



# Adopted by the Father

The Heart of the Eternal Family

**The deepest need  
of every human  
heart is not merely  
to be loved, but  
to belong.**

— Dr. Gary Chapman



# Earthly Reflection vs. Heavenly Perfection

Every good quality found in a faithful earthly father ultimately points beyond itself.

## Earthly Fathers (The Reflection)

Provide within human limits and constraints.

Human love often fluctuates based on circumstances.

Presence is occasional; they show up for important moments.

## The Heavenly Father (The Perfection)

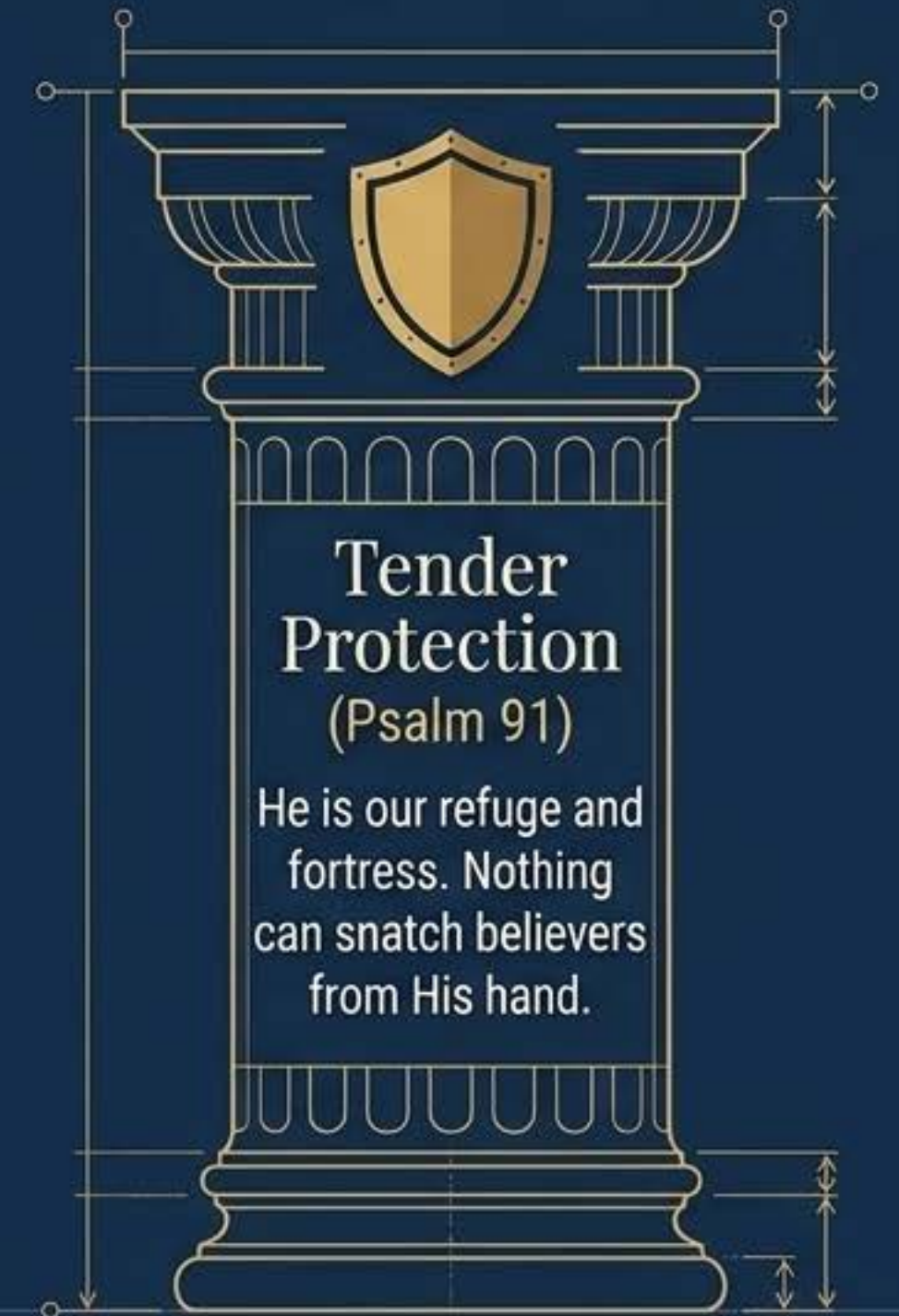
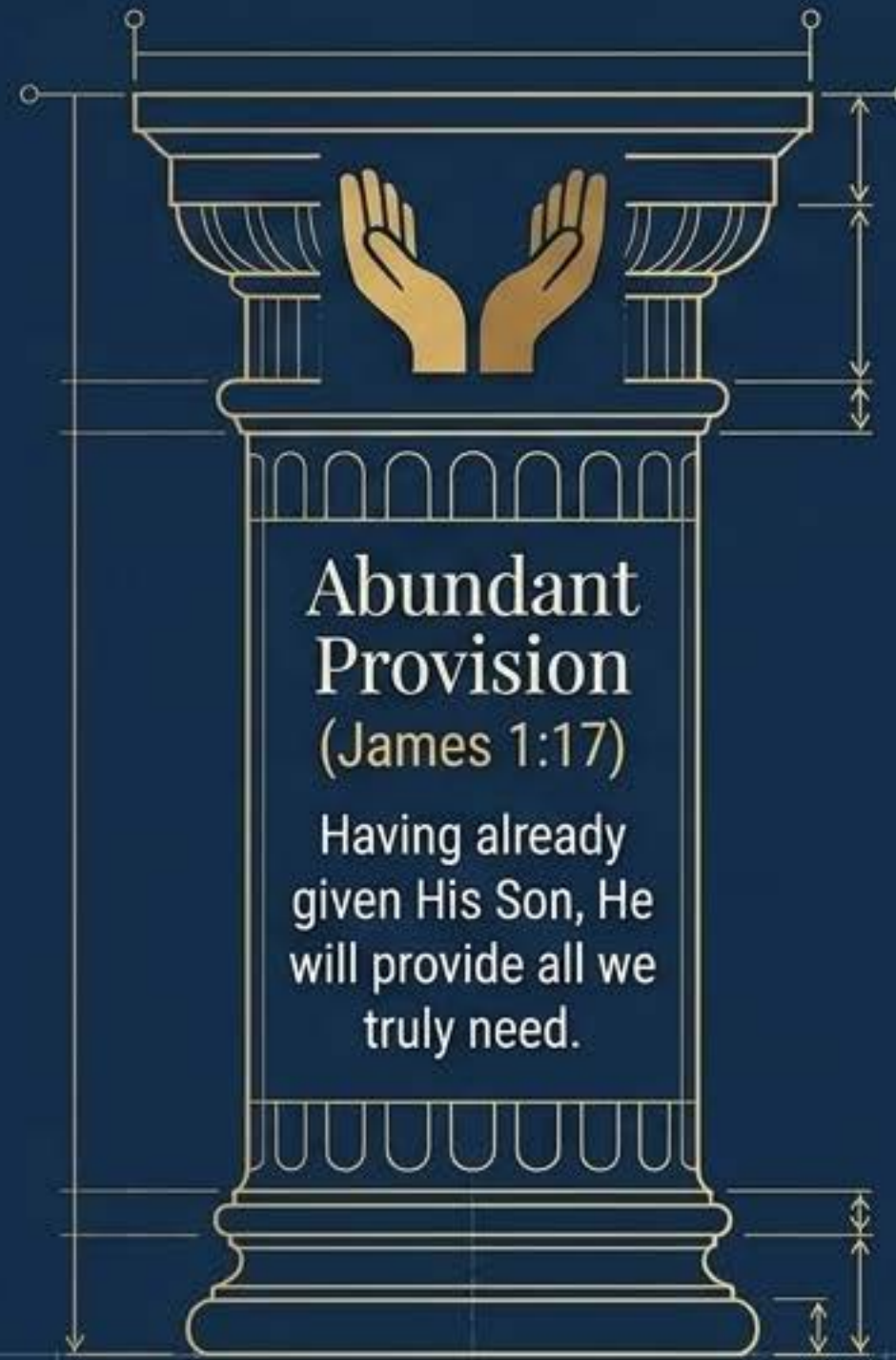
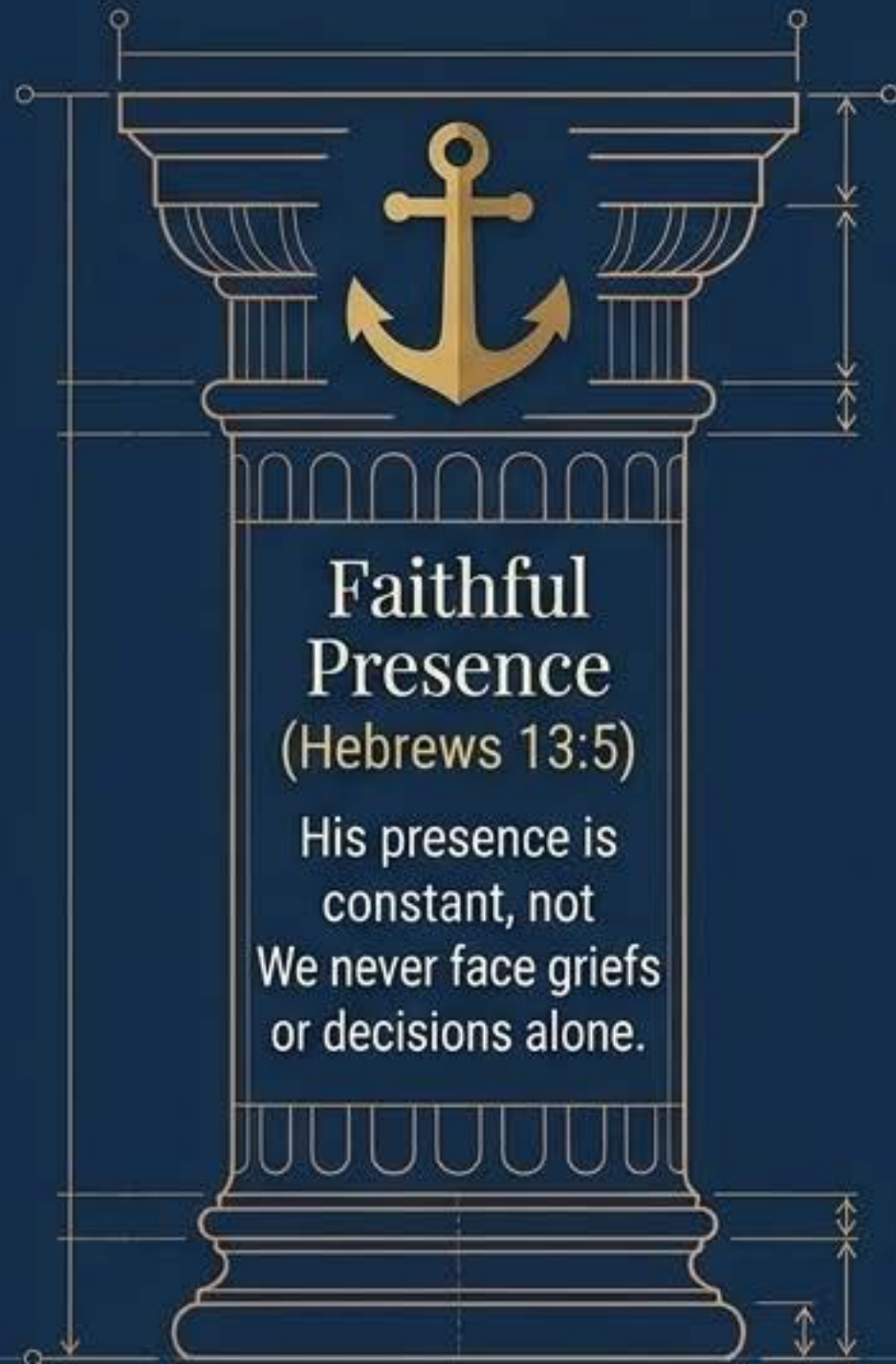
Owens all things and lacks nothing; every good gift comes from Him.

