

The Living Temple



Shaping Ministry Culture
Through the Character of God

PRESENTER NARRATIVE

Welcome.

Today, we are looking at blueprints.
But not for a building of brick and mortar.

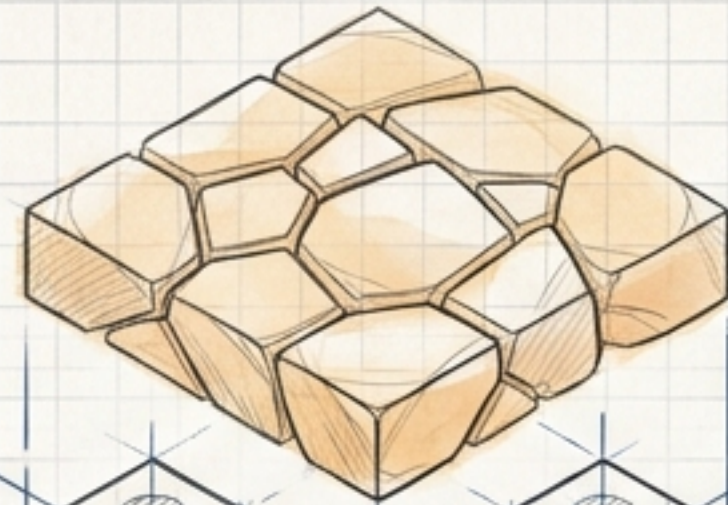
We are going to explore the architecture of a living, breathing community.

As leaders, the ministries we build will inevitably reflect what we worship.

If we want a culture that sustains the presence of God, we must build upon the exact specifications of His character.

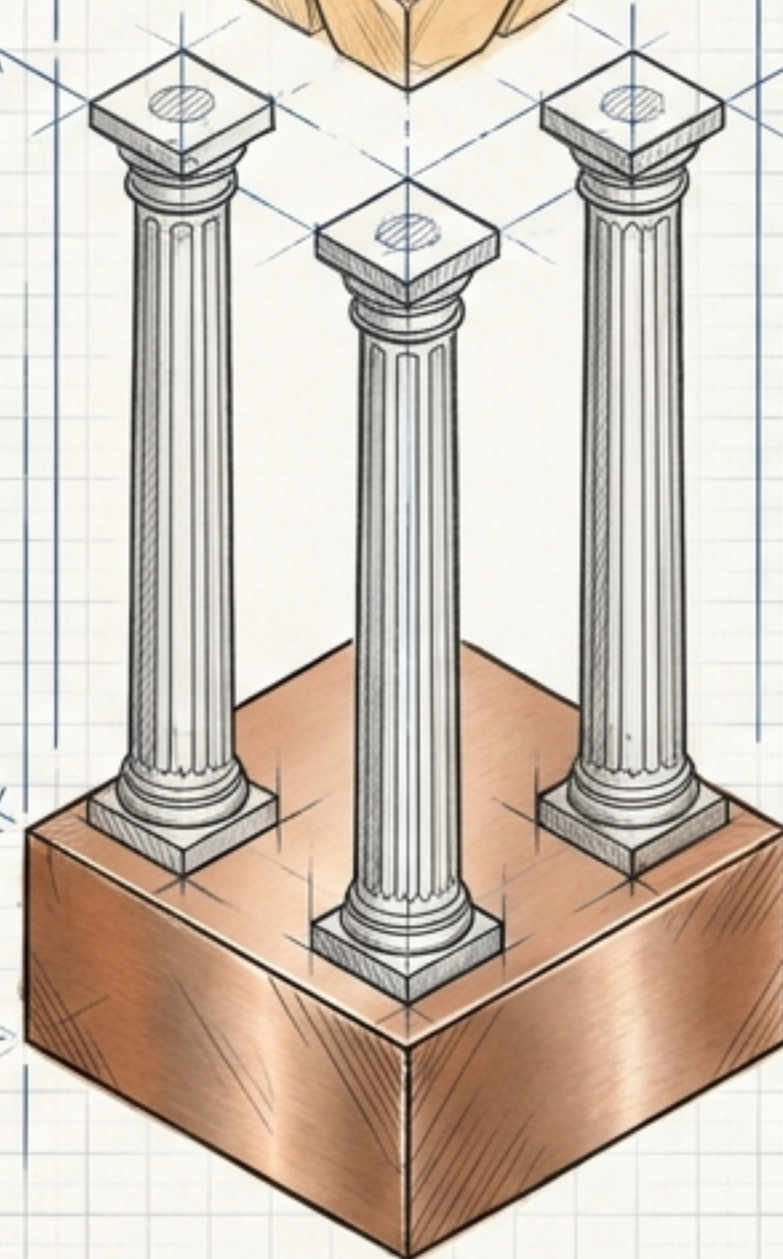
The Structural Hierarchy of the House

KEY ARCHITECTURAL INSIGHT:
The foundation is not simply a revelation. It is the revelation embodied within a person (Matthew 16).



The Living Stones

The congregation, a dwelling place built entirely upon people.



The Pillars

Apostles and prophets aligned perfectly to the Cornerstone's angles (Ephesians 2:17-22).

The Cornerstone

The indispensable person of Messiah Jesus.

50°

75°

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Look at Peter in Matthew 16. Jesus didn't just build on Peter's words; He built on Peter—the man who held the revelation.

The house of God is built on people. But those people, especially foundational leaders, must be entirely dependent on the structural integrity of the Cornerstone beneath them.

The Indispensable Cornerstone

Determines Soundness

The structural integrity of the entire living temple relies entirely on this single point of origin.

Precise Angles

The cornerstone's angles are exact. The human walls that join it must provide a perfectly aligned foundation.

