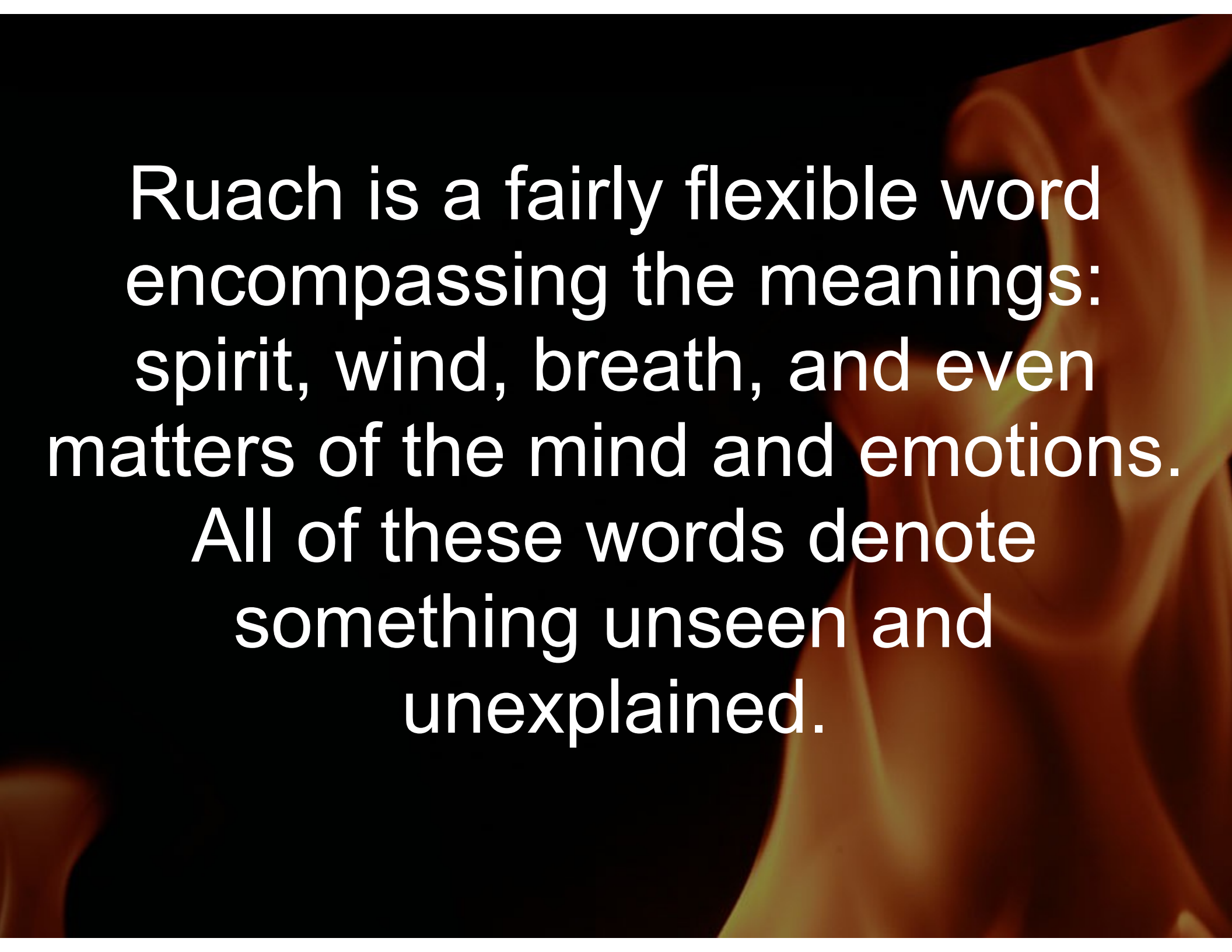


THE HOLY SPIRIT



The Spirit in the Old Testament

The Hebrew word most commonly translated “spirit” is ruach.



Ruach is a fairly flexible word encompassing the meanings: spirit, wind, breath, and even matters of the mind and emotions.

All of these words denote something unseen and unexplained.

