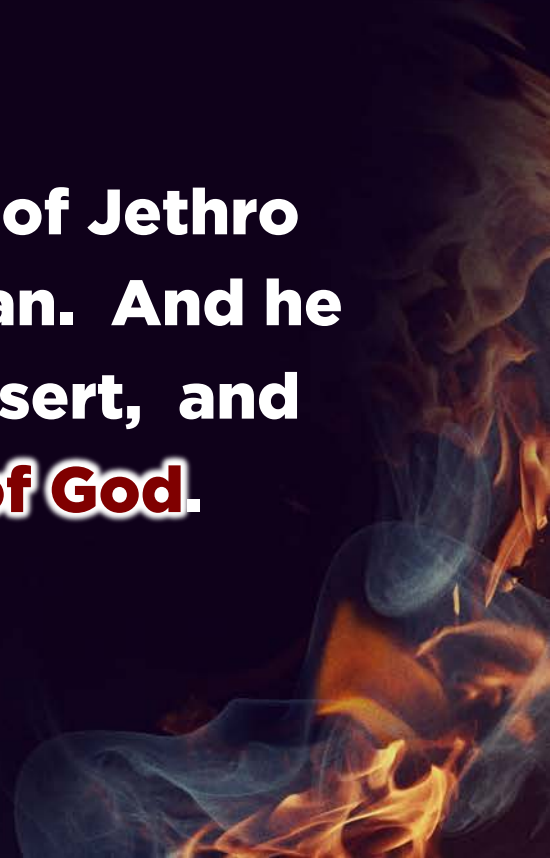
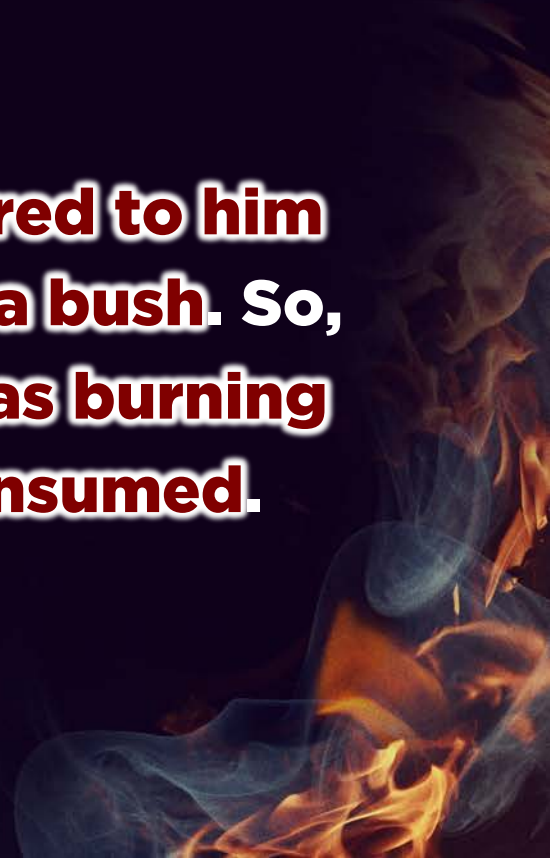

Part 1
SPEAKING FROM
THE MIDST
OF FIRE
EXODUS 3:1-10
SP LAWRENCE CHUA
12 FEBRUARY 2023

Exodus 3:1-10 (NKJV)

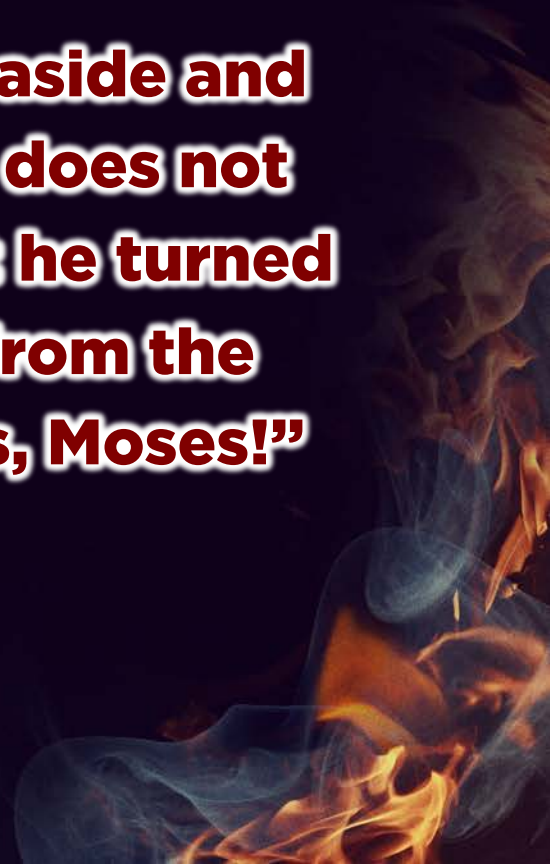
Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to **Horeb, the mountain of God**.



2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So, he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.



3 Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and
see this great sight, why the bush does not
burn.” 4 So when the LORD saw that he turned
aside to look, God called to him from the
midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!”
And he said, “Here I am.”



5 Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. **Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground**.” 6 Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father - the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.



