

Biblical Models of Thanksgiving

{ Servant's Retreat 2014

Monastery vs. Prison

⌘ “Basically the difference between a prison and a monastery is the difference between griping and gratitude. Imprisoned criminals spend every waking moment griping; self-imprisoned saints spend every waking moment offering thanks. When a criminal becomes a saint, a prison may become a monastery; when a saint gives up gratitude, a monastery may become a prison.” – David Soper



Expressing Gratitude

1. Sacrifice
2. Self Examination
3. Prayer
4. Rejoicing

The image features a dark, textured background. Two large, overlapping circles in a deep navy blue color are positioned on the left and right sides. The word "Sacrifice" is written in a white, serif font, centered horizontally and partially overlapping the intersection of the two circles.

Sacrifice

Peace Offering

& Leviticus 7:11-12,15

...then he shall offer, with the sacrifice of thanksgiving, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, unleavened wafers anointed with oil, or cakes of blended flour mixed with oil... 'The flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offering for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day it is offered.



King David

& 1 Chronicles 21:22-24

Then David said to Ornan, "Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar on it to the LORD. You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people." But Ornan said to David, "Take it to yourself, and let my lord the king do what is good in his eyes. Look, I also give you the oxen for burnt offerings, the threshing implements for wood, and the wheat for the grain offering; I give it all." Then King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing."

Degrees of Thankfulness

& The following express thankfulness:

- ø Saying “thanks” in passing
- ø Buying a pre-written thank you card
- ø Writing your own thank you card
- ø Spending quality time with the person
- ø Going to great lengths to give someone what they value/need the most

Thanking God

& What does God value most?

& How do we give it to Him?

