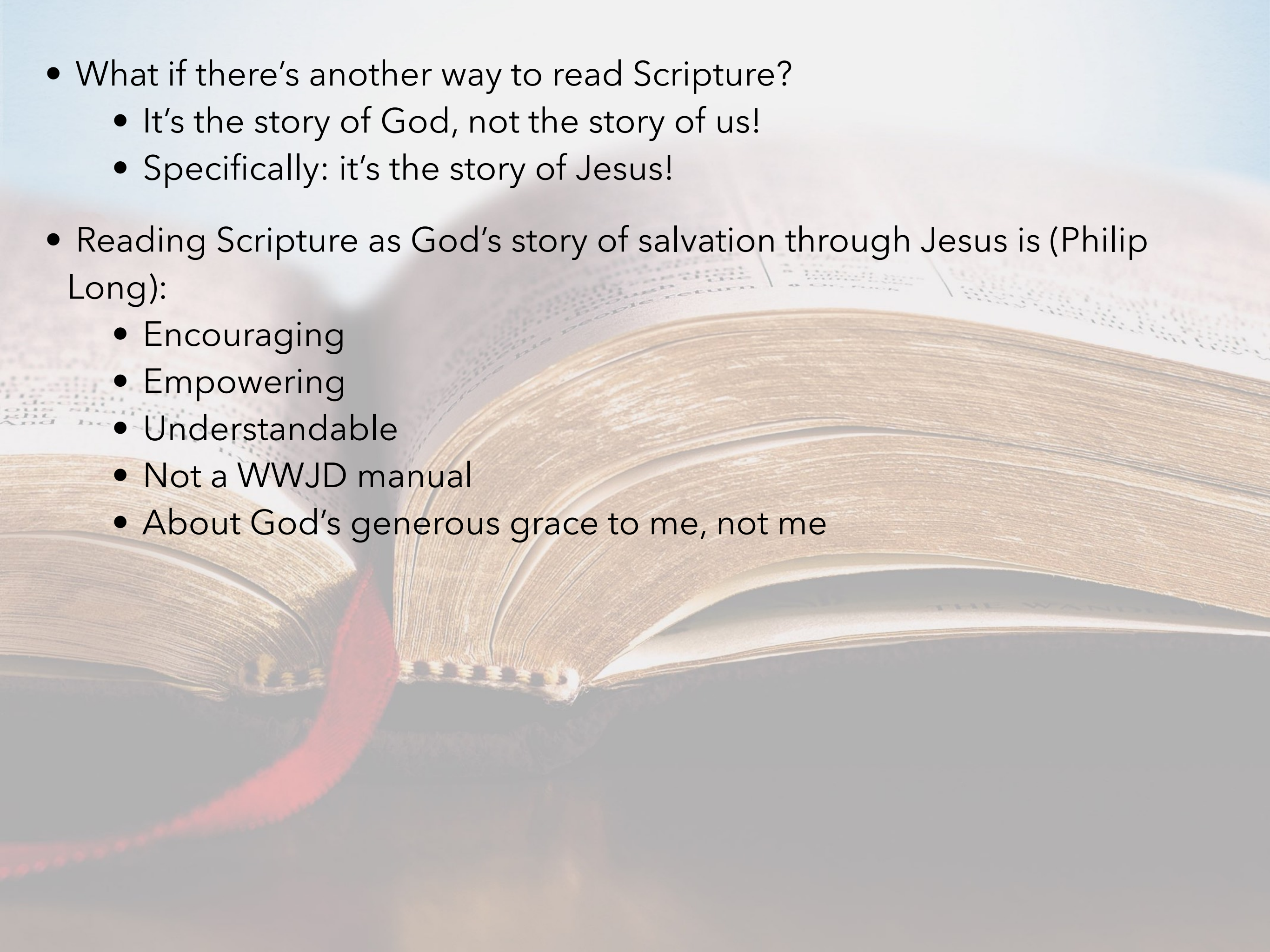


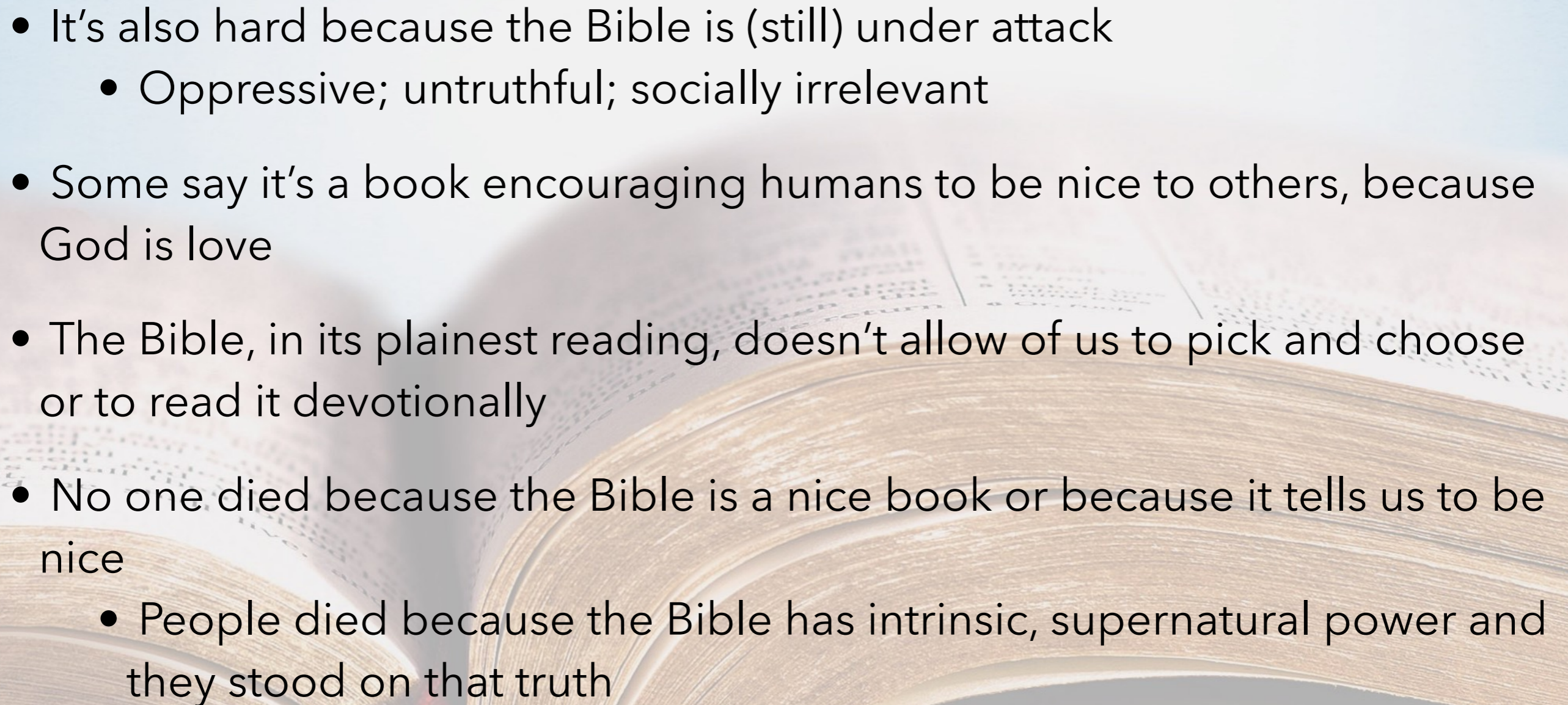
# The Good Book



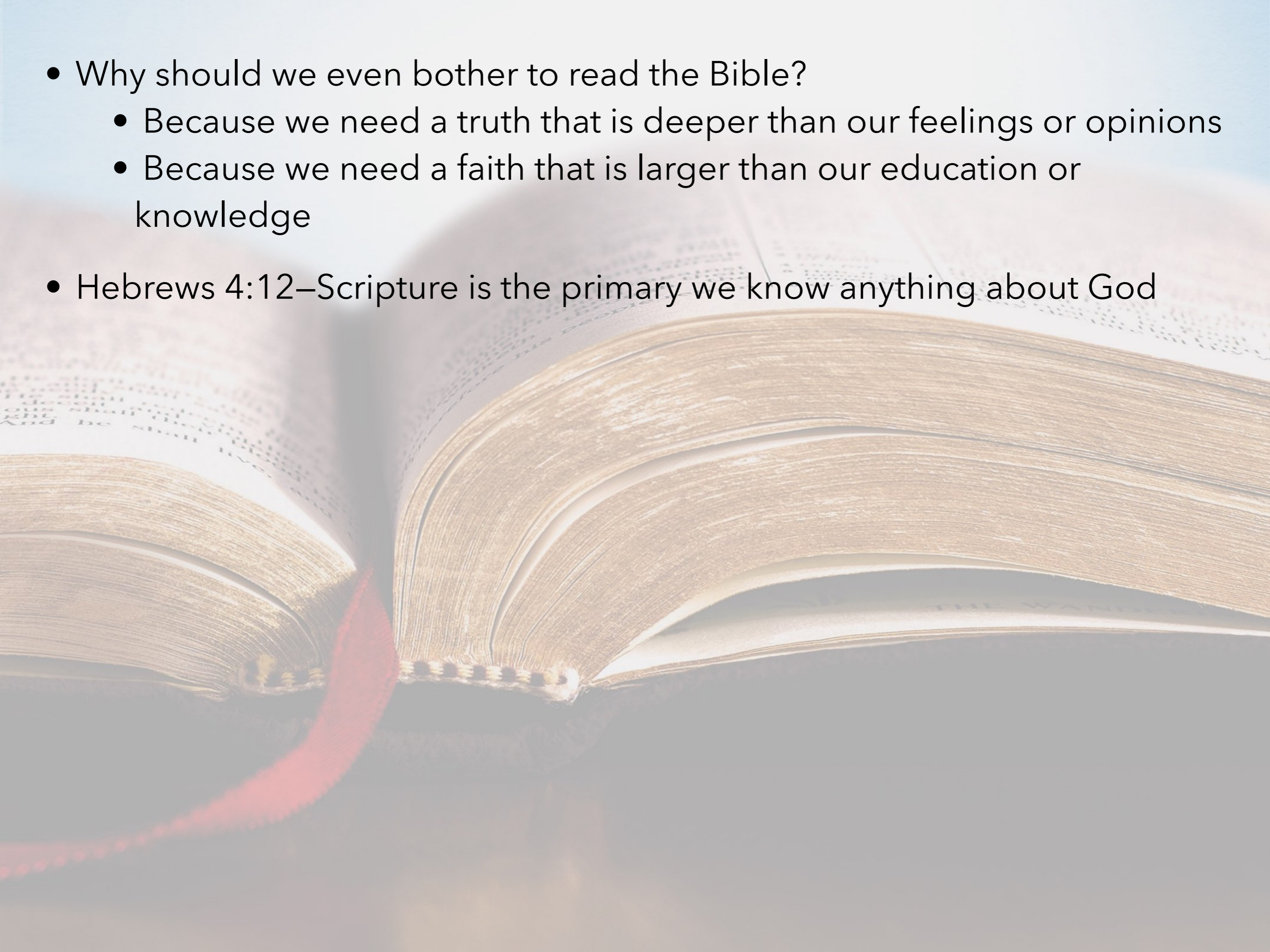
- What's so hard about reading the Bible?
  - It can make me feel bad about not measuring up
  - Devotional reading ends in superiority or despair
  - Lots of misunderstandings about the purpose and nature of Scripture



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- What if there's another way to read Scripture?
    - It's the story of God, not the story of us!
    - Specifically: it's the story of Jesus!
  - Reading Scripture as God's story of salvation through Jesus is (Philip Long):
    - Encouraging
    - Empowering
    - Understandable
    - Not a WWJD manual
    - About God's generous grace to me, not me

- 
- It's also hard because the Bible is (still) under attack
    - Oppressive; untruthful; socially irrelevant
  - Some say it's a book encouraging humans to be nice to others, because God is love
  - The Bible, in its plainest reading, doesn't allow of us to pick and choose or to read it devotionally
  - No one died because the Bible is a nice book or because it tells us to be nice
    - People died because the Bible has intrinsic, supernatural power and they stood on that truth

- Why should we even bother to read the Bible?
  - Because we need a truth that is deeper than our feelings or opinions
  - Because we need a faith that is larger than our education or knowledge
- Hebrews 4:12—Scripture is the primary we know anything about God



An open Bible with a red bookmark is shown in the background, slightly out of focus. The pages are yellowed with age, and the binding is visible in the center. The text on the pages is faint and illegible.

- BIBLE TRIVIA!

- What is the longest book in the Bible?
- What is the shortest book in the Bible?
- What is the middle verse in the Bible?
- What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
- How many books in the OT?
- How many in the NT?
- How many minor prophets are there?

- There are essentially 2 ways to read Scripture:
  - A flesh-informed way that encourages my natural desires
  - A Holy Spirit-informed way that transforms my desires
- We want the Holy Spirit to unleash the Bible to be alive in us!

