

THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

EPHESUS AND US

The session will start in a few minutes at 6pm



OUR STARTING POINT

**WE
ARE IN A
FEROCIOUS
SPIRITUAL
BATTLE
WITH A
DEADLY
ENEMY**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
(Eph 6:10-12)

WE NEED TO BE FULLY ENGAGED

Peace time and war time are very different.

The Queen Mary. A luxury liner in peace time. A troop carrier in war time.

It is a fatal mistake to live in a time of war as if you were at peace.



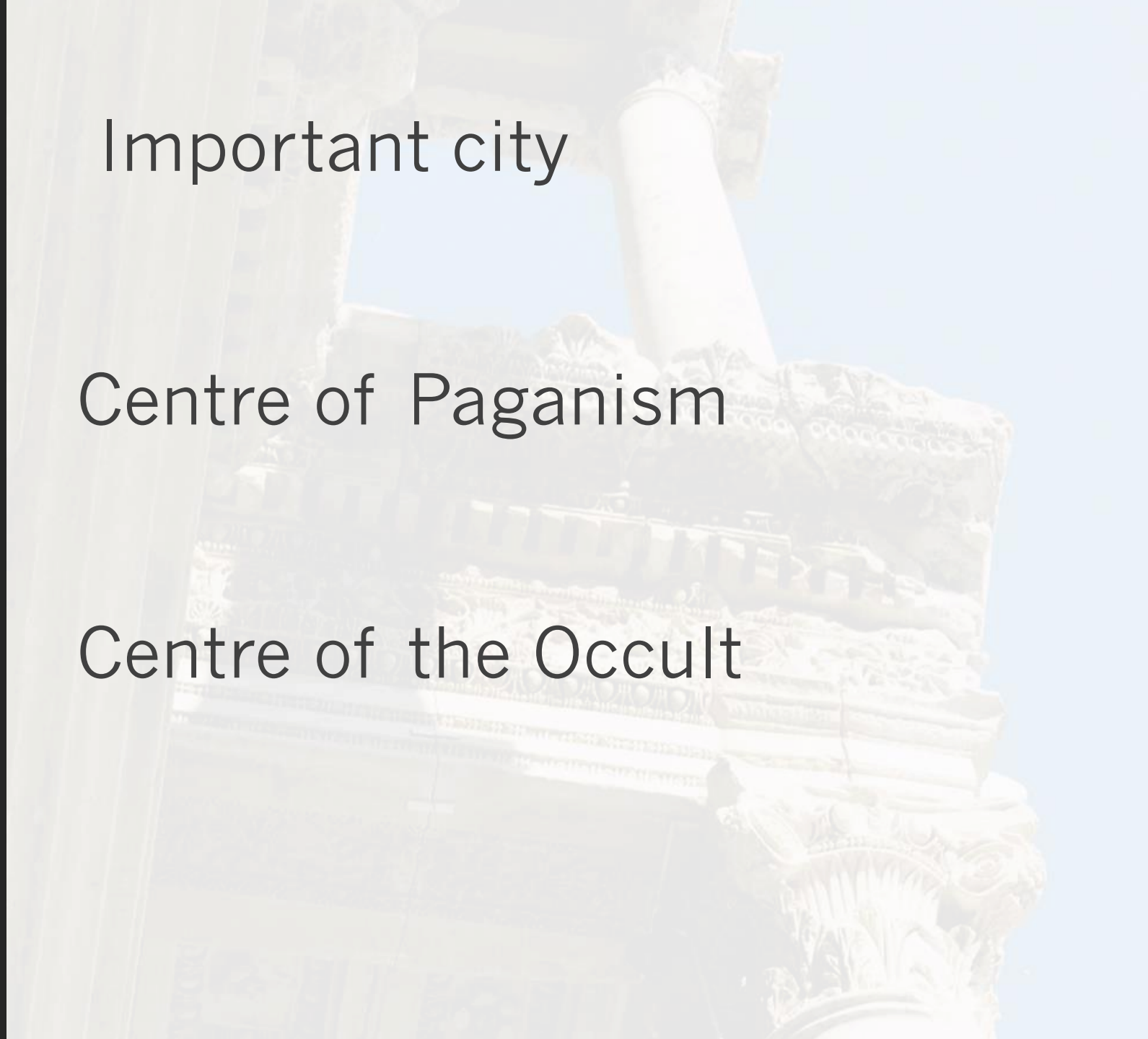
ACTS 19

WE ARE GOING TO EPHESUS

Important city

Centre of Paganism

Centre of the Occult



PAUL COMES TO TOWN AND AMAZING THINGS HAPPEN

19.1-7: an encouraging start
as Paul finds 'disciples'

