

EXPERIENCING GOD

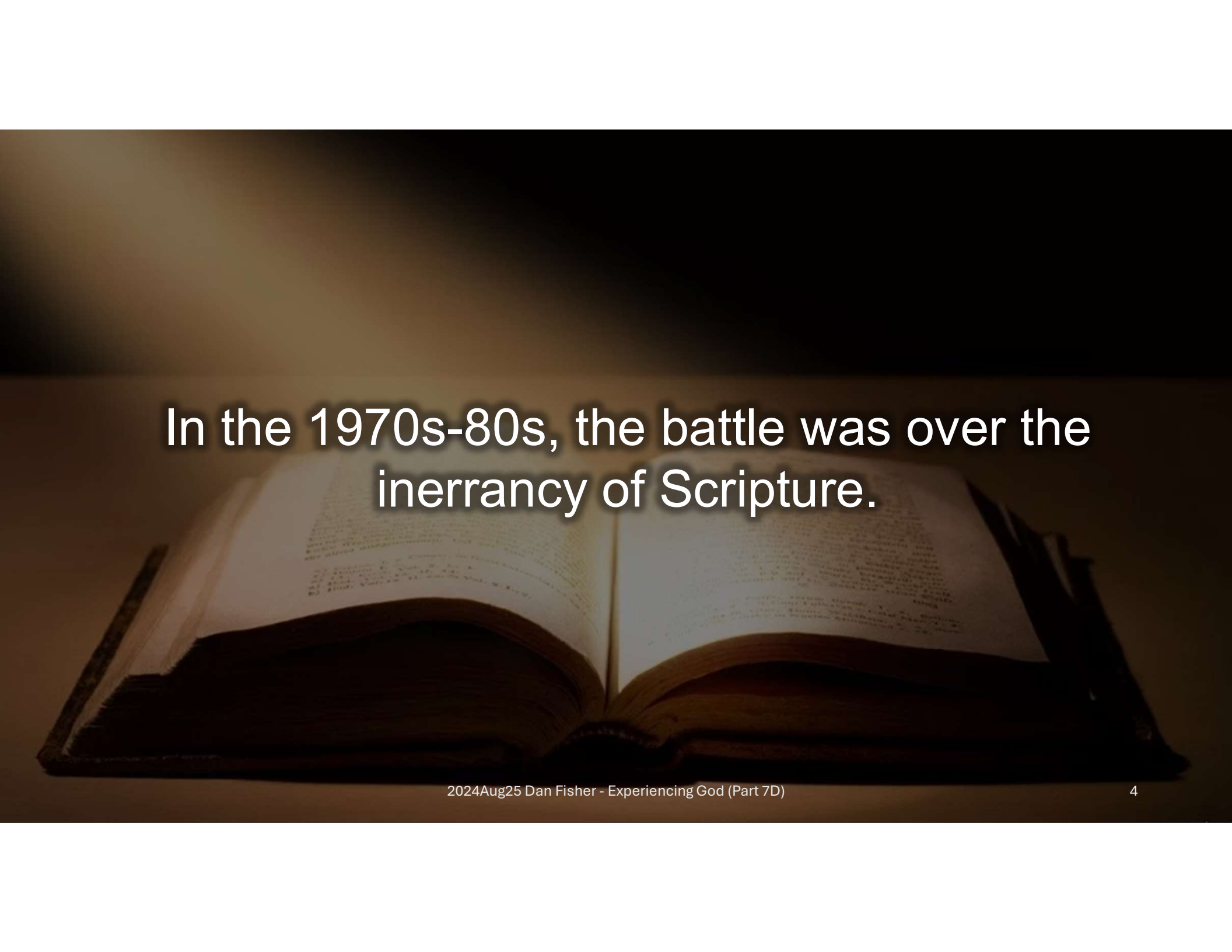


Part 7d: God is speaking to you – but how?

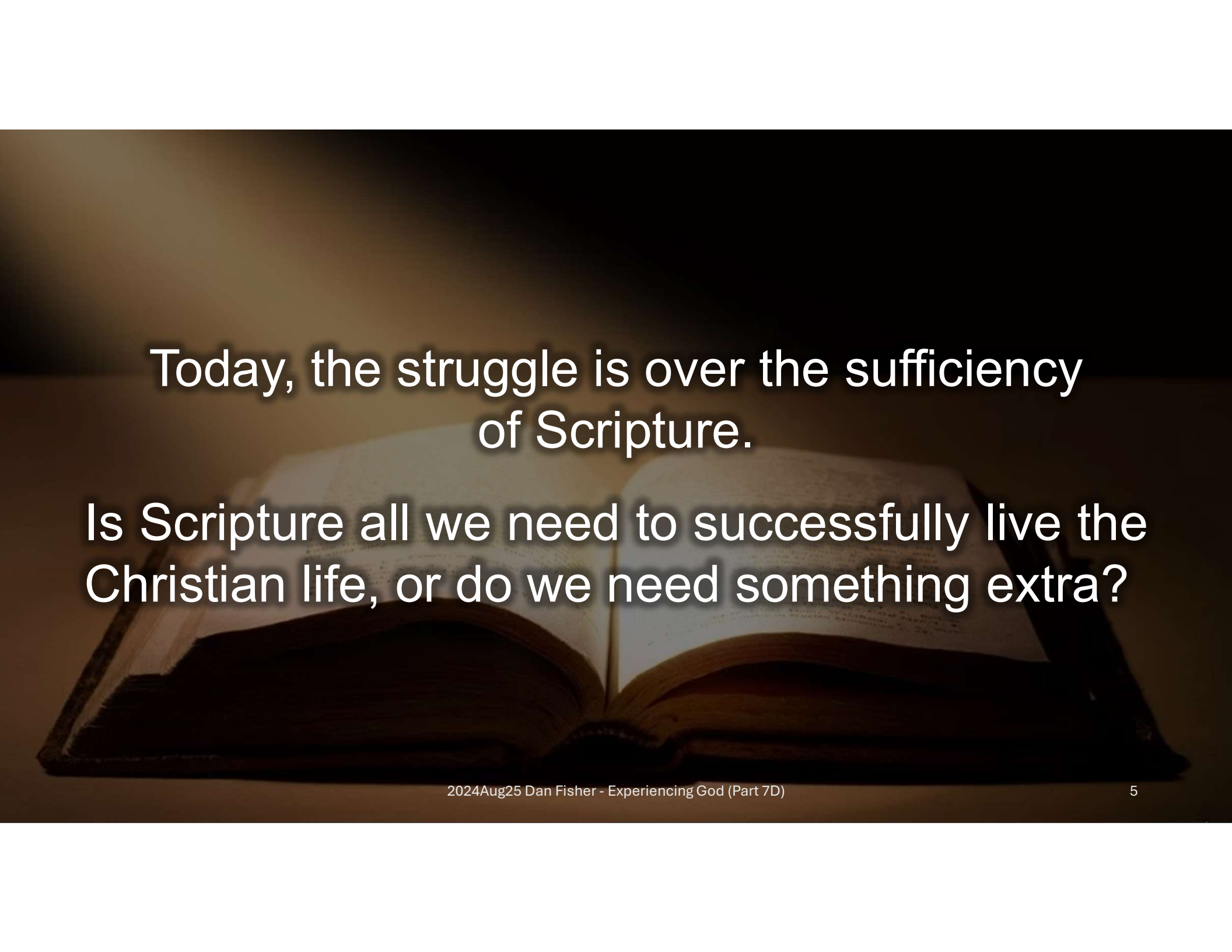


How we answer that
question has massive
spiritual impact!



