

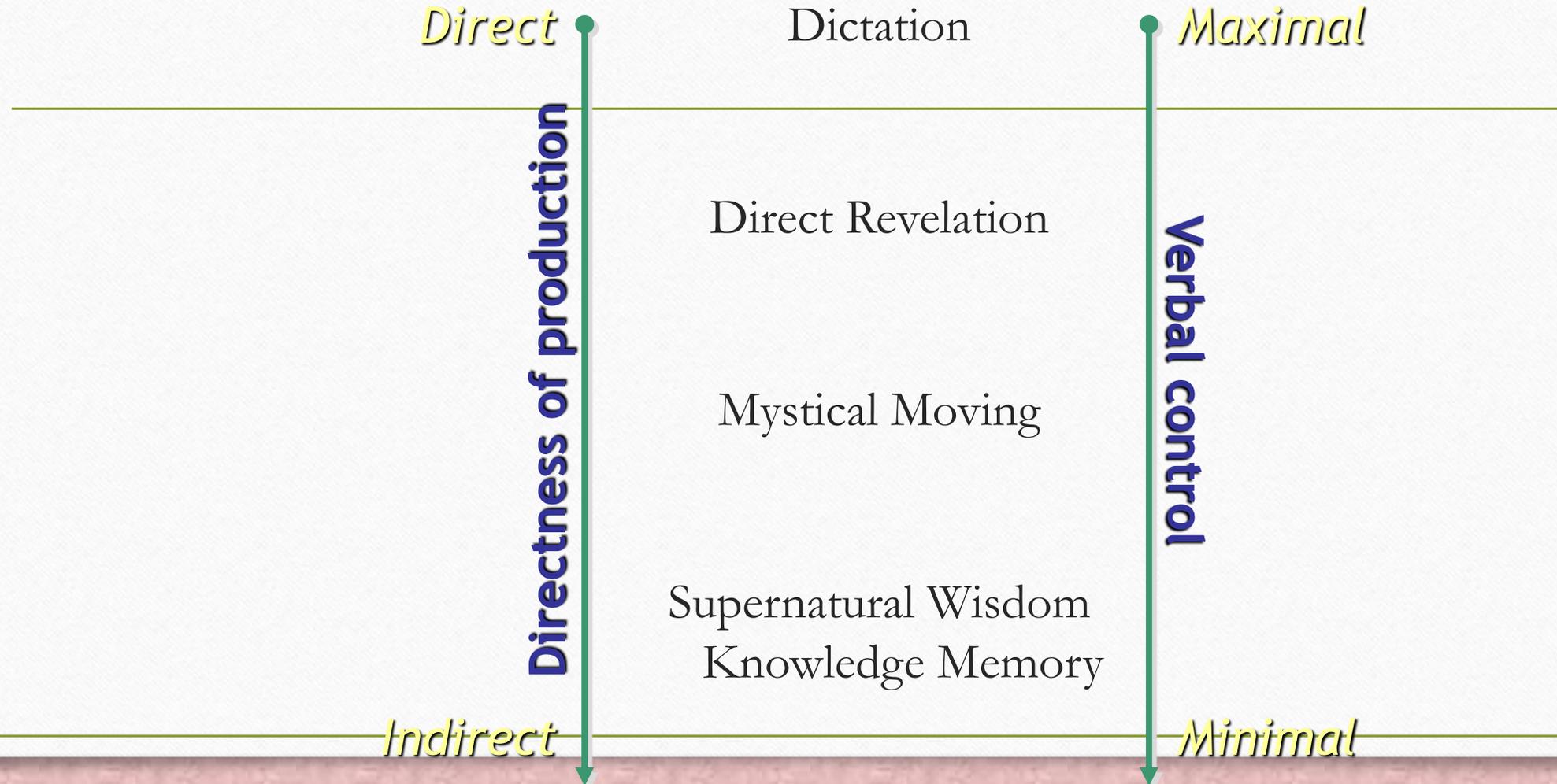


INSPIRATION METHODS

Inspiration Methods



Methods of Inspiration

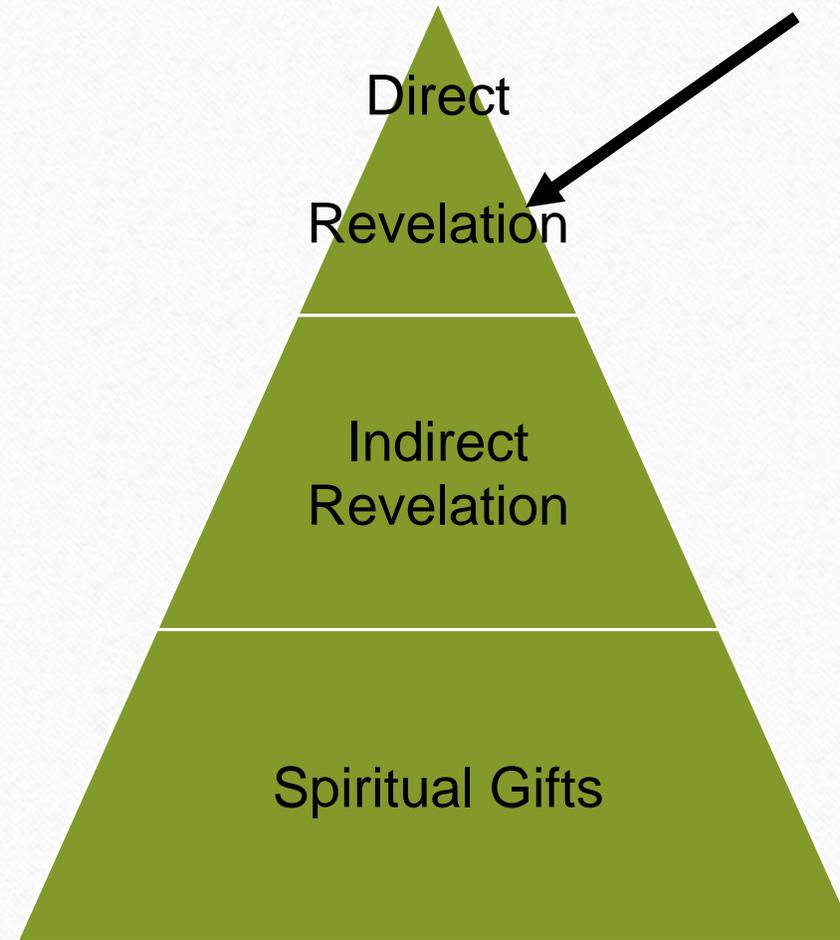




**1. God Spoke
Words And Men
Recorded Them**

Dictation

- Mechanical
- God dictates exact words
- Usually very short texts
 - The Decalogue (Exod 34)
 - Letters to the 7 churches (Rev 2–3)
- No such explicit claim for a complete biblical book



MEN RECORDED WHAT GOD SAID

- Exodus 20:1-2
- **And God spoke all these words:**
 - “
2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.
 - 3 “You shall have no other gods before me.

