

1 CORINTHIANS

The Gospel
in Community

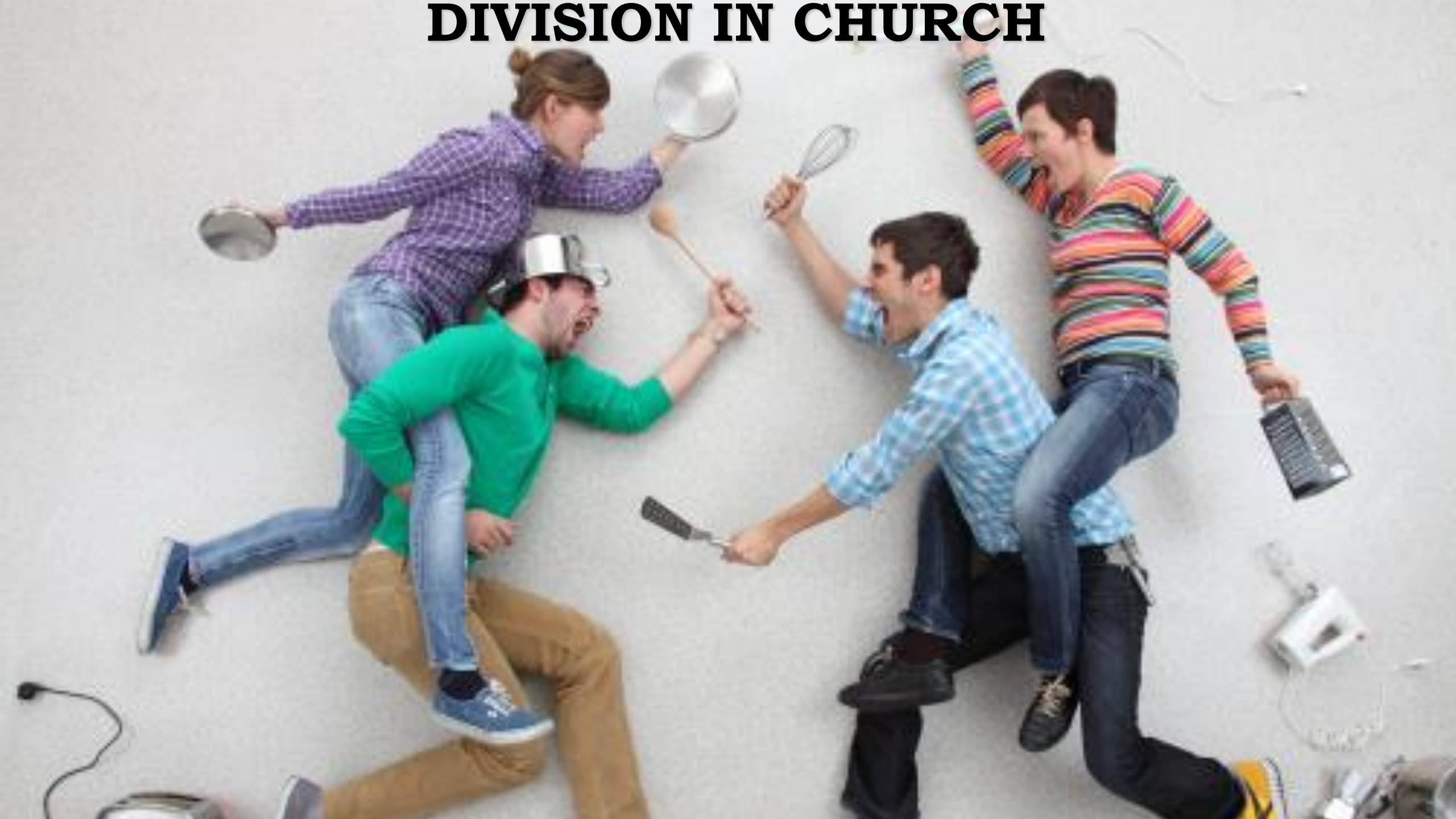
WHEN FAITH AND LIFE COLLIDE

Study 2

THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S WISDOM

I Corinthians 1:18-2:16

DIVISION IN CHURCH



**MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE GOSPEL
AND CHURCH, AND THE ROLE OF
THEIR TEACHERS,**

INFLUENCE OF GREEK PHILOSOPHERS



WORLDLY WISDOM VS SPIRITUAL WISDOM

OUR SECULAR INFLUENCES

Neil deGrasse Tyson
Astrophysicist



Steven J Gould
Evolutionary Biologist



AGNOTICS



Clever
arguments....
Wisdom
Eloquence



1. THE POWER LIES IN THE CROSS NOT WISDOM

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

2. THE CROSS IS IRRATIONAL ONLY TO THOSE WHO ARE SPIRITUALLY DEAD

The message of the gospel is not flawed it is the wisdom of the world

18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS-ATHEIST ON RELIGION

Absurd ideas not based on reason and evidence

- Un worthy of intellectual respect.
- Historically led to or facilitated war, genocide, and ethnic cleansing. They have enslaved millions, impeded medical and scientific research



THE CROSS HAS A POLARISING EFFECT



Sign of Judgement –Like Israel in Isaiah 6
We do not loose heart

3. GOD'S WISDOM IS DESIGNED TO DEFY HUMAN LOGIC

**1 Corinthians 1:19 For it is written, "I will
destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the
discernment of the discerning I will
thwart."**

THE WISDOM OF GOD



3. GOD'S WISDOM IS DESIGNED TO DEFY HUMAN LOGIC

**20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe?
Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made
foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the
wisdom of God, the world did not know God through
wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we
preach to save those who believe.**

