

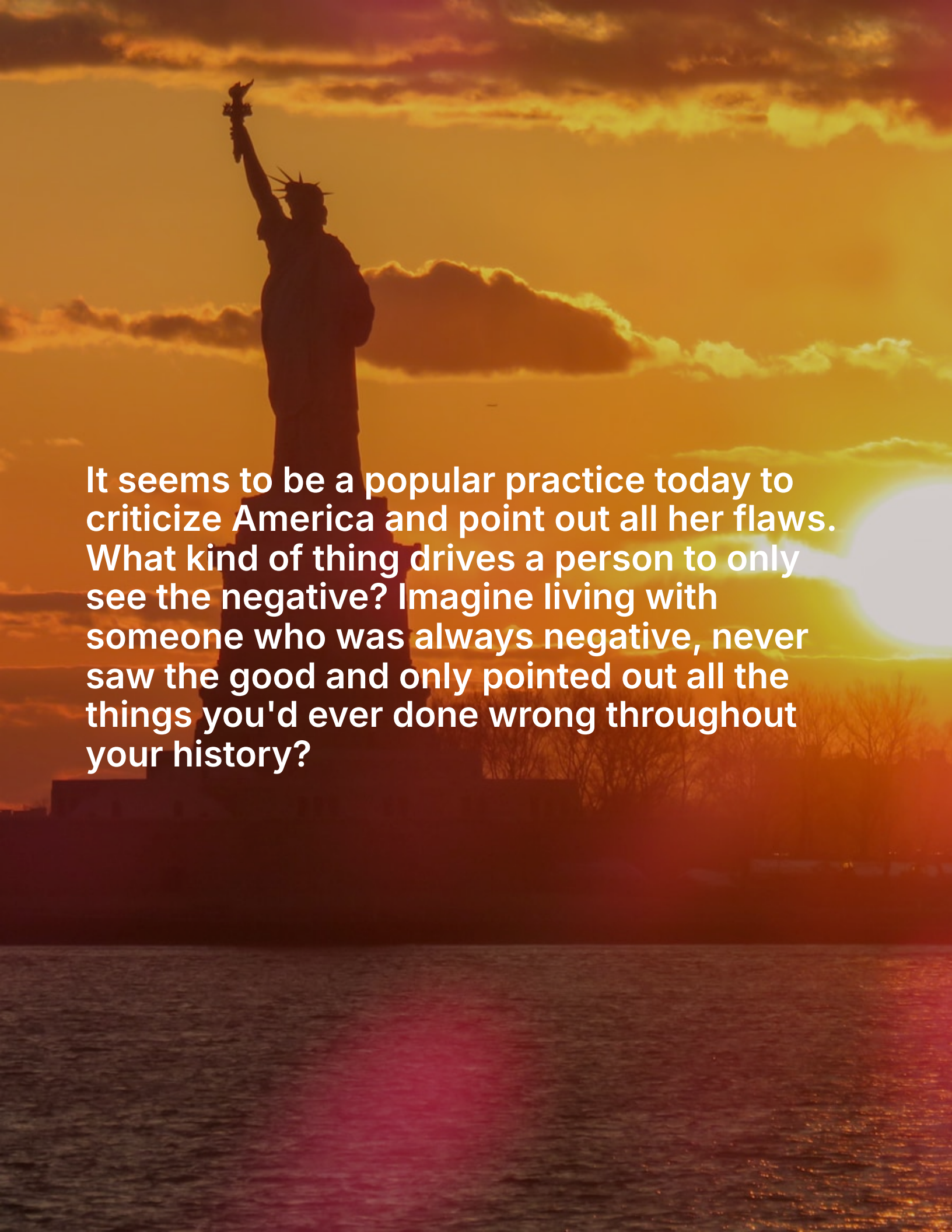
The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly angled view of the American flag. The blue field with white stars is in the upper left, and the red and white stripes are in the lower right. The flag appears to be waving, with visible folds and creases in the fabric.

