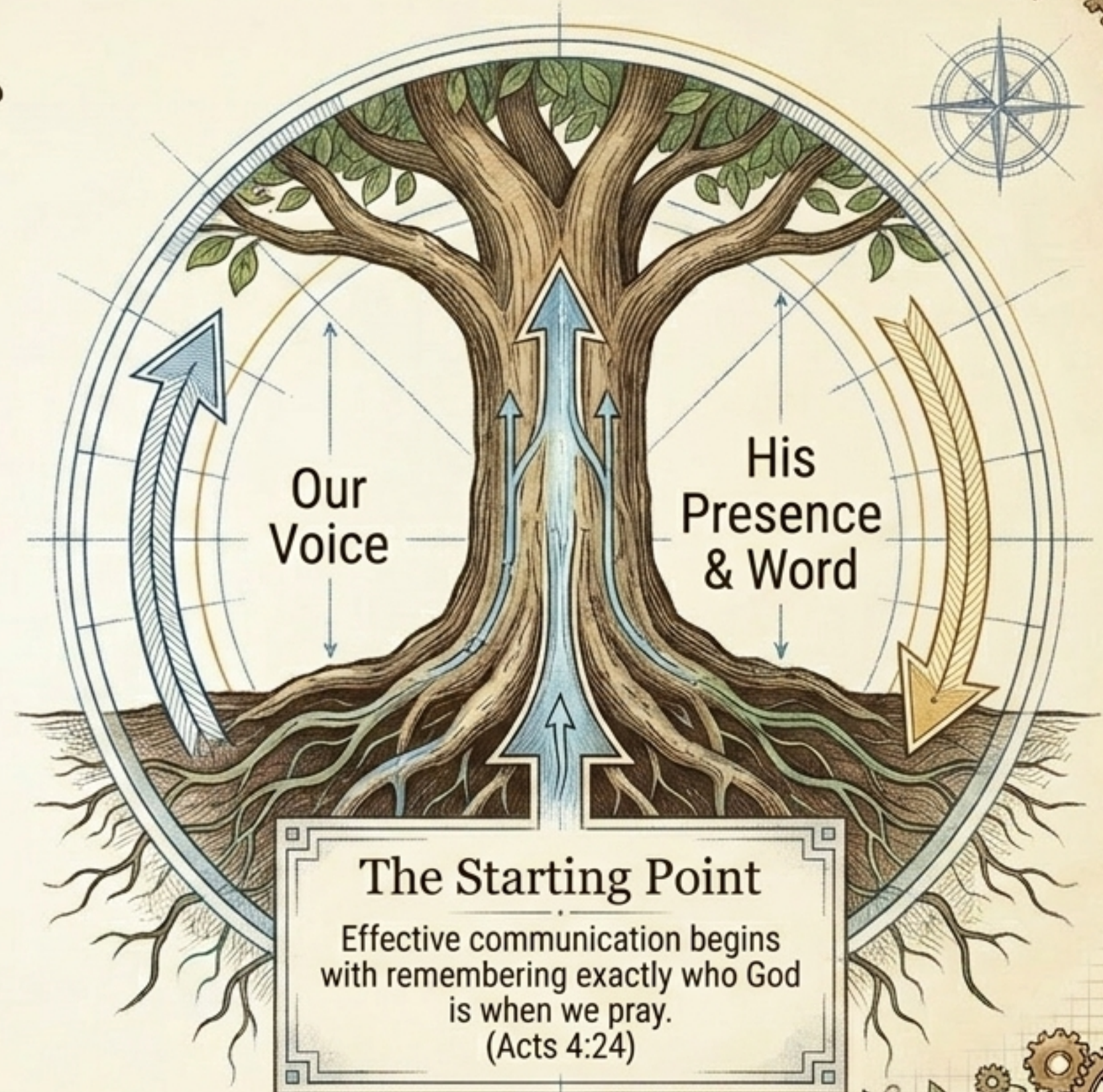


# Two Models of Interaction



# Redefining Prayer

The Lord wants us to talk with Him. Prayer is the act of communicating with the Father—taking time to be with the Lord and letting Him speak to us.

