



The Person & the Work of the

Holy Spirit

*A Biblical Framework
for Prophetic Ministry*

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:30

19. Do not quench the Spirit;

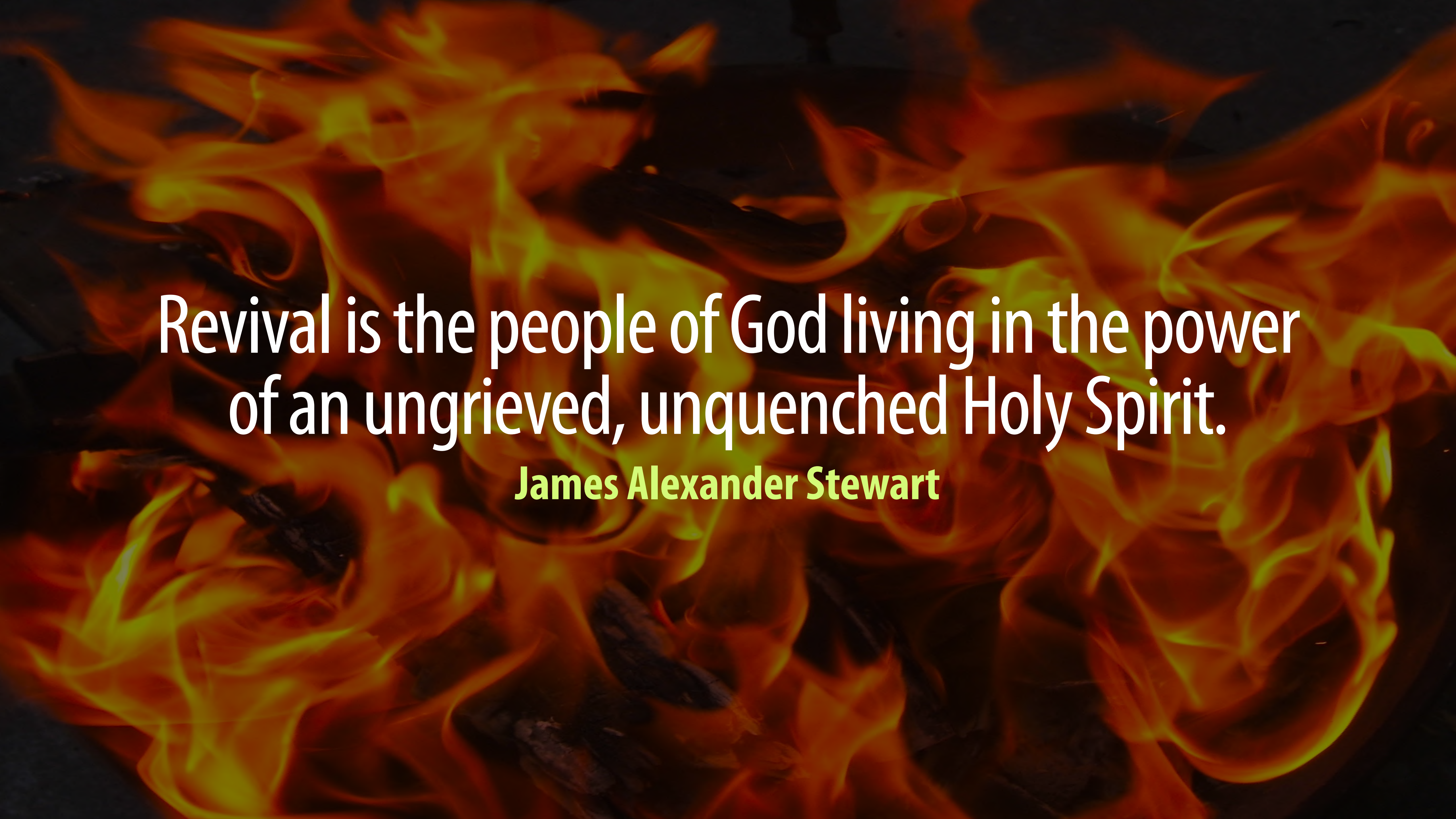
20. do not despise prophetic utterances.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-20