Love is everlasting and rooted entirely in His character.

Presence is constant; He never leaves His children to face trials alone.

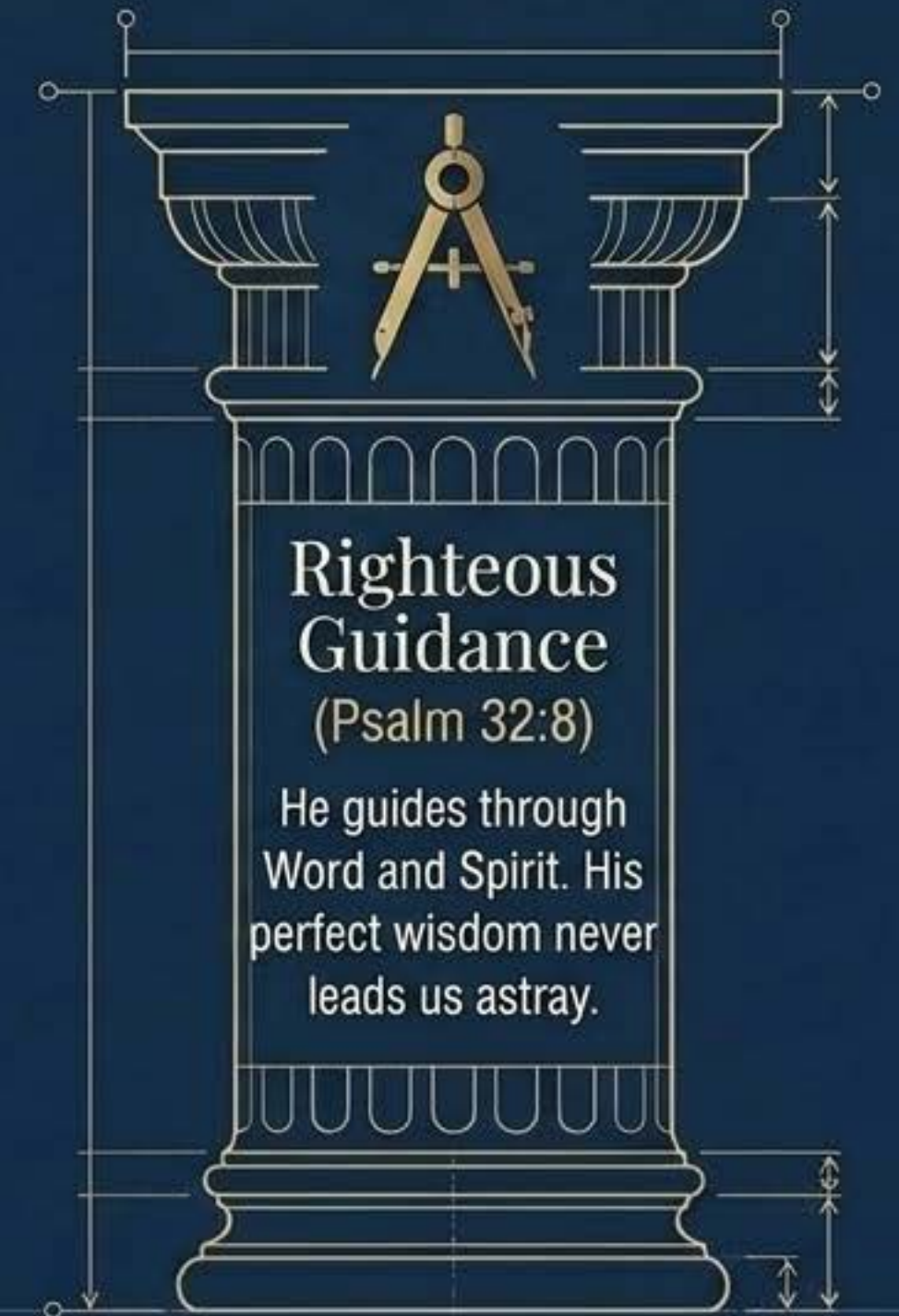
