



POWER.FULLY.WEAK.

August 8, 2021

2Cor 10:3-6

“Weapons of Warfare”

10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

2 Corinthians 9:3-6

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶ being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.



- The Spoils
- The Enemy
- The Weapons
- The Victors



The Spoils

What are we fighting for?

2Cor 11:2

For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

2Cor 13:5

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!



The Spoils

What are we fighting for?

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful.

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion,
seeking someone to devour.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came
that they may have life and have it abundantly.

The Enemy

“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.”

— Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*



³ For though we walk in the flesh,
we are not waging war according to the flesh.

Ephesians 6:12

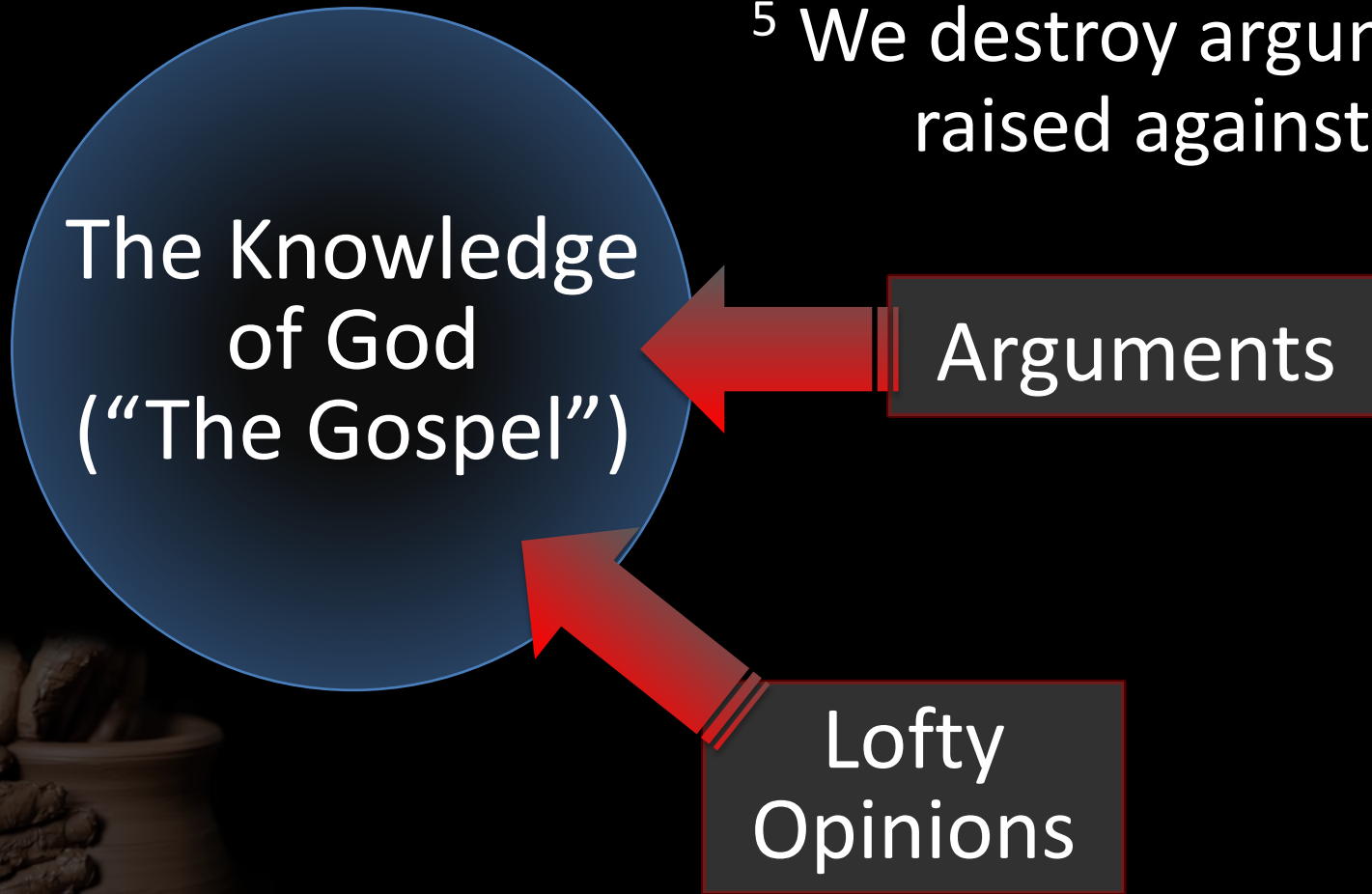
For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers,
against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present
darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.



