

A tiger is lying down on the ground, yawning widely. Its mouth is open, showing its pink tongue and sharp teeth. The background is a natural, outdoor setting with some foliage and a dirt ground. The lighting is somewhat dim, suggesting a shaded area or dusk/dawn.

**TAMING**  
the **TONGUE**

# TAMING THE TONGUE

Deuteronomy 30:19

19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

**Proverbs 18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

# Talking: An integral part of our everyday life

In our families

At our workplace

Business & Social conversations

With our friends and loved ones

Etc.

**Everything we say, teach, chat,  
instruct, share & communicate**



# In the Church, as part of the body-life (people), we

- encourage
- bless
- pray
- preach/teach
- lead
- praise
- exhort

- gossip
- criticize
- complain
- murmur
- curse

**Proverbs 18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

**LIFE OR DEATH?**

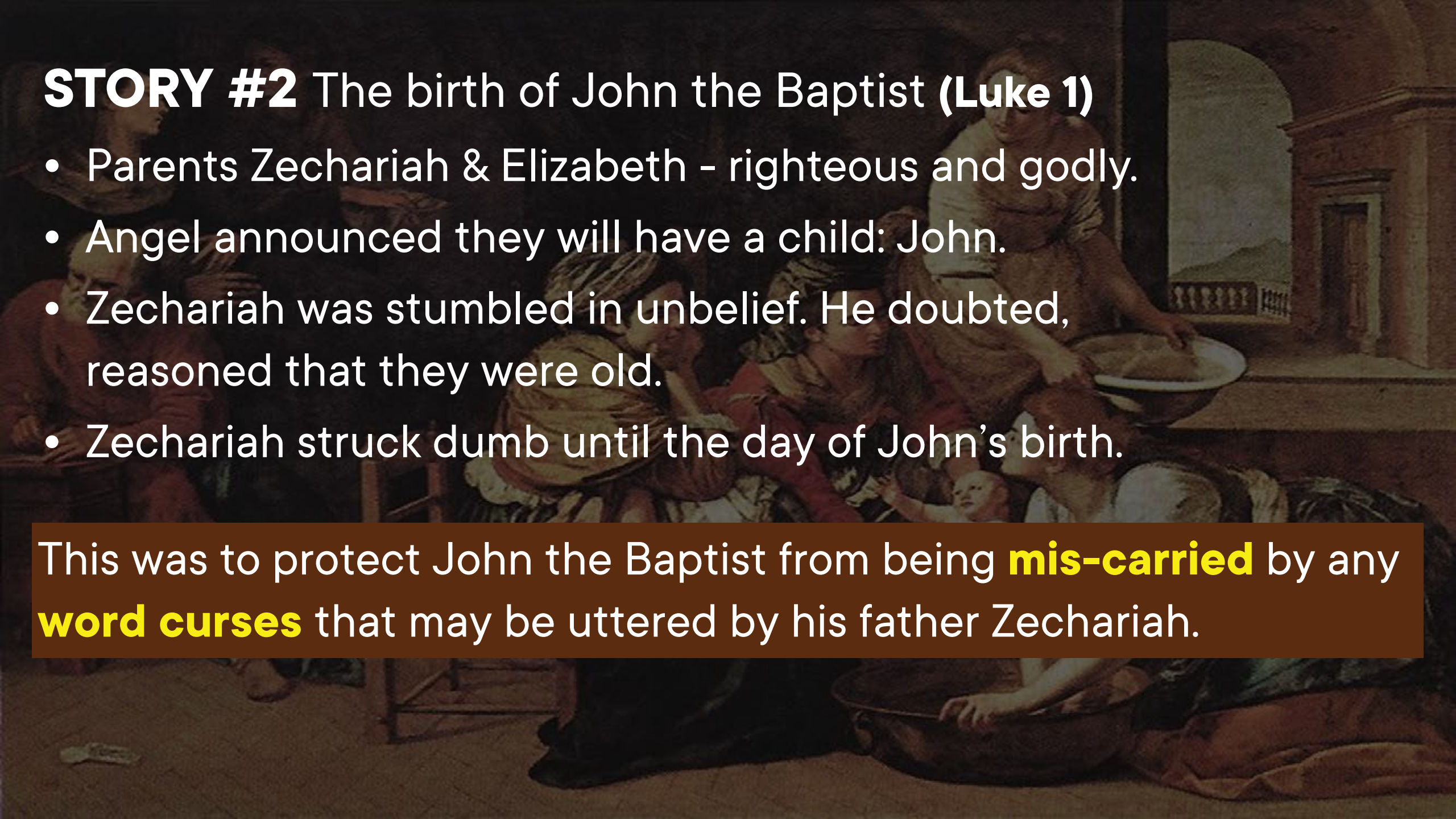
**Our Choice!**

# STORY #1

A pastor receiving a Word of God for a visiting speaker

**“Stop cursing your unborn children!”**





## **STORY #2** The birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1)

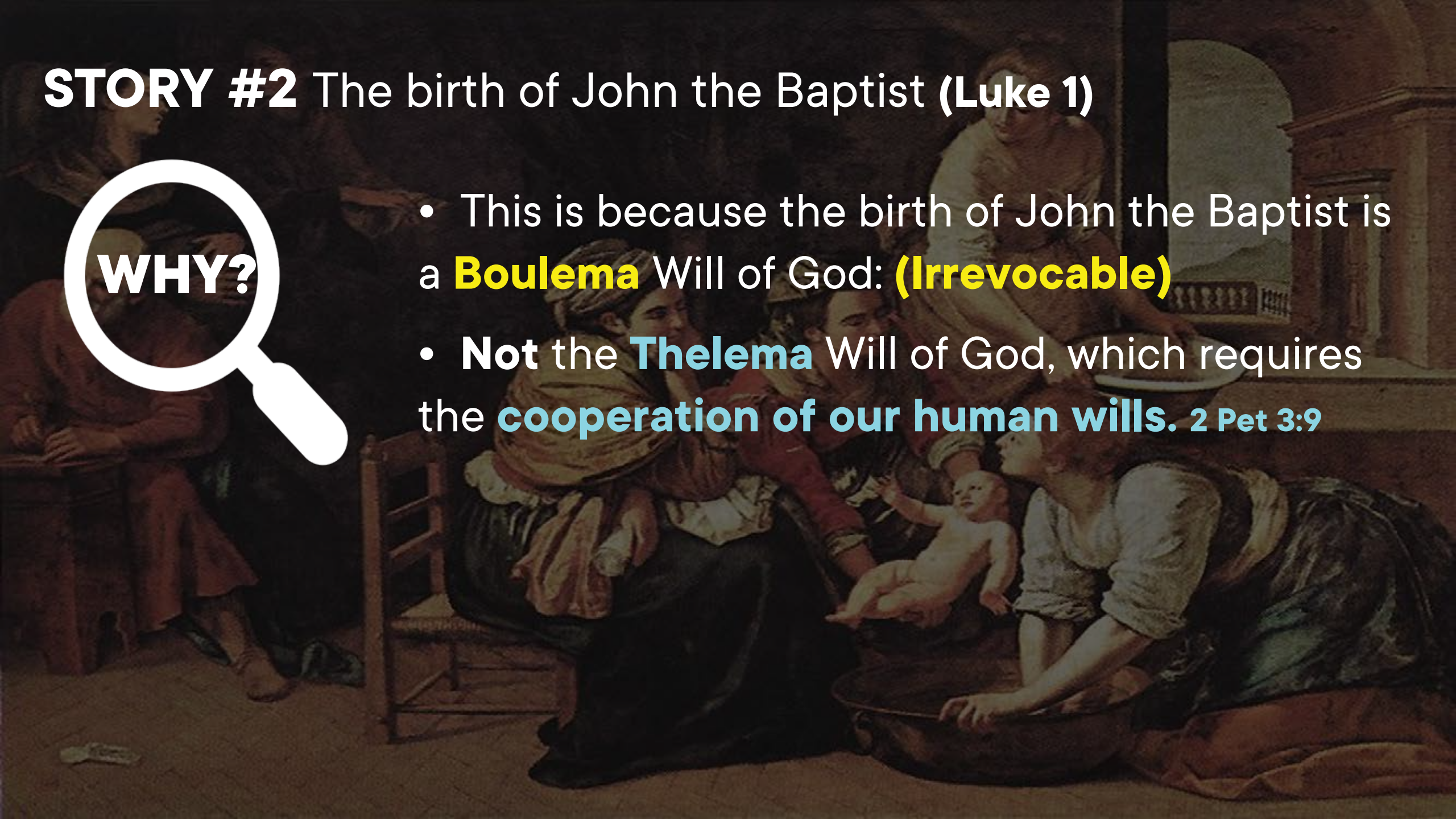
- Parents Zechariah & Elizabeth - righteous and godly.
- Angel announced they will have a child: John.
- Zechariah was stumbled in unbelief. He doubted, reasoned that they were old.
- Zechariah struck dumb until the day of John's birth.