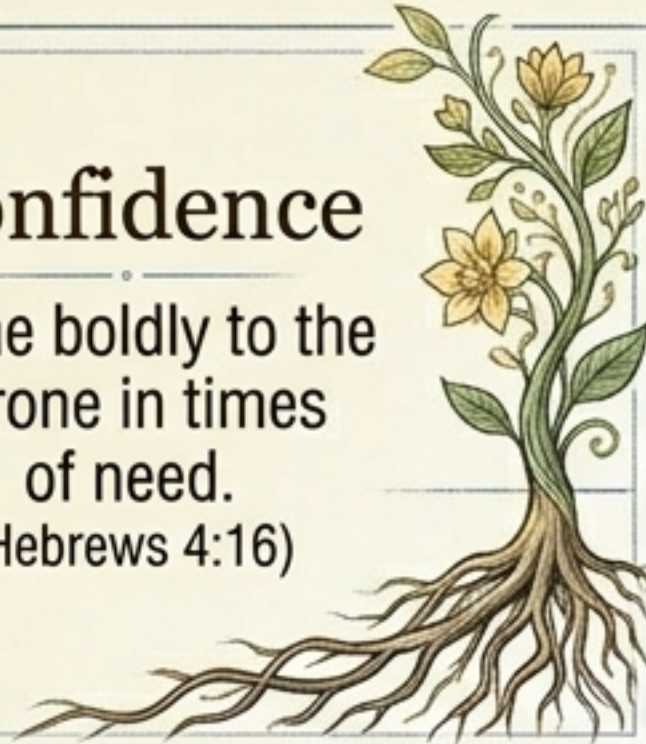


# The Architecture of Effective Prayer



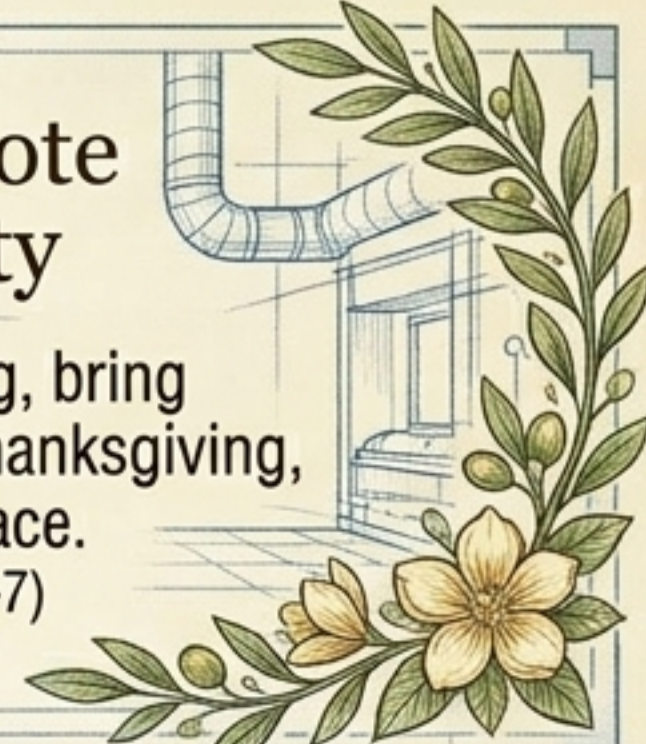
## Confidence

Come boldly to the throne in times of need.  
(Hebrews 4:16)



## The Antidote to Anxiety

Instead of worrying, bring requests to God with thanksgiving, resulting in peace.  
(Philippians 4:6-7)