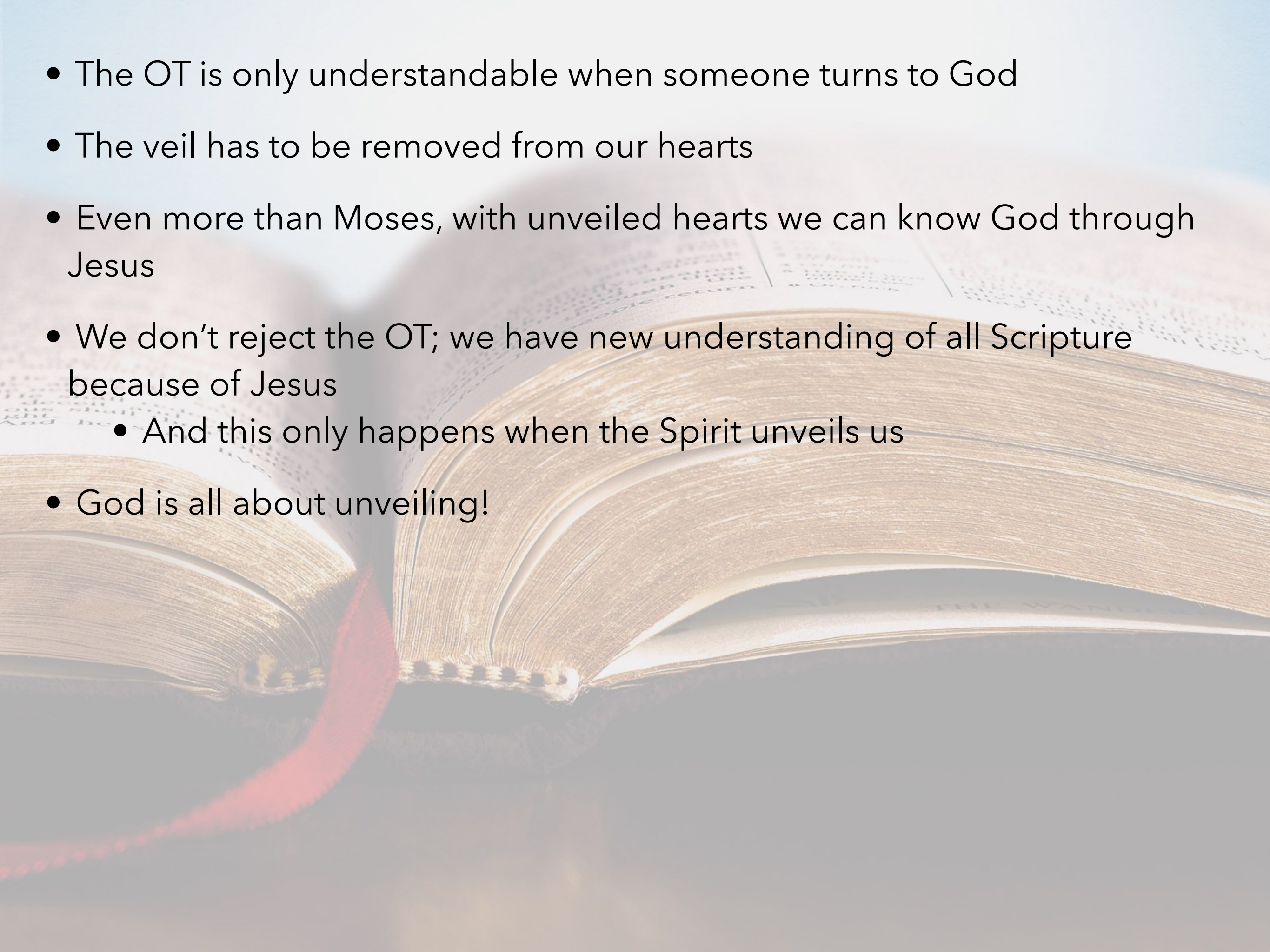


## **2 Corinthians 3:12-16**

12 Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech,  
13 and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away.  
14 But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.  
15 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart;  
16 but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.