This was to protect John the Baptist from being **mis-carried** by any **word curses** that may be uttered by his father Zechariah.

## STORY #2 The birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1)

WHY?

- This is because the birth of John the Baptist is a **Boulema** Will of God: **(Irrevocable)**
- **Not** the **Thelema** Will of God, which requires the **cooperation of our human wills.** 2 Pet 3:9





## **STORY #3** The twelve spies (Numbers 13)

**Numbers 14:28** Say to them (the 10 spies who spoke an evil report of unbelief), “As I live”, says the Lord, **“just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you.**



# Taming our tongues



**Proverbs 18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
and those who love it will eat its fruit.

# Taming our tongues

**James 3:2-4, 6, 10**

**2** For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does **not stumble in word**, he is a **perfect** man, **able also to bridle the whole body.**

**3-4 bits** in mouths of horses and **small rudder** in large ships.

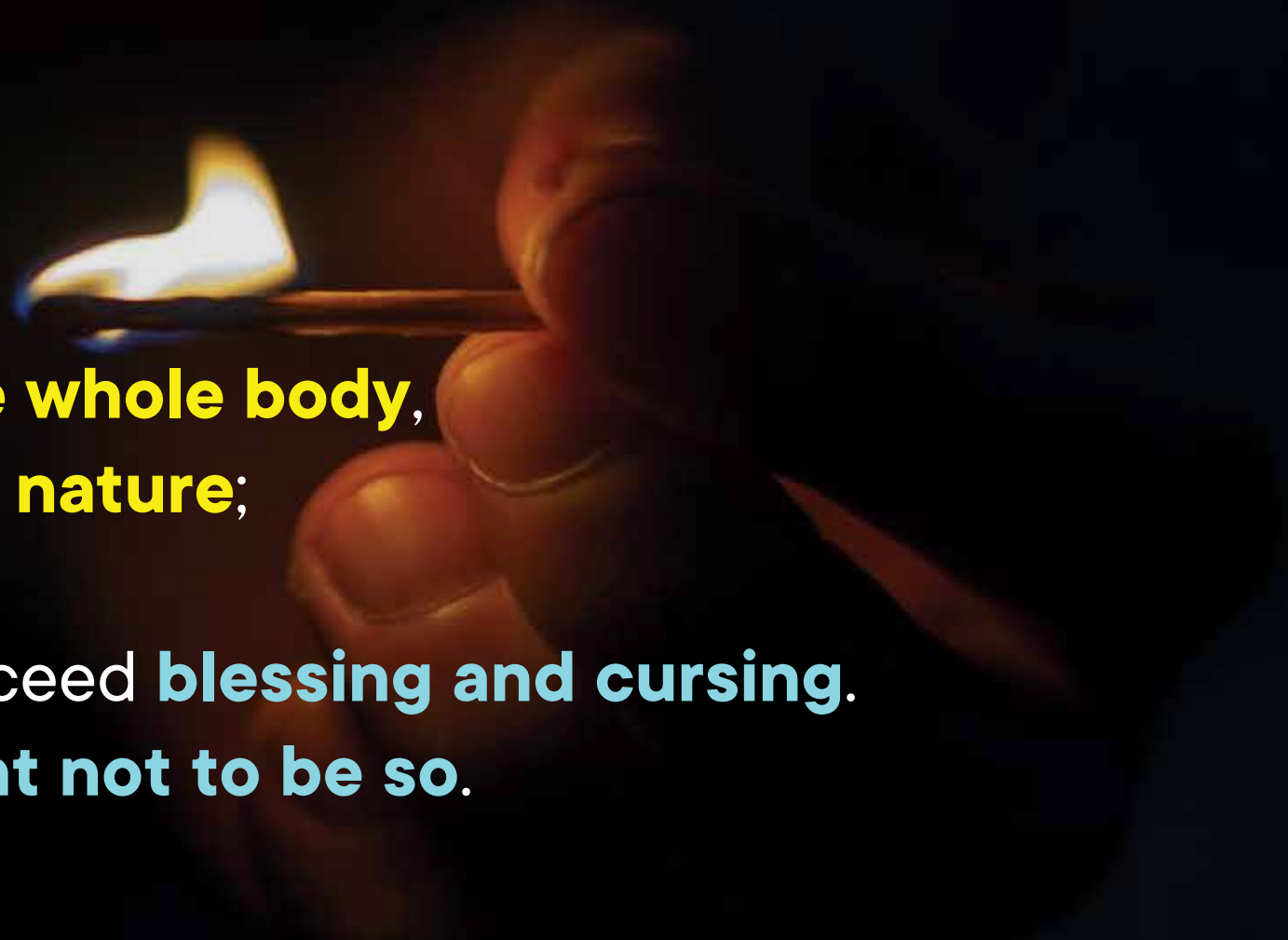
# Taming our tongues

James 3:2-4, 6, 10

6 And the **tongue is a fire**,  
a **world of iniquity**.

The tongue is so set among  
our members that it **defiles the whole body**,  
and **sets on fire the course of nature**;  
and it **is set on fire by hell**.

10 Out of the **same mouth** proceed **blessing and cursing**.  
My brethren, these things **ought not to be so**.



# Taming our tongues

James 3:2-4, 6, 10

6 And the **tongue is a fire,**  
a **world of iniquity.**

The tongue is

ou **ignites the whole body,**  
and **entirely sets on fire the course of nature;**