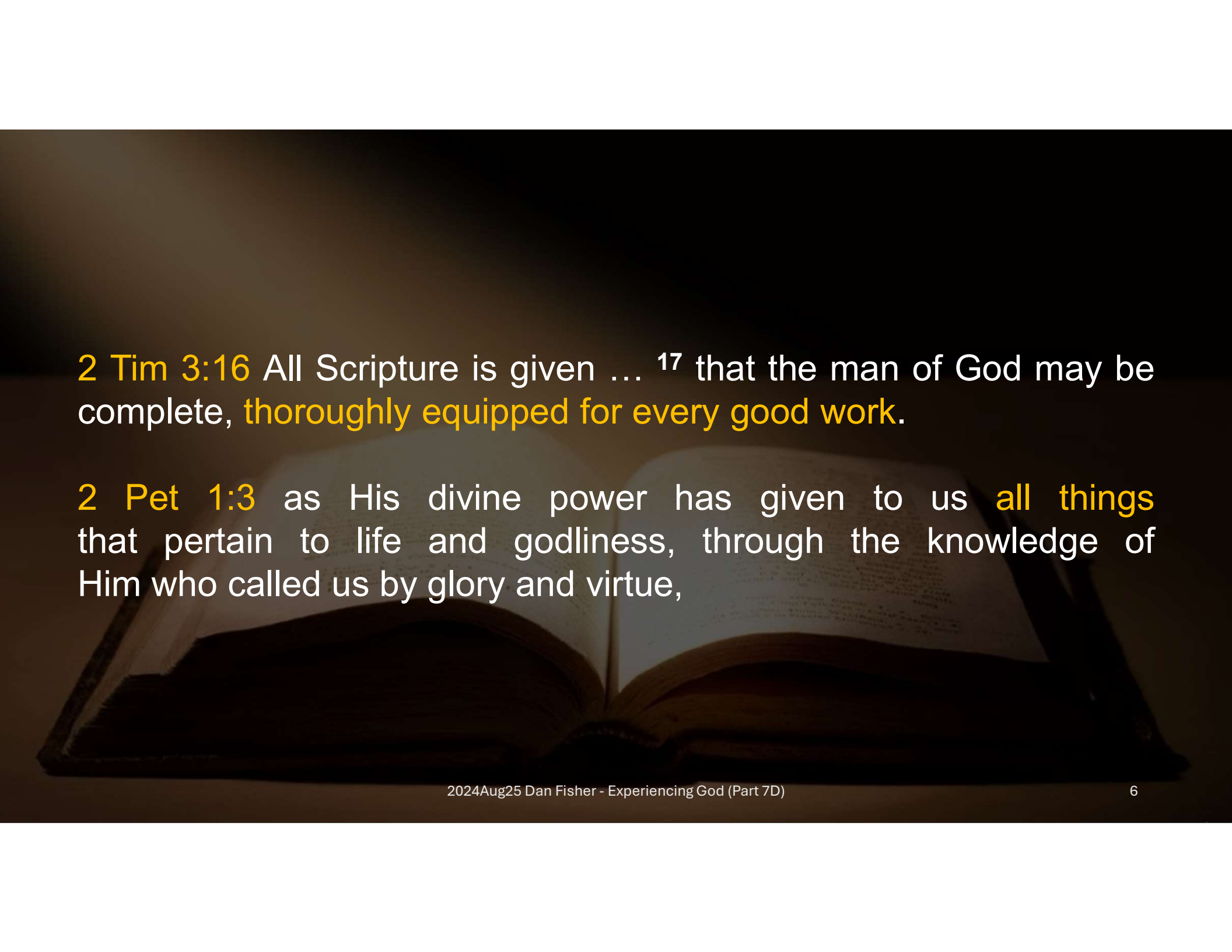


In the 1970s-80s, the battle was over the
inerrancy of Scripture.

An open book is shown in a dark, low-key setting. The pages are illuminated, revealing text. The book is the central focus, with the text overlaid on it.

Today, the struggle is over the sufficiency
of Scripture.

Is Scripture all we need to successfully live the
Christian life, or do we need something extra?

An open book is shown in a dark, low-key setting. The pages are illuminated, revealing some text, though it is mostly obscured by the overlay. The book is open to a spread of pages, with the spine visible in the center.

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is given ... ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, **thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

2 Pet 1:3 as His divine power has given to us **all things** that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

Mark Batterson – *Whisper: How to Hear the Voice of God*

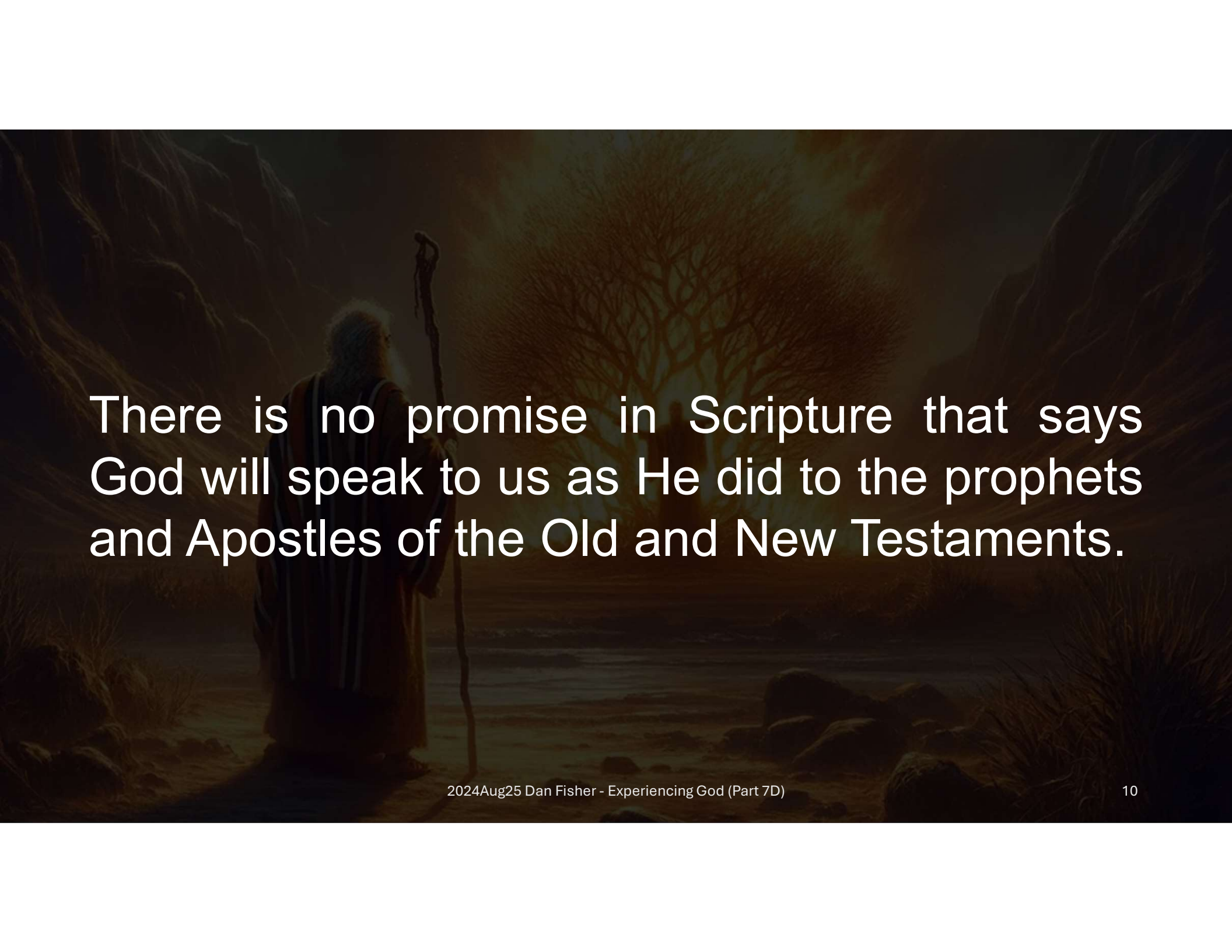
“To believe that God speaks only through the Bible is to handcuff the God of the Bible as the Bible has revealed Him to us. ... There is a very subtle form of idolatry called bibliolatry. It involves treating the Bible as an end in itself instead of a means to an end.”