19. Stop stifling and suppressing the Spirit.

20. Stop counting as nothing divine revelations given in the local assembly.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-20 (Wuest N.T. Translation)



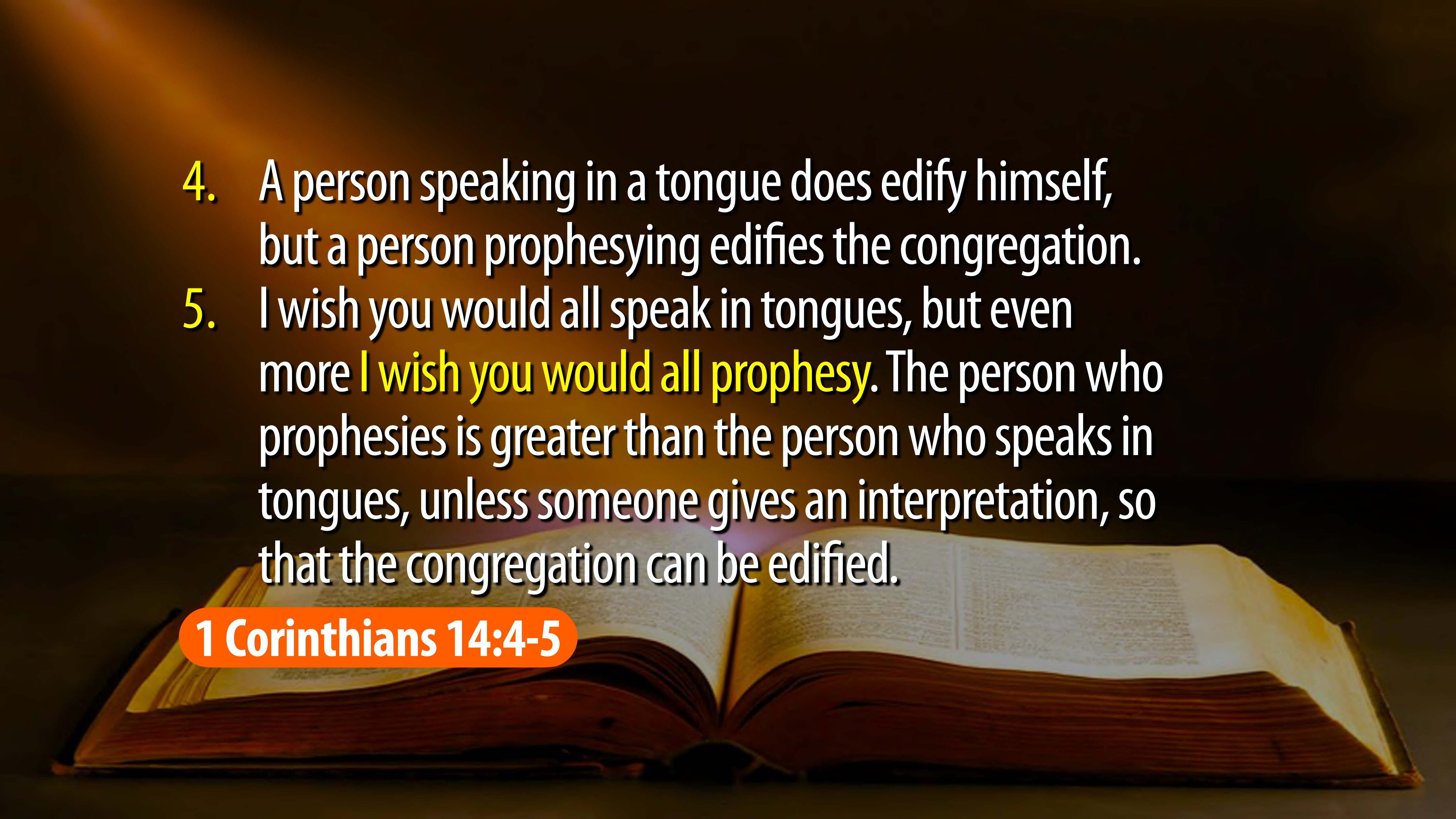
Revival is the people of God living in the power
of an ungrieved, unquenched Holy Spirit.