MEN RECORDED WHAT GOD SAID

- **Acts 21:10-11**
- While we remained there for a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. He came to us, took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it, and said, *“The Holy Spirit says this:* “This is the way the Jews in Jerusalem will tie up the man whose belt this is, and will hand him over to the Gentiles.”

MEN RECORDED WHAT GOD SAID

- 1 Tim 4:1-3
- Now the *Spirit explicitly says* that in the later times some will desert the faith and occupy themselves with deceiving Spirits and demonic teachings, influenced by the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared. They will prohibit marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

MEN RECORDED WHAT GOD SAID

- Heb 3:7-8
- Therefore, as the *Holy Spirit* says,
- “*Oh, that today you would listen as he speaks!*”
- “*Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of testing in the wilderness.*”



2. God's Words On Mens Lips

GOD'S WORDS ON MEN'S LIPS

- 2 Sam 3:1-3

These are the last words of David:

- “**The inspired utterance of David** son of Jesse, the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, the hero of Israel's songs:
- ²“The Spirit of **the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue.** ³ **The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said** to me:

GOD SPOKE THROUGH MEN

- Nehemiah 9:29-31
- **By your Spirit you warned them through your prophets. Yet** they paid no attention, so you gave them into the hands of the neighboring peoples.

GOD'S WORDS ON MEN'S LIPS

- Isaiah 59:20-21
- “The Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,”
declares the LORD.
- ²¹ “As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says
the LORD. “**My Spirit, who is on you, will not
depart from you, and my words that I have put
in your mouth will always be on your lips,** on
the lips of your children and on the lips of their
descendants—from this time on and forever,”
says the LORD.
- See also Isaiah 51:16

GOD'S WORDS ON MEN'S LIPS

- **Jeremiah 1:9-12**
- ⁹ Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, **“I have put my words in your mouth.** ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”
- ¹¹ **The word of the LORD came to me: “What do you see, Jeremiah?”**
- **“I see the branch of an almond tree,” I replied.**
- ¹² The LORD said to me, “You have seen correctly, for I am watching^[b] to see that my word is fulfilled.”

GOD SPOKE THROUGH MEN

- **Matthew 10:18-20**
- And you will be brought before governors and kings because of me, as a witness to them and the Gentiles. Whenever they hand you over for trial, do not worry about how to speak or what to say, for what you should say will be given to you at that time. *For it is not you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

GOD SPOKE THROUGH MEN

- **ACTS 1:15-17**
- In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty people) and said, “Brothers, the scripture had to be fulfilled that the *Holy Spirit foretold through David* concerning Judas – who became the guide for those who arrested Jesus –for he was counted as one of us and received a share in this ministry.”

GOD SPOKE THROUGH MEN

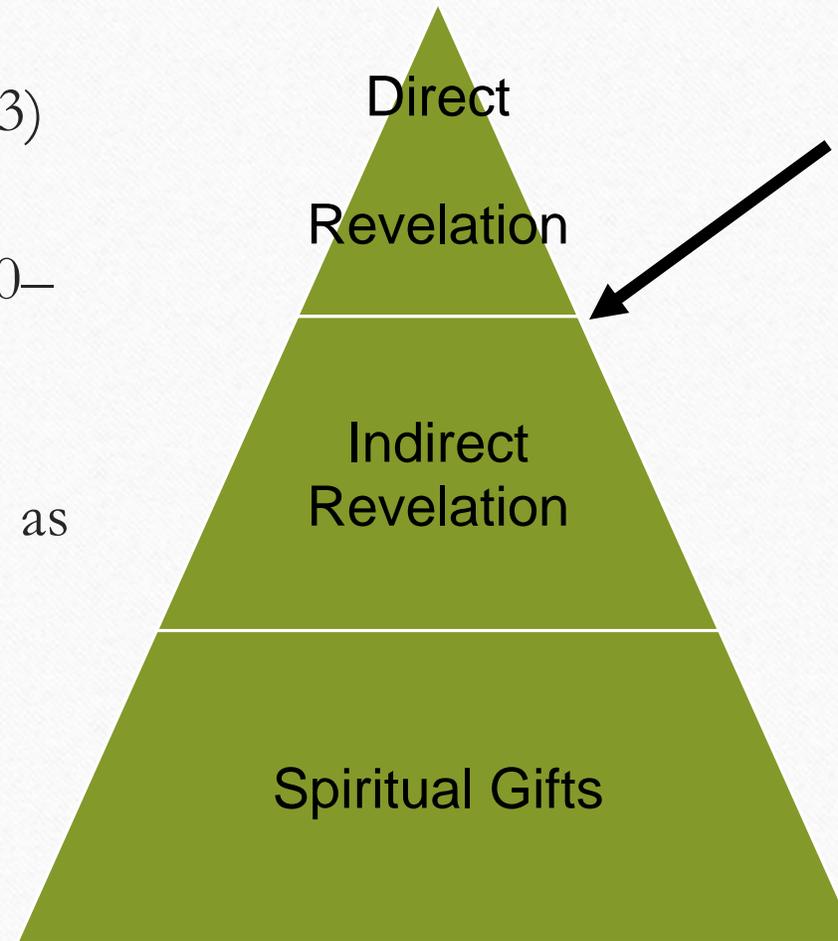
- Acts 28:24-25
- Some were convinced by what he said, but others refused to believe. So they began to leave, unable to agree among themselves, after Paul made one last statement: “*The Holy Spirit spoke rightly to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah*”



**3. GOD'S VISUALS
ARE RECORDED
BY MEN**

- God gives the *message*, but not the *words* (“quasi-dictation”)
- Typical for prophetic visions
 - Habakkuk’s vision of Chaldea’s demise (Hab 2:2–3)
 - Ezekiel’s vision of the idealized temple (Ezek 43:10–11)
- Probable for many prophetic speeches (and symbolic actions) as well

Visions



Visuals

- Exodus 25:8-9
- **8** “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. **9** Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly **like the pattern I will show you.**

VISUALS

- Ezekiel 2:9-10
- ⁹ Then I looked, and **I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll,** ¹⁰ **which he unrolled before me.** On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe.

