



The Person & the Work of the

Holy Spirit

Introduction to Prophetic Ministry

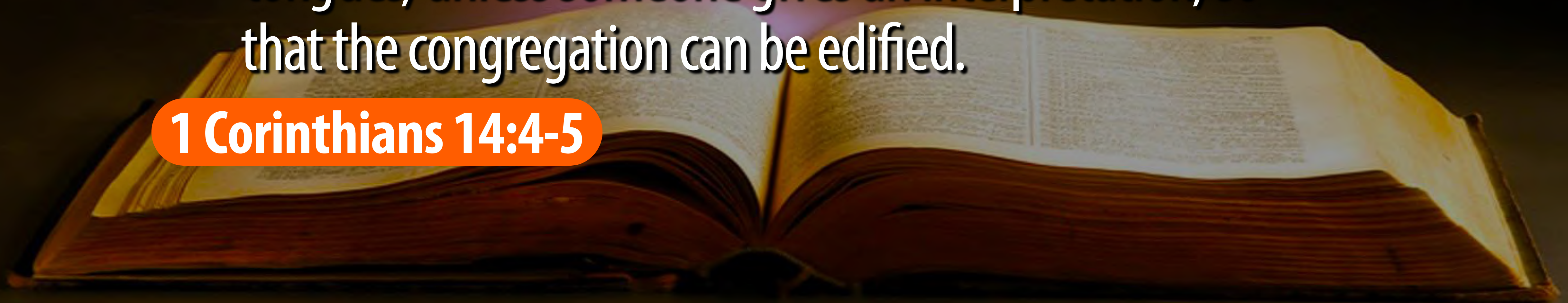
1. Pursue love! However, keep on eagerly seeking the things of the Spirit; and especially seek to be able to prophesy.
2. For someone speaking in a tongue is not speaking to people but to God, because no one can understand, since he is uttering mysteries in the power of the Spirit.
3. But someone prophesying is speaking to people, edifying, encouraging and comforting them.

1 Corinthians 14:1-3



4. A person speaking in a tongue does edify himself, but a person prophesying edifies the congregation.
5. I wish you would all speak in tongues, but even more I wish you would all prophesy. The person who prophesies is greater than the person who speaks in tongues, unless someone gives an interpretation, so that the congregation can be edified.

1 Corinthians 14:4-5



...keep on eagerly seeking the things of the Spirit; and especially seek to be able to prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:1



I wish you would all speak in tongues, but
even more I wish you would all prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:5



For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted.

1 Corinthians 14:31

... earnestly desire and set your hearts on prophesying.

1 Corinthians 14:39 (Amplified Bible)



17. And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, and your **sons and your daughters** SHALL prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;
18. even on My **male servants and female servants** in those days I will pour out My Spirit, and **they** SHALL prophesy.

Acts 2:17-18



Acts 1:3-5

3. He (Jesus) presented Himself alive to them after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.
4. And while staying with them He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait for the promise of the Father**, which, He said, “you heard from Me; for John baptised **IN** water, but **you will be baptised IN** the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
- 5.

