

WISDOM FROM GOD

An open Bible is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with text, and several horizontal lines of text are highlighted in various colors: green, orange, red, and blue. A yellow highlighter is positioned vertically across the center of the open book, resting on the pages. The background is dark and out of focus.

a look into
influential Bible passages and themes

COMMUNICATION

The Problem, the Potential, the Process



WISDOM FROM GOD

a look into influential Bible passages and themes

Healthy relationships are not born but developed and that through hard work, determination, pain, suffering, sacrifice and the role the scriptures play in the outworking of them through communication.



PROCESS

James 1:19

Quick, slow
slow

POTENTIAL Eph 4:11

gifts given to equip saints for the work of ministry, for building up body, helping attain unity, knowledge of Jesus, gaining maturity, full stature of Christ, for stability so the body grows up into our head who is Christ, so although we are various parts, we work , joined together as a whole

Problem James 3:4-6

the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

PROBLEM | JAMES 3:6

⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

PROVERBS 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.



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POTENTIAL | EPHESIAN 4:11-16

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

POTENTIAL | EPHESIAN 4:11-16

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

TO EQUIP THE SAINTS, TOOLS HAVE BEEN GIVEN

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints...



**BUILDING UP THE BODY UNTIL WE ALL ATTAIN TO
THE UNITY OF THE FAITH AND OF THE
KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD**

¹² ...to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ,

TO MATURE TO THE FULL STATURE OF CHRIST

¹³ ...until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...

NOT CARRIED AWAY BY CUNNING, CRAFTY, DECEITFUL SCHEMES

¹⁴ ...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

**SPEAK TRUTH IN LOVE
GROWING THE BODY INTO LIKE FASHION
AS CHRIST WHO IS OUR HEAD**

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Communication is the act of transferring thoughts and ideas with comprehension being the goal, not agreement.

As Christians and particularly at churches like MACC words are extremely important:

- **DISCIPLESHIP ASPECT:** Faithful are the wounds of a friend. (Pr 27:6) What does this mean?
- **CONTEXTUAL CONSIDERATION:** Community and zip code enforce
- **RENEWED MINDS:** Theology molds and establishes thoughts and understanding with words being the fruit of expression that conveys those ideas, concepts and convictions

PROCESS

James 1:19

Quick, slow
slow

POTENTIAL Eph 4:11

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PROCESS

Although we are responsible for our words and the tone in which they are spoken, the hearer is equally responsible for their discernment, filtering and processing of what has been communicated to them. Using forbearance, giving margin for awkward, stumbling discourse.

"No one can make you feel inferior without you giving them your consent"

Eleanor Roosevelt

WHERE DOES YOUR IDENTITY COME FROM?

Scripture or the mental tattoos others label us with?

I understand there is mental baggage that we ALL have that clouds and strains the concept of Christ's identity in us, but the cross can and should alleviate, replace and cancel some of those identifiers.

COLOSSIANS 3:10-11

And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

James 1:19 exhorts us to be:

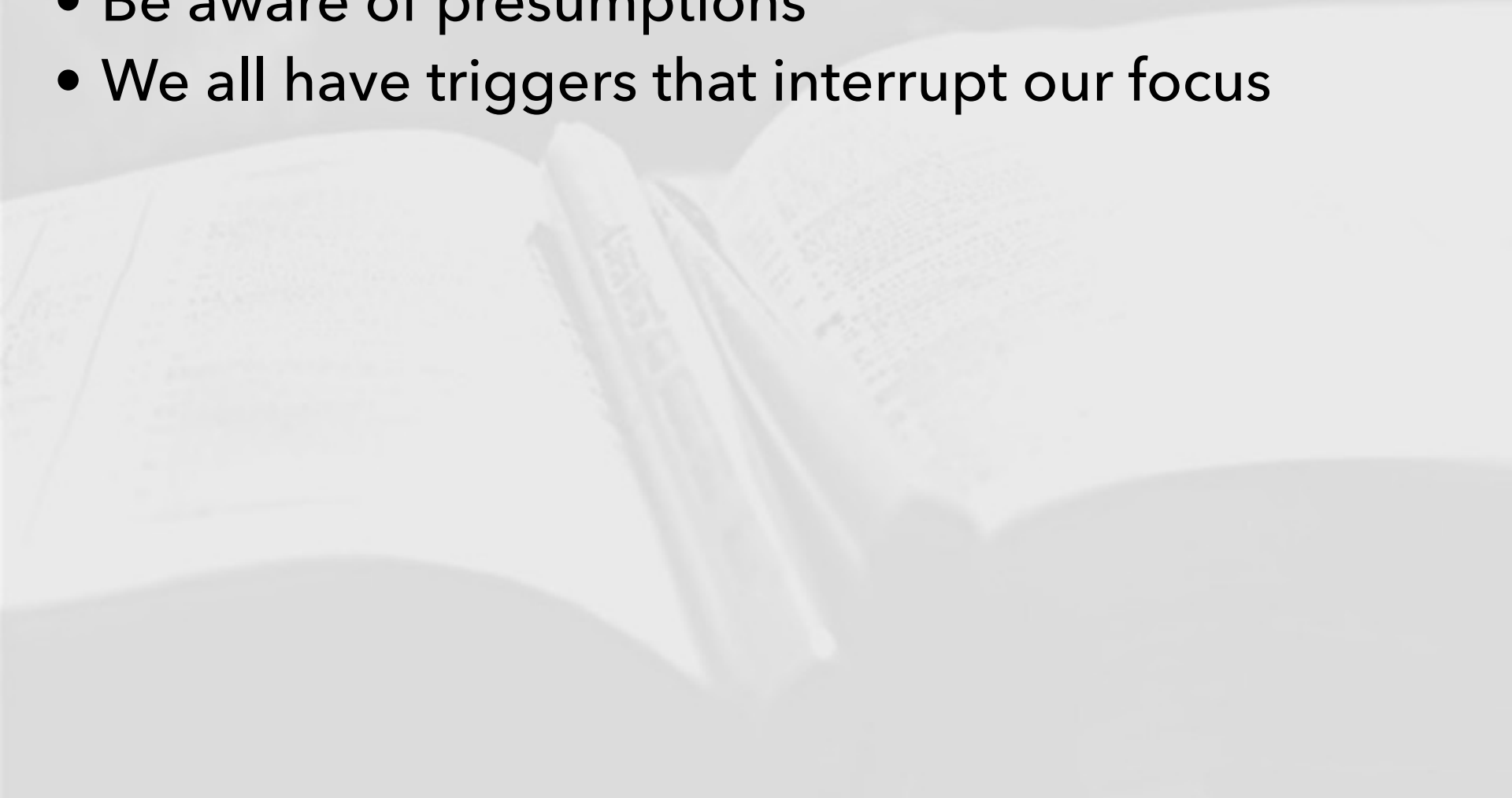
- **QUICK TO LISTEN.**
- **SLOW TO SPEAK.**
- **AND SLOW TO ANGER.**

ACTIVE LISTENING

- Start with having humility
- Includes eye contact, attentiveness, eliminating distractions
- Having an impartial mind whenever applicable
- Ability to put puzzle pieces together
- Boundaries, i.e. instead of rushing someone, say "I can give you 5 minutes now, will that work or can we talk later"
- *Comprehension is the goal*

SLOW TO SPEAK

- Love is patient - 1 Corinthians 13:4
- Clarify information given by asking questions
- Be aware of presumptions
- We all have triggers that interrupt our focus



SLOW TO ANGER

- How dare they! Don't they know who I am? I don't have to listen to them, with all their baggage and they are gonna preach to me? I'm a fifth generation Christian, they are fifth generation sinners.
- **Refuse to let emotions take control of conversation**
- **Matthew 18:23 - Forgiven steward mentality.**

REFLECTIVE LISTENING

Reflective listening is the art of clarification. It combines the skills of listening, discernment and asking questions to make clear the actual meaning so that all understand the ideas presented. It does not mean that all are in agreement to the validity or truth of the idea. It should, when necessary, include a reiteration back to the originator of the idea so that they feel confident in being understood.