4. HUMAN LOGIC TRAPS HIM

1 Corinthians 1:22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.





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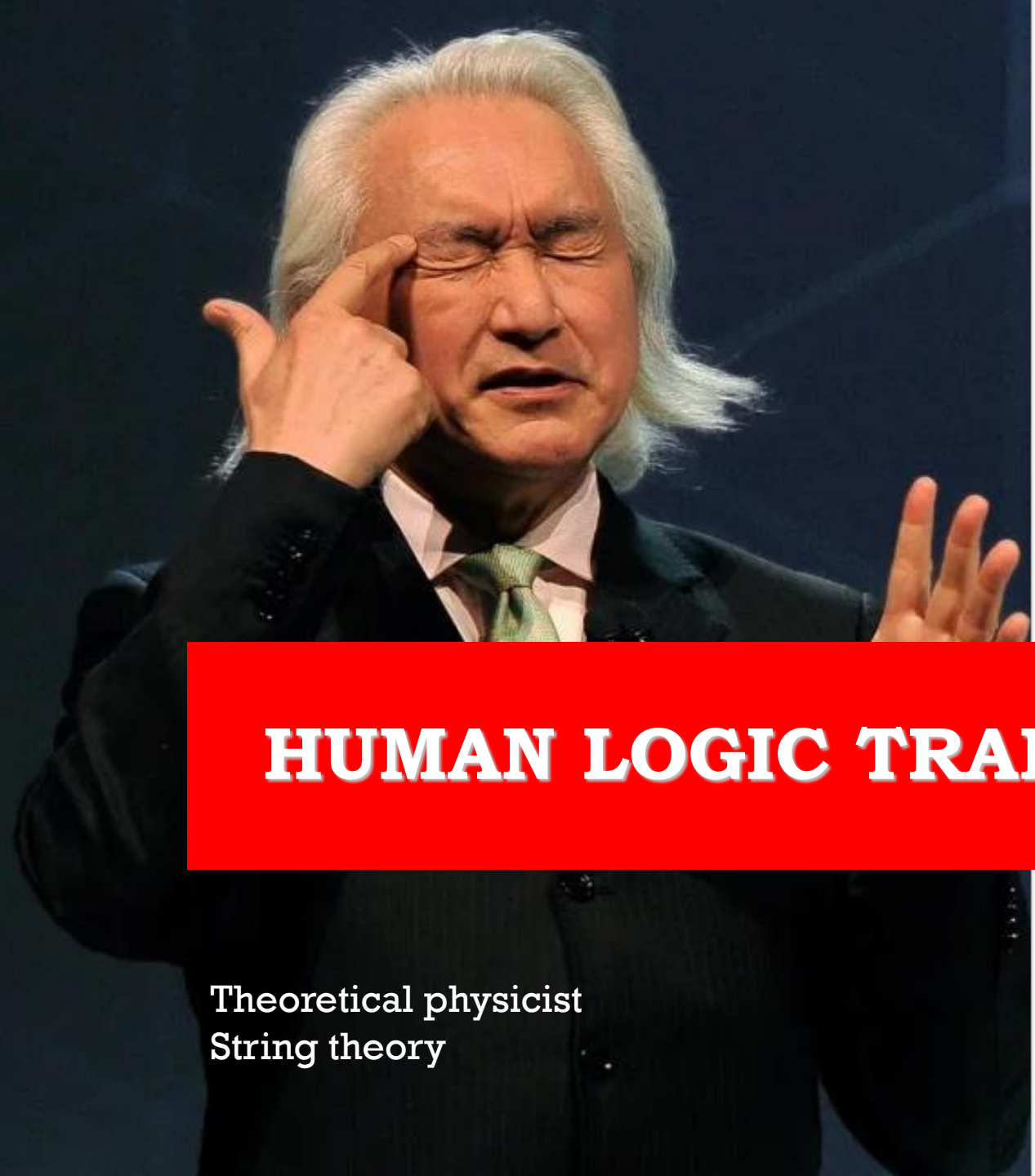
RABBI TRYPHO' S REPLY

“But this your so –called Christ is without honor and glory and glory so that he is even fallen into the uttermost curse that is in the Law of God for he was crucified”

DEUTERONOMY 21:22-23

22 "And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, 23 his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day,

for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance



MICHO KAKU

“I have concluded that we are in a world made by rules created by an intelligence. To me, it is

that we exist in a plan is governed by rules that were created, shaped by a universal intelligence and not by chance.”

HUMAN LOGIC TRAPS HIM

Theoretical physicist
String theory

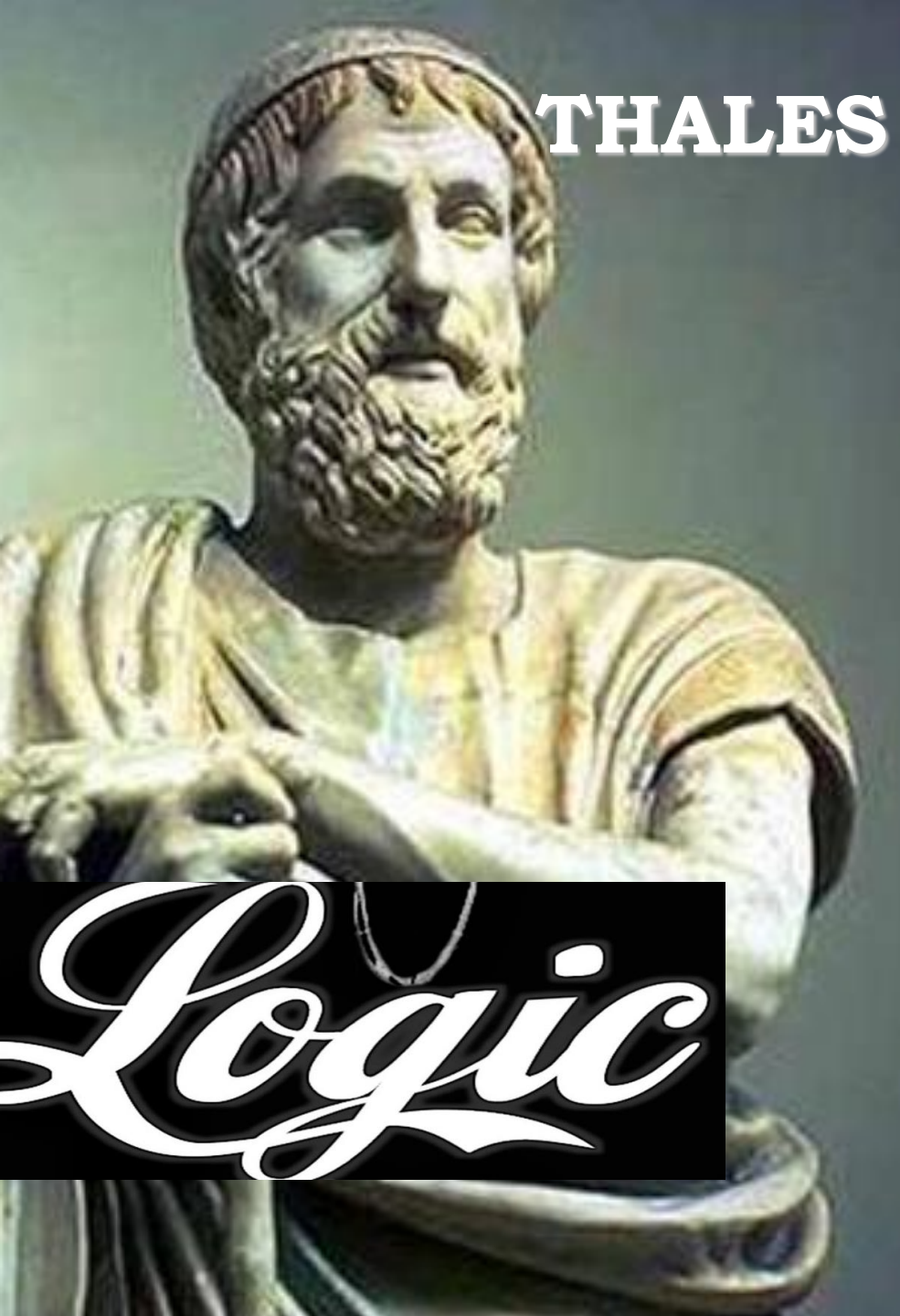
“SKANDALON”