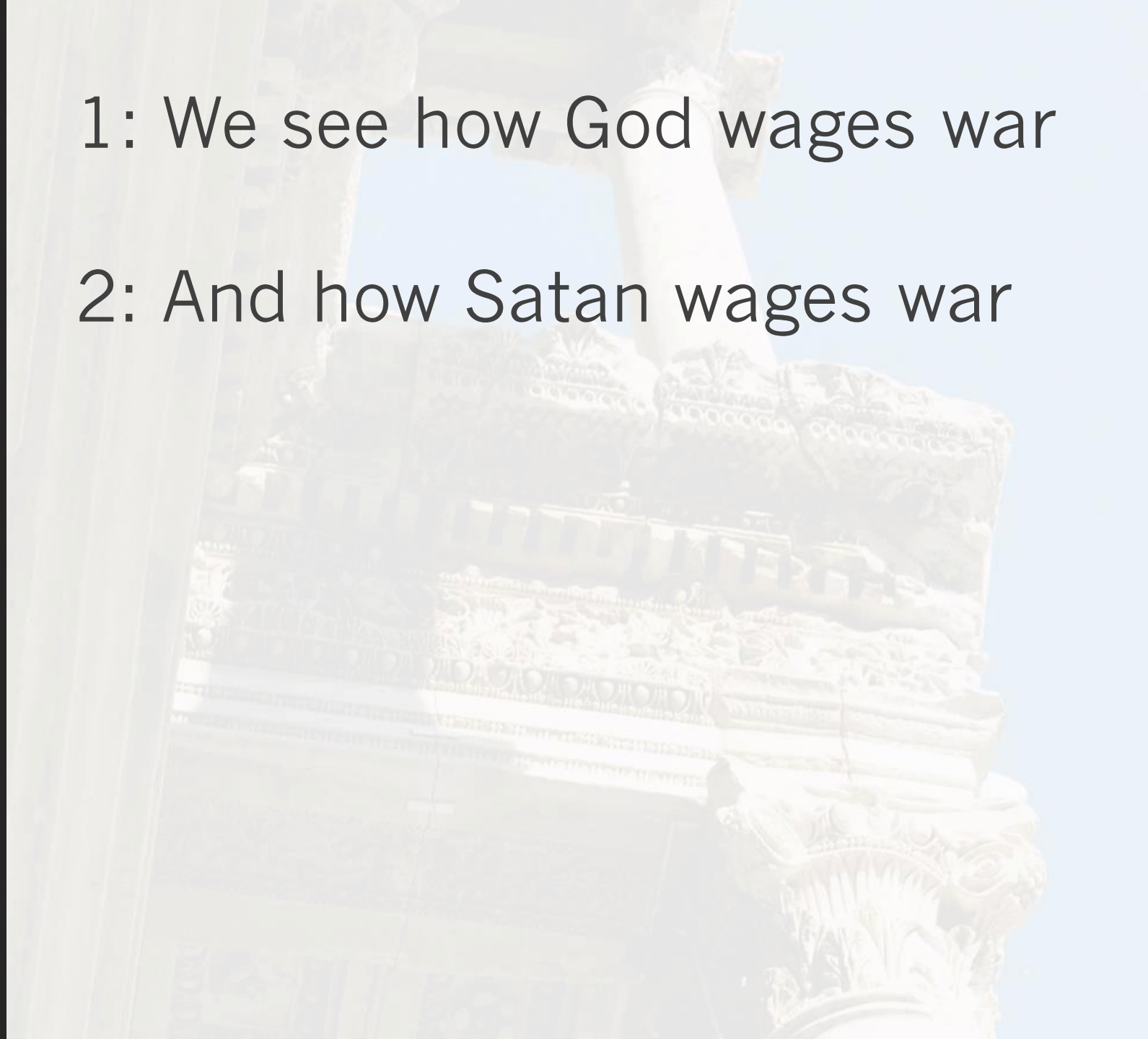
19.8-10: then two years of
teaching and preaching

19.11-22: some key moments
in the battle

19.23-41: Satan's fightback

THIS IS A SNAPSHOT OF THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

- 1: We see how God wages war
- 2: And how Satan wages war





HOW SATAN WAGES WAR

1: THE ROARING LION

Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." ¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" ¹⁶ Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding (Acts 19:13-16)

2: THE TAME LION

When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honour. ¹⁸ Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. ¹⁹ A number who had practised sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. (Act 19:17-19)

3: AN ANGEL OF LIGHT

This fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that man-made gods are no gods at all. ²⁷ There is danger . . . that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited, and the goddess herself, who is worshipped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty.” ²⁸ When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" ²⁹ Soon the whole city was in an uproar. (Act 19:24-29)

4: THE PUPPET MASTER

The puppet master

A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in no little business for the craftsmen. ²⁵ He called them together, along with the workmen in related trades, and said: "Men, you know we receive a good income from this business. ²⁶ And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia . . . ²⁷ There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited." (Act 19:24-27)

HOW SATAN WAGES WAR

- 1: The roaring lion
- 2: The performing lion
- 3: The angel of light
- 4: The puppet master



PAUSE TO APPLY

WHERE IS YOUR EPHESUS?

Imagine some situation.

Something Real.

Something Specific.

Something Satan holds.

WHERE IS YOUR EPHESUS?

Maybe in your own heart.

Maybe a person.

Maybe a community.

Maybe a nation.

THE QUESTION WE ARE ASKING

How can we see
God's kingdom come
in that situation?