Apostolic Alignment

Foundational leaders must adhere to the precise outlook and devotion of the cornerstone: loving God and loving people.

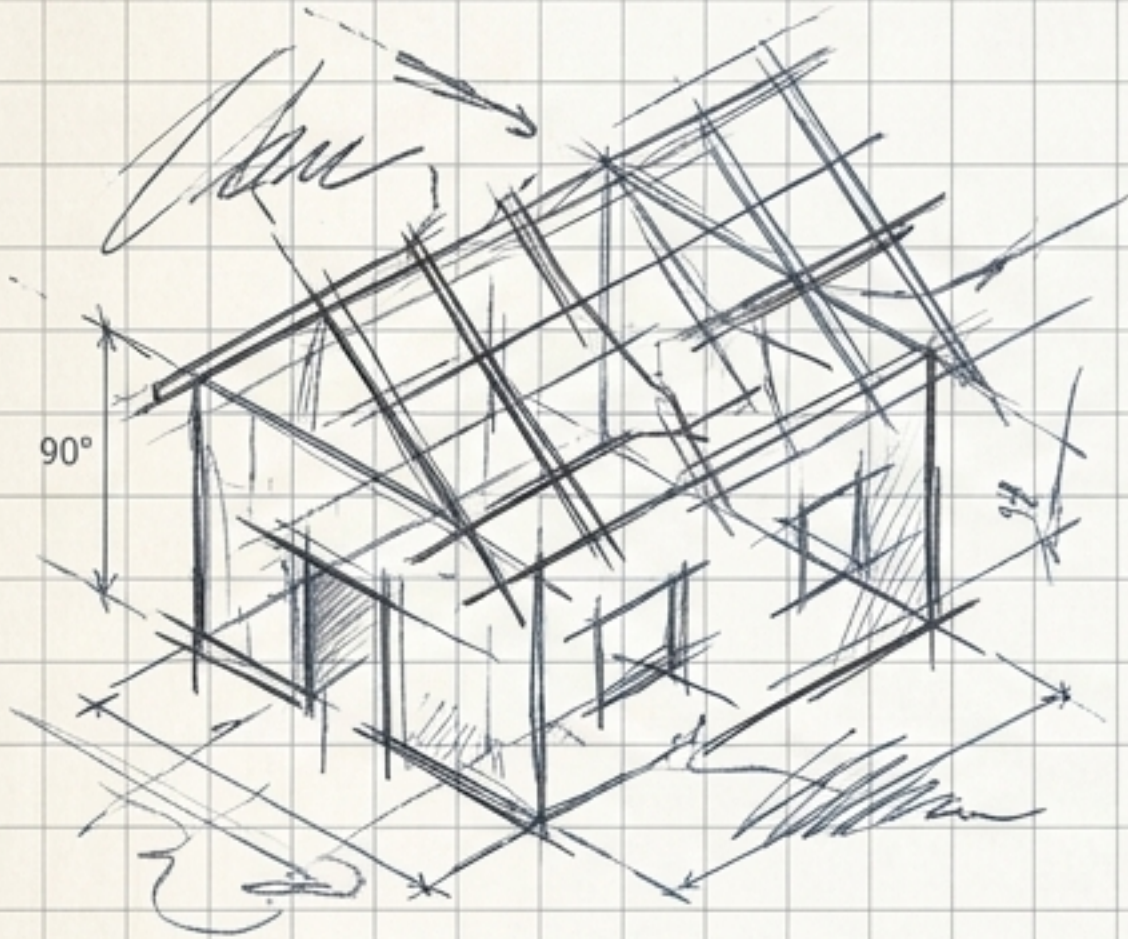
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In ancient architecture, if the cornerstone is off by a fraction of a degree, the entire building eventually collapses.

Jesus is the indispensable Person. His character dictates the angles of the walls. If our leadership deviates from His exact nature, our structural integrity fails.