7 And the LORD said: “I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

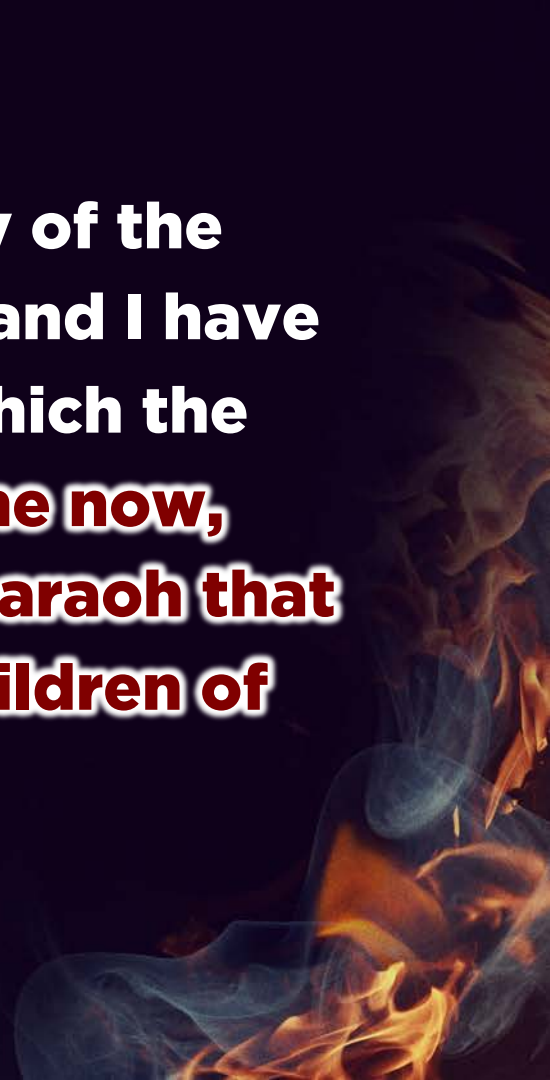


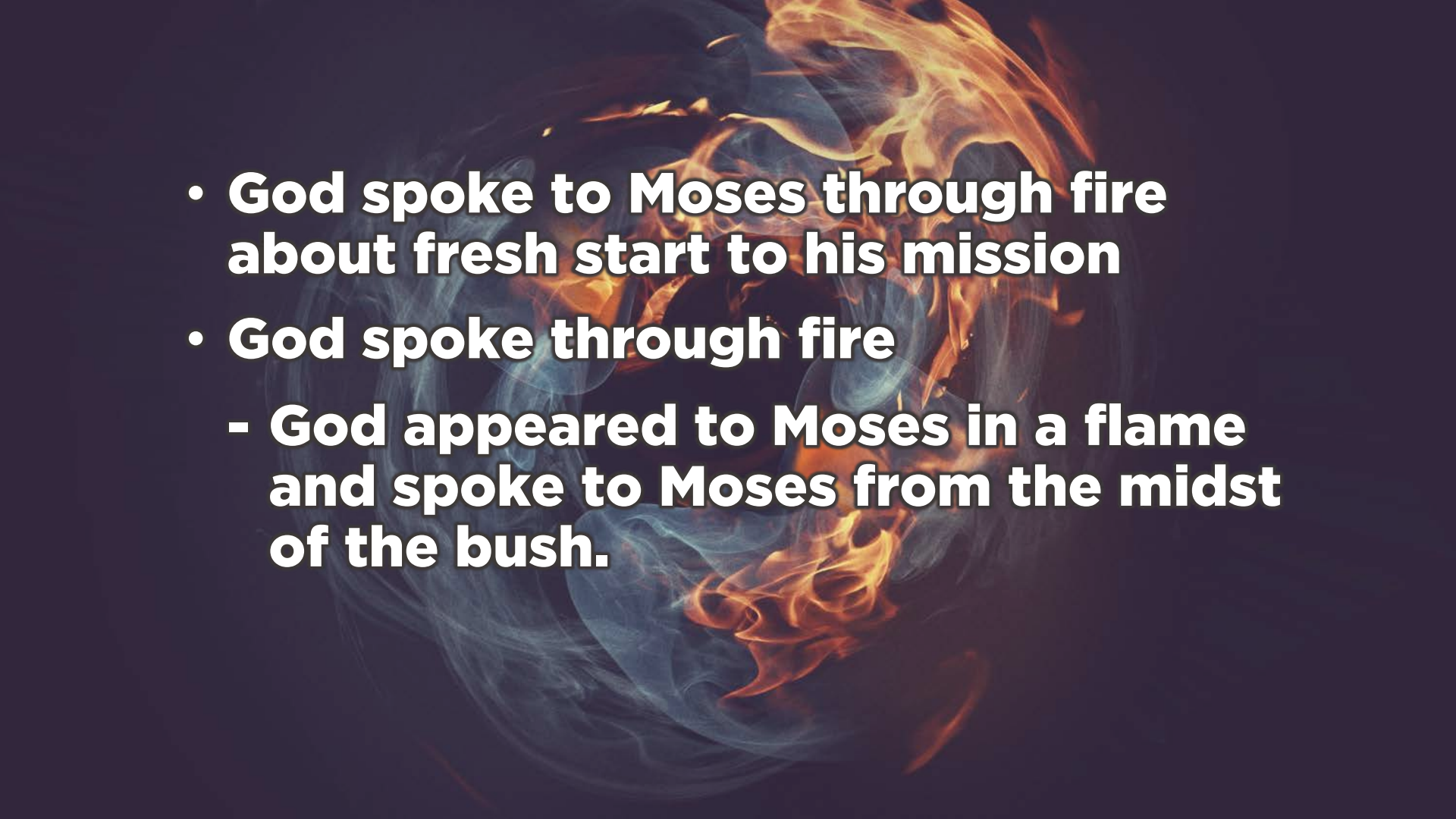
8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.



9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Exodus 3:1-10 (NKJV)

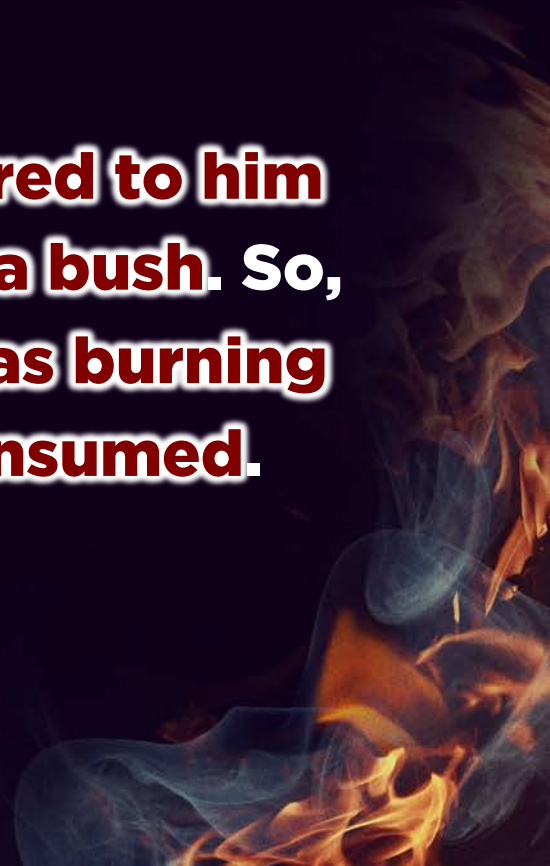




- God spoke to Moses through fire about fresh start to his mission
- God spoke through fire
  - God appeared to Moses in a flame and spoke to Moses from the midst of the bush.

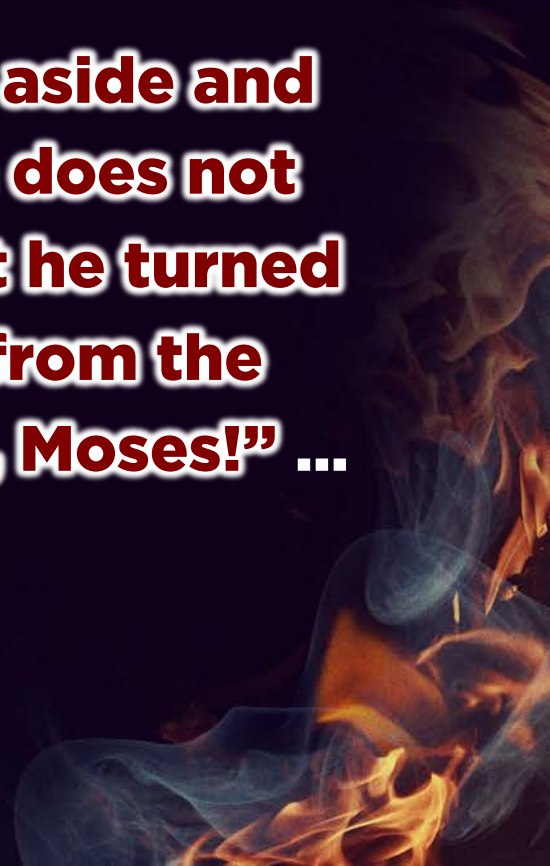
Exodus 3:2-4 (NKJV)

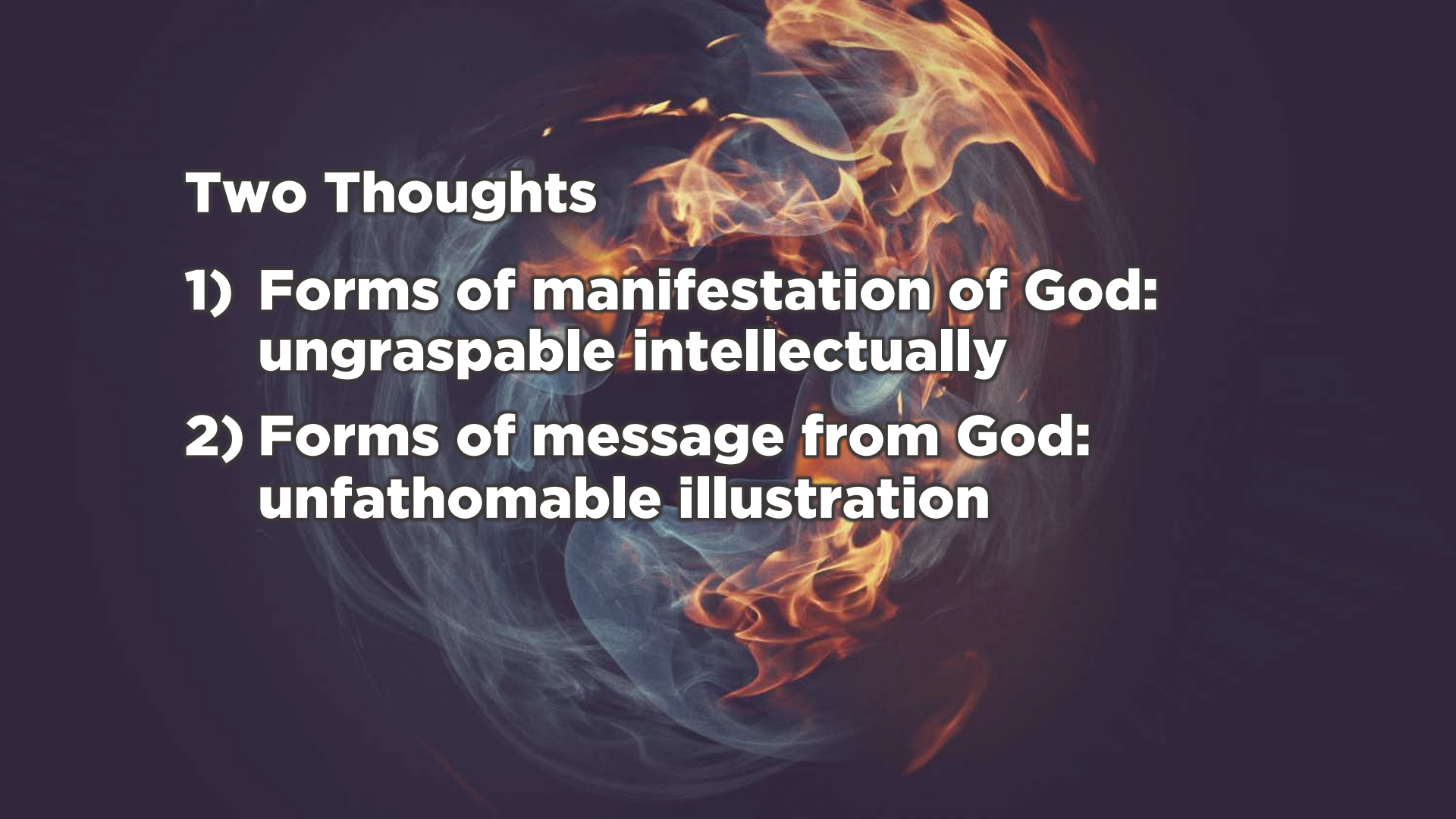
2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So, he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.