James Alexander Stewart

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



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- An open book with text overlaid. The text is in white and yellow, with a yellow highlight on the phrase "I wish you would all prophesy". The background is a dark, warm-toned image of an open book.
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

1. Keep on eagerly seeking the things of the Spirit; and
ESPECIALLY seek to be able to prophesy.
(1 Corinthians 14:1)
2. Earnestly desire and set your hearts on prophesying.
(1 Corinthians 14:30)
3. I wish you would ALL prophecy. (1 Corinthians 14:5)
4. For you can ALL prophecy one by one, so that all may
learn and all may be exhorted.(1 Corinthians 14:31)
5. A person prophesying edifies the congregation.
(1 Corinthians 14:4)

6. The promise of God that in the last days He will pour out His Spirit on all flesh, and our sons and our daughters shall prophesy & His male servants and female servants shall prophesy. (Acts 2:17:18)
7. God uses prophecy in the assembly of His people to bring conviction upon an unbeliever in our midst so that he is called to account, so that the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so that he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among us. (1 Corinthians 14:24-25)

8. We need a biblical framework for the ministry of the Holy Spirit that is prophecy because like anything we do, prophecy is subject to the limitations of our frail humanity & we can get things wrong.
9. ALL prophecy must be judged & we need a biblical framework to be able to do that correctly. (1Corinthians 14:29)
10. Whenever Jesus spoke about the last days He warned about false prophets (who bring false prophecies).

11. We are commanded not to despise prophecy but rather we are to examine everything carefully against the plumbline of Scripture & having done so, then we are to hold fast to that which is good whilst abstaining from every form of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:20-22)

Prophecy is the ability, granted supernaturally by the Holy Spirit to a believer, to speak forth words that come from God that do not come from the believer's own wisdom or understanding or education, and so on.

