

# The Discipline of Engaging the Word of God

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The Gathering

Ray of Hope Christian Church

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# **1 Timothy 4:7 (NASB)**

Discipline yourself for the purpose  
of godliness!



# II Timothy 3:14-17 (NIV)

# Romans 8:29



Spiritual disciplines help us  
know God intimately.



Spiritual disciplines are not easy.

# Hebrews 12:11

No discipline seems pleasant at the time but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.



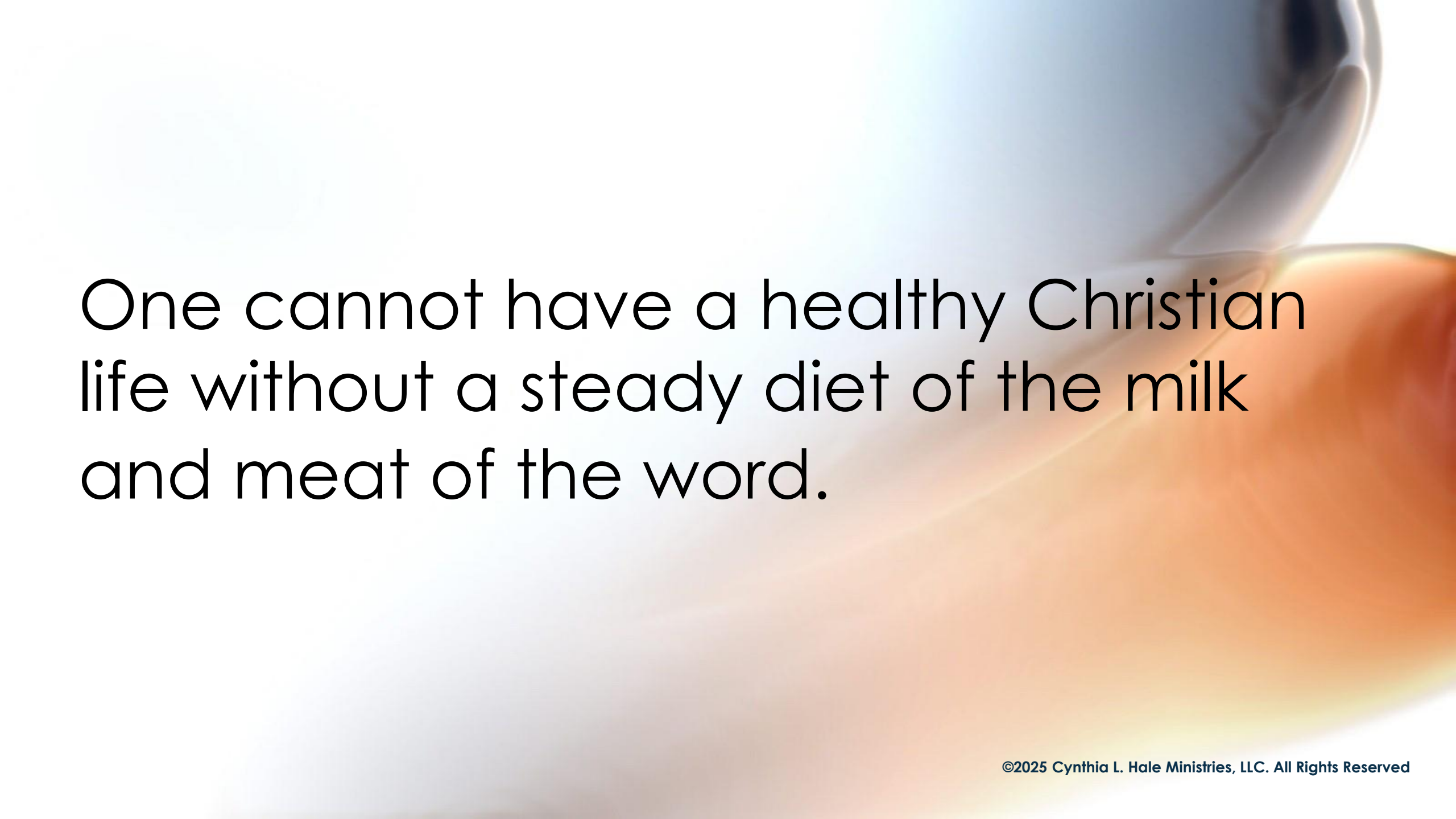
# Vance Havner

The alternative to discipline  
is disaster!

