

The background features a dark, starry night sky with numerous small, bright yellow and white stars. Overlaid on this are large, flowing, ethereal waves of light. On the left side, there are vibrant orange and yellow waves, resembling fire or a sunset. On the right side, there are deep blue and purple waves, resembling a nebula or a starry field. The waves flow horizontally across the frame, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Eternal Life

A Study of 1 John



Butterworths Original Syrup 2
ZeeMondol

Books on the top shelf of the left section, including a Bible and various study materials.

Books on the second shelf of the left section, including a Bible and various study materials.

Books on the third shelf of the left section, including a Bible and various study materials.

Books on the fourth shelf of the left section, including a Bible and various study materials.

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Books on the sixth shelf of the left section, including a Bible and various study materials.

Books on the bottom shelf of the left section, including a Bible and various study materials.

Books on the top shelf of the middle section, including a Bible and various study materials.

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Books on the top shelf of the right section, including a Bible and various study materials.

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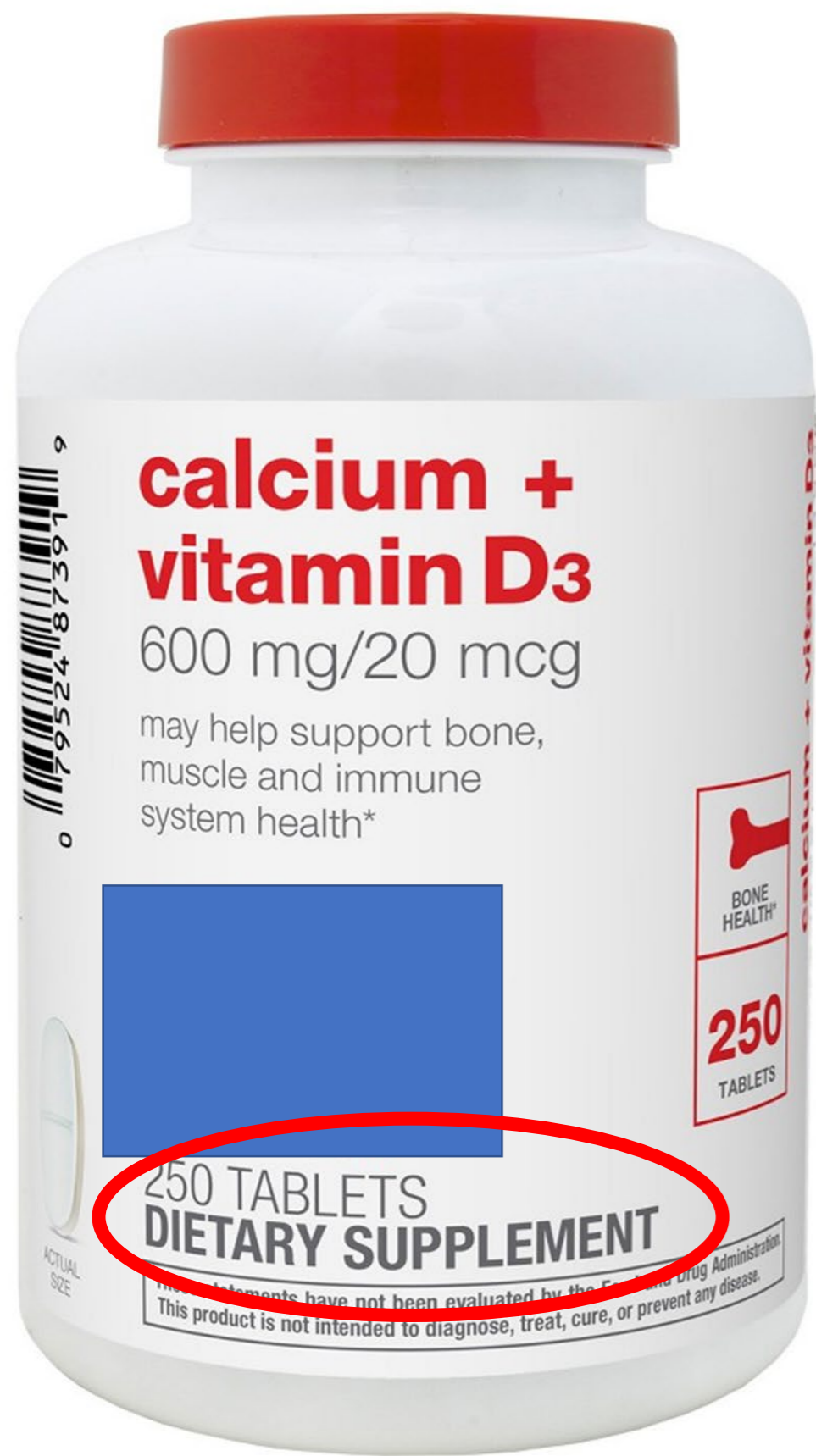
Books on the bottom shelf of the right section, including a Bible and various study materials.



- I AM NOT *ANTI-BOOK!*

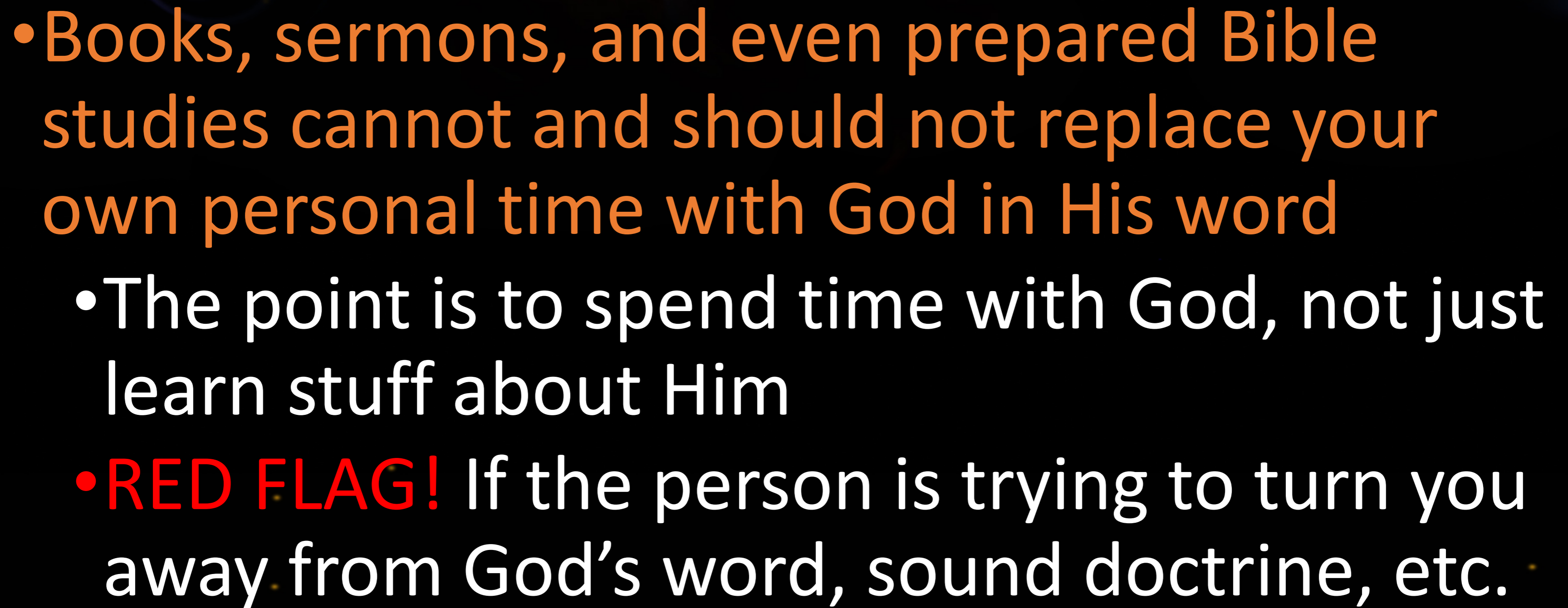
- I am not saying that the Bible is the only book we should ever read!