& **1 Samuel 15:22**

So Samuel said: “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

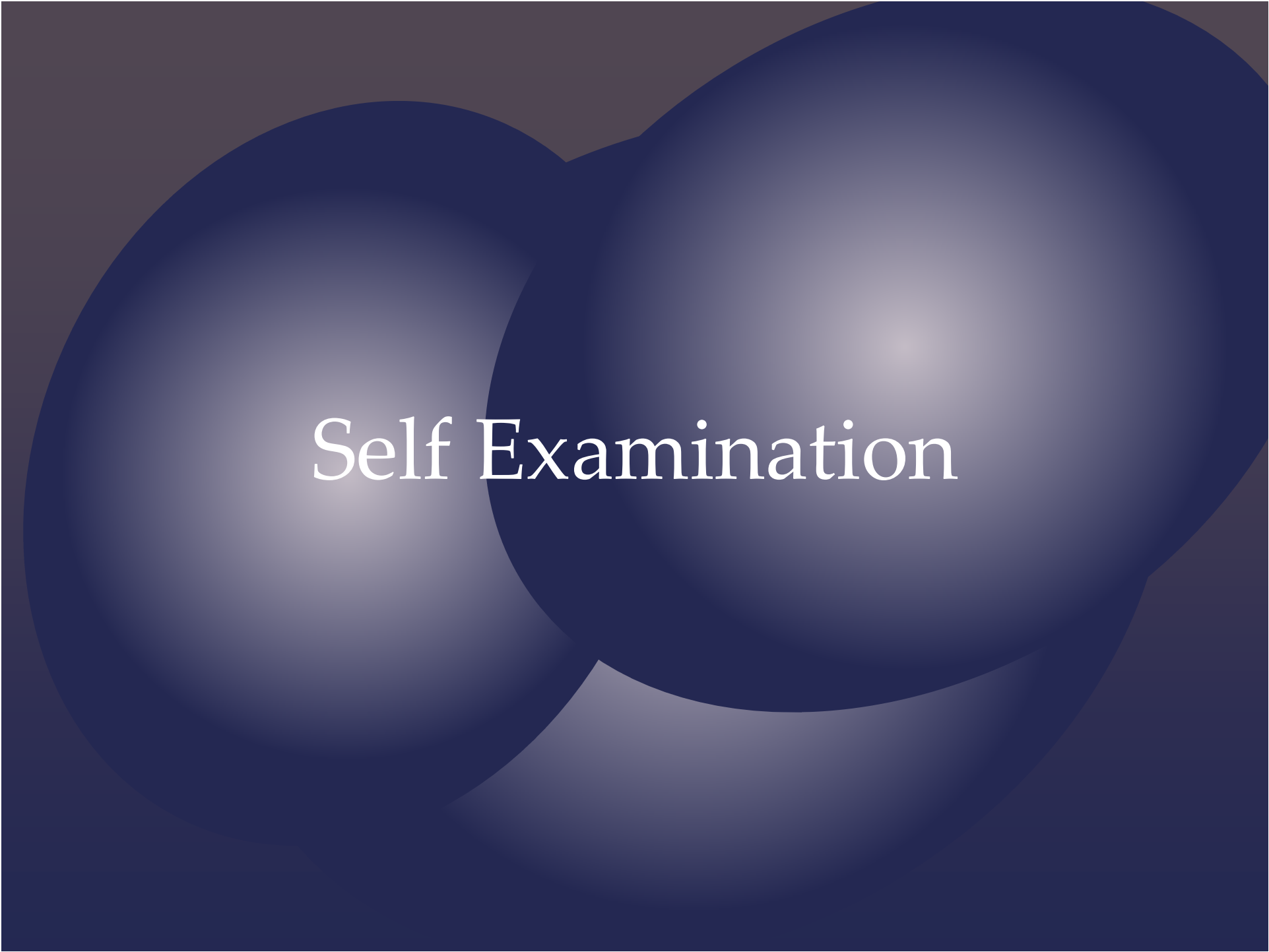


Living Sacrifice

& Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.



The background is a solid dark blue. Two large, overlapping circles of a slightly lighter shade of dark blue are positioned in the center. The circles overlap in the middle, creating a darker blue area where they intersect. The text "Self Examination" is centered over the intersection of the two circles.

Self Examination

Condition of the offering

& Leviticus 3:6

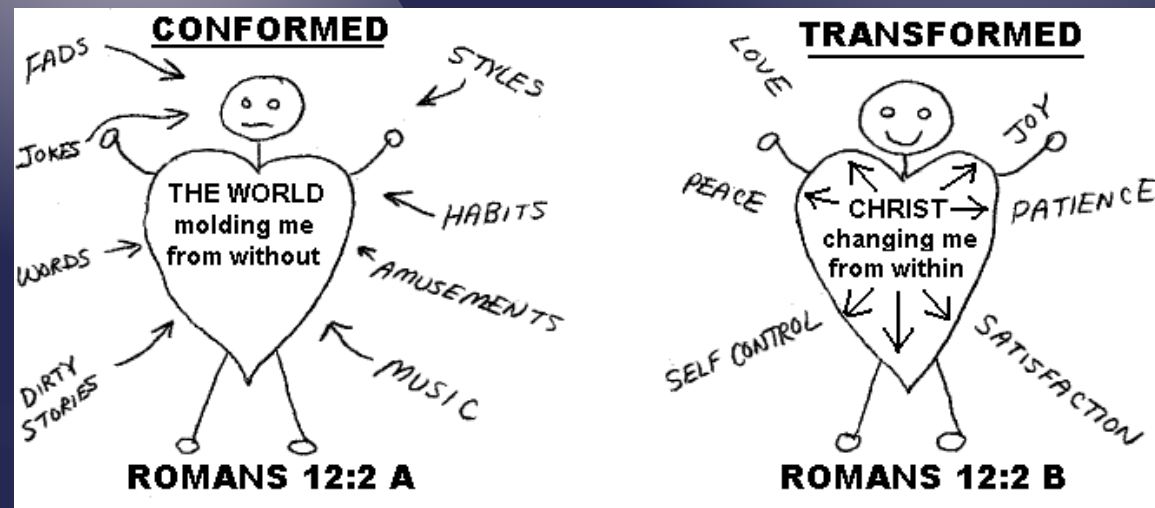
"If his offering as a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD is of the flock, whether male or female, he shall offer it without blemish.