The Weapons

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

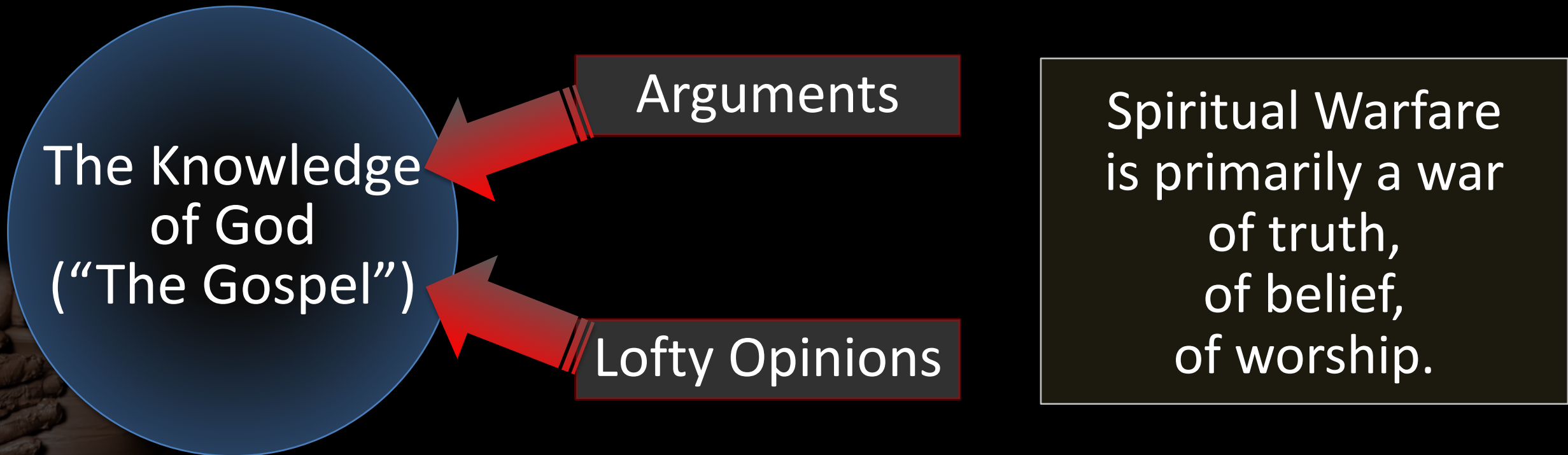
⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God...



Spiritual Warfare
is primarily a war
of truth,
of belief,
of worship.

The Weapons

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Their Weapons

Deny

The Knowledge
of God
("The Gospel")

Gen 3:1 "Did God really say...?"
Jn 18:38 "What is truth?"

Their Weapons

Deny

Gen 3:1 “Did God really say...?”

Jn 18:38 “What is truth?”

