

A close-up photograph of a broken piece of light brown pottery. The pottery is shattered into several fragments, with a prominent crack running diagonally across the center. The edges of the broken pieces are jagged and uneven. A bright, metallic gold leaf has been applied to the cracks, filling them and creating a striking contrast with the earthy brown of the pottery. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

The Strength of the Restored

A Biblical Framework for
Cultivating Gentleness



The Shattered Pitcher

In 1969, Violet Slaughter's father passed away, leaving her an antique 1800s water pitcher and washbowl. It was her most prized possession.

One day, an unsupervised dog tangled its leash around the table. The pitcher crashed to the floor and shattered.

Violet didn't throw it away. She took a dustpan, gathered every piece, and spent her evenings meticulously gluing it back together.

God Gathers the Pieces

Violet's meticulous restoration is a mirror of God's posture toward us.

**When we fall short,
God does not punish or
discard the broken
pieces. He gently
reaches out,
scoops us up, and
holds us close to His
heart to restore us.**

We must realize how gentle God has been with us before we can offer gentleness to a harsh and cruel world.



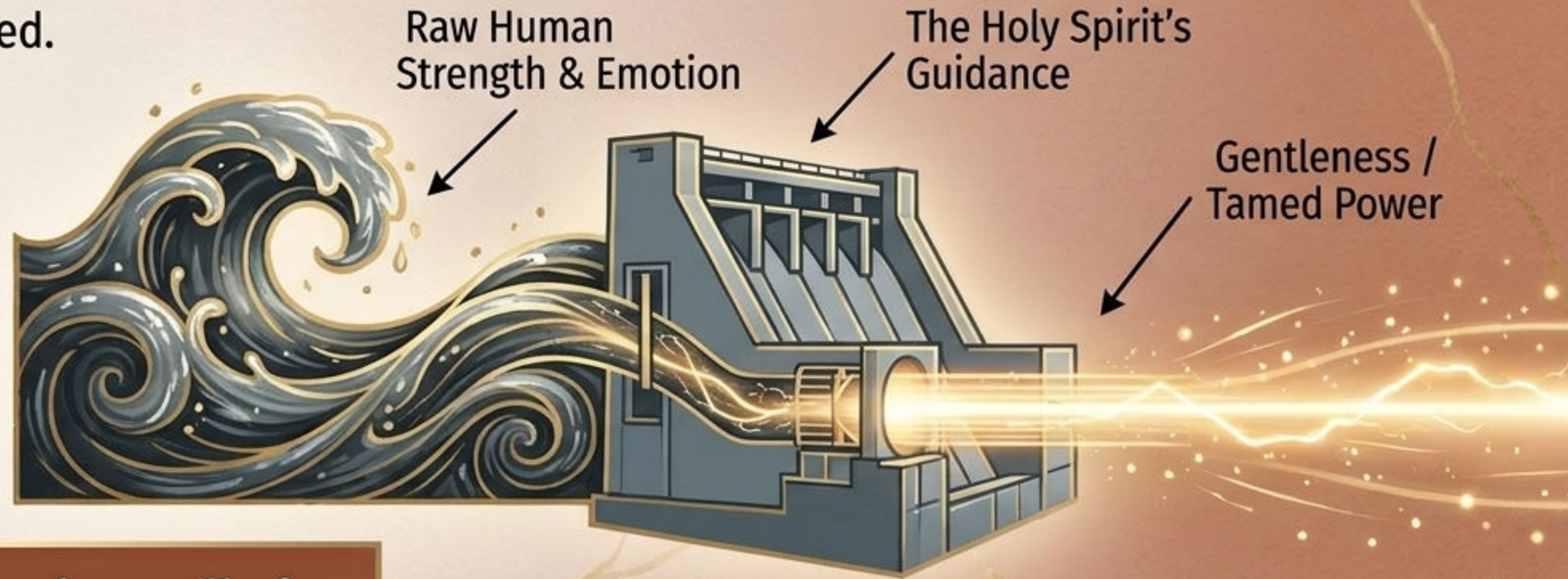
The Gentleness Paradigm Shift

	Secular Assumption	Biblical Reality
Core Definition	Weakness or passivity.	Immense power and strength under absolute control.
Source of Behavior	Fear of conflict or lack of conviction.	Complete submission to the will of God.
Posture toward Others	Pleasing people to avoid tension.	Putting the needs of others first to serve them.
Reaction to Opposition	Defensiveness or backing down.	Humility, a listening ear, and a teachable spirit.