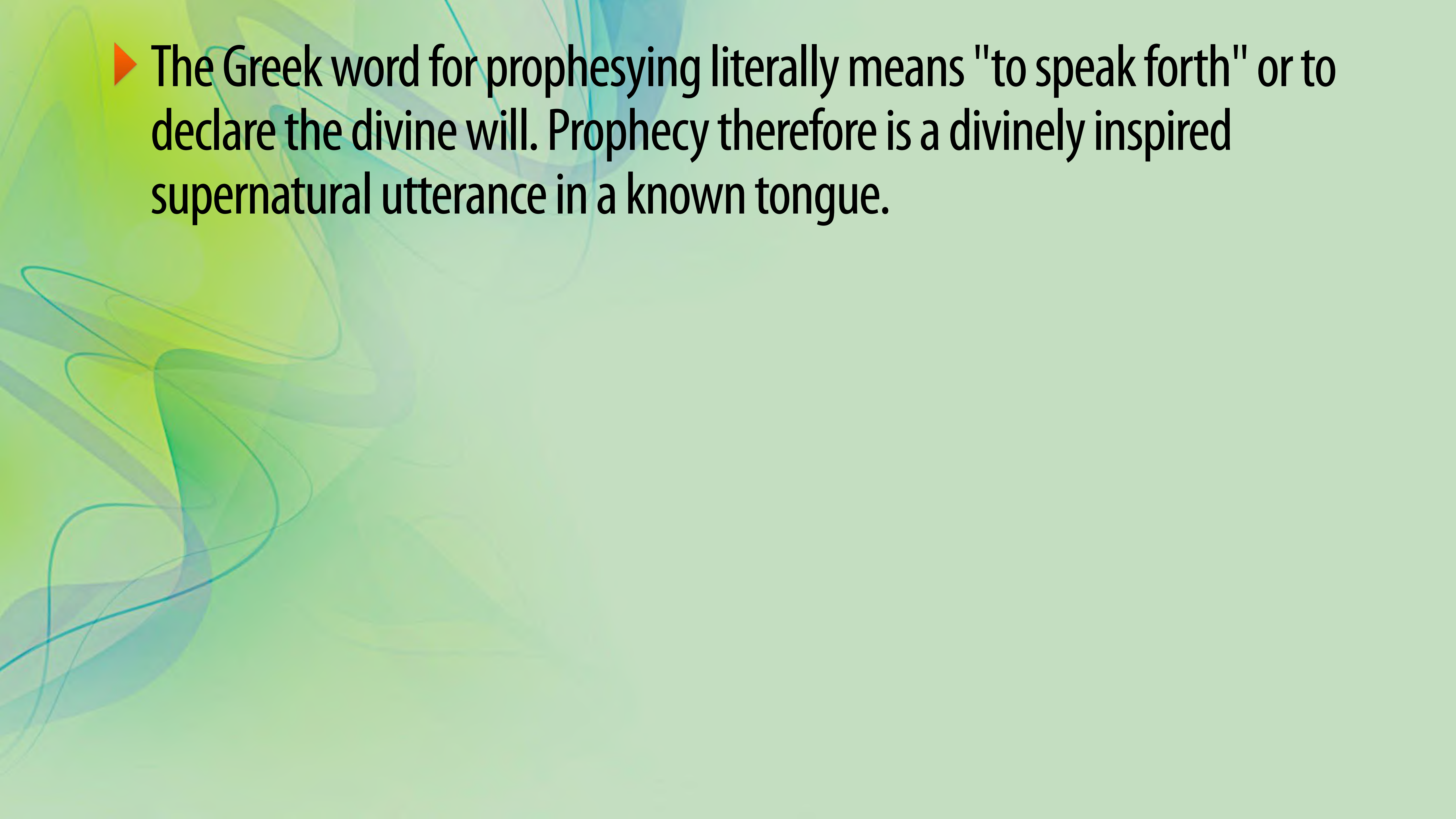
Derek Prince

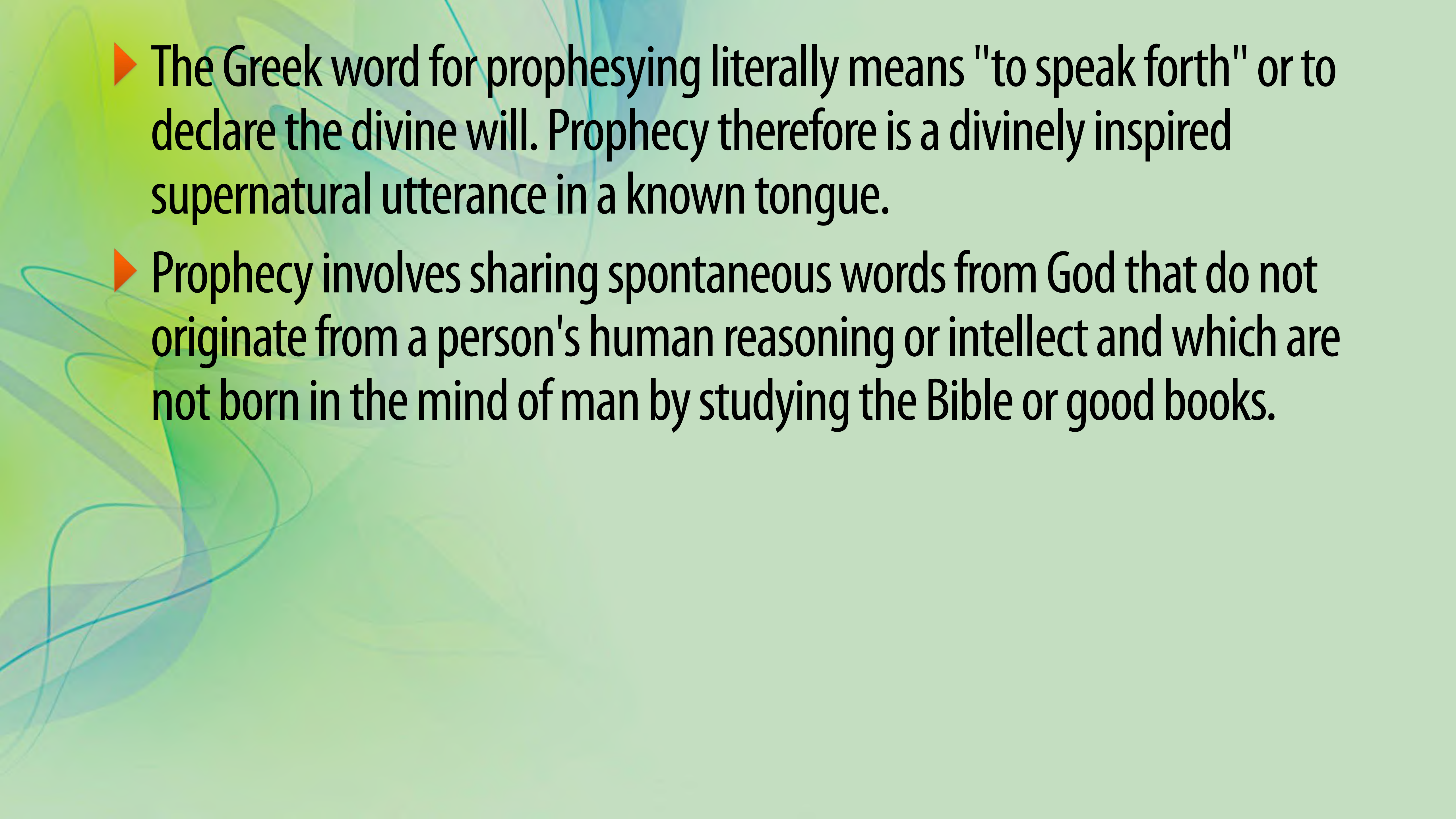
Prophecy is the speaking forth in merely human words something God has spontaneously brought to mind.

Teaching is always based on a text of Scripture.

Prophecy is always based on a spontaneous revelation.

Sam Storms

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PROPHECY

Edification

Exhortation

Comfort

Conviction

Guidance

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- ▶ The intention of these messages from God is to edify, to exhort, to comfort, to convict and/or to guide (instruct).
- ▶ The prophetic word is directed toward people, not God, and must be evaluated and tested in submission to Scripture and within the community of believers.