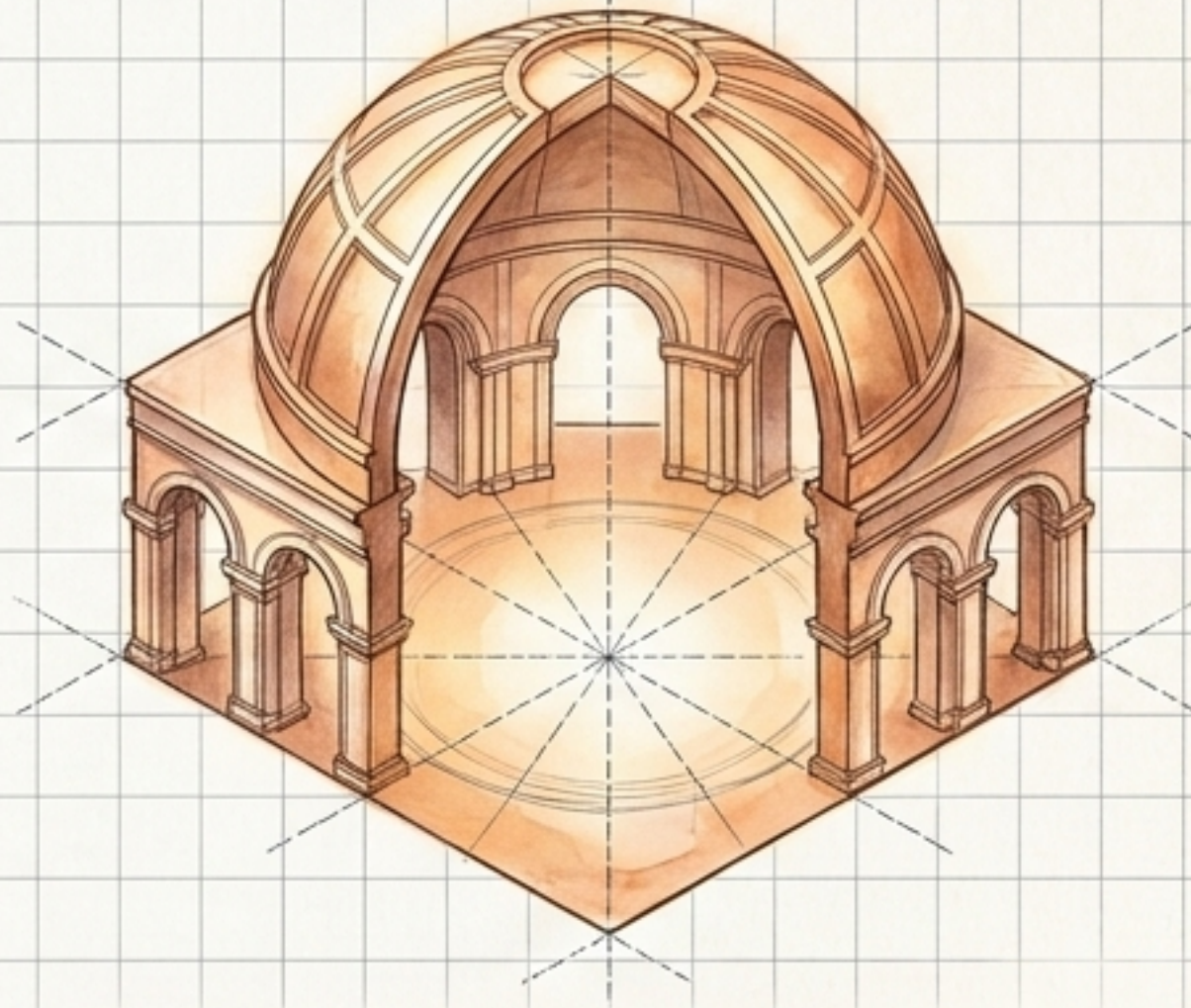
Diagnostic Matrix: What Are We Building?

The Hovel



- Poorly built, scattered, and uncoordinated structure.
- Focuses strictly on mere shelter or programmatic survival.
- Entirely unfit for a King's permanent residence.

The Temple



- Reflects the glory of the God who dwells there.
- Resembles the God who locates His manifest presence there.
- Reveals the glory of the God who abides therein.

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God is a King. He has no desire to live in a hovel—a poorly built, run-down shelter.

When the disciples marveled at Herod's temple in Mark 13, they admired dead stones.

God is not looking for a religious monument; He is looking for a living spiritual building that actually resembles His character.

Redefining Glory: The Moses Encounter

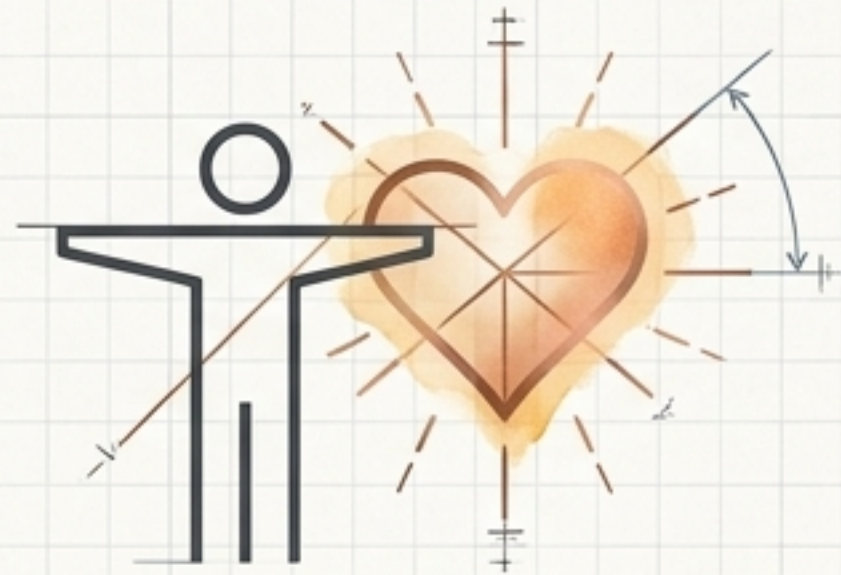
Context: After the golden calf, Israel mourned the potential loss of God's presence more than the loss of guaranteed success. Moses interceded with a desperate petition: "Show me Your glory!"

The Human Expectation



Visual splendor, earthquakes, displays of sheer might, omniscience, and omnipresence.

The Divine Reality



"I will cause all My goodness to pass before you." (Exodus 33:19). God's glory is revealed primarily within His relationship to His people.

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Moses asked to see God's glory.

If you or I were asked to show our glory, we might show our power, our resumes, or our strength.

God didn't do that. No earthquakes. No lightning.

He said, "I will show you my goodness."

God considers His character to be His ultimate glory.

The Character Matrix of Yahweh (Exodus 34:6-7)



1. Compassionate



2. Gracious



3. Patient
(Slow to anger)



4. Intervening Love
(Abounding)



5. Faithful



6. Merciful
(Keeping love to
thousands)



7. Forgiving
(Iniquity,
transgression, sin)



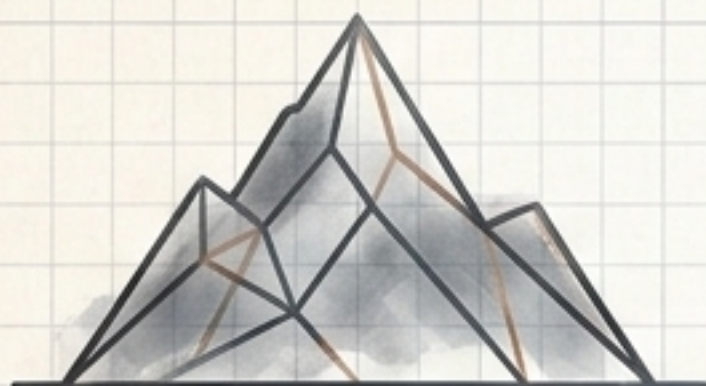
8. Just
(Preserving order,
containing corruption)

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This is what the pre-incarnate Son of God called out as He passed by Moses.