Renew the Mind

& Romans 12:2

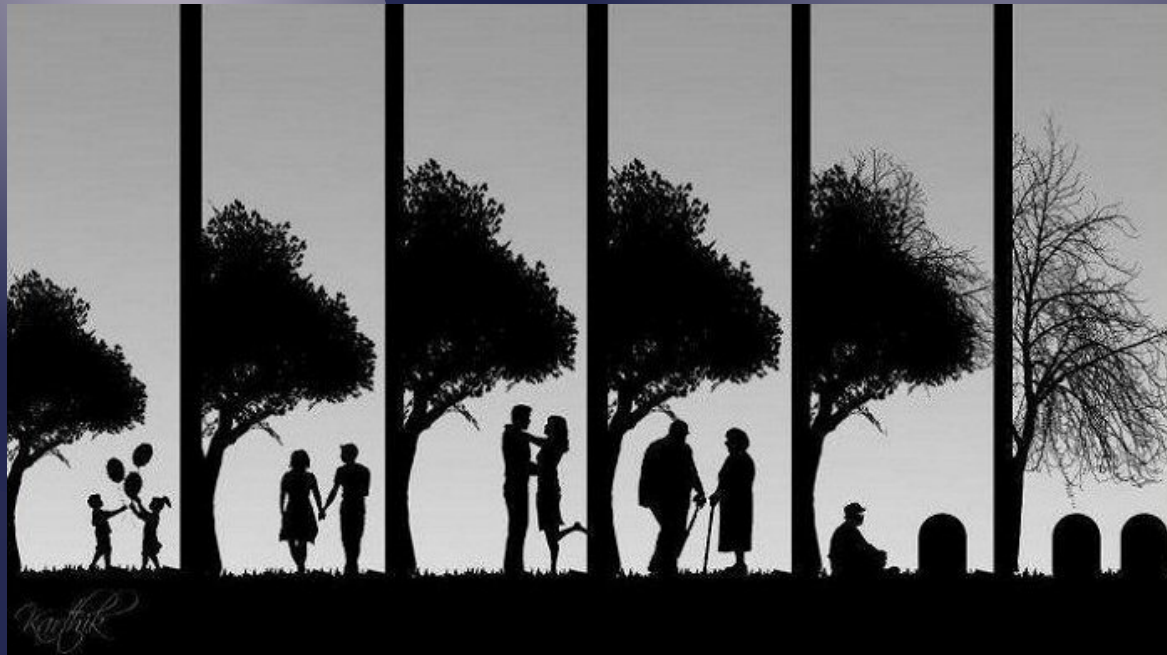
And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