HOW GOD WAGES WAR

1: THROUGH HIS SON

*¹³ Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." ¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"
(Act 19:13-15)*

2: THROUGH HIS SPIRIT

"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³ So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. ⁴ Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. (Act 19:1-6)



LET'S STAY WITH THIS

IN THE OLD
TESTAMENT
THIS IS THE
BIG THING
THE
MESSIAH
WILL DO

*And afterwards, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.
(Joel 2.28ff)*

IN THE
NEW
TESTAMENT
THIS
IS THE
BIG THING
JESUS
DOES

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Act 2:1-4)

IN THE
NEW
TESTAMENT
THIS
IS THE
BIG THING
JESUS
DOES

this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy."

THE
HOLY SPIRIT
IS THE
BLESSING
GOD
PROMISED
TO ABRAHAM

*He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.
(Galatians 3:14)*

THE GREAT WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO GLORIFY JESUS

*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **He will bring glory to me** by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. (Joh 16:12-14)*

WHAT CAN YOU SEE?





WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT



MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

We are not only confronted by materialism, worldliness, indifference, hardness, and callousness - but we are also hearing more and more . . . about certain manifestations of the powers of evil and the reality of evil spirits.



MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

It is not merely sin that is constituting a problem in this country today. There is also a recrudescence of black magic and devil worship and the powers of darkness as well as drug taking and some of the things it leads to.



MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

This is why I believe we are in urgent need of some manifestation, some demonstration, of the power of the Holy Spirit.



HOW GOOD IS YOUR IMAGINATION?



TIM KELLER

A revival is a work of God in which the church is both beautified and empowered because the normal operations of the Holy Spirit (conviction of sin, enjoyment of grace, access to the presence of God) are intensified.



TIM KELLER

It is an outpouring of the Spirit on and within the congregation, so that the presence of God among his people becomes evident and palpable.



TIM KELLER

Many nominal Christians realize they are not converted and cross over in to living faith . . .



TIM KELLER

... and many sleepy Christians wake up to why they have been living in anxiety, envy, anger, and boredom.



TIM KELLER

The non-churched are then attracted and drawn in by the transformed life of the Christian community, which finally becomes a sign of the kingdom, a beautiful alternative to human society without Christ.

