FINISH THE RACE

ROMANS 15



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The Big Picture

Rom 15:8 For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written,
"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

Writings

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The Big Picture

10 And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

11 And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.”

12 And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”
13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Torah

Psalms

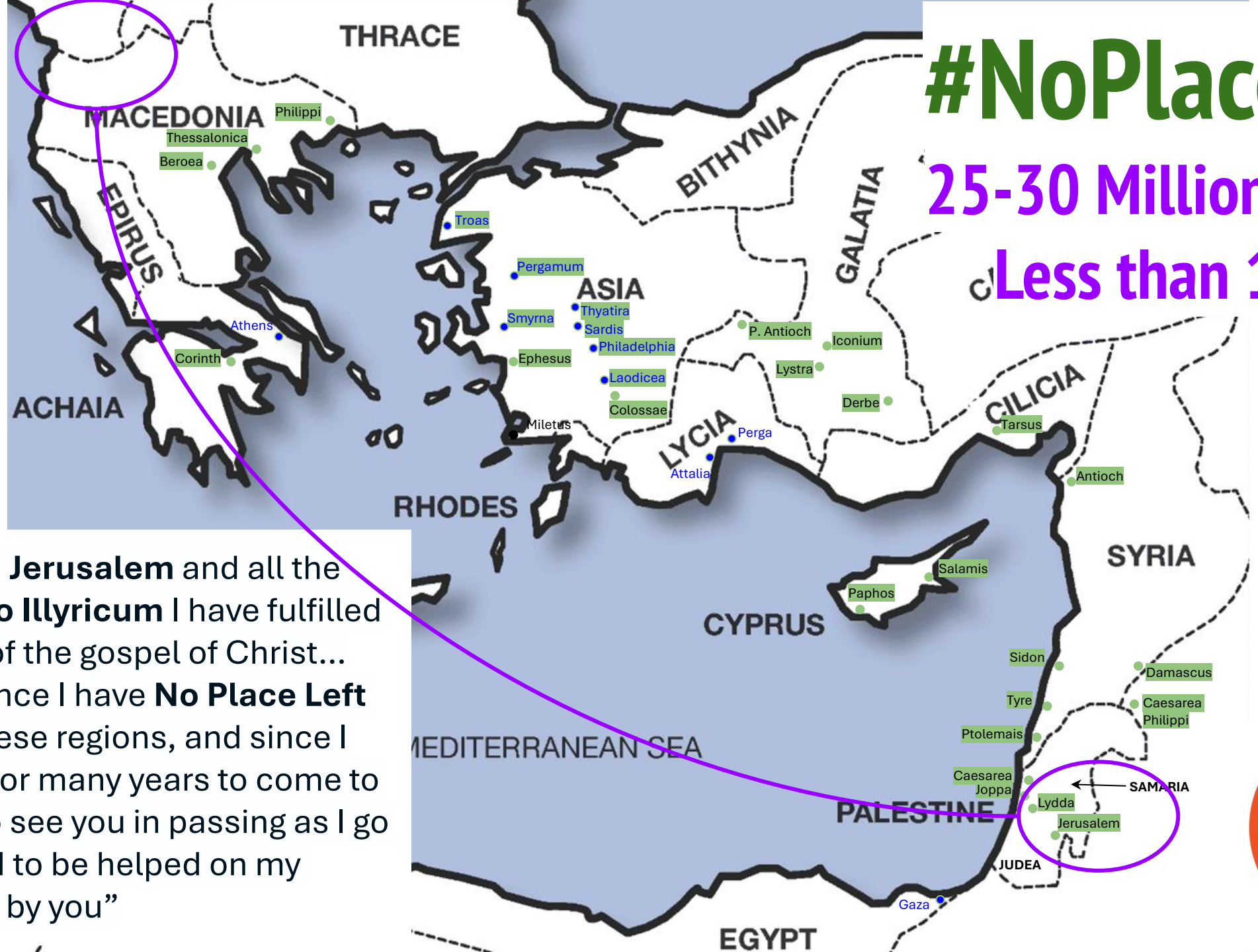
Prophets

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#NoPlaceLeft