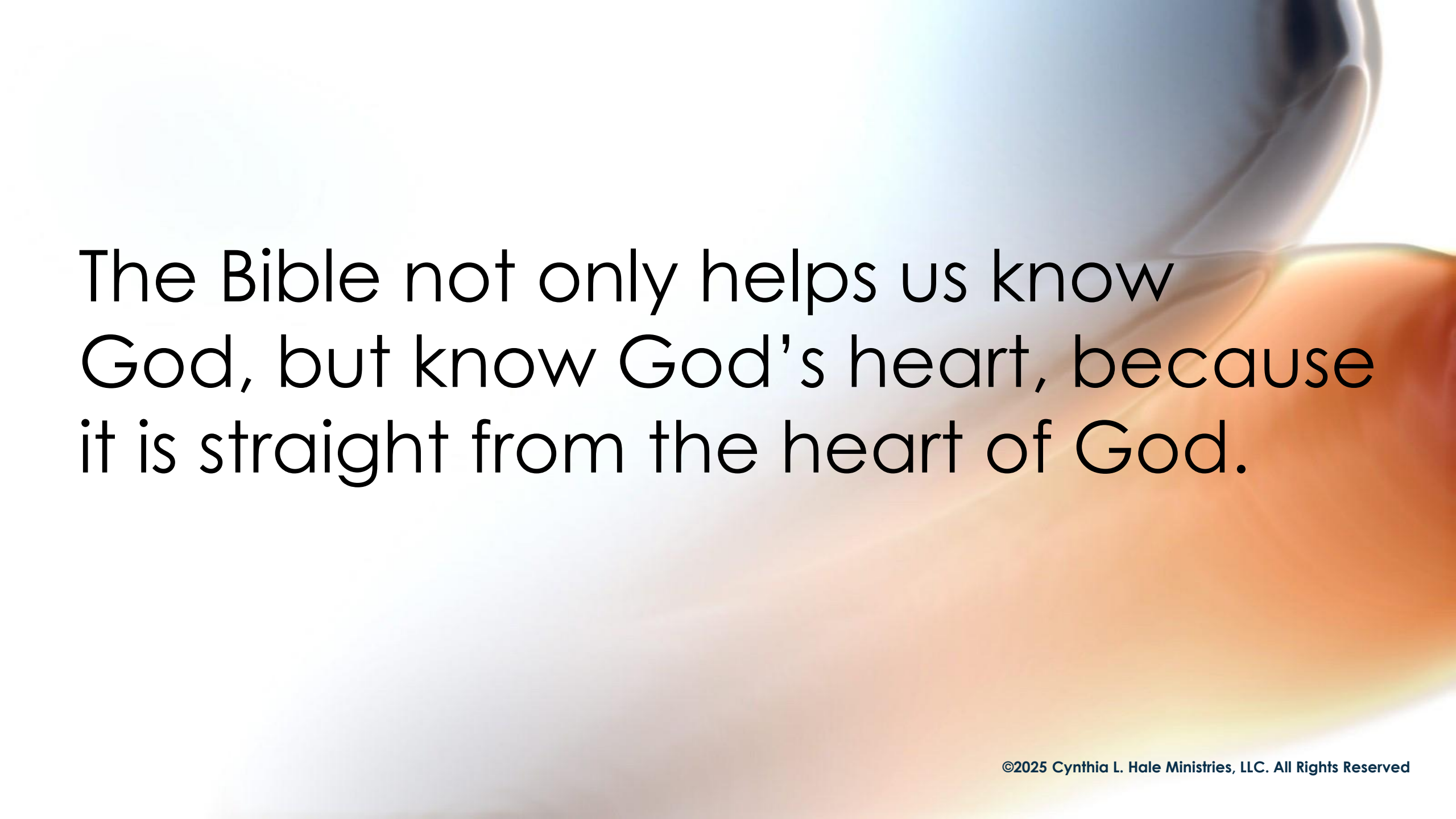


# **1 Timothy 4:7 (NASB)**

Discipline yourself for the purpose  
of godliness!



One cannot have a healthy Christian life without a steady diet of the milk and meat of the word.



The Bible not only helps us know God, but know God's heart, because it is straight from the heart of God.

## **II Timothy 3:16**

All scripture is God-breathed, inspired. The Greek word “inspired” describes a ship with its sails filled, being carried along on the sea.

# The selection of the canon of scripture came from the following six criteria:

1. Apostolic Authority – had to be written by Jesus' disciples or someone influenced by them.
2. Orthodoxy – held to the rule of faith in oral and written tradition.
3. Catholicity – accepted it universally by the church.

# The selection of the canon of scripture came from the following six criteria:

4. Antiquity – written between the time of the birth of Jesus and the death of the last of the 12 disciples.
5. Inspiration – had an internal witness of the Spirit by those judging it.
6. Traditional usage - was already being used by the church in faith and practice.