- 23 ..but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles

“that which causes offense or revulsion and results in opposition, disapproval, or hostility, fault, stain ”..BDAG

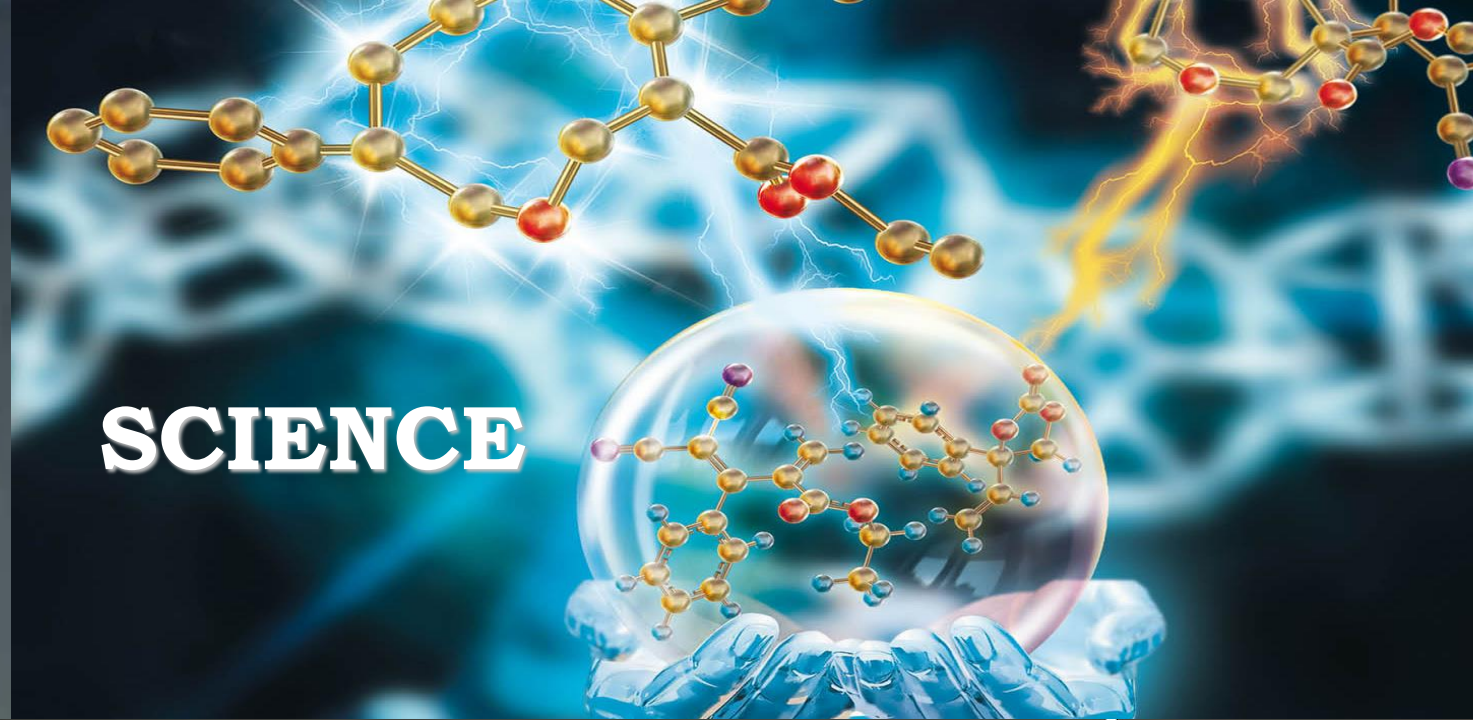


SOPHISTS



THALES

Logic



SCIENCE



LOGIC

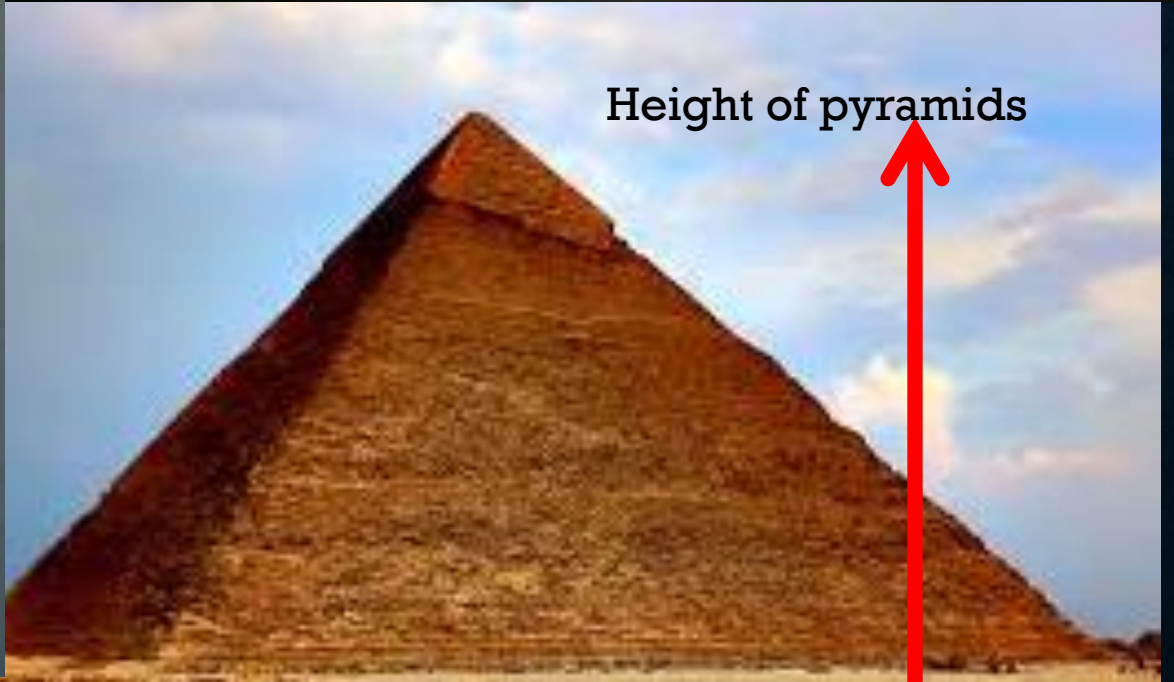
Looking at world in a logical way



Worked out total eclipse of sun