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment.

Philippians 1:9

But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Hebrews 5:14



Discernment is not knowing the difference
between right and wrong. It is knowing the
difference between right and almost right.

Charles Hadden Spurgeon

Let two or three prophets speak,
and let the others weigh what is said.

1 Corinthians 14:29

- 20. Do not despise prophecies,
- 21. but test everything; hold fast what is good.
- 22. Abstain from every form of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:20-22



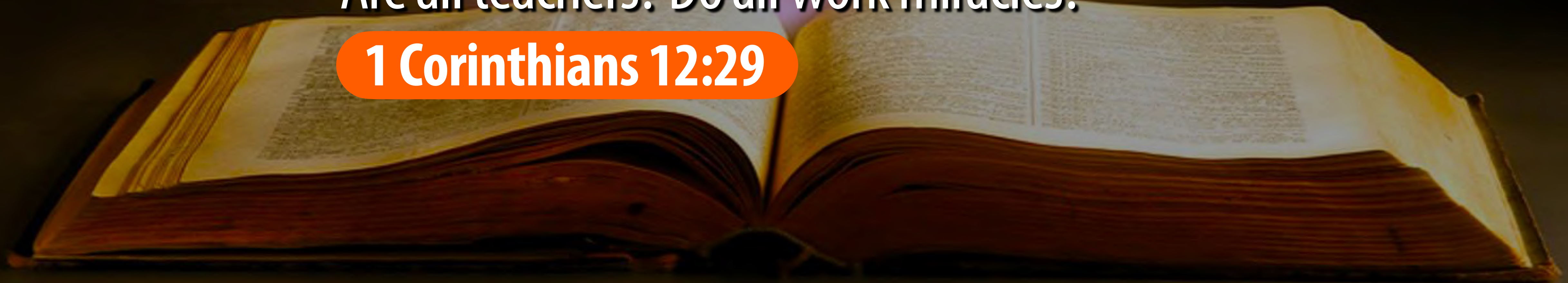
- ▶ There is a difference between speaking forth under the unction of the Holy Spirit in prophecy & being called to function in the ministry or the role of a prophet.