and it **is set on fire by hell.**

**WORD CURSES**



## The strife of tongues:

- Jacob placed a **curse** on his wife Rachel (**Genesis 31:32; 35:18-19**)
- Joseph gave a **bad report** about his brothers (**Genesis 37:2**)
- Potiphar's wife **lied** about Joseph: led to his imprisonment (**Genesis 39:16-19**)
- Israel **wrote themselves off** as grasshoppers (**Numbers 13:33**)
- Job's friends **wrongly represented God** (**Job 42:7-9**)
- Haman **spoke evil** of Mordecai (**Esther 3:8**)

# The strife of tongues has:

- **ruined marriages**
- caused **wars**
- caused **untimely deaths**
- caused mental health issues
- caused suicide
- caused the stagnancy and **failure** of believers
- opened doors to **demonic afflictions**
- **closed** down churches and ministries
- sent people to **Hell!**

A pair of hands is shown holding a white egg gently. The background is dark and textured. The hands are positioned to cradle the egg, with fingers slightly curled around it. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the smooth surface of the egg.

# **Taming our tongues - Speak Life!**

- I. Guard our hearts**
- II. Tame our tongues**

# Taming our tongues - Speak Life!



**WHY?**

## I. **Guard our hearts**

**Matthew 12:34** Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For **out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.**

**Proverbs 4:23** **Guard your heart with all diligence,** for out of it spring the **issues of life.**



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a white egg. The hand is positioned in the center of the frame, with the fingers gently cupping the egg. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid on the image.