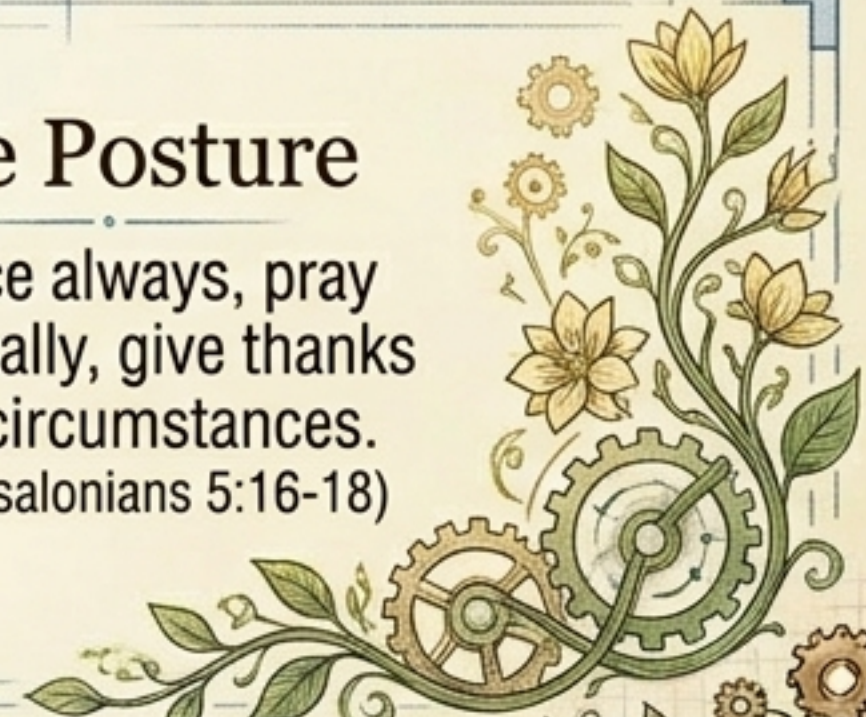
## Alignment

We must believe we will receive, and we must forgive others.  
(Mark 11:24-25)



## The Posture

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.  
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)





# When Winter Lingers

Why do prayers sometimes seem unanswered? Two diagnostic checks:

## 1. Check Your Motives

Are we asking purely to spend it on our own selfish pleasures?  
(James 4:3)

## 2. Maintain Endurance

If we believe we are asking within God's will, we must maintain our confidence and patience, waiting for the harvest.  
(Hebrews 10:35-36)

# From Asking to Abiding

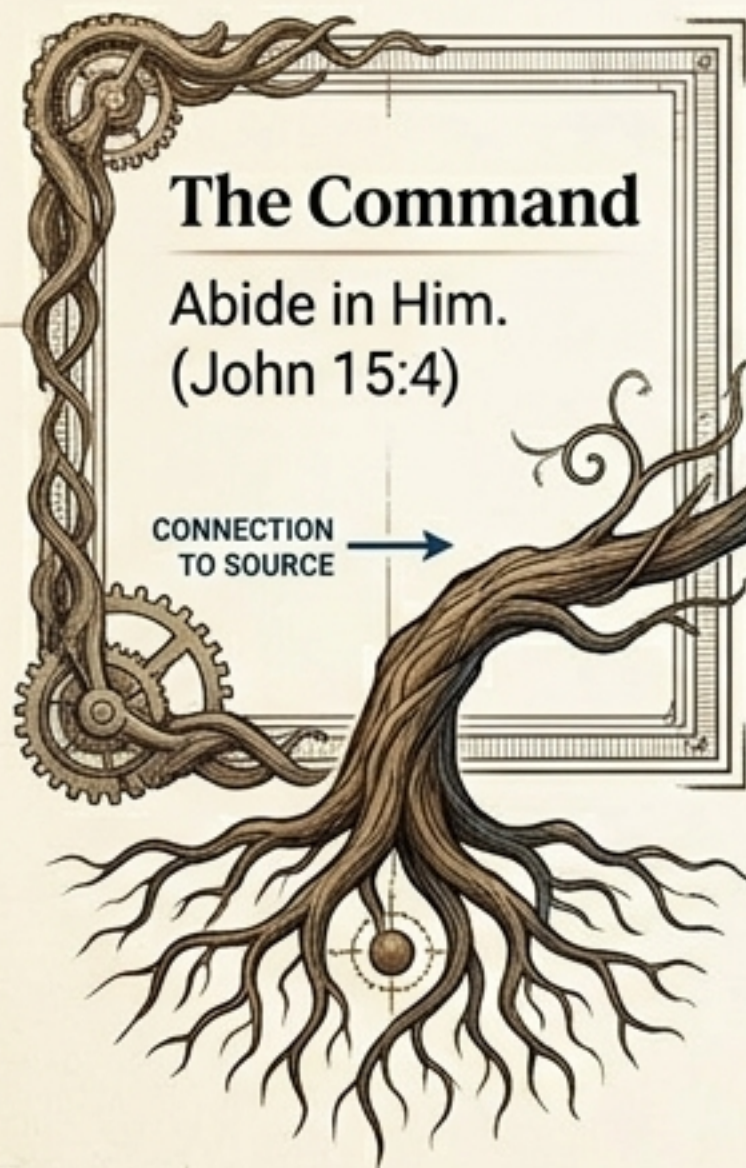
God wants our relationship to be much deeper and closer than just requesting needs.

## The Invitation

Jesus wants to be your closest Friend. He invites us to move beyond transactional requests and permanently abide in Him.