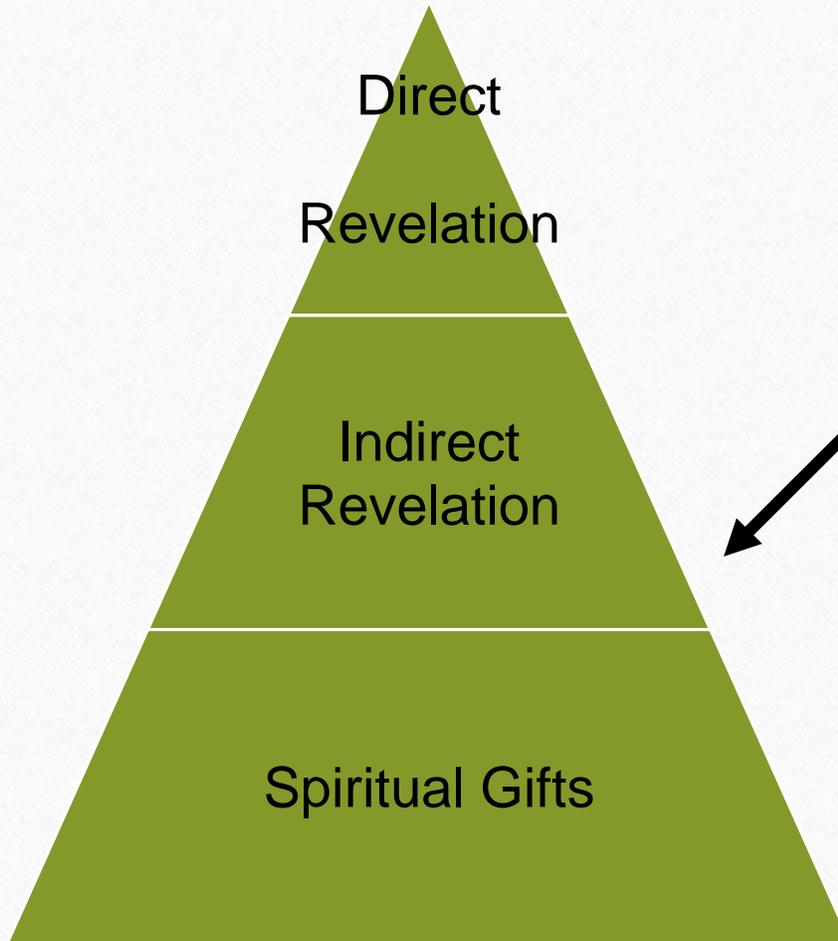
VISUALS

- Jeremiah 1:11-12
- **11 The word of the LORD came to me: “What do you see, Jeremiah?”**
- **“I see the branch of an almond tree,” I replied.**
- 12 The LORD said to me, “You have seen correctly, for I am watching^[b] to see that my word is fulfilled.”

4. MEN SPOKE

**BY OR
THROUGH
THE SPIRIT**

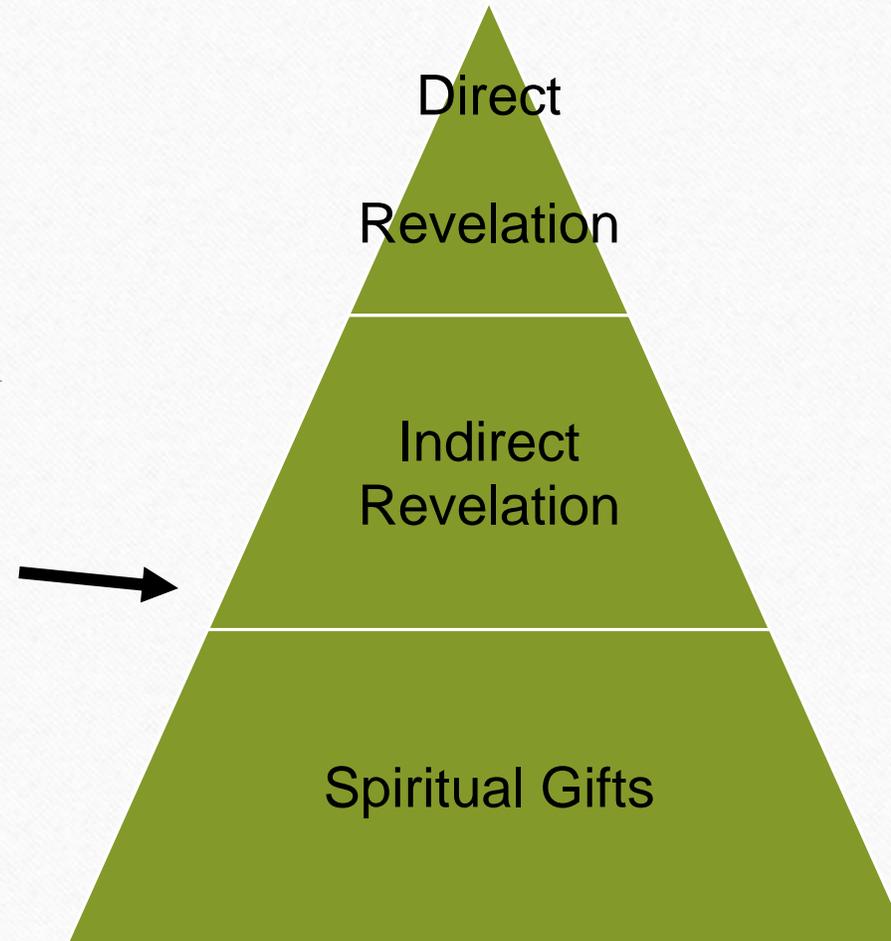
Mystical Moving By Holy Spirit



- John 15:26,27
- “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, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

Mystical Moving By Holy Spirit

- 2 Pet. 1:20-21
- “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”



INSPIRED = IN-SPIRIT

- Ezekiel 2:1-2
- He said to me, “Son of man,^[a] stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.”² As he spoke, **the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.**

MEN SPOKE BY THE SPIRIT

- Matt. 22:41-43
- While the Pharisees were assembled, Jesus asked them a question: “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said, “The son of David.” He said to them, “*How then does David by the Spirit call him ‘Lord,’ saying,*
- *22:44 ‘The Lord said to my lord,*
- *“Sit at my right hand,*
- *until I put your enemies under your feet”?*
- See also Mark 12:35-36

MEN SPOKE BY THE SPIRIT

- Acts 4:24-25
- When they heard this, they raised their voices to God with one mind and said, “Master of all, you who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, *who said by the Holy Spirit* through your servant David our forefather,
- ‘*Why do the nations rage,*
- *and the peoples plot foolish things?*

MEN SPOKE BY THE SPIRIT

- Acts 11:27-28
- At that time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, *got up and predicted by the Spirit* that a severe famine was about to come over the whole inhabited world. (This took place during the reign of Claudius.)