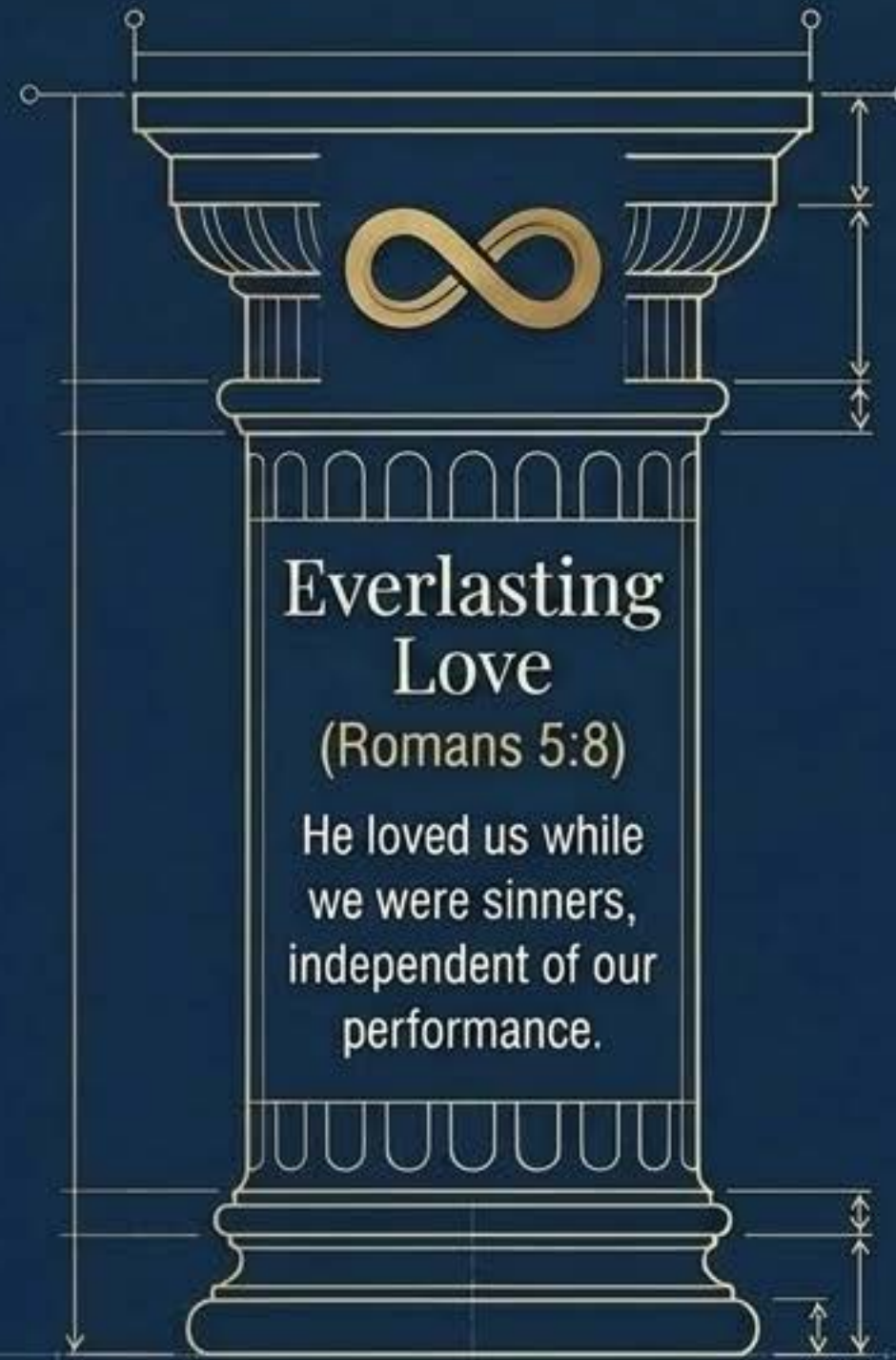
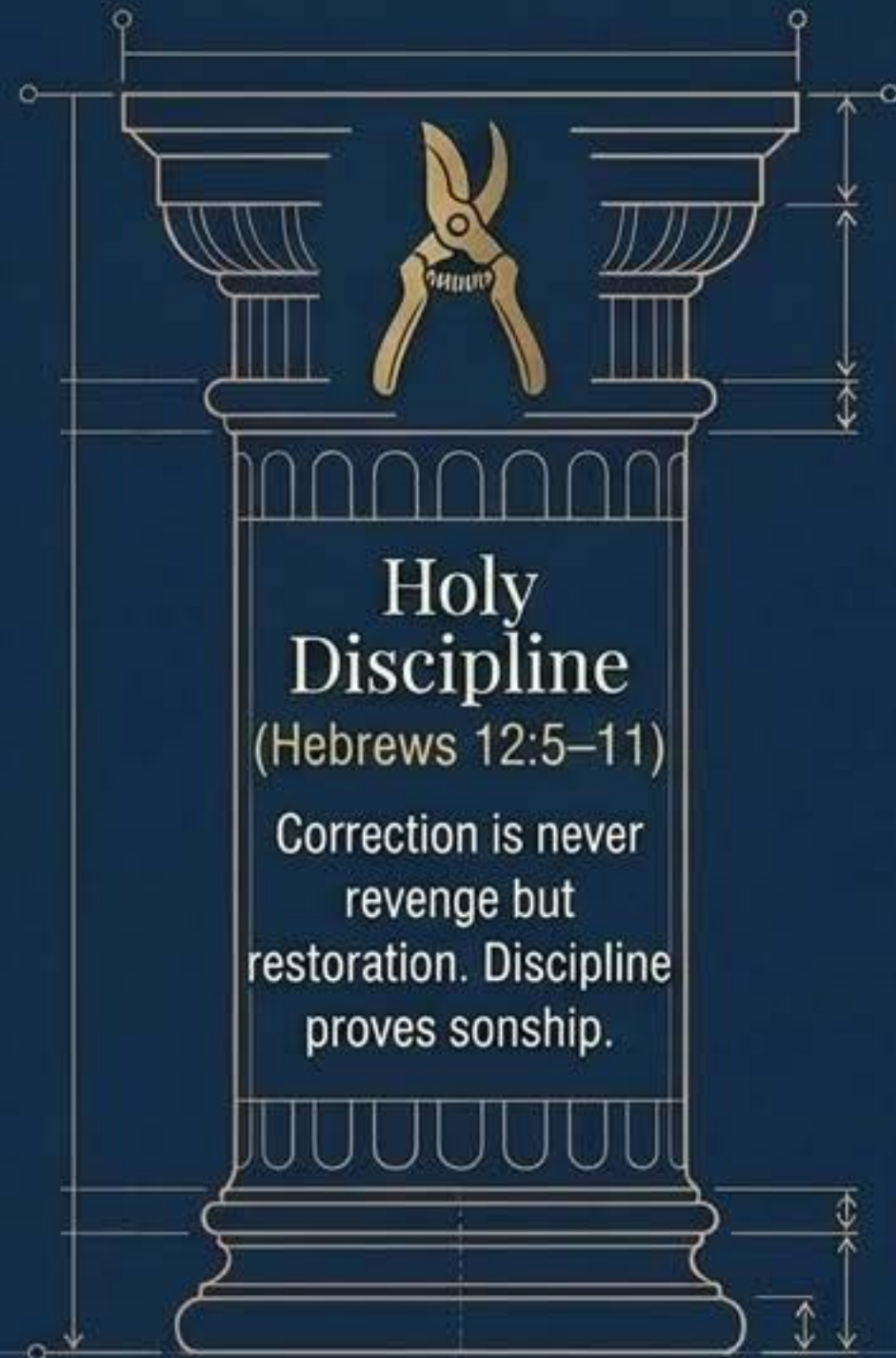
# The Architectural Pillars of Perfect Fatherhood (I)