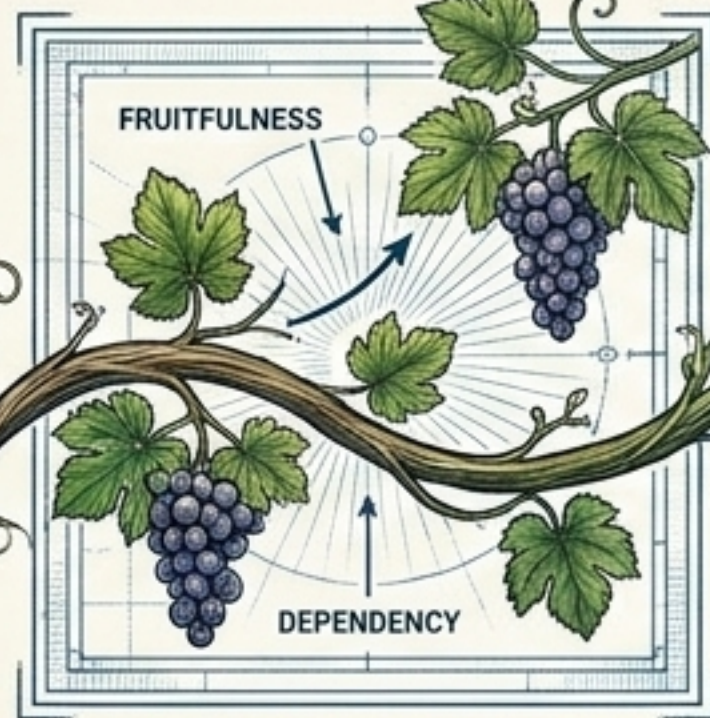


# The Mechanics of the Vine



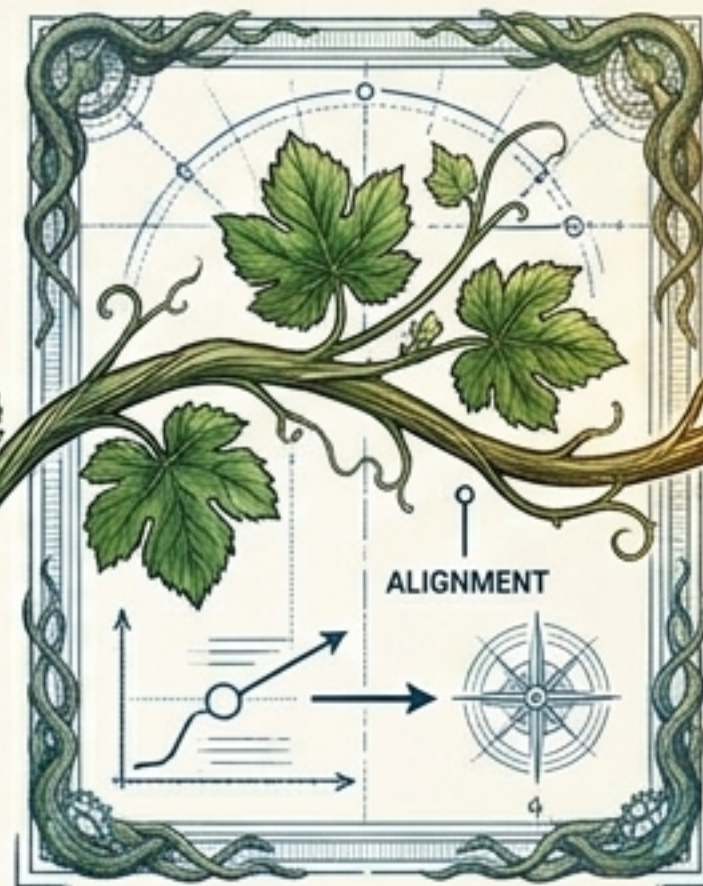
## The Command

Abide in Him.  
(John 15:4)