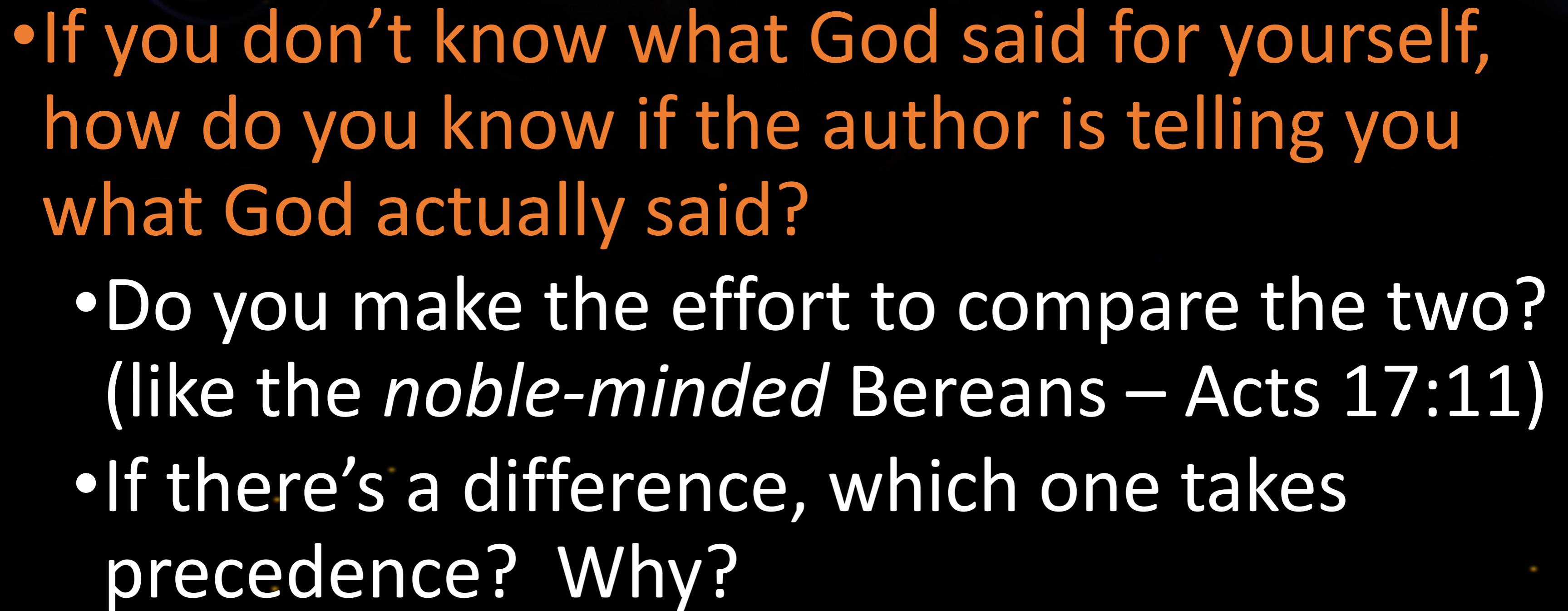
- I'm not saying that every human author is evil and maliciously trying to deceive us!

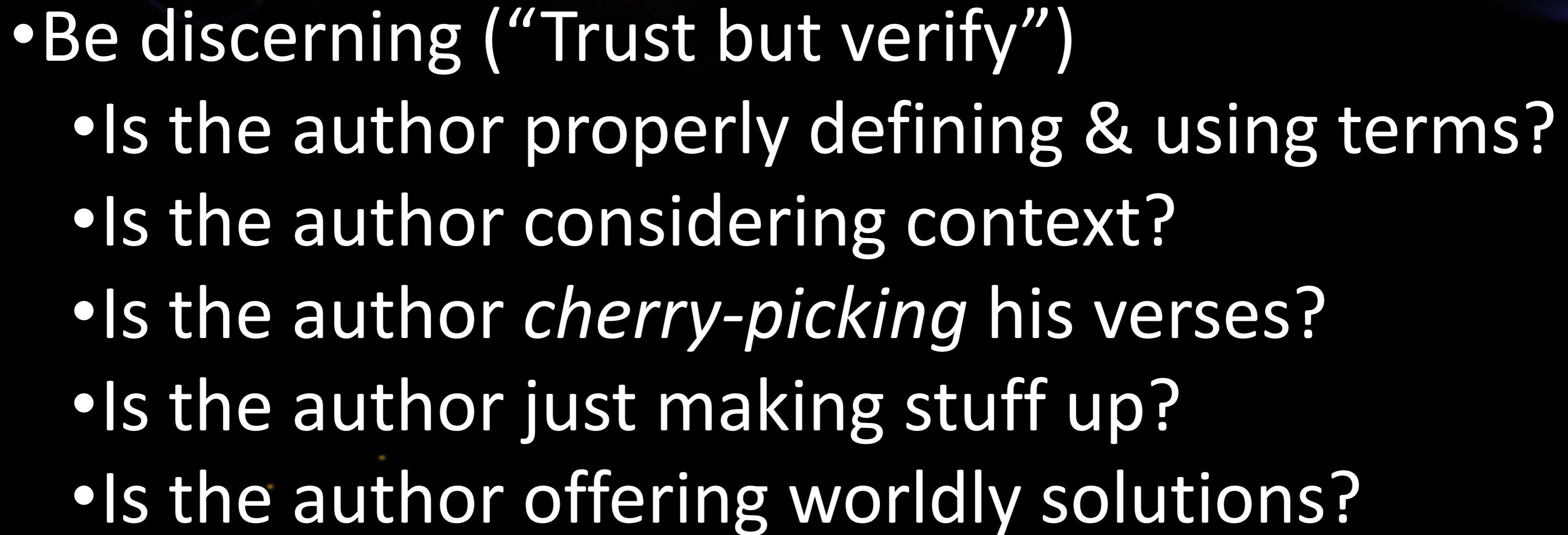


I am saying
there is a
difference
between a
supplement
and a
replacement



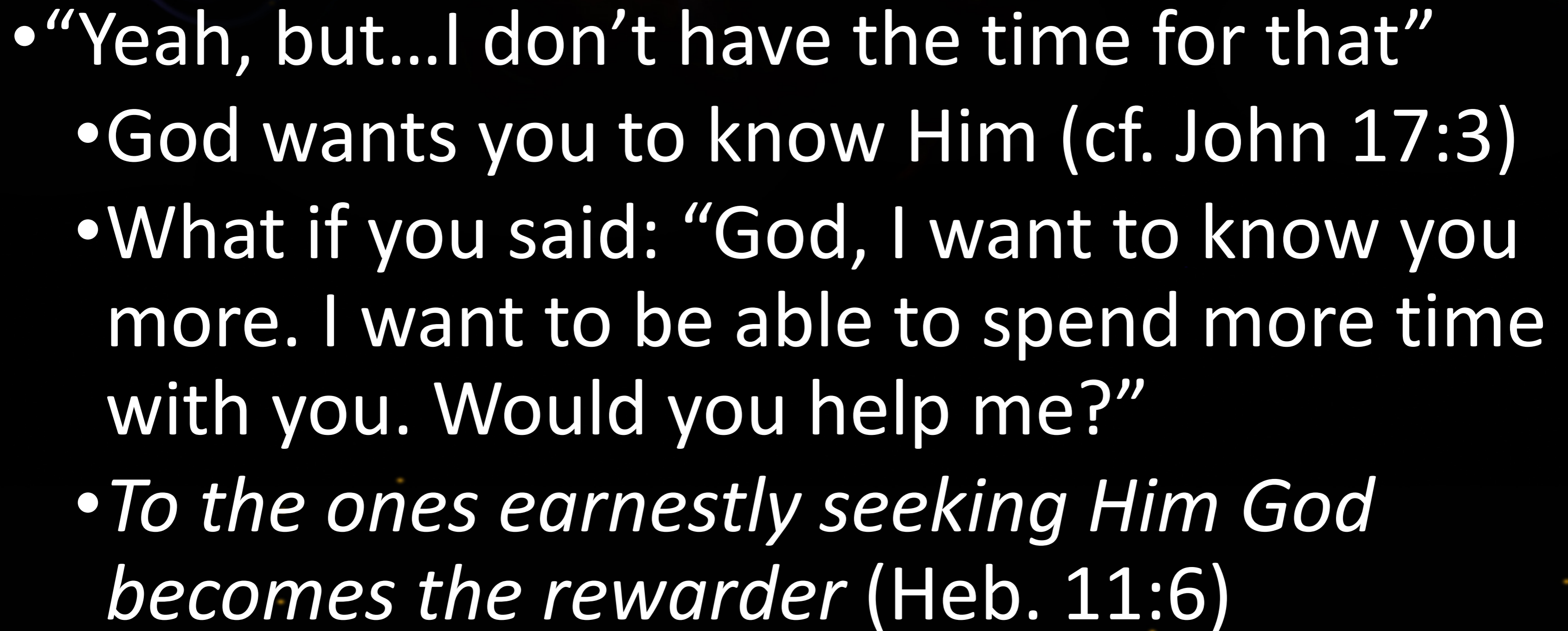
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- Books, sermons, and even prepared Bible studies cannot and should not replace your own personal time with God in His word
 - The point is to spend time with God, not just learn stuff about Him
 - **RED FLAG!** If the person is trying to turn you away from God's word, sound doctrine, etc.