These eight attributes are the exact building materials we must use to construct our communities. This is not just a theological list; this is what God specifically loves about Himself. These are the specifications for the house.

Glory in the Flesh



The Warmup (Sinai)

God declares His
attributes to Moses in the
cleft of the rock.

"Let light shine out of darkness...
the light of the knowledge of the
glory of God in the face of Messiah."
(2 Corinthians 4:6)



The Main Event (Jesus)

Jesus is the ultimate,
physical manifestation of
these exact attributes.

*"We have seen his glory... full
of grace and truth."* (John 1:14)

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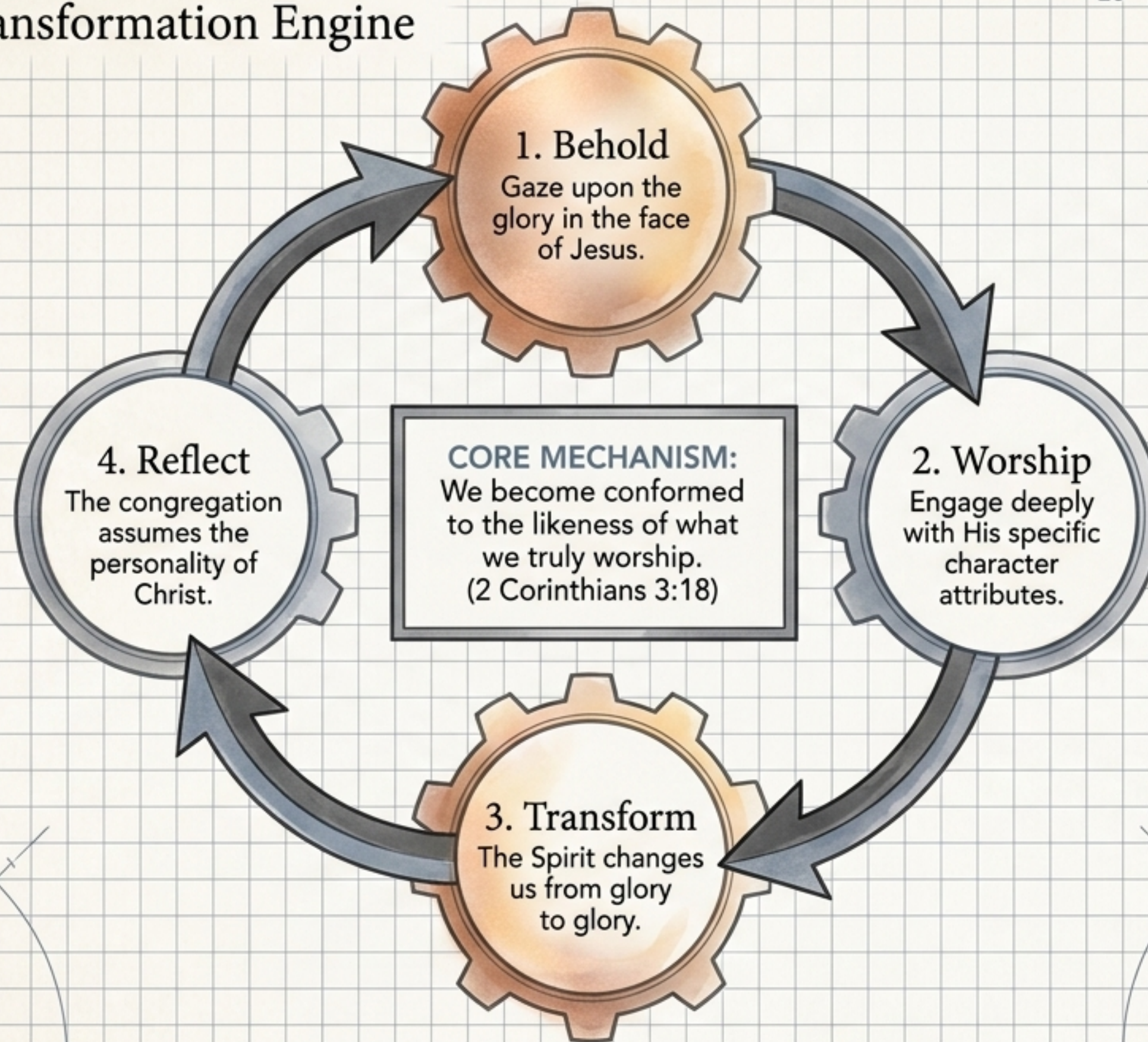
Moses was just the
warmup. The bases
were loaded, and Jesus
stepped to the plate.

Jesus is the glory in
the flesh.

When you look into the
face of the Messiah,
you see the exact
compassion, grace,
and justice that passed
by Moses on the
mountain.

The blueprint is now a
person.