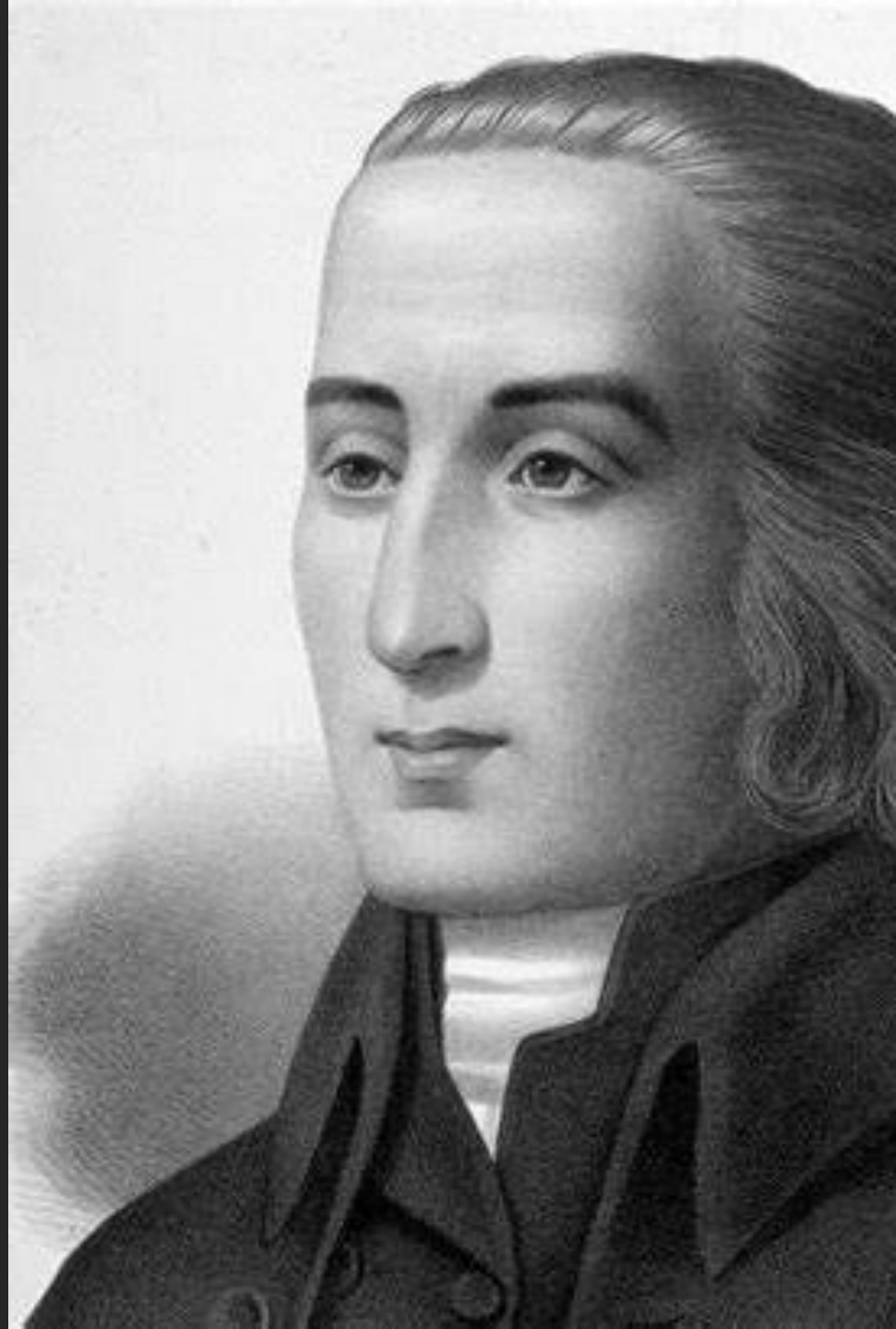


HOW AWAKE ARE YOU?

WILLIAM WILLIAMS 1717-91

How real has God been to your heart this week?

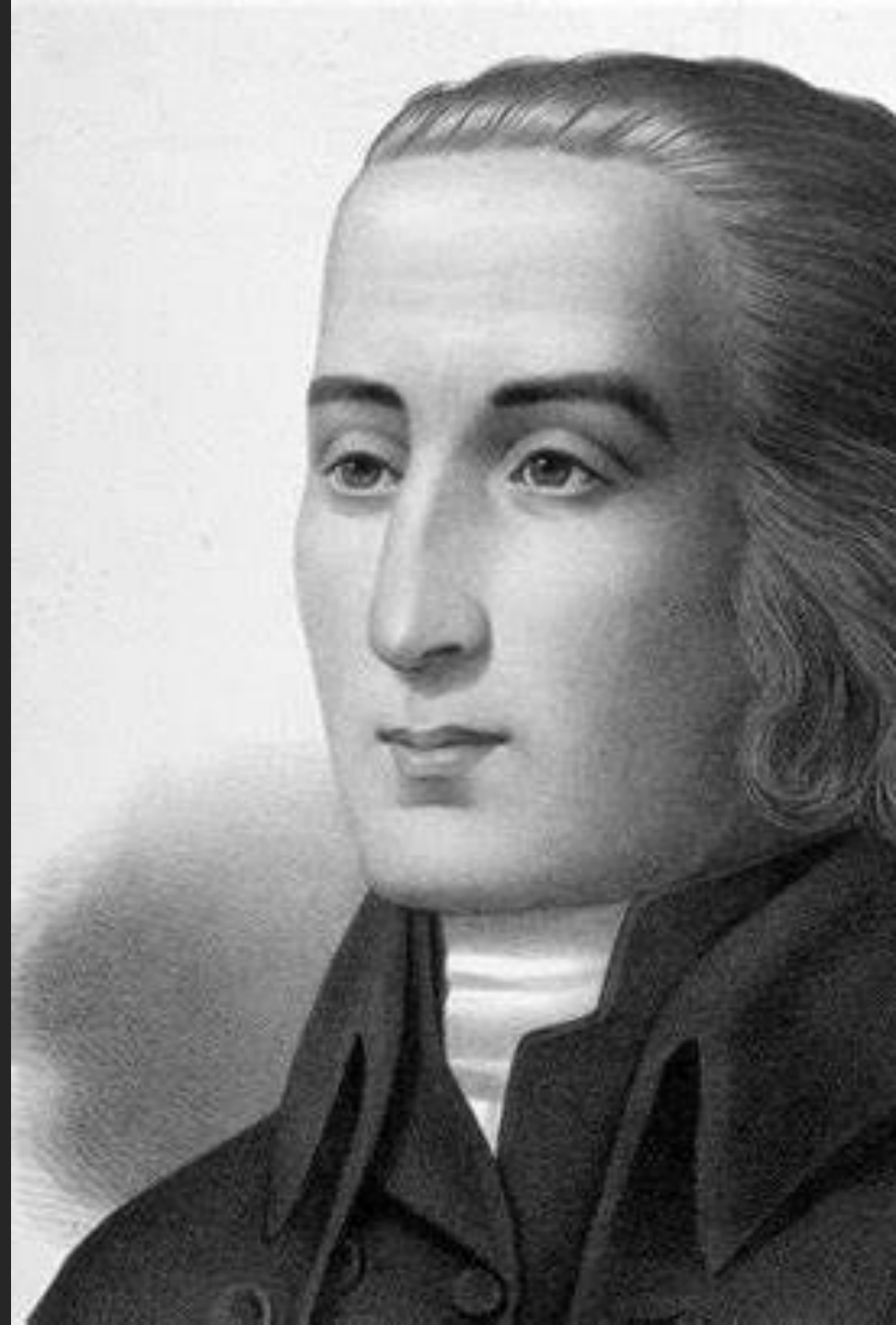
How clear and vivid is your assurance and certainty of God's forgiveness and fatherly love? To what degree is that real to you right now?