25-30 Million People

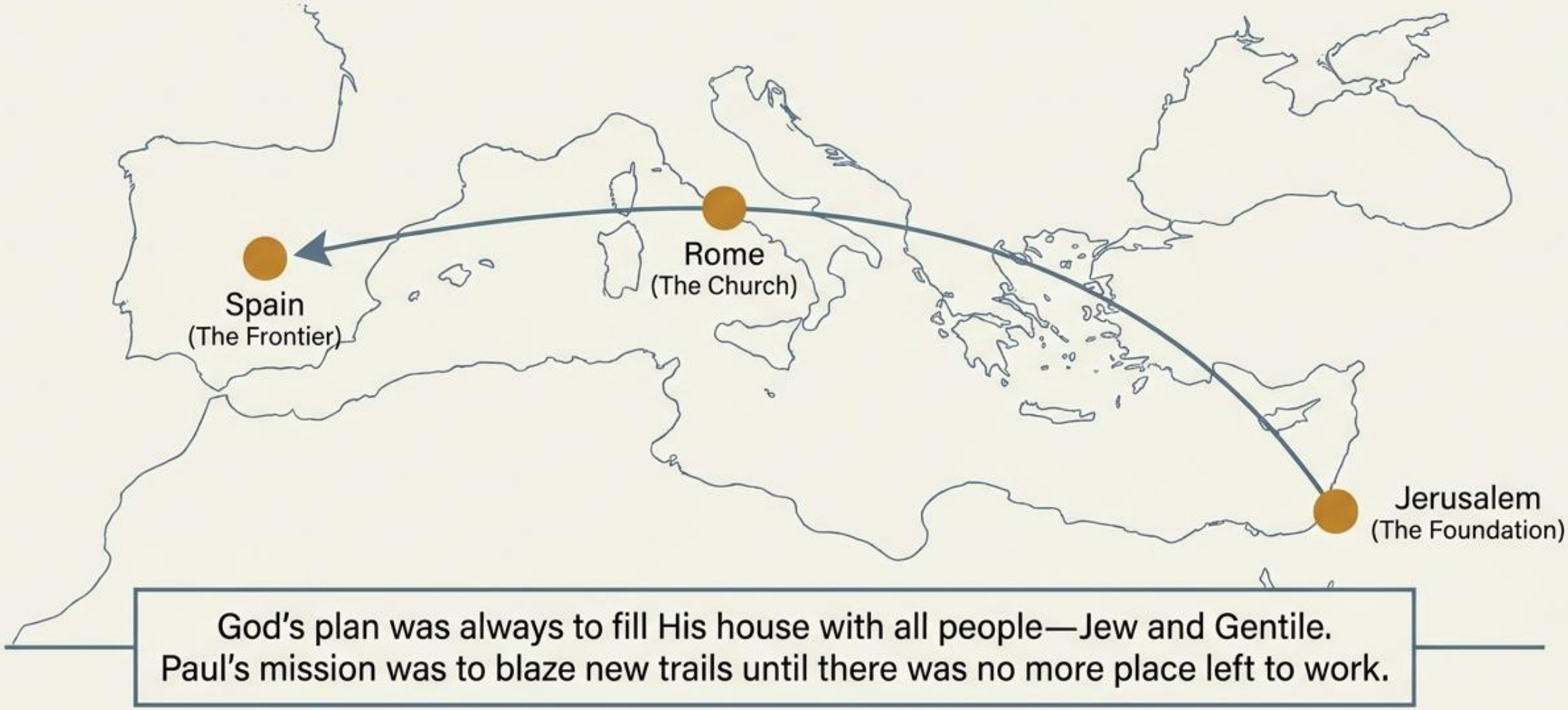
Less than 15 Years



Romans 15:19-24

"so that **from Jerusalem** and all the way around **to Illyricum** I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ…
…But now, since I have **No Place Left** for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, I hope to see you in passing as I go **to Spain**, and to be helped on my journey there by you"

Fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission



God's plan was always to fill His house with all people—Jew and Gentile.
Paul's mission was to blaze new trails until there was no more place left to work.

GC² Directive: Love God, Love Each Other, Make Disciples.