MEN SPOKE THROUGH THE SPIRIT

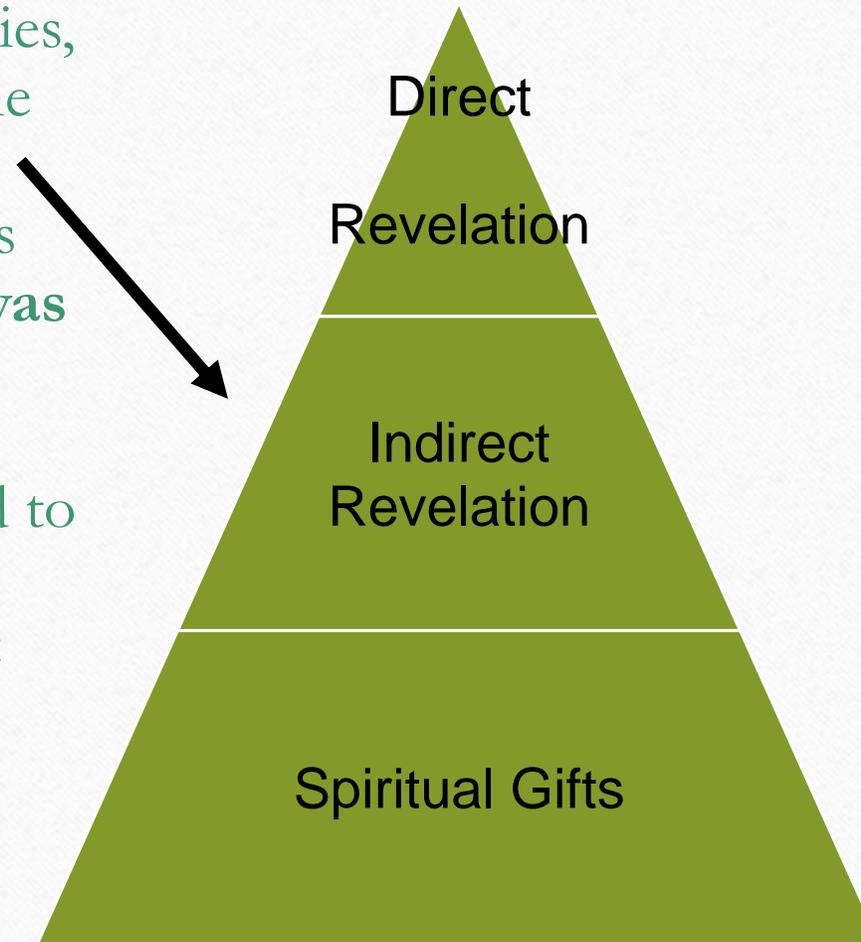
- Acts 21:4
- After we located the disciples, we stayed there seven days. *They repeatedly told Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem.* 21:5 When our time was over, we left and went on our way. All of them, with their wives and children, accompanied us outside of the city. After kneeling down on the beach and praying,



5. The Spirit
Taught Men
What to Say

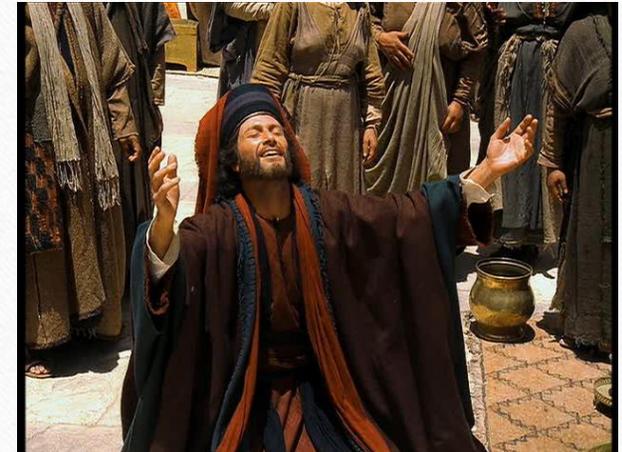
Prophecy

- As to this salvation, the **prophets who prophesied** of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the **Spirit of Christ within them** was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. **It was revealed to them** that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who **preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--**things into which angels long to look.
- 1 Peter 1:10-12



Supernatural Knowledge & Wisdom

- 1 Cor. 2:12-13 -- but **we speak God's wisdom** in a mystery...For to us God revealed them through the Spirit....; Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now **we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak**, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.



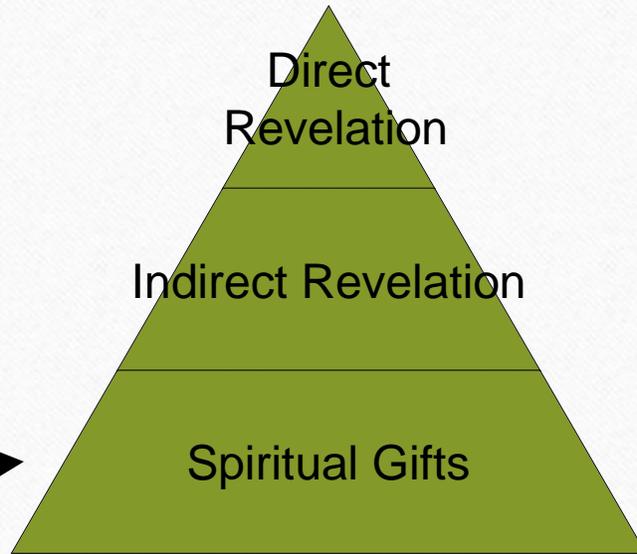
HS Teaches What to Say

- **Mark 12:11-12**

- But when they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you should make your defense or what you should say, **12:12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that moment what you must say.**
- **Mark 13:11**
- When they arrest you and hand you over for trial, do not worry about what to speak. But say whatever is given you at that time, **for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.**
- See also Luke 12:11-12