“Children gain security not from perfection in parents but from consistent presence.” – Dr. James Dobson



# The Architectural Pillars of Perfect Fatherhood (II)

“A parent’s discipline says, ‘I love you too much to let you remain as you are.’” – Dr. Paul David Tripp



# From Divine Attribute to Spiritual Identity

Scripture goes far beyond telling us that God simply acts like a father. It declares that He has permanently adopted us as His own children.



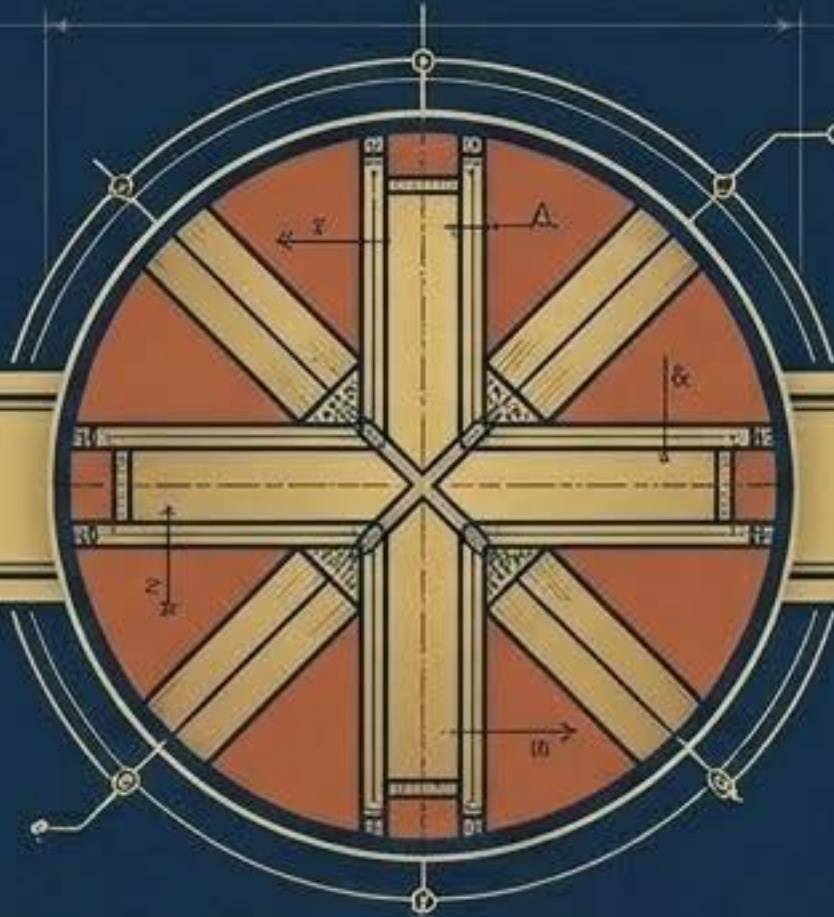
**I want to be a godly father, therefore I must look to God The Father.**

# The Timeline of Eternal Adoption

“There is no higher privilege than to know God as Father.” — J. I. Packer



**Before Creation:**  
He delighted in planning  
your adoption.  
(Ephesians 1)



**The Present:**  
He sent His Son to  
redeem us from slavery.  
(Galatians 4)



**The Future:**  
He secures us holy and  
blameless before Him  
forever.

# The Paradigm Shift: From Slaves to Coheirs

Through Christ, the fullness of time brought our redemption. We are no longer under the law, but brought entirely into the family.

## The Mindset of Slavery:



Driven by fear.  
Focused on earning status.  
Constantly afraid of losing favor.