[3] Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” [4] So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” …

Exodus 3:2-4 (NKJV)





Two Thoughts

1) Forms of manifestation of God: ungraspable intellectually
2) Forms of message from God: unfathomable illustration

1) Forms of manifestation of God: ungraspable intellectually

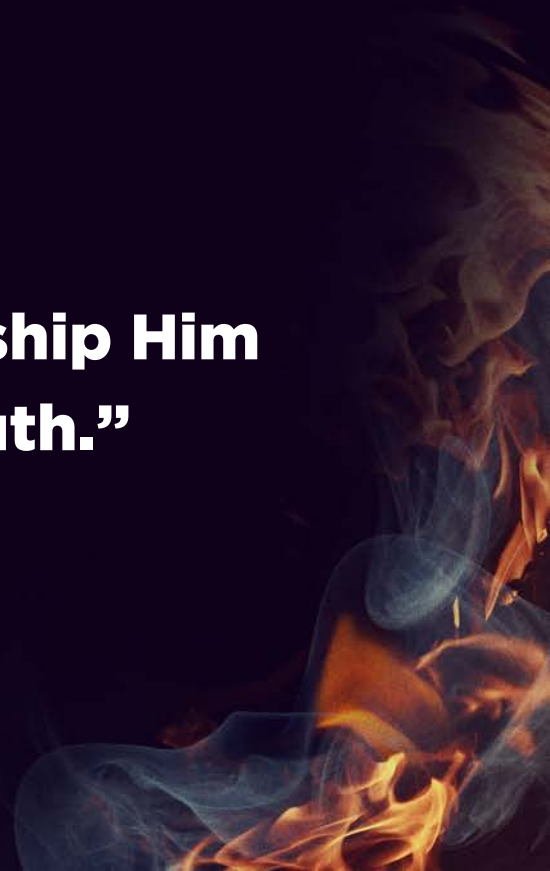
- **Moses**

  God:
  - is Spirit
  - is invisible
  - has no material elements



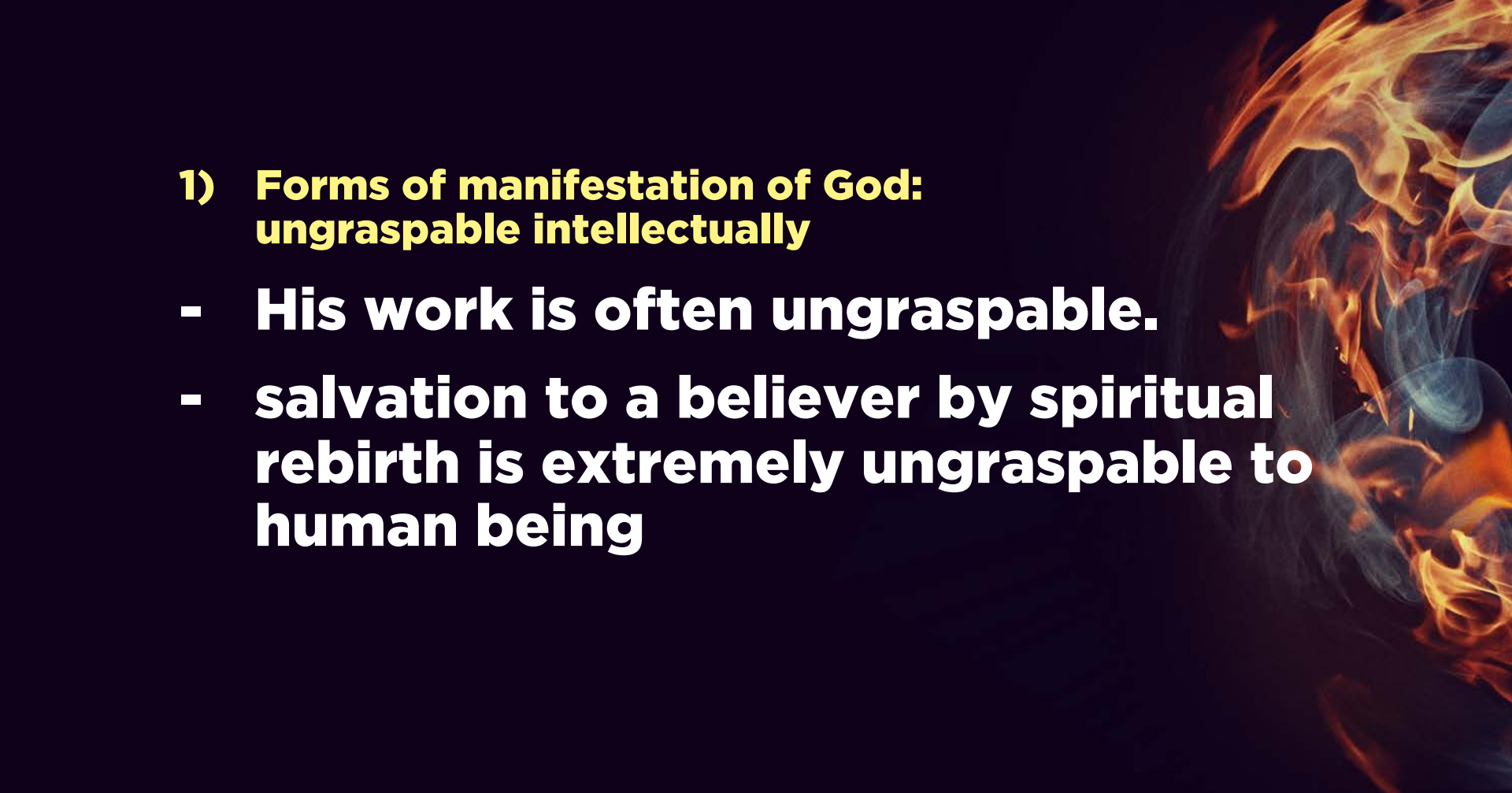
John 4:24 (NIV)

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”



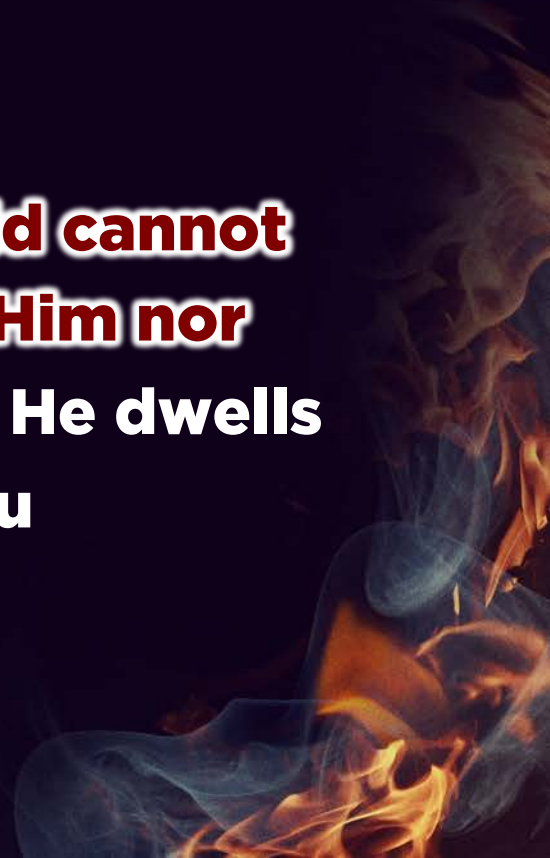
1) **Forms of manifestation of God: ungraspable intellectually**

- His work is often ungraspable.
- salvation to a believer by spiritual rebirth is extremely ungraspable to human being



John 14:17 (NKJV)