Dictionary of Judaism in the Biblical Period

When used of living beings, ruach refers to the essence of the life and vitality in both human beings and animals that is manifested through movement and breathing (Genesis 2:7; 6:17; 7:15; Numbers 16:22; Ezekiel 10:17).

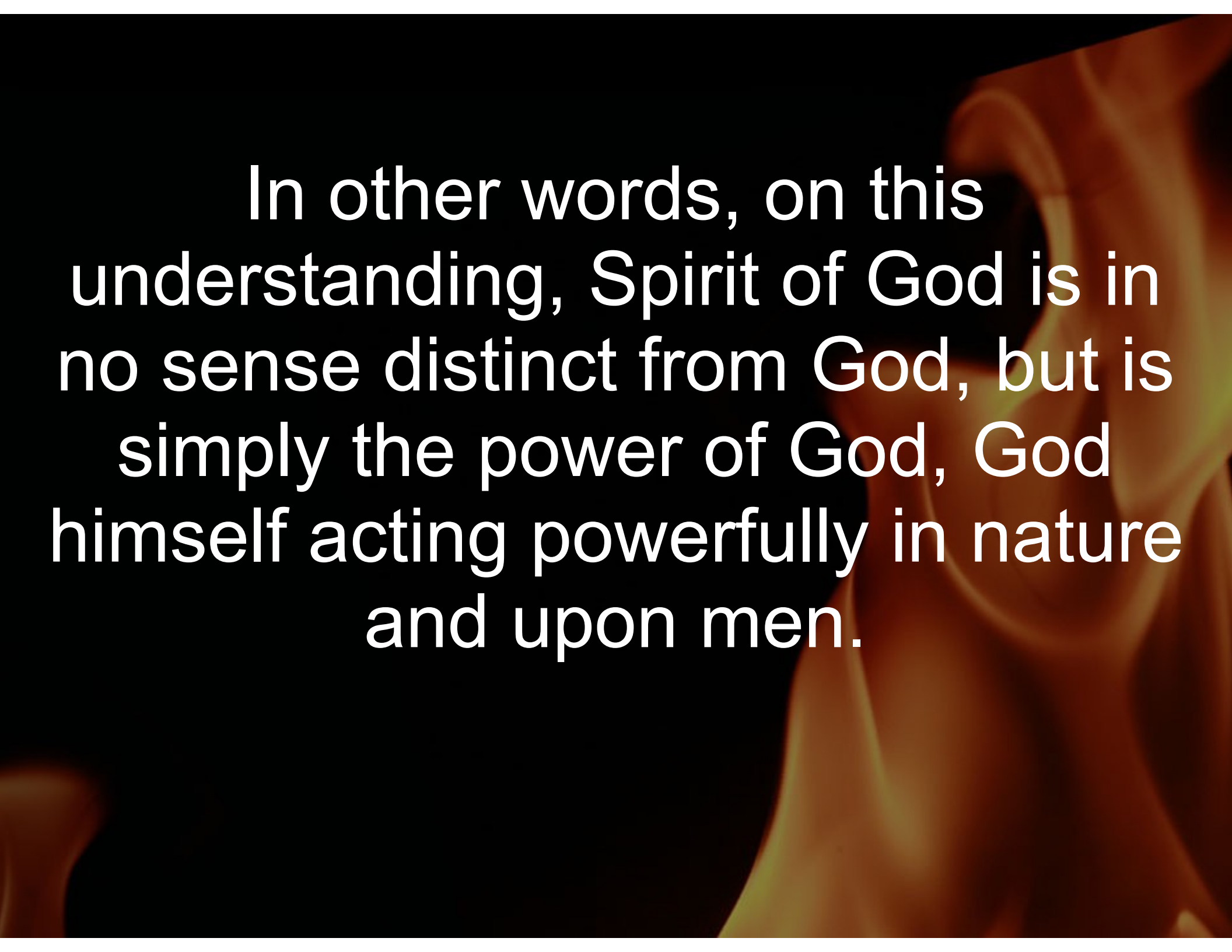
Just as “spirit” was considered the essence of human life, so analogously the term “spirit” was used of the presence, activity, and power of God, that is, characteristics that demonstrate that God is truly a “living God” (Deuteronomy 5:26; Joshua 3:10; 1 Samuel 7:26; Isaiah 37:4; Daniel 6:20; Matthew 16:16; Revelation 7:2).

