

Theme : The Lord is Mighty to Save

GIDEON, THE 300 MEN
AND THE 3 KEYS TO VICTORY
(JUDGES 7)





Background to the Story of Gideon

Judges 6:1-6

1 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, **2** and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the **dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains.**



Background to the Story of Gideon

Judges 6:1-6

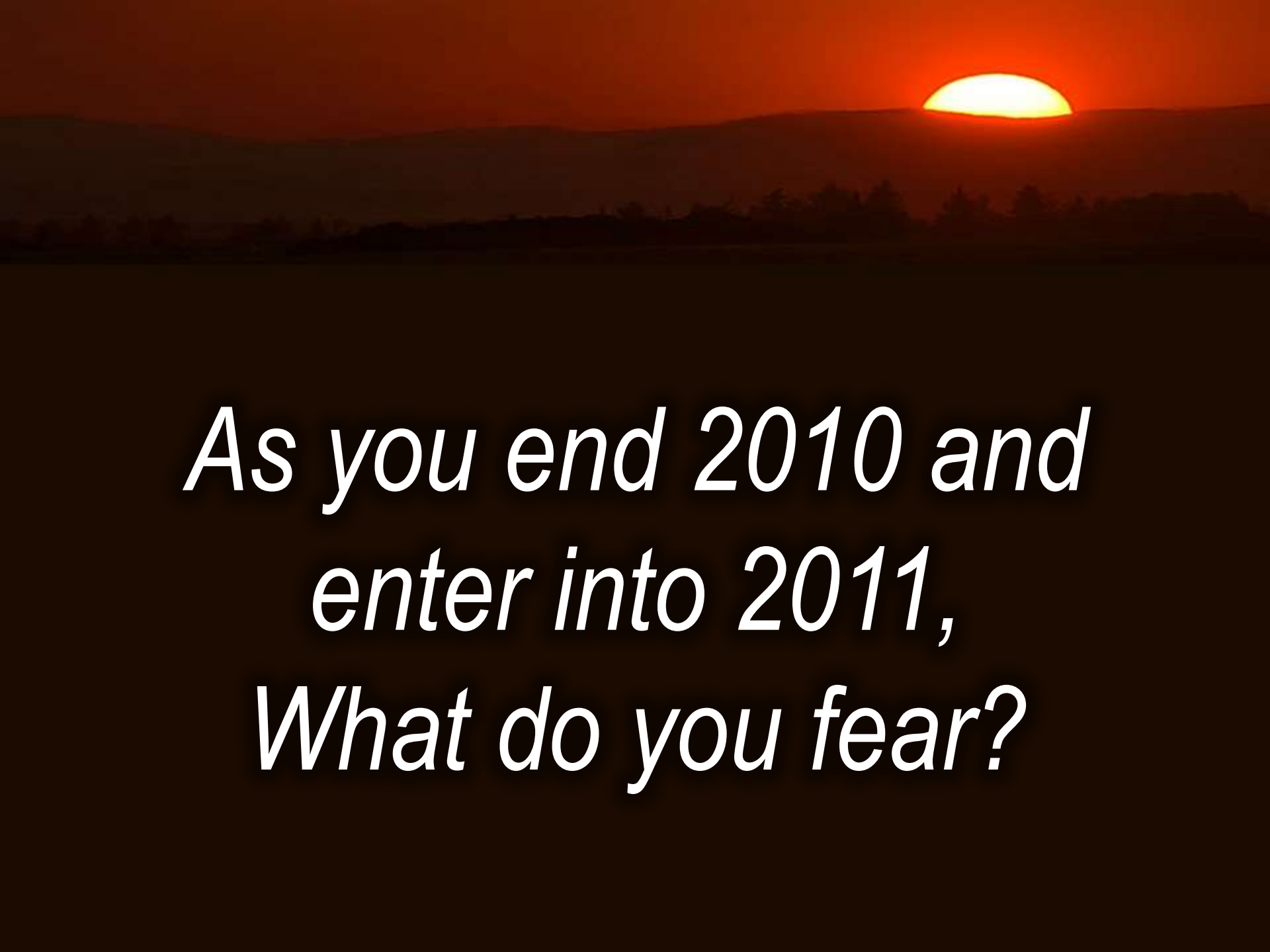
3So it was, **whenever Israel had sown**, Midianites would come up; **also Amalekites** and the **people of the East** would come up **against them**. 4Then they would encamp against them and **destroy the produce of the earth** as far as Gaza, and **leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey**.