Acts 2:37-39

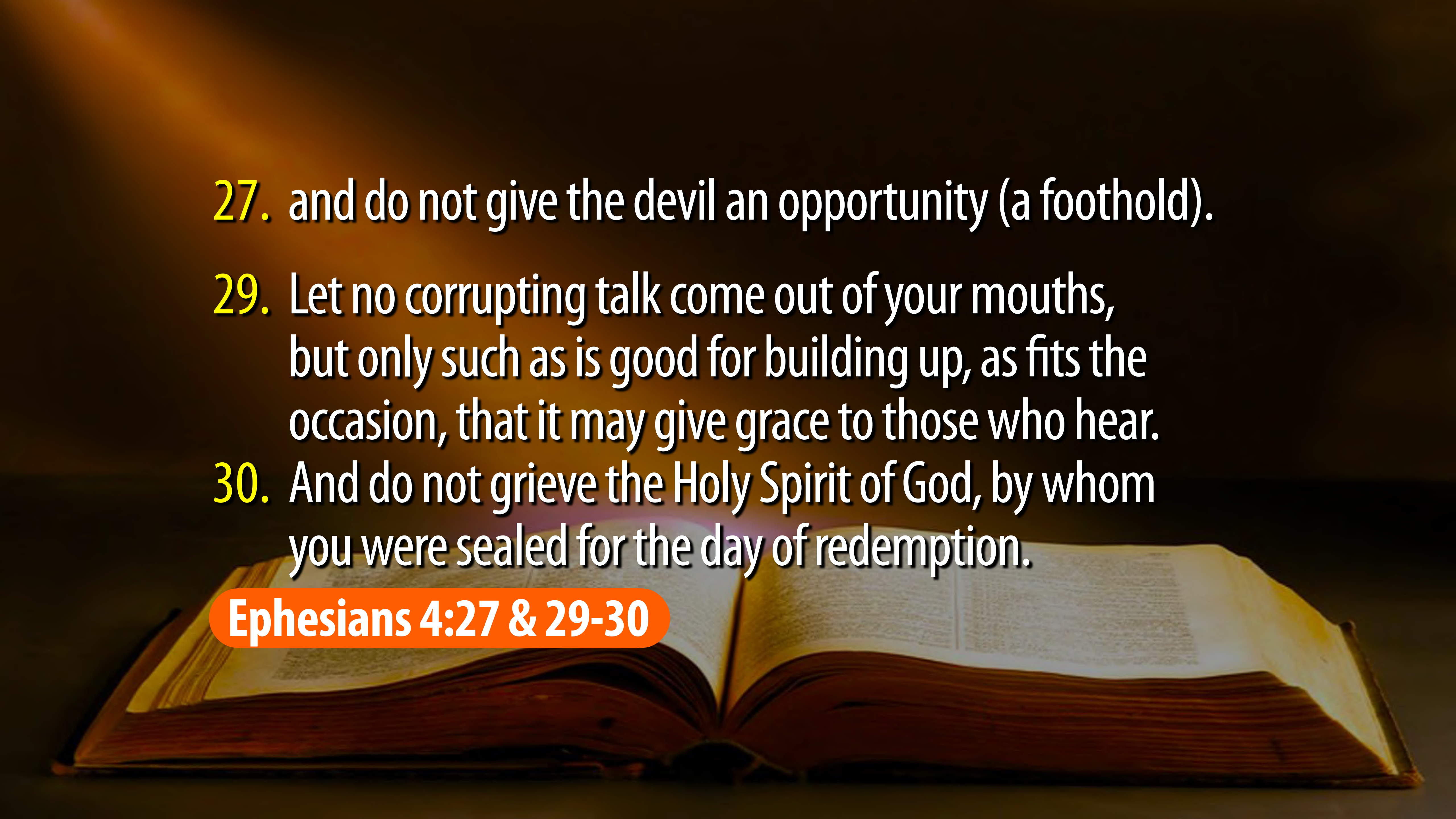
37. Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, **what shall we do?**"
38. And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**
39. For the promise is . . . **for you** . . . and **for your children** . . . and **for all who are far off** . . . **everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself."**