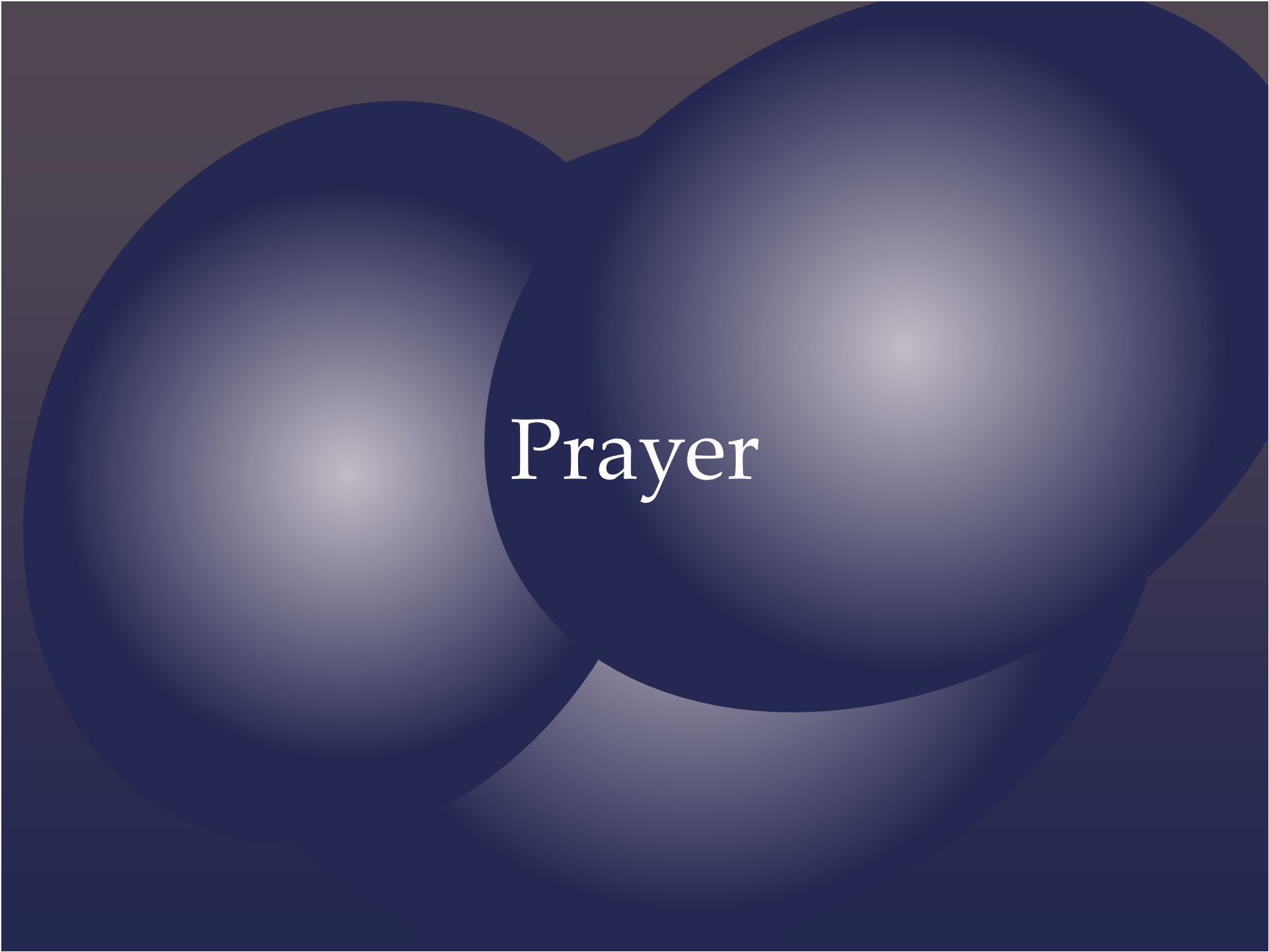


Glory to God

& 2 Corinthians 4:15-16

For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.



The image features a dark blue background with two large, overlapping circles of a slightly lighter shade of blue. The circles are positioned such that they overlap in the center. The word "Prayer" is written in a white, serif font, centered within the overlapping area of the two circles.

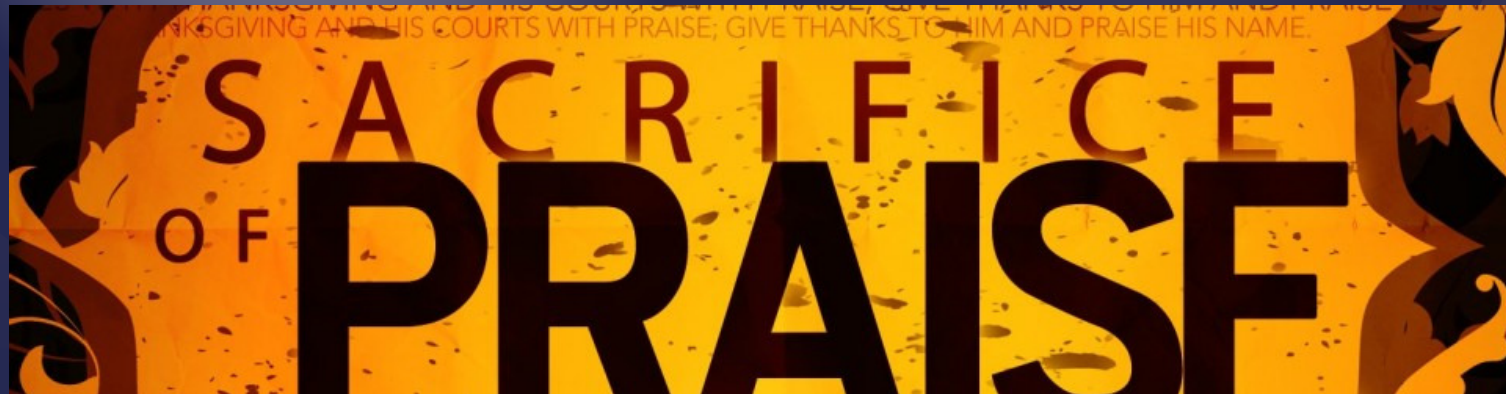
Prayer

Sacrifice of Praise

& Hebrews 13:15

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

& It's a sacrifice because it's hard to give thanks all the time



Thankful or Entitled

⌘ Thankful: Sacrifice time daily to give thanks to God.

⌘ Entitled: Grumble about what we don't have.