An open book is shown in a dark, low-key lighting. The pages are slightly illuminated, and the text on them is mostly illegible. The book is open, showing two pages. The overall mood is contemplative and quiet.

Henry Blackaby, *Experiencing God*:

“If you have trouble hearing God speak, you are in trouble at the very heart of your Christian experience.”





There is no promise in Scripture that says God will speak to us as He did to the prophets and Apostles of the Old and New Testaments.

Do I need to hear the voice of God outside of Scripture?

Can I expect to hear the voice of God outside of Scripture?

Can I learn to hear the voice of God outside of Scripture?



Jim Osman

Pastor, Kootenai Comm. Church
Sandpoint, ID



Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. **1 Jn 4:1**



1. God speaks through Scripture – not signs



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Jn 4:46-53 And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.” ... ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.



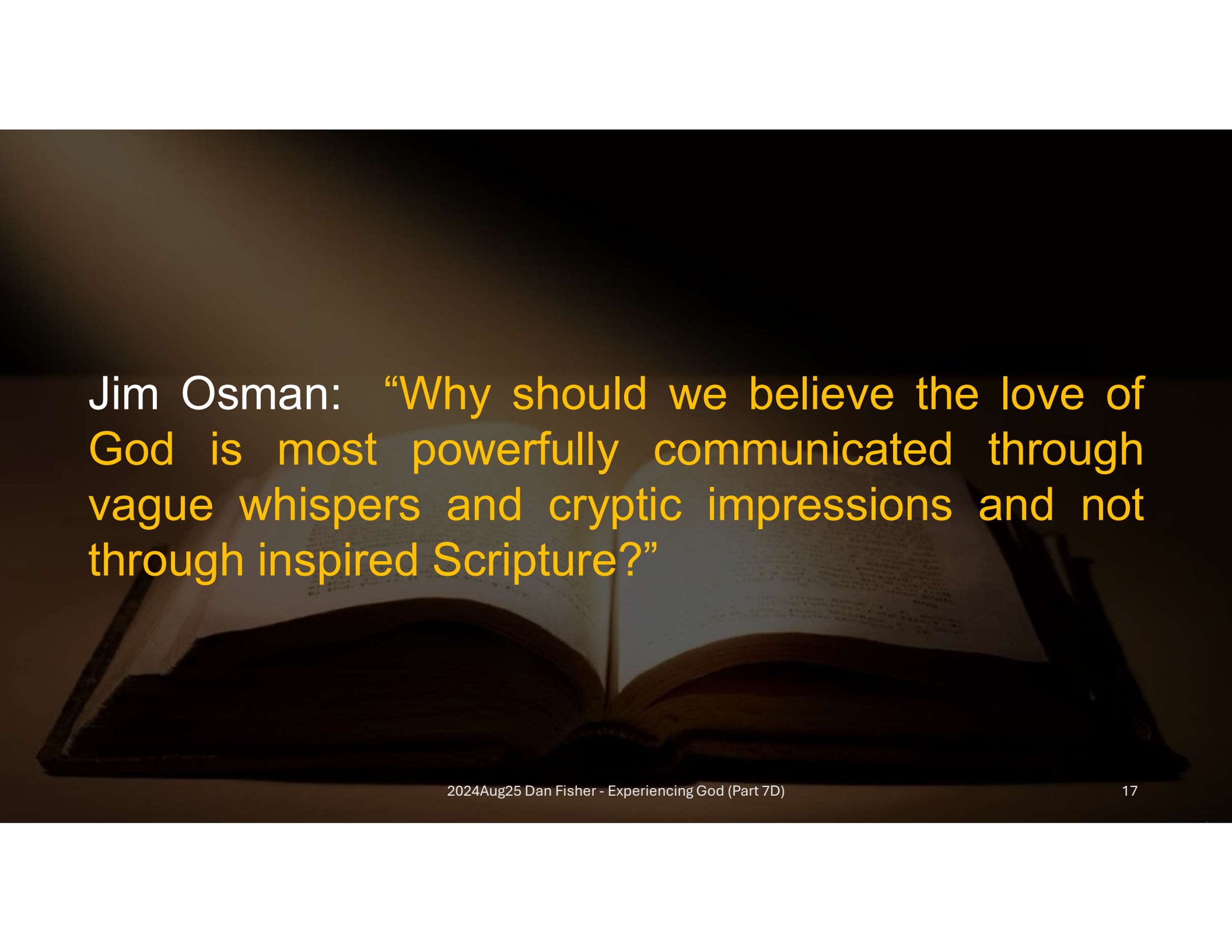
2024Aug25 Dan Fisher - Experiencing God (Part 7D)

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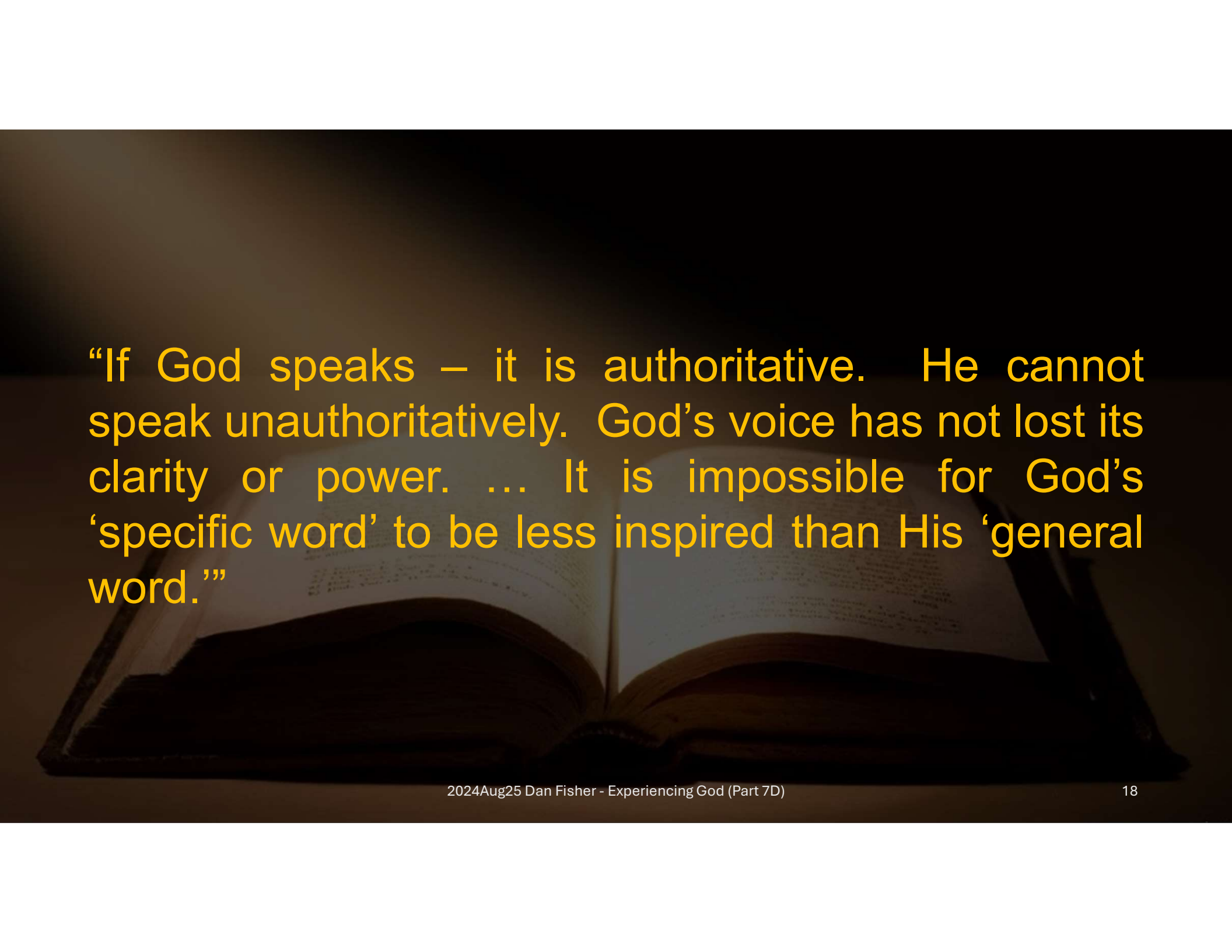