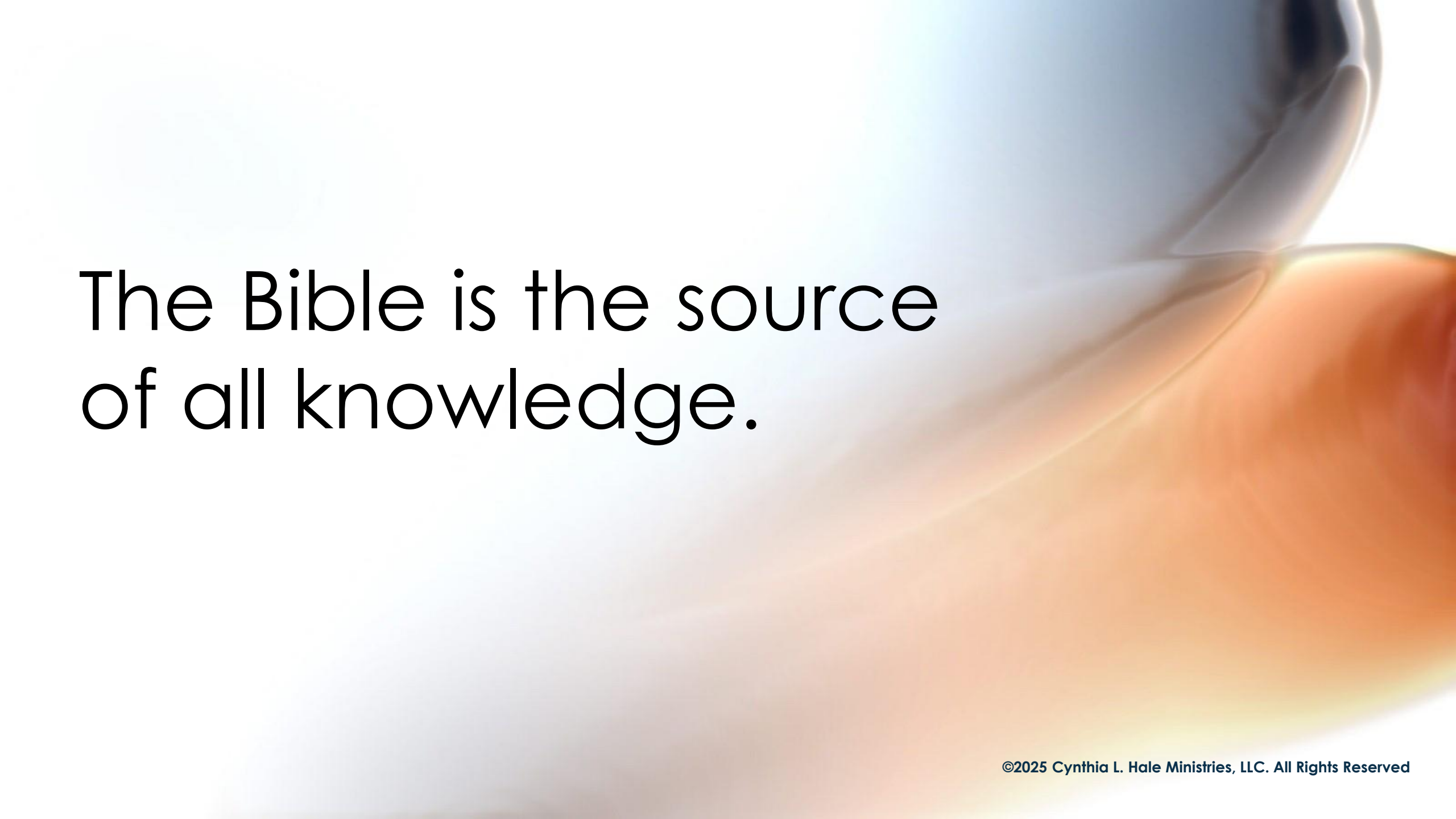


Science and Scripture always  
support each other.

A close-up, artistic photograph of a glass filled with orange liquid, with a white object partially visible at the top right. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient of light blue and white.

God's revelation in science is  
superseded by his revelation in  
scripture.





The Bible is the source  
of all knowledge.

# Isaiah 40:22

He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers.

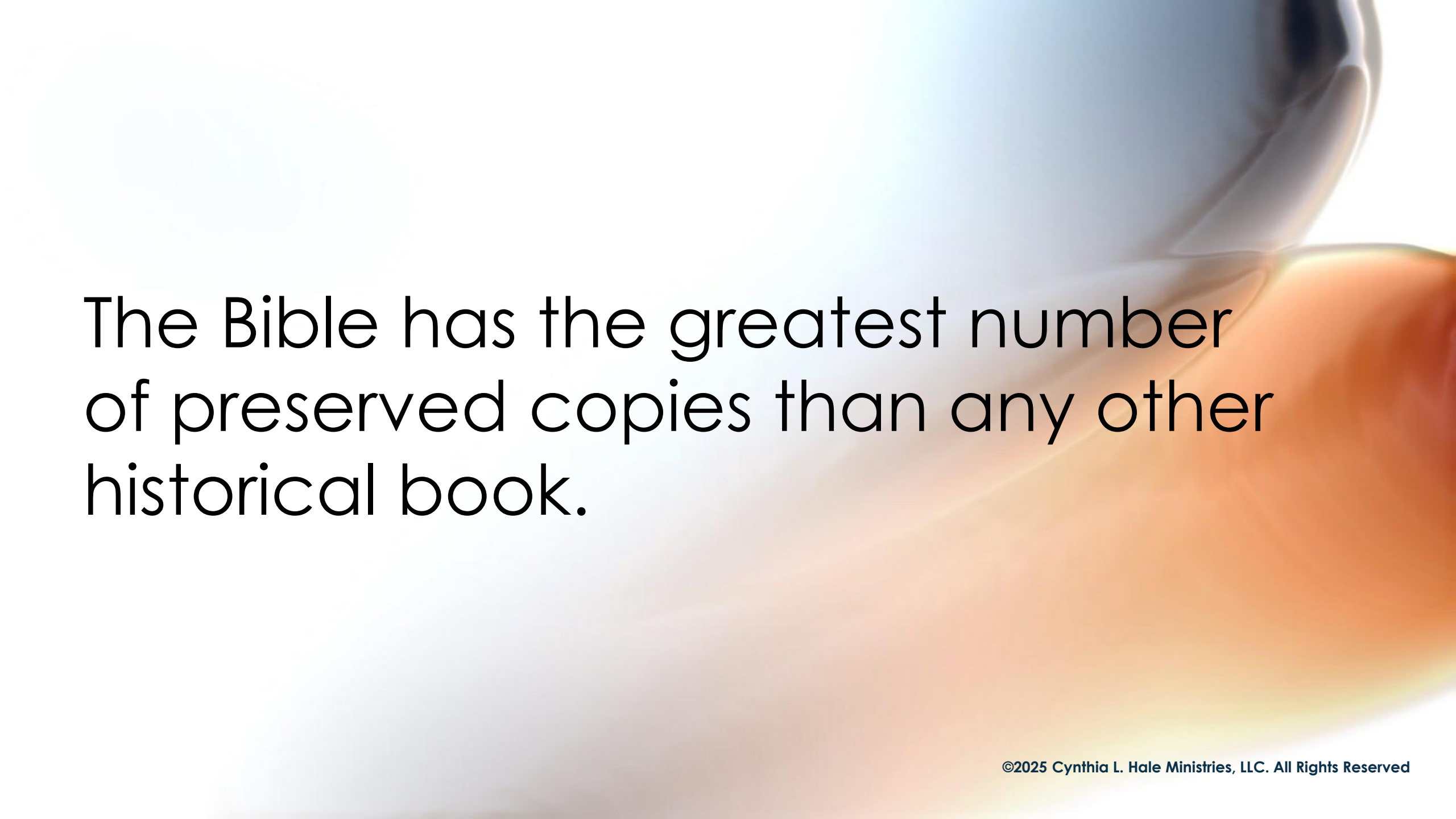
# Job 26:7

He spreads out the northern skies  
over empty space; he suspends the  
earth over nothing.

# Leviticus 17:11




The Bible has endured more attacks  
by its enemies than any other book in  
history.



The Bible has the greatest number of preserved copies than any other historical book.

# Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers and the flowers  
fall, but the word of our God  
stands firm.



The Bible is the best-selling  
book of all times.





The Bible has had the greatest  
impact on history than any other  
book.



The Bible is our manual as  
Disciples of Christ.