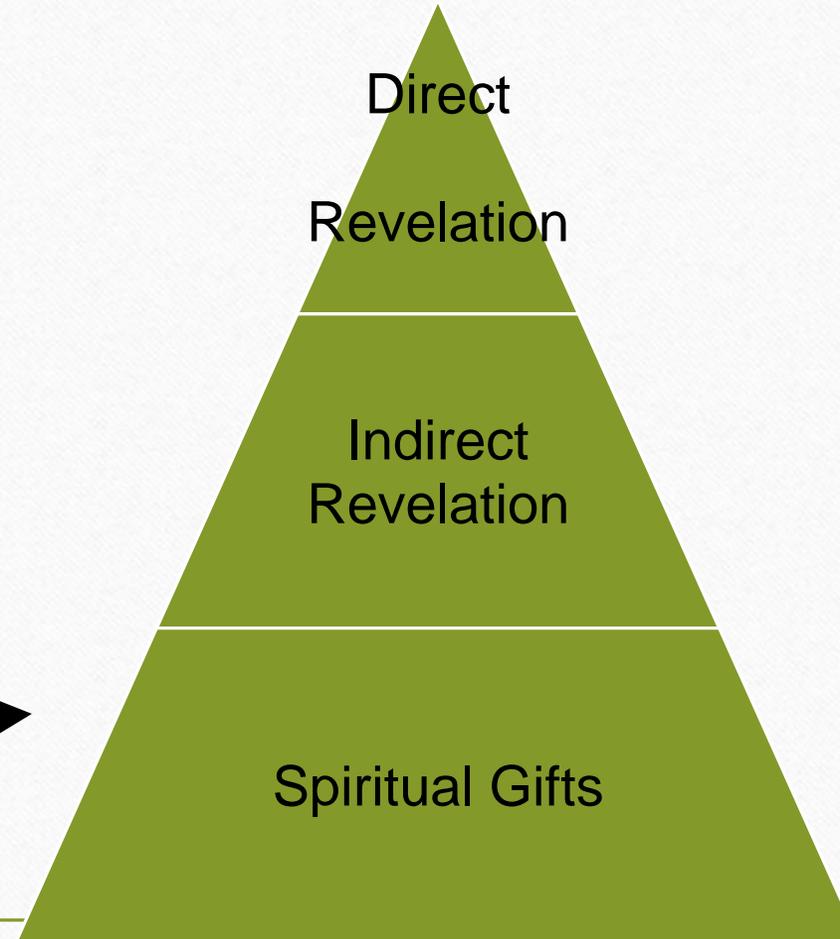
HS Teaches What to Say

- John 14:26
- “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.*”

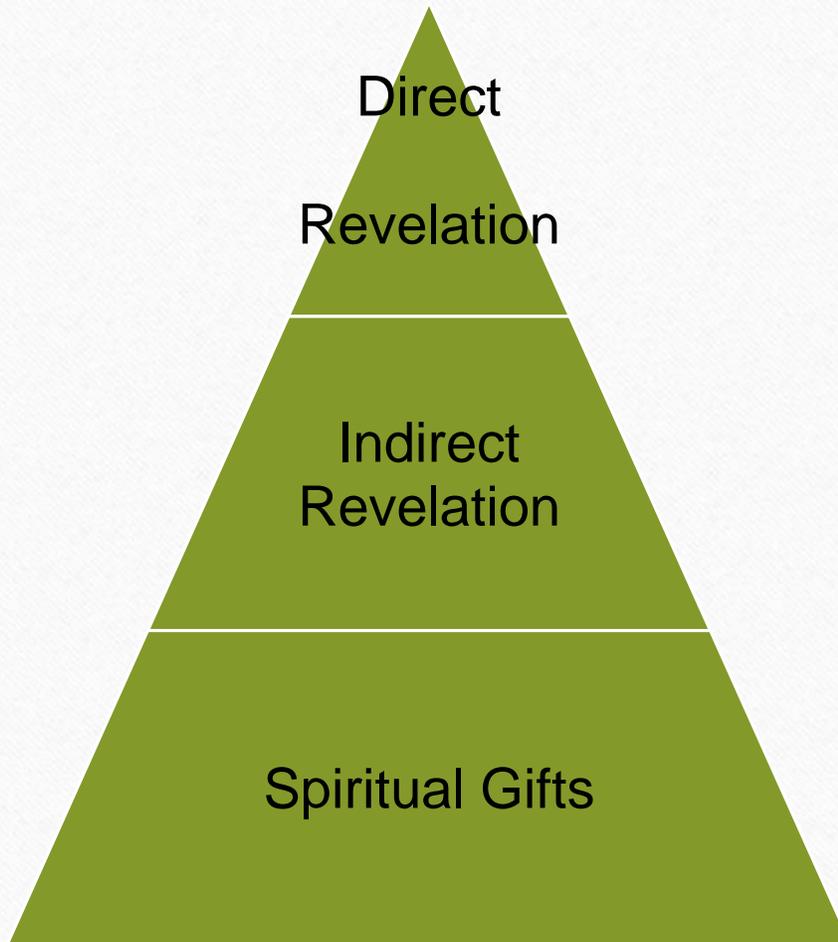


Supernatural Knowledge And Memory

- John 14:26
- “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.”