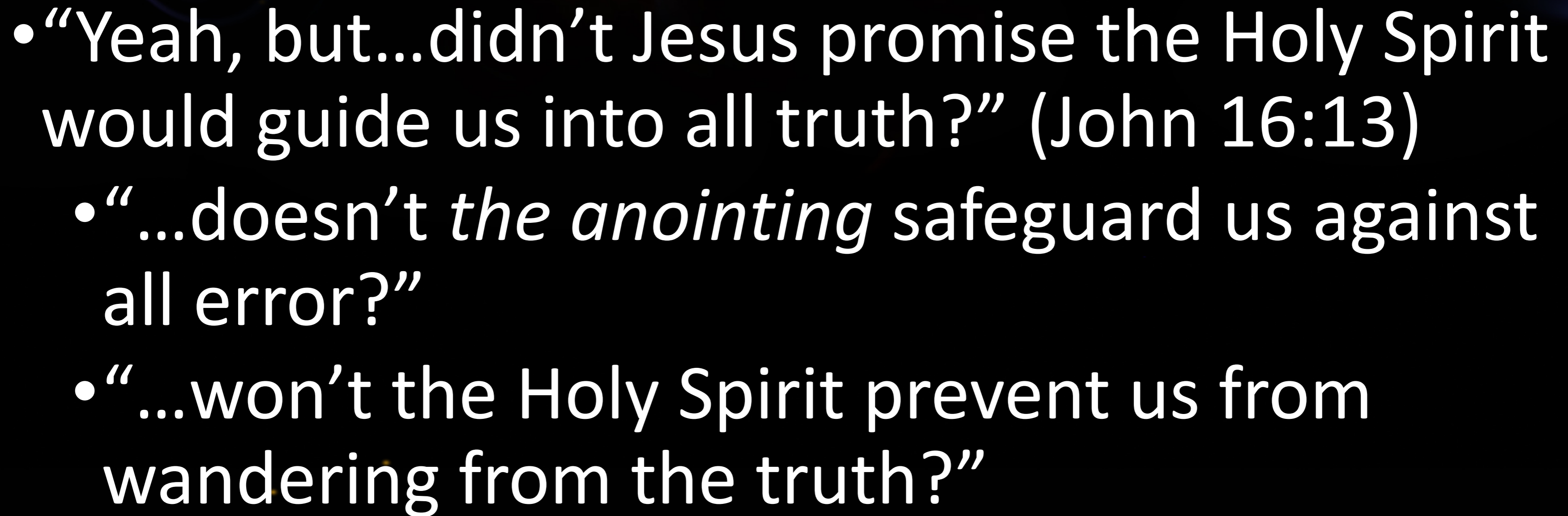
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- If you don't know what God said for yourself, how do you know if the author is telling you what God actually said?
 - Do you make the effort to compare the two? (like the *noble-minded* Bereans – Acts 17:11)
 - If there's a difference, which one takes precedence? Why?

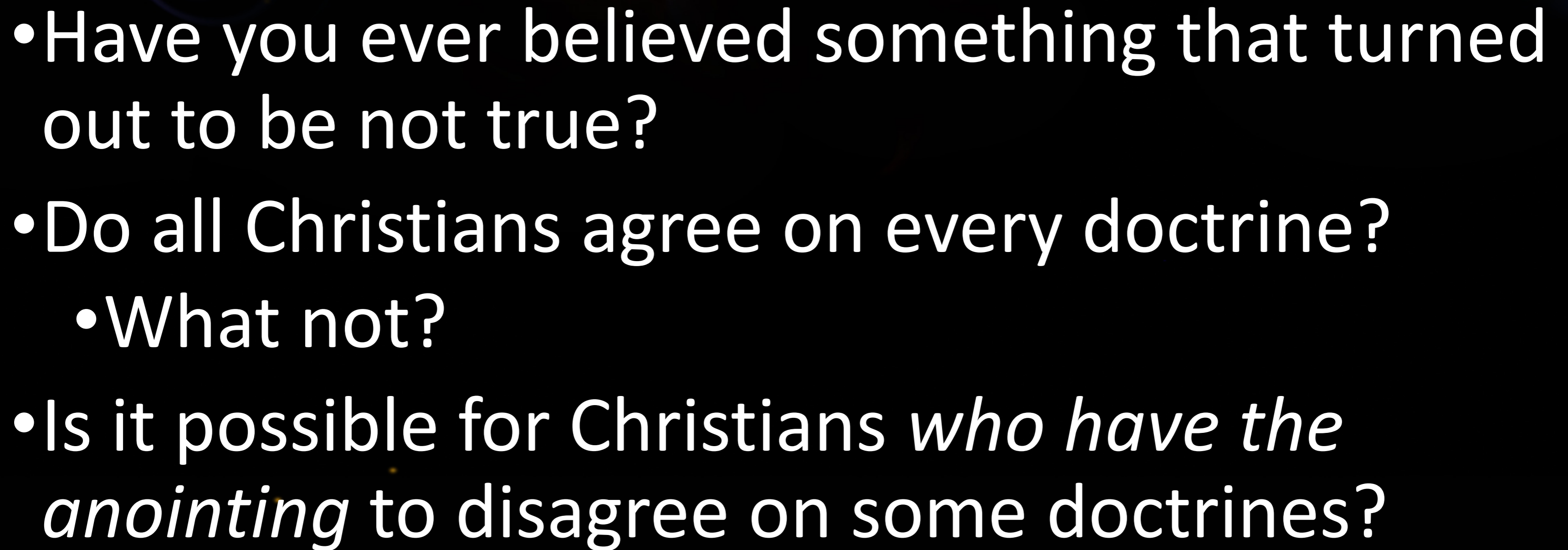
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- Be discerning (“Trust but verify”)
 - Is the author properly defining & using terms?
 - Is the author considering context?
 - Is the author *cherry-picking* his verses?
 - Is the author just making stuff up?
 - Is the author offering worldly solutions?