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Glorify God with One Voice

Rom 15:1 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 **Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.** 3 For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” 4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to **live in such harmony with one another**, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may **with one voice glorify** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore **welcome one another** as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

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Jesus prayed this prayer for us today

John 17:20 “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 **I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one**—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us **so that the world will believe you sent me.**

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Putting this into practice at ACC today

- Care about each other. Leave your comfort zone.
- We need to be intentional about welcoming others in.
- Drop your guard and let people get to you.
- Help one another.
- Take the initiative!

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Becoming More Like Jesus

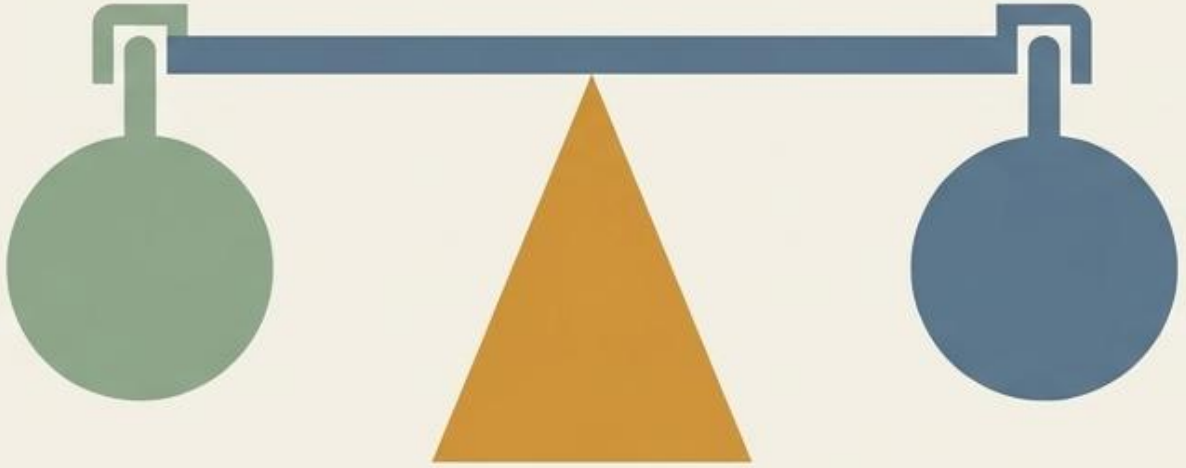
Rom 15:14 I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another. 15 Yet I have written you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

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Competent to Instruct One Another

Welcome one another

No Judgment on Disputable Matters (Romans 14)



Transformative Growth

Strong, Loving Instruction (Romans 15)

Rom 15:14 I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

neuthetein

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Strong but gentle, clear biblical instruction

Key role of shepherds/elders

Acts 20:31 “warning each of you night and day with tears,”
1 Thes 5:12 – “esteem leaders who admonish you”

All believers play a role

Rom 15:14 “competent to instruct”
1 Thes 5:14 – “brothers and sisters, warn…” those who are idle and disruptive

Neuthetein

Strong, gentle, clear biblical instruction.

Done as a loving family

2 Thes 3:15 “warn him as a brother”
1 Cor 4:14 – “I…warn you as my beloved children”

Based on Scripture

Col 1:28 “admonishing with all wisdom”
Col 3:16 “let the word of Christ dwell richly in you”

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The Goal: Build each other up for their good