The Transformation Engine



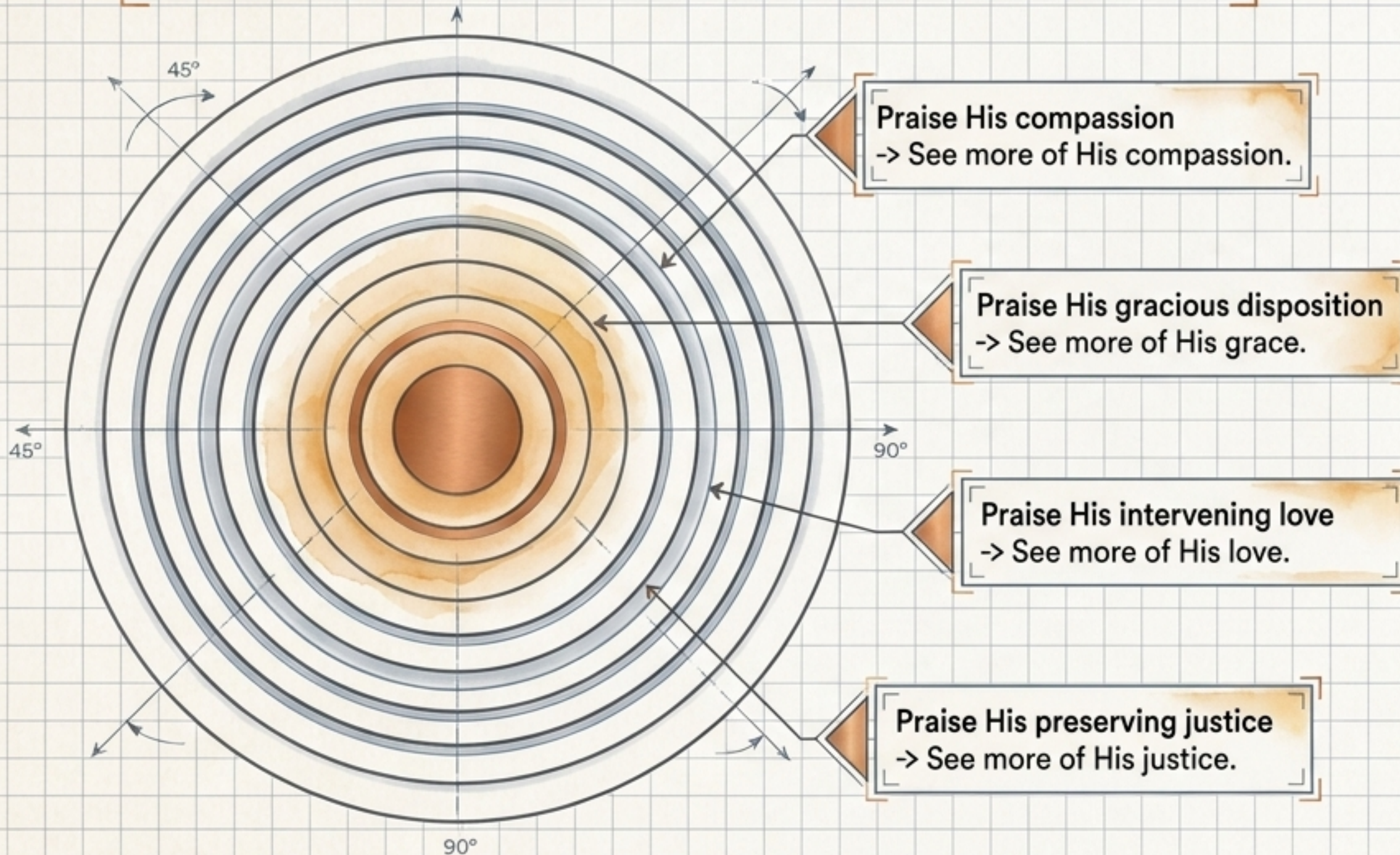
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How do we build this structural integrity into our people?

By the Law of Beholding. Second Corinthians tells us that as we behold Him, we are transformed from one degree of glory to another. You will inevitably become conformed to the exact likeness of what you truly worship.

The Praise-to-Transformation Loop

Core Insight: As you praise specific aspects of His person, your capacity to see and experience that attribute expands.



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This isn't an abstract theory. It's a highly actionable cycle.

When a congregation corporately praises His longsuffering, their spiritual eyes open to see more of it.

That collective seeing changes the actual personality and culture of your fellowship.



Stewardship of the Presence

Safeguarding the Architecture

God wants to dwell in our fellowships. But history and scripture reveal clear hindrances to sustaining His visitation. We must actively steward His presence through seven critical safeguards designed to prevent structural failure.

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We know God wants to live in our fellowships. But building the house is only half the job; we must fiercely steward the visitation. What drives the presence of God away?

Let's transition from blueprints to the maintenance manual. Let's look at seven specific safeguards.

Safeguards of Integrity

1. The Charismata Trap

WARNING: Do not confuse dynamic activity or charismatic presence with actual virtue.

INSIGHT: History proves the anointing is not strictly dependent on a person's sanctity. External displays of power are a fatally poor metric for internal spiritual maturity.

2. Life & Doctrine

WARNING: "Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching." (1 Tim 4:16)

INSIGHT: Take heed lest you fall. Ensure your internal private life structurally matches your external leadership.