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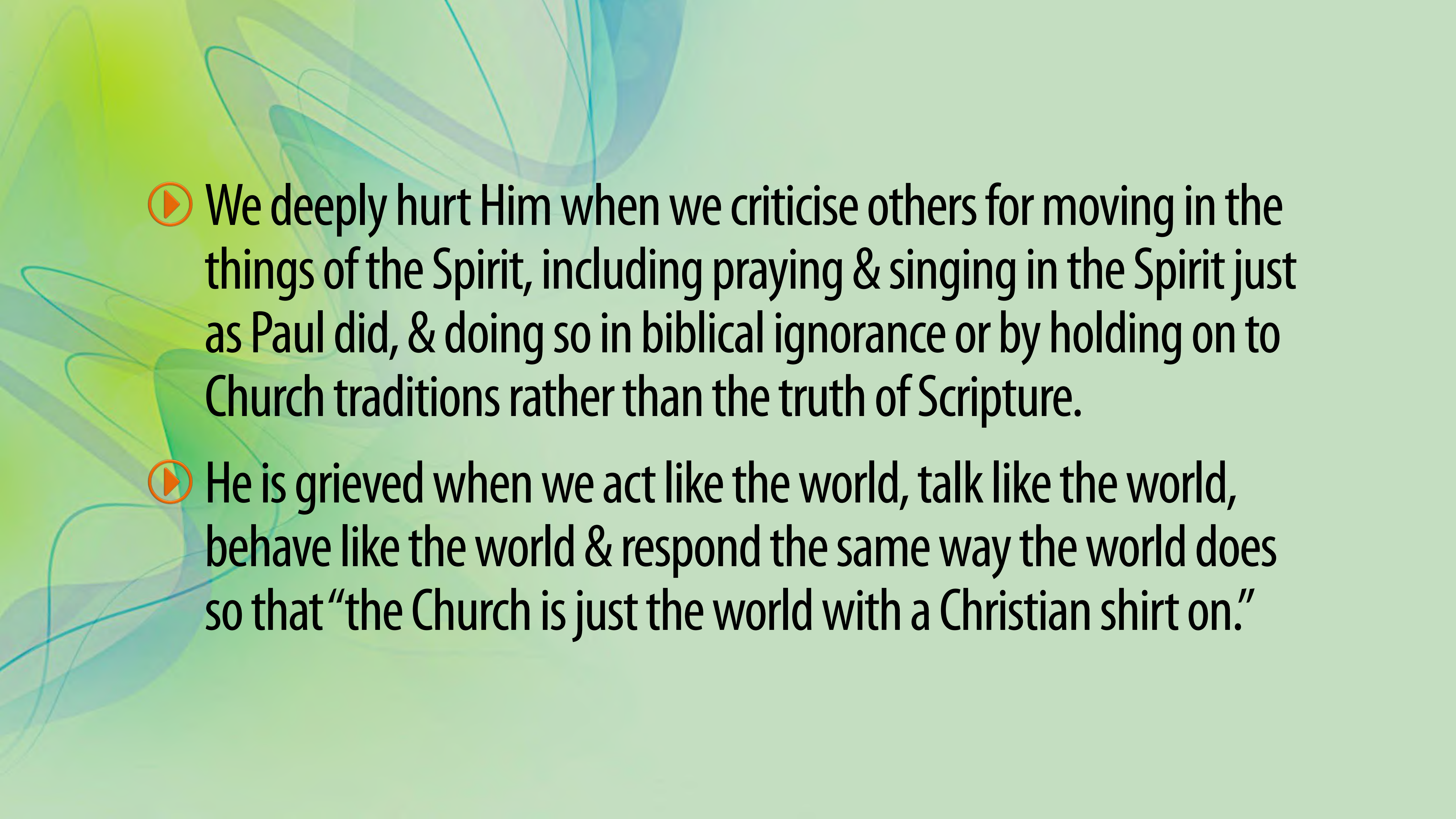
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- ▶ Because we have received the things of the Spirit through the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we can ALL prophesy.
- ▶ We are all instructed (commanded) to “keep on eagerly seeking the things of the Spirit; and especially seek to be able to prophesy” & we are called to “earnestly desire and to set our hearts on prophesying.”

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- An open book with a dark cover is shown from a top-down perspective. The pages are white with some text visible. The background is dark with a warm, golden glow in the upper left corner. Overlaid on the book are three lines of text in a white, sans-serif font with a slight drop shadow. The first line is '27. and do not give the devil an opportunity (a foothold).', the second is '29. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.', and the third is '30. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.'
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Ephesians 4:27 & 29-30

