

Holy Spirit Roles & Activity

Acts 10-11

Sunday, October 11, 2026
Pastor Darren

15 “And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning.

16 “And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’

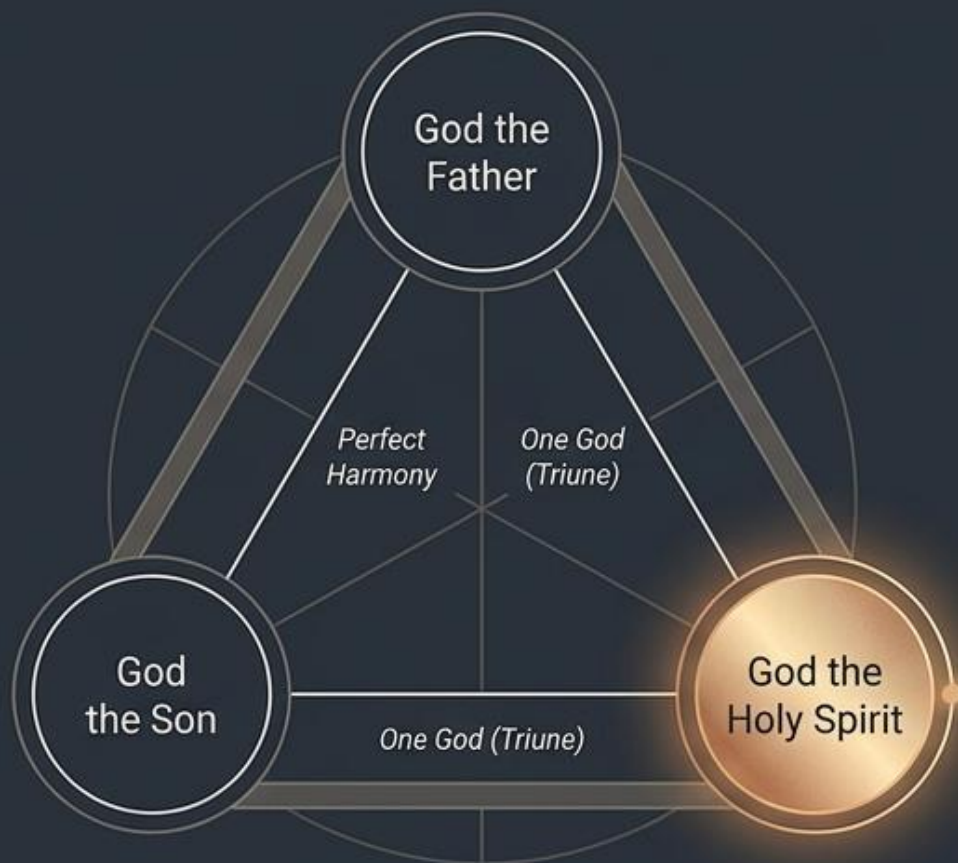
17 “Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”

18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”

Acts 11:15–18

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The Identity of the Spirit



- **Distinct Person**

Not an "it" or a force; personal, invisible, eternal.

- **Co-Equal & Co-Eternal**

Uncreated, of the same exact substance and nature as the Father and Son.

- **The Helper**

Identified by Jesus as the Counselor, Comforter, and Spirit of Truth (John 14–16).

5 “But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’

6 “But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

7 “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

8 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

John 16:5–8

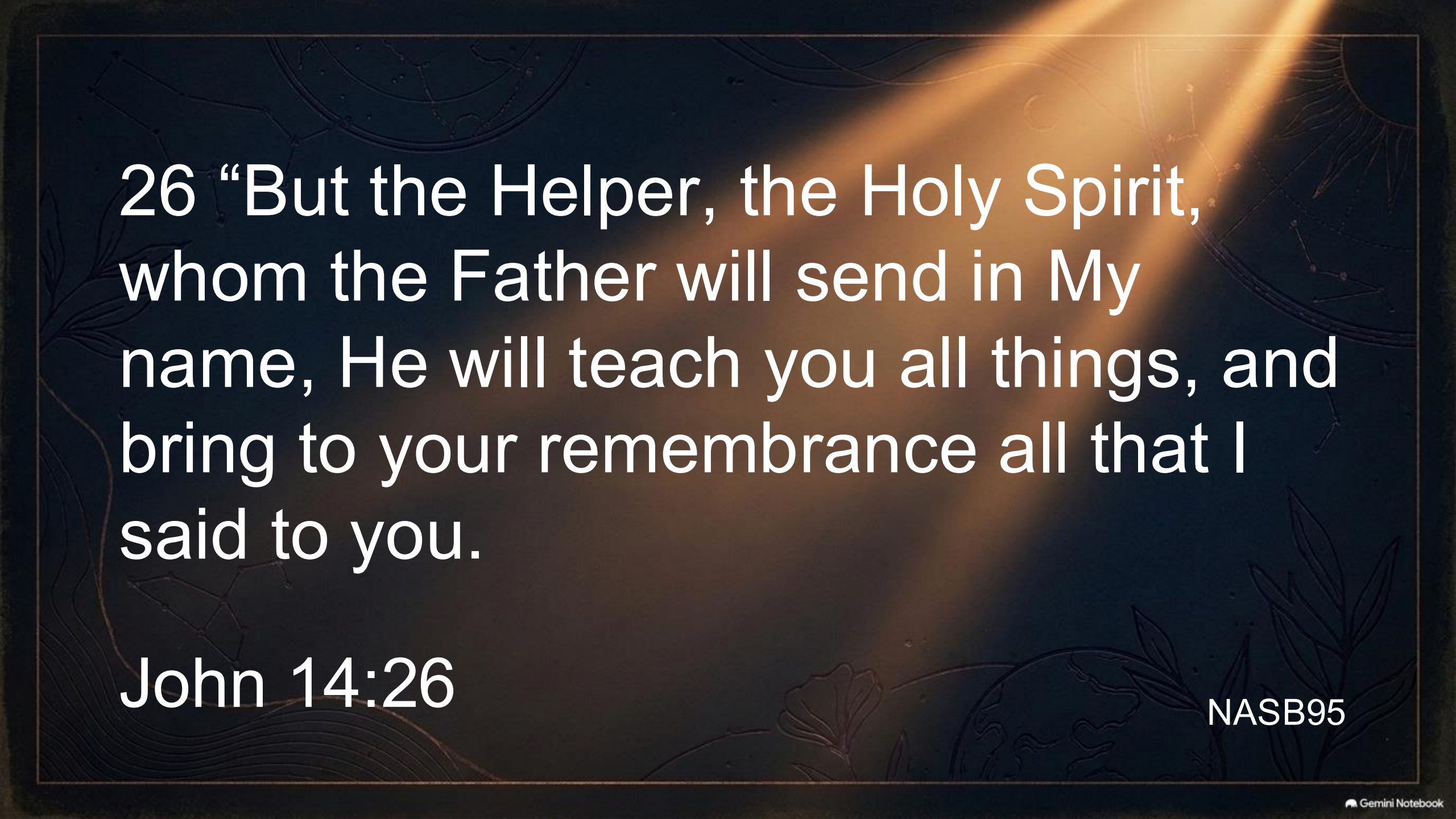
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13 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

14 “He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

John 16:13–14

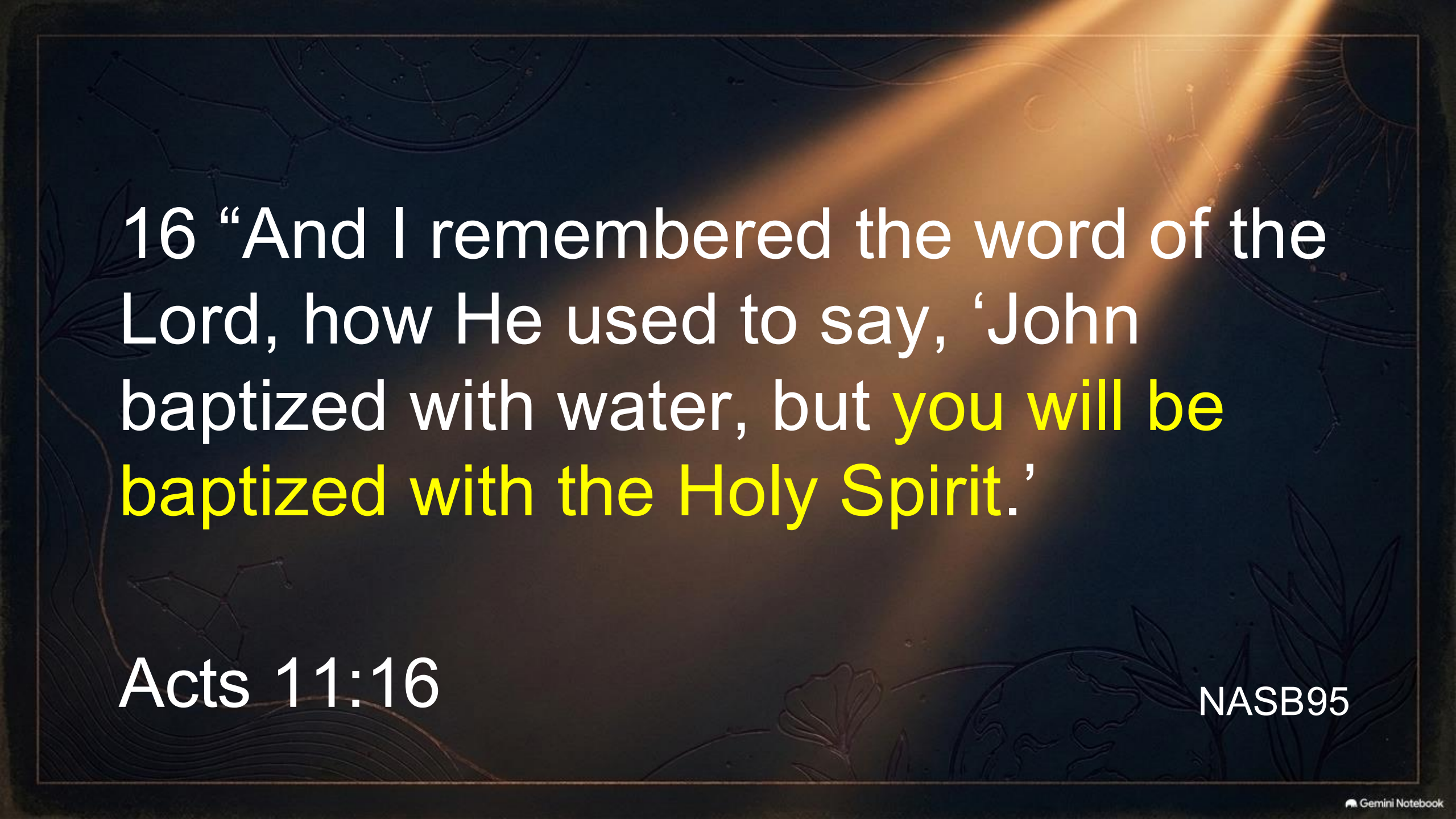
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26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in My
name, He will teach you all things, and
bring to your remembrance all that I
said to you.

John 14:26

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16 “And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**’

Acts 11:16

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The Unifying Thread: From Promise to Pentecost

The Promise (Acts 1:4-5)



Jesus commands the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Father's promise: to be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

The Jewish Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)



A rushing wind, tongues of fire, and believers filled with the Spirit.

The Gentile Pentecost (Acts 10-11)



The Spirit falls on Cornelius and his household.

Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way? (Acts 11:17) The Spirit validates that God is welcoming Gentiles into His Body.

4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me;

5 for John baptized with water, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**”

Acts 1:4–5

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1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Acts 2:1–4

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A Revolutionary Interruption

The Setup

Peter is delivering the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.