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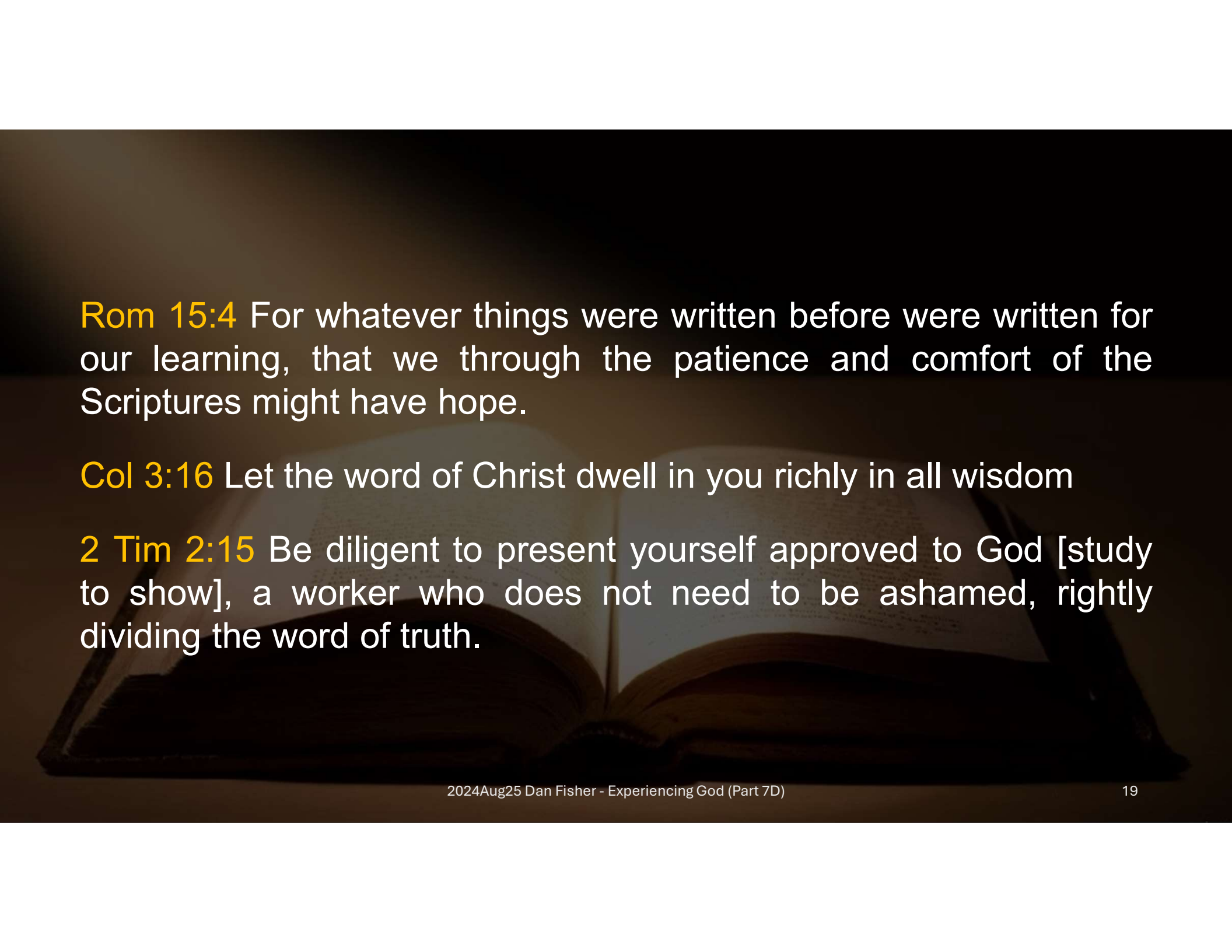
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Jim Osman: “Why should we believe the love of God is most powerfully communicated through vague whispers and cryptic impressions and not through inspired Scripture?”

An open book is shown in a dark, low-key lighting. The pages are visible, and the text is overlaid in a bright yellow color. The book is open to two pages, and the text is centered across both pages.


“If God speaks – it is authoritative. He cannot speak unauthoritatively. God’s voice has not lost its clarity or power. ... It is impossible for God’s ‘specific word’ to be less inspired than His ‘general word.’”

An open book is shown in the background, with its pages slightly curved. The text is overlaid on the book. The text is in white and yellow colors.

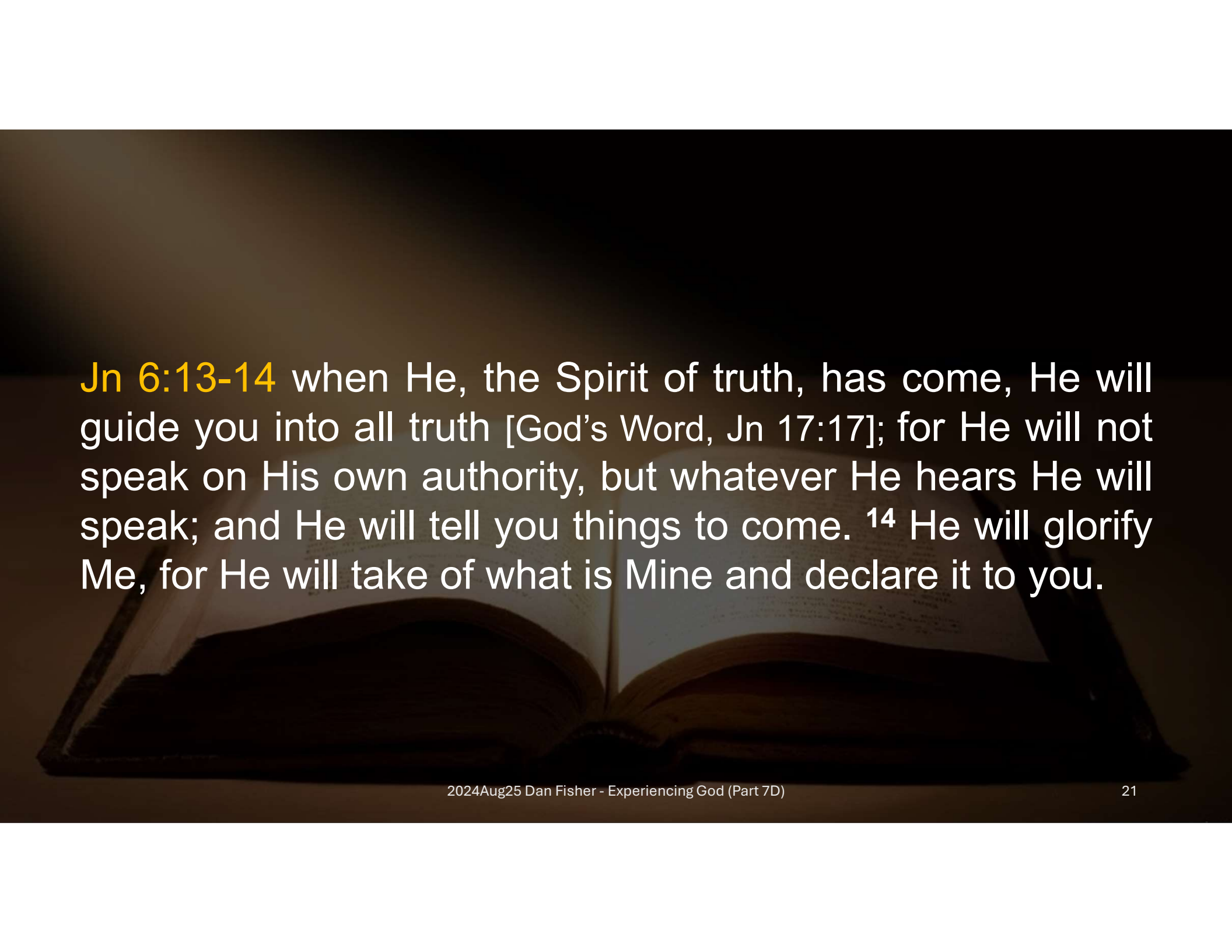
Rom 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom

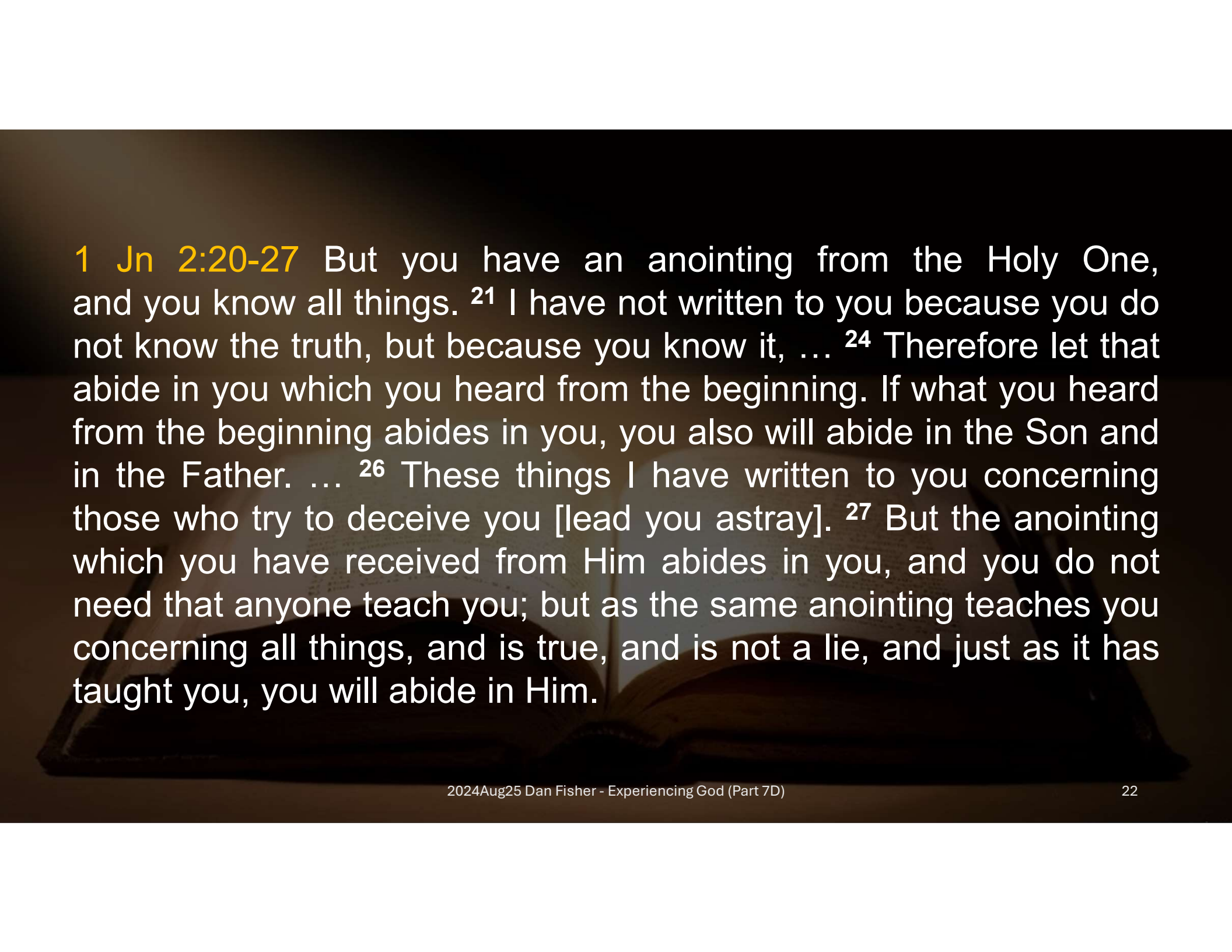
2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God [study to show], a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.



2. The Holy Spirit's primary job is to convict and teach us – not speak to us

An open book is shown in a dark, low-key lighting. The pages are slightly illuminated, and the text overlaid on the image is white and yellow. The text is a quote from the Bible, John 6:13-14.

Jn 6:13-14 when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth [God's Word, Jn 17:17]; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

An open book is shown in the background, with its pages slightly curved. The text is overlaid on the book. The text is in white, with the first few words in yellow. The text is a quote from the Bible, 1 John 2:20-27.

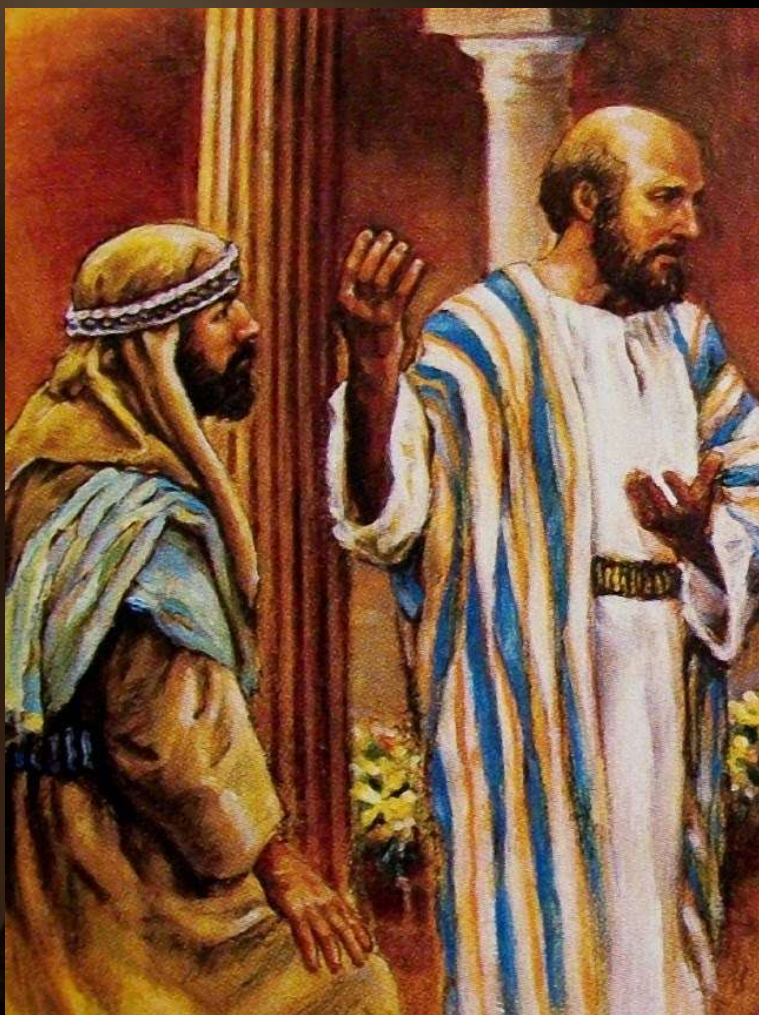
1 Jn 2:20-27 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. ²¹ I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, ... ²⁴ Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. ... ²⁶ These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you [lead you astray]. ²⁷ But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

Acts 8:26-29 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert. ²⁷ So he arose and went. ... ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.”




³⁹ Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip was found at Azotus [modern day Ashdod – approx. 20 miles].





Acts 16:6-10 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. ⁷ After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. ⁸ So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.



3. When God speaks – people listen

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- Many teach that we must “learn” how to hear/understand the voice of God.



Priscilla Shirer, *Discerning the Voice of God*, p. 23:

“deliberately listening for God’s voice seems to be a lost art these days.”