WILLIAM WILLIAMS 1717-91

*Are you having any particular
seasons of delight in God?*

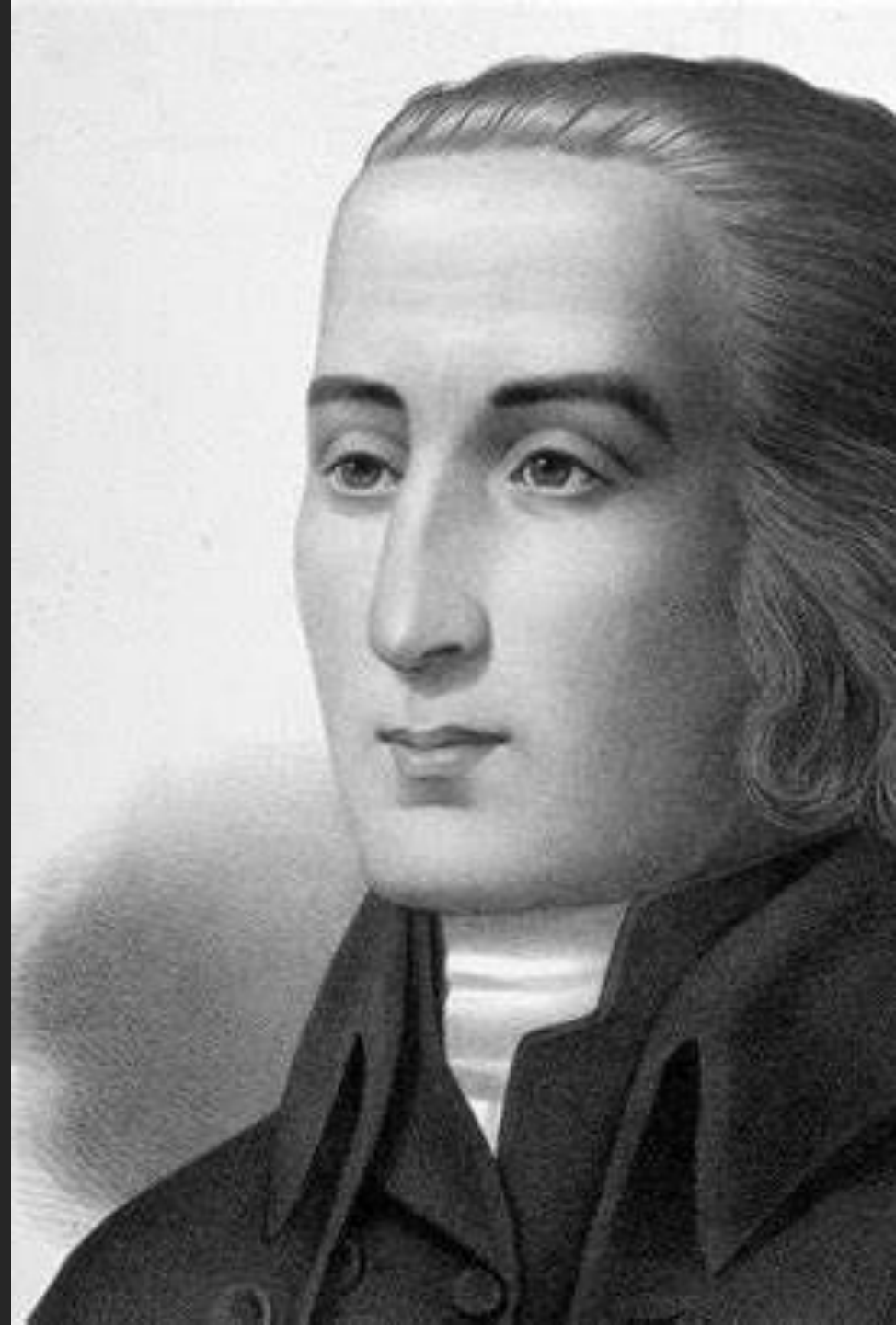
*Do you really sense his presence
in your life, sense him giving you
his love?*