Height of pyramids



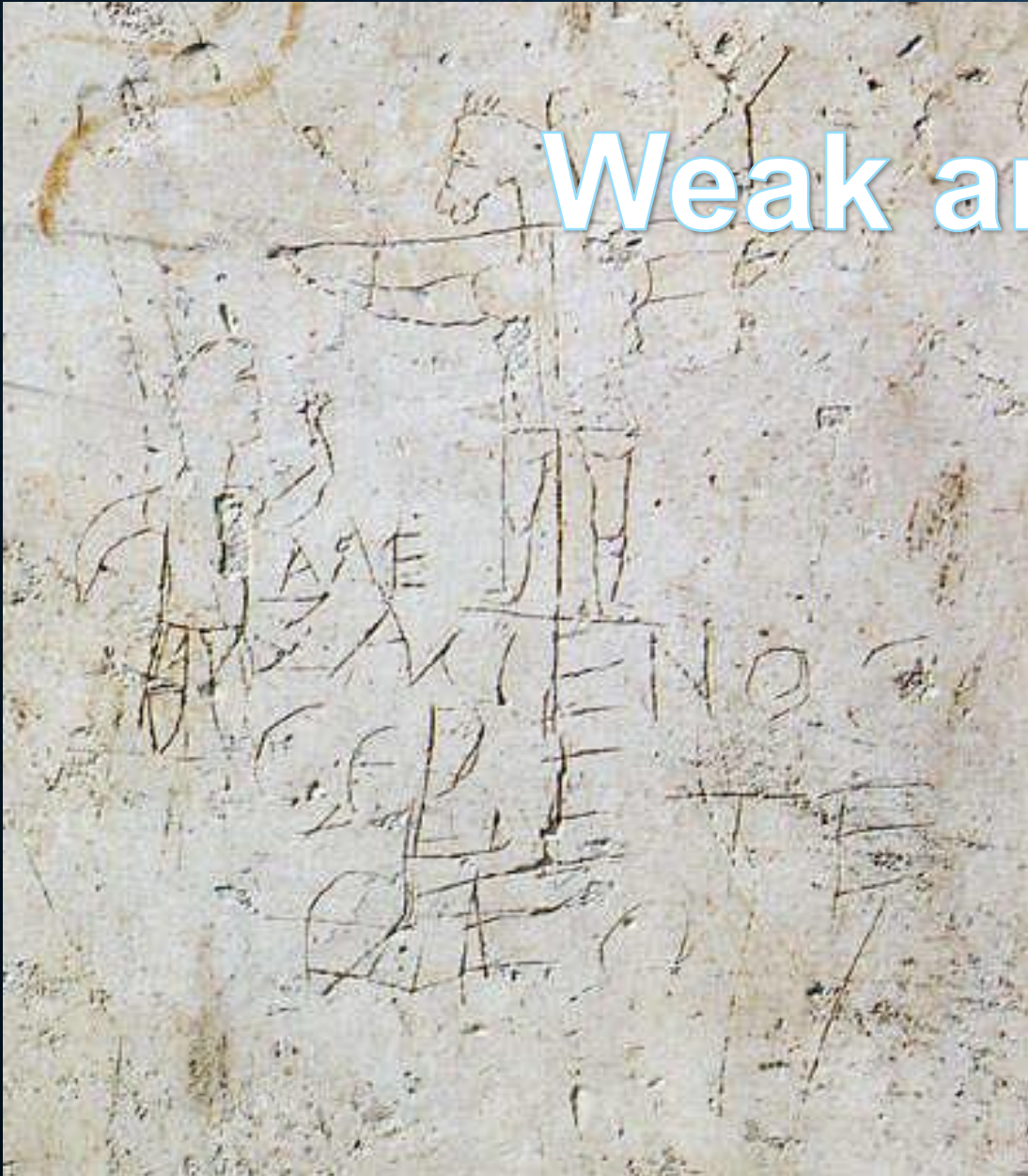
CELSUS--REASON



God is good and beautiful and happy, and if that which is most beautiful and best, if then he descends to man it involves change for him and a change from good to bad from beautiful to ugly, from happiness to unhappiness from what is best to what is worst, and God would never accept such a change