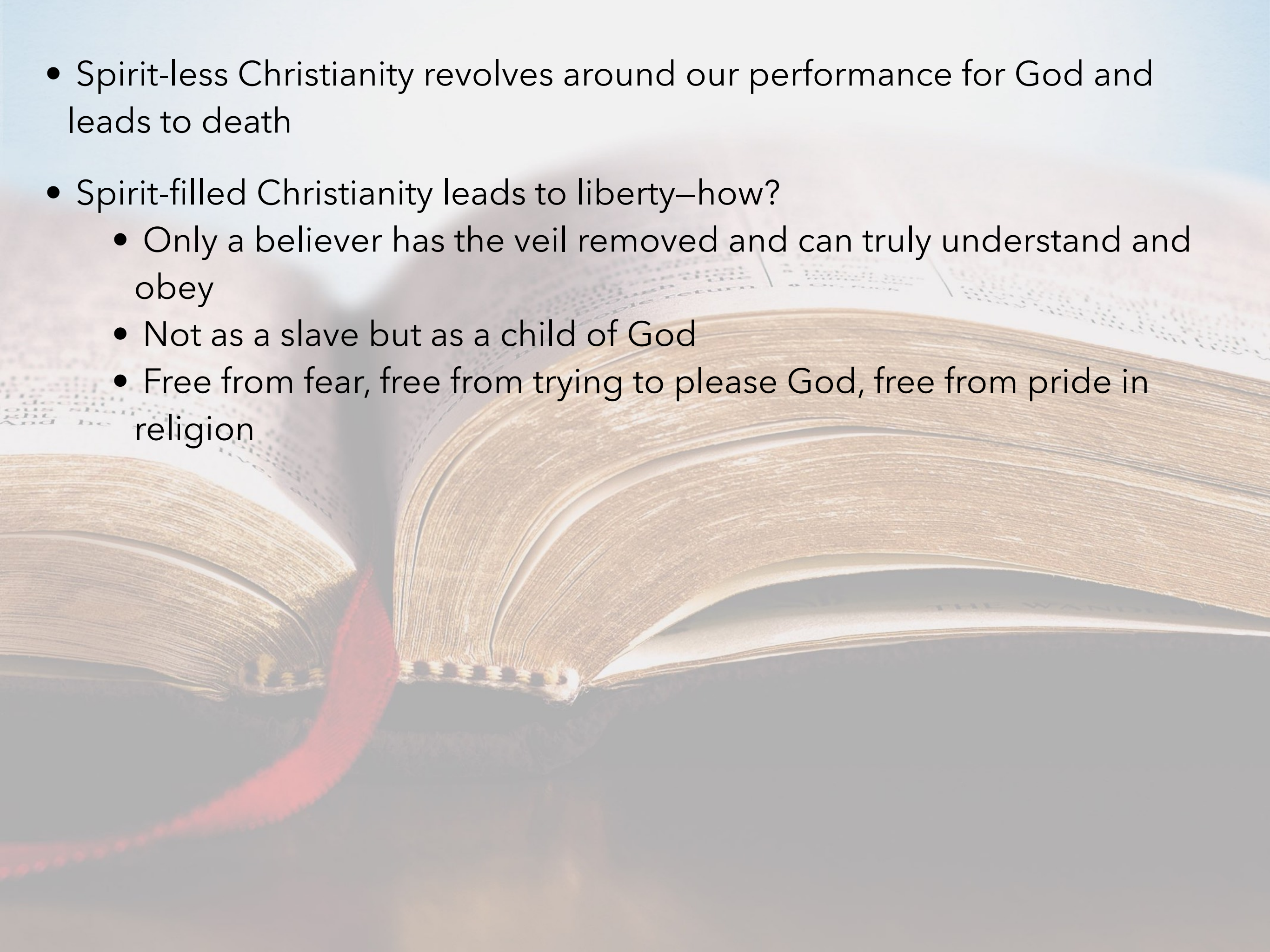


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- An open book with a red bookmark is shown in the background, slightly out of focus. The pages are yellowed with age, and the binding is visible in the center. The overall tone is warm and spiritual.
- The OT is only understandable when someone turns to God
  - The veil has to be removed from our hearts
  - Even more than Moses, with unveiled hearts we can know God through Jesus
  - We don't reject the OT; we have new understanding of all Scripture because of Jesus
    - And this only happens when the Spirit unveils us
  - God is all about unveiling!

## **2 Corinthians 3:16-17**

16 but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.