New Bible Dictionary

At its heart is the experience of a mysterious, awesome power—the mighty invisible force of the wind, the mystery of vitality, the otherly power that transforms—all ruach, all manifestations of divine energy.

James Dunn on the Holy Spirit

There can be little doubt that from the earliest stages of pre-Christian Judaism, 'spirit' (ruach) denoted power—the awful, mysterious force of the wind (ruach), of the breath (ruach) of life, of ecstatic inspiration (induced by divine ruach)...



In other words, on this understanding, Spirit of God is in no sense distinct from God, but is simply the power of God, God himself acting powerfully in nature and upon men.

Consider the following usages of ruach found in the Hebrew Bible: The spirit of God may be taken from one and distributed to others (Numbers 11:17), inspire prophecy

**The Spirit
Inspires prophecy**

Numbers 11:17 (KJV)

17 And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the **spirit** which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

Numbers 11:25(KJV)

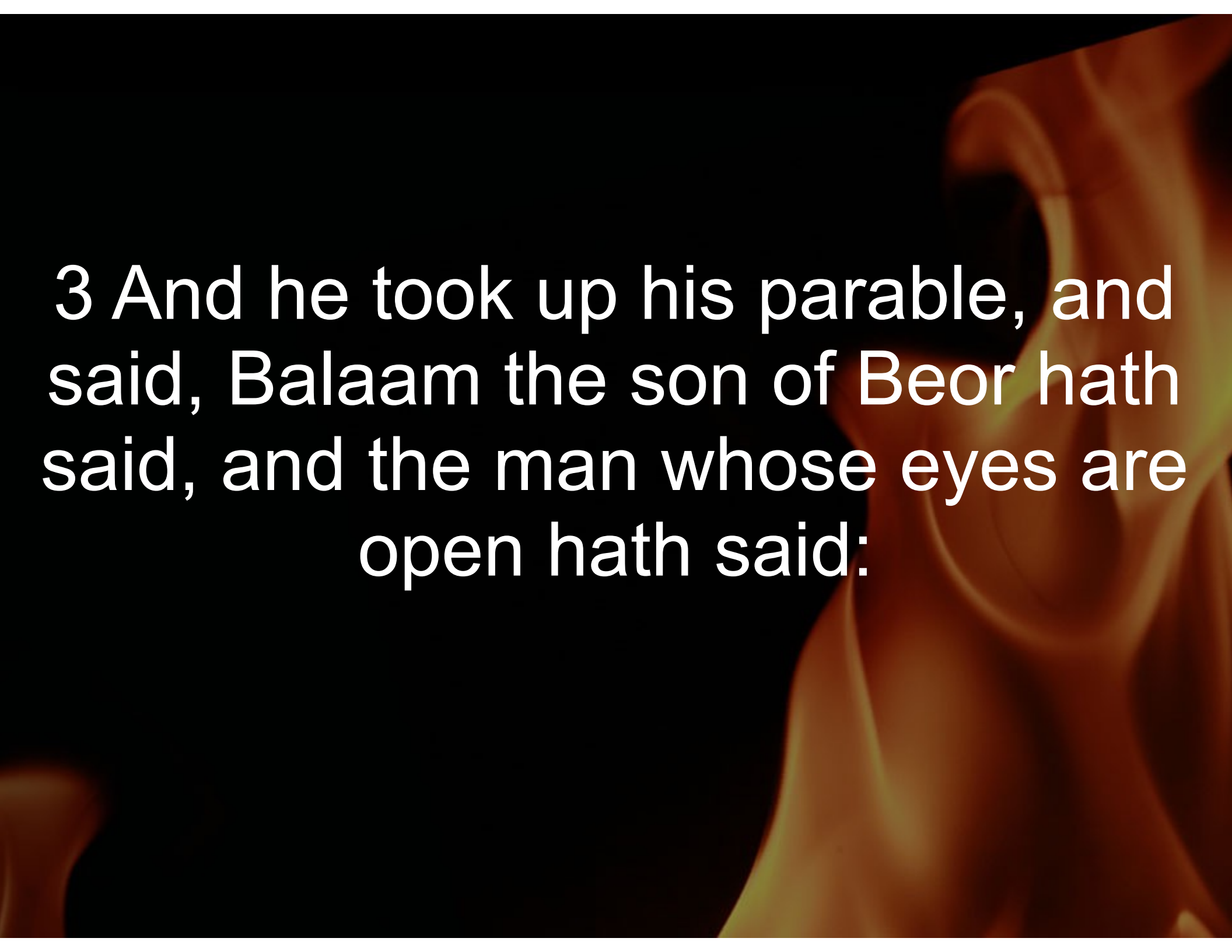
25 And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the **spirit** that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the **spirit** rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