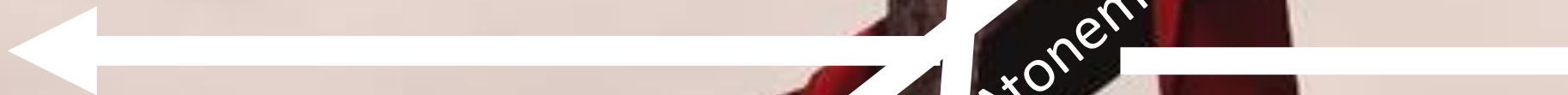
ALEXAMENOS WORSHIPS HIS GOD

Weak and Stupid



THREE DIMENSIONS OF GOSPEL WISDOM

Resurrection/forward-back.



Incarnation/upside-down



Atonement/inside-out



**WHAT PROOF DOES PAUL
OFFER?**

5. THE CORINTHIANS THEMSELVES ARE EVIDENCE OF THE POWER OF THE CROSS



1 Corinthians 1: 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.



27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are

Who would you tutor?



Why do we use famous celebrities
to validate God?



beacon

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Established 1969

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...red from FEAR
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...ed by God's Love

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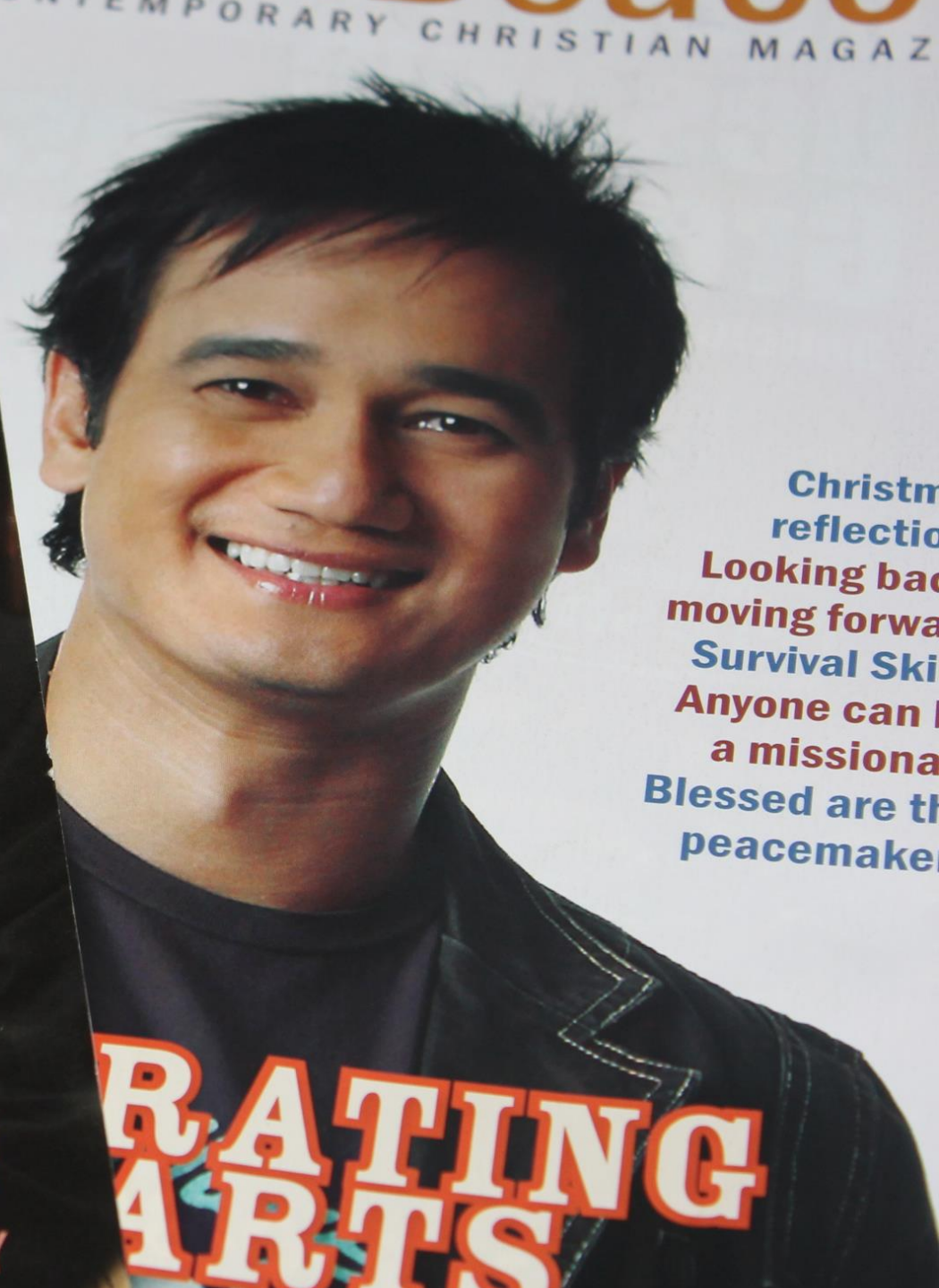
*Love is
in the Air*

The Splendour
of **LOVE**
Of **LOVE, LIFE**
& Other Mysteries

Office **AFFAIRS**

Can I Find the
PERFECT MATE?

...JOURNEY



Christm
reflectio
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Survival Ski
Anyone can l
a missiona
Blessed are th
peacemake

RATING
ARTS

6. THE CROSS PROVES THAT SALVATION IS UNMISTAKABLY GOD'S

29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

7. PAUL'S PREACHING IS BASED ON THE CROSS

High sounding rhetoric, Lofty words, Big words

1 Corinthians 2:1-2 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified

...v 4 with persuasive (words of) wisdom

7. PAUL'S PREACHING IS BASED ON THE CROSS

1 Corinthians 2:3-5 (ESV) And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

PAUL IS AS WEAK AS HIS MESSIAH

- **2 Corinthians 10:10** 10 For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account."
- **Galatians 4:14** 14 and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus.