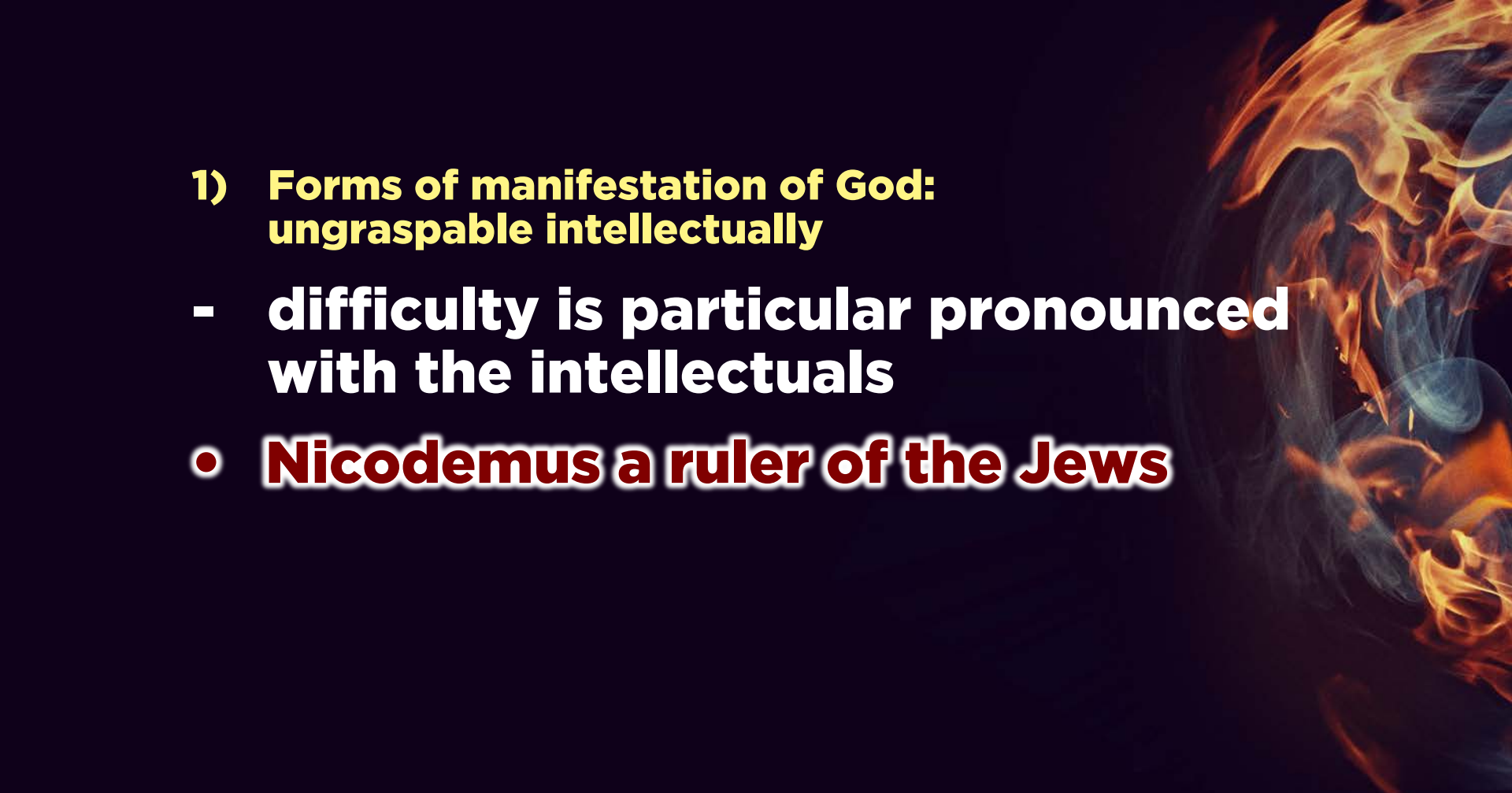
the Spirit of truth, whom the **world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him**; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you



1) **Forms of manifestation of God: ungraspable intellectually**

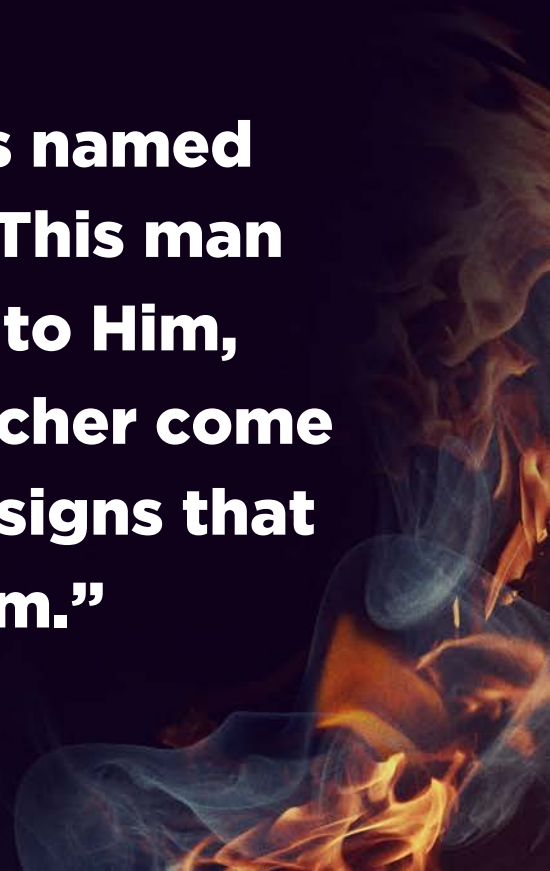
- difficulty is particular pronounced with the intellectuals

- **Nicodemus a ruler of the Jews**

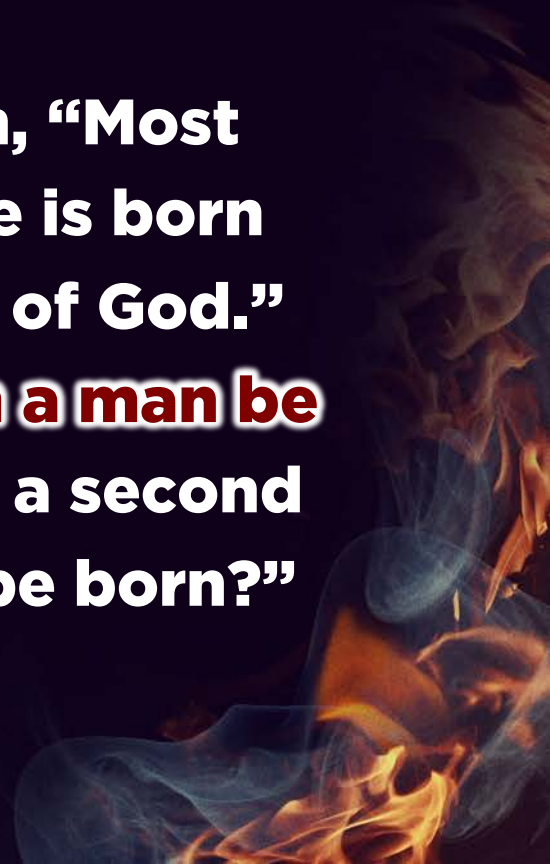


John 3:1-18 (NIV)

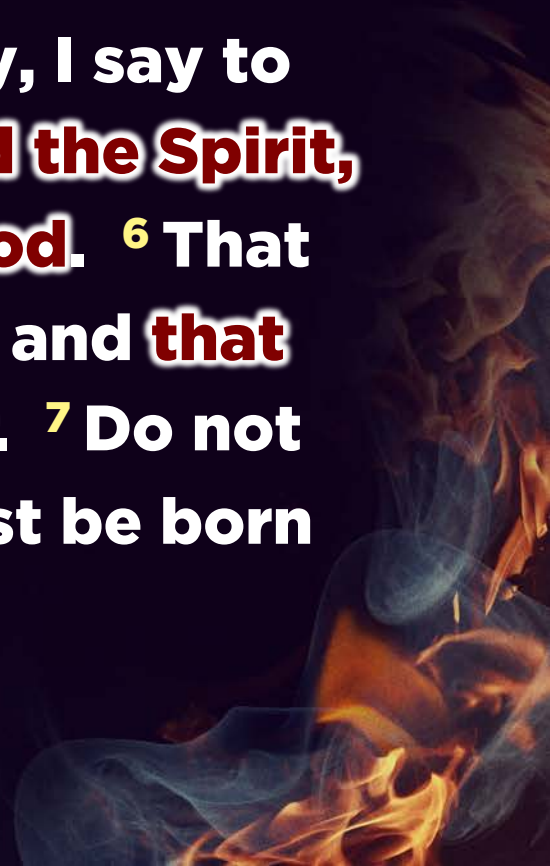
There was a man of the Pharisees named **Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews**. [2] This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”