The Event

And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning. (Acts 11:15)

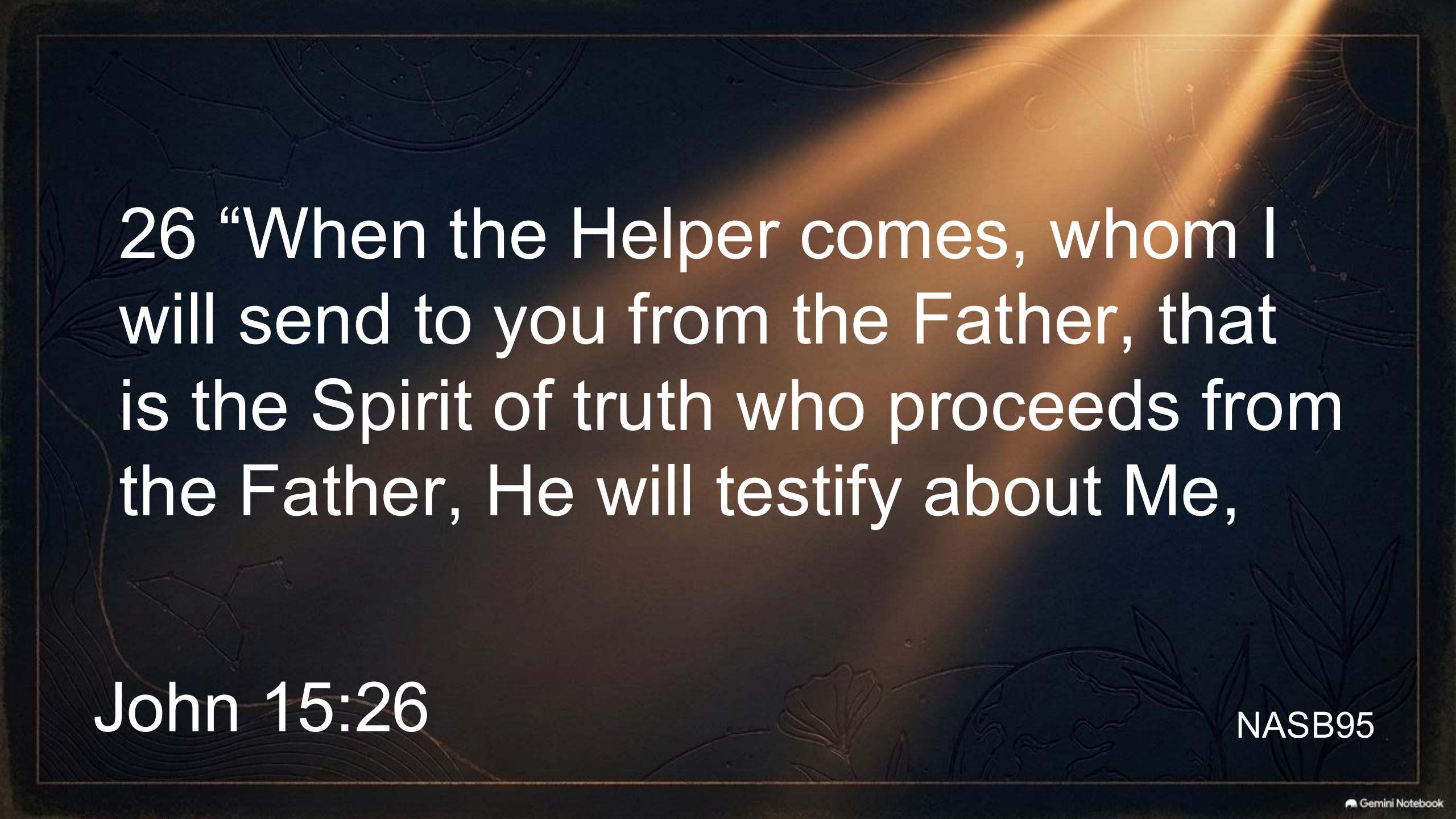
" Peter is the only person ever to have been interrupted by each person of the Trinity. — Joe Focht

Gentile Pentecost

15 “And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them **just as He did upon us at the beginning.**

Acts 11:15

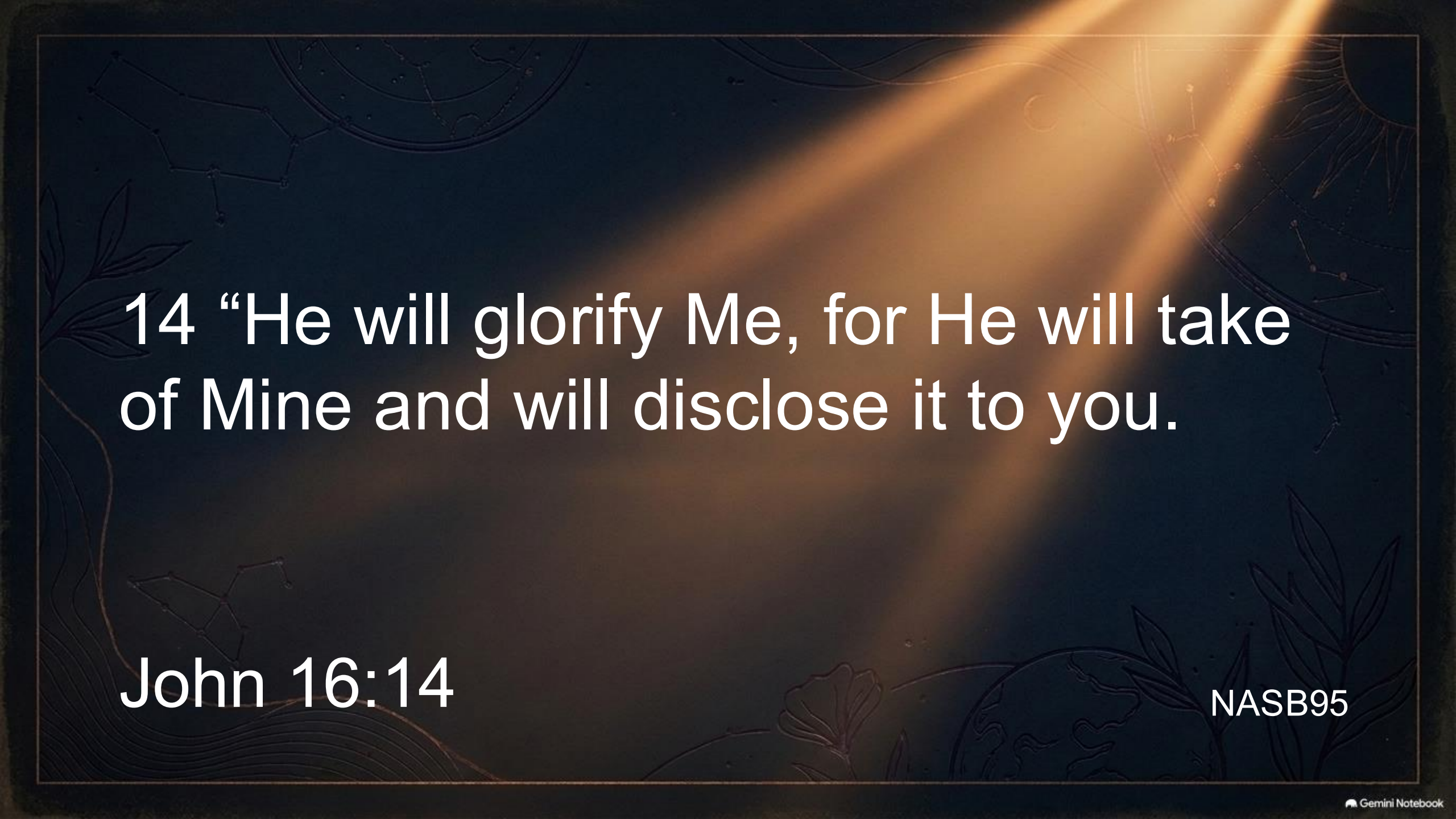
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26 “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,

John 15:26

NASB95



14 “He will glorify Me, for He will take
of Mine and will disclose it to you.

John 16:14

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Same Spirit

17 “Therefore if God gave to them the **same gift** as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”

Acts 11:17

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The Indwelling Difference: Saved vs. Unsaved

Cornelius (The Unsaved)

Devout, but not yet born again.



The Interaction:

External Communication.

God uses an intermediary (an Angel) to draw him toward the Gospel (Acts 10:3).

Peter (The Saved)

Regenerated and filled with the Spirit.

The Interaction:

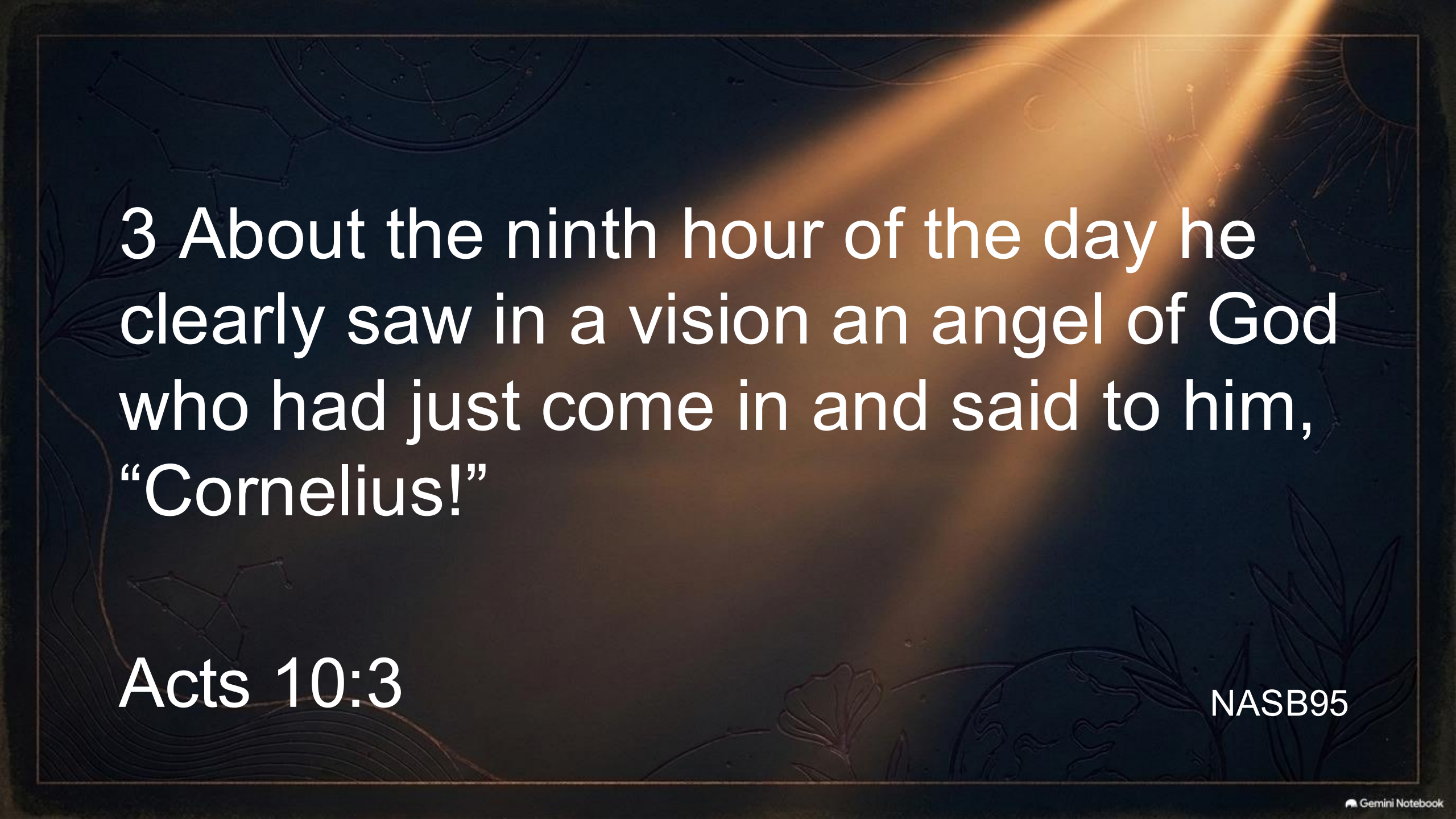
Internal Intimacy.

The Holy Spirit speaks directly to his human spirit.

"The Spirit said to him..." (Acts 10:19).



God actively pursues everyone, but the indwelling of the Holy Spirit provides believers with a uniquely intimate, direct channel of communication.



3 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, “Cornelius!”

Acts 10:3

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13 “And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here;

Acts 11:13

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19 While Peter was reflecting on the vision, **the Spirit said to him**, “Behold, three men are looking for you.

20 “But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself.”