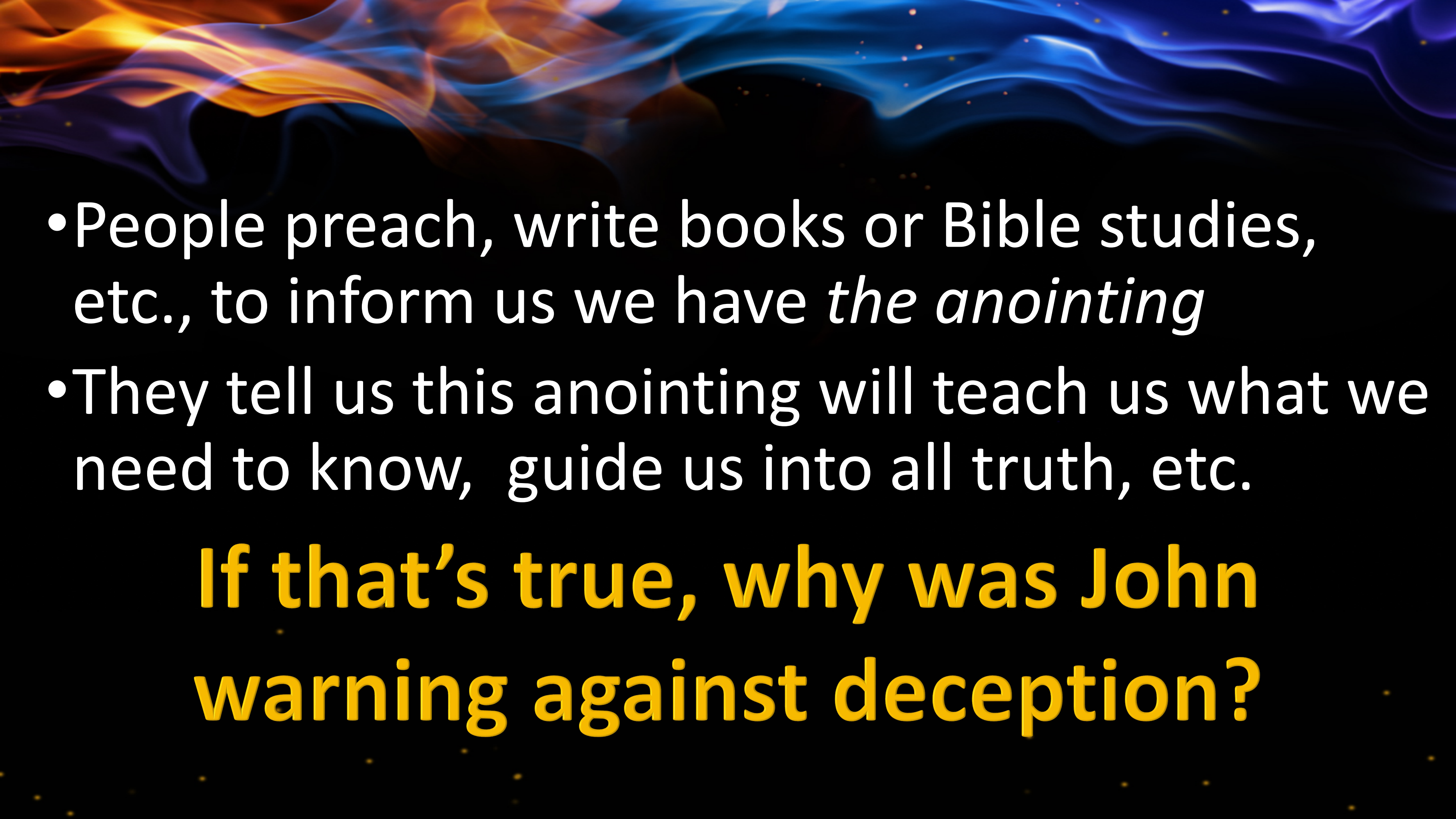
- “Yeah, but...that sounds like a lot of work”
 - “make sure no one deceives you” (1 John 3:7)
 - *To cause to wander from the truth*
 - Someone may be absolutely sincere and have the best intentions, and yet be wrong
 - See Acts 18:24-28; 22:3-5

“Be on your guard” (2 Pet. 3:17)

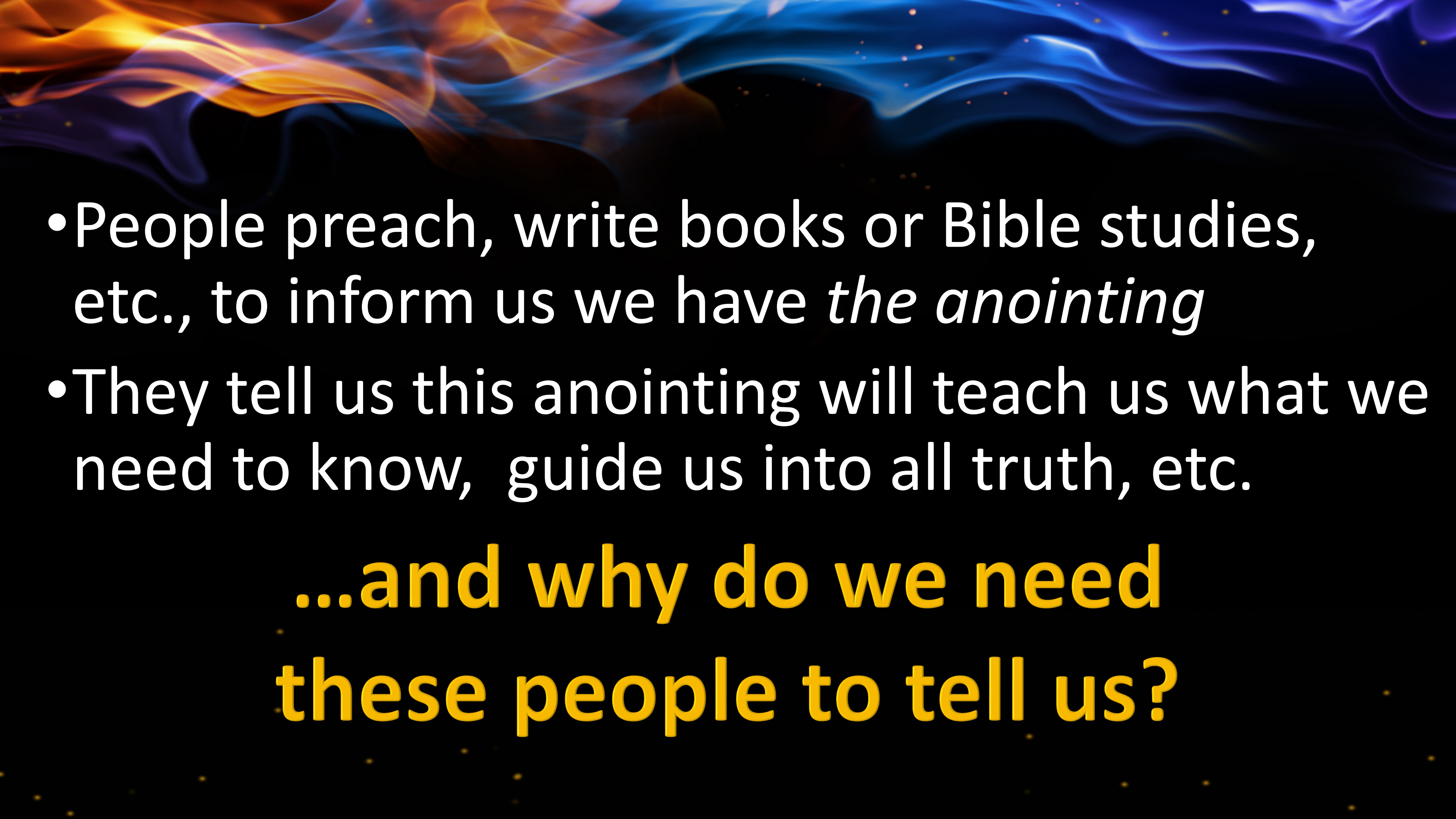
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- “Yeah, but...I don’t have the time for that”
 - God wants you to know Him (cf. John 17:3)
 - What if you said: “God, I want to know you more. I want to be able to spend more time with you. Would you help me?”
 - *To the ones earnestly seeking Him God becomes the rewarder (Heb. 11:6)*

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- “Yeah, but...didn’t Jesus promise the Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth?” (John 16:13)
 - “...doesn’t *the anointing* safeguard us against all error?”
 - “...won’t the Holy Spirit prevent us from wandering from the truth?”