A woman with long dark hair in a braid, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, has a shocked expression with wide eyes and shrugging hands. The text is overlaid on her face.

**HOW DOES THIS MAKE
SENSE?
DOES NOT SOUND LOGICAL**

1. THE NATURE OF WISDOM

1 Corinthians 2:6 (ESV) Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.

Our thinking is governed by the limits of our immediate horizons, the physical world which is temporal and will pass away

2. SPIRITUAL WISDOM WAS DELIBERATELY HIDDEN BUT NOW REVEALED IN THE GOSPEL AND MEANT FOR US

The purpose of this wisdom is to bring us to glory

1 Corinthians 2:7-9 (ESV) But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But, as it is written,

Spiritual wisdom not understood by the elite

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

Unimaginable glory

1 Corinthi... 2:10-12 (ECC) 11:13-14
God's wisdom is divine revelations through the Spirit through the spirit.

For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

1 The wisdom revealed to us is the most intimate truth because
it comes from the Spirit of God

For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

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1 Corinthians 2:10-13 (ESV) these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we can tell the things that God has given us by His Spirit. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

The wisdom we share with you comes from His Spirit and is can only be accepted by believers who have His Spirit too

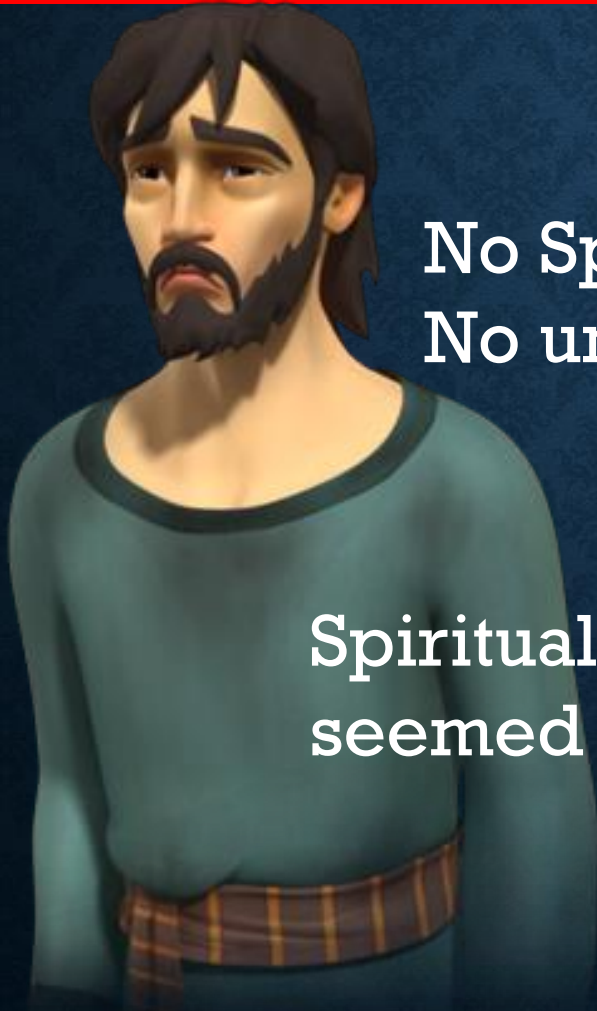
13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

1 Corinthians 2:14-16 (ESV) The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

COMPARISON

Natural Person



No Spirit of God
No understanding

Spiritual things
seemed stupid

Spiritual Person



Spirit of God
reveals the
things of God

Does not lead to elitism; it
leads to a deeper
understanding of God's
profound mystery—
redemption through a
crucified Messiah.