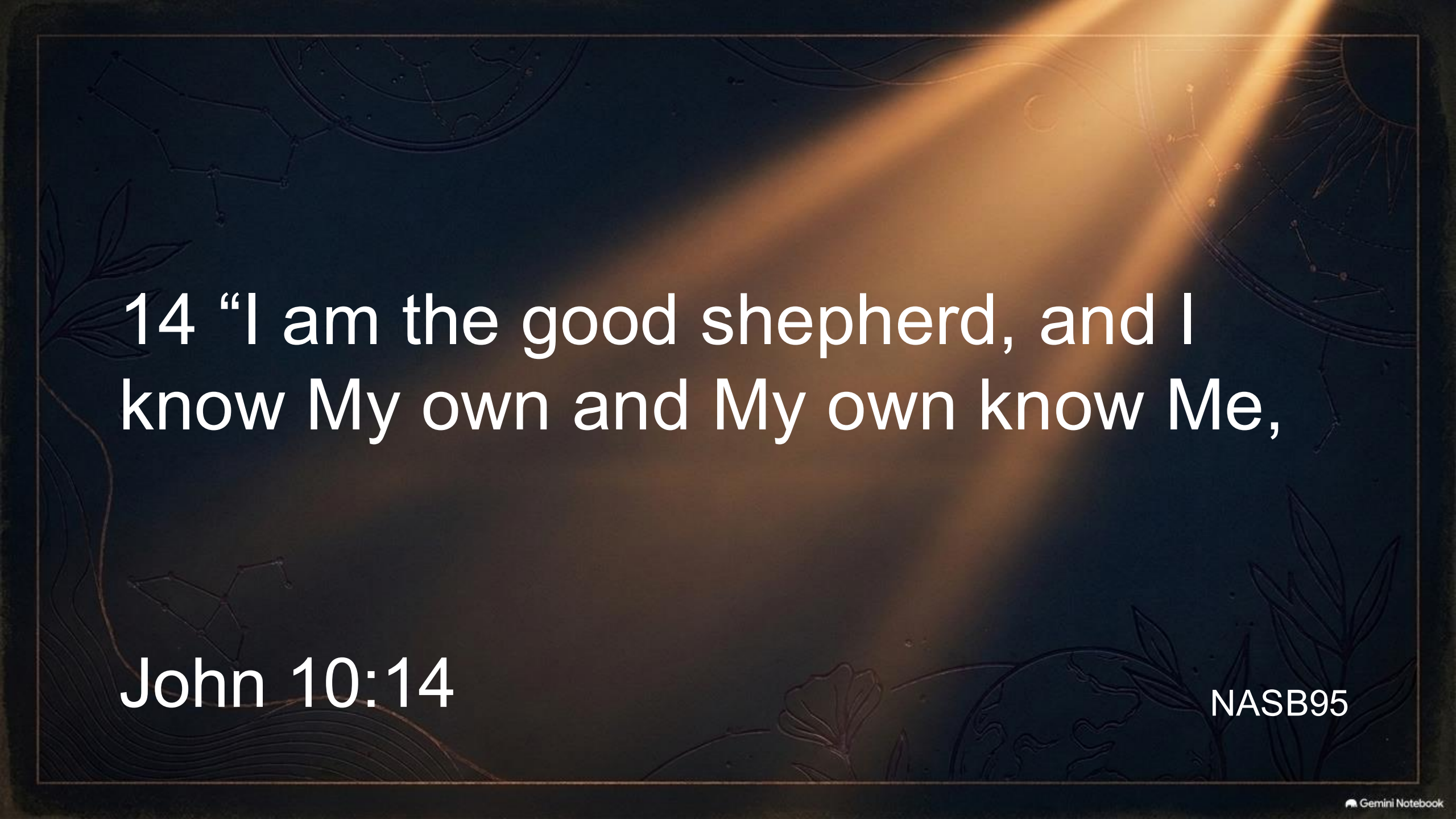
Acts 10:19–20

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13 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, **He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.**

John 16:13

NASB95



14 “I am the good shepherd, and I
know My own and My own know Me,

John 10:14

NASB95

27 “**My sheep hear My voice**, and I
know them, and they follow Me;
28 and I give eternal life to them, and
they will never perish; and no one will
snatch them out of My hand.

John 10:27–28

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Roles/Functions of the Holy Spirit

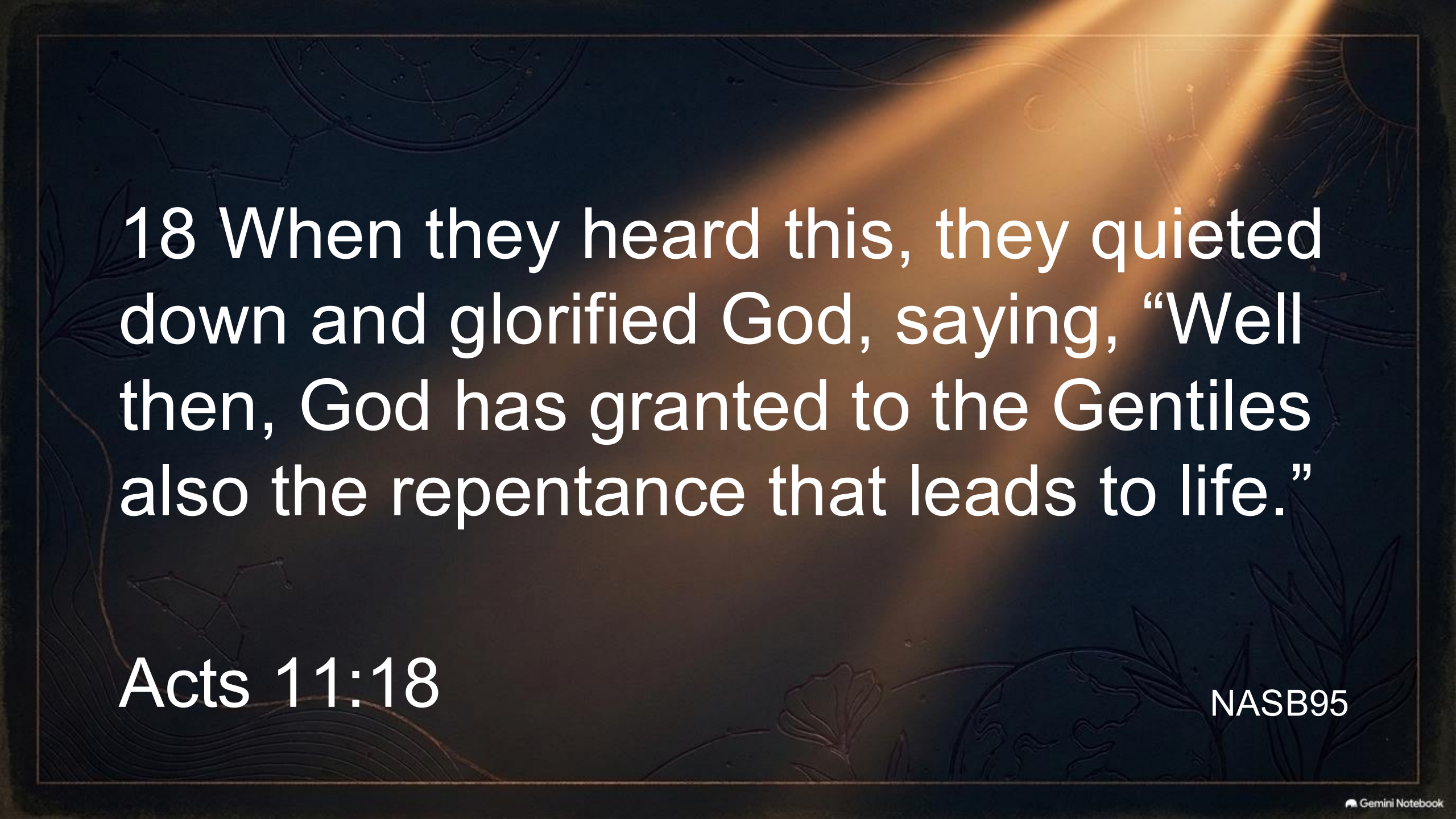
01

Confirms Moves of God

Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way? – Acts 11:17

When God is moving, the Holy Spirit will be present. The Spirit's presence validates and affirms that a direction or action is truly of God.





18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”

Acts 11:18

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4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

Hebrews 2:4

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02

Regeneration

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. – Ezekiel 36:26

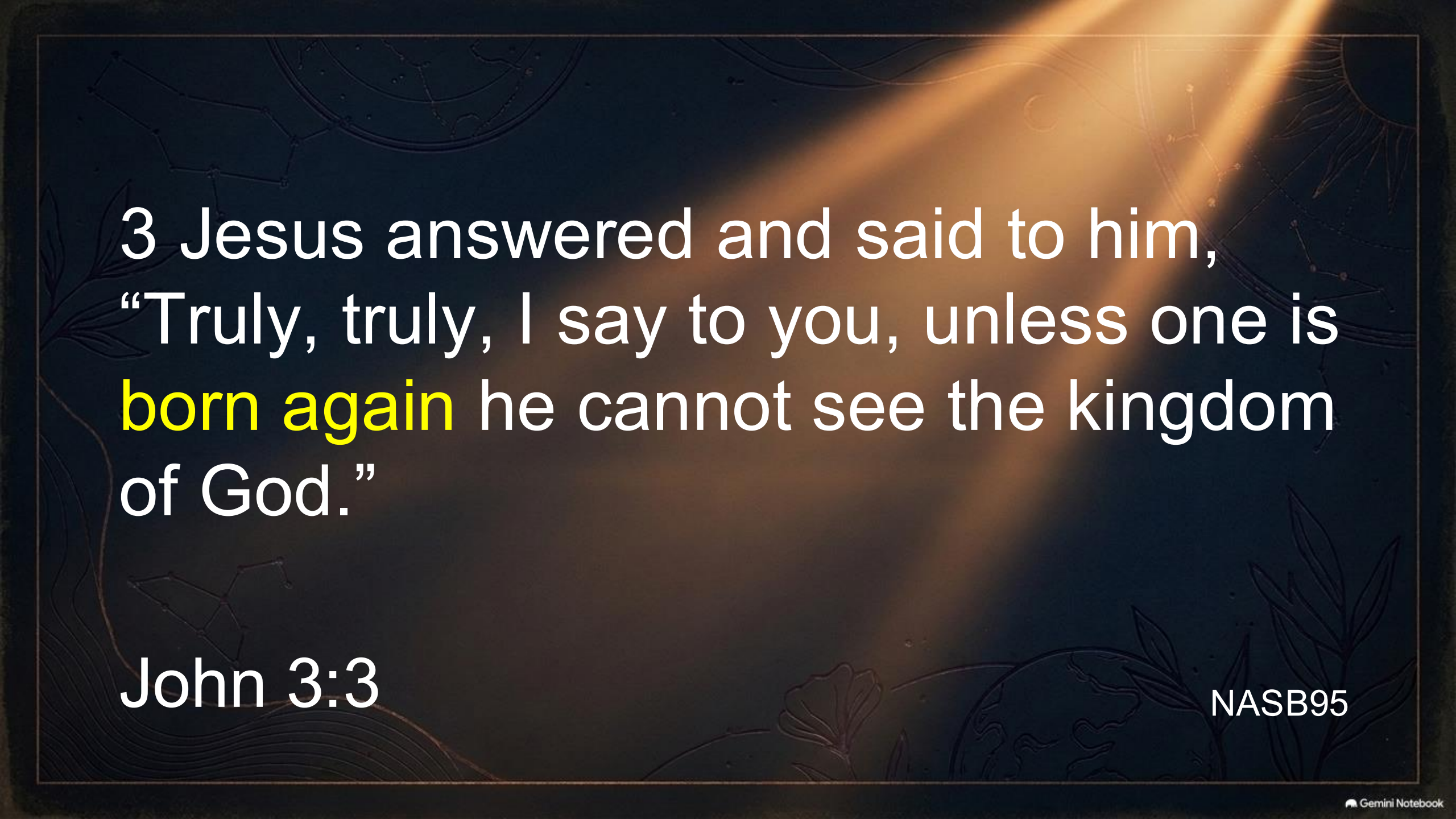
The ultimate miracle. The Holy Spirit moves a person from a state of spiritual death and separation into an entirely new creature.