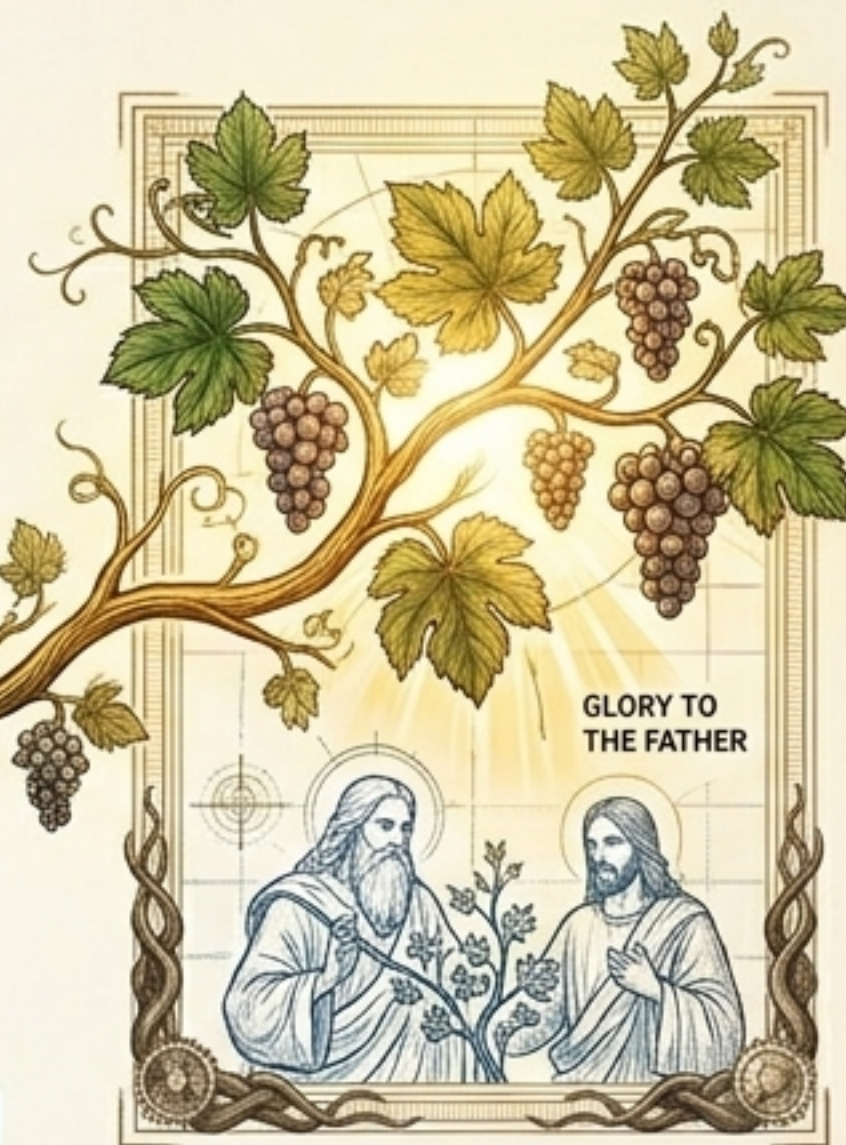
## The Result

Bearing much fruit;  
apart from Him we  
can do nothing.  
(John 15:4-5)



## The Benefit

Direct impact and  
alignment in our  
prayers.  
(John 15:7)



## The Ultimate Goal

Glorifying the Father  
and being called Jesus'  
closest friends.  
(John 15:8, 15)

## The Natural Harvest

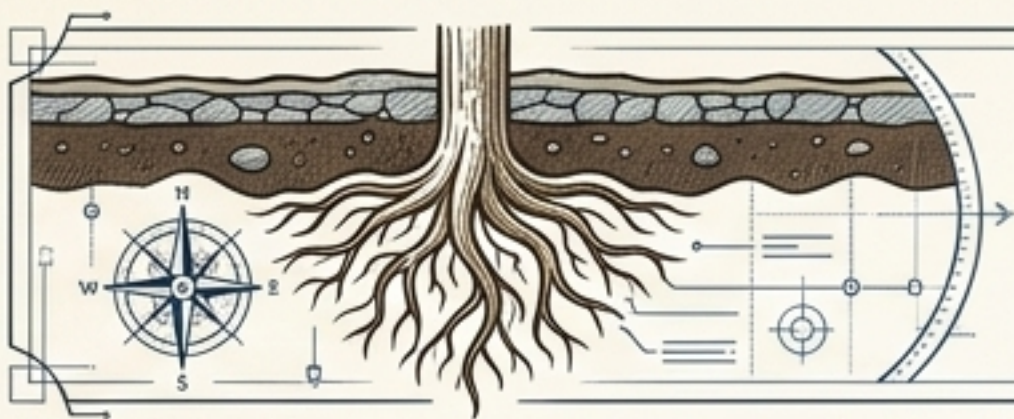
True spiritual fruit is not forced moral effort; it is the natural byproduct of a rooted, abiding relationship with God.



## The Fruit of the Spirit

Love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness,  
goodness,  
faithfulness,  
gentleness, and  
self-control.

(Galatians 5:22-23)



Grow roots deep into the fact of God's Word.



Trust your faith over fleeting feelings in the storm.



Talk to God as a closest friend, not a vendor.



Abide in the Vine to bear natural, lasting fruit.

Questions or concerns regarding this study? Please don't hesitate to share them with us.