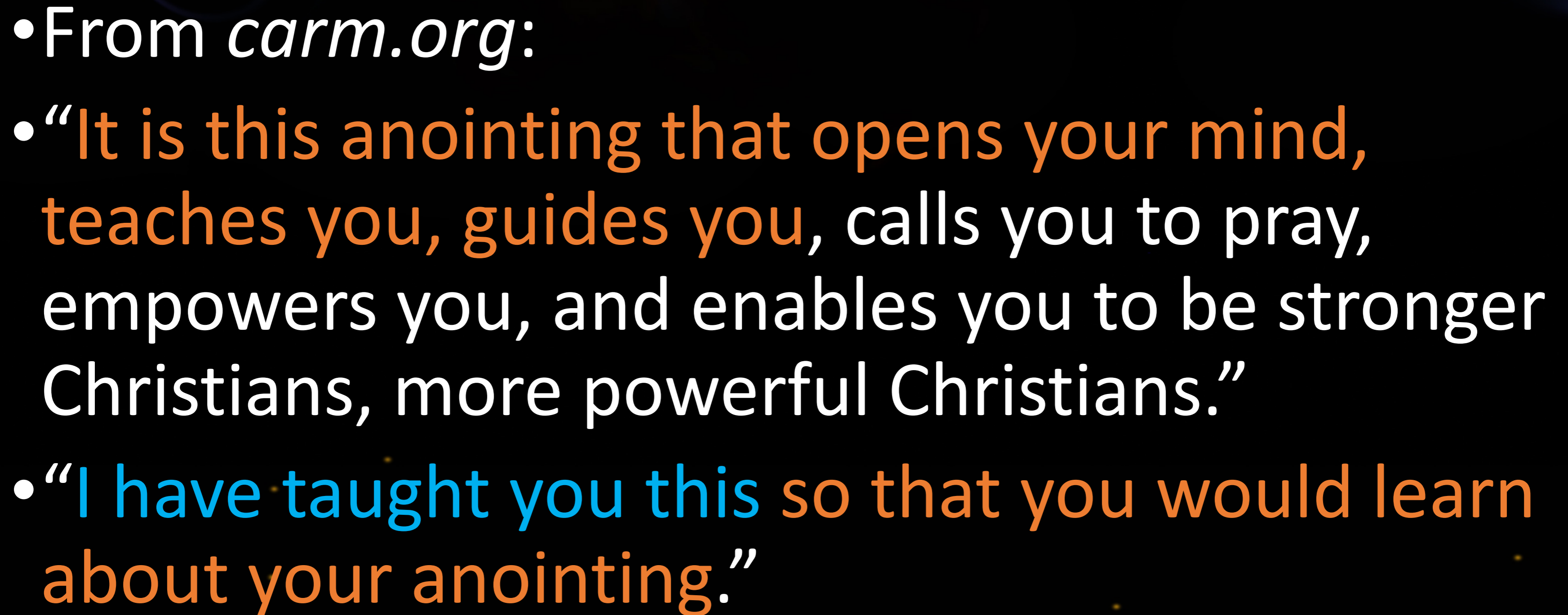
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- Have you ever believed something that turned out to be not true?
 - Do all Christians agree on every doctrine?
 - What not?
 - Is it possible for Christians *who have the anointing* to disagree on some doctrines?

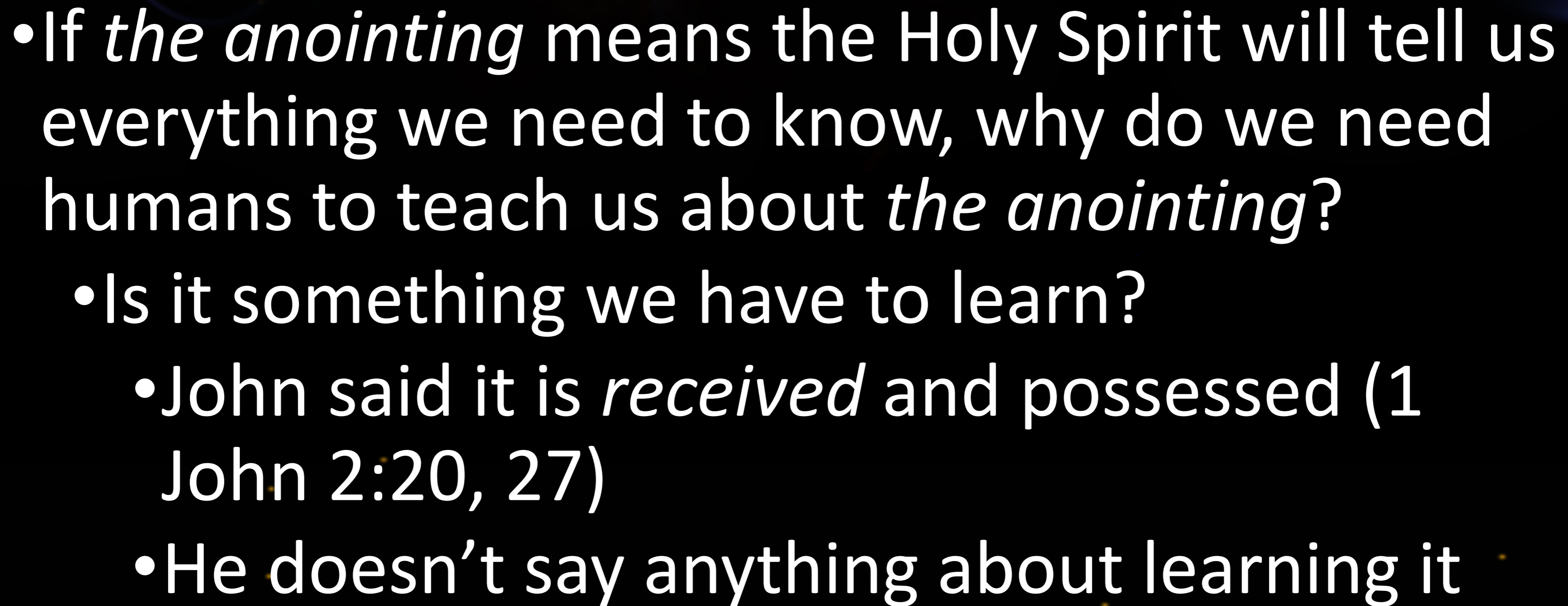
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- People preach, write books or Bible studies, etc., to inform us we have *the anointing*
 - They tell us this anointing will teach us what we need to know, guide us into all truth, etc.