## I. Guard our hearts

### Matthew 12:35-37

**35** A **good** man out of the **good treasure of his heart** rings forth **good** things, and an **evil** man out of the **evil treasure** brings forth **evil** things. **36** But I say to you that for **every idle word** men may speak, they will **give account of it in the day of judgment.** **37** For **by your words** you will be **justified**, and by your words you will be **condemned.**”

# I. **Guard our hearts** - Deal with the issues

Unhealed Hurts	Wounds	Unmet Needs	Anger	Bitterness	
Jealousy	Pride	Selfishness	Boasting	Denying the Truth	
Using God's Name in vain	Unresolved Issues	Curses	Offenses		
Certain Relationships	Certain Activities	Wrongs	Profanity		
Unforgiveness	Busybody	Lies	Gossip	Worries	Envy

**Matthew 15:18** what comes out of the **mouth** comes from the **heart** and this **defiles** a man!

# Taming our tongues - Speak Life!

## II. Tame our tongues

# Taming our tongues - Speak Life!



## II. Tame our tongues

1. Helps us walk in **victory**

### Psalm 119:9, 11

**9** How can a young man **cleanse his way?**  
**By taking heed according to Your word.**

**11** **Your word** I have **hidden in my heart,**  
that I might **not sin against You.**

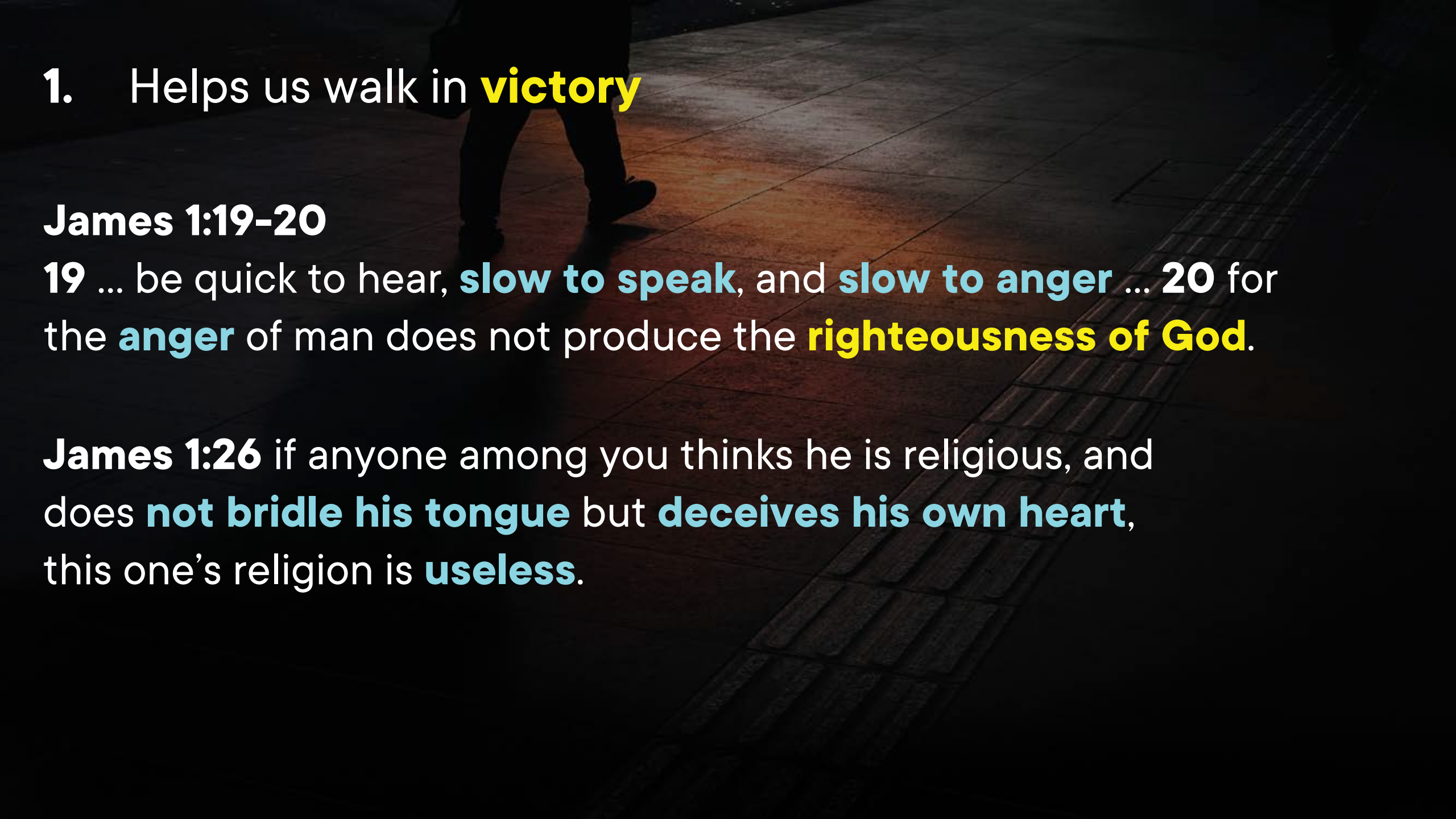
# Taming our tongues - Speak Life!