COMPARISON

Natural Person

Spiritual Person



Carnal Christian

Alternative view

Diminishes the cross
Spiritual Elitism



Spiritual Christian
Leader
2nd blessing

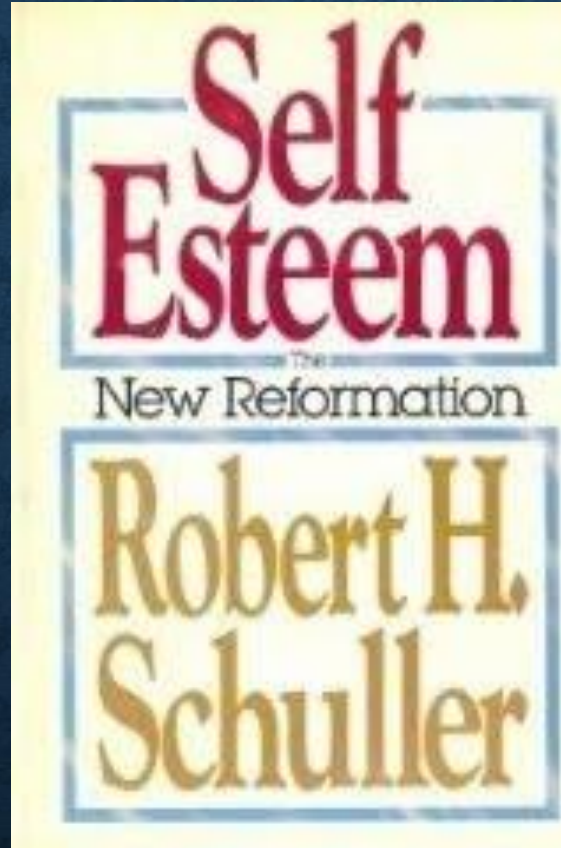
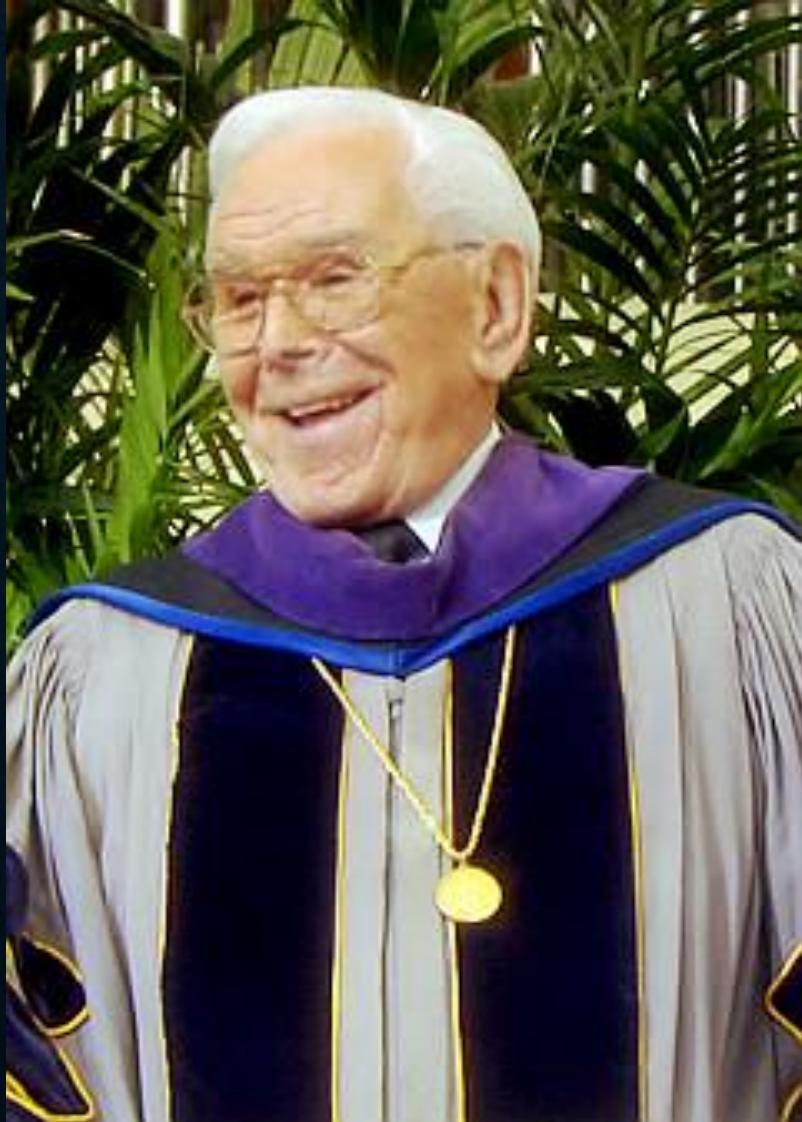
THE GOSPEL IN COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS FOR US

- **The Cross should mould our message**
- **The Cross should mould our minds**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-5-DON'T MESS WITH MESSAGE

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God..

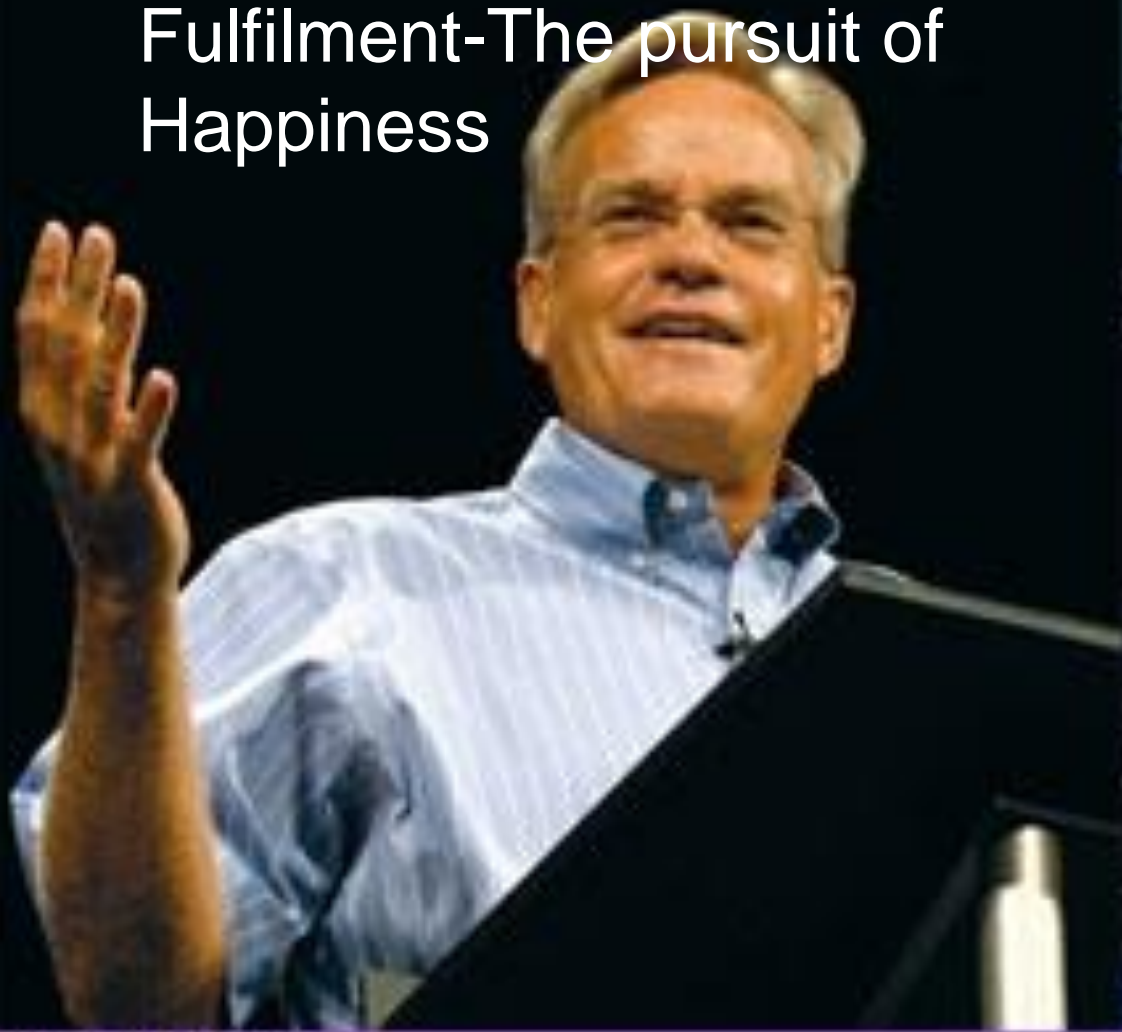
TAMPERING WITH GOD'S WORD HUMAN NEED



Find out what would impress the non churched in your community—give it to them

BILL HYBELS

The Need: Personal
Fulfilment-The pursuit of
Happiness



Bill Hybels

Willow Creek Community Church - South E

REDEFINITION OF SIN

- *“Flawed strategy to gain fulfilment”*
- Defined as sickness or addiction
- Sinner-victim