Praütēs: The Power of the Tamed

The New Testament Greek word for gentleness (*praütēs*) originally described a powerful wild animal that has been perfectly tamed and trained.

Strength Under Control



True biblical gentleness places all of your personal strength, emotions, and goals completely under God's control.

The Dual Function of Gentleness



1. Attracts

A gentle attitude draws people in. Jesus proved this by showing constant patience to those the world rejected: children, the Samaritan woman, the woman caught in adultery, and Zacchaeus the tax collector.



2. Restores

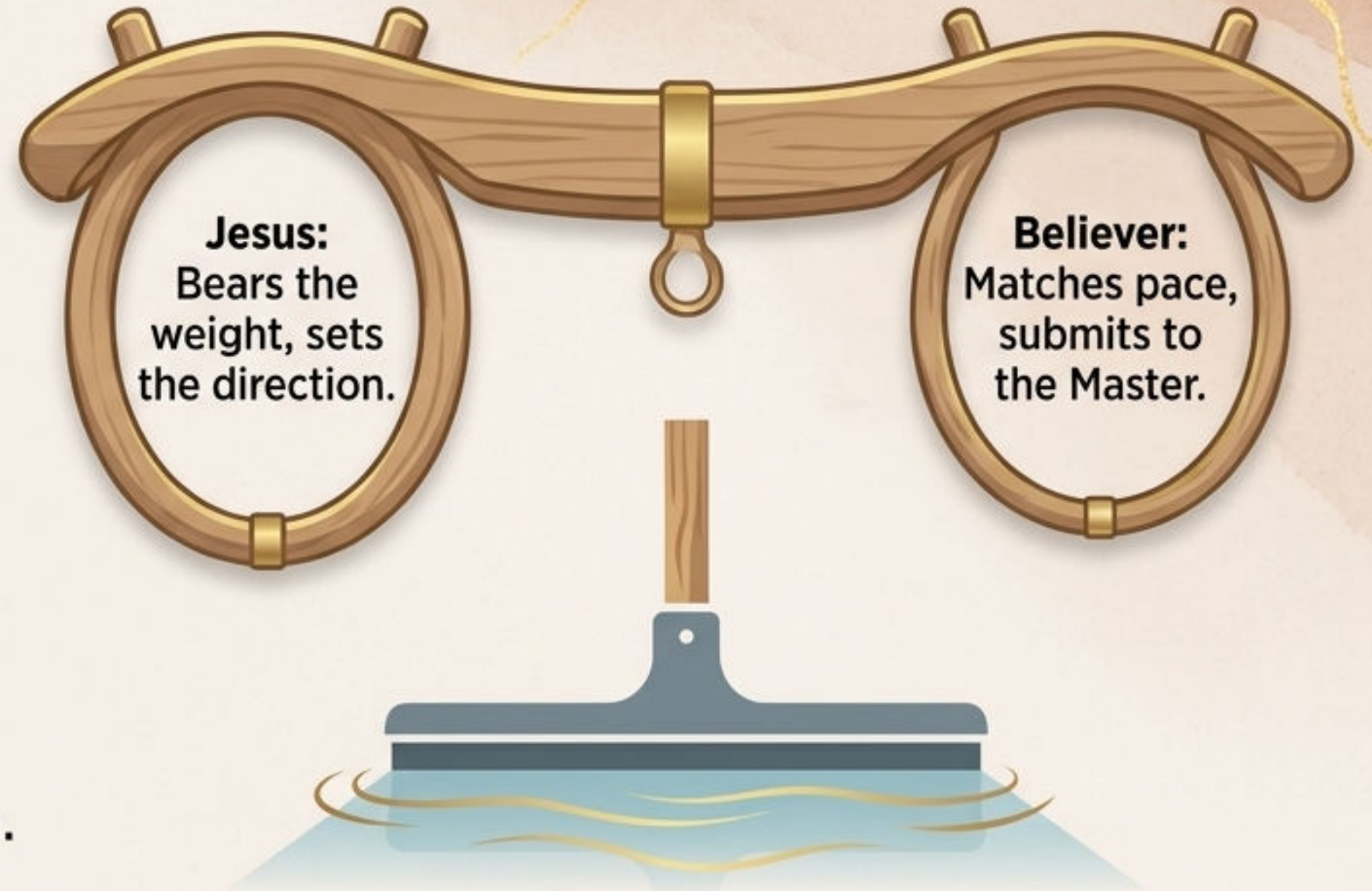
When people are trapped and broken by their sinful condition, God commands Spirit-filled believers to use gentleness to heal, restore, and guide them back to Himself.