## II. Tame our tongues

1. Helps us walk in **victory**

**Proverbs 13:3** **He who guards his mouth preserves his life**, but he who **opens wide his lips** shall have **destruction**.



1. Helps us walk in **victory**

**James 1:19-20**

**19** ... be quick to hear, **slow to speak**, and **slow to anger** ... **20** for the **anger** of man does not produce the **righteousness of God**.

**James 1:26** if anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does **not bridle his tongue** but **deceives his own heart**, this one's religion is **useless**.

1. Helps us walk in **victory**

**Ephesians 4:29-30**

**29** Let **no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth**, but what is good for **necessary edification**, that it may **impart grace** to the hearers.

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

**Colossians 4:6** Let your **speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt**, that you may **know** how you ought **to answer each one**.

# Taming our tongues - Speak Life!



## II. Tame our tongues

2. The Lord Jesus Himself **backs us up**

**Hebrews 3:1** Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider **the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus.**



A person is walking on a sidewalk at night, illuminated by a street light. The person is wearing dark clothing and is walking away from the camera. The sidewalk is made of large, square tiles. The background is dark, suggesting a nighttime setting.

**2. The Lord Jesus Himself backs us up**

**Hebrews 4:14** let us hold fast **our confession.**

**Hebrews 10:23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

## 2. The Lord Jesus Himself **backs us up**

**Isaiah 55:11** So shall **My word** be that goes forth from My mouth; it **shall not return to Me void**, but it **shall accomplish what I please**, and it **shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it**.

**1 Samuel 3:19** So **Samuel** grew, and **the Lord was with him** and let **none of his words fall to the ground**.

**Isaiah 44:26a** Who **confirms the word of His servant**, and **performs the counsel of His messengers**.

# Taming our tongues - Speak Life!



II. Tame our tongues

3. The angels **back us up**

**Psalm 103:20** Bless the Lord, you **His angels**, who excel in strength, who do His Word, **heeding the voice of His Word.**

# Taming our tongues - Speak Life!



**HOW?**

**II. Tame our tongues**

**A. The Word of God**

**B. The Holy Spirit**



# A. The Word of God

(1) Establish our foundation on the **Word** of God



**Romans 10:17** So then **faith** comes by hearing and **hearing by the Word of God.**

**Galatians 3:5, 5** (hearing of faith)

## A. **The Word of God**

### (2) Develop our **faith**

**2 Corinthians 4:13** And since we have the same **spirit of faith**, according to what is written, “**I believe and therefore I spoke,**” **we also believe and therefore speak.**