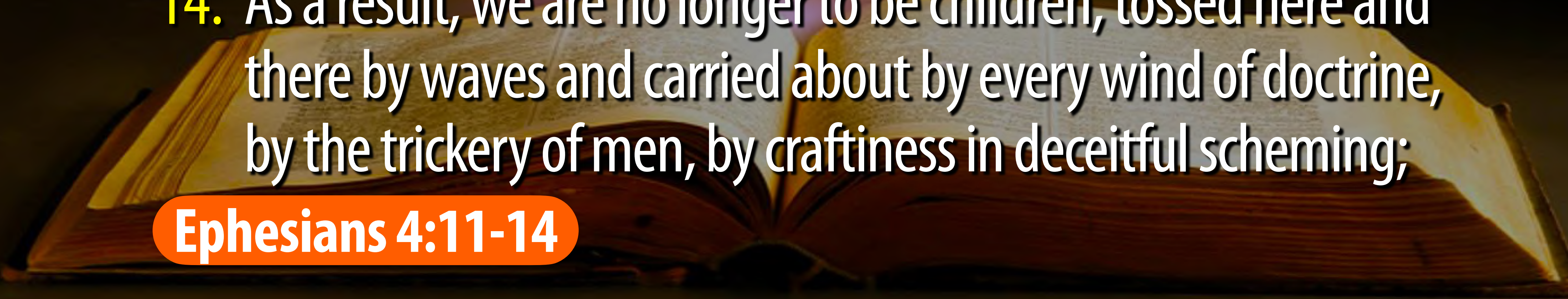
For you can all prophesy one by one, so that
all may learn and all may be exhorted.

1 Corinthians 14:31

Are all apostles? Are all prophets?
Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

1 Corinthians 12:29



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11. And He gave some as apostles, and **some as prophets**, and some as evangelists, and some as shepherds and teachers,
12. for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;
13. **UNTIL** we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.
14. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

Ephesians 4:11-14

- ▶ There is a difference between speaking forth under the unction of the Holy Spirit in prophecy & being called to function in the ministry or the role of a prophet.
- ▶ The words or visions or Scriptures for uttering a prophetic word are most likely to come in an atmosphere of prayer & adoration. In a meeting situation, this often occurs in the time of worship.

While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting,
the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and
Saul for the work to which I have called them."