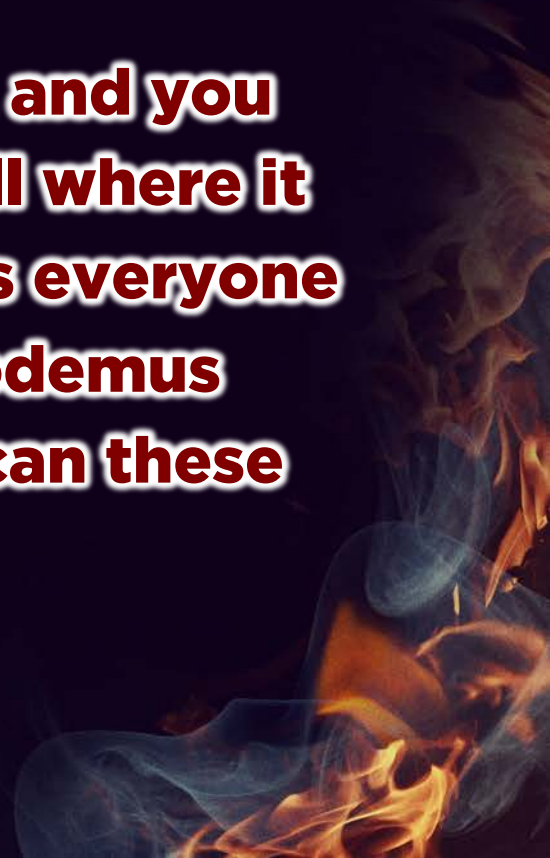
3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
4 **Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old?** Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”



5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to
you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit,
he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That
which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that
which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not
marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born
again.’



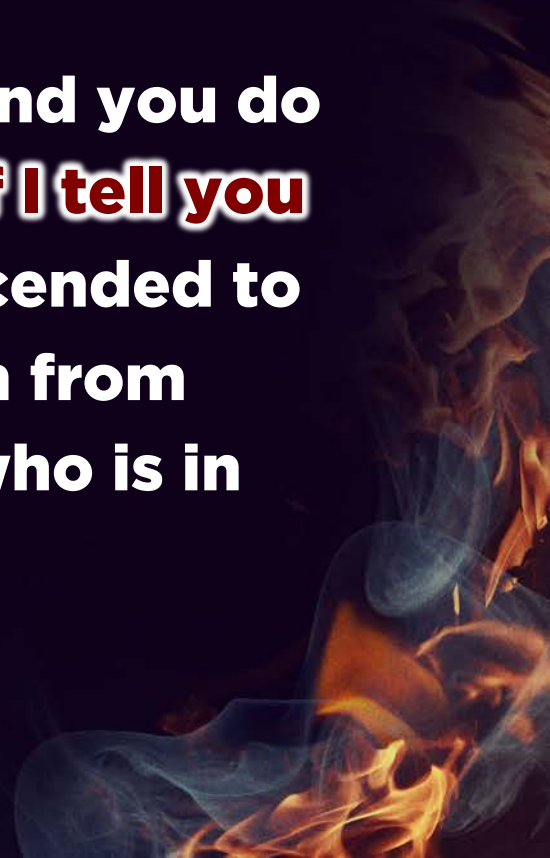
8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you
hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it
comes from and where it goes. So is everyone
who is born of the Spirit.” 9 Nicodemus
answered and said to Him, “How can these
things be?”



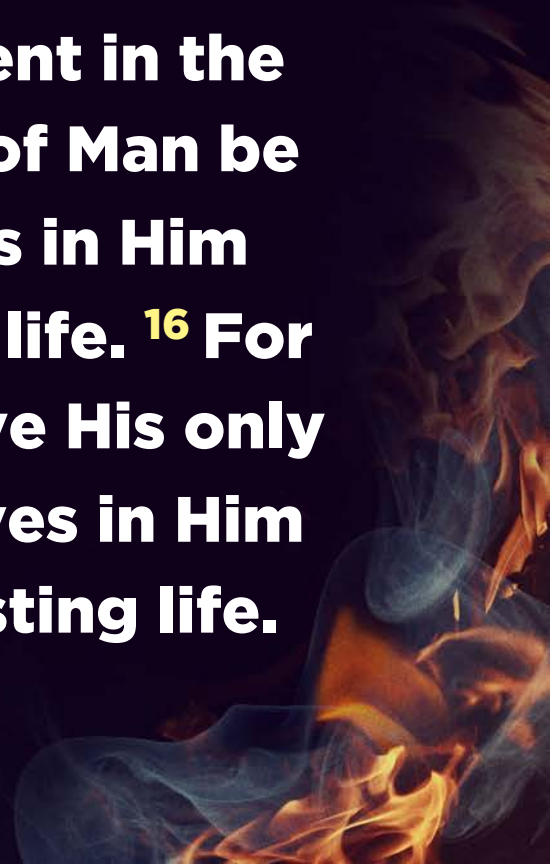
10 Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? 11 Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.



12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

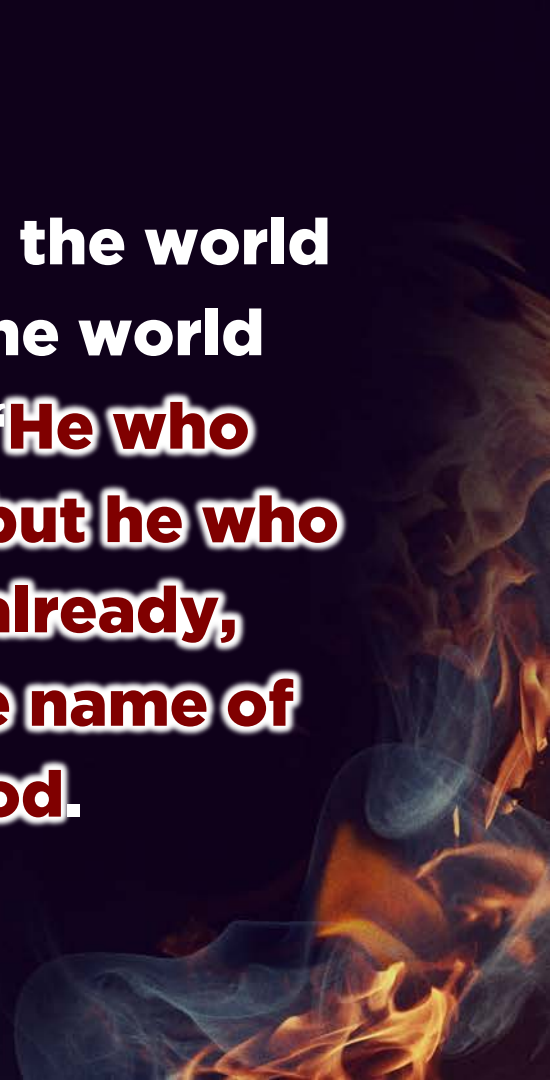


14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the
wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be
lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him
should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For
God so loved the world that He gave His only
begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him
should not perish but have everlasting life.



17 For God did not send His Son into the world
to condemn the world, but that the world
through Him might be saved. 18 “He who
believes in Him is not condemned; but he who
does not believe is condemned already,
because he has not believed in the name of
the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:1-18 (NIV)



1) **Forms of manifestation of God: ungraspable intellectually**

- **Jesus described the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation like the blowing of the wind.**



John 3:8 (NKJV)

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.



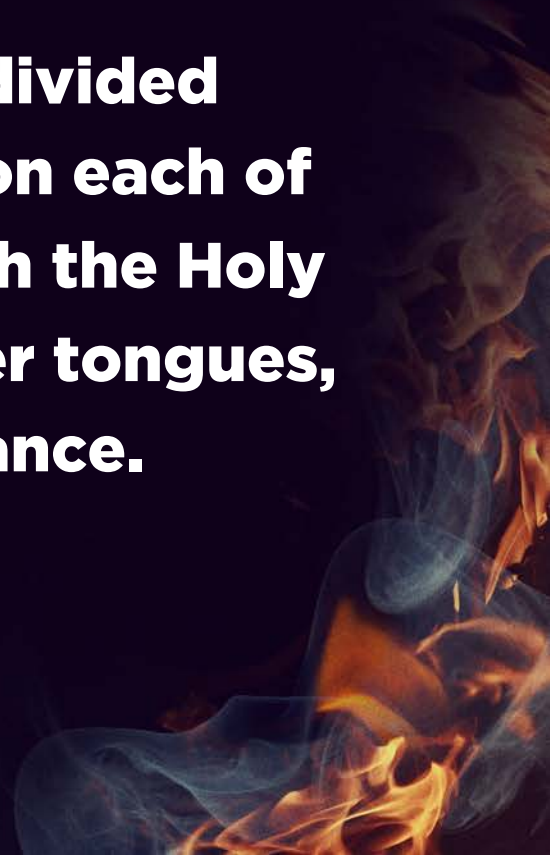
Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come,
they were all with one accord in one place.
2 And suddenly there came a sound from
heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it
filled the whole house where they were
sitting.