Heart of Stone



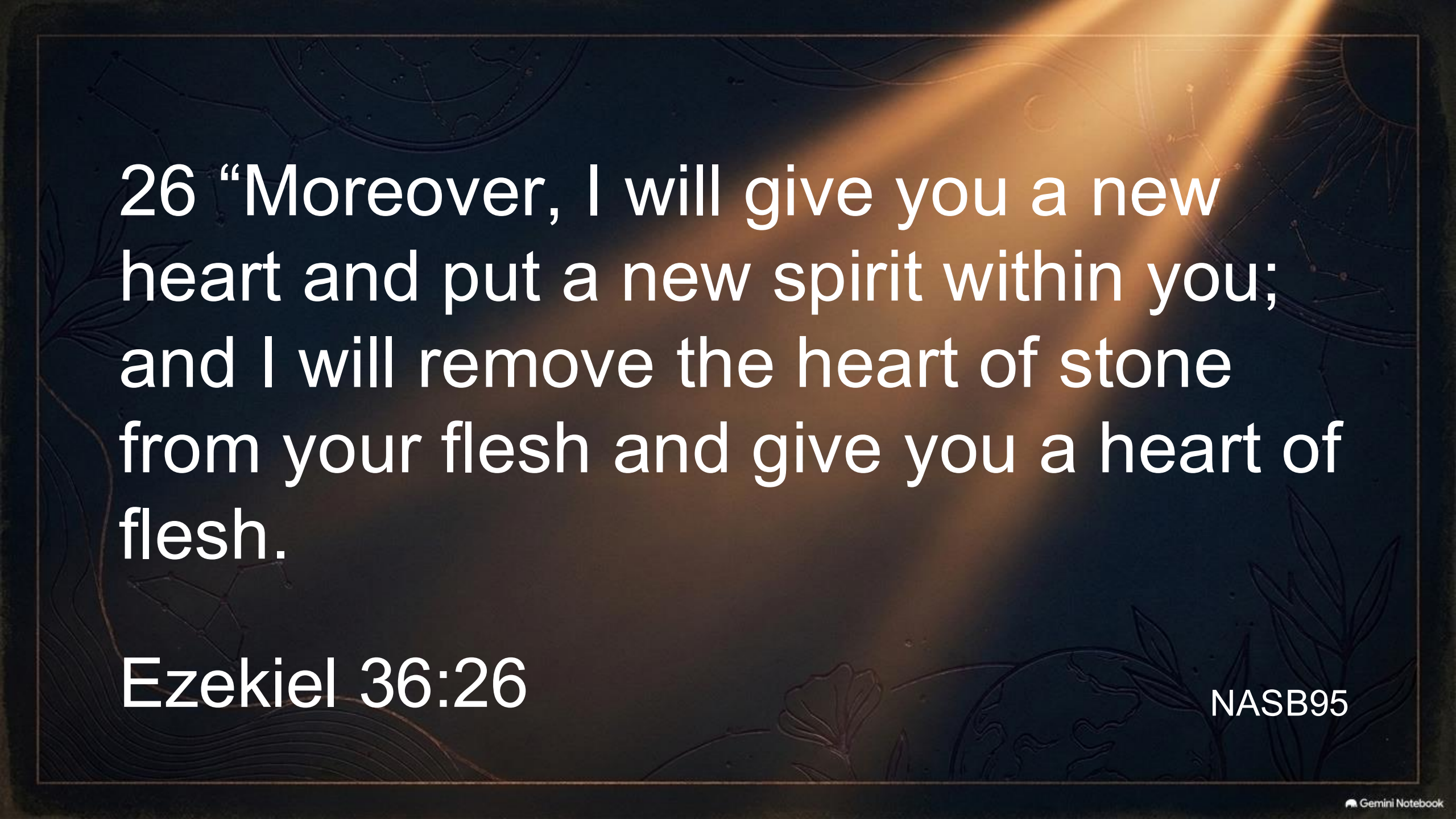
Heart of Flesh



3 Jesus answered and said to him,
“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is
born again he cannot see the kingdom
of God.”

John 3:3

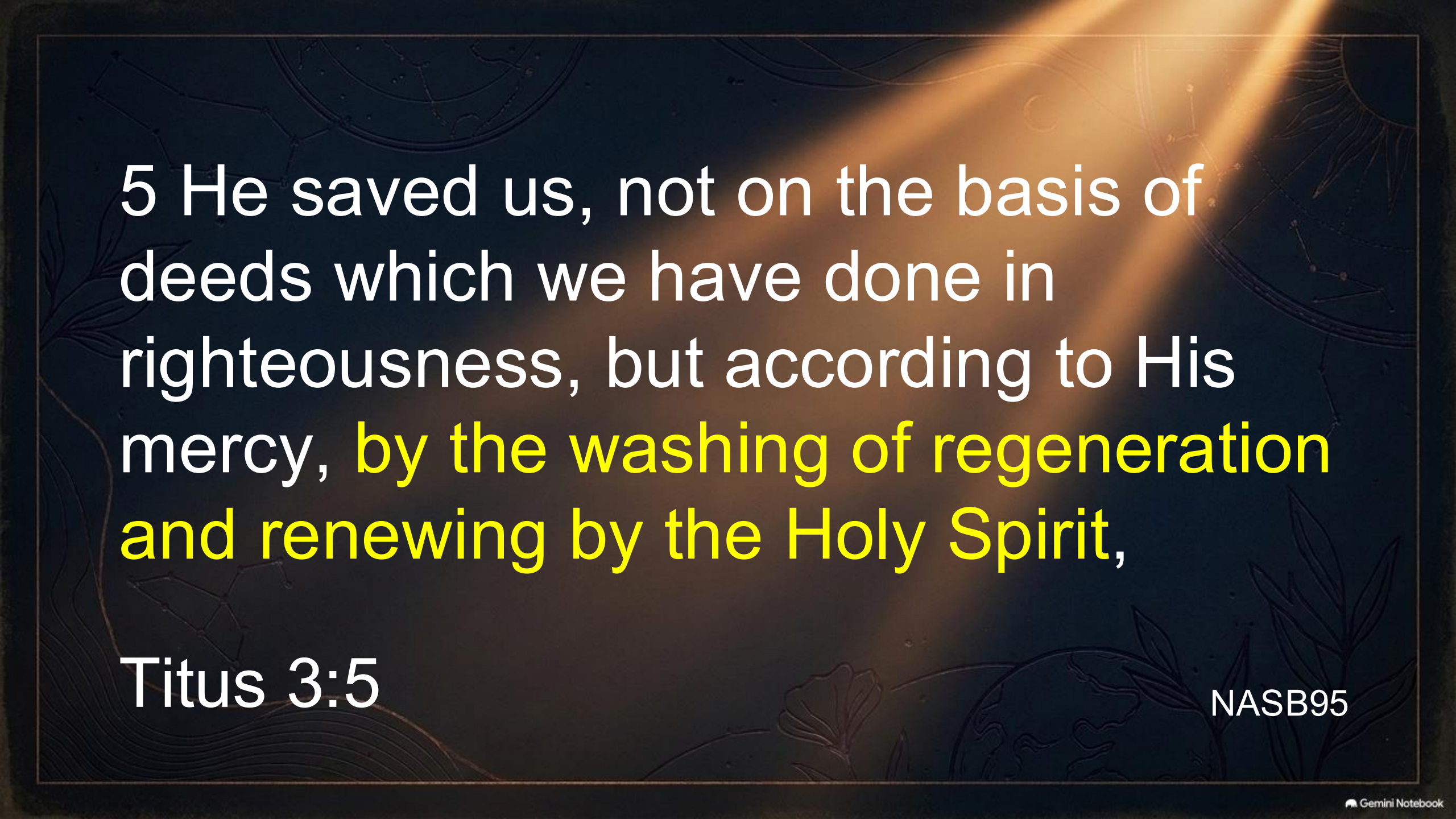
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26 “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26

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5 He saved us, not on the basis of
deeds which we have done in
righteousness, but according to His
mercy, **by the washing of regeneration
and renewing by the Holy Spirit,**

Titus 3:5

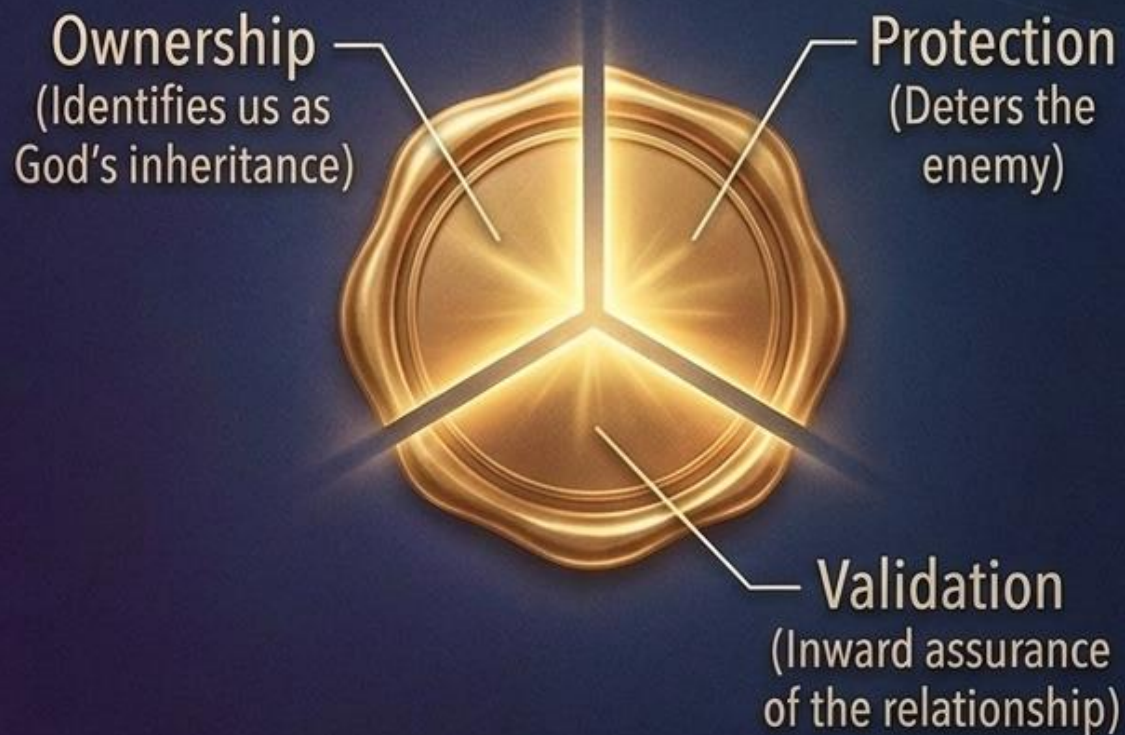
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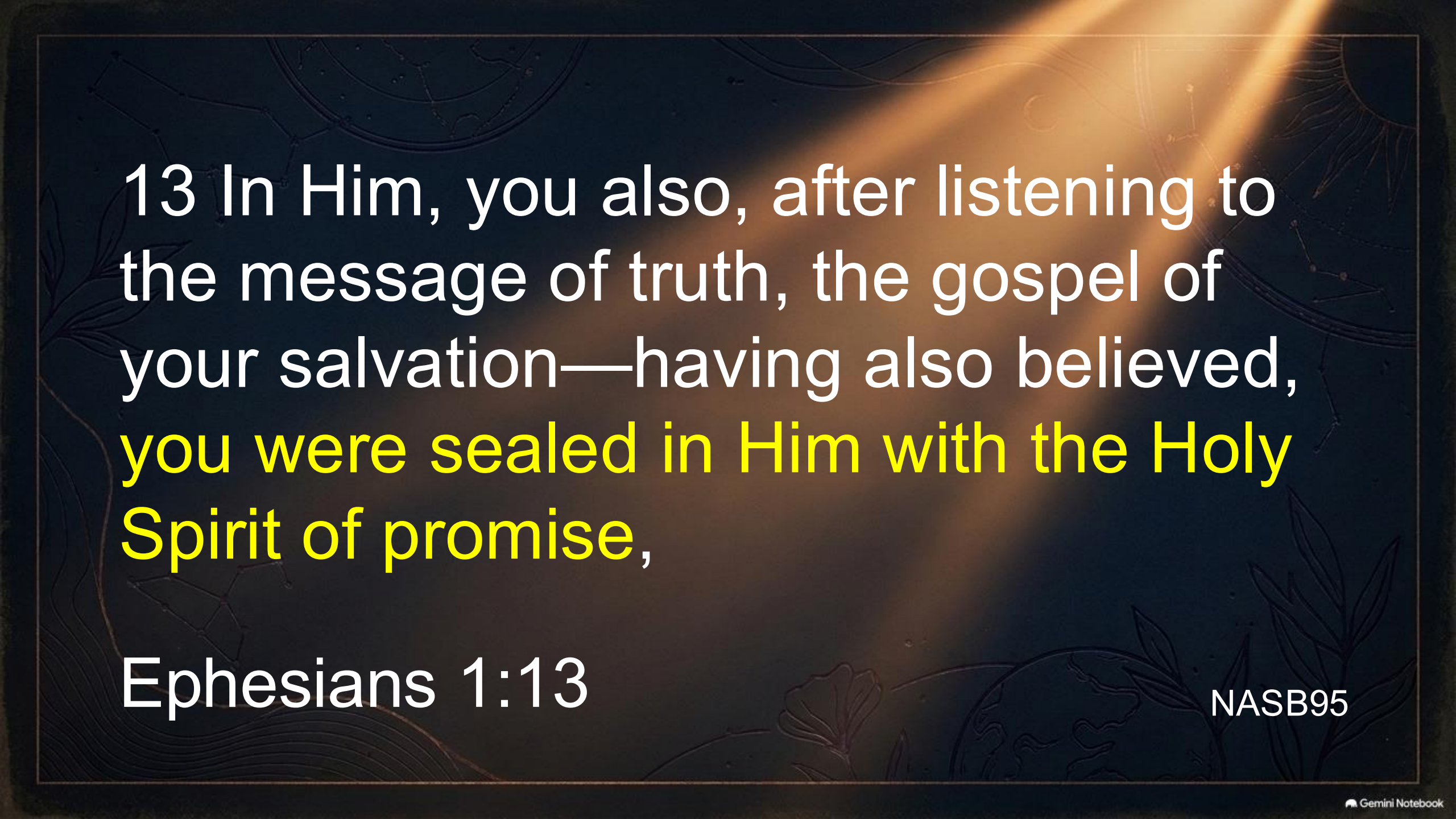
03

Serves as God's Seal

...who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge. – 2 Corinthians 1:22

The Holy Spirit takes up residence in the believer, serving as an identifying mark that guarantees our inheritance.