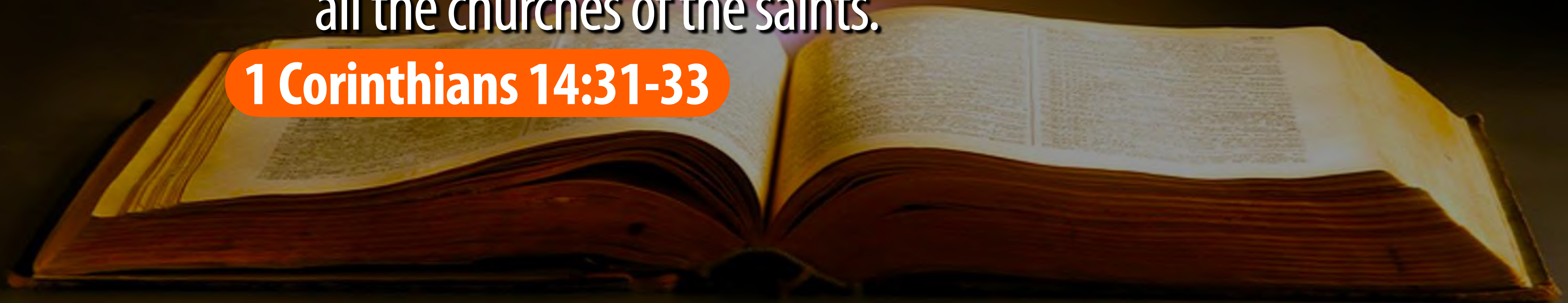
Acts 13:2



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- ▶ Having received an anointing or a stirring or a prompting to speak out a word of prophecy, wait for the right time to bring it forth.

31. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted;
32. and **the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets;**
(the spirits of those who prophesy are subject to those who prophesy)
33. for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

1 Corinthians 14:31-33



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- ▶ Having received an anointing or a stirring or a prompting to speak out a word of prophecy, wait for the right time to bring it forth.
- ▶ Prophecy may be uttered loudly or quietly & even sung & we see in Scripture a demonstrative act sometimes being part of the prophecy.

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- An open book with aged, yellowed pages is shown from a slightly elevated angle. The book is open to a spread of two pages. Overlaid on the top half of the image is a list of two verses in a white, sans-serif font with a subtle drop shadow. The first verse is preceded by a yellow number '10' and the second by a yellow number '11'. The background is dark and out of focus.
- 10.** As we were staying there for some days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.
- 11.** And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

Acts 21:10-11

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- ▶ Stick to the Word. Keep to Scripture especially as a beginner in prophecy.
- ▶ Don't be surprised if the prophecy is brief. Long prophecies are not an evidence of a mature gift or of our spirituality.

Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke
by the commission of the LORD to the people
saying, “I am with you,” declares the LORD.”

Haggai 1:13



- ▶ It's not necessary to introduce a prophetic Word in a particular manner, for example "thus saith the Lord."

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- ▶ Beware of carrying on in the flesh. Stop once the anointing has lifted.

Biblically, what should our expectation be from the manifestation of the Holy Spirit that is prophecy?

- ▶ The word of prophecy will be a unique, extemporaneous (spontaneous, in the moment) utterance.
 - unique in that it fulfils a role that preaching does not fulfil.
 - extemporaneous in that it will not depend on prior preparation in the same manner as a sermon. (It will have its own kind of preparation.)
- ▶ It will be a convincing utterance. It will have the “mark of God” upon it. There will be an evidence of “Thus saith the Lord” even if that phrase is not used.

Biblically, what should our expectation be from the manifestation of the Holy Spirit that is prophecy?

- ▶ It will be under the authority of the written Word. The scriptural scope of prophecy is “edification, exhortation, comfort, conviction, guidance.” It will not contradict Scripture but will line up with Scripture.
- ▶ It will be under the authority of the church leadership. God will not by-pass those He has set in the Church. We obey Him when we obey them. The moment gifts are used for personal ends or agendas, disorder and confusion will follow.
- ▶ If you are visiting another church, either refrain from speaking or seek approval from the leadership before speaking forth prophetically.

Biblically, what should our expectation be from the manifestation of the Holy Spirit that is prophecy?

- ▶ It will inspire faith and trust in God.
- ▶ It will bring an heightened awareness of the presence of God.
- ▶ It will encourage, confirm and strengthen, graciously guide and add a prophetic balance to the preaching and teaching of the written Word.
- ▶ It will confirm those who teach & preach the Word of God.
- ▶ It will equate with the character of the person who prophesies.
“You will know them by their fruits.” (Matthew 7:16-20)

Some practical points that govern the ministry of prophecy

- ▶ Refrain from scolding, lecturing or whipping people through prophecy. This also applies to negative, harsh or judgmental prophesying.
- ▶ Avoid prophesying your pet doctrines and favourite emphases.
- ▶ Avoid the temptation to give out “personal counselling” to some need of which you happen to be aware.
- ▶ Avoid “preaching” for extended periods while prophesying by elaborating or expanding on the message after the anointing lifts.
- ▶ Refrain from yelling, screaming, whining or extremes in voice or manner.