3 Then there appeared to them divided
tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of
them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy
Spirit and began to speak with other tongues,
as the Spirit gave them utterance.

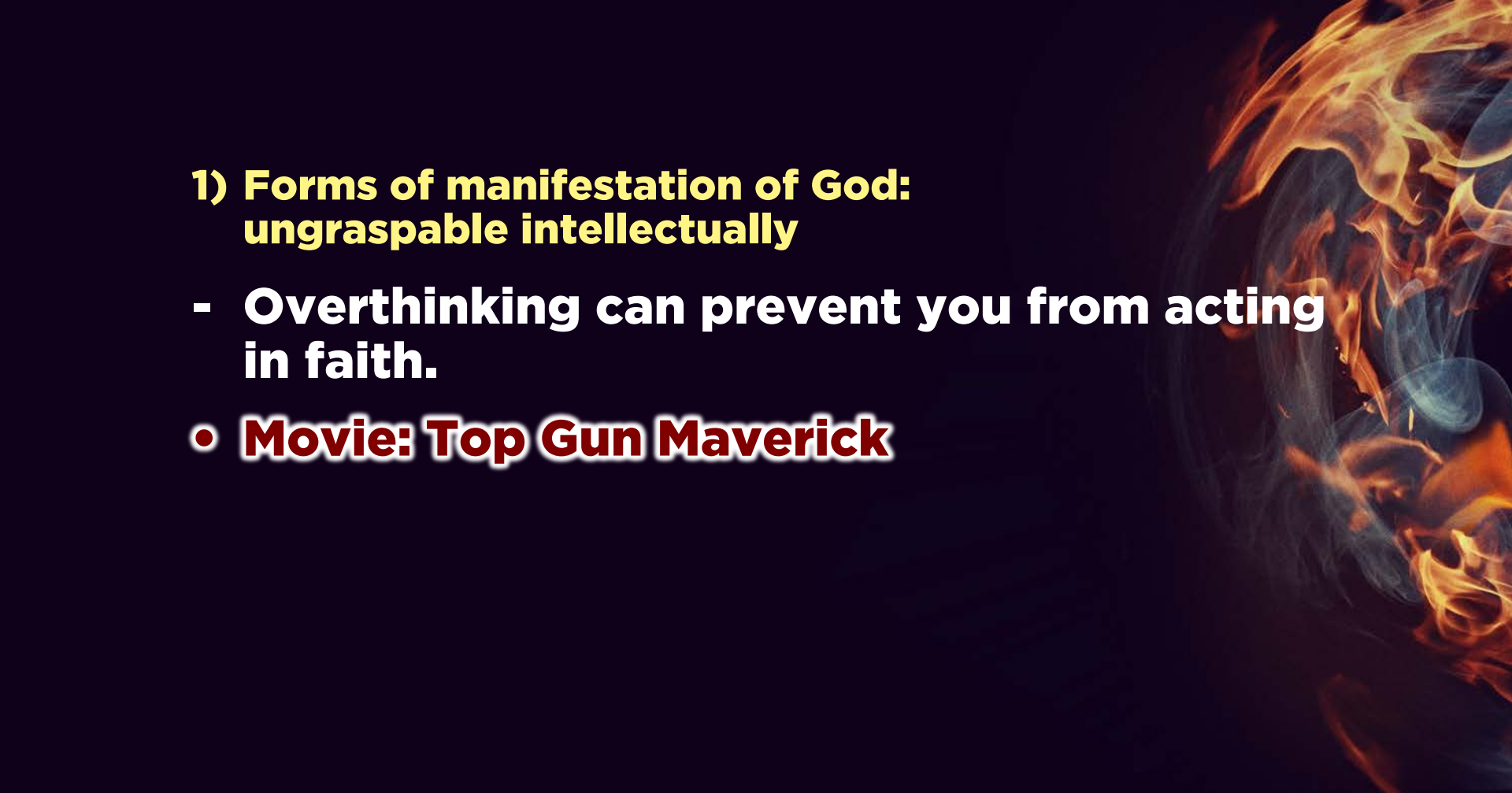
Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)



1) **Forms of manifestation of God: ungraspable intellectually**

- **Overthinking can prevent you from acting in faith.**

- **Movie: Top Gun Maverick**



1) **Forms of manifestation of God: ungraspable intellectually**

“Don’t think. Just do.”



1) **Forms of manifestation of God: ungraspable intellectually**

Very often, acting by faith defies logic!



1) **Forms of manifestation of God: ungraspable intellectually**

- **Conversion at age 13**

- I did not have the intellectual capacity at that age to fully comprehend the width and the depth of Christianity



1) **Forms of manifestation of God: ungraspable intellectually**

- **But I had the simplicity of faith and faith is the key to salvation.**



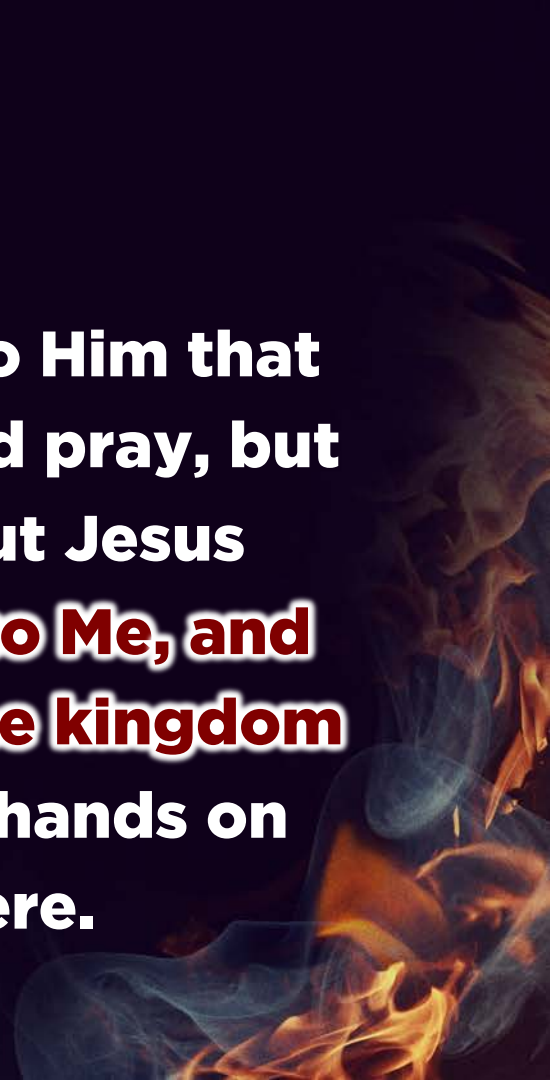
Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.



Matthew 19:13-15 (NKJV)

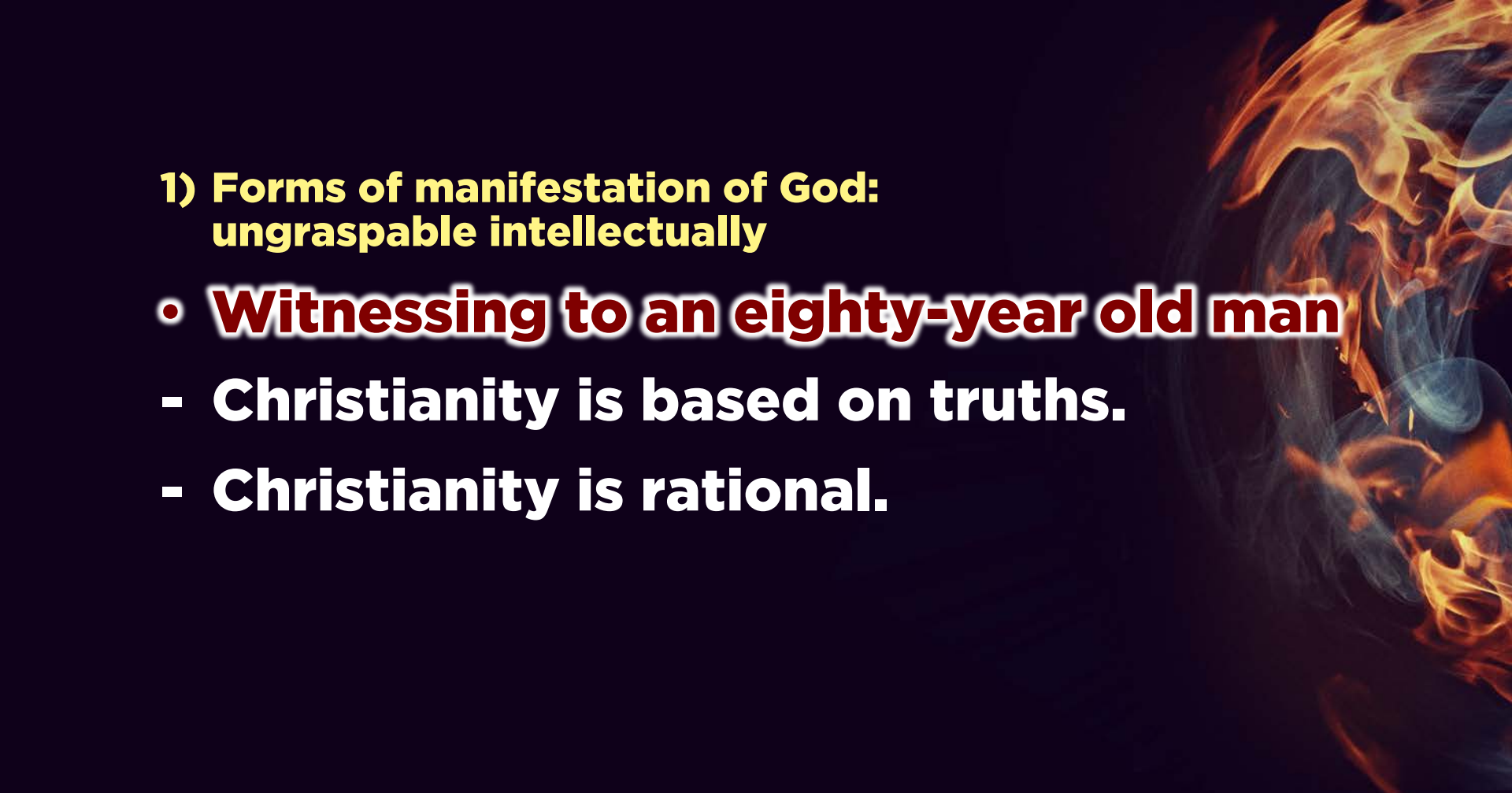
Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, **“Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”** 15 And He laid His His hands on them and departed from there.