REFLECTIVE LISTENING

Questions are oftentimes the key. They allow:

- First and foremost clarity. "I heard you say ..., it that what you meant"?
- Us to ponder what's been said
- God to subdue our emotions
- Us to listen for Holy Spirit
- The speaker to come to their own healthy conclusions or even just be heard without us assuming WE have to fix them.

MARK 12:28-34

²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.' ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

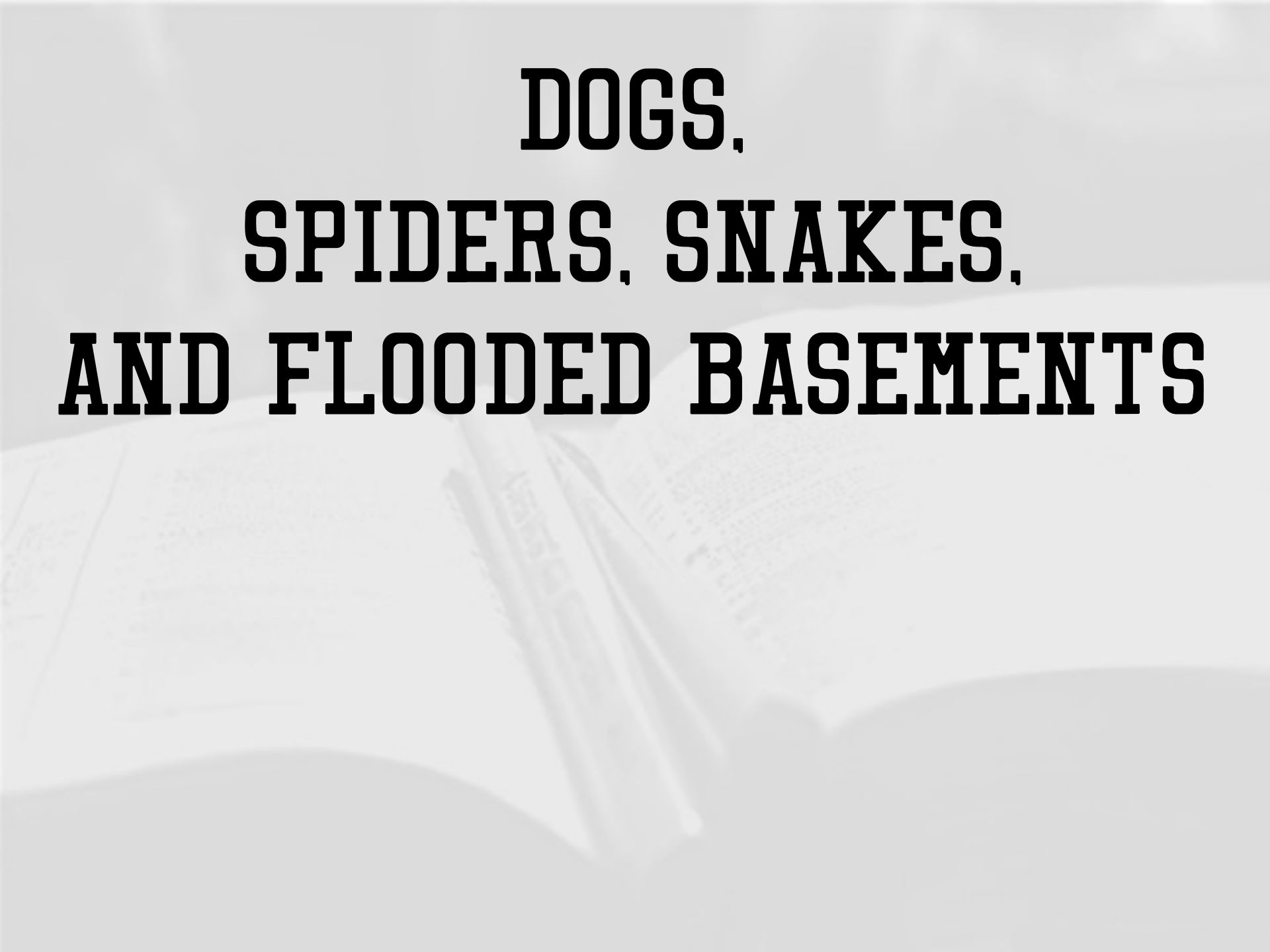
MARK 12:28-34

³² And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. ³³ And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