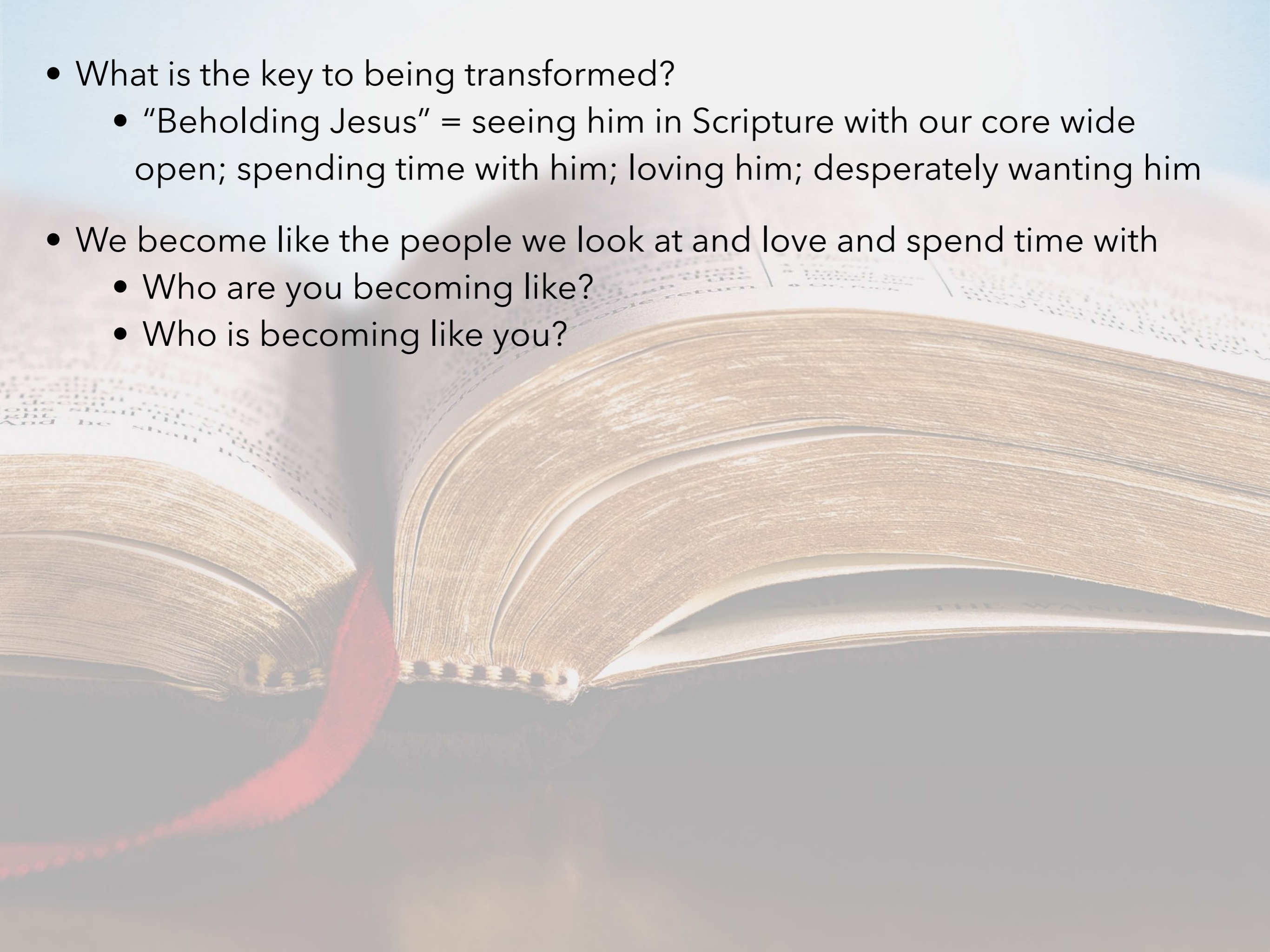
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- Spirit-less Christianity revolves around our performance for God and leads to death
  - Spirit-filled Christianity leads to liberty—how?
    - Only a believer has the veil removed and can truly understand and obey
    - Not as a slave but as a child of God
    - Free from fear, free from trying to please God, free from pride in religion