Bill Johnson

Bethel Church/School Supernatural Min
Redding, CA

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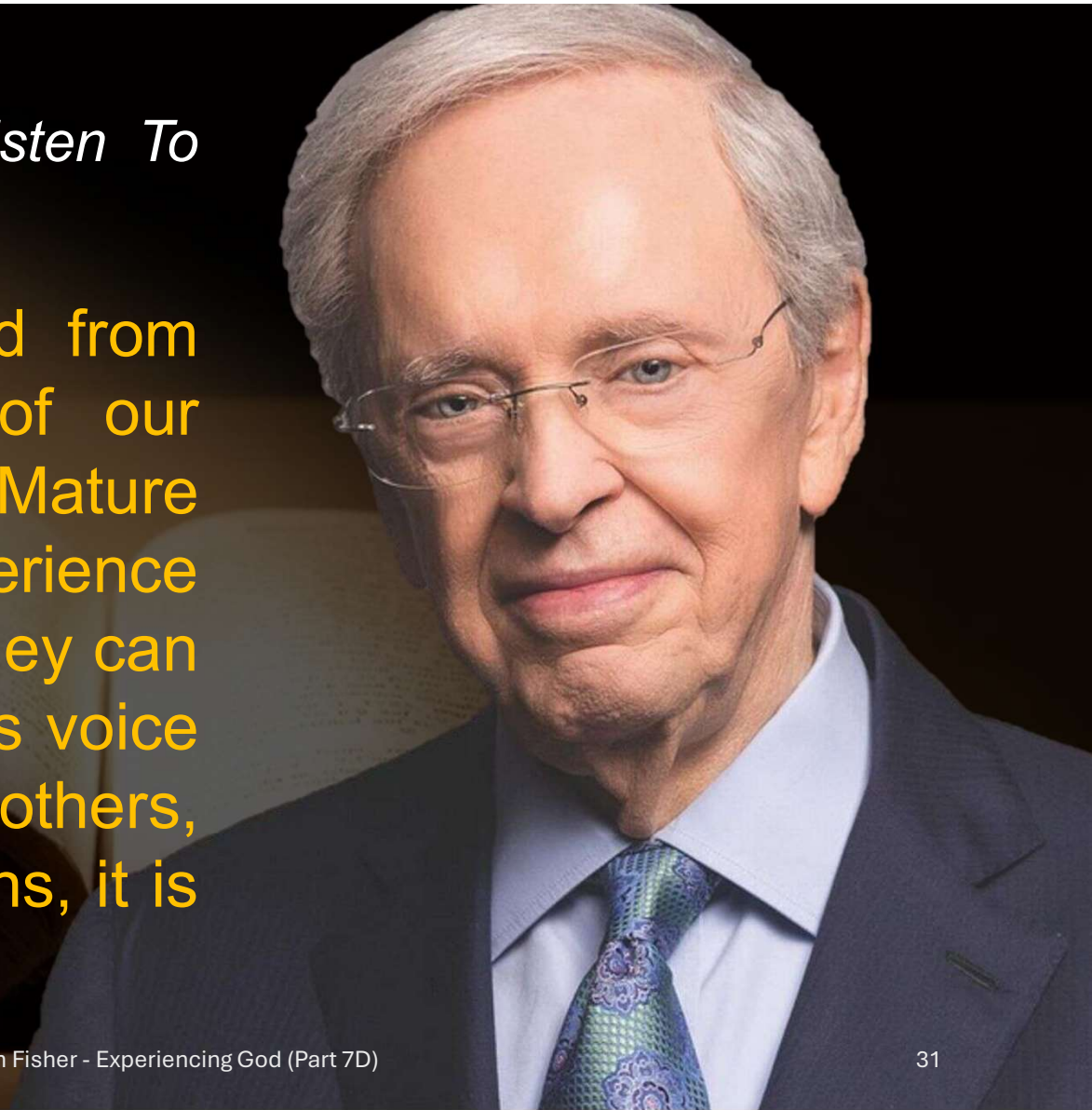
Bill Johnson

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“Every year we tell our students that they cannot graduate unless they have taken risk and failed in their efforts to try to learn to operate in their ability to hear God and encourage others with His voice. ... Sometimes they get it right and sometimes they get it wrong. But the point is they tried. This would be unfair if we didn’t at the same time create a safe place to fail so they can learn how to recognize the Voice of God for themselves.”

Charles Stanley, *How To Listen To God*, pp. 133, 50:

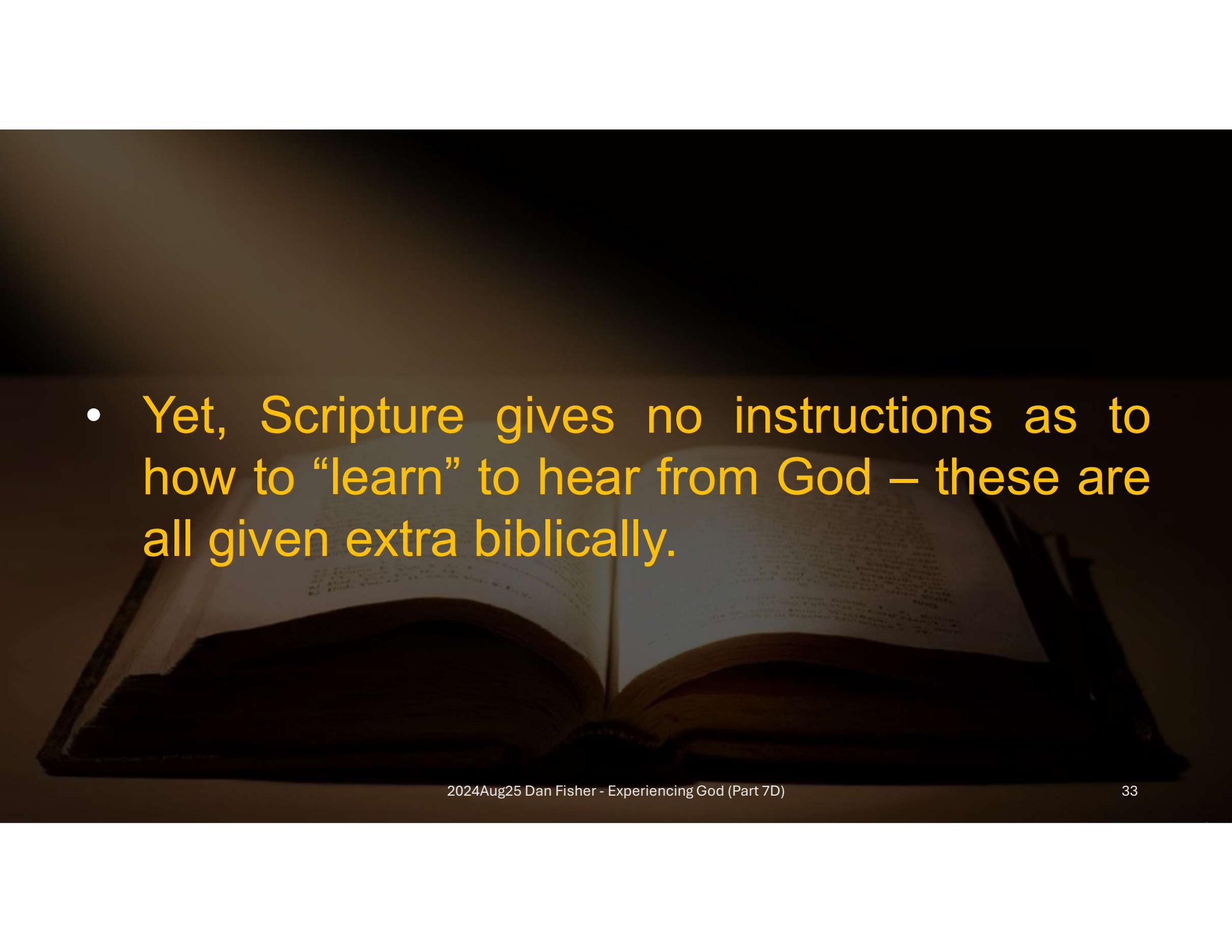
“[W]e are often hindered from hearing God because of our inexperience. ... Mature Christians have had experience in listening to God, and they can distinguish between God’s voice and another’s. For others, especially young Christians, it is a bit more of a problem.”