## The Mindset of Sonship:

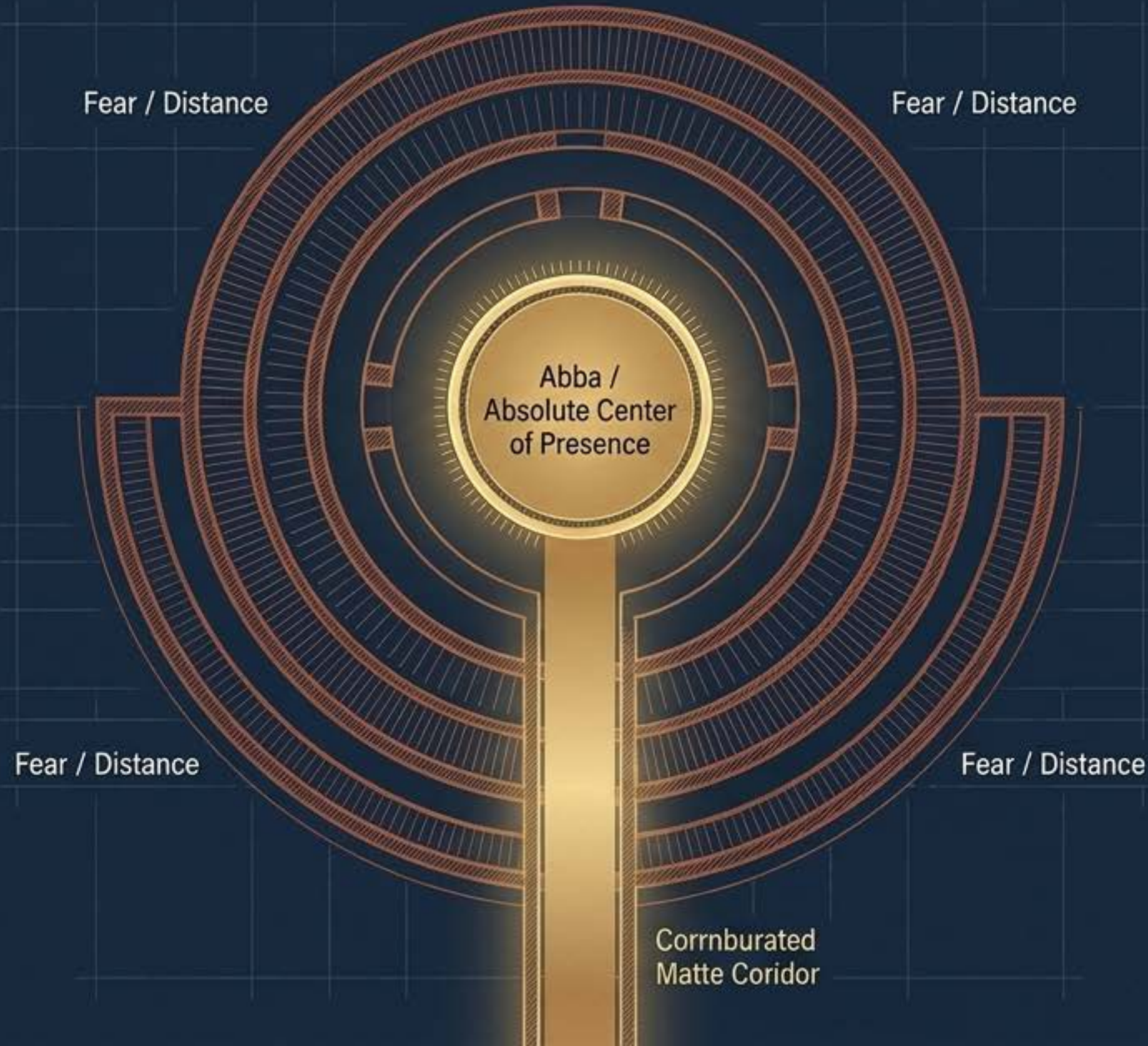


Driven by freedom.  
Resting in a guaranteed inheritance.  
**Stop thinking like you have to earn it or can lose it.**

# The Privilege of Proximity

"The gospel is not simply that God forgives us, but that He brings us home." — Timothy Keller

We did not receive a spirit of fear, but the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15)



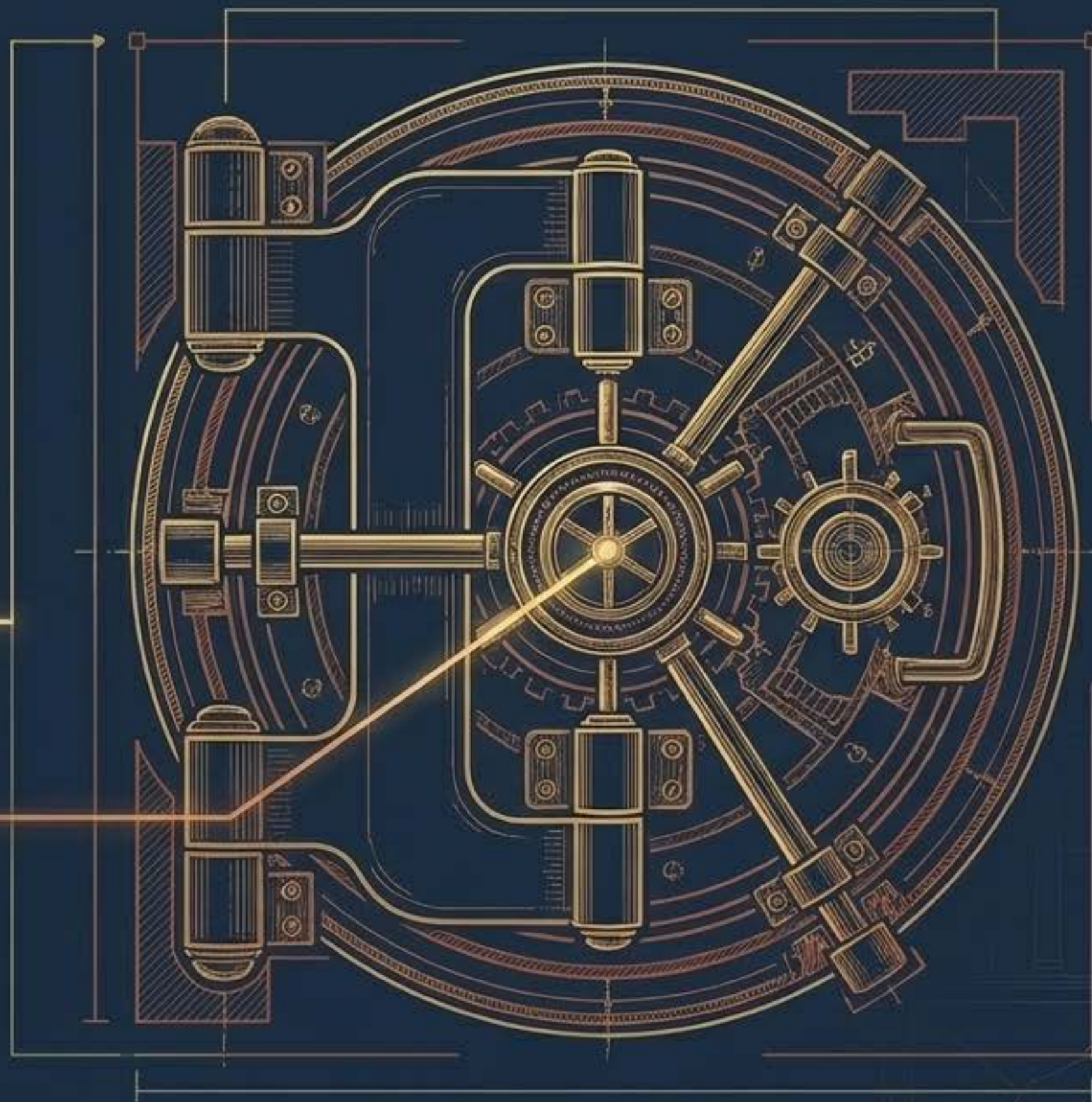
Prayer is not a transaction. It is speaking and listening in a family conversation with the One who loves us more than anyone else possibly can.