# The Word testifies that...

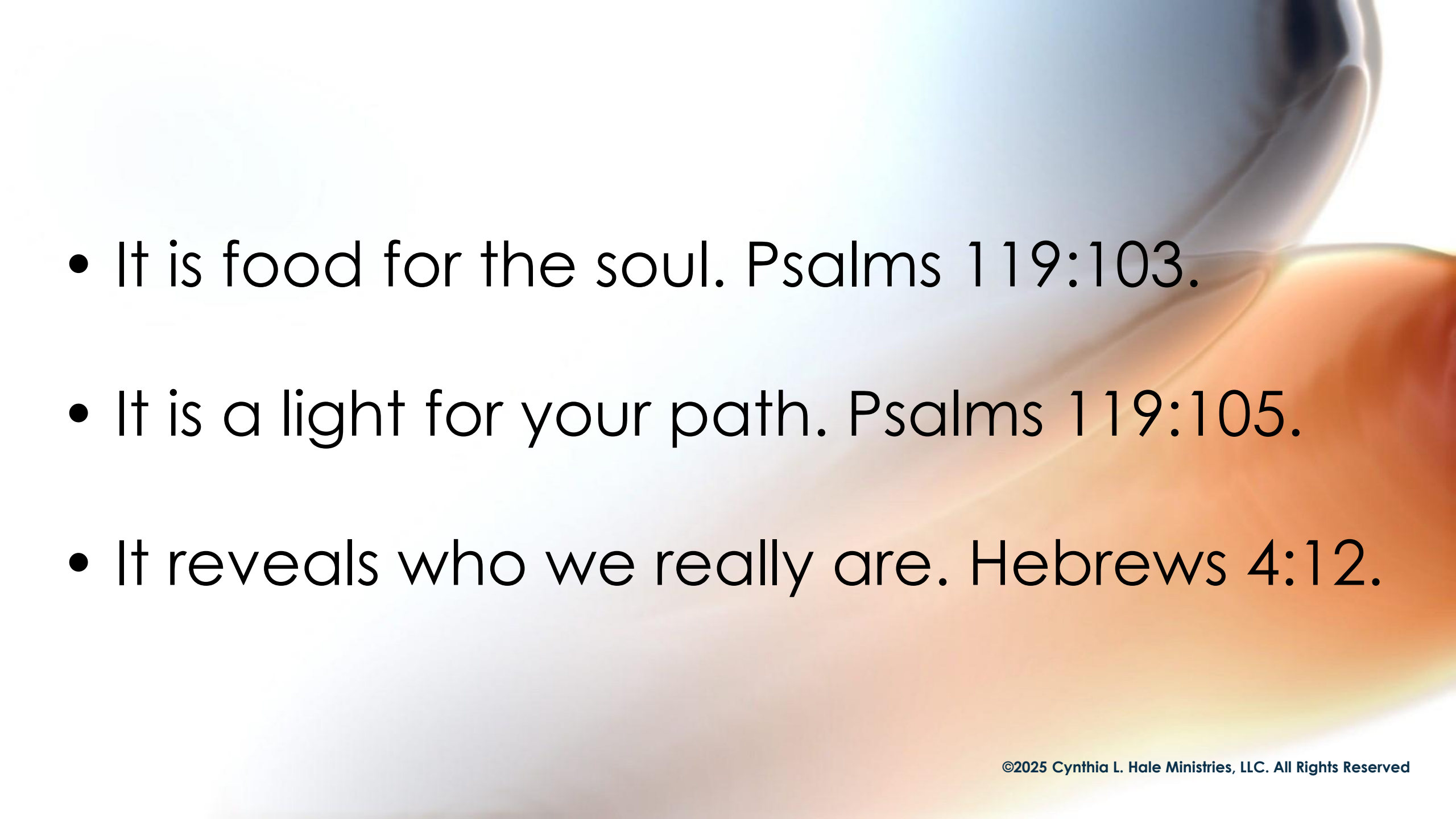
- It saves us. – Romans 1:16.  
“I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of salvation to everyone who believes.”

# The Word testifies that...

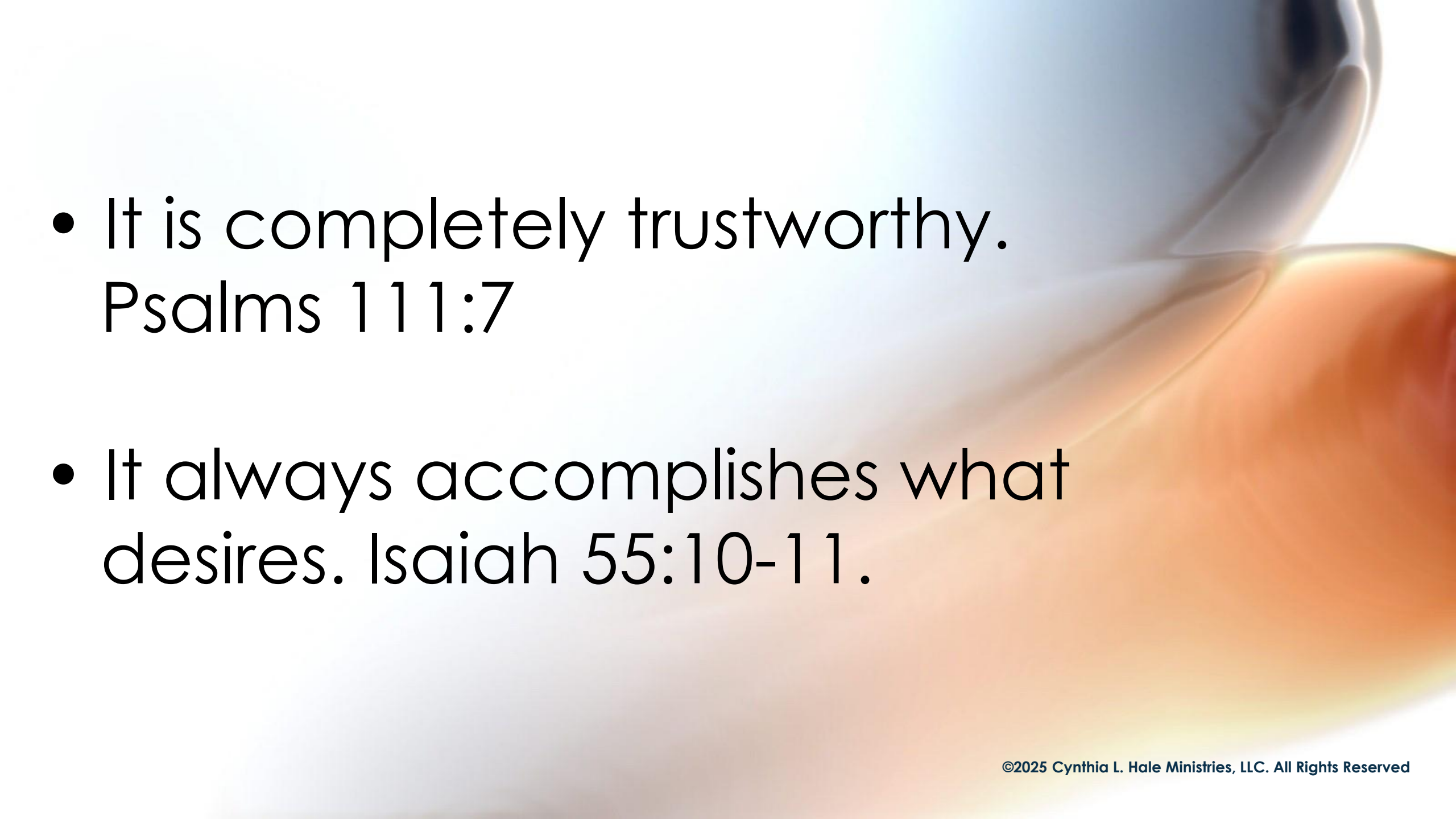
- It is divinely inspired and therefore perfects or changes us. – II Timothy 3:16-17