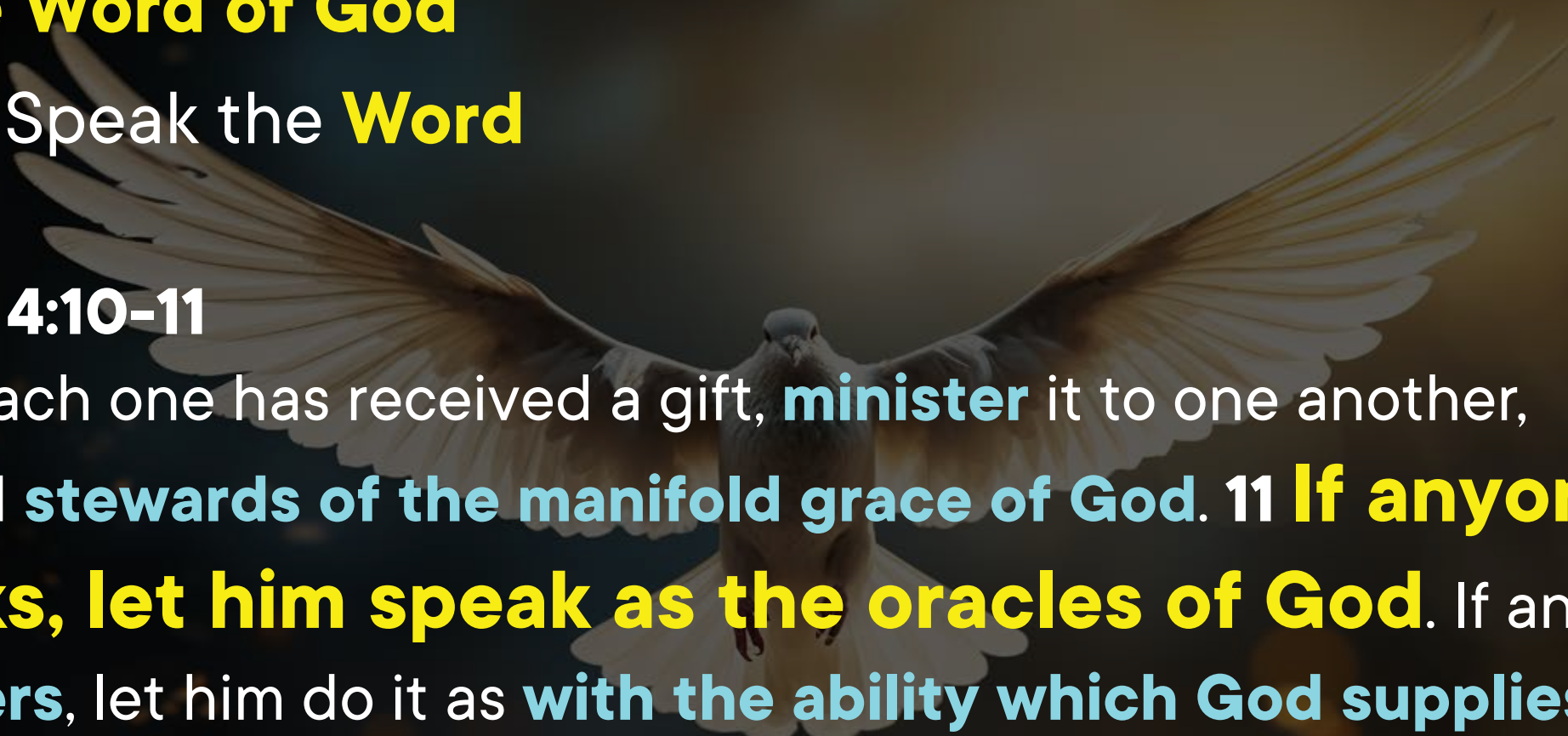
This is how we build **Faith Convictions**

## A. The Word of God

### (3) Speak the **Word**

#### 1 Peter 4:10-11

**10** As each one has received a gift, **minister** it to one another, as good **stewards of the manifold grace of God**. **11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God**. If anyone **ministers**, let him do it as **with the ability which God supplies**, ..



## A. The Word of God

### (3) Speak the **Word**

**Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is any **virtue** and if there is anything **praiseworthy**—meditate on these things.

**THINK** before you speak!

Is it: **True? Helpful? Inspiring? Necessary? Kind?**



# Taming our tongues - Speak Life!



## II. Tame our tongues

### B. **The Holy Spirit**



## B. The Holy Spirit

(1) Be familiar with His **guidance**

**Hebrews 8:10** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will **put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

**Hebrews 10:16** This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will **put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them.**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

# (1) Be familiar with His guidance

- Surrender completely
- Follow the nudging/leading (**green light**)
- Hold back at the restraint of the Holy Spirit (**red light**)
- Not sure yet, wait (**amber light**)