⌘ **Psalm 100:3-4**

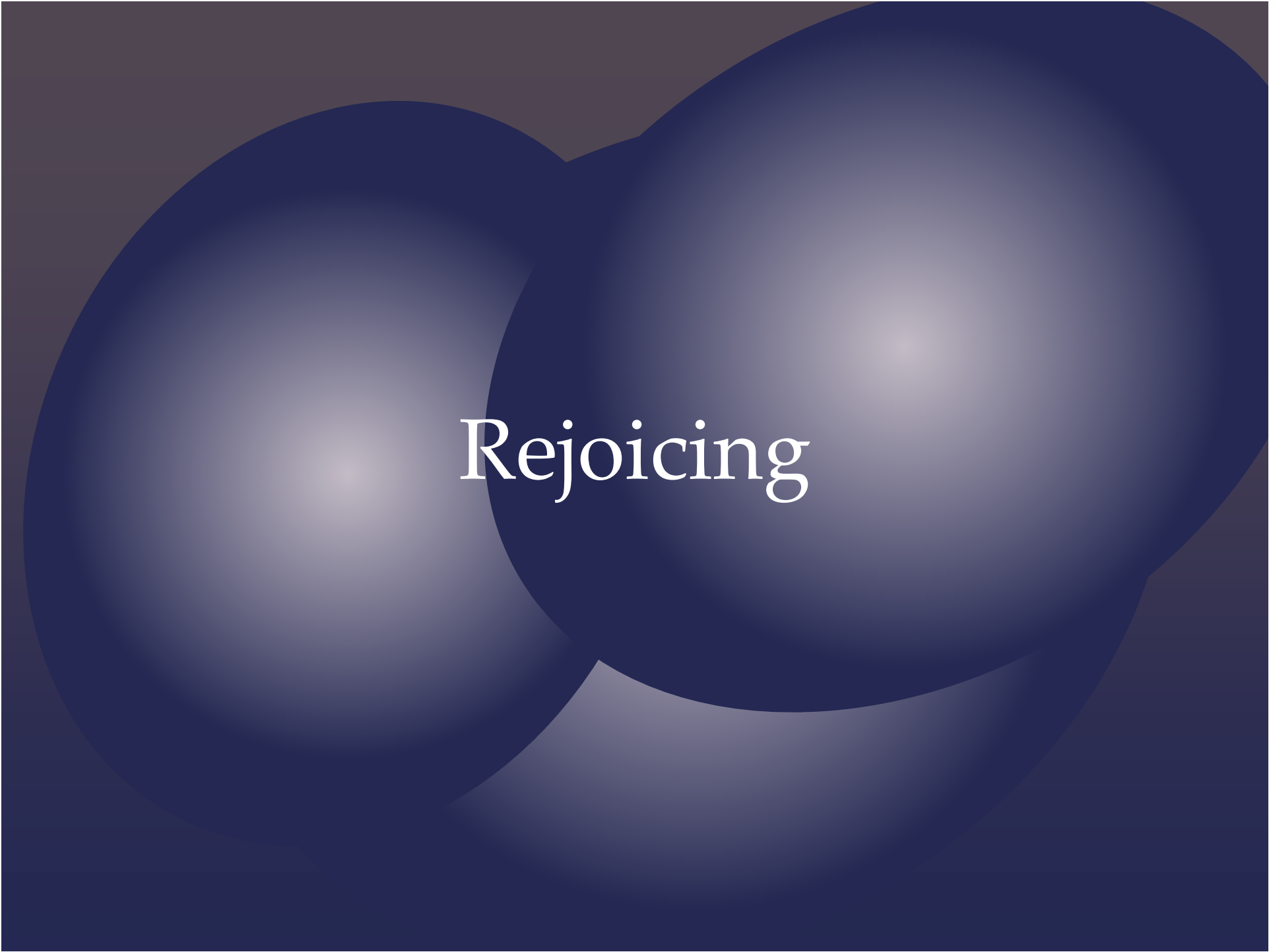
Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.



Human Tendency

- ⌘ To complain when we DON'T get what we want
- ⌘ To forget the source of blessings when we DO get what we want
- ⌘ **Luke 17:15-17**
And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"



The image features a dark blue background with two large, overlapping circles of a slightly lighter shade of blue. The circles are positioned such that they overlap in the center, creating a Venn diagram-like effect. The word "Rejoicing" is written in a white, serif font, centered within the overlapping area of the two circles.

Rejoicing

Rejoicing is not a Discipline

⌘ Psalm 107:21-22

Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, And declare His works with rejoicing.

- ⌘ Sacrificing our will, self-examination, and prayer are all disciplines
- ⌘ Rejoicing is the natural outcome of the previous three

Rejoicing is not an emotion

- ⌘ Having a greater purpose rather than a feeling of emotional happiness.
- ⌘ Thanksgiving is based on relationship, not the circumstantial blessings of God.



Rejoice in the Changeless

- & God's existence
- & His revelation to us
- & Gift of salvation
- & The promised value to suffering
- & The promised end to suffering



Conclusion

1. Sacrifice

✧ We are the sacrifice

2. Self Examination

✧ Offered to God without blemish

3. Prayer

✧ On the altar of prayer

4. Rejoicing

✧ Rejoicing in Him