WILLIAM WILLIAMS 1717-91

*Have you been finding Scripture
to be alive and active?*

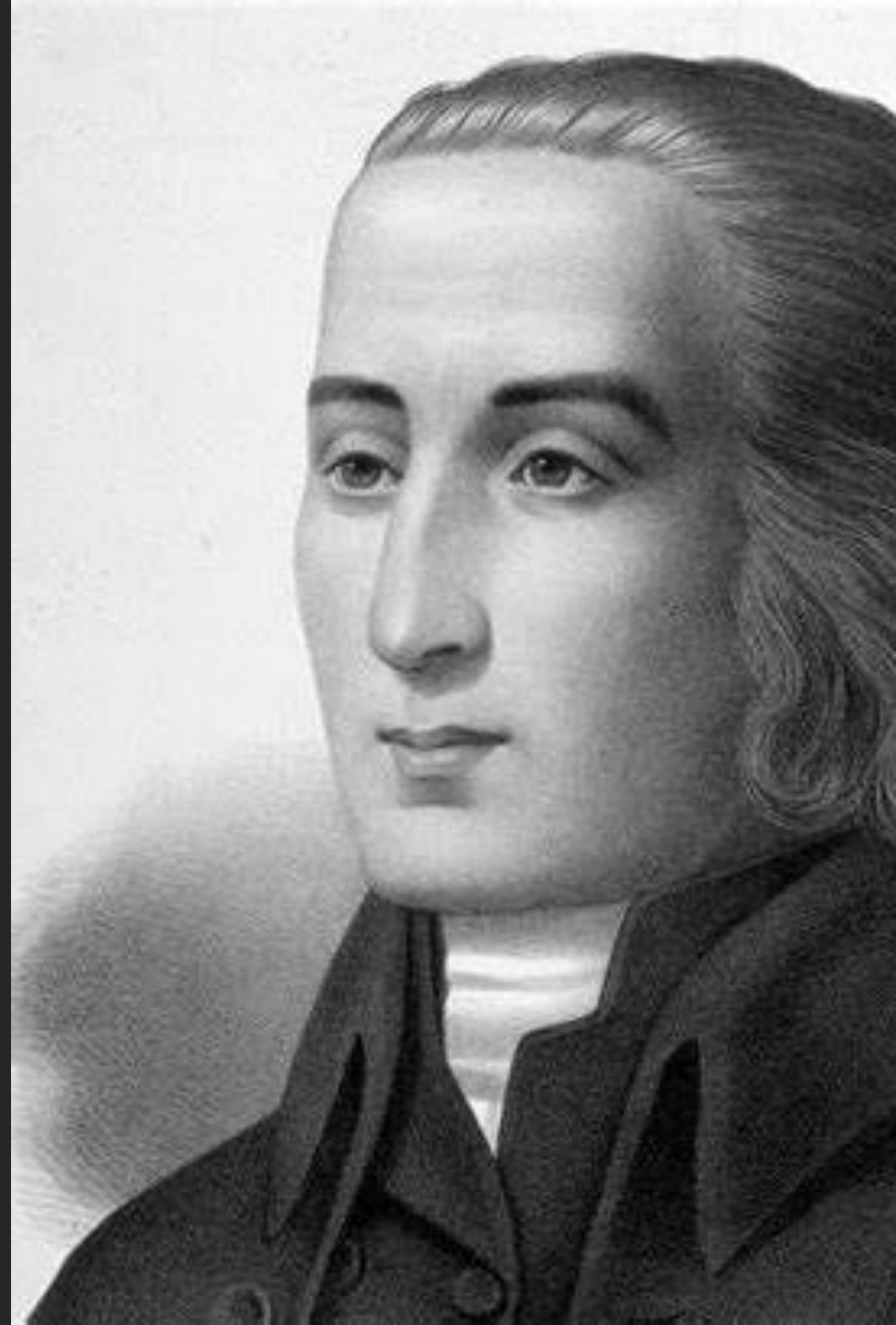
*Instead of just being a book, do
you feel like Scripture is coming
after you?*



WILLIAM WILLIAMS 1717-91

Are you finding certain biblical promises extremely precious and encouraging?