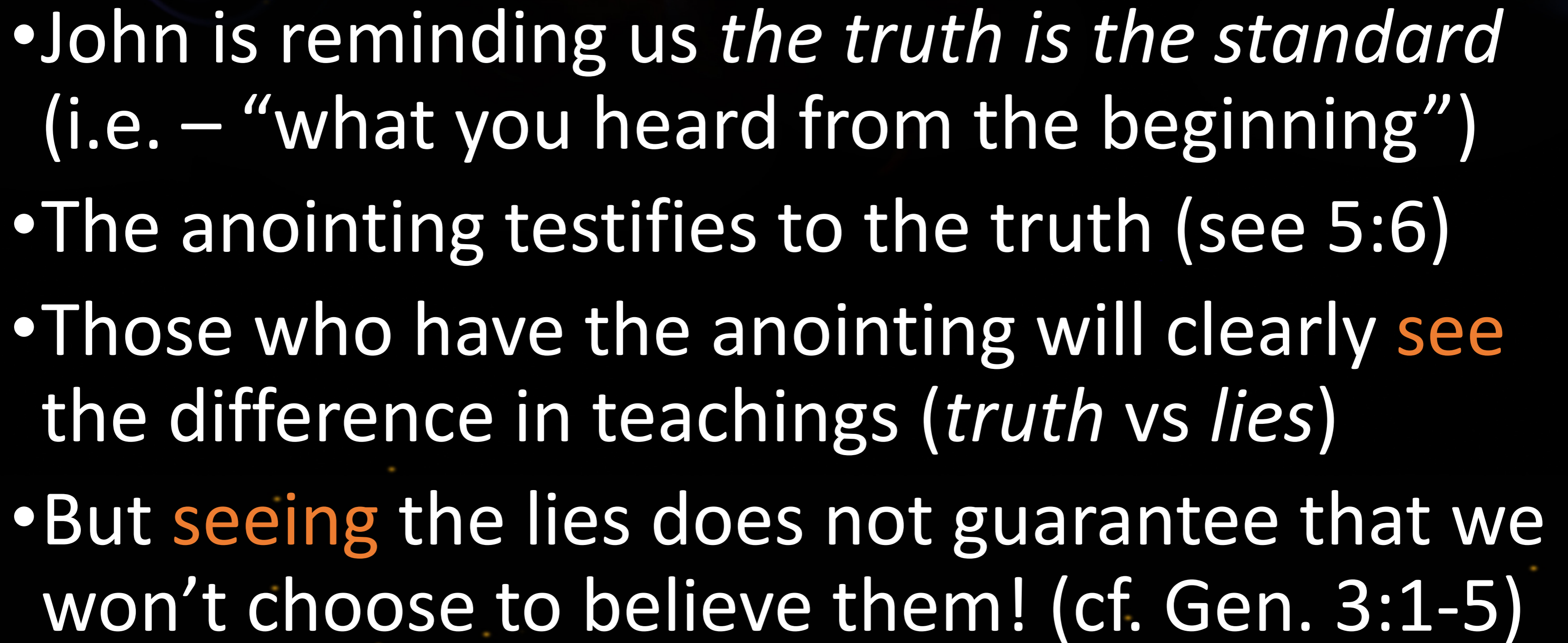
If that's true, why was John warning against deception?

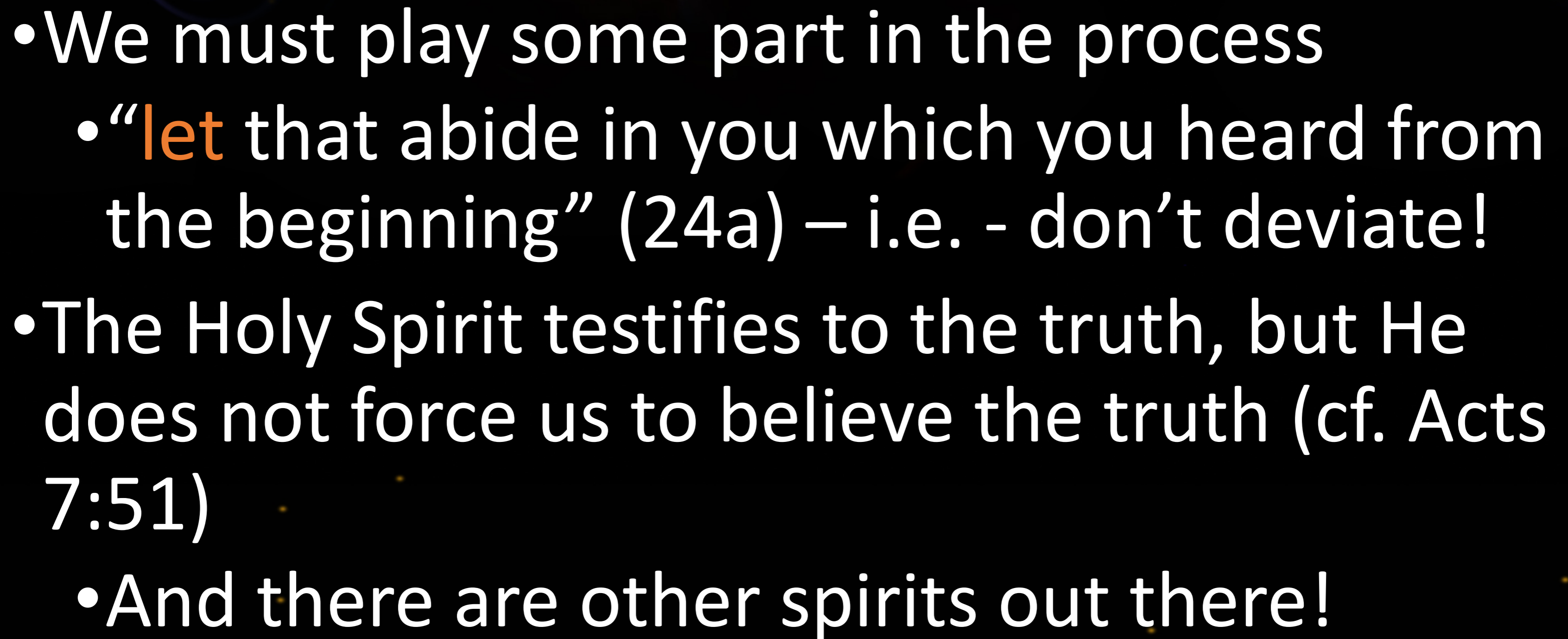
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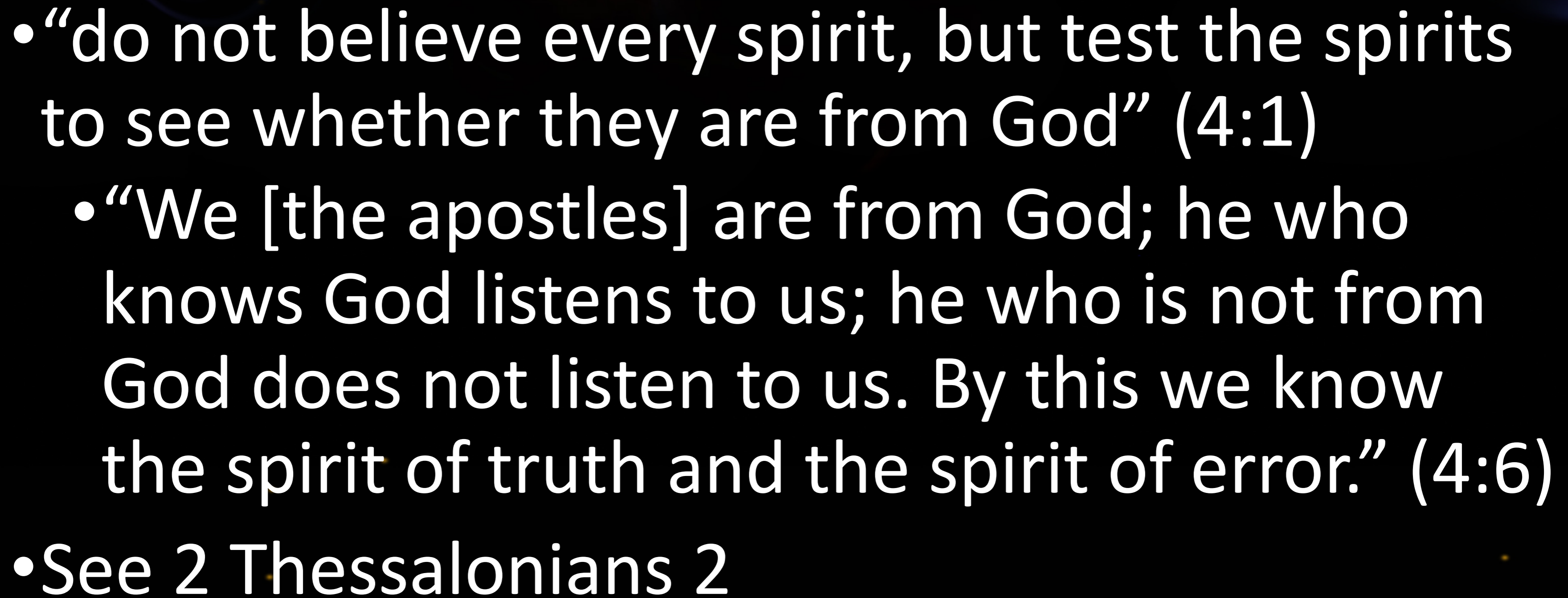
**...and why do we need
these people to tell us?**