Human Originated Responses



God does something that evokes a response

Examples

Roman 7

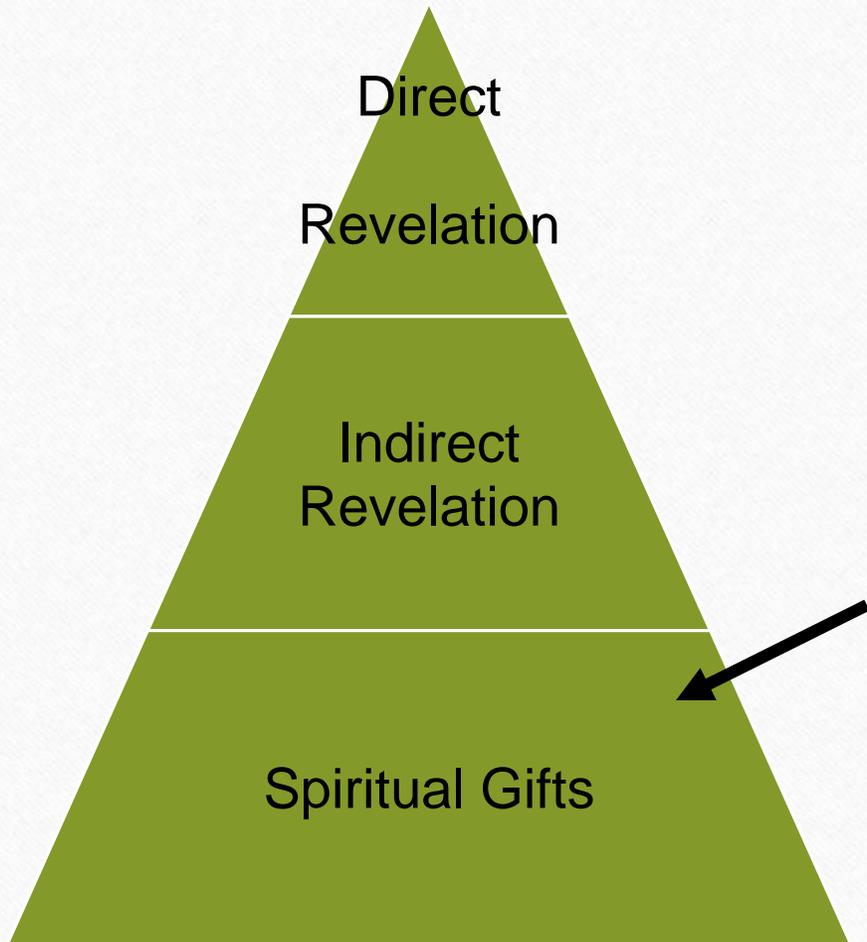
Hymns of praise (Ps 8)

Pleas for help (Ps 44)

Divine action *shapes* but does not *word* these texts



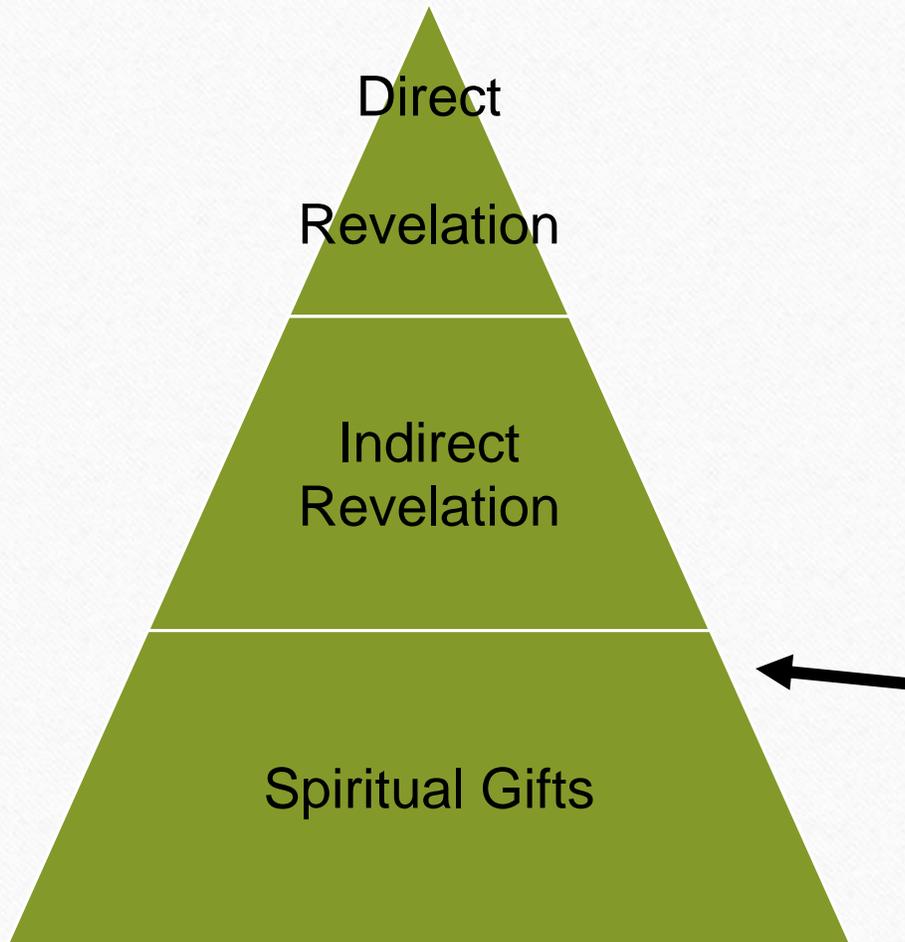
Human Research



(Luke 1:1–4)

Now many have undertaken to compile an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 1:2 like the accounts passed on to us by those who were eyewitnesses and servants of the word from the beginning. So it seemed good to me as well, because I have followed all things carefully from the beginning, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know for certain the things you were taught. During the reign of Herod king of Judea,....

Human Originated Advice



A writer applies knowledge of God to new situations
Found mainly in didactic literature

Explicit in Paul (1 Cor 7:10, 12, 25)

Implicit in Old Testament wisdom literature
(Proverbs; Ecclesiastes)

God's character and prior revelation *shape* but do not *word* these texts

GOD SPOKE TO MEN WHO SPOKE TO US

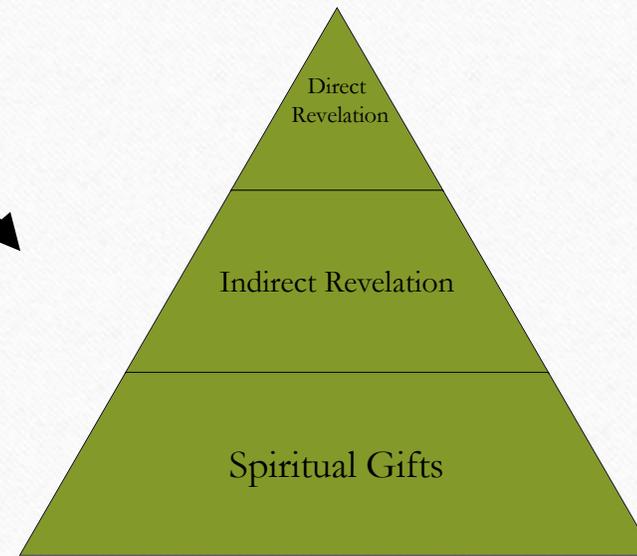
- 1 Thess 4:15
- **According to the Lord's word, we tell you that** we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

HS Witnesses as to the Truth

- Hebrews 10:15-17
- And *the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us*, for after saying, “This is the covenant that I will establish with them after those days, says the Lord. I will put my laws on their hearts and I will inscribe them on their minds,” then he says, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no longer.”