“Perfect” means “compete, in fit shape, in fit condition.” Furnished means “equipped for service.”

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- It is food for the soul. Psalms 119:103.
  - It is a light for your path. Psalms 119:105.
  - It reveals who we really are. Hebrews 4:12.

- It purifies life. – Psalms 119:9
- It is a spiritual offensive weapon against the enemy. – Ephesians 6:17, Word – “rhema” describes the preached word or an utterance of God occasioned by the Holy Spirit in the heart.

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- It is completely trustworthy.  
Psalms 111:7
  - It always accomplishes what  
desires. Isaiah 55:10-11.

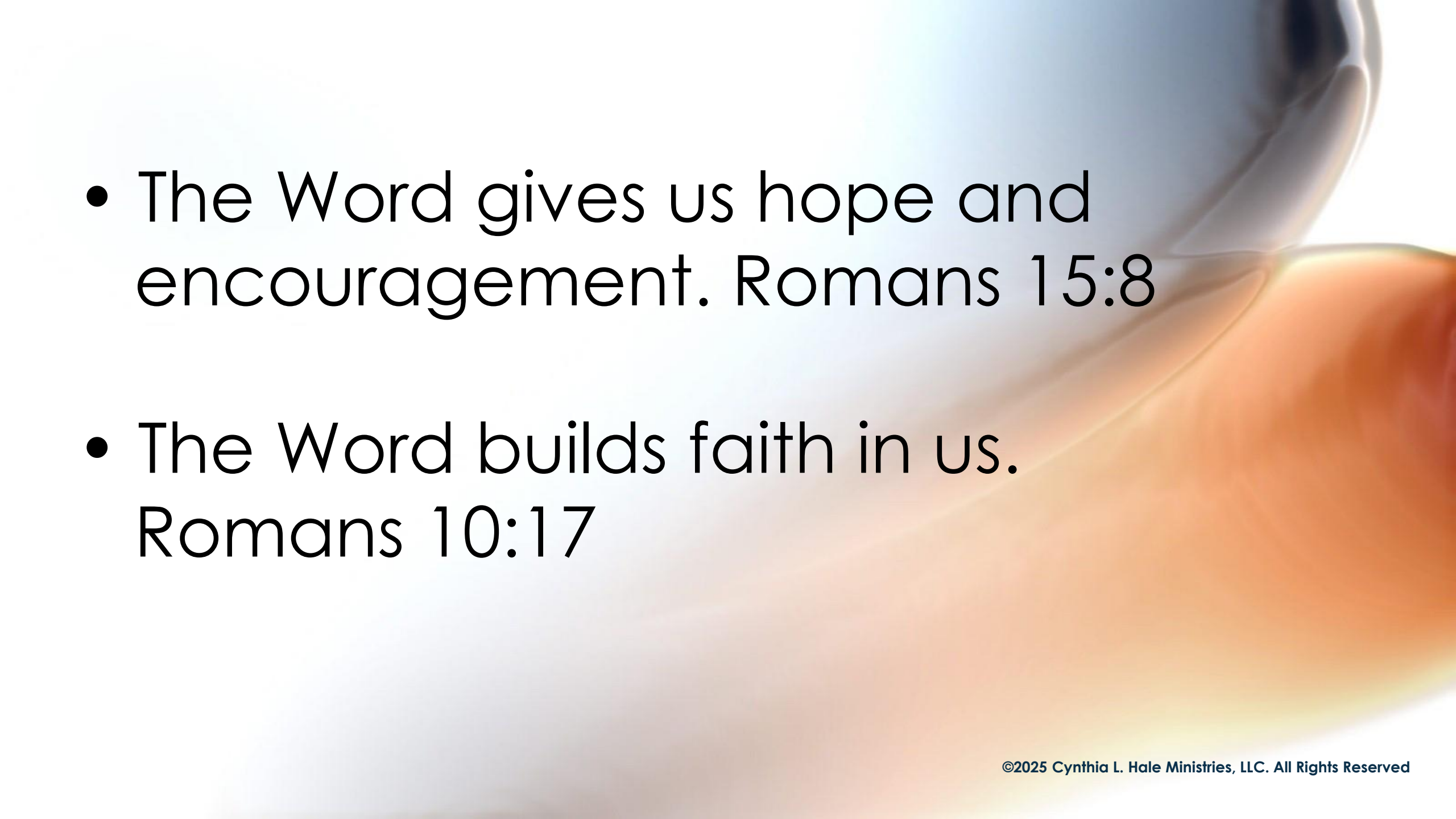


# When you follow and obey it, God promises:

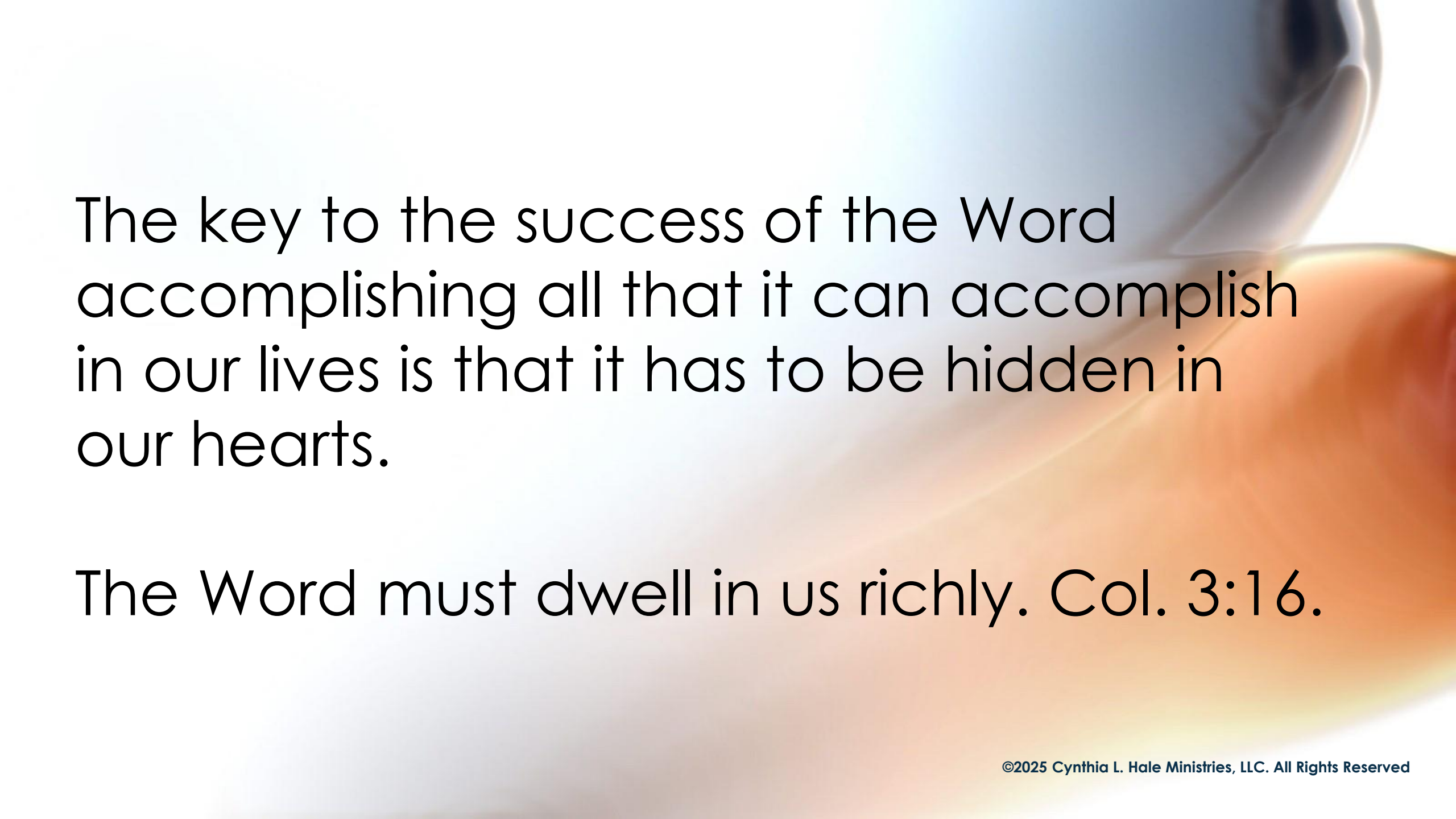
- You will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:1-3
- You will always have a firm foundation upon which to stand. Matthew 7:24-27
- You will be set free from anything and everything that binds you. John 8:32
- You will have wisdom and understanding. Psalms 119:97-100

# Discussion or Reflection:

What lie of the enemy have you been living with that the word needs to expose and set you free from?

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- The Word gives us hope and encouragement. Romans 15:8
  - The Word builds faith in us.  
Romans 10:17

- The Word of God is absolutely trustworthy and reliable. 1 Kings 8:56
- The power of God's word is infinite. Psalms 33:6, 9
- By His Word, God gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. Romans 4:17



The key to the success of the Word  
accomplishing all that it can accomplish  
in our lives is that it has to be hidden in  
our hearts.

The Word must dwell in us richly. Col. 3:16.

# Discussion or Reflection:

Given the incredible power of the word to transform us, the undeniable promise of the word to bless and keep us, how much do you engage the Word? Are you satisfied with your level of engagement with the Word? Why or why not? What would you like to do differently?