## **2 Corinthians 3:18**

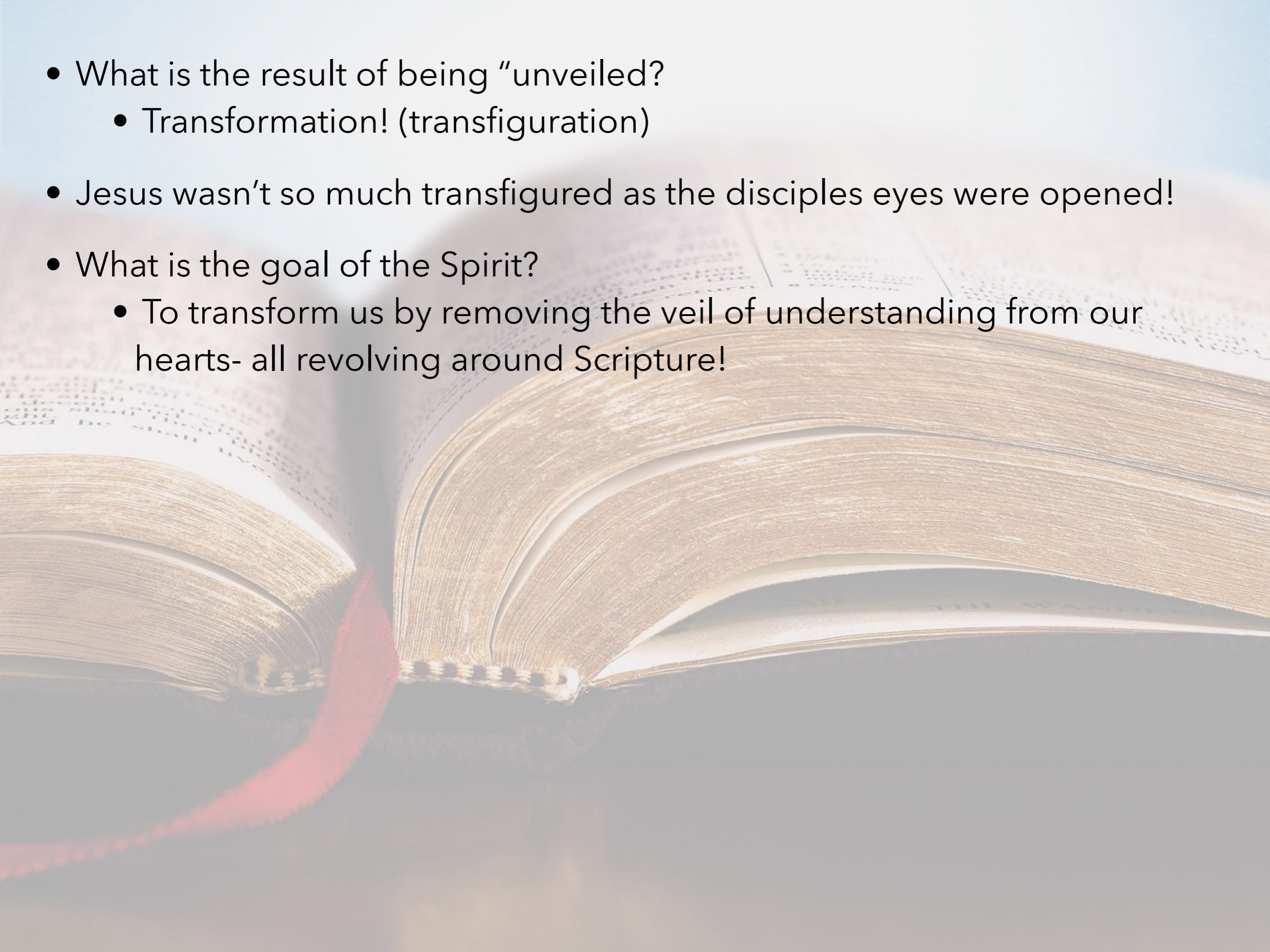
18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.



- What is the key to being transformed?
  - “Beholding Jesus” = seeing him in Scripture with our core wide open; spending time with him; loving him; desperately wanting him
- We become like the people we look at and love and spend time with
  - Who are you becoming like?
  - Who is becoming like you?



- What is the result of being “unveiled?”
  - Transformation! (transfiguration)
- Jesus wasn’t so much transfigured as the disciples eyes were opened!
- What is the goal of the Spirit?
  - To transform us by removing the veil of understanding from our hearts- all revolving around Scripture!