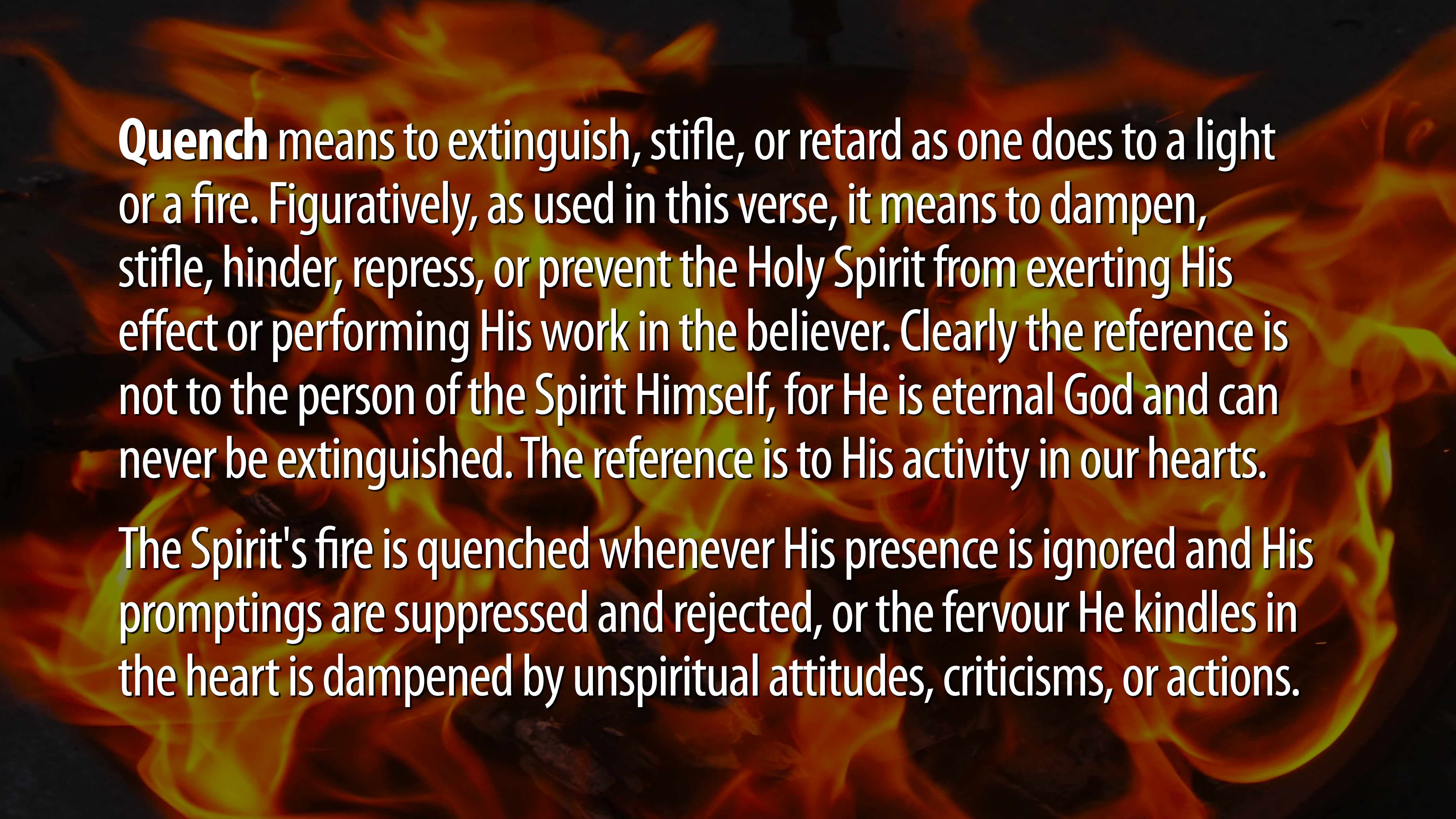
- ▶ The relationship that exists between us & the Holy Spirit is precious! He loves us deeply, He desires closeness & He desires to know us & to be known by us.
- ▶ We deeply hurt Him when we speak disrespectfully, unbiblically, incorrectly & unwisely about Him & about the things & the ministries of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ We hurt Him & our relationship with Him is impacted when we trust in ourselves & in worldly wisdom in place of the ministry & the things of the Holy Spirit.

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- ▶ We deeply hurt Him when we criticise others for moving in the things of the Spirit, including praying & singing in the Spirit just as Paul did, & doing so in biblical ignorance or by holding on to Church traditions rather than the truth of Scripture.
 - ▶ He is grieved when we act like the world, talk like the world, behave like the world & respond the same way the world does so that “the Church is just the world with a Christian shirt on.”

19. Do not quench the Spirit;
20. do not despise prophetic utterances.
21. But examine everything carefully;
hold fast to that which is good;
22. abstain from every form of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22



The background of the image is a close-up, high-contrast photograph of flames. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with dark, smoky shadows between the tongues of fire. The overall effect is one of intense heat and light, which serves as a metaphorical backdrop for the text about the Holy Spirit's fire.

Quench means to extinguish, stifle, or retard as one does to a light or a fire. Figuratively, as used in this verse, it means to dampen, stifle, hinder, repress, or prevent the Holy Spirit from exerting His effect or performing His work in the believer. Clearly the reference is not to the person of the Spirit Himself, for He is eternal God and can never be extinguished. The reference is to His activity in our hearts.