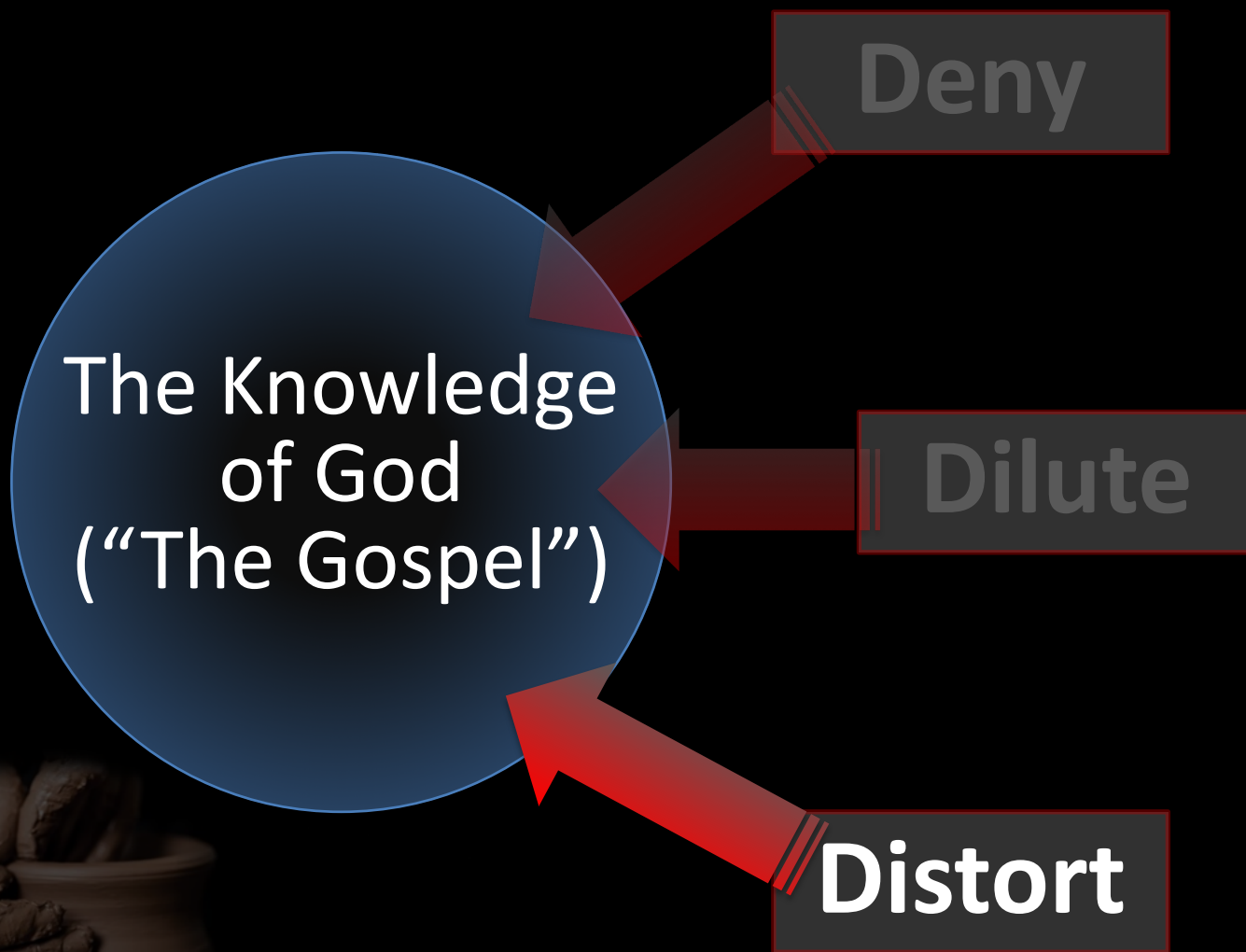
The Knowledge
of God
 (“The Gospel”)

Dilute

Mat 16:14 “Some say John the Baptist...Elijah...Jeremiah ...one of the prophets.”