Background to the Story of Gideon

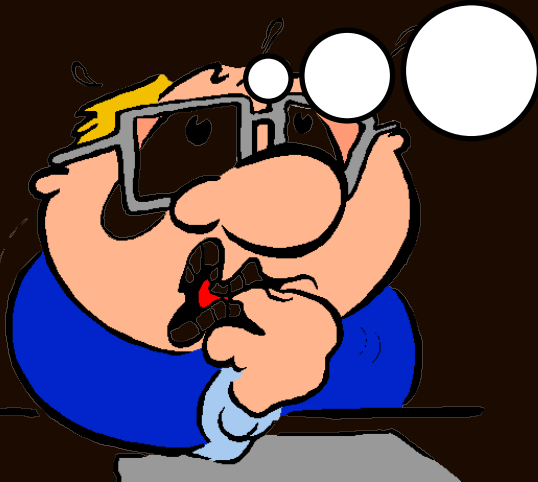
Judges 6:1-6

5For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and **they would enter the land to destroy it**. **6**So **Israel was greatly impoverished** because of the Midianites, [John 10:10a] and the children of **Israel cried out to the LORD**.



*As you end 2010 and
enter into 2011,
What do you fear?*

Fear, Oppression, Impoverishment ...



Finances

The Future

Deteriorating
Relationships

Rocky Marriage

Passing
Your Exams

Failing
Health

Inflation

Your Job
Security

Children
Growing Up

Aging
Parents





Gideon, the 300 Men and the 3 Keys to victory

Judges 7:2-8

2And the LORD said to Gideon, “The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’”



Gideon, the 300 Men and the 3 Keys to victory

Judges 7:2-8

3 Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, “**Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once** from Mount Gilead.”

And **twenty-two thousand** of the people returned, and **ten thousand remained**.



Gideon, the 300 Men and the 3 Keys to victory

Judges 7:2-8

4But the LORD said to Gideon, “The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, “This one shall go with you, the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, “This one shall not go with you, the same shall not go.”



Gideon, the 300 Men and the 3 Keys to victory

Judges 7:2-8

5 So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, “Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink.”



Gideon, the 300 Men and the 3 Keys to victory

Judges 7:2-8

6And the number of **those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth,** was **three hundred men**; but all **the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water.**



Gideon, the 300 Men and the 3 Keys to victory

Judges 7:2-8

7Then the LORD said to Gideon, “**By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you,** and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place.”



Gideon, the 300 Men and the 3 Keys to victory

Judges 7:2-8

8 So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all the rest of Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those **three hundred men**. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

A sunset scene with a bright orange sun partially obscured by a dark horizon line, set against a dark, silhouetted landscape.

Judges 7 - **Gideon against the Midianites**

32,000 men - 22,000 men *[fearful - 7:3]*

= 10,000 men - 9,700 men *[not alert - 7:6-7]*

= **Left 300 men**



Judges 7:15-18

15And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, “Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.”



Judges 7:15-18

16 Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers.



Judges 7:15-18

17And he said to them, “Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: **18**When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!”


A sunset scene with a bright orange sun partially obscured by a dark horizon line. The sky is a deep red-orange, and the foreground is mostly black with some faint silhouettes of trees or hills.

Gideon, the 300 men and
the 3 keys to victory



Judges 7:16

Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers.



Judges 7:16 - **The 3 Keys to Victory**

#1 - Empty Pitchers (Jars of Clay)

#2 - Blazing Torch

#3 - Trumpet / Ram's Horn



Key #1 - Empty Pitchers (Jars of Clay)

A. We are the pitchers (Jars of Clay).

Genesis 2:7

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.



Key #1 - Empty Pitchers (Jars of Clay)

B. We must be empty of our self-life.

Luke 9:23

Then he said to them all, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.