13 In Him, you also, after listening to
the message of truth, the gospel of
your salvation—having also believed,
you were sealed in Him with the Holy
Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 1:13

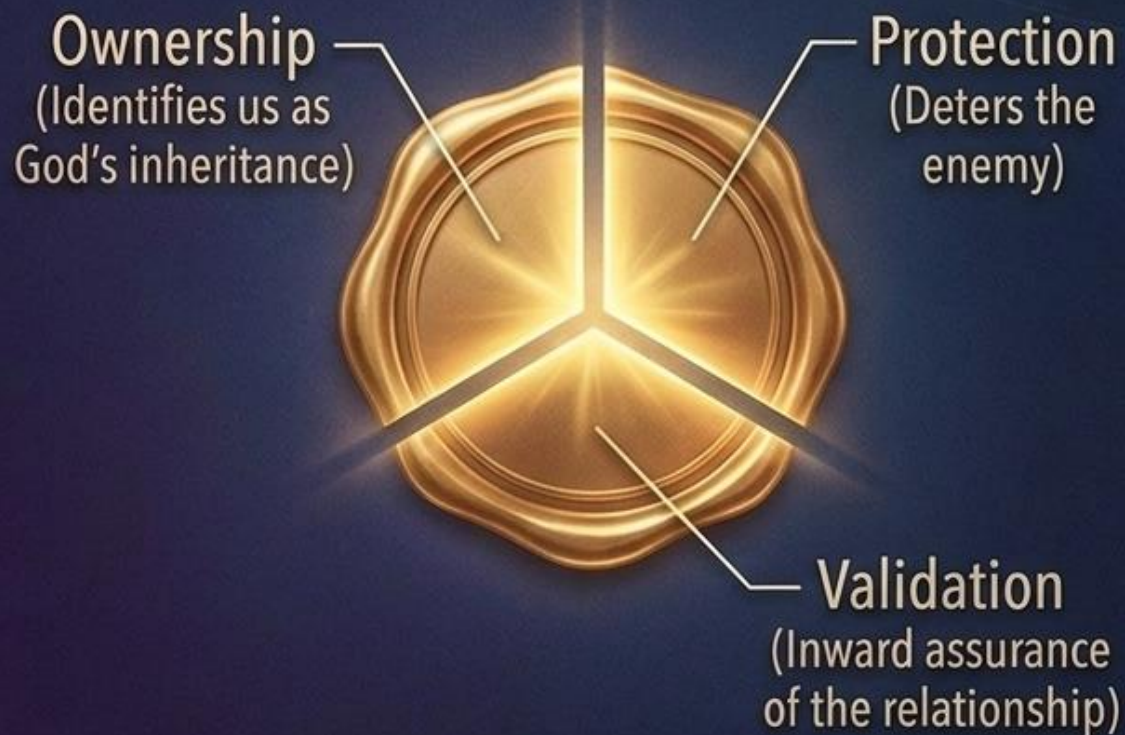
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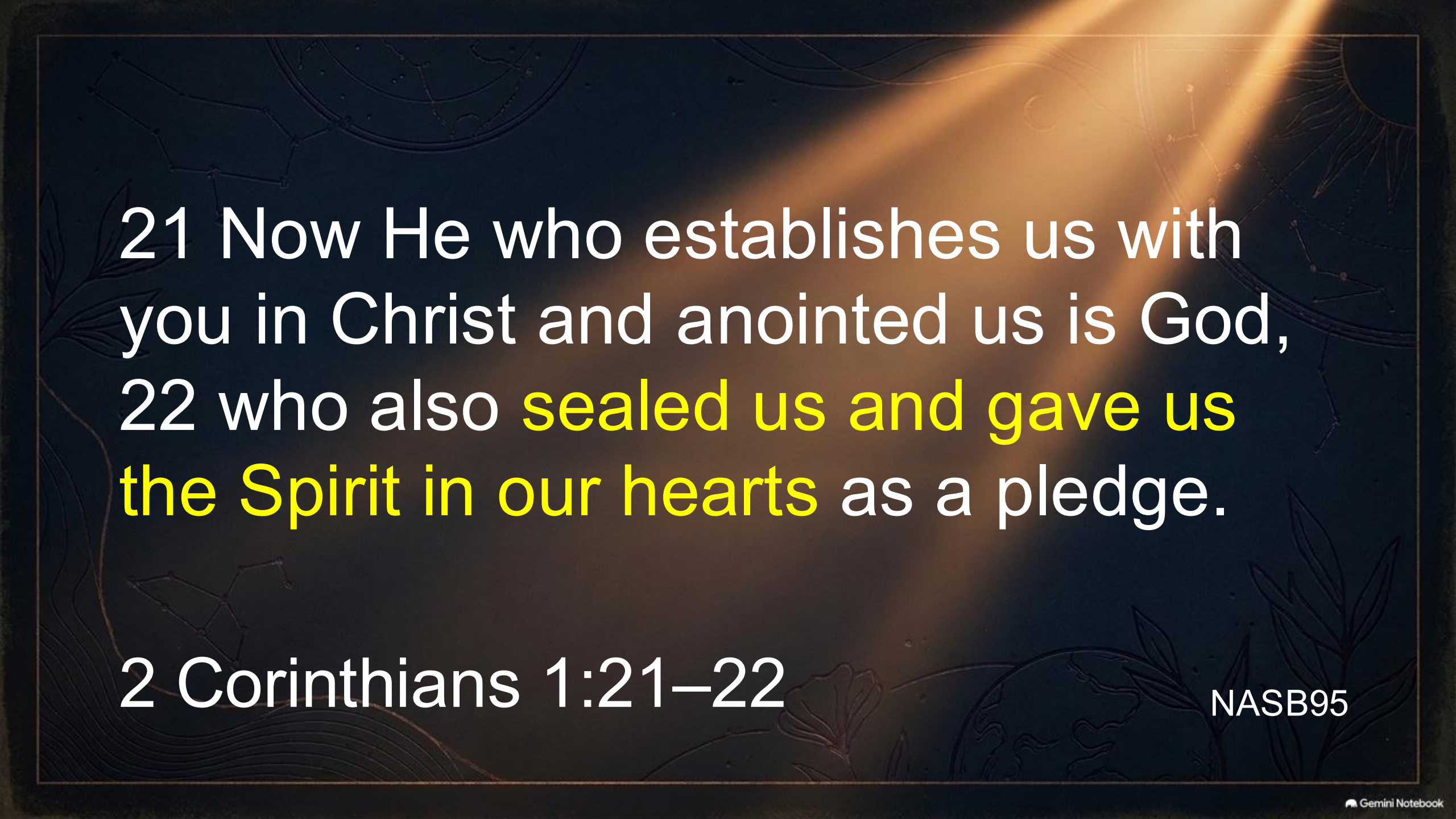
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21 Now He who establishes us with
you in Christ and anointed us is God,
22 who also sealed us and gave us
the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

2 Corinthians 1:21–22

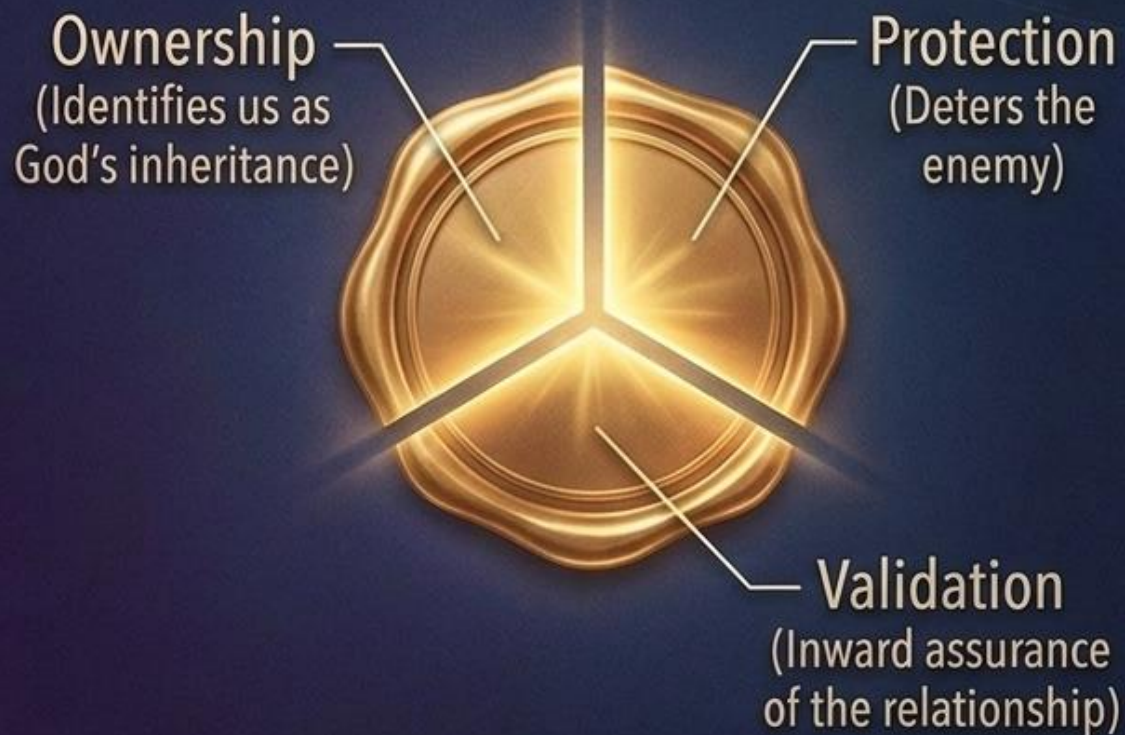
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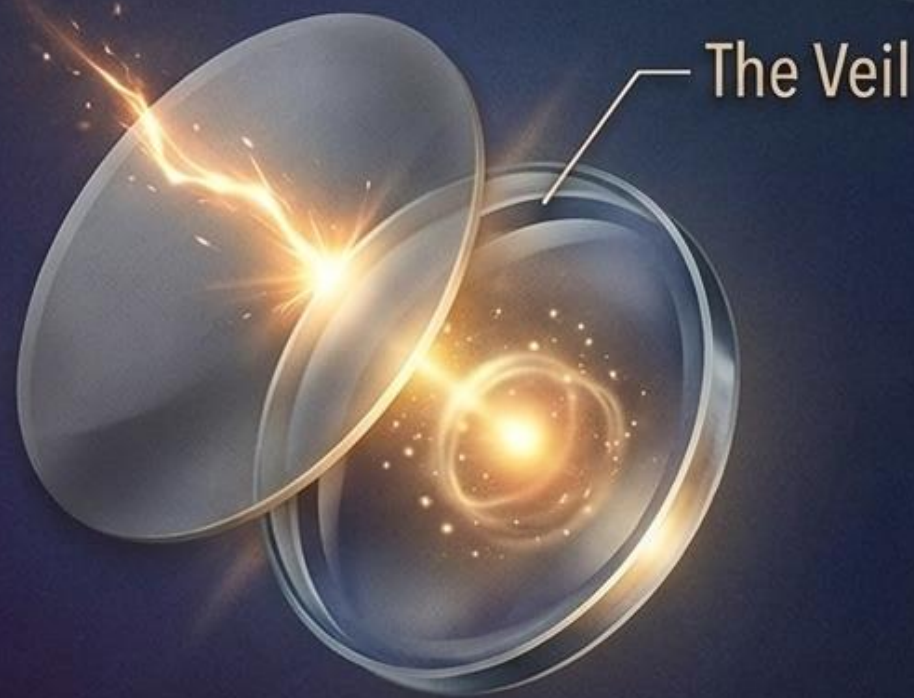