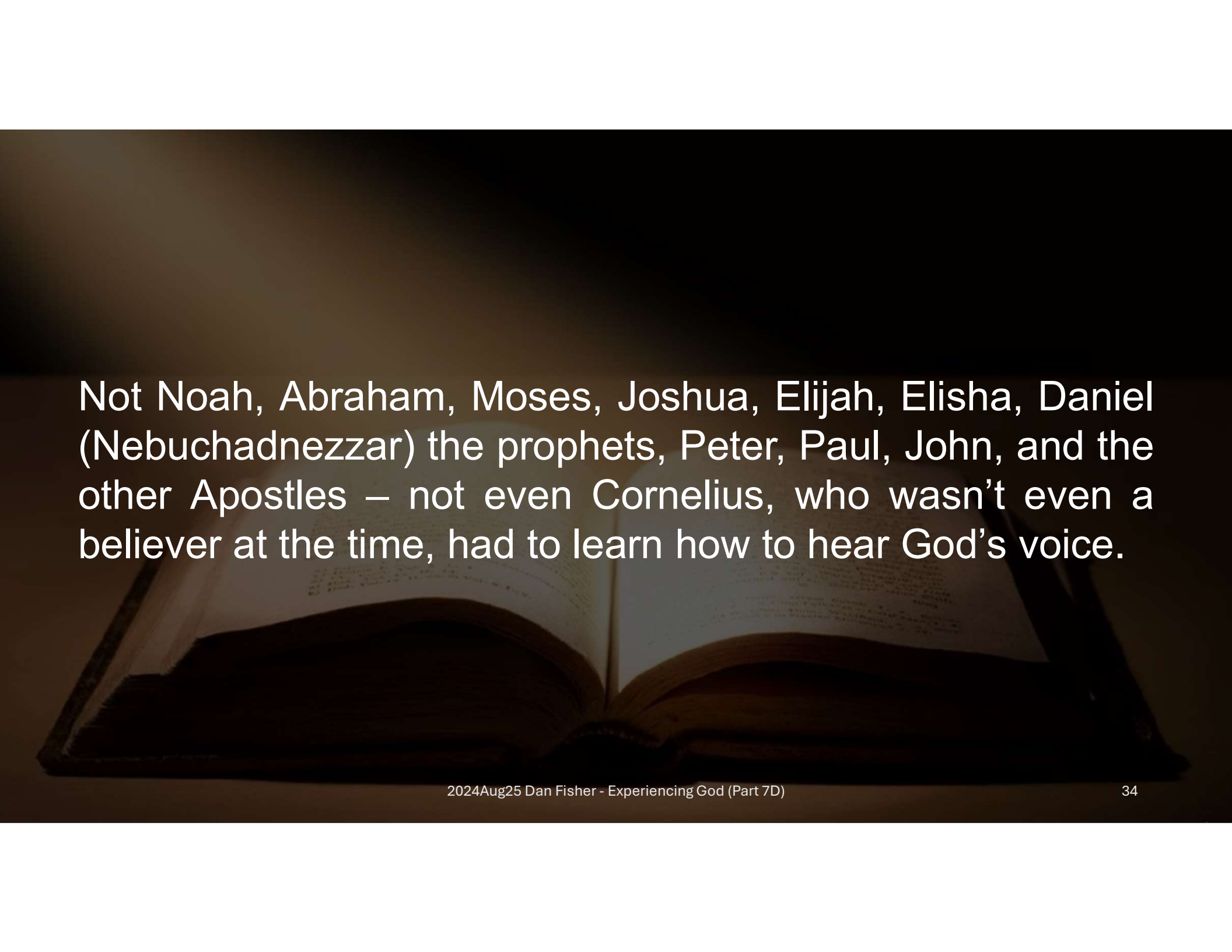


Robert Morris, *Frequency*, p. 124, 132:

“We need to tune in to the frequency of heaven and hear the voice of God. ... God is speaking all of the time, but the only ones who hear are those who tune in to the right frequency through humility and obedience.”



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- Yet, Scripture gives no instructions as to how to “learn” to hear from God – these are all given extra biblically.



Not Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Elisha, Daniel (Nebuchadnezzar) the prophets, Peter, Paul, John, and the other Apostles – not even Cornelius, who wasn't even a believer at the time, had to learn how to hear God's voice.