# The Guarantee of Belonging

"God's children may lose their joy for a season, but they never lose their sonship." – Joel Beeke

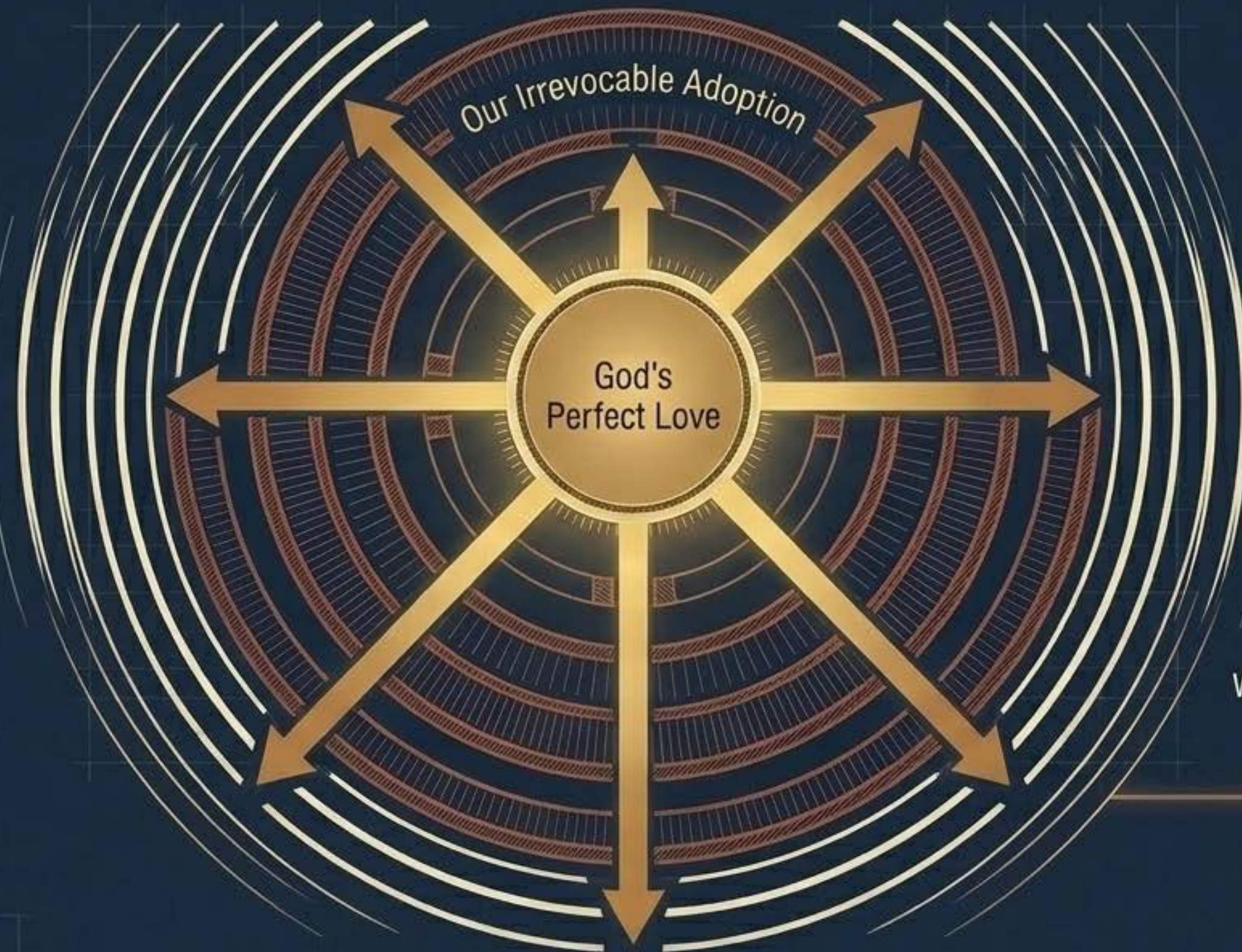
## Irrevocable Adoption

- "Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God." (Romans 8)
- "I give them eternal life... no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." (John 10)



# The Ripple Effect of Grace

Because we have been given belonging, we are structurally designed to create belonging for others.