It doesn't apply

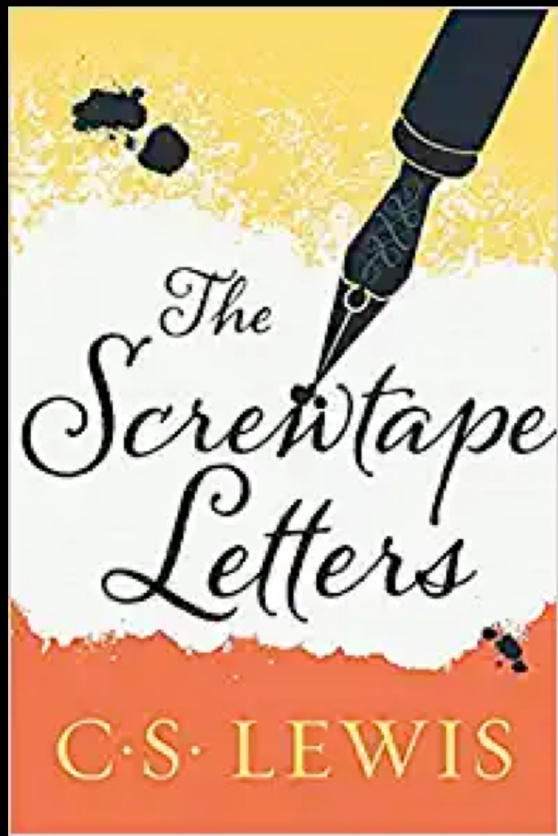
Their Weapons



Gen 3:1 "Did God really say...?"
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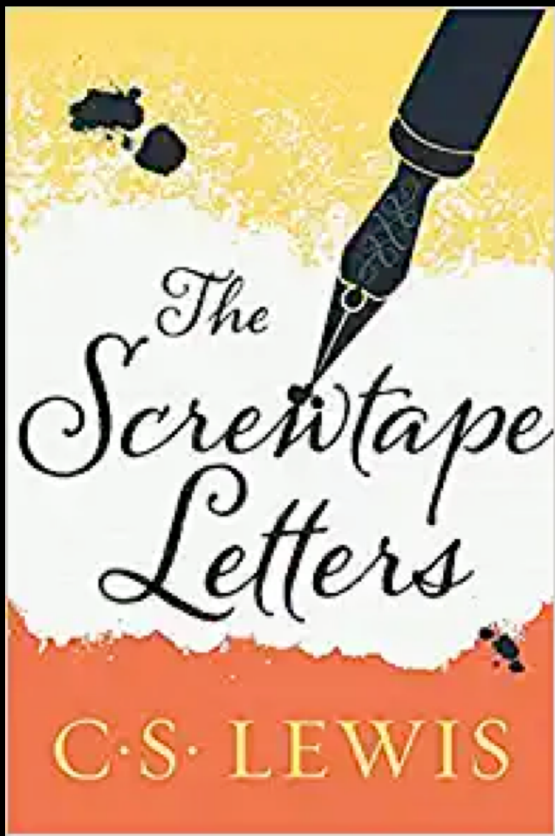
Luke 4:10 "it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you...'"



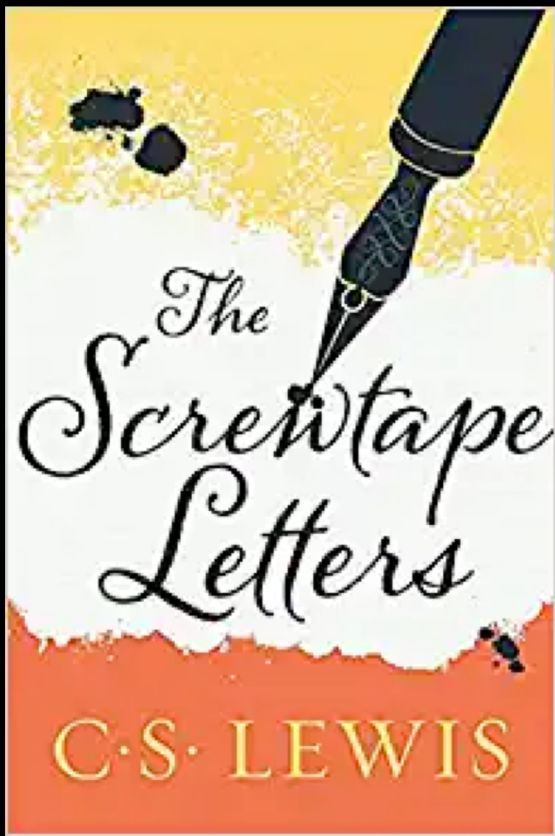
The correspondence of a worldly-wise devil to his nephew Wormwood, a novice demon in charge of securing the damnation of an ordinary young man.

“It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds: in reality our best work is done by keeping things out.”

“A moderated religion is as good for us as no religion at all—and more amusing.”