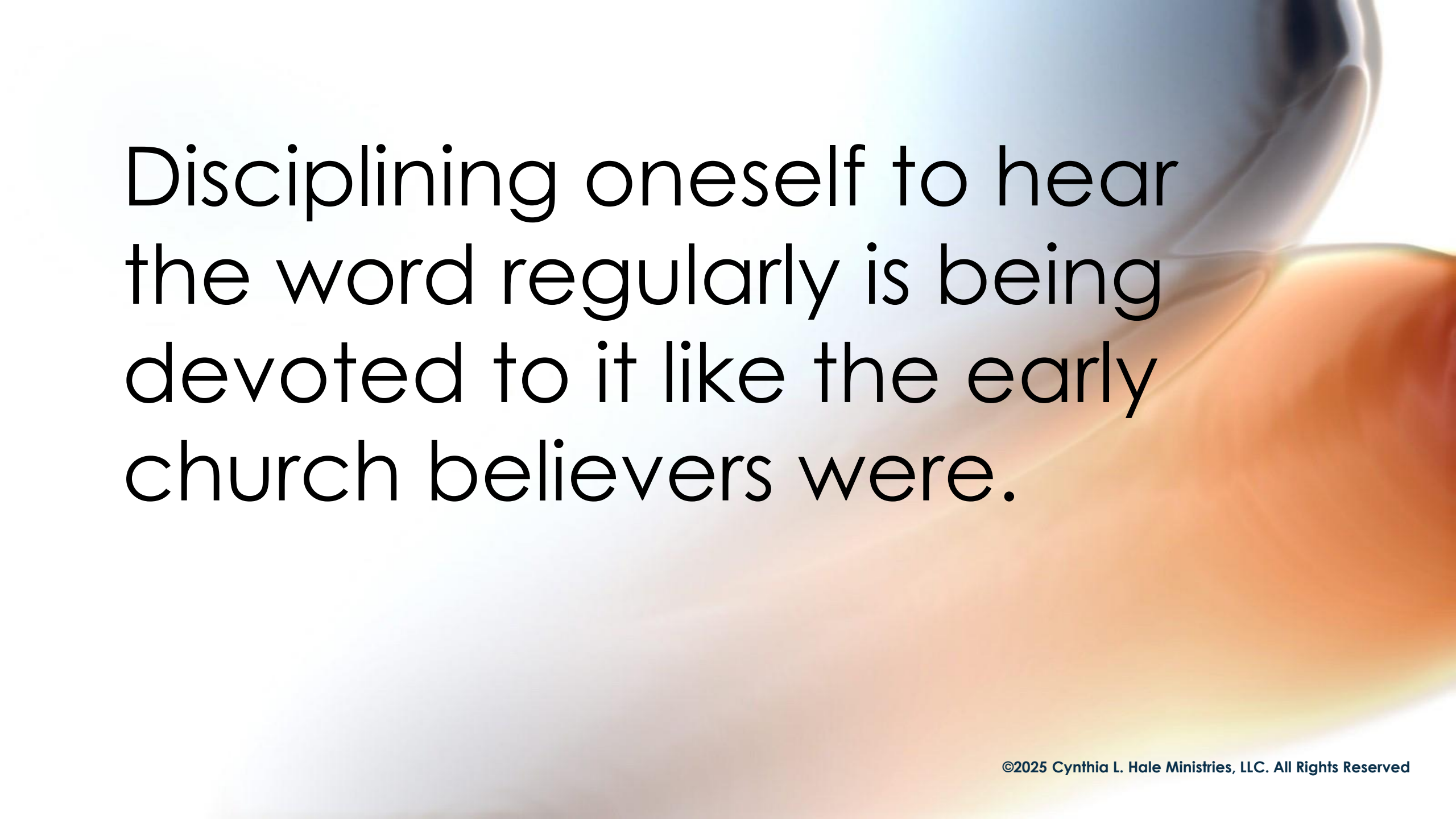


Several ways we can engage with  
God's word.



# Hearing the Word!





Disciplining oneself to hear  
the word regularly is being  
devoted to it like the early  
church believers were.

# Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching.



Devotion requires desire and discipline.

# Luke 11:28

Blessed rather are those who hear  
the word of GOD and obey it.

# **Romans 10:17**

Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God.



# I Thessalonians 2:13



# Reading the Word of God.

# Discussion:

How does one call himself or herself a Christian, a lover of God and never read the word?





Haven't you read...Matthew 19:4



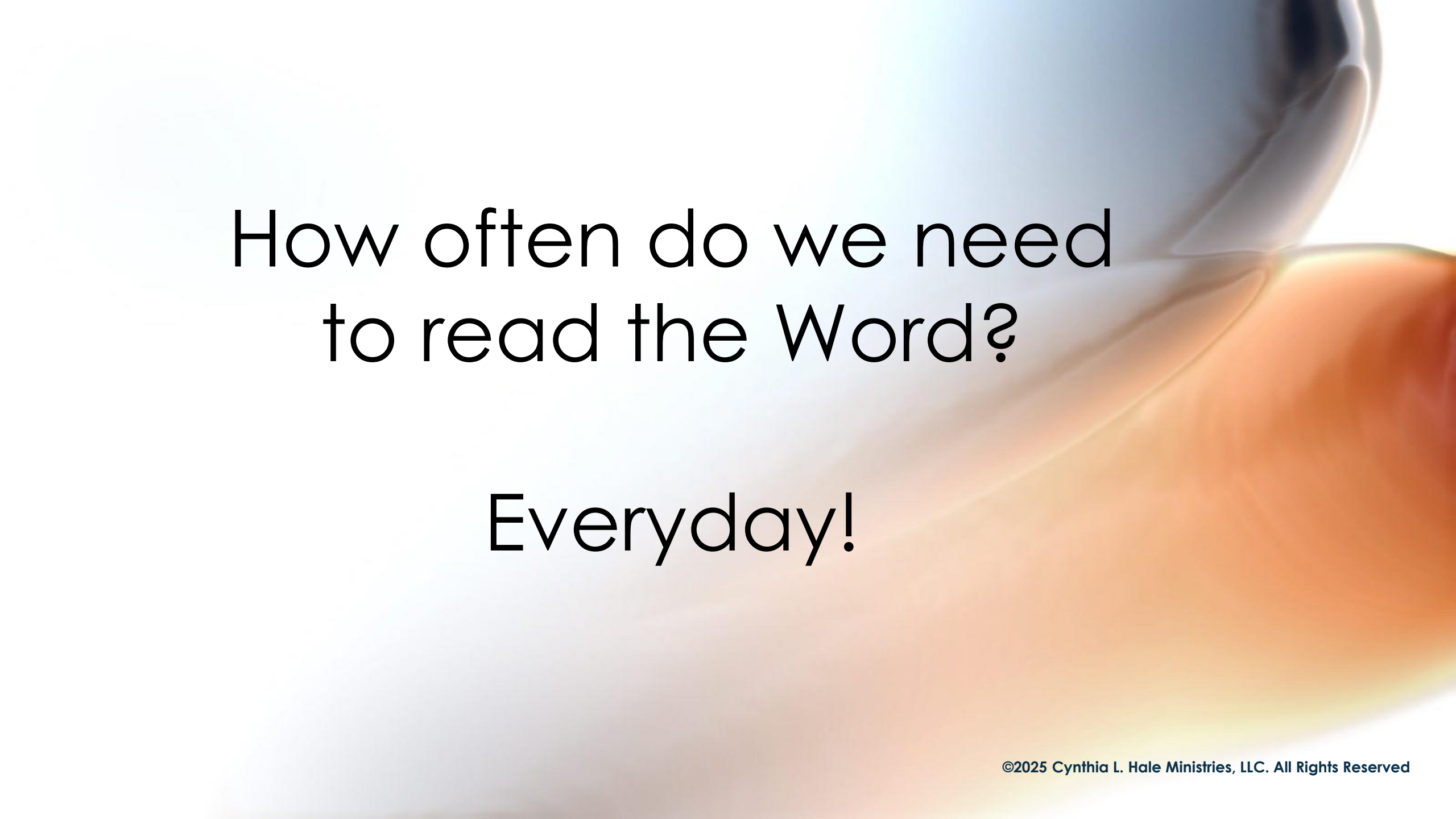
Reading the Word of God is  
essential for life.