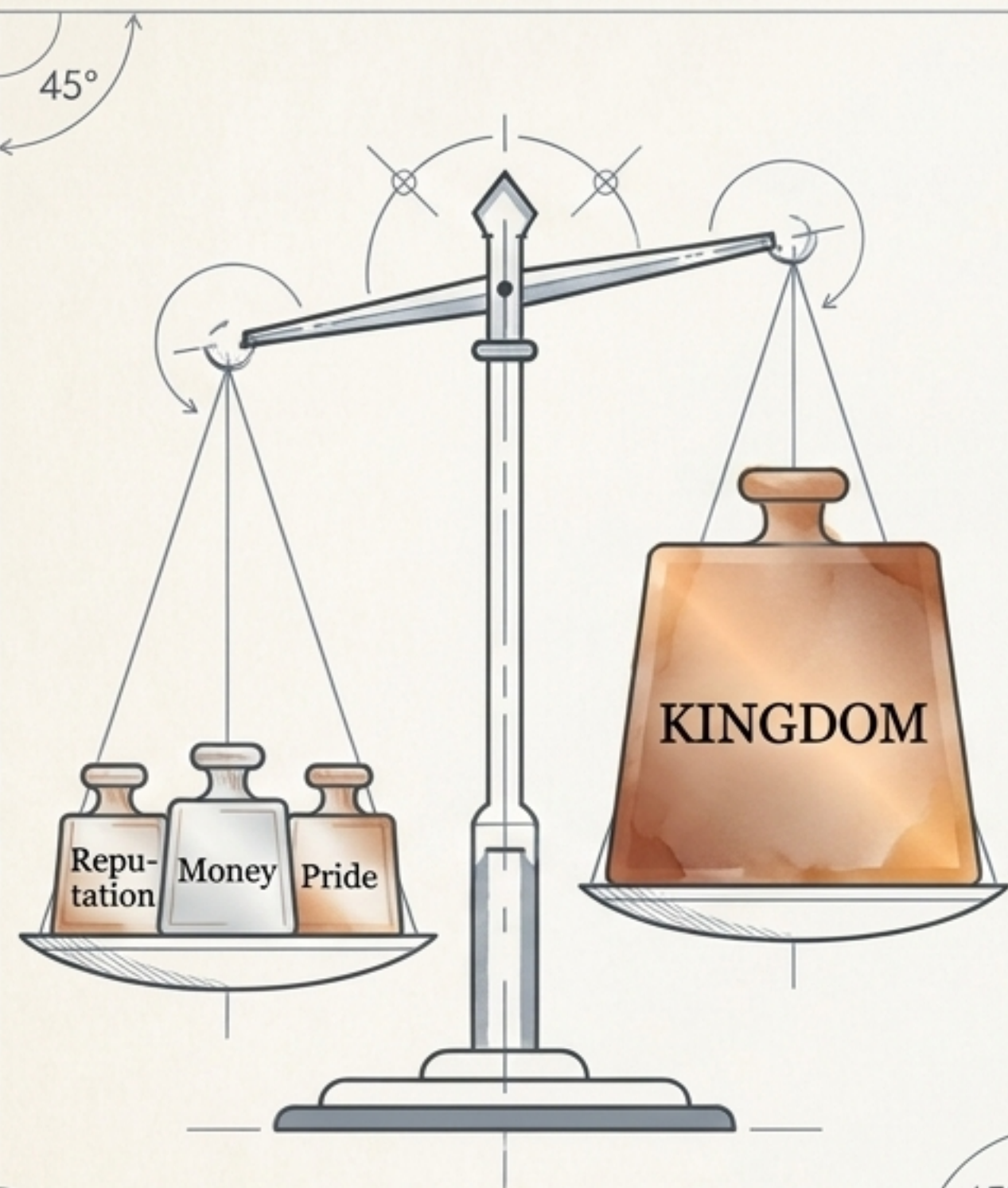
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First, the Charismata trap.

We must absolutely stop evaluating spiritual maturity by outward displays of power. It is terrifyingly possible to flow in the gifts of God while harboring corrupt motivations.

Second, we must ruthlessly guard our own life and doctrine. No one is immune to structural collapse.

Safeguards of Ego



3. The Pure Heart (Handling Reputation)

Maintain a flawless reputation, but expect unfair attacks. Pray Psalm 69:6: Let no one be put to shame through me.

5. The Double Snares

WHEN BROKE: Beware the temptation to compromise and pander to donors.

WHEN HONORED: Beware the temptation of pride. Cultivate relentless personal and corporate generosity to stay grounded.

6. The Ultimate Credit

Maintain in your heart, your architecture, and your demeanor that all credit belongs entirely to God.