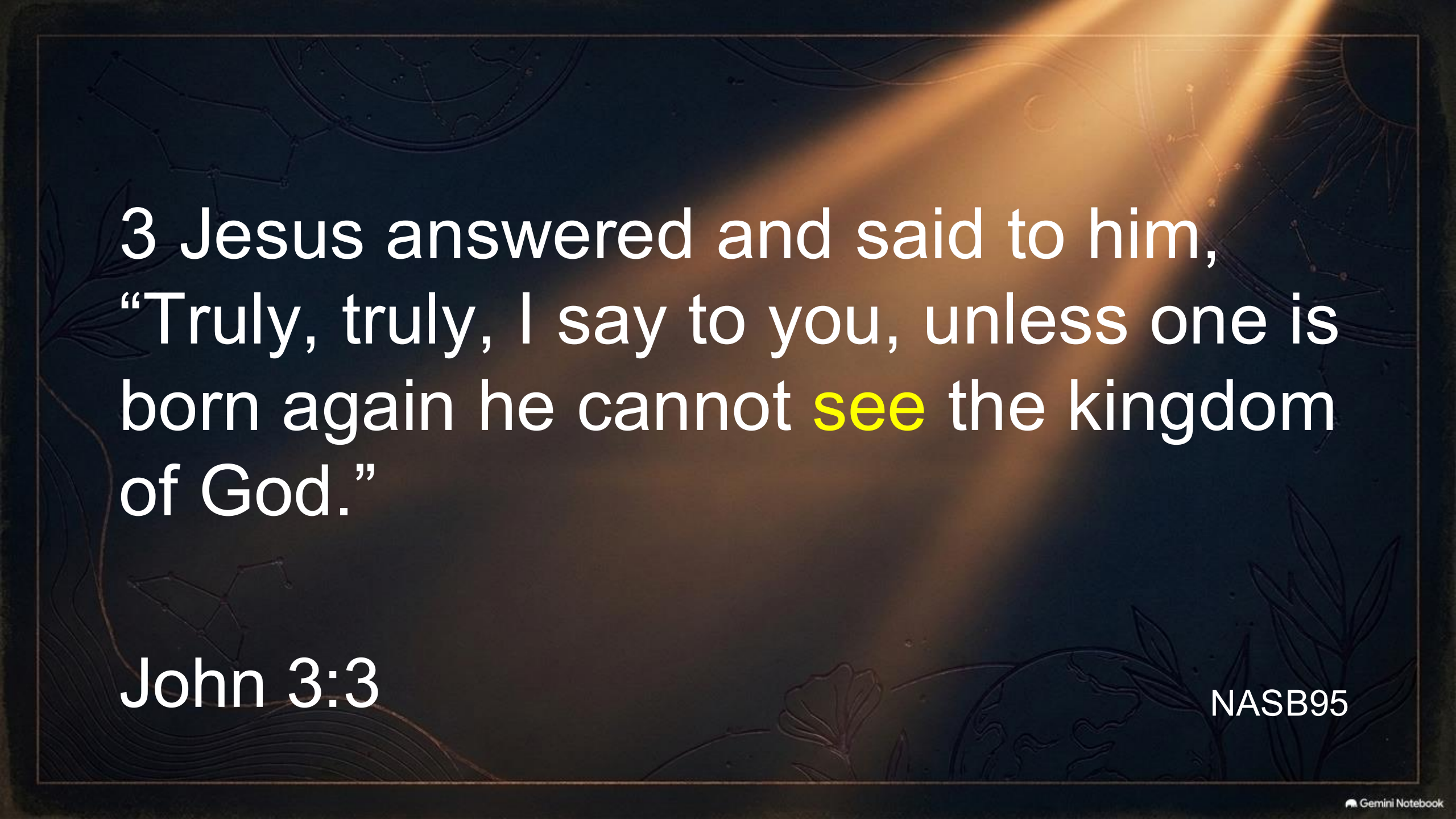
04

Opens Spiritual Eyes

...to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God... – Acts 26:18

Seeing is a gift. God's Spirit opens the eyes of our heart, and what was once boring, or absurd, or foolish is now self-evidently real. (John Piper)





3 Jesus answered and said to him,
“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is
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John 3:3

NASB95



16 but whenever a person turns to the
Lord, **the veil is taken away.**

2 Corinthians 3:16

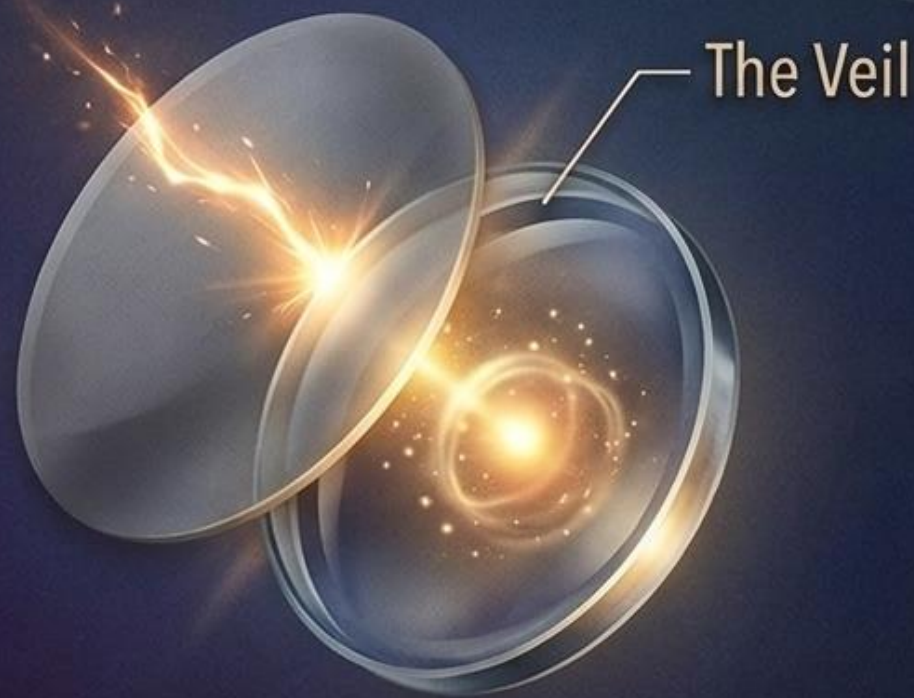
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18 **to open their eyes** so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

Acts 26:18

NASB95

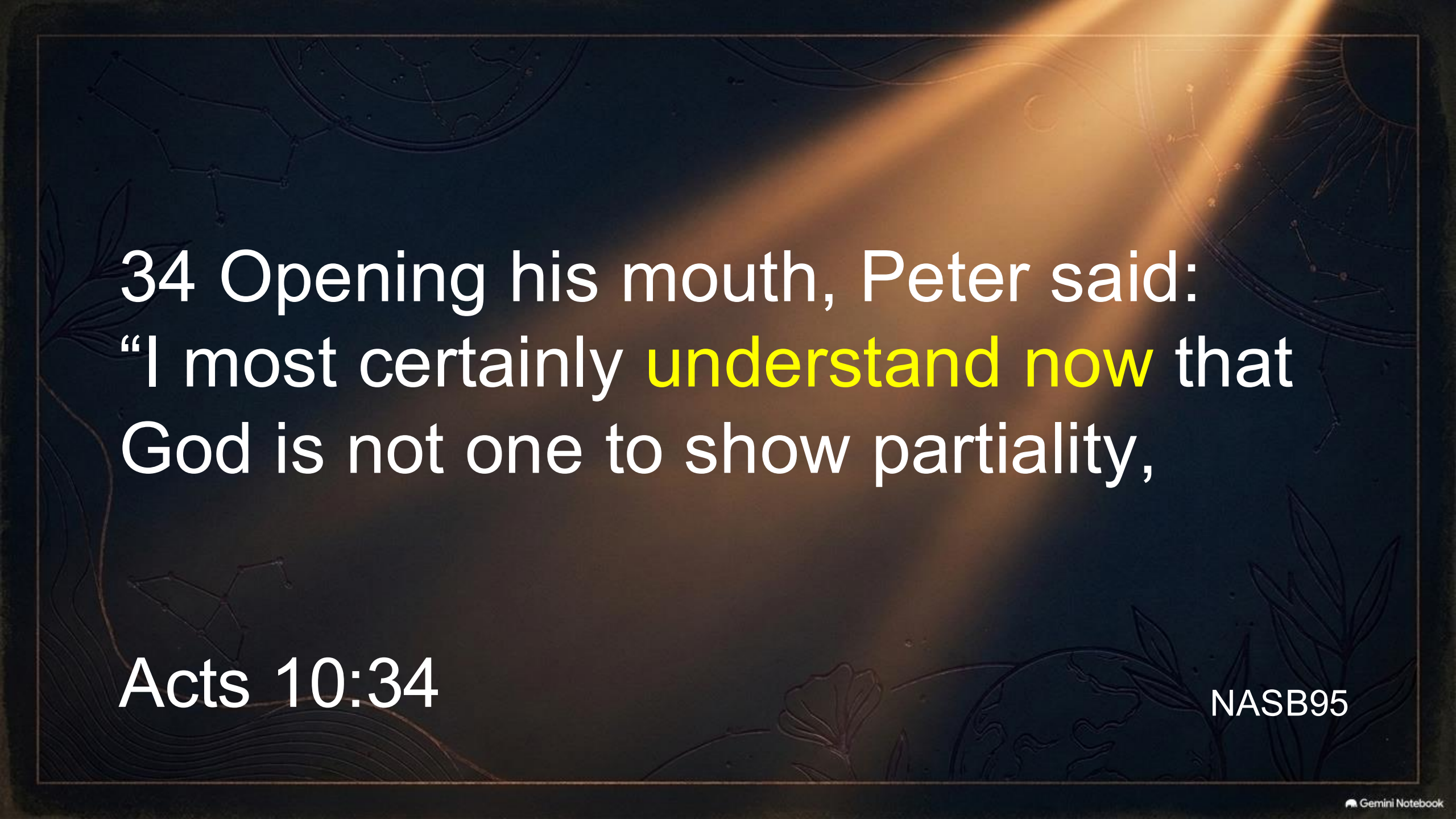
05

Illumination

..I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling... – Ephesians 1:18

The ongoing act of turning on the lights. The Spirit aids the believer in understanding God's Word directly, shifting reliance from third-party teachers to personal, divine insight.