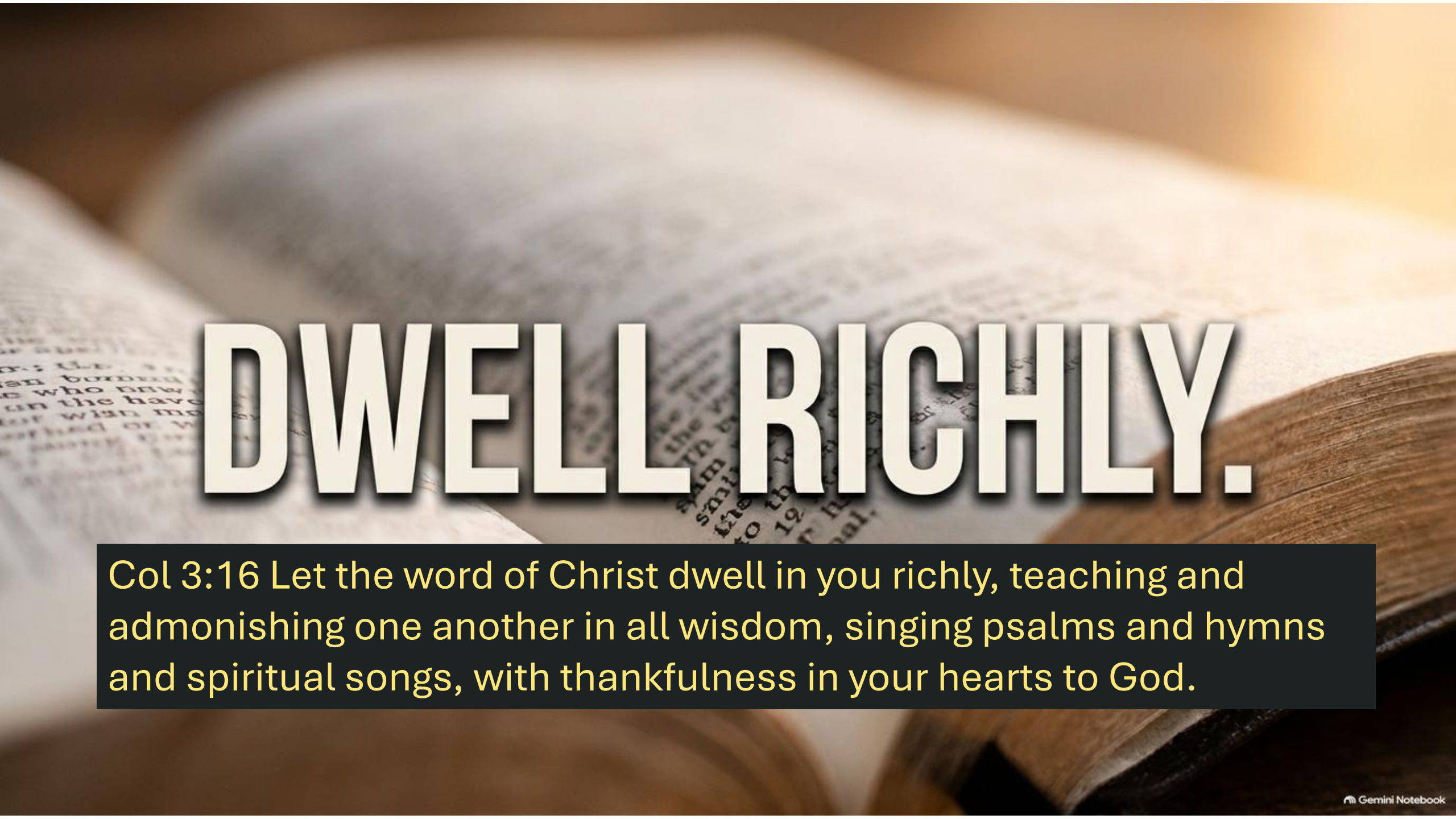
- Are Full of goodness
- Are Filled with knowledge
- Love each other as family
- Have the Lord’s urgency and compassion