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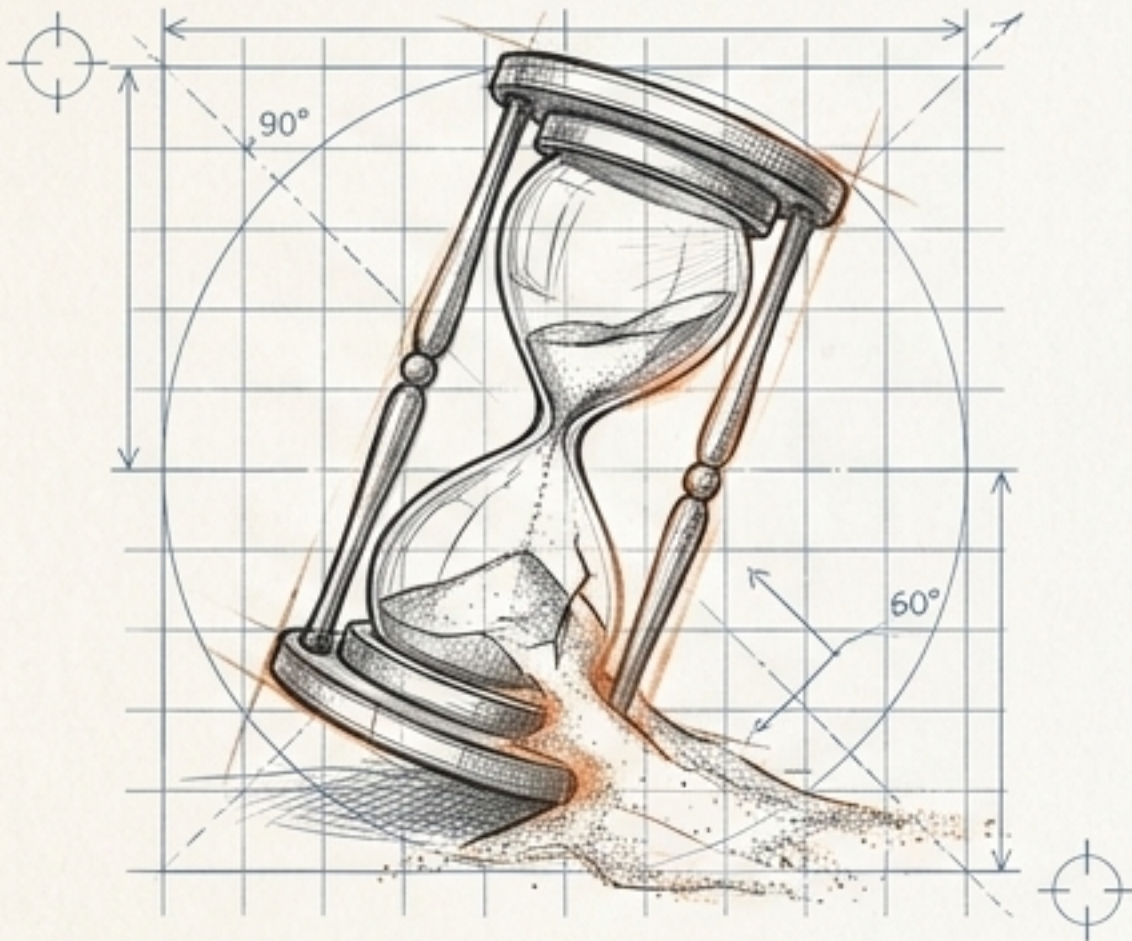
Ego will rot the foundation from the inside out.

Watch out for the double snares: when finances are choked, we are tempted to pander. When we are highly honored, we are tempted to puff up.

The structural antidote to both is radical, quiet generosity and redirecting all credit back to the King.

Safeguards of Surrender

4. The Clock & The Quenching



WARNING: The schedule is the natural enemy of visitation.

ACTION: Get out of the way. Awkwardly and deliberately make room for Him when He manifests. Stop watching the clock.

7. The Cost of Labor



WARNING: This is natural-life-threatening work.

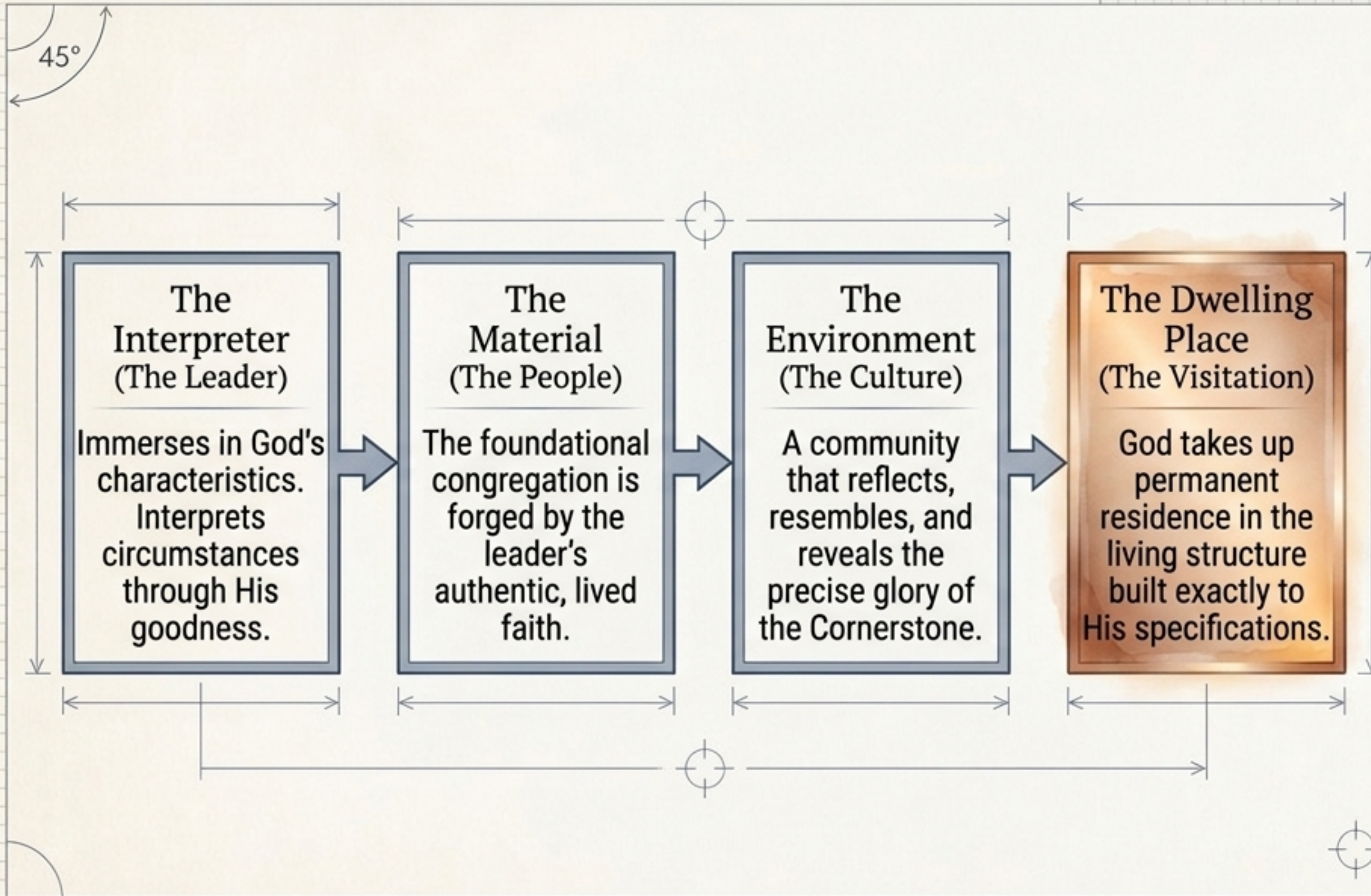
ACTION: Embrace the intercessory struggle. Like Epaphroditus (Phil 2) and Epaphras (Col 4), true foundational labor will continually challenge life on your own terms.