Handle him properly and (whether or not he is actually a Christian) simply won't come into his head. He has not been anything like long enough with the Enemy to have any real humility yet. What he says, even on his knees, about his own sinfulness is all parrot talk. At bottom, he still believes he has run up a very favourable credit-balance in the Enemy's ledger by allowing himself to be converted, and thinks that he is showing great humility and condescension in going to church with these "smug", commonplace neighbours at all. Keep him in that state of mind as long as you can.

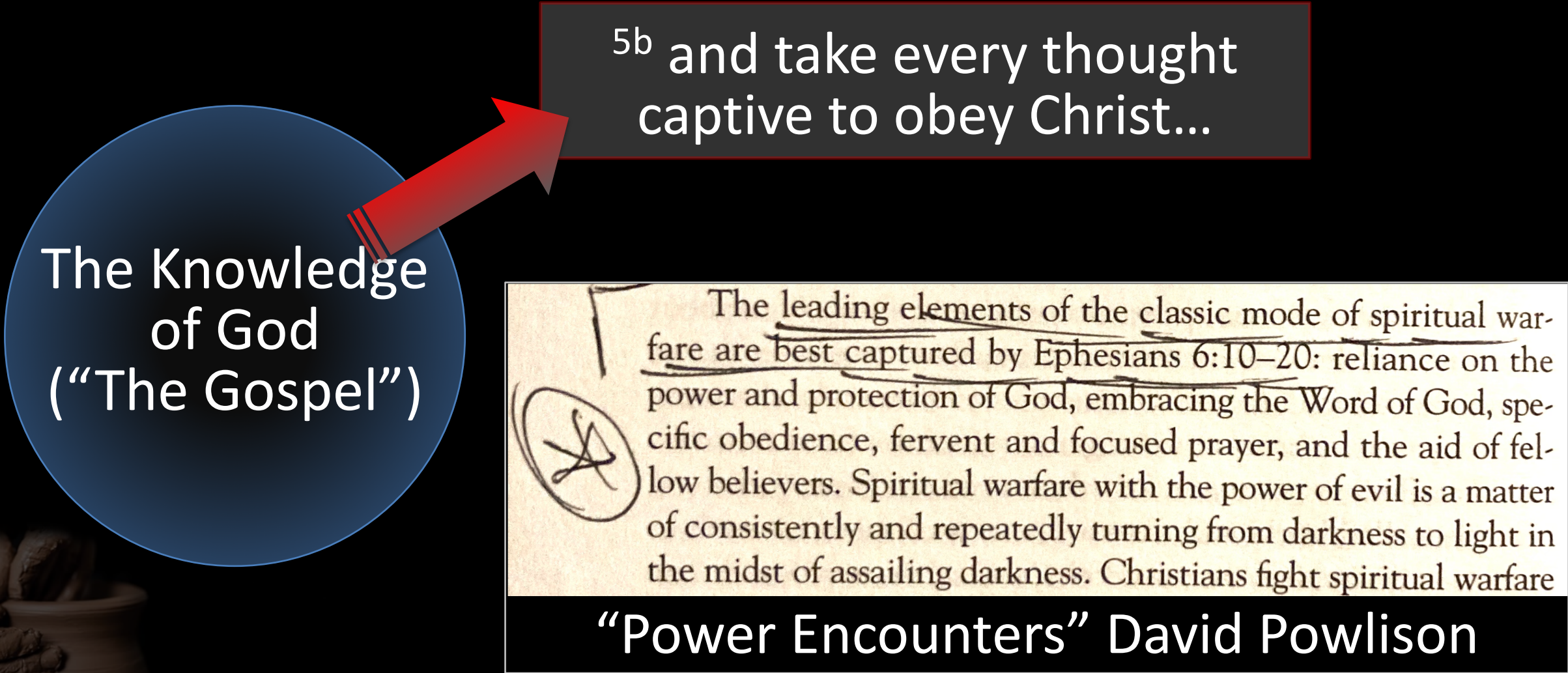


First, try keeping the patient sufficiently distracted. This is important, Wormwood, because the Enemy wants him to ponder and meditate on that awful truth (I shudder even to write it), the incarnation. You must do all you can to prevent this from happening—and distraction is one of your deadliest weapons during these seasons. I know you've failed miserably in similar efforts in the past (and have paid dearly for it), but there are so many potential means for distraction during this one month that even you should find this task easy. So, keep him overly committed to all sorts of things (yes, even good things).... If his calendar isn't full, you've failed. Exhaust him. Tire him out in any way you can. Keep him going and doing, and if that doesn't work, distract him with entertainment and other mindless tricks. Just don't give him time and space to consider what these seasons are actually meant to celebrate.

