

First Thessalonians 5:14-24

Is my life on target for God?

things believers should do

1

5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the faint-hearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

5:15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

2

5:16 Rejoice always,

5:17 pray without ceasing,

5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

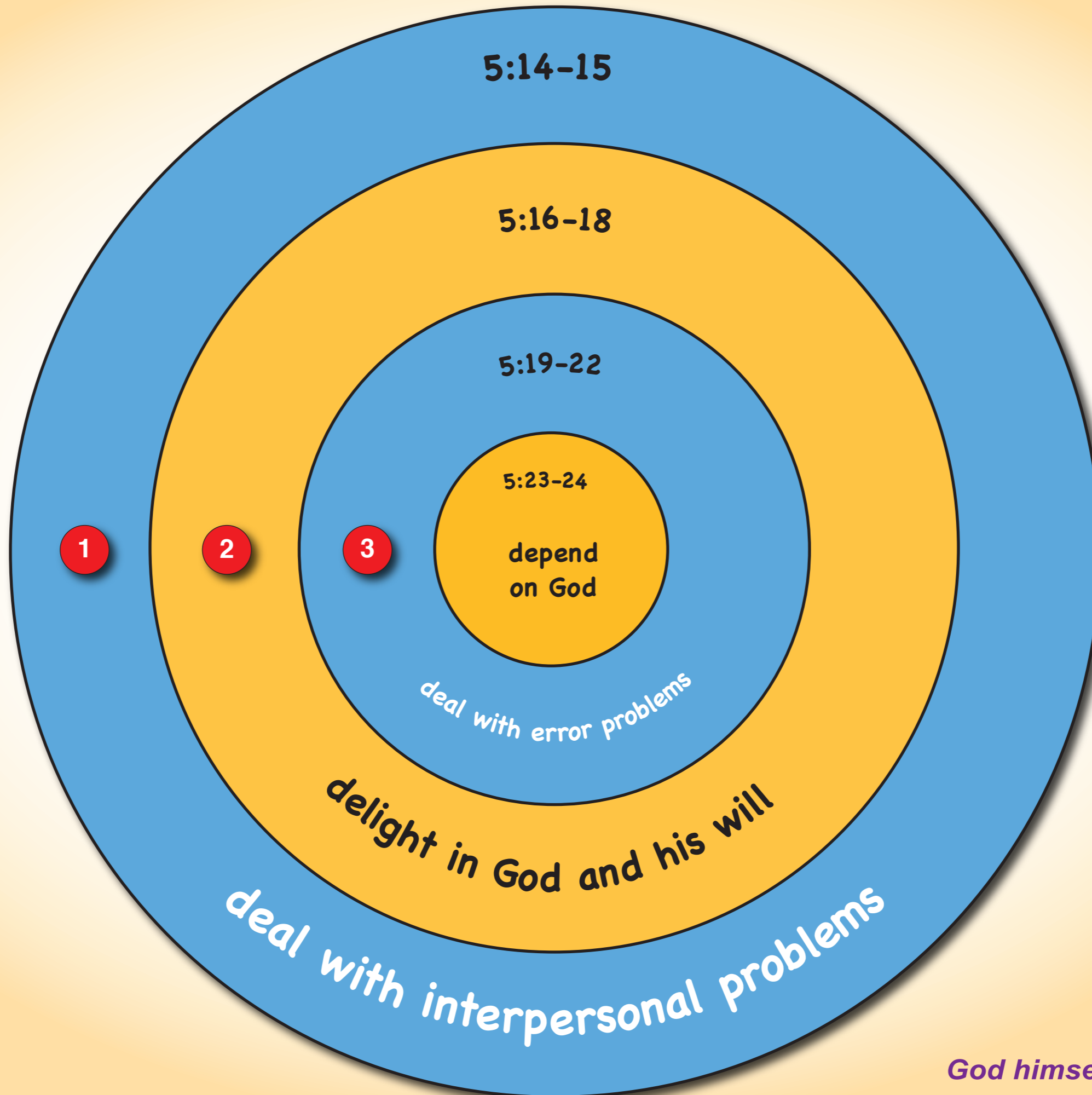
3

5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.

5:20 Do not despise prophecies.

5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

5:22 Abstain from every form of evil.



things GOD will do

5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5:24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

There are more commands in 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22 than in any other short portion of Scripture.

Yet, immediately afterward, Paul's benediction (5:23-24) points to things that God himself will do.

Therefore we can trust in God to aid and direct us as we try to live the Christian life and to perfect us in the end as only HE can do.

Those who wish to stress responsibility point to the various commands, while those who prefer to stress grace point to Paul's prayer. One does not negate the other, however, though the order is significant.

God himself is always on target.