The Spirit's fire is quenched whenever His presence is ignored and His promptings are suppressed and rejected, or the fervour He kindles in the heart is dampened by unspiritual attitudes, criticisms, or actions.

Do not despise the Holy Spirit's operations, either in yourselves or in your brethren. Do not quench Him by neglect, much less by open opposition.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

- ▶ Why would Paul give a command, an instruction, that we need to eagerly seek the things of the Spirit & especially that we need to seek to be able to prophesy?
- ▶ Why would he say: “I wish you would all prophesy”?
- ▶ Why would God promise that in these last days, not only to pour out His Spirit on all flesh, but specifically promise that our sons and our daughters SHALL prophesy & that even His male servants and female servants SHALL prophesy?
- ▶ What are we missing if we relegate prophesy to the days of the first Church only? What are we missing when we despise prophetic utterances?

3. But someone prophesying is speaking to people, edifying, encouraging and comforting them.
4. A person speaking in a tongue does edify himself, but a person prophesying edifies the congregation.

1 Corinthians 14:3-4

PROPHECY

Edification

Exhortation

Comfort

Conviction

Guidance

The divine purpose of prophecy

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- ▶ **Comfort** (Consolation): Providing peace, solace, and reassurance from God during times of hardship, grief, or distress.

The divine purpose of prophecy

- ▶ **To convict and to convince:** To convict the unbeliever of his sin and his need for God – to make manifest the secrets of his heart.

1 Corinthians 14:24-25

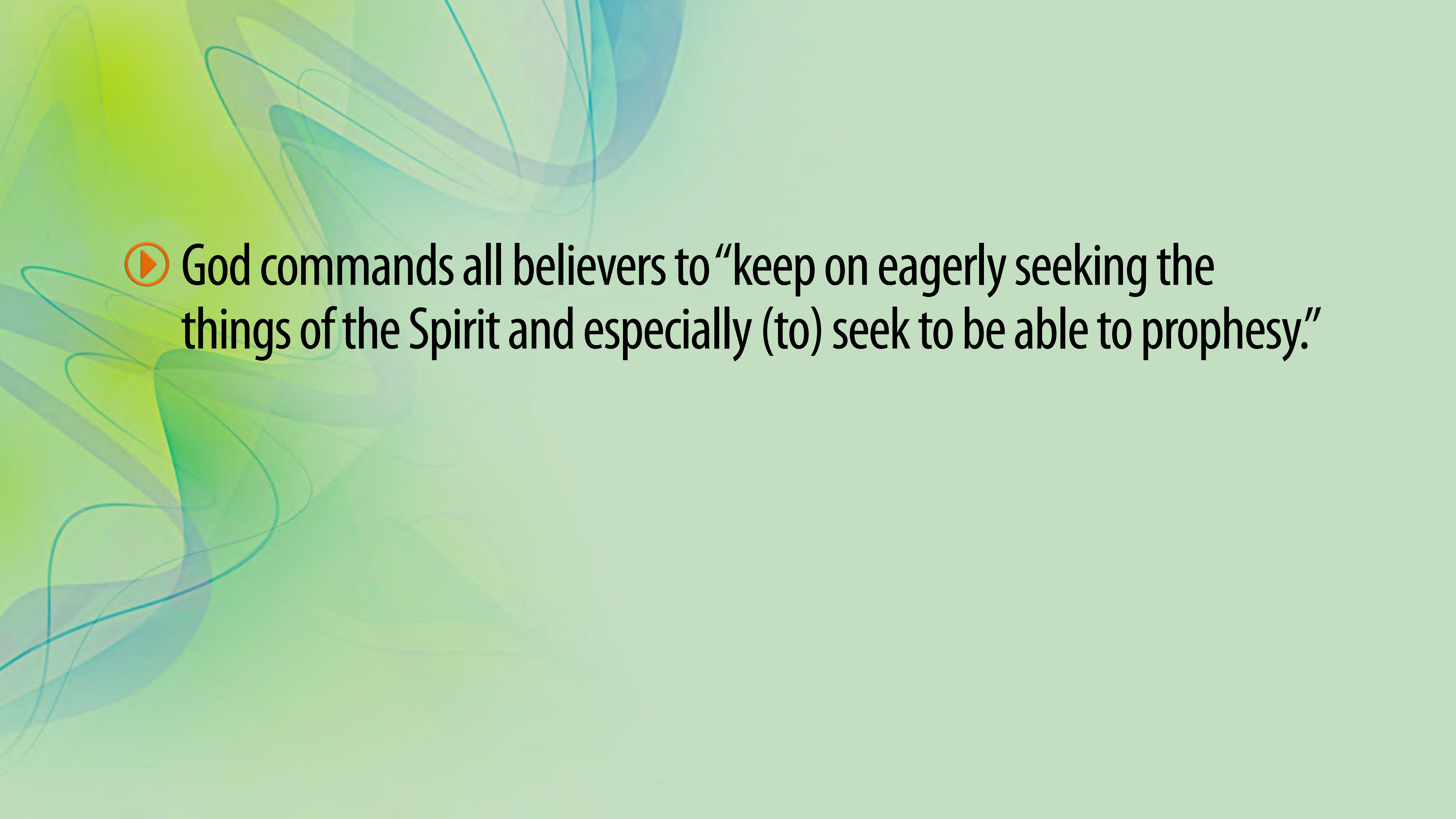
24. But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, **he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all;**
25. **the secrets of his heart are disclosed;** and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.