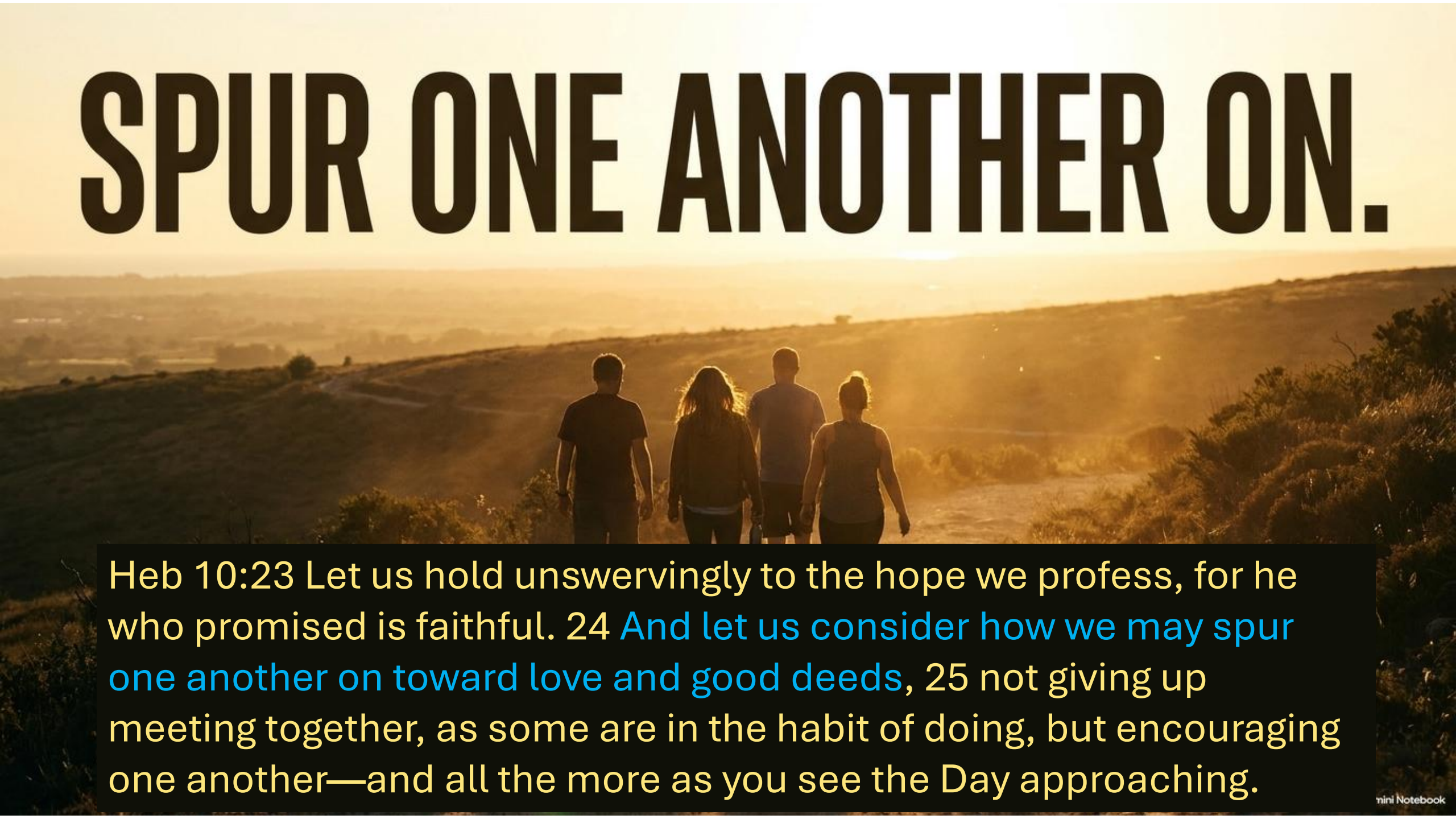
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Where does our competence and knowledge come from?

2 Cor 3:4 Such confidence we have through Christ before God. 5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. 6 **He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant**—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, **but the Spirit gives life**.

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DWELL RICHLY.
Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
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Heb 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