34 Opening his mouth, Peter said:
“I most certainly **understand now** that
God is not one to show partiality,

Acts 10:34

NASB95

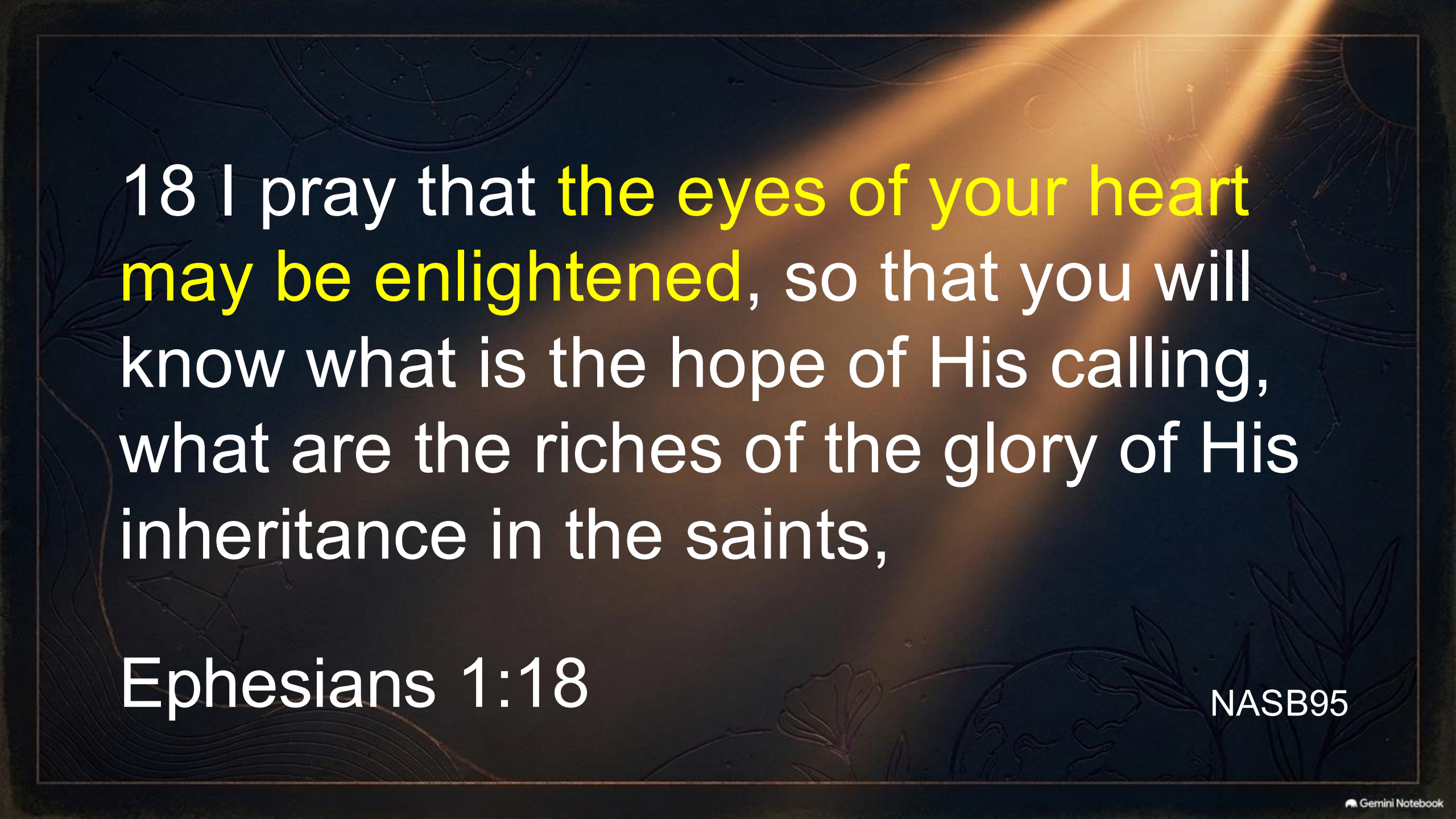
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what are the riches of the glory of His
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Ephesians 1:18

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06

Anointing and Empowerment

...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses... – Acts 1:8

The Spirit does not just inform; He equips. He provides the active power required to do good, heal, and act as effective witnesses in the world.



38 “You know of Jesus of Nazareth,
how God anointed Him with the Holy
Spirit and with power, and how He
went about doing good and healing all
who were oppressed by the devil, for
God was with Him.

Acts 10:38

NASB95

27 As for you, **the anointing** which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as **His anointing** teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

1 John 2:27

NASB95

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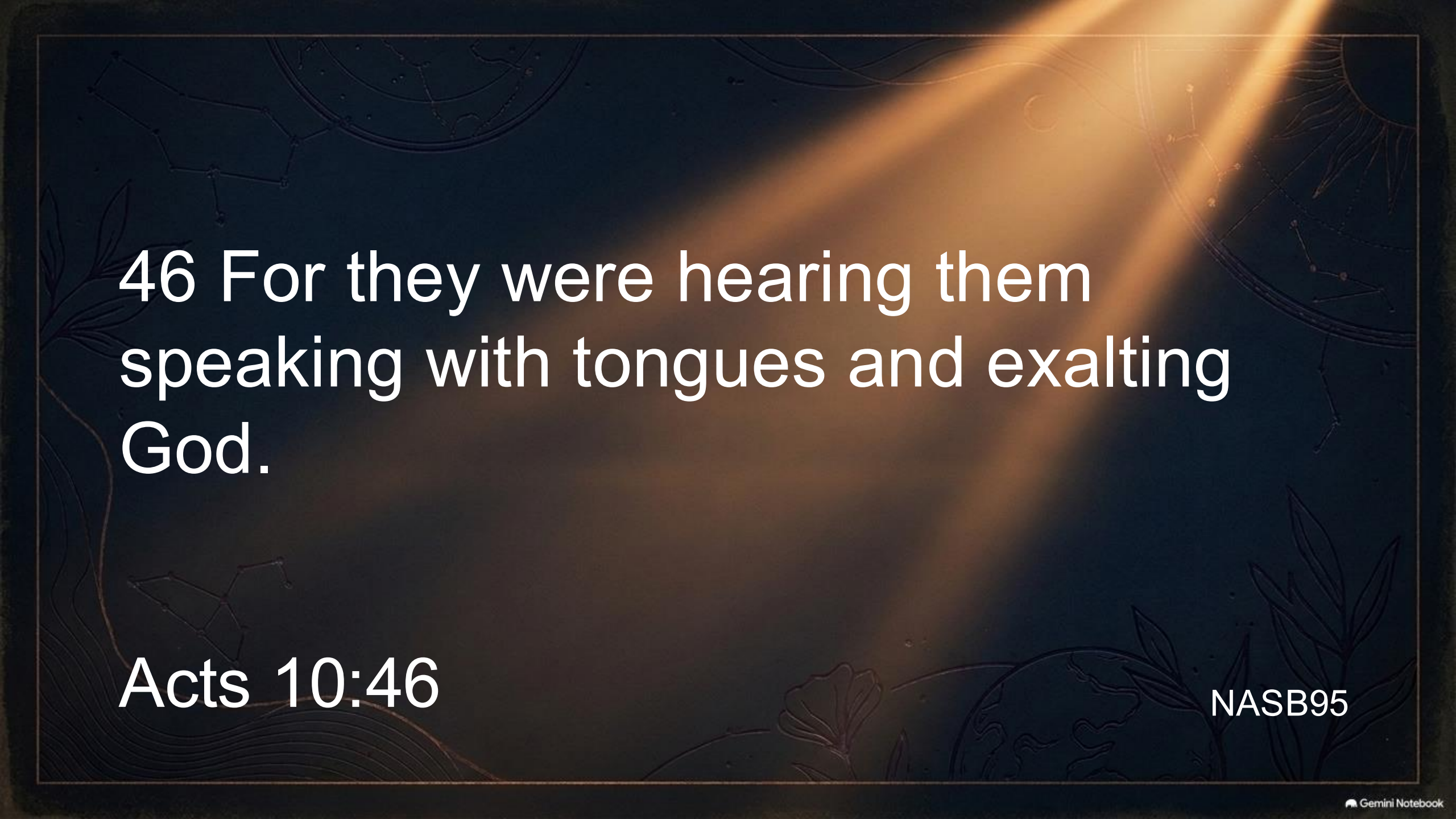
07

Distributes Spiritual Gifts

...But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. – 1 Corinthians 12:11

The Spirit takes the unified power of God and customizes it, giving unique spiritual capabilities to individuals to serve the broader body.





46 For they were hearing them
speaking with tongues and exalting
God.

Acts 10:46

NASB95

08

Guidance & Direction

...While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, 'Behold, three men are looking for you. But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings...'

— Acts 10:19–20

Abiding with Him leads to insight from Him. Through internal voice and circumstantial prompting, the Spirit provides exact, real-time instruction on where to go and what to do.



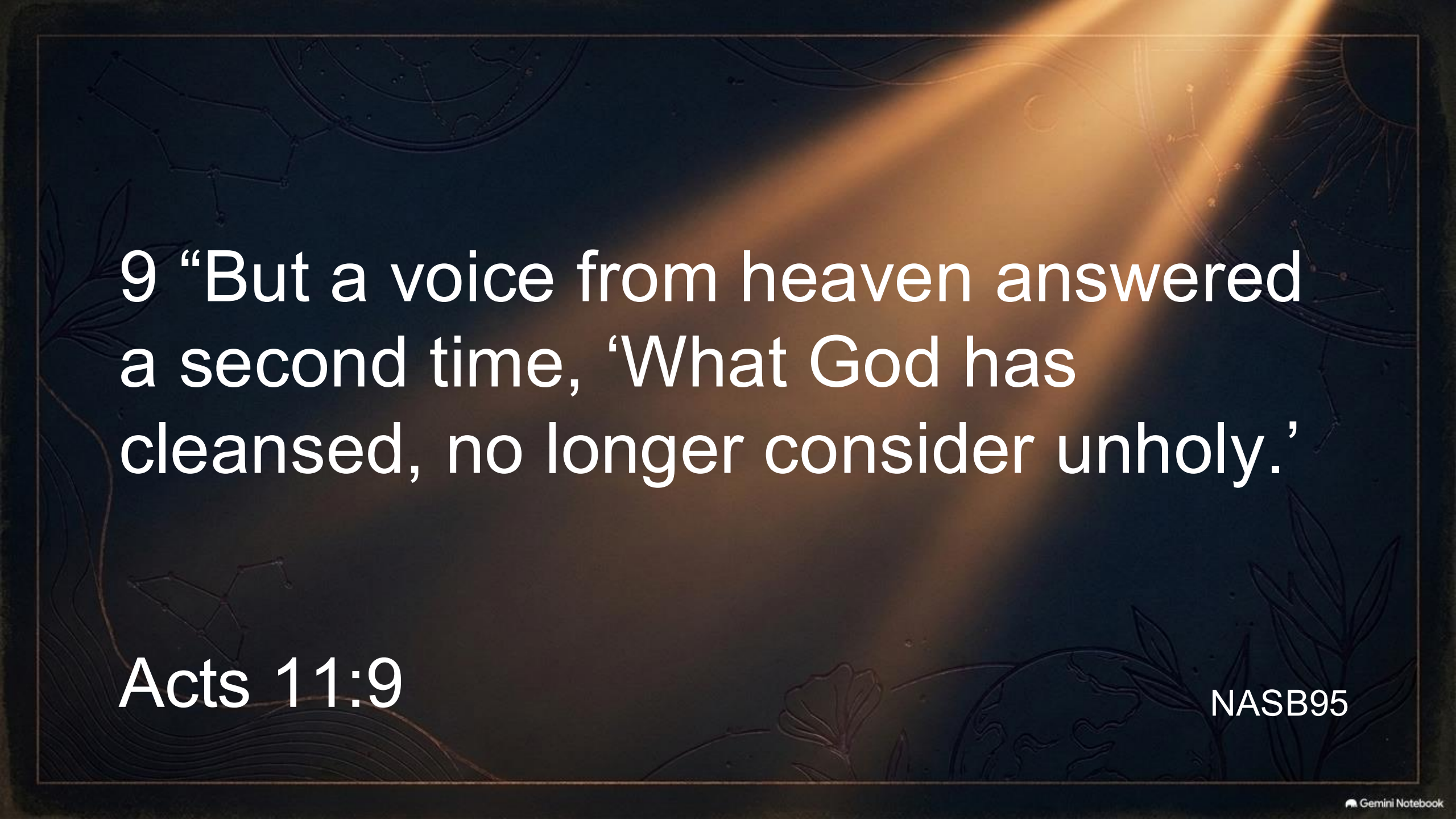
09

Conviction & Pruning

...Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. – John 15:2

He digs deep. He confronts the secret sins. The Holy Spirit does not leave sin alone. He is, after all, the HOLY Spirit. (Rory Mosley)





9 “But a voice from heaven answered a second time, ‘What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.’