A close-up photograph of a man with a shocked or angry expression. His eyes are wide open, and his mouth is slightly agape. Two jets of white steam or smoke are coming out of his ears, suggesting intense anger or frustration. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. The background is dark with some light streaks.

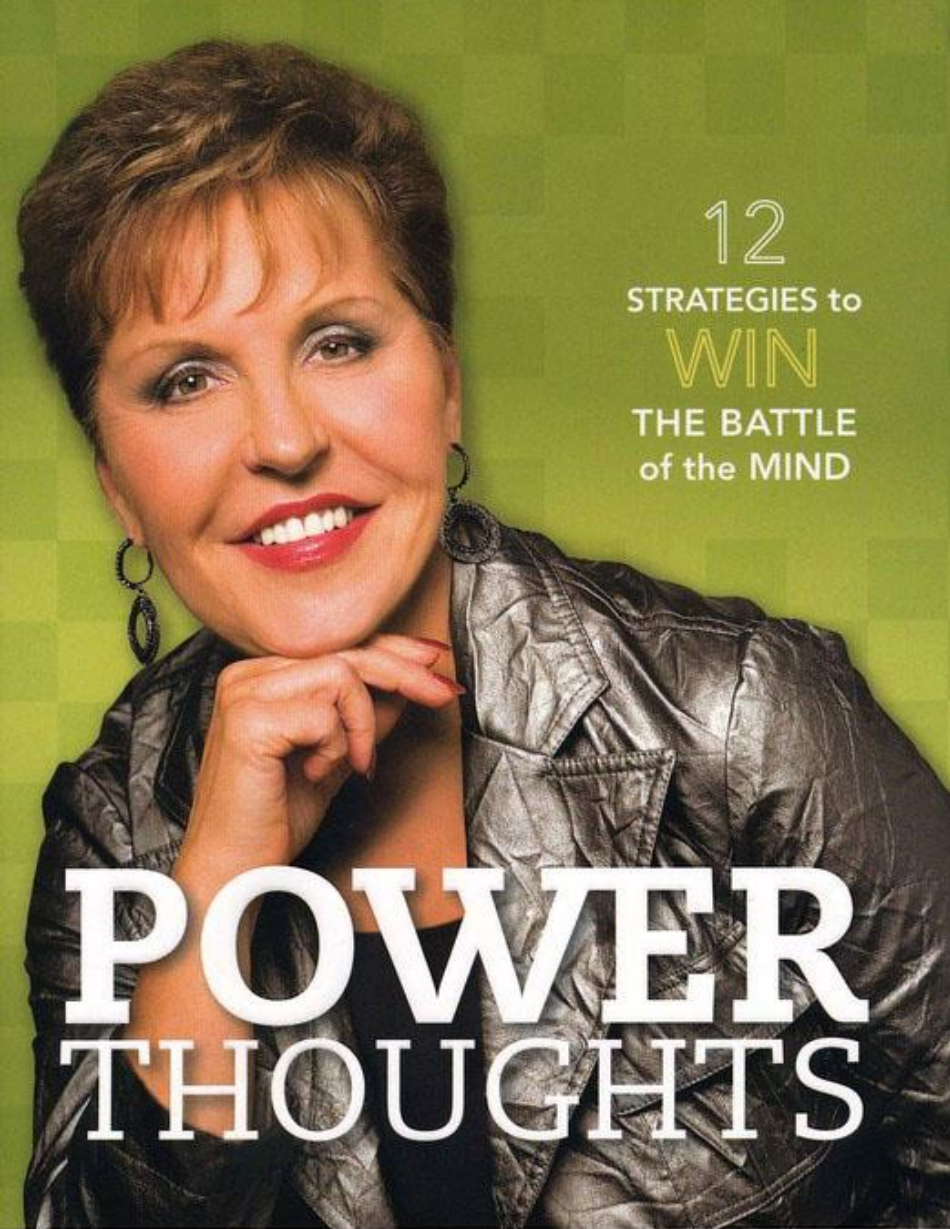
BAD TEMPER

Abusive father—deep seated
resentment against him and in his
temper he is subconsciously acting out
Blame Dad and he will feel better

MODIFIED 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS

- God loves you and has a plan for your life
- We make mistakes and decisions that do not please God
- Jesus died on the cross for all the “bad stuff”
- You can accept this forgiveness, follow Jesus and become a Christian through prayer

TRUTH HAS HARD EDGES



12
STRATEGIES to
WIN
THE BATTLE
of the MIND

POWER THOUGHTS

JOYCE MEYER

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

- Chapter 1 : The power of a positive you
- Chapter 2: Teach your mind to work for you
- Chapter 4 : On purpose thinking
- Power thought 2 : God loves me unconditionally
- Power thought 3 I will not live in fear

WHY WE FOLLOW CHRIST?

Gospel

- Sin and impending judgement
- Repentance
- Freedom from sin
- Righteousness
- Eternal Salvation

Watering down the gospel

- Fulfilment
- Self esteem
- Improved marriage
- Thrilling life style
- Purpose

A W Tozer

***THE OLD CROSS SLEW MEN, THE
NEW CROSS ENTERTAINS THEM.
THE OLD CROSS CONDEMNS MEN
THE NEW CROSS AMUSES. THE
OLD CROSS DESTROYED
CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH ; THE
NEW CROSS ENCOURAGES IT***