B. We must be empty of our self-life.

John 3:30

He must increase, but I must decrease.

Romans 6:11

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



B. We must be empty of our self-life.

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live,
but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body,
I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me
and gave himself for me.



B. We must be empty of our self-life.

Ephesians 4:22-24

22that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, **23**and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24**and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.



B. We must be empty of our self-life.

Colossians 3:5, 8-10

5Therefore put to death your members ... fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **8** ... you yourselves ... put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. **9**Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, **10**and have put on the new man ...

The self-life is the root of all problems we face!



Key #1 - Empty Pitchers (Jars of Clay)

C. We must be filled with the Treasure of the life of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.



C. We must be filled with the Treasure of the life of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:10-11

10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in

our body. **11** For we who live are always delivered to death for

Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.



Key #1 - Empty Pitchers (Jars of Clay)

D. To be filled with the Treasure, we begin & must continually experience the love of the Father.

John 3:16

Romans 8:32

1 John 4:18

Luke 11:13

Romans 8:28-39

2 Corinthians 13:14

1 John 2:15-16



Key #1 - Empty Pitchers (Jars of Clay)

E. When we experience the love of the Father, we are overcomers of the circumstances in life.

2 Corinthians 4:8 (AMP)

We are hedged in (**pressed**) on every side [**troubled and oppressed in every way**], but not cramped or crushed;

PRESSURES OF LIFE WILL NOT DEFEAT US!

we suffer embarrassments and are perplexed and unable to find a way out, but not driven to despair;

CONFUSION WILL NOT DISCOURAGE US!



Key #1 - Empty Pitchers (Jars of Clay)

E. When we experience the love of the Father, we are overcomers of the circumstances in life.

2 Corinthians 4:9 (AMP)

9We are pursued (**persecuted and hard driven**), but not deserted [**to stand alone**];

OPPOSITION WILL NOT DETER US!

we are struck down to the ground, but never struck out and destroyed ...

HARD HITS WILL NOT DESTROY US!



Key #2 - Blazing Torch

A. The Blazing Torch is the Word of God.

Jeremiah 23:29

“Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD,
“And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”



A. The Blazing Torch is the Word of God.

Ephesians 6:17

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God ...

Hebrews 4:12




Key #2 - Blazing Torch

B. The Blazing Torch was placed inside the empty pitcher.
We must fill our lives with the Word of God.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in **YOU** ...

Word-based decisions and responses always!




B. The Blazing Torch was placed inside the empty pitcher.
We must fill our lives with the Word of God.

Proverbs 3:3

Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart ...

Proverbs 7:3

Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.



B. The Blazing Torch was placed inside the empty pitcher.
We must fill our lives with the Word of God.

Matthew 4:4

But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”

Feed on the Word of God always!



Key #2 - Blazing Torch

C. We wield the Sword by speaking it forth.

2 Corinthians 4:13

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak ...

Declare what the Word of God declares!

Declare what
the Word of God
declares!

Matt 7:24-25

Saved, Delivered and Healed

Always Protected in Christ

Divine Favor Divine Wisdom

God is the Provider
of all my needs

The Peace of God calm
all my worries

I can do all things through
Christ who gives me strength



Key #3- Trumpet / Ram's Horn

A. The trumpet is used for communication.

e.g. Signal the timing to move camp.

Signal the timing to attack in war.

1 Corinthians 14:8

For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?



Key #3 - Trumpet / Ram's Horn

B. We must blow into the trumpet for sound to be made.

We blow air - breath - **PNEUMA**

Judges 7:18

When I [**Gideon**] blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then **you also blow the trumpets** on every side of the whole camp, and say, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!”