# Matthew 4:4

It is written: Humans shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

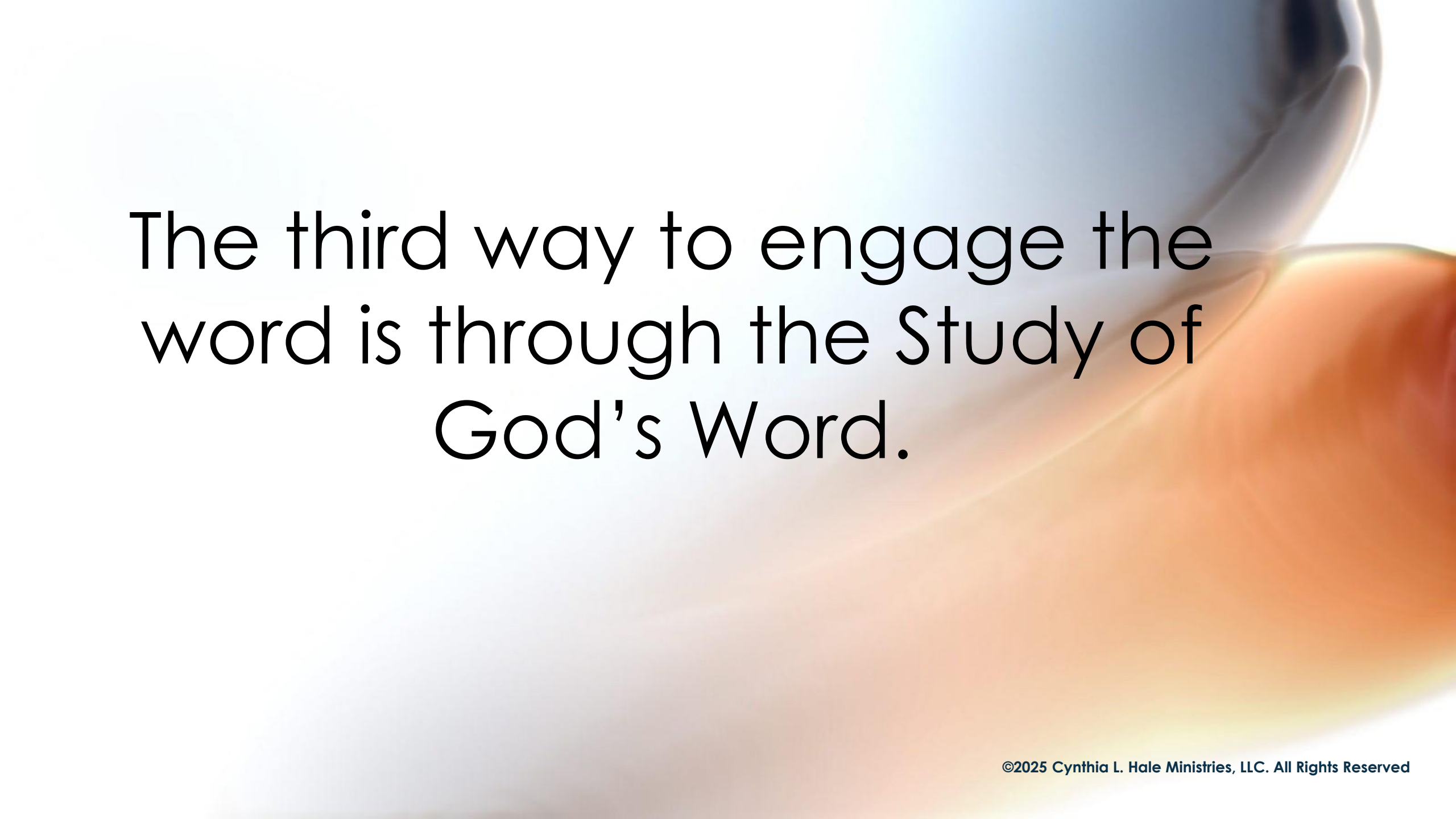
# Discussion or Reflection:

How often should one read  
God's word?



How often do we need  
to read the Word?

Everyday!



The third way to engage the  
word is through the Study of  
God's Word.

# Jerry Bridges

Reading gives us breath, but  
study gives us depth.

# Ezra 7:10

One has to have the heart, the passion to study the word of God.



# R.C. Sproul

Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or passion, our problem is we are lazy.

# Suggestions for reading and studying the Bible consistently:

1. Find a time, preferably the same time each day and commit to it.
2. Find a bible reading plan. There are loads of reading plans online and in books.

# Suggestions for reading and studying the Bible consistently:

3. Before you begin your reading, ask God to help you focus and give you understanding.

# Suggestions for reading and studying the Bible consistently:

4. As you read, outline a passage, identify key words to focus on for further study. Look up these words in a Bible Dictionary and write down the meaning.

# **Suggestions for reading and studying the Bible consistently:**

5. Take notes of what you read and the understanding you receive from the Holy Spirit.

# Suggestions for reading and studying the Bible consistently:

6. As you grow in your study, you can do more in-depth word studies, character studies, topical studies and book studies.

# Suggestions for reading and studying the Bible consistently:

7. You can also take notes of the sermons and Bible Studies you hear and go back and do an in-depth study of what you hear.

Acts 17:11

# Acts 17:11

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.



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