1) Forms of manifestation of God:
ungraspable intellectually

- **Witnessing to an eighty-year old man**

- Christianity is based on truths.
- Christianity is rational.



1) Forms of manifestation of God: ungraspable intellectually

- **Reverse experience: from Spirit-filled to Holy Spirit wary**



Galatians 3:11 (NKJV)

But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”



Galatians 3:1-4 (NKJV)

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? 2 This only I want to learn from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?**



3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? 4 Have you suffered so many things in vain -if indeed it was in vain?

Galatians 3:1-4 (NKJV)



1) **Forms of manifestation of God: ungraspable intellectually**

- **Direction for the church for 2023: Life in the Spirit**



Ephesians 5:15-21 (NKJV)

See then that you walk circumspectly,
not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time,
because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not
be unwise, but understand what the will of the
Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine,
in which is dissipation; but **be filled**
with the Spirit,



19 speaking to one another in psalms and
hymns and spiritual songs, singing and
making melody in your heart to the
Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to
God the Father in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to
one another in the fear of God.

Ephesians 5:15-21 (NKJV)

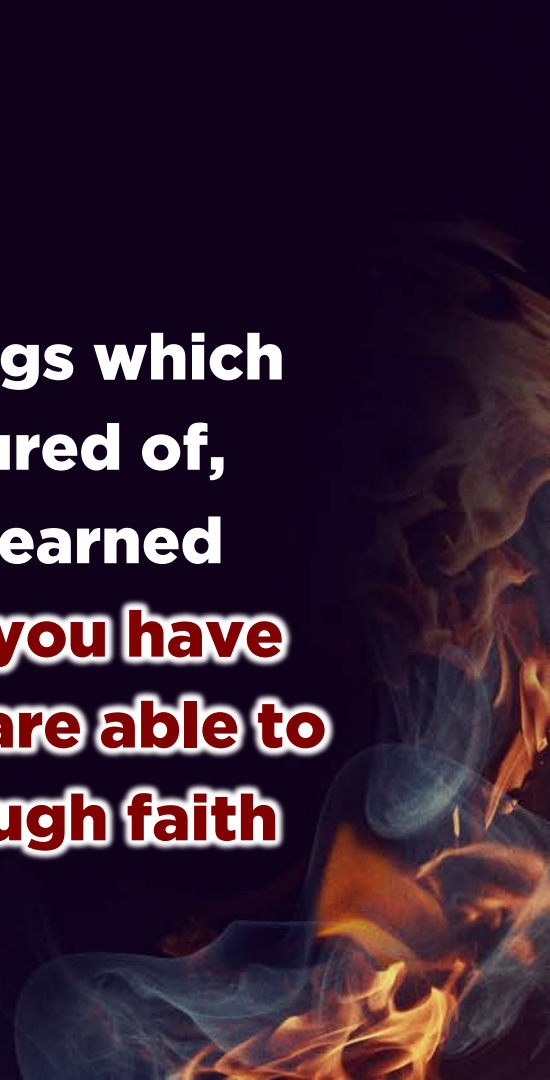


2) Forms of message from God: unfathomable illustration

- God speaks to us through His word.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NKJV)

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.



16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NKJV)

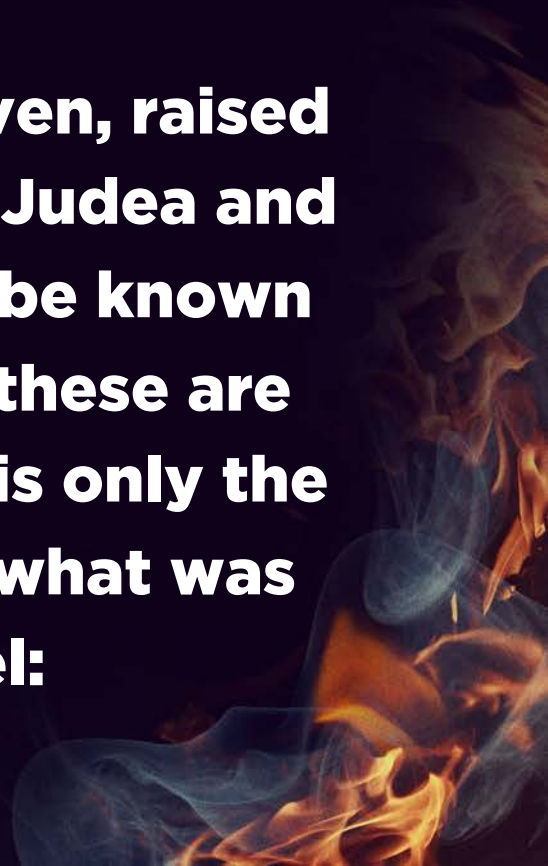


2) Forms of message from God: unfathomable illustration

- God can also communicate through prophecy, visions and dreams.

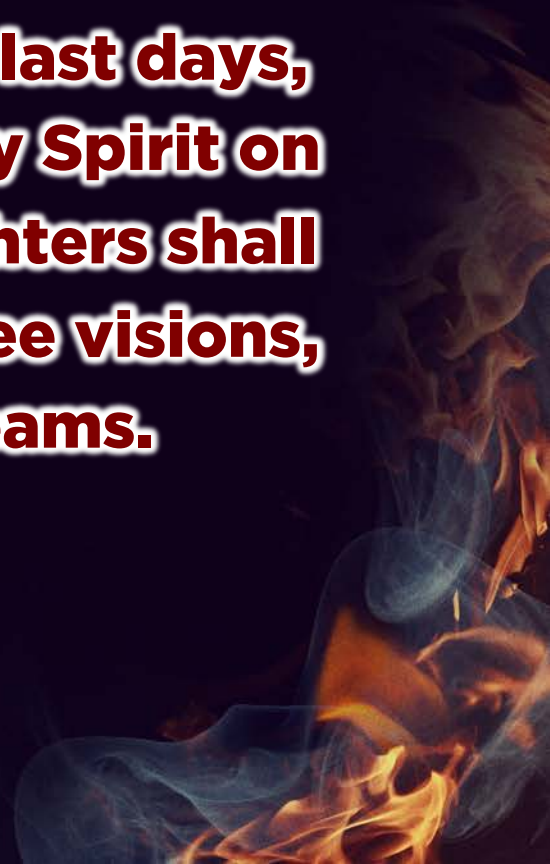
Acts 2:14-17 (NKJV)

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:



17 ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days,
says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on
all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall
prophesy, Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.

Acts 2:14-17 (NKJV)



2) **Forms of message from God: unfathomable illustration**

- **God can communicate through unusual phenomenon.**

2) Forms of message from God: unfathomable illustration

- **Unsettling illustration that can be unfathomable**

- spoke to me about the renewal in the Spirit for me and the church through an unusual event


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2) **Forms of message from God: unfathomable illustration**

- God's way of speaking to me through an illustration that I did not fathom for many months.
- fire of the Holy Spirit that renewed the church in 1993

2) Forms of message from God: unfathomable illustration

- ask for another renewal experience through the fire of the Holy Spirit
- God did something unfathomable to illustrate His message to the people of Israel through Hosea.