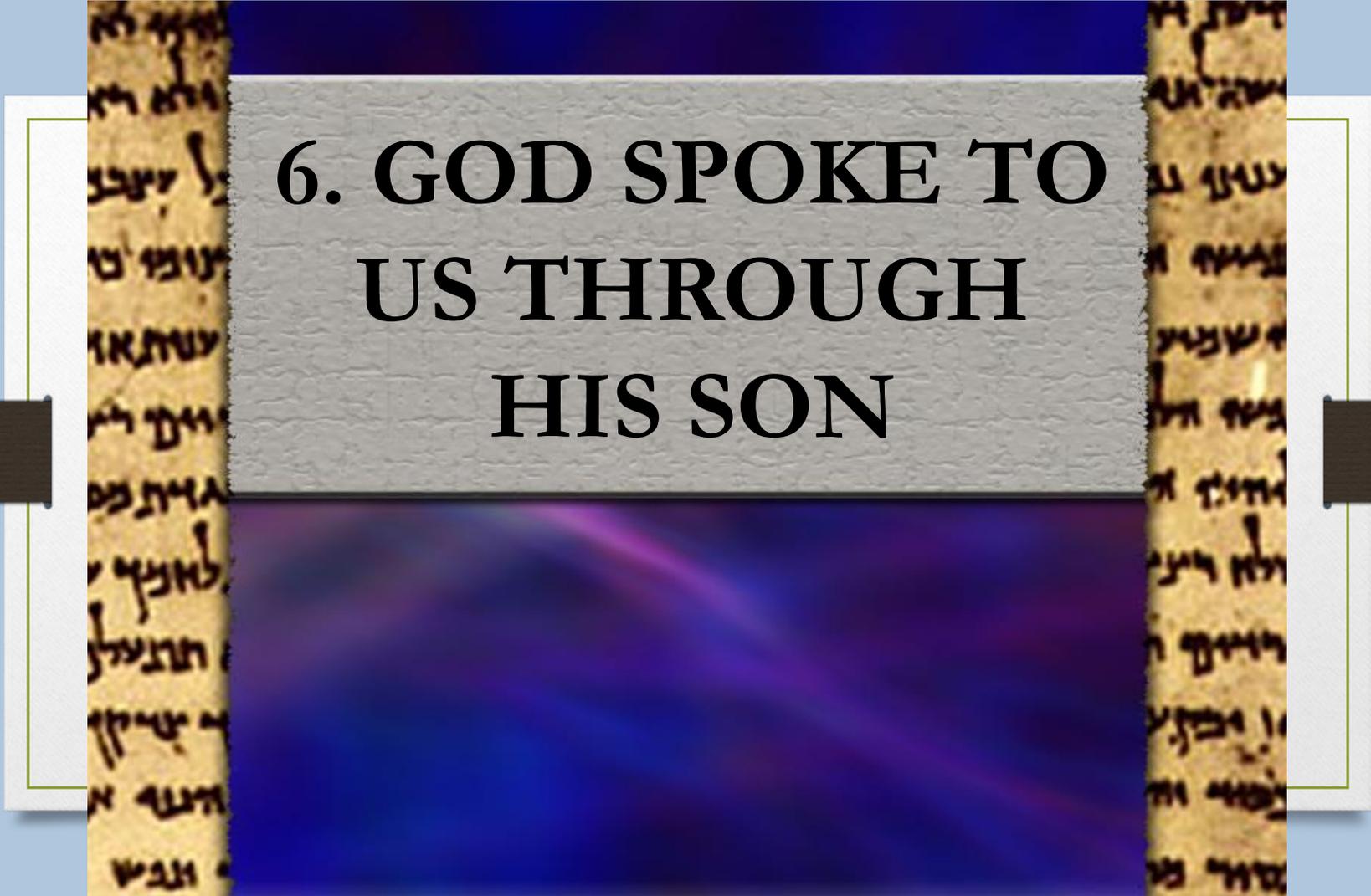
Research Permitted

- 1 Peter 1:10-12
- As to this salvation, the **prophets who prophesied** of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the **Spirit of Christ within them** was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. **It was revealed to them** that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who **preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-**things into which angels long to look.



HS Grants Men Inspired Wisdom

- 2 Pet. 3: 15
- “. . . and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, *according to the wisdom given him*, wrote to you, 16 as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.”



**6. GOD SPOKE TO
US THROUGH
HIS SON**

The Chicago Statement Article VI --

- **All Scripture** is inspired by God
- We affirm that the **whole of Scripture** and all its parts, down to the very words of the original, were given by divine inspiration.
- The Bible is “wholly” inspired by God, written by men, and faithfully and inerrantly reveals the will of God for man in all things necessary for salvation.
- Extends to everything in the Bible, not just parts that speak on matters of faith and practice.

The Chicago Statement

Inspiration Methods

- Holy Scripture, being God's own Word, written by men prepared and superintended by His Spirit...
- Article VII
- We affirm that inspiration was the work in which God by His Spirit, through human writers, gave us His Word. The origin of Scripture is divine. The mode of divine inspiration remains largely a mystery to us.
- We deny that inspiration can be reduced to human insight, or to heightened states of consciousness of any kind.