Step 1: Take the Yoke

“Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart.”
(Matthew 11:29)

Taking the yoke means letting Jesus sit behind the wheel.

When water floods a basement, the man in the middle with the squeegee doesn't set the direction—he simply maintains the pace of the men ahead of him.



TAKEAWAY: Accept your current circumstances and trust that Jesus is guiding the pace.

Divine Capacity vs. Willful Submission

Jesus had the riches of heaven, yet He spent 30 years as a carpenter in a small town simply because it was the Father's will.

The Carpenter's Shop:
Chopping wood and cutting
stone in Nazareth.

Eternal Glory:
Served by tens of
thousands of angels.

Savior of the World:
Fulfilling eternal
destiny.

CONTENTMENT IN THE SMALL PLACES

Whether living in a booming metropolis of a million people like General Santos City or a small town of 28,000 like Danville, gentleness means trusting God's exact placement for your life.

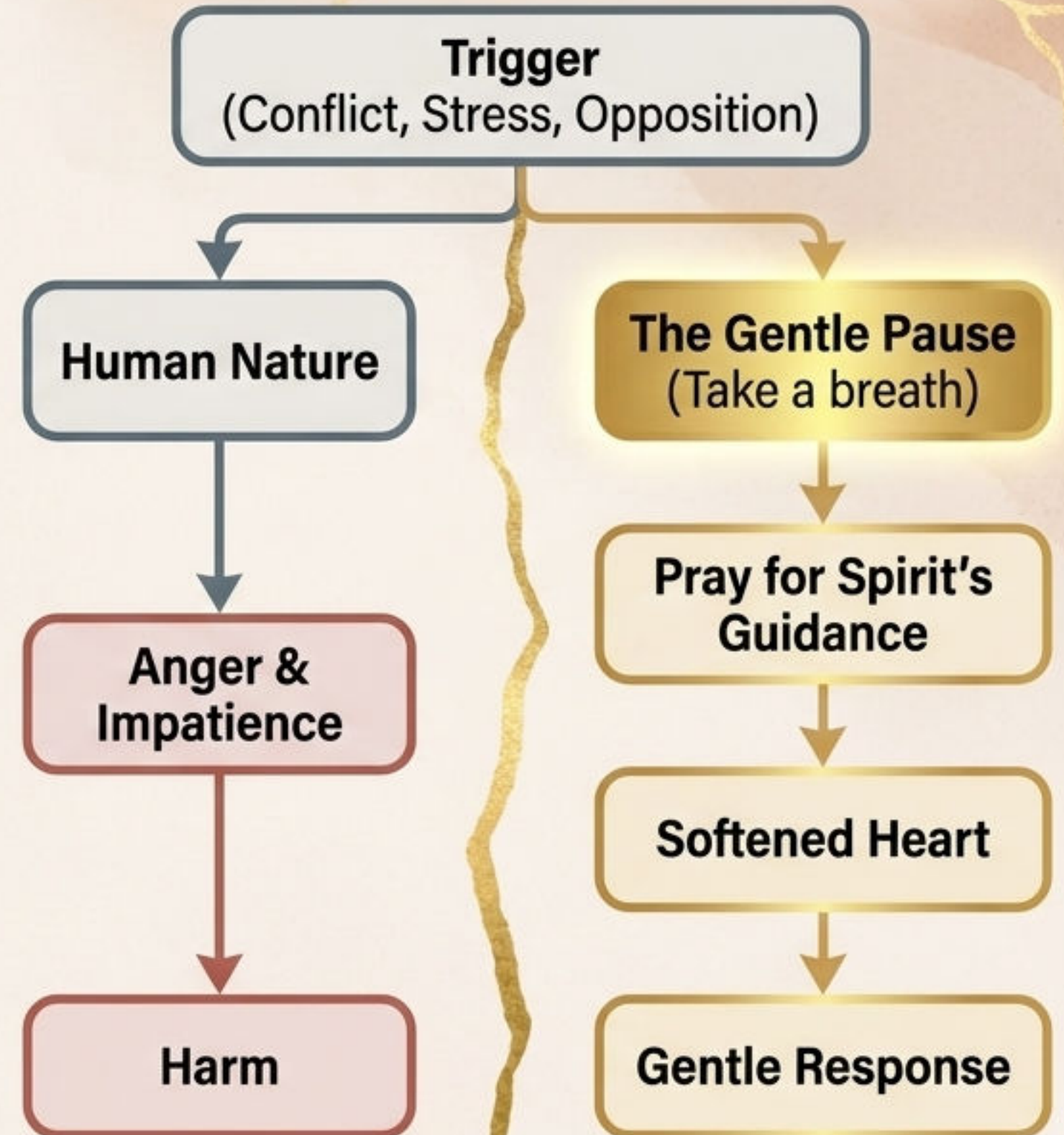
Step 2: The Gentle Pause

We do not have the human ability to grow gentleness on our own. Human nature does not contribute to it. We must rely on the Holy Spirit.

ACTIONABLE PRACTICE:

Pray without ceasing—not 12 hours on your knees, but keeping God as part of your ongoing conversation throughout the day.

The Emotional Reactivity Cycle



Step 3: The Relational Playbook

Group	Required Action	Desired Outcome
Children	Protect, smile, welcome.	Show them they are an important part of God's family.
The Elderly, Poor & Sick	Respect, greet warmly, listen.	Provide friendship and dignity to the hurting.
New Believers	Act as a big brother/sister.	Help them grow by sharing time, care, and God's Word.
Opponents	Refuse to fight back.	Allow space for God to grant them a change of heart.

The Hardest Posture: Opponents

“As the Lord’s slave, you should not exhaust yourself in bickering. Instead, be gentle... gently instructing those who stand up against you.”
(2 Timothy)