## **Psalm 119:169-176**

169 Let my cry come before You, O Lord;  
Give me understanding according to Your word.

170 Let my supplication come before You;  
Deliver me according to Your word.

171 Let my lips utter praise,  
For You teach me Your statutes.

172 Let my tongue sing of Your word,  
For all Your commandments are righteousness.

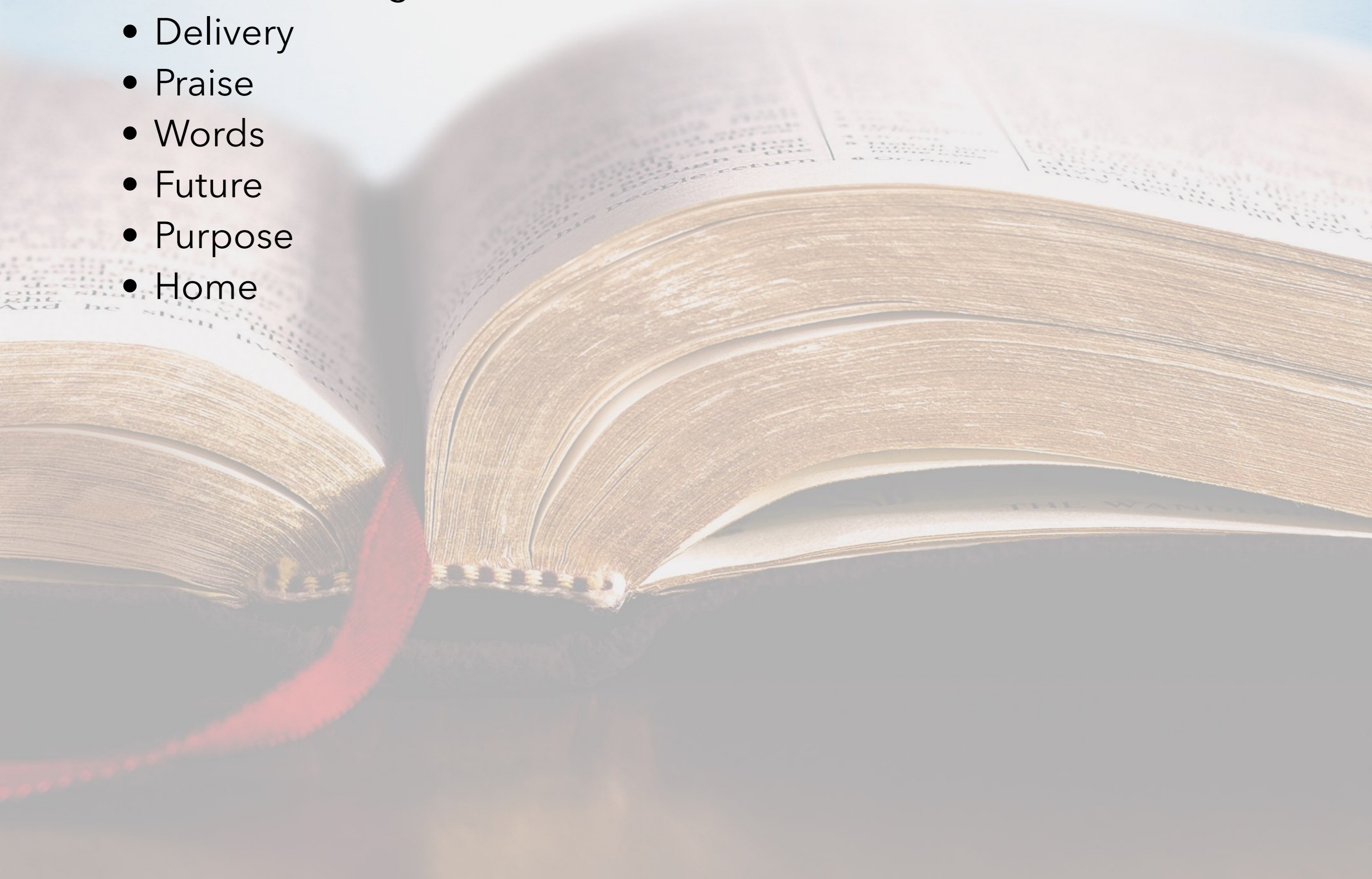
173 Let Your hand be [d]ready to help me,  
For I have chosen Your precepts.

174 I long for Your salvation, O Lord,  
And Your law is my delight.

175 Let my soul live that it may praise You,  
And let Your ordinances help me.

176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant,  
For I do not forget Your commandments.

- When the veil is removed, what can we expect as we read Scripture?
  - Understanding
  - Delivery
  - Praise
  - Words
  - Future
  - Purpose
  - Home





- What would it look like for you to behold the glory of Christ?
- What parts of your character would be transformed?
- Will you join us at TSF to read the Bible like that this summer?
- Will you ask the Spirit to remove your veils so you can know liberty in Scripture?