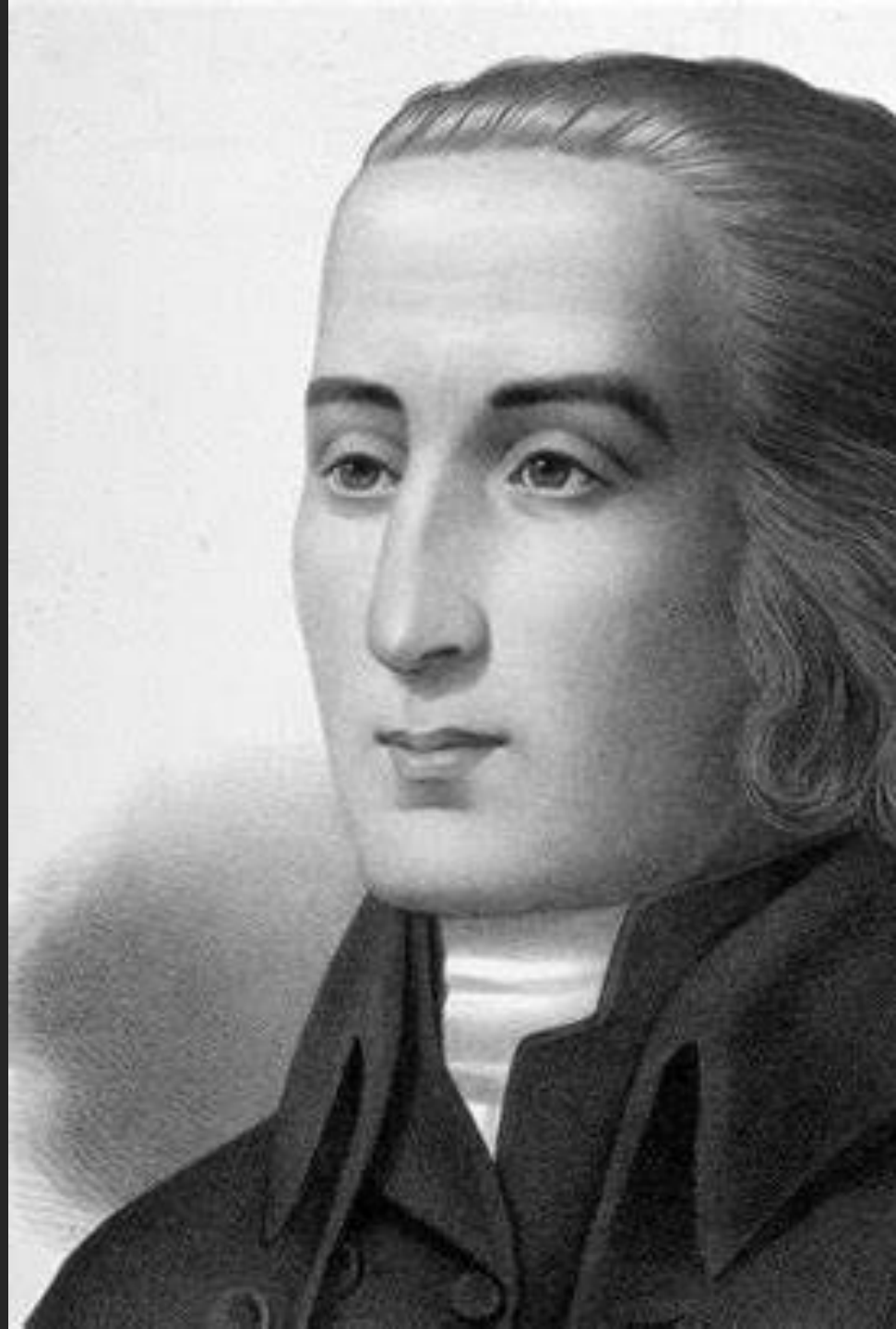
Which ones?



WILLIAM WILLIAMS 1717-91

*Are you finding God is
challenging you or calling you to
something through the Word?*

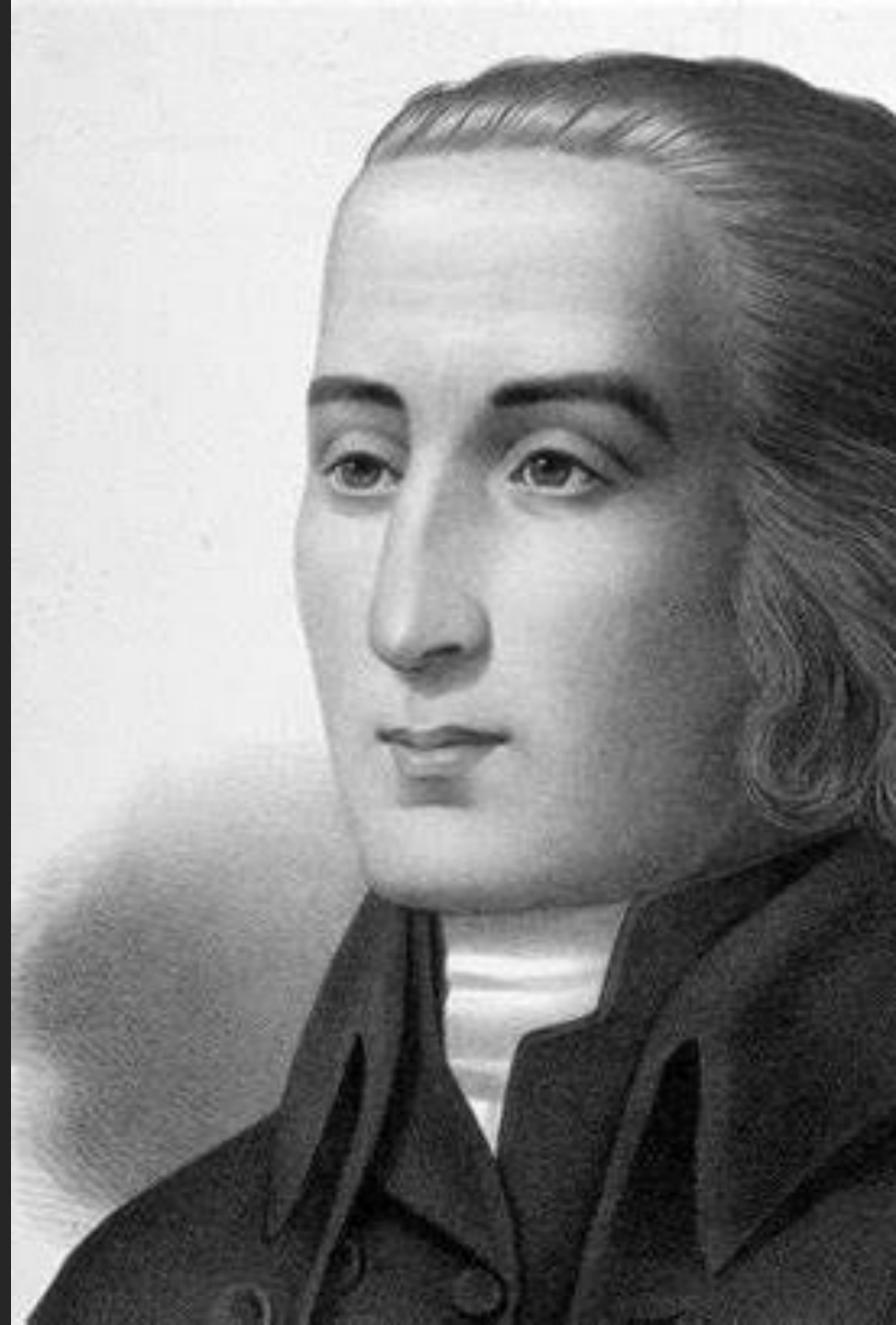
In what ways?