2) Forms of message from God: unfathomable illustration

- **Speaking through the most unusual circumstances in life**

- Un-illustrious illustration

Hosea 1:2-3 (NLT)

When the LORD first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, "**Go and marry a prostitute** so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. **This will illustrate how Israel has acted** like a prostitute by turning against the LORD and worshiping other gods."



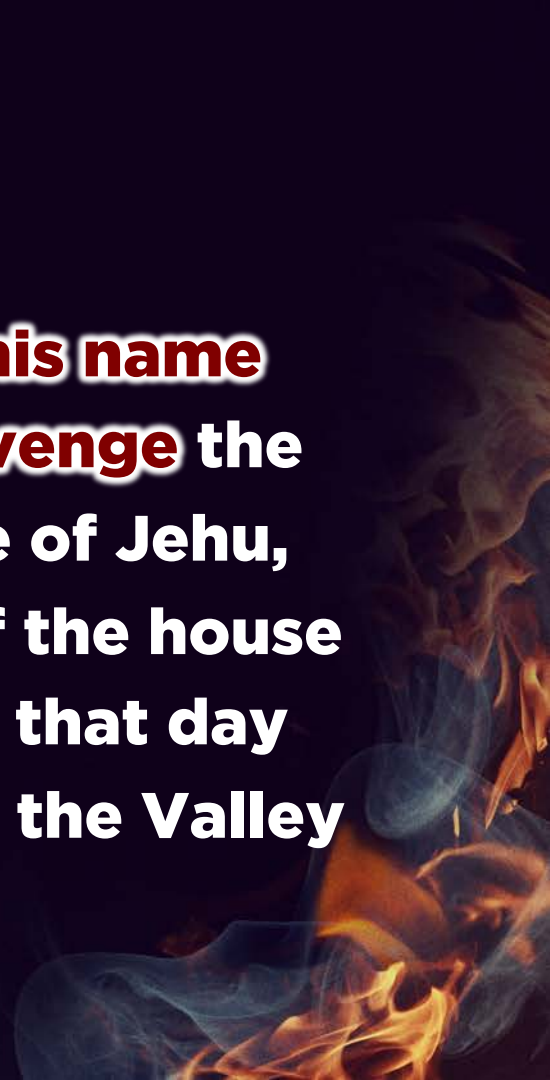
[3] So Hosea married Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she became pregnant and gave Hosea a son.

Hosea 1:2-3 (NLT)



Hosea 1:4-9 (NKJV)

Then the LORD said to him: "Call his name Jezreel, For in a little while I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu, And bring an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. 5 It shall come to pass in that day That I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel."

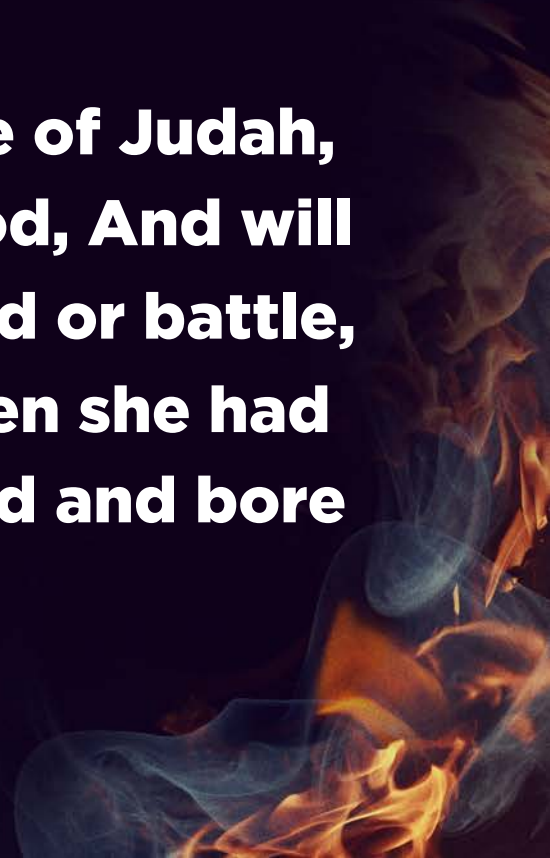


Hosea 1:4-9 (NKJV)

6 And she conceived again and bore a daughter. Then God said to him: “Call her name Lo-Ruhamah, For I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel. But I will utterly take them away.



7 Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah,
Will save them by the LORD their God, And will
not save them by bow, Nor by sword or battle,
By horses or horsemen.” 8 Now when she had
weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore
a son.



9 Then God said: “Call his name Lo-Ammi, For you are not My people, And I will not be your God.

Hosea 1:4-9 (NKJV)

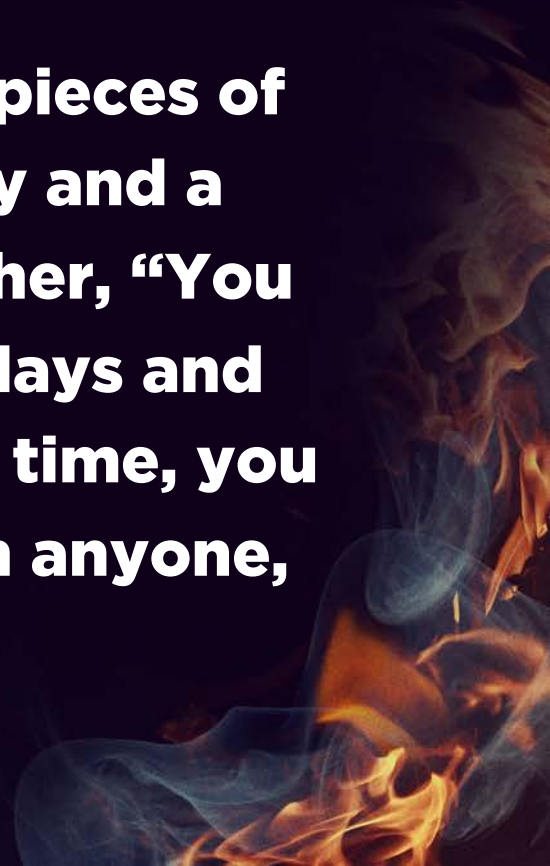


Hosea 3:1-5 (NLT)

Then the LORD said to me, "Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. This will illustrate that the LORD still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them"

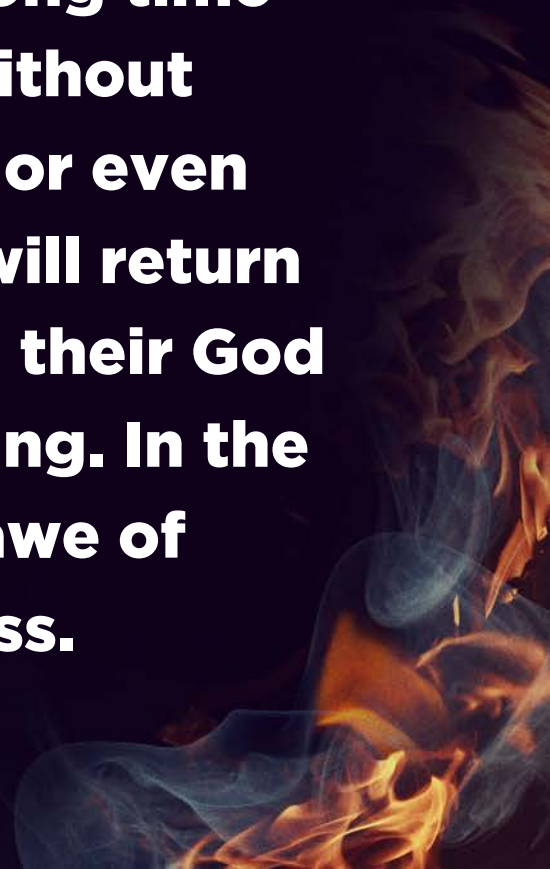


2 So I bought her back for fifteen pieces of
silver] and five bushels of barley and a
measure of wine. 3 Then I said to her, “You
must live in my house for many days and
stop your prostitution. During this time, you
will not have sexual relations with anyone,
not even with me]”



4 This shows that Israel will go a long time
without a king or prince, and without
sacrifices, sacred pillars, priests, or even
idols! 5 But afterward the people will return
and devote themselves to the LORD their God
and to David's descendant, their king. In the
last days, they will tremble in awe of
the LORD and of his goodness.

Hosea 3:1-5 (NLT)




Conclusion