mini Notebook

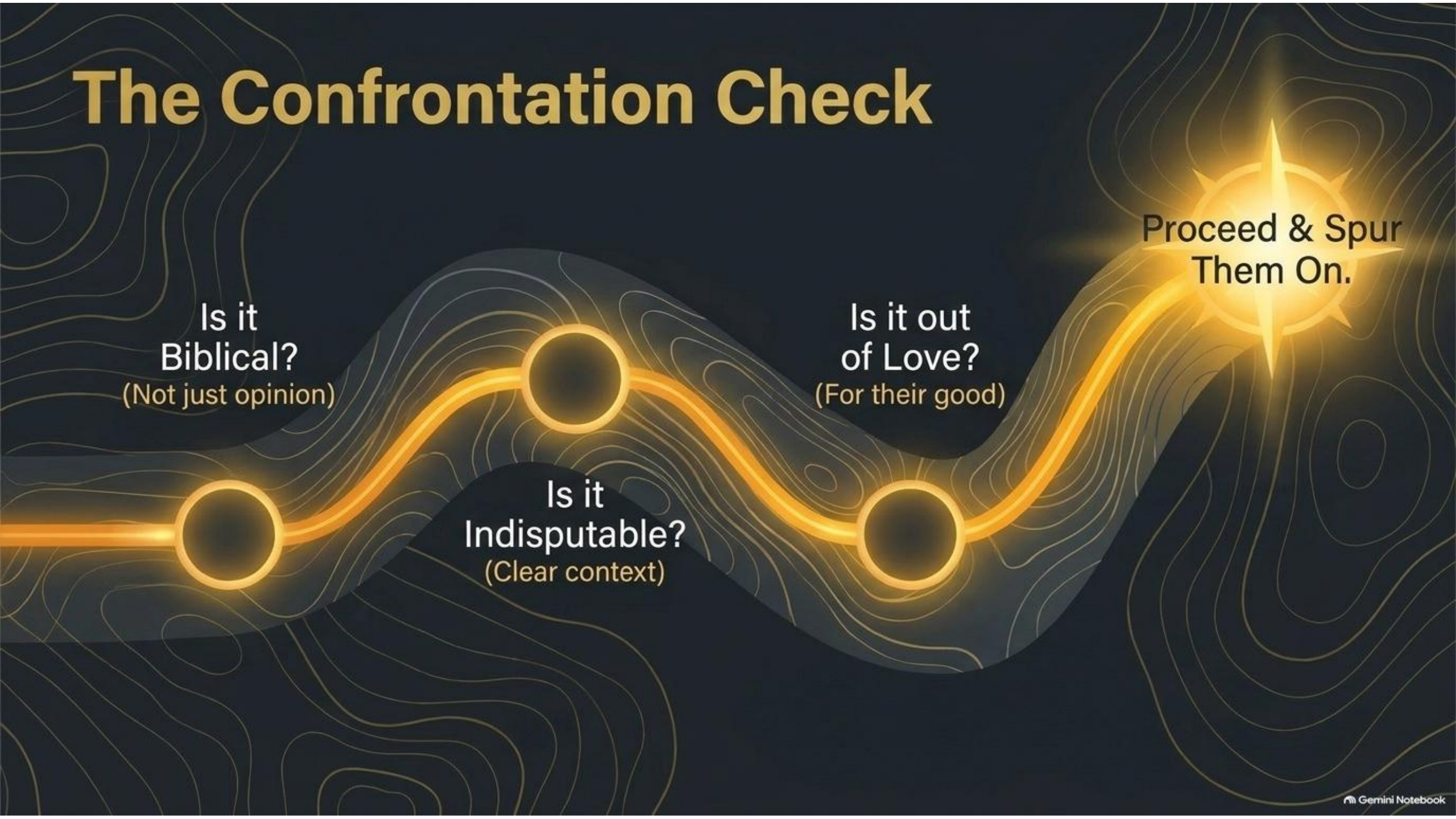
Jam 5:19 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

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The Confrontation Check



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Disputable vs. Definitive

Preferences
(e.g., Drinking a beer)

Choose Love & Unity

Clear Sin
(e.g., Theft, Lust)

Gently Admonish

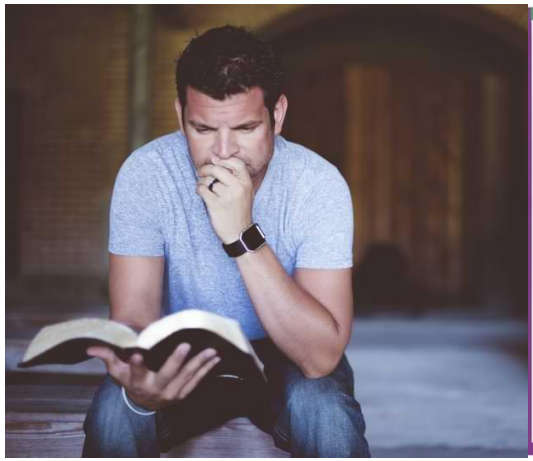
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Build Each Other Up, for the Good of All



REACH BEYOND COMFORTABLE FRIENDSHIPS

Take the initiative to care for and get to know people you haven't met yet.



DWELL DEEPLY IN SCRIPTURE

Consistently listen to, read, and immerse yourself in God's Word.



LOVE ONE ANOTHER DEEPLY

Love each other enough to actively want what is best for one another.



CONFRONT OUT OF LOVE

Use Scripture in context for non-disputable matters to spur one another on for their good.

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