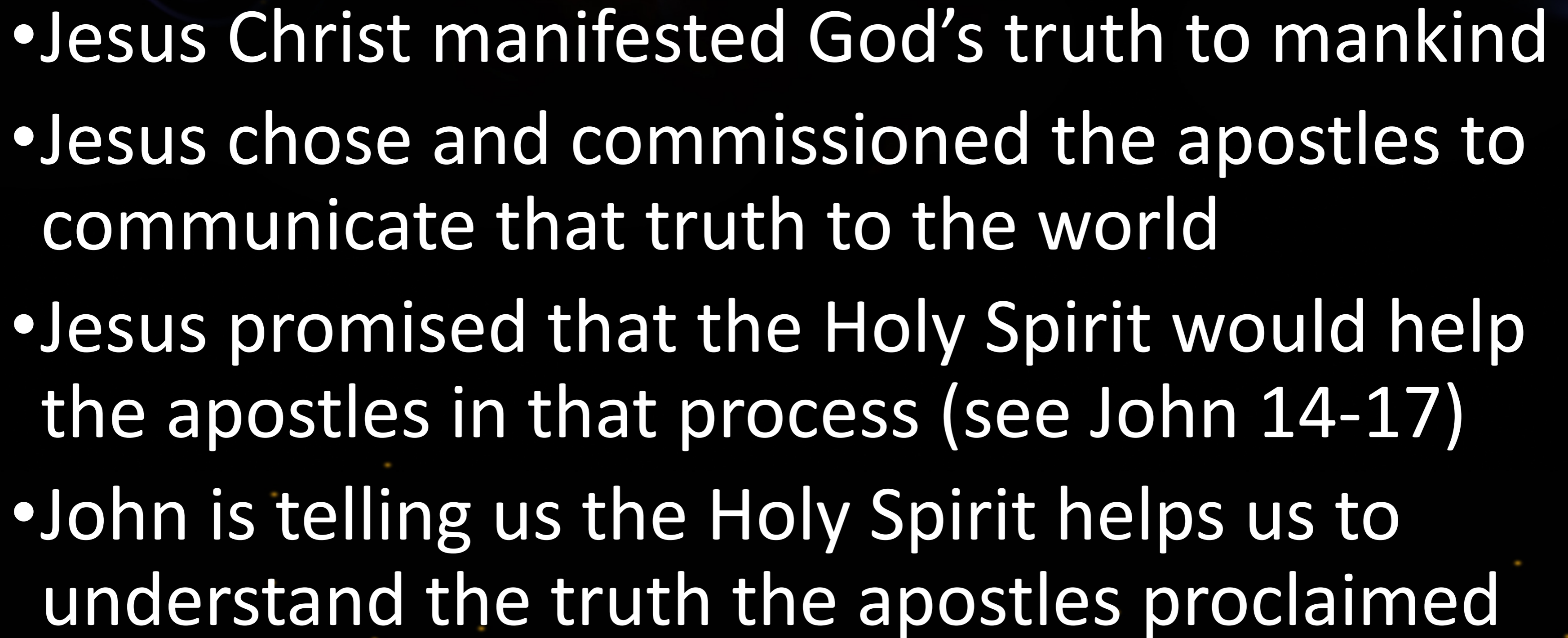
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- From *carm.org*:
 - “It is this anointing that opens your mind, teaches you, guides you, calls you to pray, empowers you, and enables you to be stronger Christians, more powerful Christians.”
 - “I have taught you this so that you would learn about your anointing.”

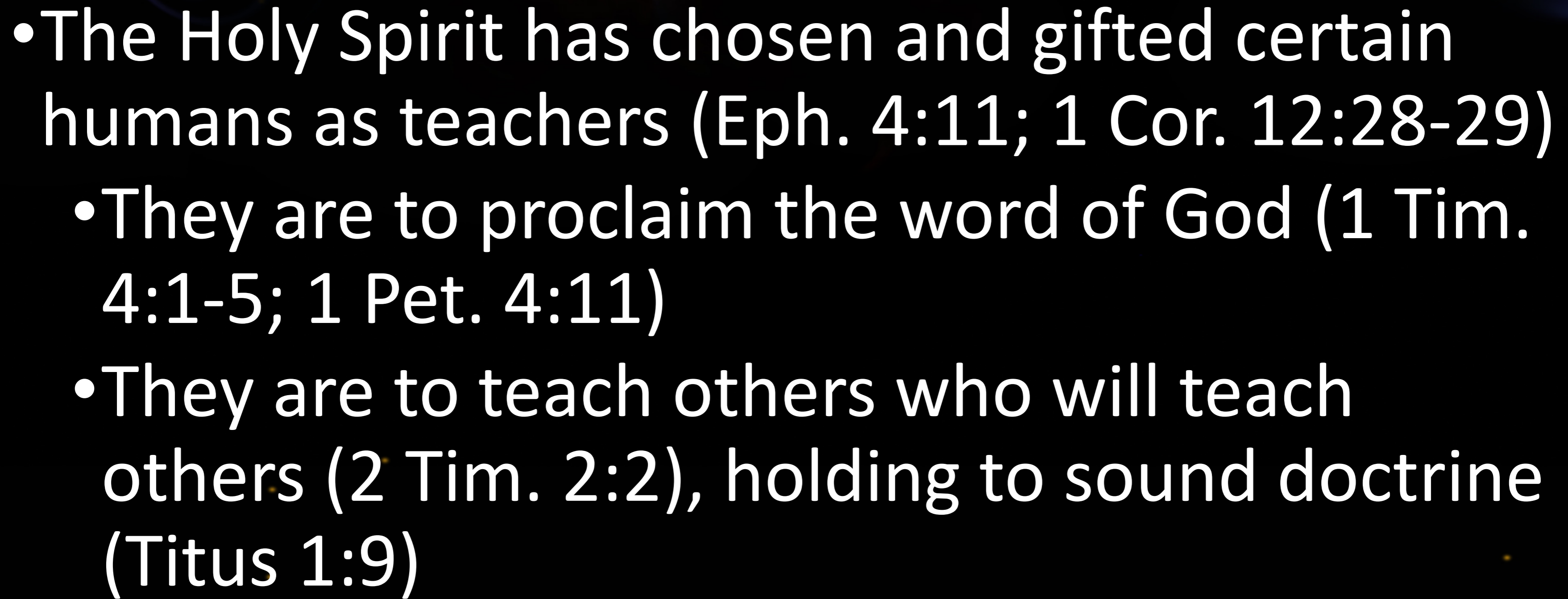
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- If *the anointing* means the Holy Spirit will tell us everything we need to know, why do we need humans to teach us about *the anointing*?
 - Is it something we have to learn?
 - John said it is *received* and possessed (1 John 2:20, 27)
 - He doesn't say anything about learning it