Some practical points that govern the ministry of prophecy

- ▶ Avoid introducing a brand new direction into the service through prophecy. Stay in the tune and tenor of the meeting. Do not go cross-current or against the current.
- ▶ Refrain from injecting self and personal problems into your prophecy such as moods, pressures or circumstances, empty heartedness, anger, irritation, hastiness, opinions, etc..
- ▶ Refrain from speaking if you have an unclear or obscure message.
(1 Corinthians 14:33)

Judging Prophecy

- ▶ Does the character of the person prophesying bear witness to the gift? (Matthew 7:16-20) Personal character is the “standard” for the operation of the things of the Spirit.
- ▶ Does it glorify Christ? If it glorifies anything or anybody but Christ, it is not right. (John 16:14; Revelation 19:10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-3; 1 John 4:1-3).
- ▶ Does it line up with the Bible? The Spirit of God will not contradict Himself. The Word and the Spirit agree. If it doesn't agree with the Word of God, it is not right.

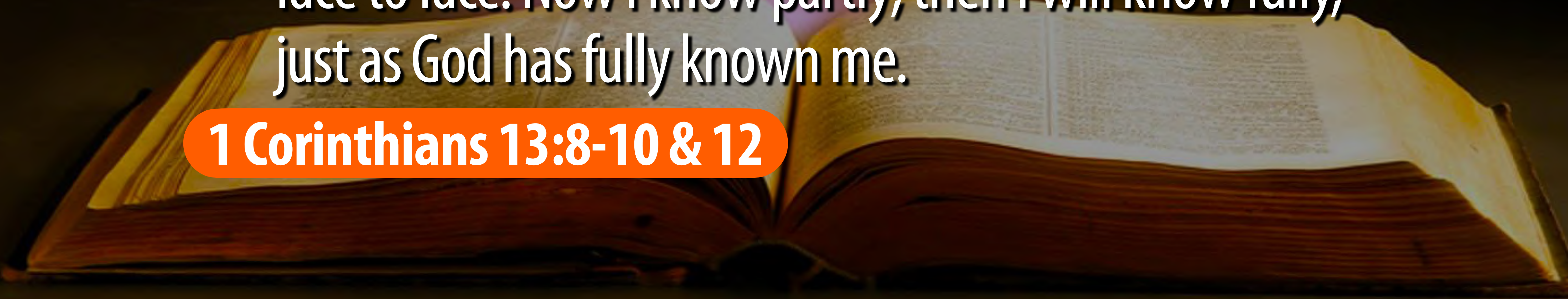
Judging Prophecy

- ▶ Are their prophecies fulfilled? This is more in the realm of a prophet's ministry. (Deuteronomy 18:20-22)
- ▶ Does the prophecy produce liberty or bondage or condemnation? (Romans 8:15; Deuteronomy 13:1-50)
- ▶ Is there a witness in our spirit to the prophecy? (John 16:13; 1 John 2:20 and 27)

Judging Prophecy

For a prophecy to be accepted as valid it should find an echo in the hearts of spiritually mature people. It should be confirmed by biblically saturated insight. It should find a resonance in the hearts and minds of those who have the mind of Christ and who are ruled by His peace.

(1 Thessalonians 5:19-21; Colossians 1:9; 3:15;
Ephesians 5:15-17; Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 1:9-10).

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8. Love never ends; but prophecies will pass, tongues will cease, knowledge will pass.
 9. For our knowledge is partial, and our prophecy partial;
 10. but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass.
 12. For now we see obscurely in a mirror, but then it will be face to face. Now I know partly; then I will know fully, just as God has fully known me.

1 Corinthians 13:8-10 & 12