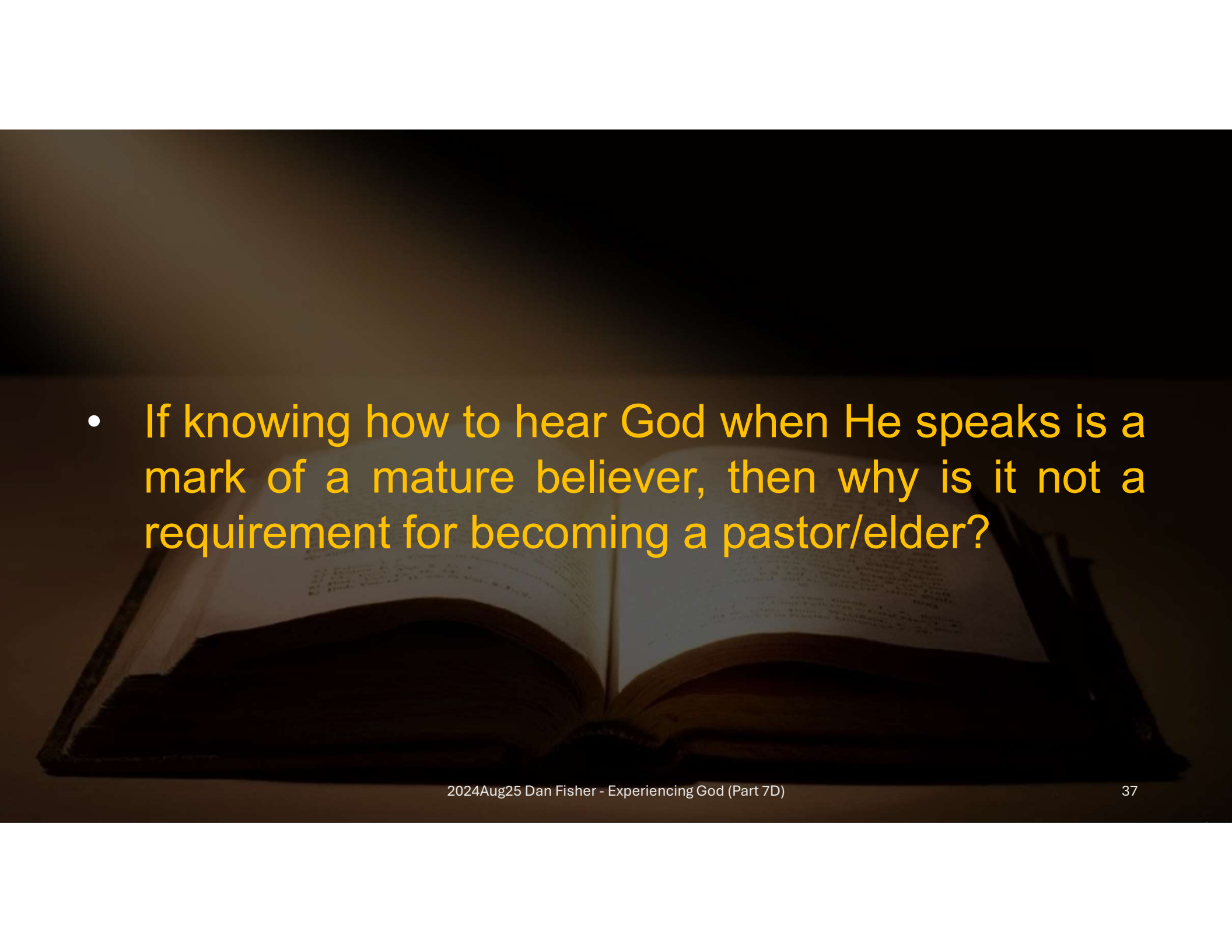


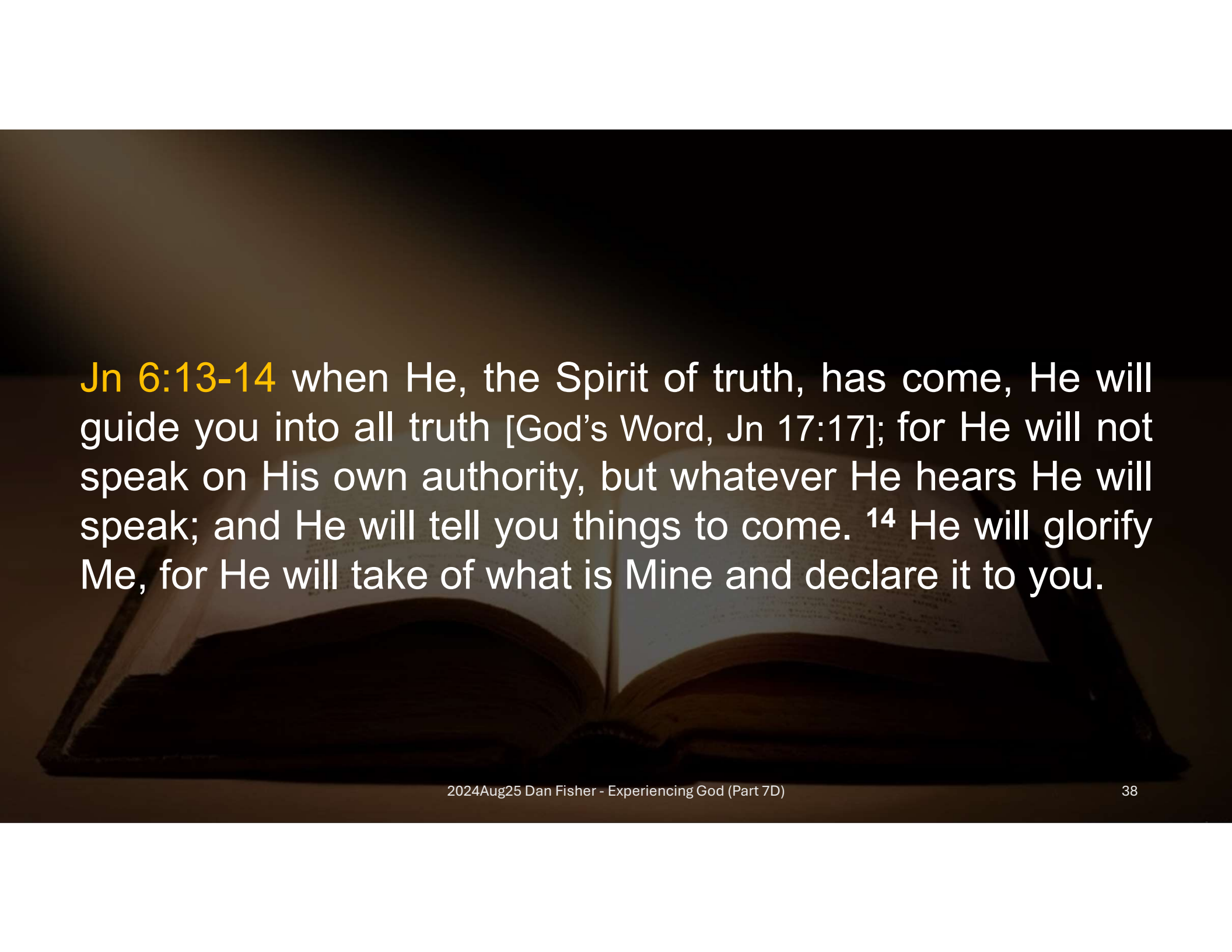
Greg Koukl, Biblical apologist

“If God is not speaking, no amount of learning can bestow the ability to hear Him. If God is speaking, then no amount of distraction will keep you from hearing Him.”

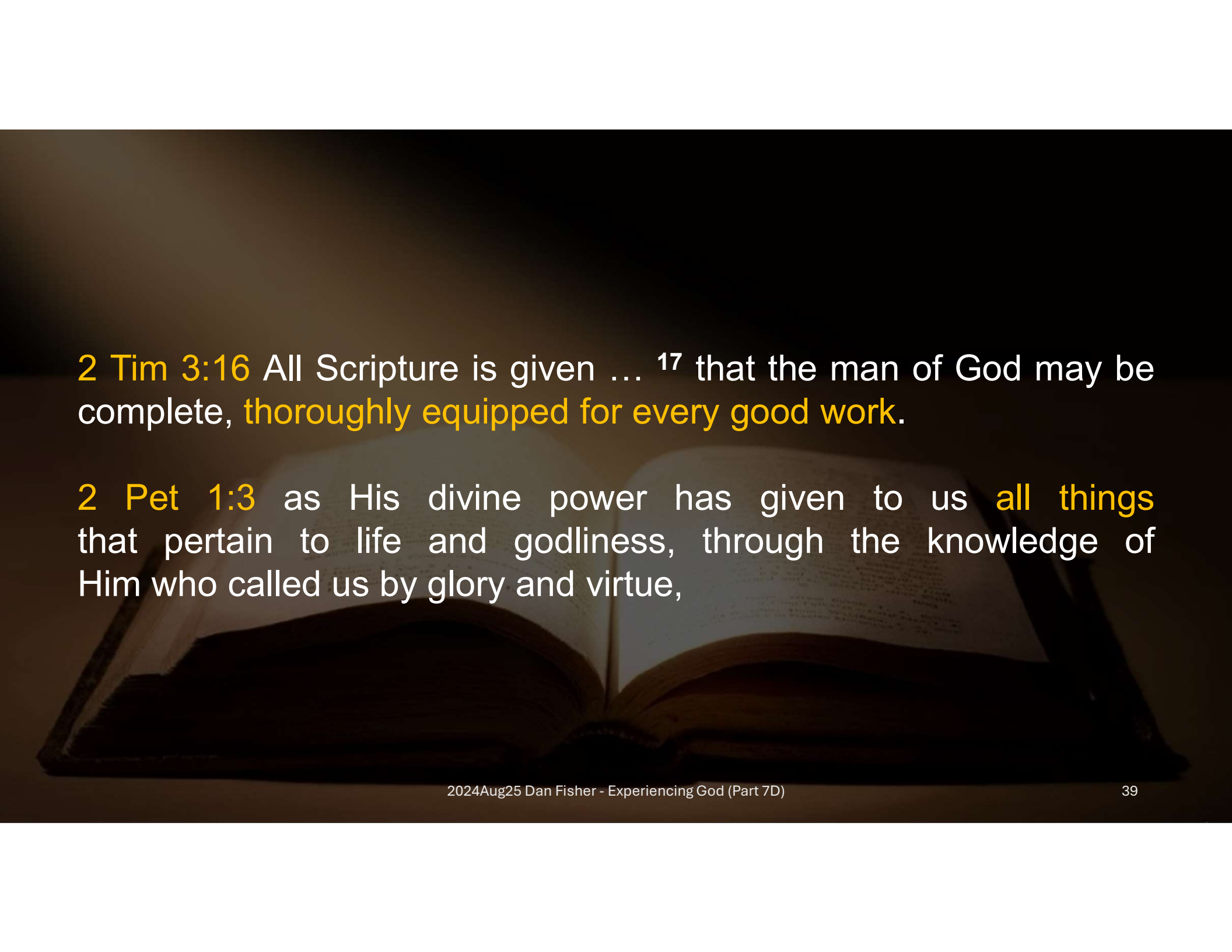


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- If knowing how to hear God when He speaks is a mark of a mature believer, then why is it not a requirement for becoming a pastor/elder?

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