# **Grateful for America**

**Pastor Ron Laney**

**I am so grateful to be born in the United States of America. It's great to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. It is our home, the place God destined for us to live, raise our families and to serve him.**





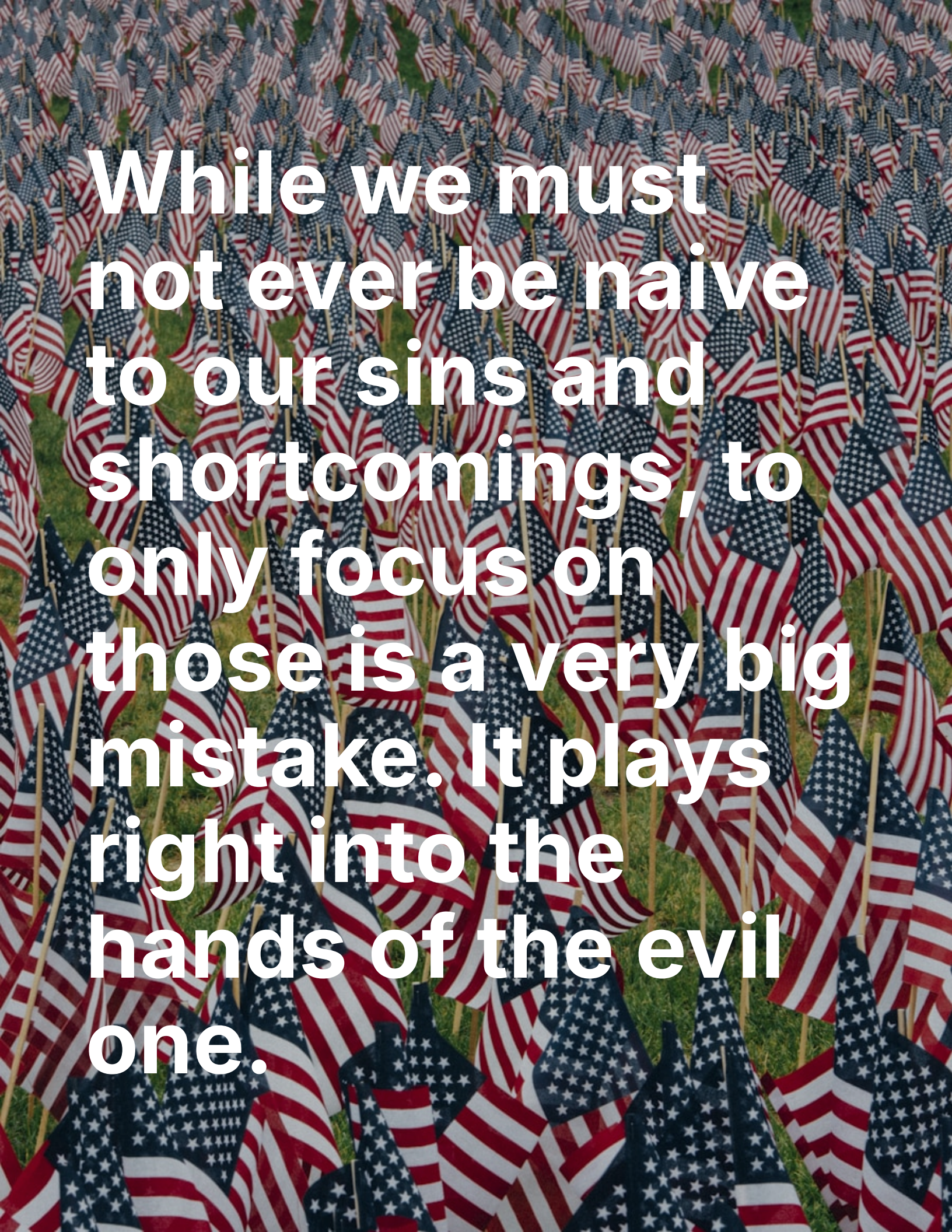
It seems to be a popular practice today to criticize America and point out all her flaws. What kind of thing drives a person to only see the negative? Imagine living with someone who was always negative, never saw the good and only pointed out all the things you'd ever done wrong throughout your history?



**There's one the Bible identifies who does just that. He is called the Accuser. He takes upon himself the project of bringing up all your flaws and points out all your wrongdoings. His highlight reel of your life is always filled with the things you do wrong. Why? Why does he do this?**



**Our adversary, the Accuser, hopes to keep us weak, hopeless, frustrated, confused and tied to the worst of things -- hoping we will never progress and worse yet, regress. It's the spirit of evil that has its aim at the heart of this kind of messaging.**



**While we must  
not ever be naive  
to our sins and  
shortcomings, to  
only focus on  
those is a very big  
mistake. It plays  
right into the  
hands of the evil  
one.**