WILLIAM WILLIAMS 1717-91

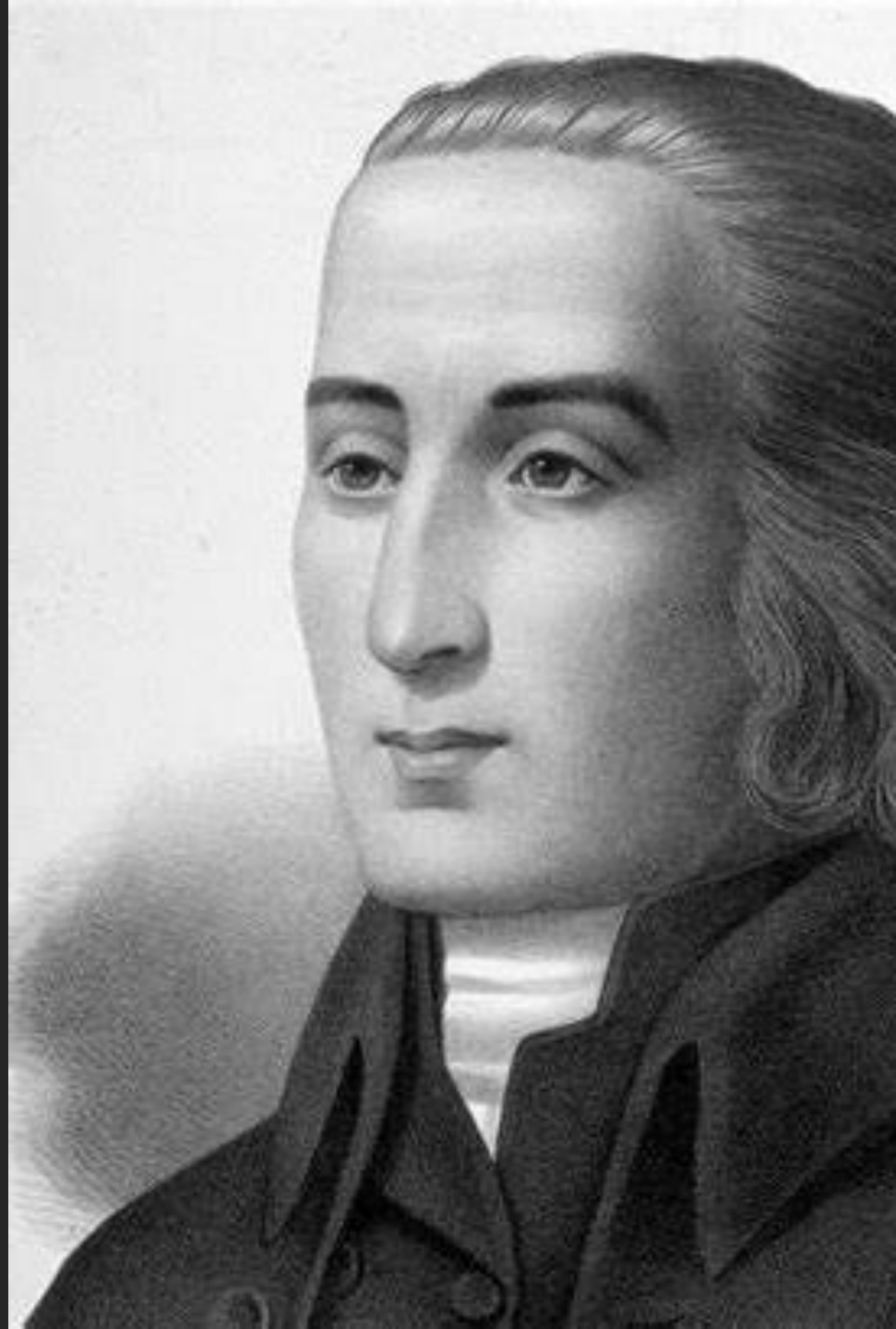
*Are you finding God's grace
more glorious and moving now
than you have in the past?*


What have you been seeing?



WILLIAM WILLIAMS 1717-91

Are you conscious of a growing sense of the evil of your heart, and in response, a growing dependence on and grasp of the preciousness of the mercy of God?





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