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If you want sustained visitation, the clock has to go. You have to awkwardly make room for Him.

And finally, be warned: this architecture requires blood and sweat. Like Epaphroditus, intercessory leadership is life-altering, natural-life-threatening labor. It costs everything to build.

The Foundational Leader's Mandate



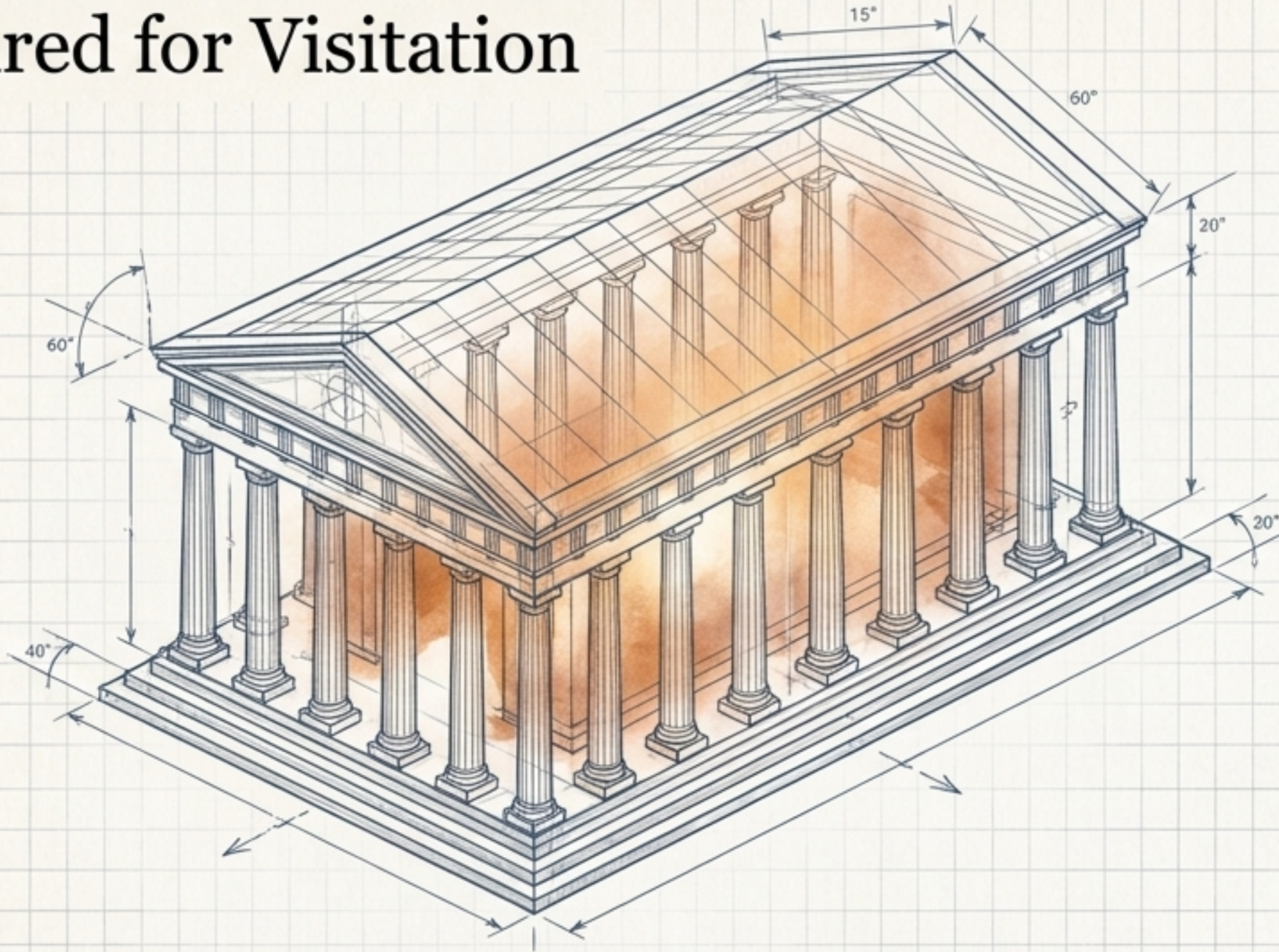
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This is the chain reaction of spiritual architecture.

As a leader, you are the chief interpreter of God's character for your people. Your revelation shapes character; shapes the people. The people shape shape the culture.

And the culture provides the exact dwelling place the exact dwelling place God is looking for.

Prepared for Visitation



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We are not called to manage religious programs.

We are called to cultivate the glory of God by revealing His staggering goodness.

When we build according to that blueprint, we prepare the house for the visitation that inevitably follows.

Thank you.

CORE TAKEAWAY: Cultivating the glory of God in the revelation of His goodness prepares the house for the visitation that inevitably follows.

Our mandate: Help others experience the character, community, and charismata of the King.