Our Weapons

5^b and take every thought captive to obey Christ...

The Knowledge
of God
("The Gospel")



The leading elements of the classic mode of spiritual warfare are best captured by Ephesians 6:10–20: reliance on the power and protection of God, embracing the Word of God, specific obedience, fervent and focused prayer, and the aid of fellow believers. Spiritual warfare with the power of evil is a matter of consistently and repeatedly turning from darkness to light in the midst of assailing darkness. Christians fight spiritual warfare

"Power Encounters" David Powlison

Our Weapons

Reliance on God's Power

The Knowledge
of God
("The Gospel")


⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have *divine power* to destroy strongholds.

Our Weapons

Reliance on God's Power

Embrace God's Truth

The Knowledge
of God
("The Gospel")



^{5b} and take every thought
captive to obey Christ...

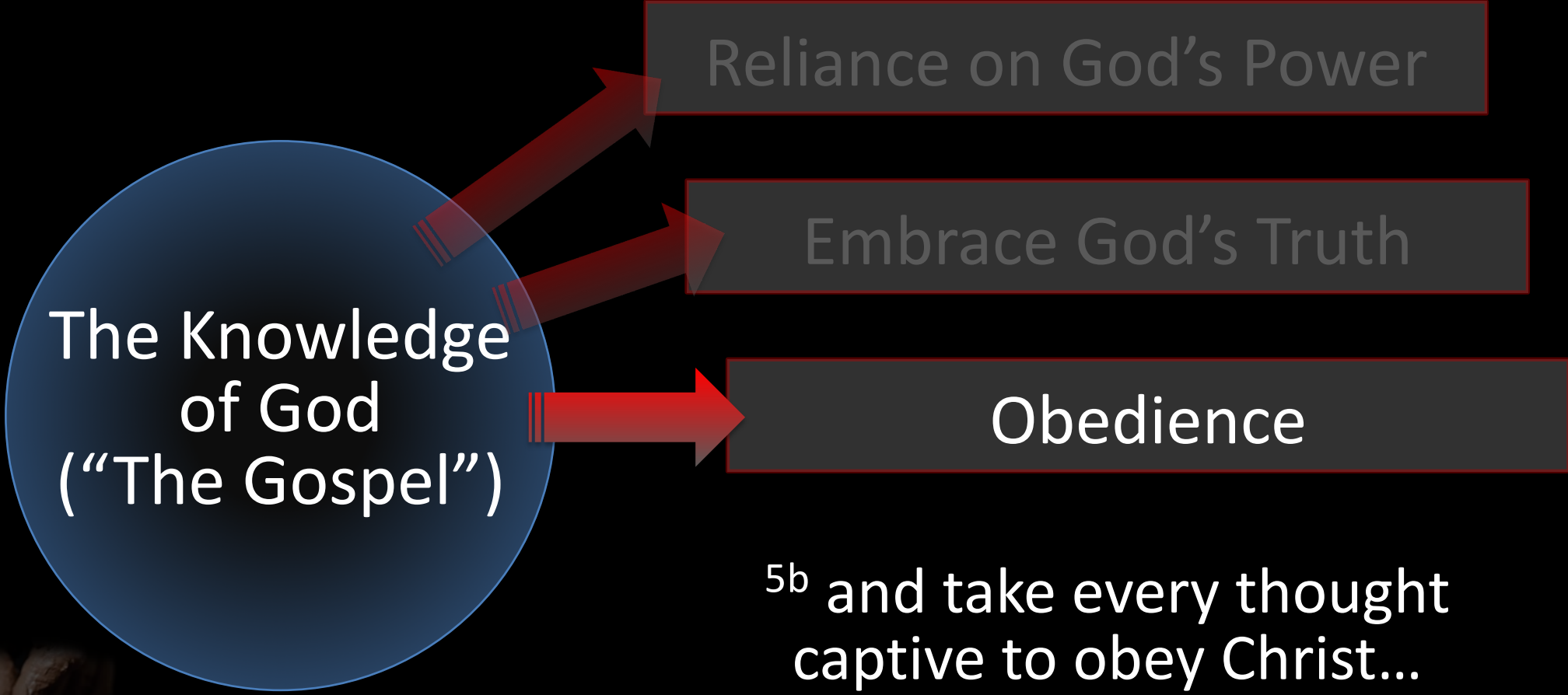
Our Weapons

Reliance on God's Power

Embrace God's Truth

Obedience

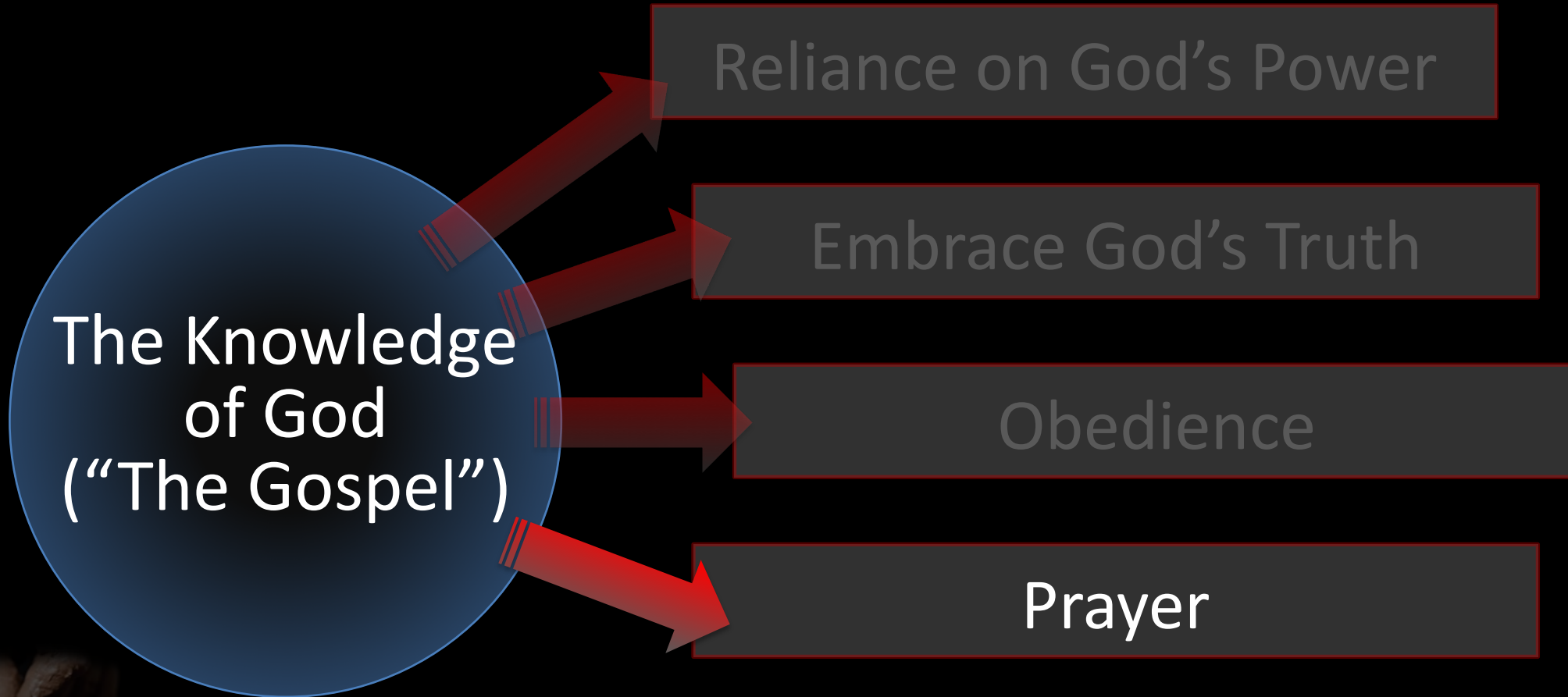
The Knowledge
of God
("The Gospel")