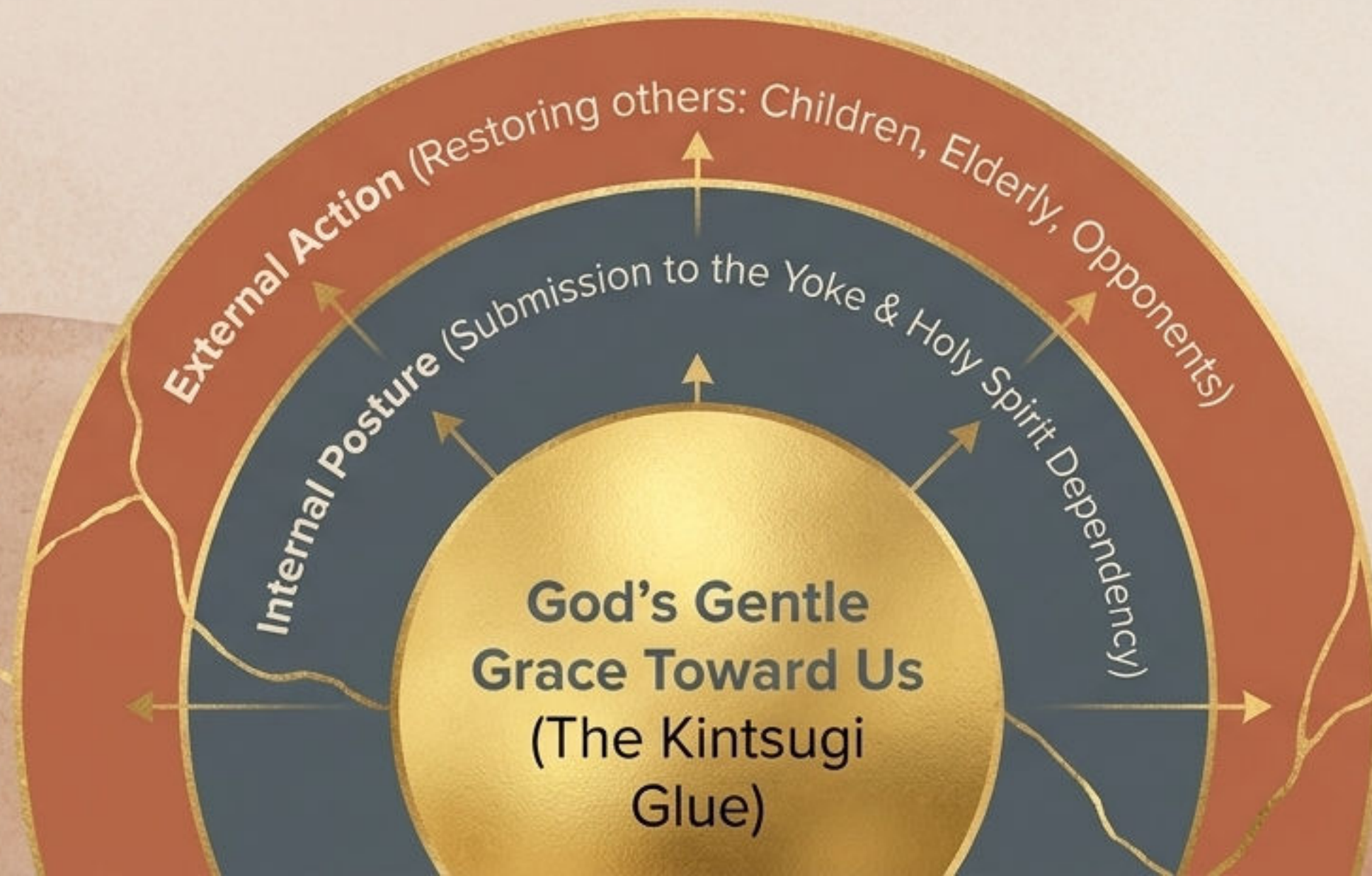
In daily life, people will disagree and work against you. Gentleness demands that we refuse to fight back.

TAKEAWAY: We choose tolerance over resentment, keeping the door open for them to arrive at a full knowledge of the truth.



The Ecosystem of Gentleness

Gentleness is not a standalone behavior. It is a continuous flow. We cannot output relational gentleness until we submit to the Spirit, and we cannot submit to the Spirit until we accept the gentle grace God has already shown us.



A Daily Liturgy for Gentleness

- ◆ Morning: Pray a simple prayer acknowledging you cannot generate gentleness on your own, asking the Spirit to change your attitude.
- ◆ Mid-Day: Pause before reacting. When anxiety or anger rises, hand over the stress to Jesus, trusting His promise of rest.
- ◆ Evening: Reflect on your relationships. Did you stop bickering? Did you smile at the vulnerable?



The fruit of the Spirit is gentleness. Let us be the ones who gather the broken pieces.