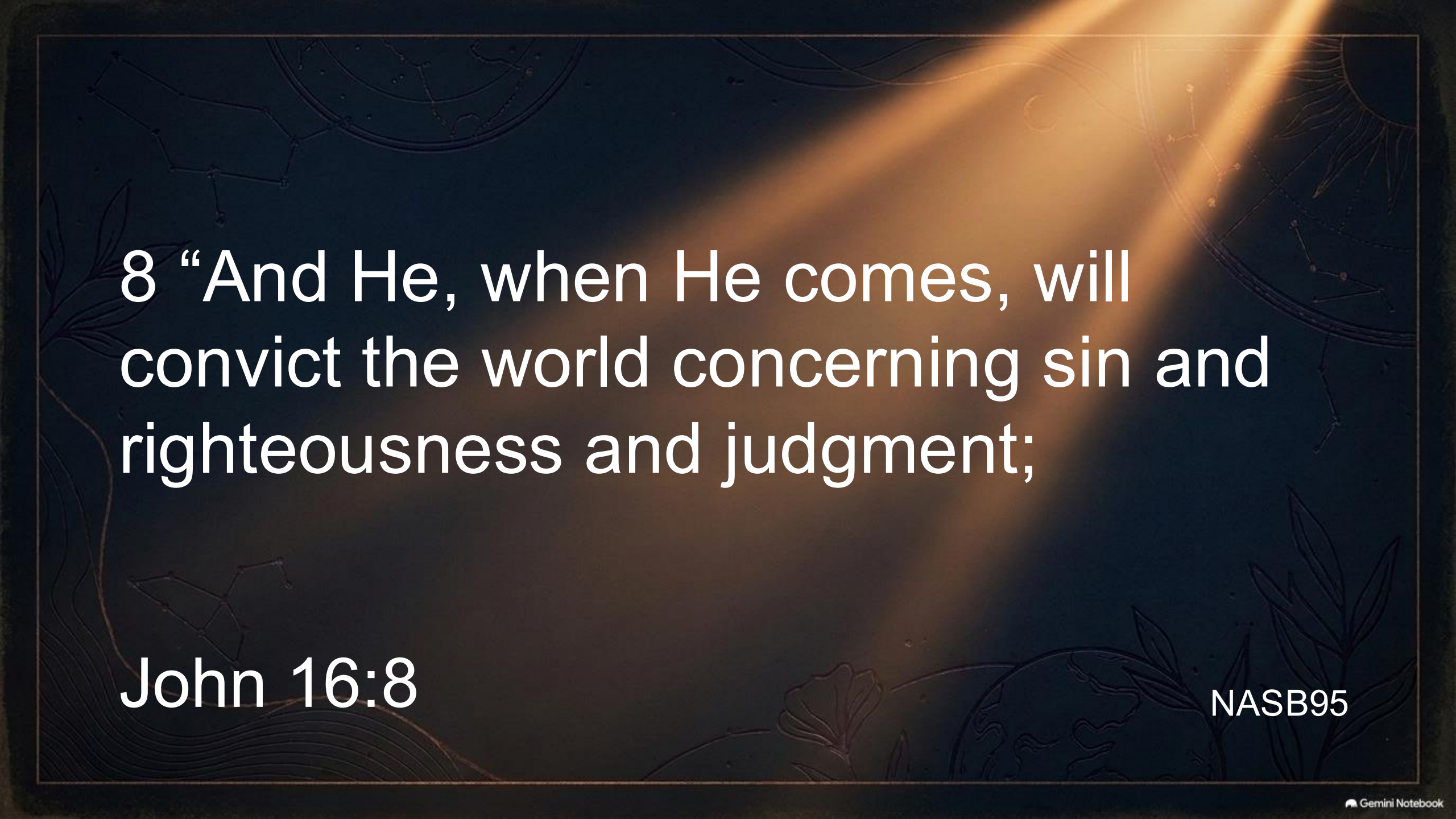
Acts 11:9

NASB95

12 “The Spirit told me to go with them
without misgivings....

Acts 11:12

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8 “And He, when He comes, will
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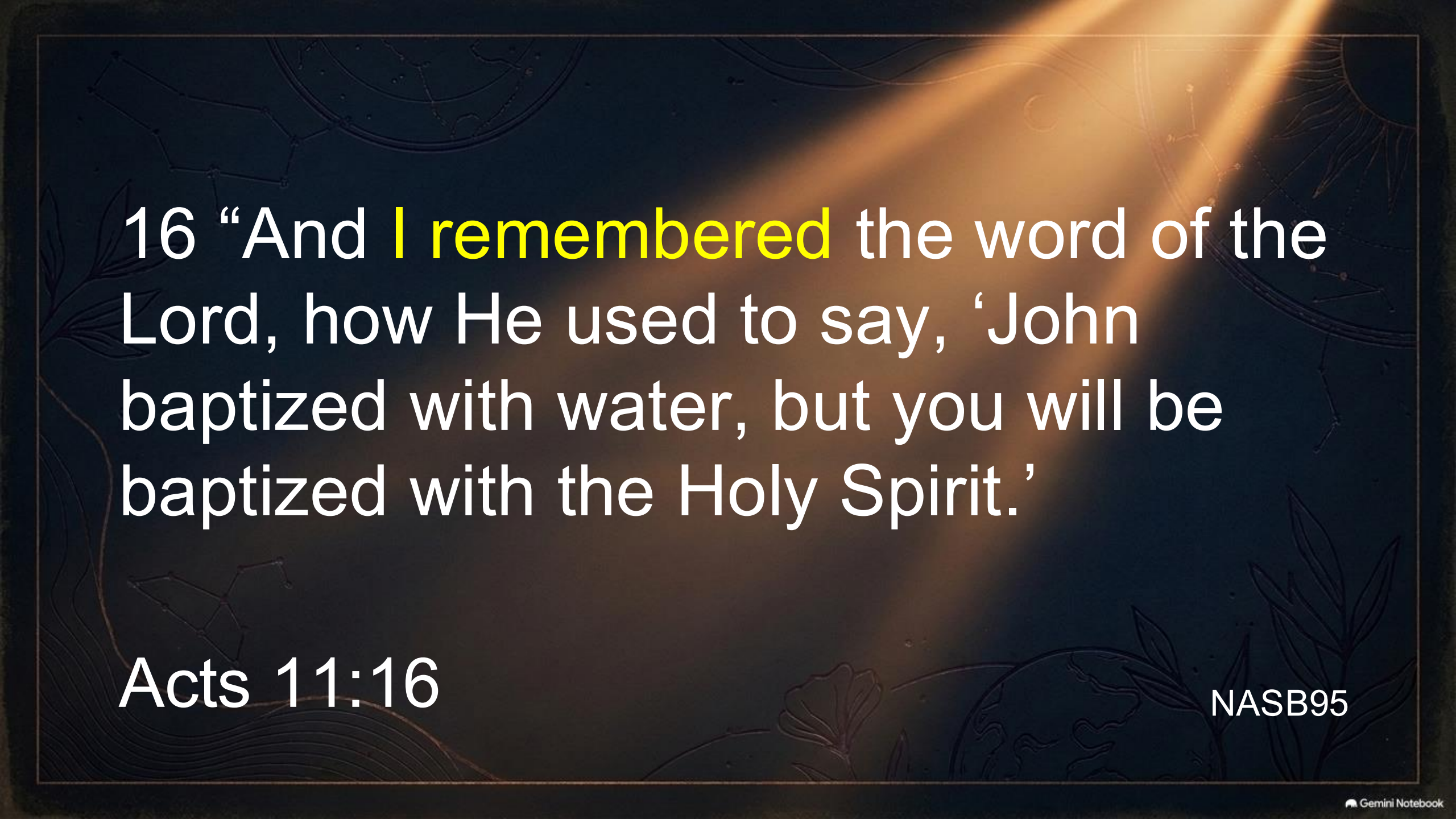
10

Helps Us Remember

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit... will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. – **John 14:26**

You can count on Him. The Spirit ensures that the Word you have consumed is recalled to your conscious mind at the exact moment of necessity or crisis.

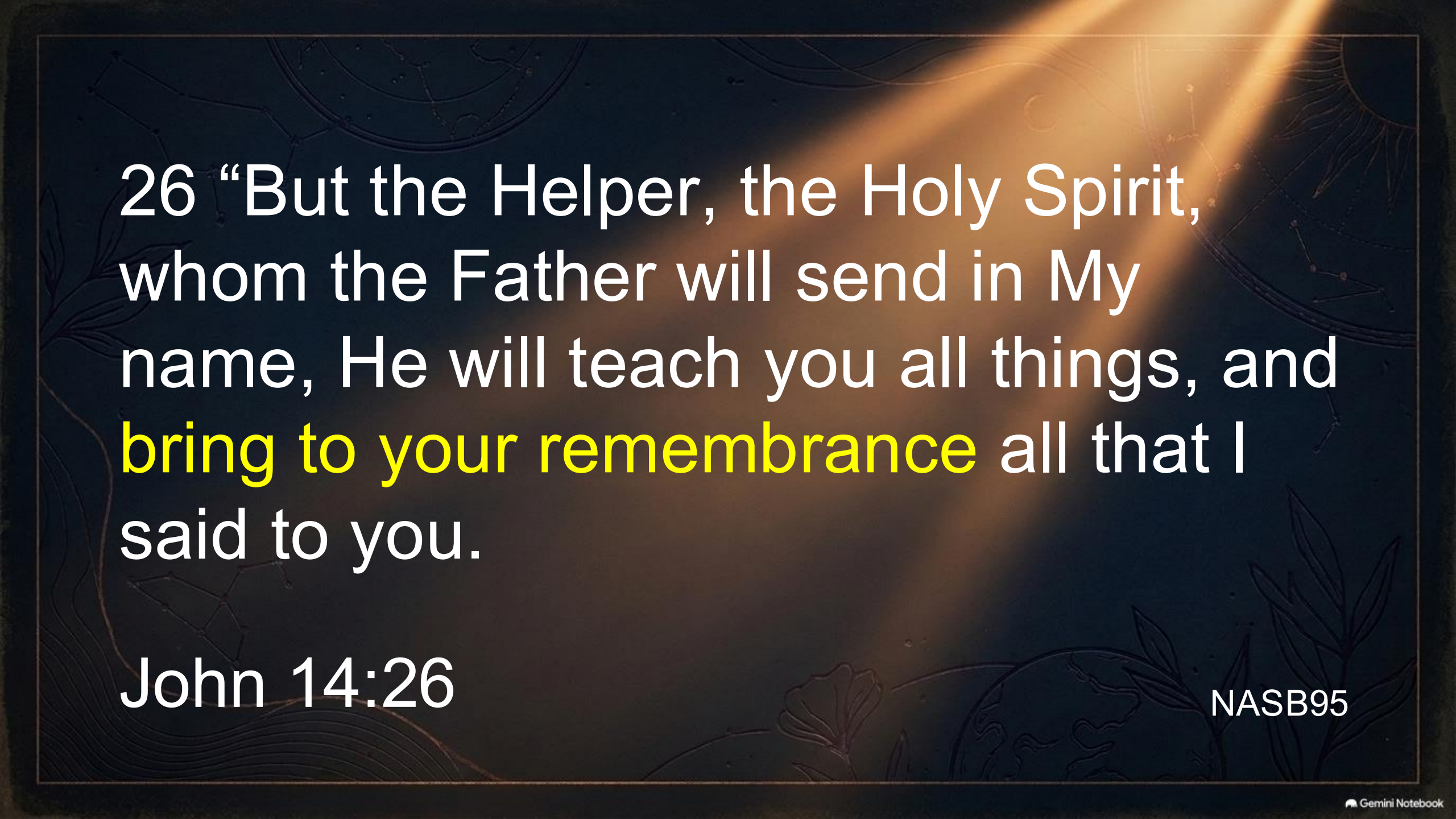




16 “And **I remembered** the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’

Acts 11:16

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John 14:26

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The Reality of the Indwelling Spirit

The Disclaimer: Life is not perfect once you are born again; life remains hard.

The Difference: But you are no longer doing it alone. You are going about life with the Holy Spirit residing inside of you—empowering, comforting, teaching, and guiding.

The Promise: Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Following Jesus means gaining a dynamic, personal relationship with the third person of the Godhead.

The 10 Roles of the Holy Spirit: A Framework

Pillar 1: Awakening (Entering the Faith)

1. Regeneration
2. Opens Spiritual Eyes

Core Action: Moving
from death to life;
seeing the truth.

Pillar 2: Abiding (Living the Faith)

3. The Seal
4. Illumination
5. Guidance & Direction
6. Helps Us Remember
7. Conviction & Pruning

Core Action: Indwelling
presence, teaching, and
transforming the heart.

Pillar 3: Empowering (Acting in Faith)

8. Anointing
9. Distributes Spiritual Gifts
10. Confirms Moves of God

Core Action: Equipping
believers for outward ministry
and validating God's
sovereign work.

Empowering: Confirming Moves of God

When God is moving, the Holy Spirit is present to validate, affirm, and confirm that work.

Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life. (Acts 11:18)

The presence of the Holy Spirit operating in the Gentiles was the ultimate proof to Peter and the Jewish believers that God's plan was expanding beyond Israel. God testifies through the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 2:4).