^{5b} and take every thought
captive to obey Christ...

vs. "the devil made me do it"

Our Weapons



Mat 6:10 "but deliver us from evil"

Mark 9:29 "this kind only comes out by prayer"

Our Weapons

Reliance on God's Power

Embrace God's Truth

Obedience

Prayer

Community

The Knowledge
of God
("The Gospel")

⁶ being ready to
punish every
disobedience,
when your
obedience is
complete.

The Victors

“Jesus speaks of his cross as the definitive cosmic exorcism”
Powlison, Power Encounters

Col 1:13

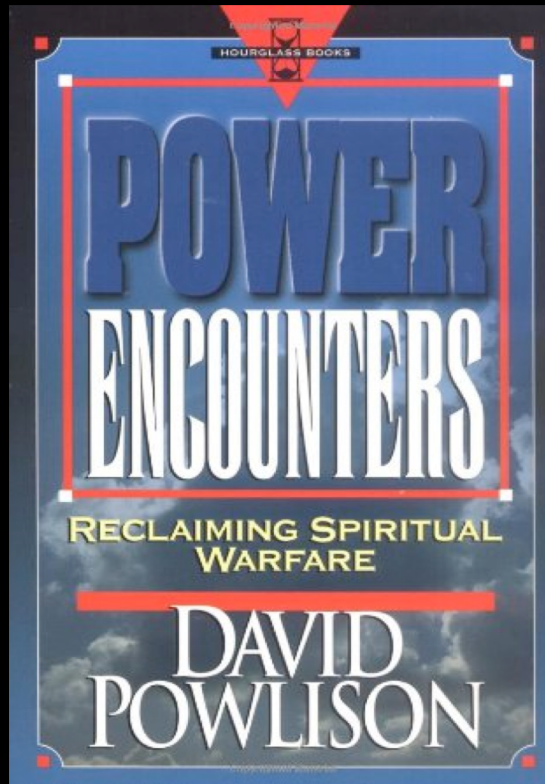
He *has delivered* us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

John 12:31

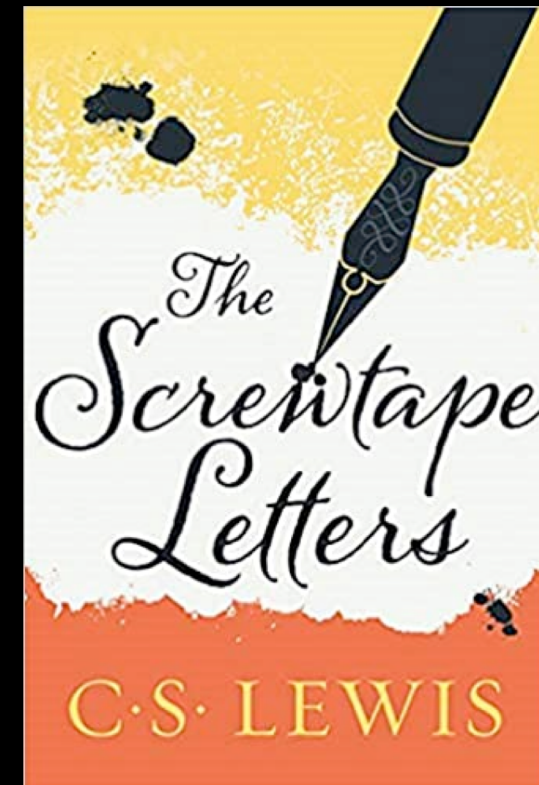
Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

Application

A practical, biblical and gospel-approach to real-life spiritual warfare.



A powerful and thought provoking fictional spiritual warfare story



Connect with God

- Scripture
- Prayer
- Worship

Connect with Others

- Vulnerable
- Teachable
- Accountable

Connect with Yourself

- Listen
- Repent
- Obey

Story = Matthew

A.D.D. = Mark

Logic = Luke

Artsy = John