The divine purpose of prophecy

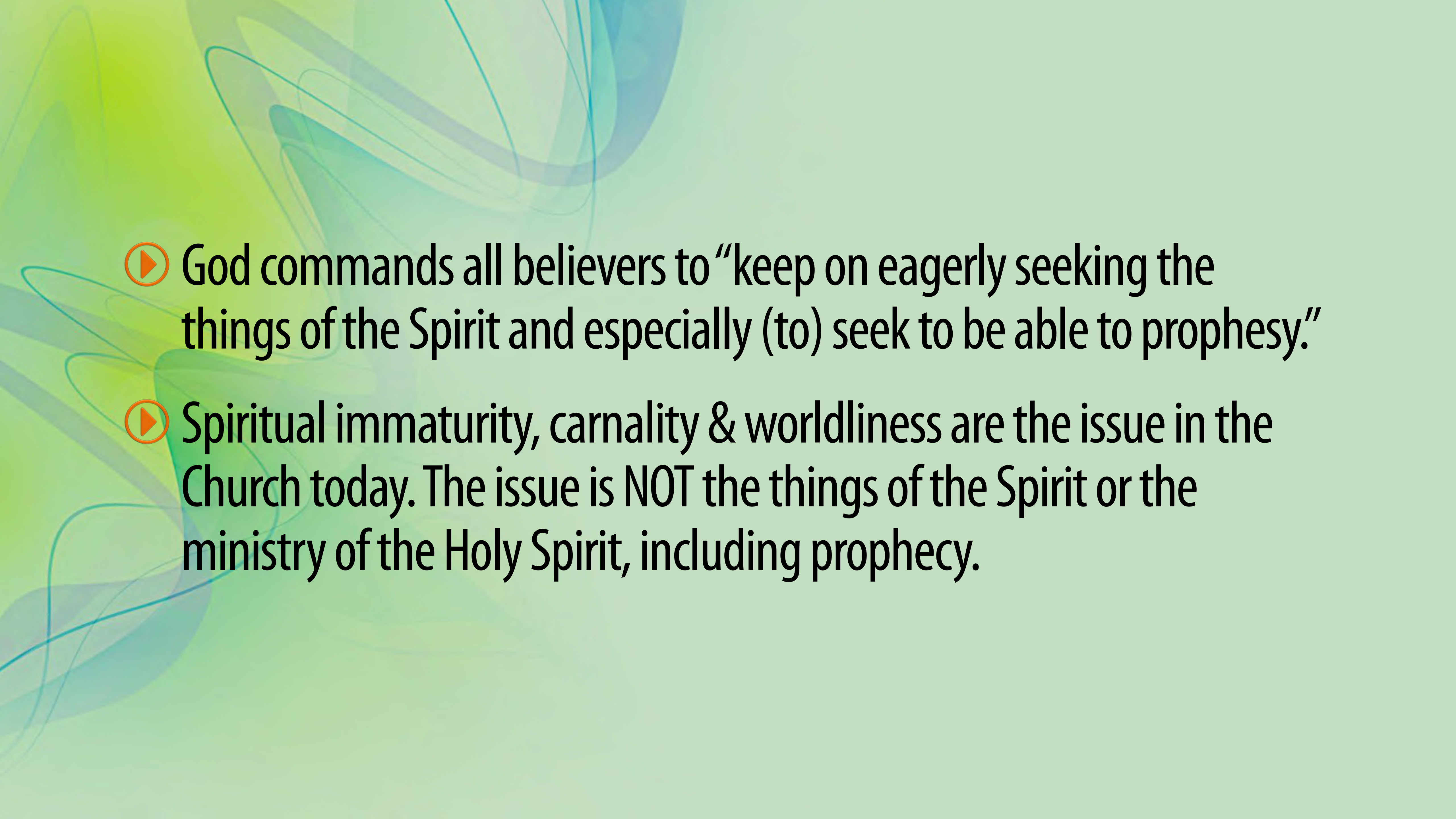
- ▶ **Instruction and Learning:** Prophecy in the congregation brings that which is the interpretation of the divine will and purpose of God so that all may be instructed, stimulated and encouraged.