## B. The Holy Spirit

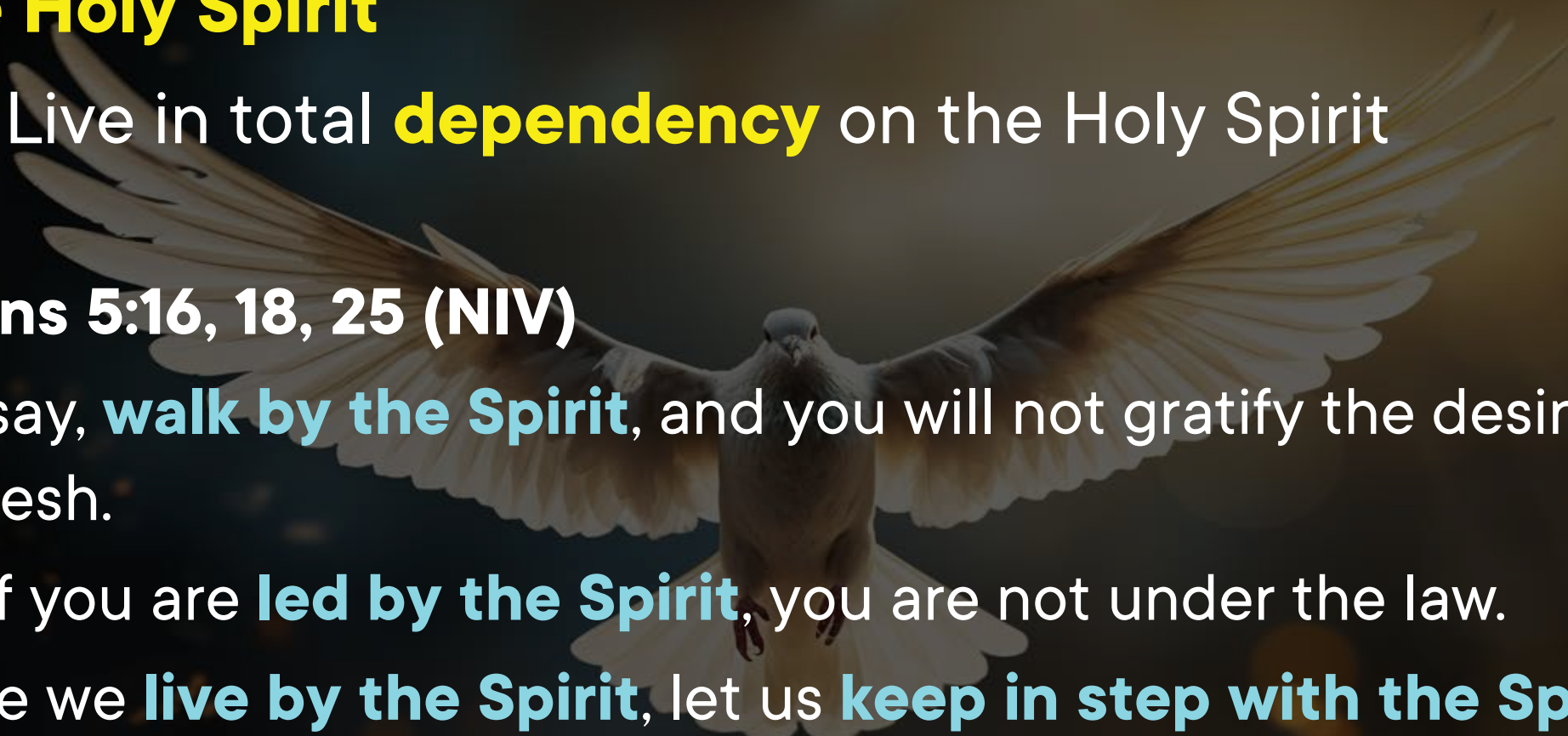
(2) Live in total **dependency** on the Holy Spirit

**Galatians 5:16, 18, 25 (NIV)**

**16** So I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

**18** But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the law.

**25** Since we **live by the Spirit**, let us **keep in step with the Spirit**.



# **BOTTOM-LINE**

## **Taming Our Tongues**

**Proverbs 18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

**God to Moses – Don't strike! Speak to the Rock. Num 20**

**Release words of faith, not frustration.**

**Heart posture – full obedience**

**Purify heart motives and desires**

**Healing from hurts – y-day's disappointments vs tomorrow's promise**

**Fresh fear of the L = wisdom**