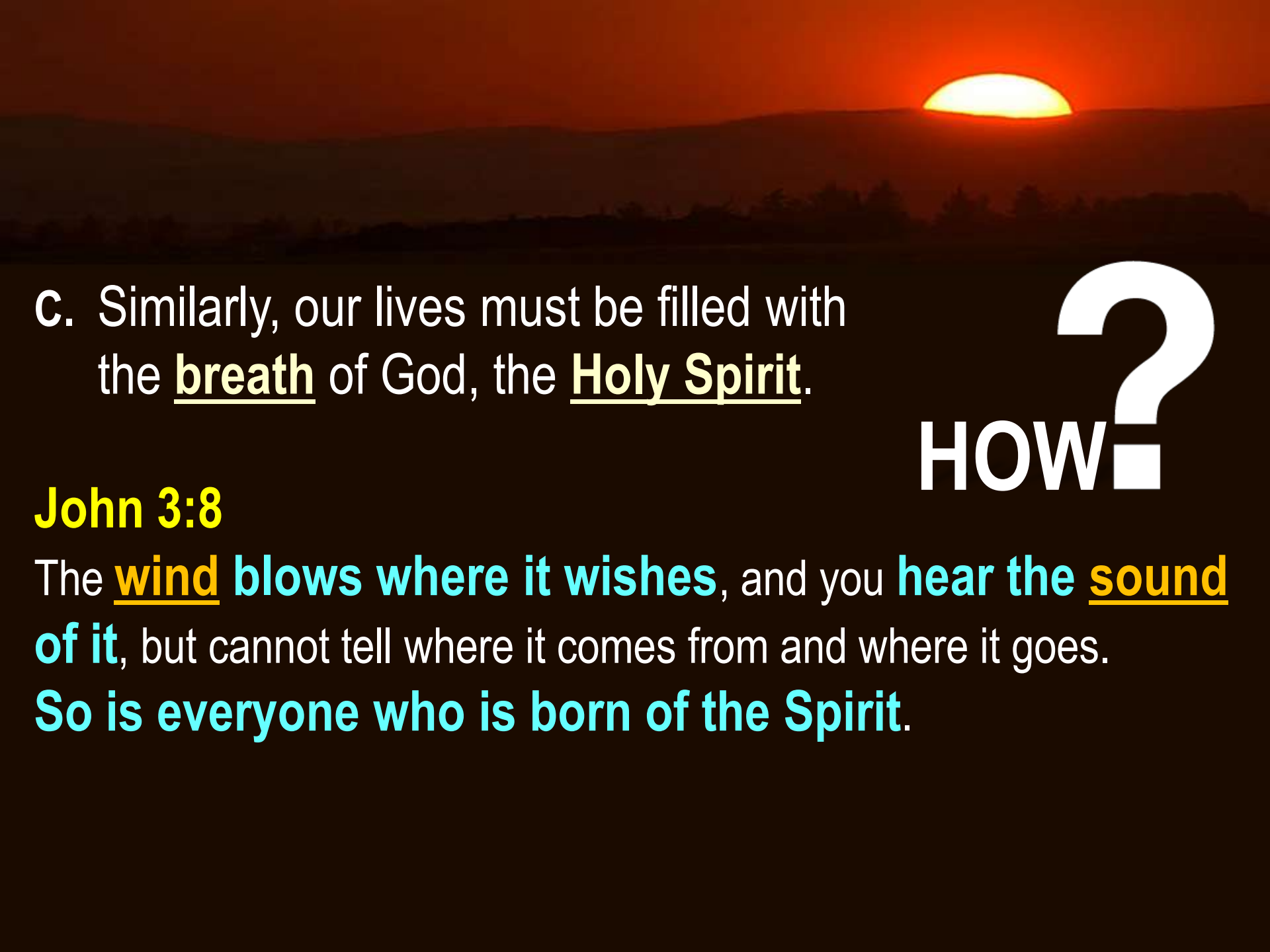
Key #3 - Trumpet / Ram's Horn

c. Similarly, our lives must be filled with the breath of God, the Holy Spirit.

HOW?