1 Corinthians 14:31 (Amplified Bible)

For in this way you can give testimony [prophesying and thus **interpreting the divine will and purpose**] one by one, so that **all may be instructed and all may be stimulated and encouraged.**



▶ God commands all believers to “keep on eagerly seeking the things of the Spirit and especially (to) seek to be able to prophesy.”

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- ▶ God commands all believers to “keep on eagerly seeking the things of the Spirit and especially (to) seek to be able to prophesy.”
 - ▶ Spiritual immaturity, carnality & worldliness are the issue in the Church today. The issue is NOT the things of the Spirit or the ministry of the Holy Spirit, including prophecy.

If spiritual gifts, per se, are the problem, then there's no one to blame but God. If the things of the Spirit had been responsible for the fanaticism, elitism, and overall chaotic atmosphere in the church at Corinth, Paul would hardly have encouraged them to earnestly desire even more that such things of the Spirit be manifest in their midst.

Sam Storms (The Power and Pitfalls of Prophecy)

The solution to the abuse of the things of the Spirit is not disuse, but proper use. Nowhere in this chapter (1 Corinthians 14) does Paul recommend that the Corinthians abandon the things of the Spirit or de-emphasise spiritual power. He simply gives them guidelines on how these powerful manifestations of the Spirit are to be properly exercised in the body of Christ to the edification of God's people.

Sam Storms (The Power and Pitfalls of Prophecy)

Why is prophecy ignored by much of the Church today?

▶ **Theological Cessationism:** Many denominations today hold the view that the things of the Spirit (including prophecy) & the ministries of the Holy Spirit ceased with the death of the apostles and the completion of the biblical canon. **Cessationism** holds that the Holy Spirit no longer sovereignly gives individual believers the miraculous spiritual endowments that are listed in the Scriptures and that were present in the first century church. The conviction is that it is neither the Spirit's plan, nor His normal pattern to distribute miraculous spiritual endowments to Christians and churches today as He did in the times of the Apostles. Those operations of the Spirit are considered no longer the rule for the church.

Why is prophecy ignored by much of the Church today?

- ▶ **Fear of Abuse and Disrepute:** When prophecy is practiced openly, it can sometimes be misused. Incidents of false prophecies, failed predictions regarding the end times, and self-proclaimed "prophets" exploiting followers make many church leaders fearful of the practice. To avoid scandal and manipulation, many pastors choose to sideline the subject entirely.

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- ▶ **Focus on Practicality and Tradition:** Pastors often prioritise preaching & teaching on discipleship, daily living & basic theology. Eschatological (end times) prophecy or spontaneous prophetic words are often (wrongly) seen as divisive, overly complex, or disconnected from the everyday struggles of the congregation.

Why is prophecy ignored by much of the Church today?

- ▶ **Control vs. Spontaneity:** Prophecy, by its nature, is spontaneous and relies on the unpredictable leading of the Holy Spirit. In carefully structured, routine-driven church environments, allowing open prophetic ministry can feel chaotic to leadership, which threatens the orderly flow of a service. The same can be said for other manifestations of the things of the Spirit that are likewise spontaneous under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Pastors/leaders can fear what they can't control yet we are called to walk by faith & not by fear & God's perfect love casts out all fear. We can't desire the presence & the power of the Holy Spirit yet want to tightly hold the reins ourselves & keeping things under our own control.

Ephesians 2:10 (Amplified Bible)

For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].