PROVERBS 20:5

Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

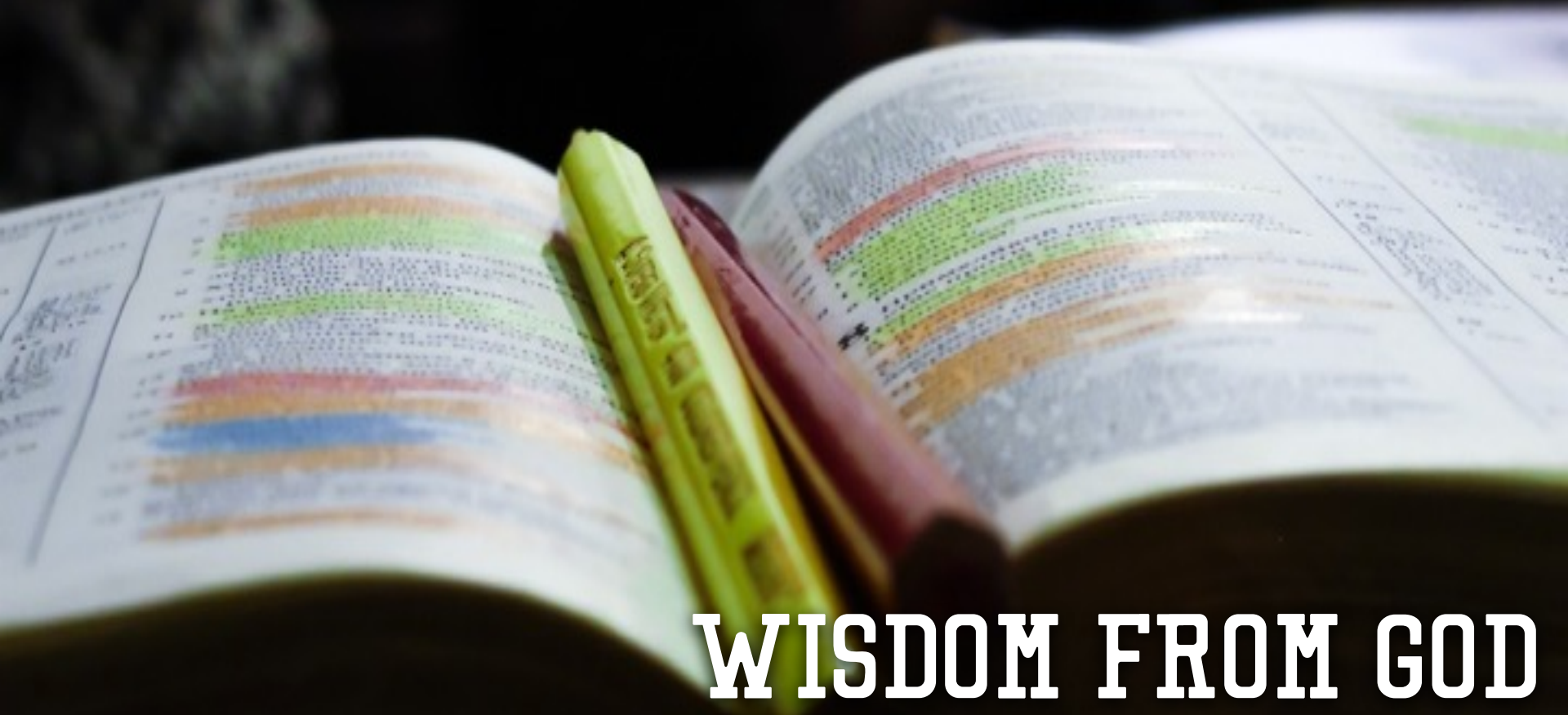


The background of the image is a grayscale photograph of an open book. The pages are slightly blurred, and a pen is resting on the right page. The overall tone is professional and academic.

**DOGS,
SPIDERS, SNAKES,
AND FLOODED BASEMENTS**

COMMUNICATION

The Problem, the Potential, the Process



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