John 3:5-6

5 I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.



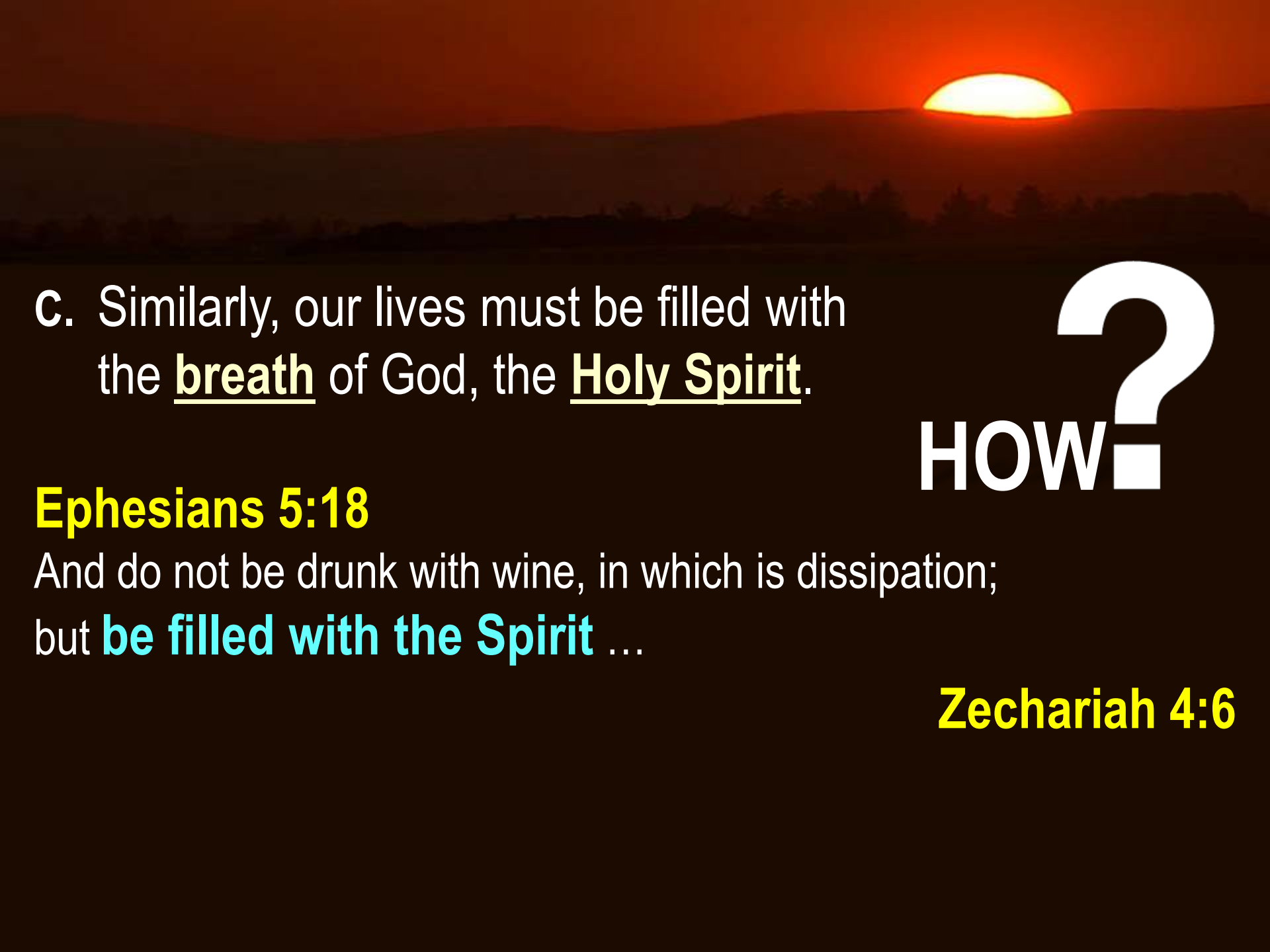
c. Similarly, our lives must be filled with the breath of God, the Holy Spirit.

John 3:8

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes.

So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

HOW?