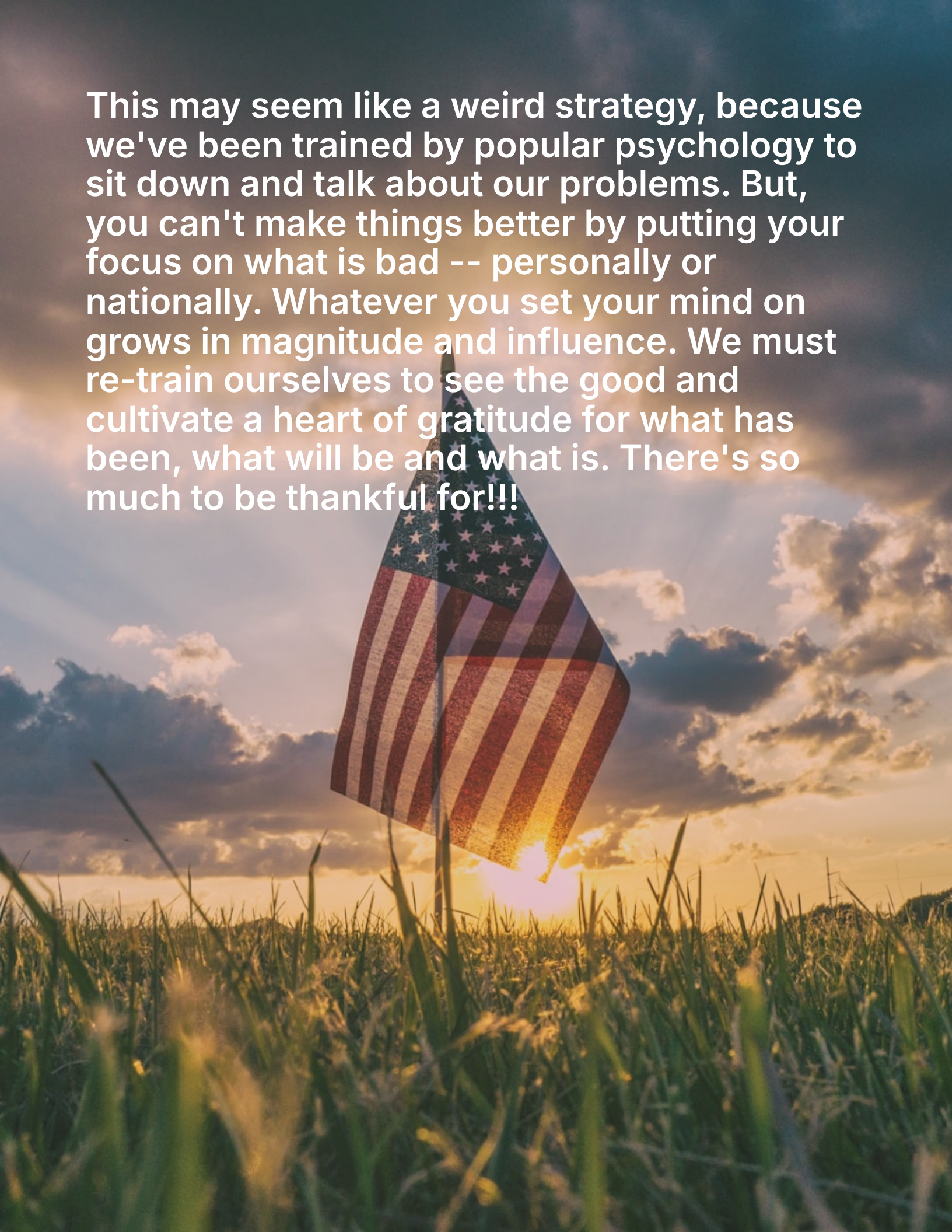
Instead, it's best to focus on what is right, holy and pure. In Philippians 4:8, Paul instructs us to set our minds on things that are noble, pure, lovely and of a good report.



What if we did this sort of thing for our country? What if we were to focus on the good things more, celebrate them and count our blessings instead of our faults? I believe it would create a different kind of people and culture. Overnight we would become a grateful people. There is lots to celebrate!!! I believe it would set us on course not just to see the good, but it would stir us up to make our home even better.



This may seem like a weird strategy, because we've been trained by popular psychology to sit down and talk about our problems. But, you can't make things better by putting your focus on what is bad -- personally or nationally. Whatever you set your mind on grows in magnitude and influence. We must re-train ourselves to see the good and cultivate a heart of gratitude for what has been, what will be and what is. There's so much to be thankful for!!!





I'm grateful God had us born in this great land. I hope you will join me in doing everything you possibly can to focus on what is good around us. And to do what you can to make our home better for all of our people.



I pray we will be a land filled with  
righteousness, goodness and freedom. I pray  
you will stand with me, and ask that

**God Bless America,  
again!**

--Grace & Peace!

Pastor Ron Laney