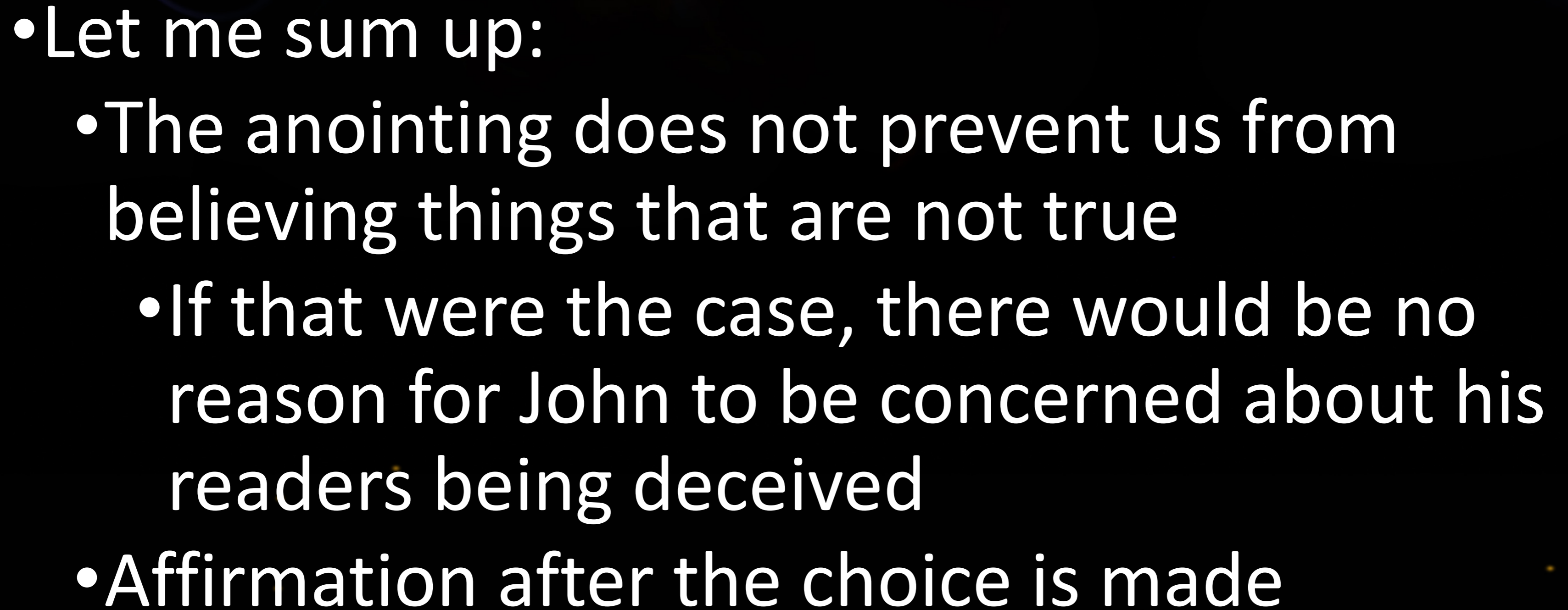
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- John is reminding us *the truth is the standard* (i.e. – “what you heard from the beginning”)
 - The anointing testifies to the truth (see 5:6)
 - Those who have the anointing will clearly **see** the difference in teachings (*truth vs lies*)
 - But **see**ing the lies does not guarantee that we won't choose to believe them! (cf. Gen. 3:1-5)

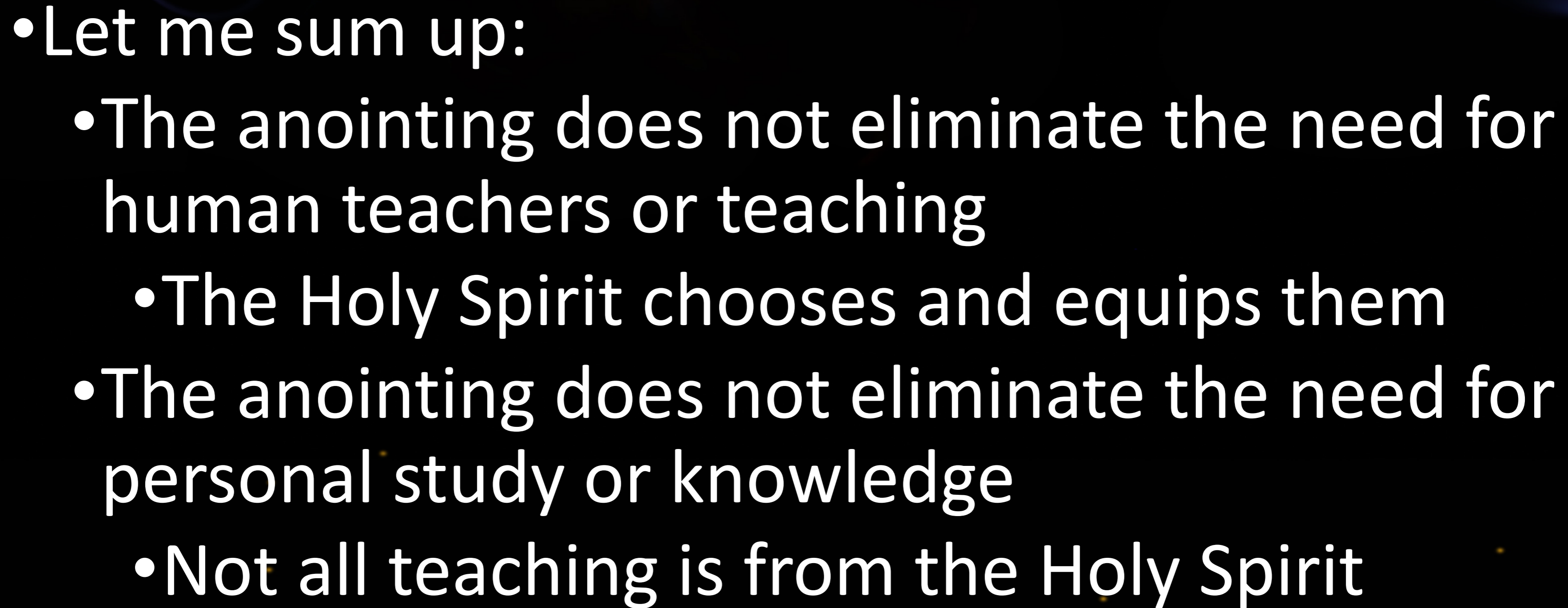
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- We must play some part in the process
 - “**let** that abide in you which you heard from the beginning” (24a) – i.e. - don’t deviate!
 - The Holy Spirit testifies to the truth, but He does not force us to believe the truth (cf. Acts 7:51)
 - And there are other spirits out there!

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- “do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God” (4:1)
 - “We [the apostles] are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.” (4:6)
 - See 2 Thessalonians 2

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- Jesus Christ manifested God's truth to mankind
 - Jesus chose and commissioned the apostles to communicate that truth to the world
 - Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would help the apostles in that process (see John 14-17)
 - John is telling us the Holy Spirit helps us to understand the truth the apostles proclaimed

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- The Holy Spirit has chosen and gifted certain humans as teachers (Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28-29)
 - They are to proclaim the word of God (1 Tim. 4:1-5; 1 Pet. 4:11)
 - They are to teach others who will teach others (2 Tim. 2:2), holding to sound doctrine (Titus 1:9)

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- Let me sum up:
 - The anointing does not prevent us from believing things that are not true
 - If that were the case, there would be no reason for John to be concerned about his readers being deceived
 - Affirmation after the choice is made

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- Let me sum up:
 - The anointing does not eliminate the need for human teachers or teaching
 - The Holy Spirit chooses and equips them
 - The anointing does not eliminate the need for personal study or knowledge
 - Not all teaching is from the Holy Spirit

So What?

- The Bible claims to be *special revelation*, i.e. – God revealing Himself to mankind
- The more we *wander* from what the Bible says about God, the more we are *wandering* away from the God of the Bible
- “Be on your guard” (2 Pet. 3:17)
 - This may be a test (cf. Deut. 13:1-5)

So What?

- God is *Light*, and in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5)
- If we are to walk in God's *Light* we must know and practice *the truth* (cf. 1:3, 6) in love (2:10)
- Deception, error, and lies only blind us and make us stumble in the darkness (cf. 2:11)
- Jesus said that God's word is truth (John 17:17) and that the truth will make us free (John 8:32)