Numbers 11:29 (KJV)

29 And Moses said unto him,
Enviest thou for my sake? would
God that all the LORD'S people
were prophets, and that the Lord
would put his **spirit** upon them!

Numbers 24:2-3 (KJV)

2 And Balaam lifted up his eyes,
and he saw Israel abiding in his
tents according to their tribes; and
the **spirit** of God came upon him.



3 And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

1 Samuel 10:6 (KJV)

6 And the **Spirit** of the **LORD** will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

1 Samuel 10:10(KJV)

10 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the **Spirit** of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

1 Chronicles 12:18(KJV)

18 Then the **spirit** came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band.

2 Chronicles 15:1 (KJV)

15 And the **Spirit** of God
came upon Azariah the
son of Oded:

2 Chronicles 20:14 (KJV)

14 Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the **Spirit** of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;

2 Chronicles 24:20(KJV)

20 And the **Spirit** of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.

Nehemiah 9:30(KJV)

30 Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy **spirit** in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.

Zechariah 7:12 (KJV)

12 Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his **spirit** by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.

Spirit...

**Is a way God speaks to
people**



2 Samuel 23:2 (KJV)

2 The **Spirit** of the LORD spake
by me, and his word was in my
tongue.

Spirit...

**leads someone to a
different location**

1 Kings 18:12 (KJV)

12 And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the **Spirit** of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.

Spirit..
transport someone from
one location to another

2 Kings 2:16 (KJV)

16 And they said unto him, Behold now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master: lest peradventure the **Spirit** of the LORD hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley. And he said, Ye shall not send.

Spirit..

**is defined parallel with
the anointing of Yahweh**

61 The **Spirit** of the Lord God is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Acts 10:38 (KJV)

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the **Holy Ghost** and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Spirit..
empower leaders to
judge/rule the people

Judges 3:10 (KJV)

10 And the **Spirit** of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim.

Chushanrishathaim

KEW-shan RISH-uh THAY-im

Spirit..
**imparts warlike energy/
confidence**

Judges 6:34 (KJV)

34 But the **Spirit** of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.

Judges 11:29 (KJV)

29 Then the **Spirit** of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon.

Judges 14:6 (KJV)

6 And the **Spirit** of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

Judges 14:19 (KJV)

19 And the **Spirit** of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

**Spirit..
supplies supernatural
strength**

Judges 15:14(KJV)

14 And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the **Spirit** of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.

**Spirit..
cause righteous anger**

1 Samuel 11:6-7 (KJV)

6 And the **Spirit** of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.

7 And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

Spirit..
**imparts regeneration/
peace**

Isaiah 32:15(KJV)

15 Until the **spirit** be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.

Spirit..
gives the Messiah
wisdom, understanding,
counsel, strength,
knowledge, the fear of
Yahweh, and the ability
to judge justly

Isaiah 11:2 (KJV)

2 And the **spirit** of the LORD shall rest upon him, the **spirit** of wisdom and understanding, the **spirit** of counsel and might, the **spirit** of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

Spirit..
endow artisans with skill

Exodus 31:3 (KJV)

3 And I have filled him with the **spirit** of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,

Exodus 35:31 (KJV)

31 And he hath filled him with the **spirit** of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship;

Spirit..
defined parallel to the
presence of God

Psalm 139:7 (KJV)

7 Whither shall I go from thy
spirit? or whither shall I flee from
thy presence?