Father of the fatherless  
and protector of widows is  
God in his holy habitation.  
(Psalm 68:5)

Pure religion before God  
the Father is to visit orphans  
in their affliction.  
(James 1:27)

We love children because Jesus  
loves us, and He loves them.  
(1 John 3:1)

# The National Reality

While we celebrate the 46,935 children adopted from foster care recently, the scale of the remaining need requires the Church's attention.

**70,000+**

children and teens are actively waiting for a permanent family.

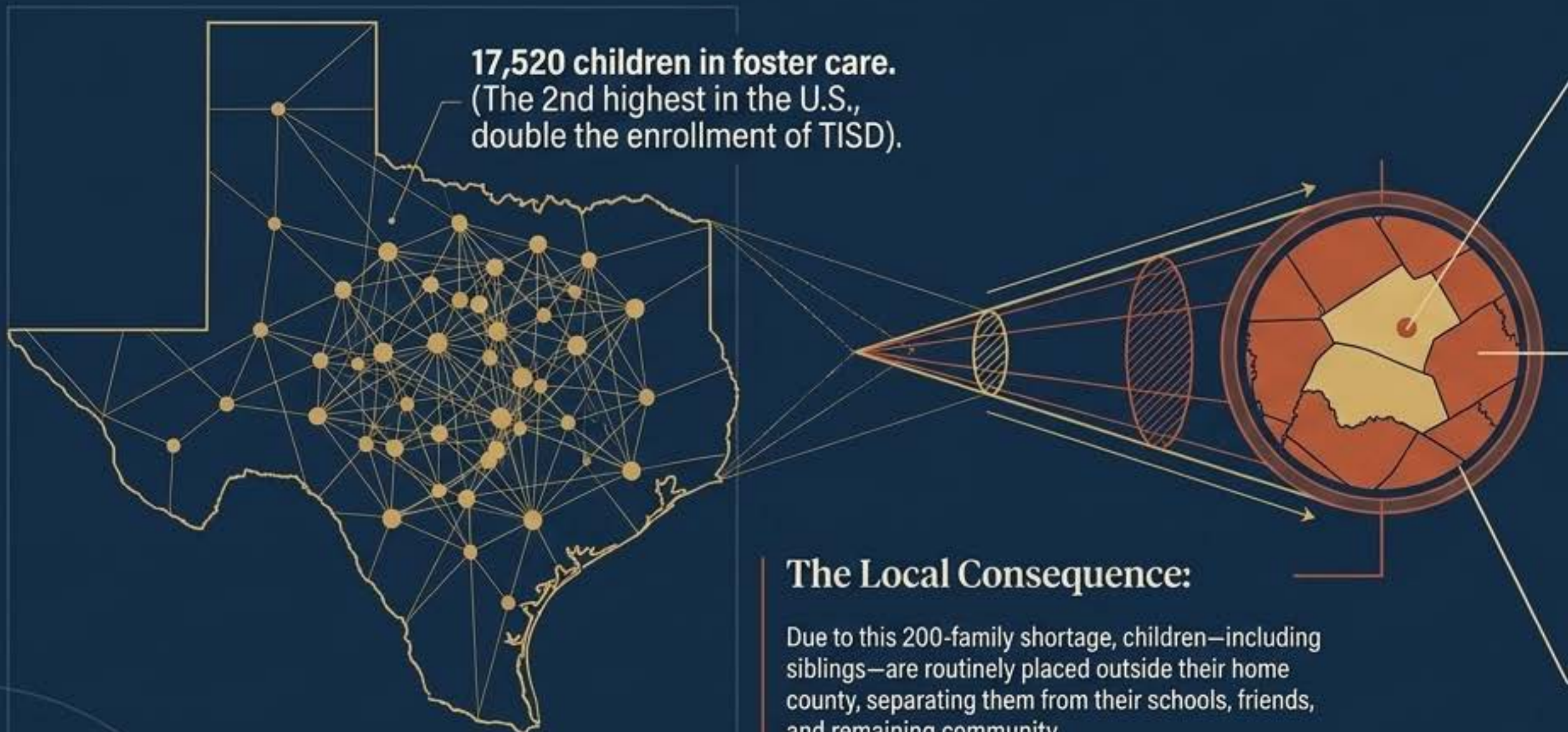
**3 Years**

is the average wait time for those seeking a home.

331,747 children are currently in the U.S. foster care system.

# The Proximity of the Need

This is not a distant crisis. It is happening in our own community.

A network map of Texas with a magnifying glass over Bell County. The map shows a network of nodes and lines representing connections across the state. A magnifying glass is positioned over the central part of the state, focusing on a specific area. The magnified area shows a map of Texas with Bell County highlighted in yellow. The text '2000 FAMILY SHORTFALL' is displayed in large, bold letters to the right of the magnifying glass.

**17,520 children in foster care.**  
(The 2nd highest in the U.S.,  
double the enrollment of TISD).

**2000  
FAMILY  
SHORTFALL**

## The Local Consequence:

Due to this 200-family shortage, children—including siblings—are routinely placed outside their home county, separating them from their schools, friends, and remaining community.

Bell County consistently ranks among the highest in Texas for confirmed child abuse.

# The Blueprint for Action

Some are called to open their homes. All are called to open their hands.  
Which part of the blueprint is yours?



# Local Resources & Next Steps

Take action today to support families and children awaiting placement.

## Foster Love Bell County

Supporting foster families and children in Central Texas.

1003 N. Main St. Belton | 254-831-3141  
[fosterlovebellcounty.org](http://fosterlovebellcounty.org)



## Texas Baptist Children's Home

Providing essential training and next steps for fostering and adopting.

Round Rock, TX  
[dfps.texas.gov/Child\\_Protection/Foster\\_Care/Training.asp](http://dfps.texas.gov/Child_Protection/Foster_Care/Training.asp)