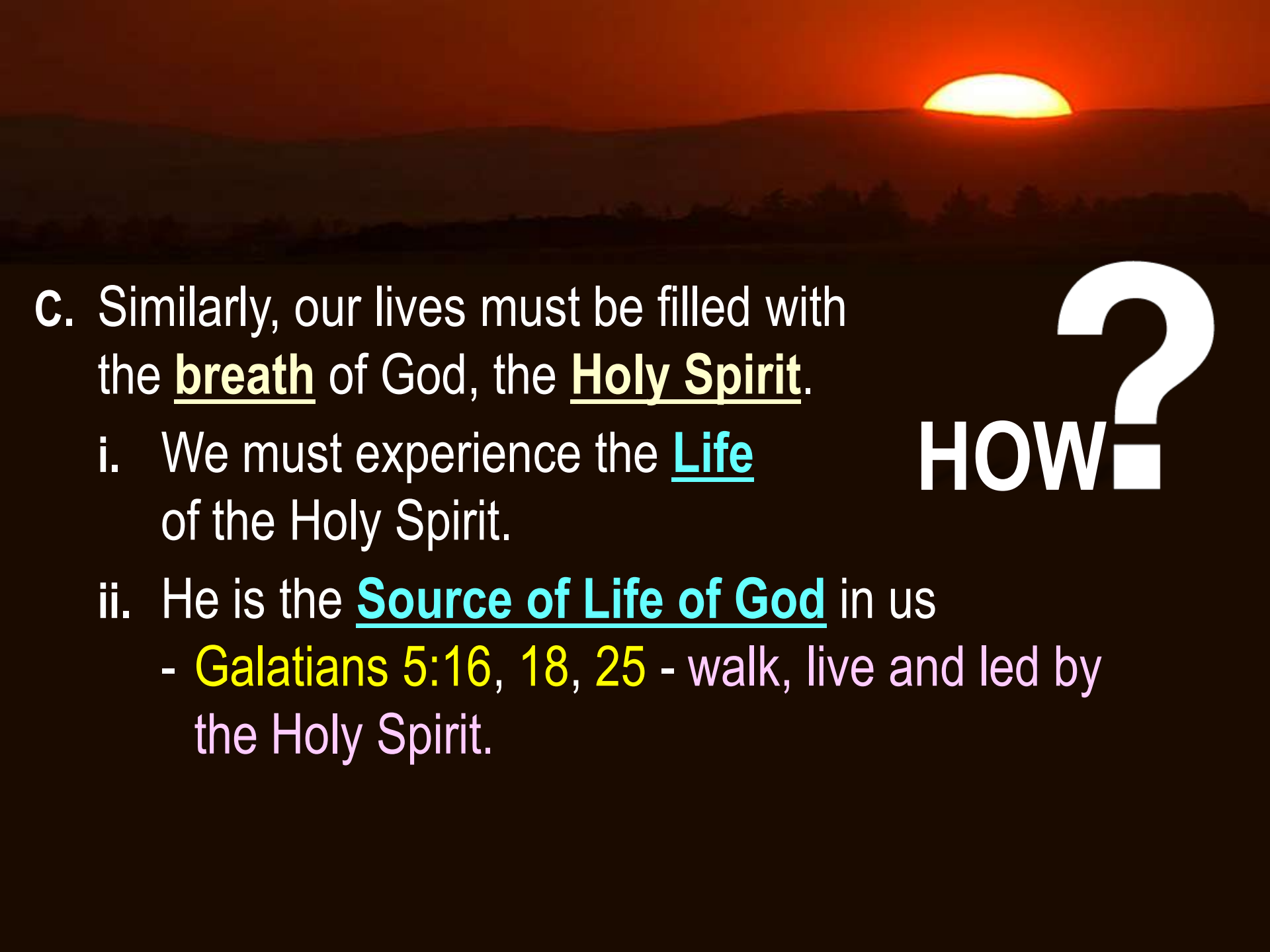
c. Similarly, our lives must be filled with the breath of God, the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation;
but **be filled with the Spirit** ...

HOW?