Words of Jesus + Signs & Wonders

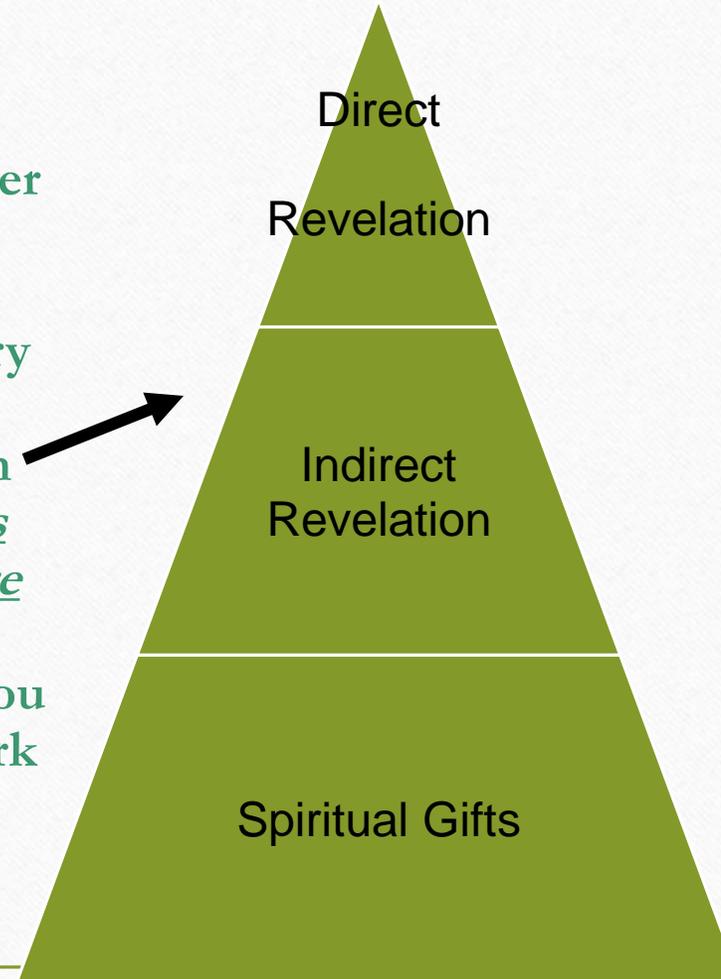


“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”

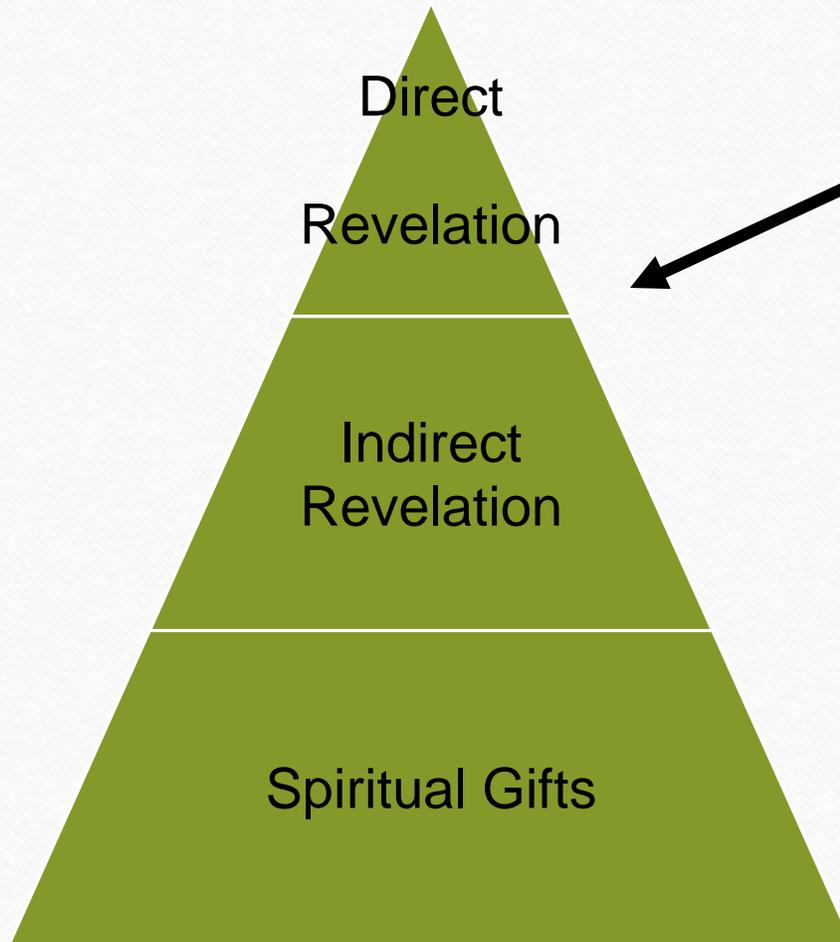
Hebrews 2:3-4

Direct Witness of Jesus

- 2 Peter 1:16-19
- For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

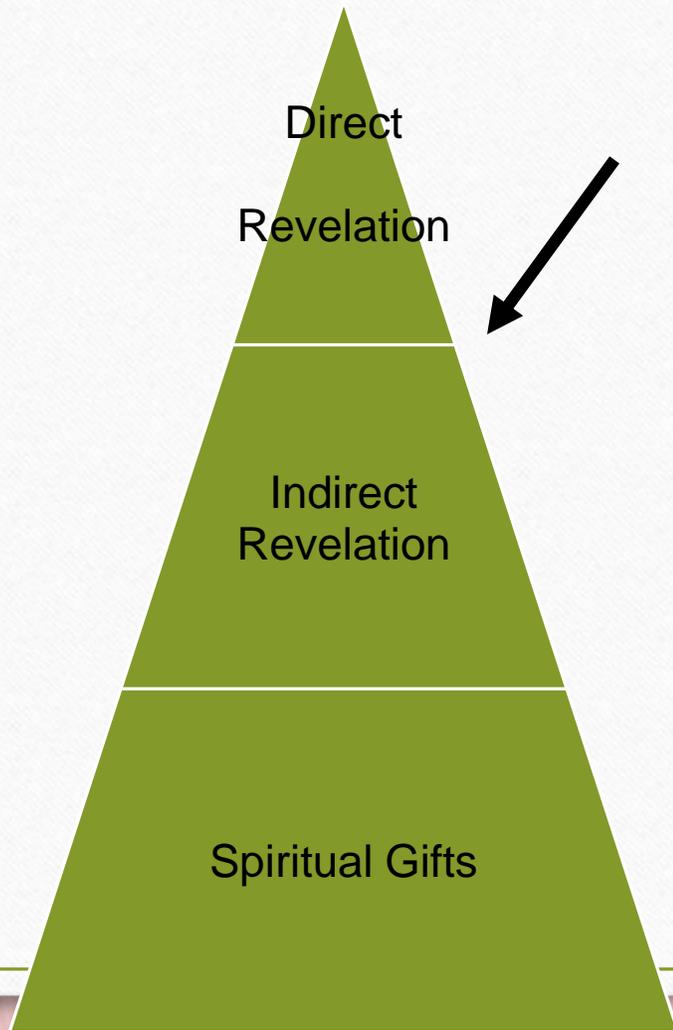


Direct Teaching by Jesus



- Galatians 1:11,12
- Dear brothers and sisters, I solemnly assure you that the Good News of salvation which I preach is not based on mere human reasoning or logic. For my message came by a direct revelation from Jesus Christ himself. No one else taught me.

Words of Jesus + Signs & Wonders



“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”

Hebrews 2:3-4

Incarnation of Jesus

- Hebrews 1:1-2
- “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