Zechariah 4:6



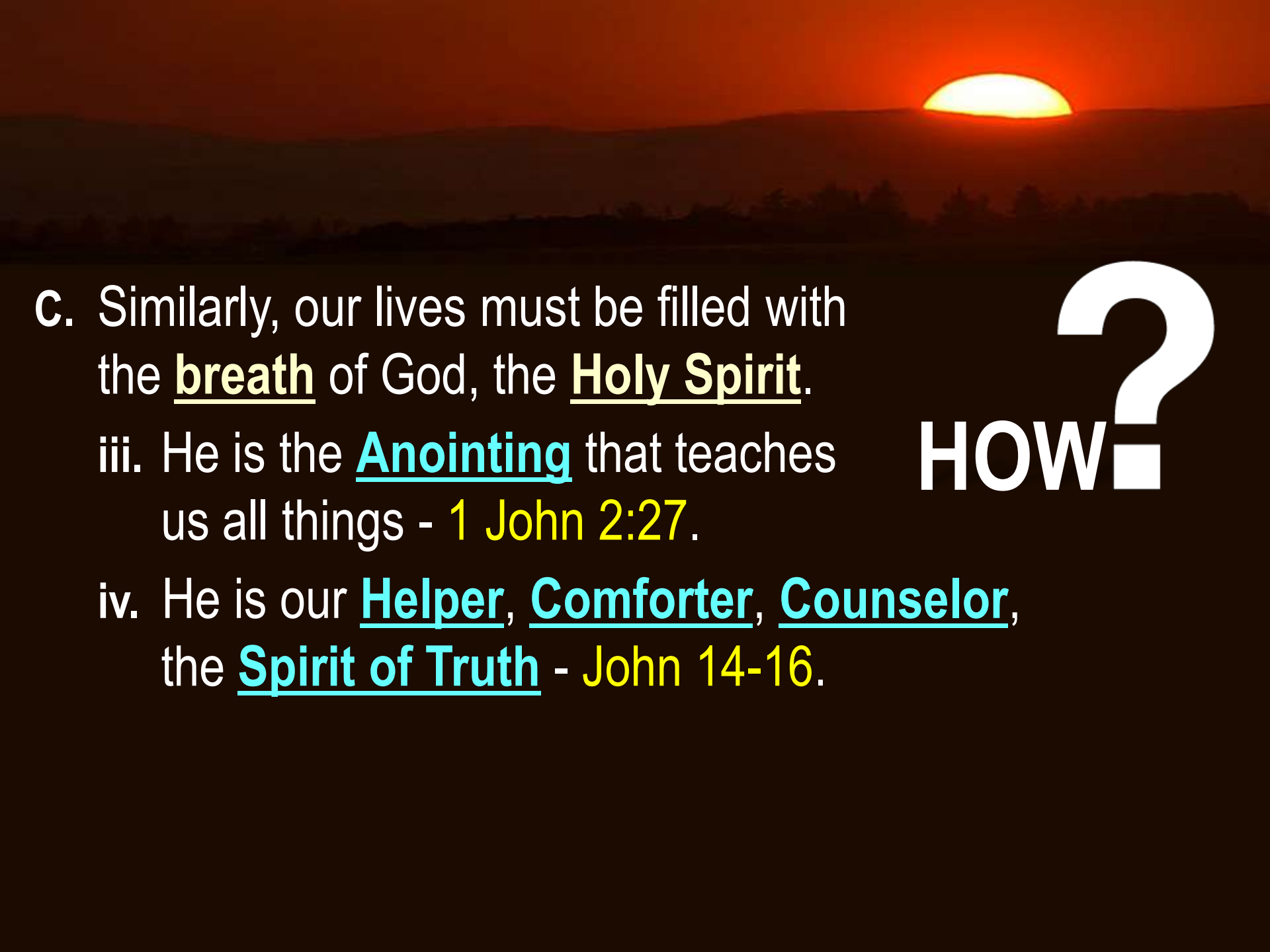
c. Similarly, our lives must be filled with the breath of God, the Holy Spirit.

i. We must experience the Life of the Holy Spirit.

ii. He is the Source of Life of God in us

- Galatians 5:16, 18, 25 - walk, live and led by the Holy Spirit.

HOW?



c. Similarly, our lives must be filled with the breath of God, the Holy Spirit.

iii. He is the Anointing that teaches us all things - 1 John 2:27.

iv. He is our Helper, Comforter, Counselor, the Spirit of Truth - John 14-16.

HOW?



Bottom Line

The 3 Keys to victory:

- #1 - Empty Pitchers (Jars of Clay)
 - Love of the Father [1 John 2:15-16; 4:18]
- #2 - Blazing Torch
 - Light of the Word [John 8:12]
- #3 - Trumpet / Ram's Horn
 - Life of the Holy Spirit [Romans 8:5-6]