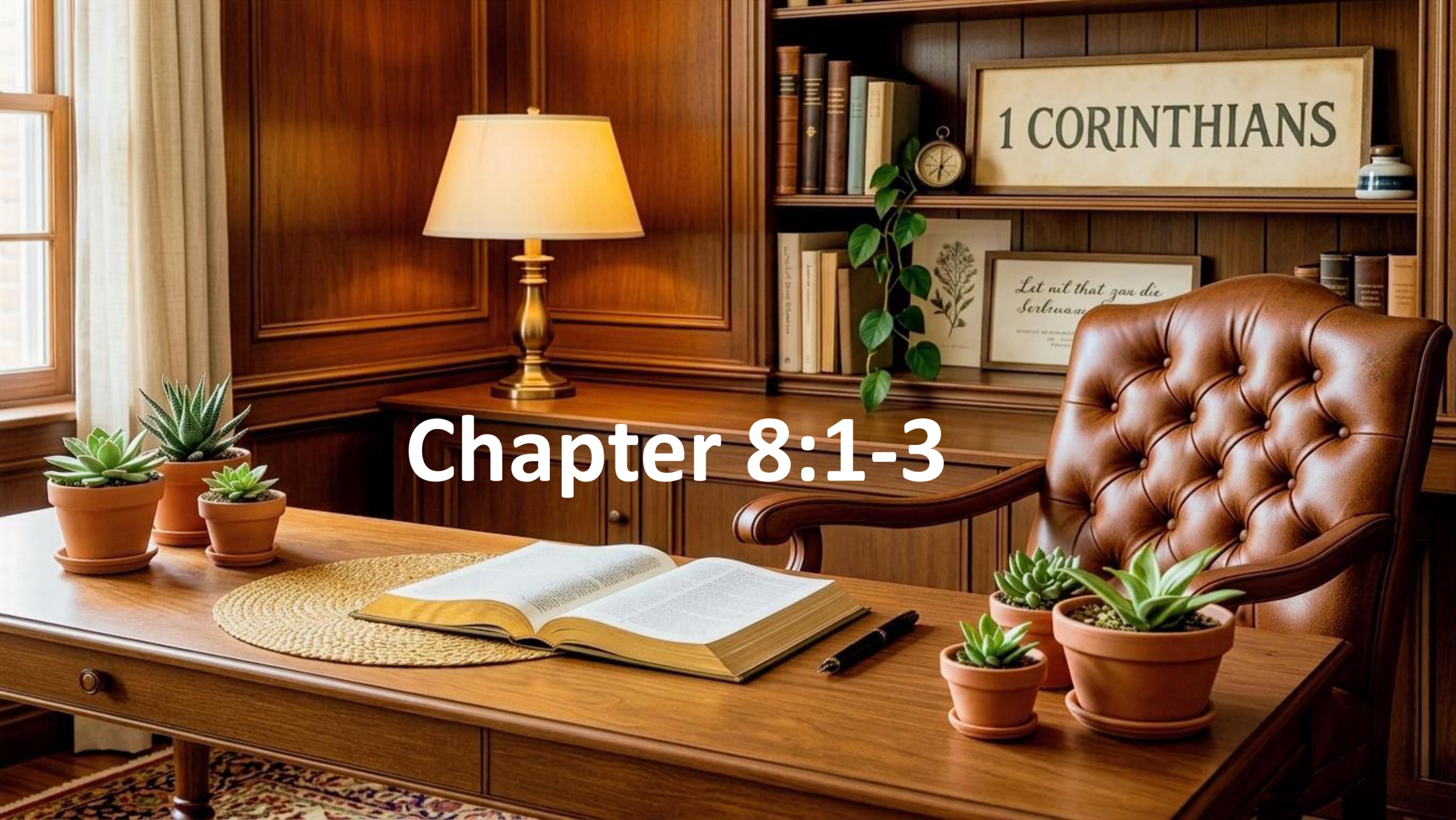


1 CORINTHIANS

*Let nil that gan die  
Serlwaan*

# Chapter 8:1-3



- <sup>1</sup> Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.”  
But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.
- <sup>2</sup> Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know.
- <sup>3</sup> But whoever loves God is known by God.

# The Tension in Corinth

The Strong: Theologically grounded, confident in their freedom

The Weak: Tender consciences, needing guardrails to feel safe.

The core issue was never about the meat sacrificed to idols.

It was about people.

Love doesn't just ask, "Can I?"

Love asks, "What is this doing to the person standing next to me?"



# Hollow, Humble, Held

Right knowledge of God produces a posture of love that builds up others.

(1 Corinthians 8:1–3)

# Point 1 — Hollow

“We know that we all possess knowledge. But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.”  
(1 Corinthians 8:1)

*Physioō*: Inflated. Big. Takes up space. Empty on the inside.





J.B. Phillips

**‘While knowledge may make a man look big, it is only love that can make him grow to his full stature.’**

# Jonathan Edwards

Speculative knowledge lives only in the head.  
“The sense of the heart” reaches the way you love, the way you live, and the way you treat the person right in front of you. Knowledge that stays in your head never reaches your hands.

# Point 1 — Hollow

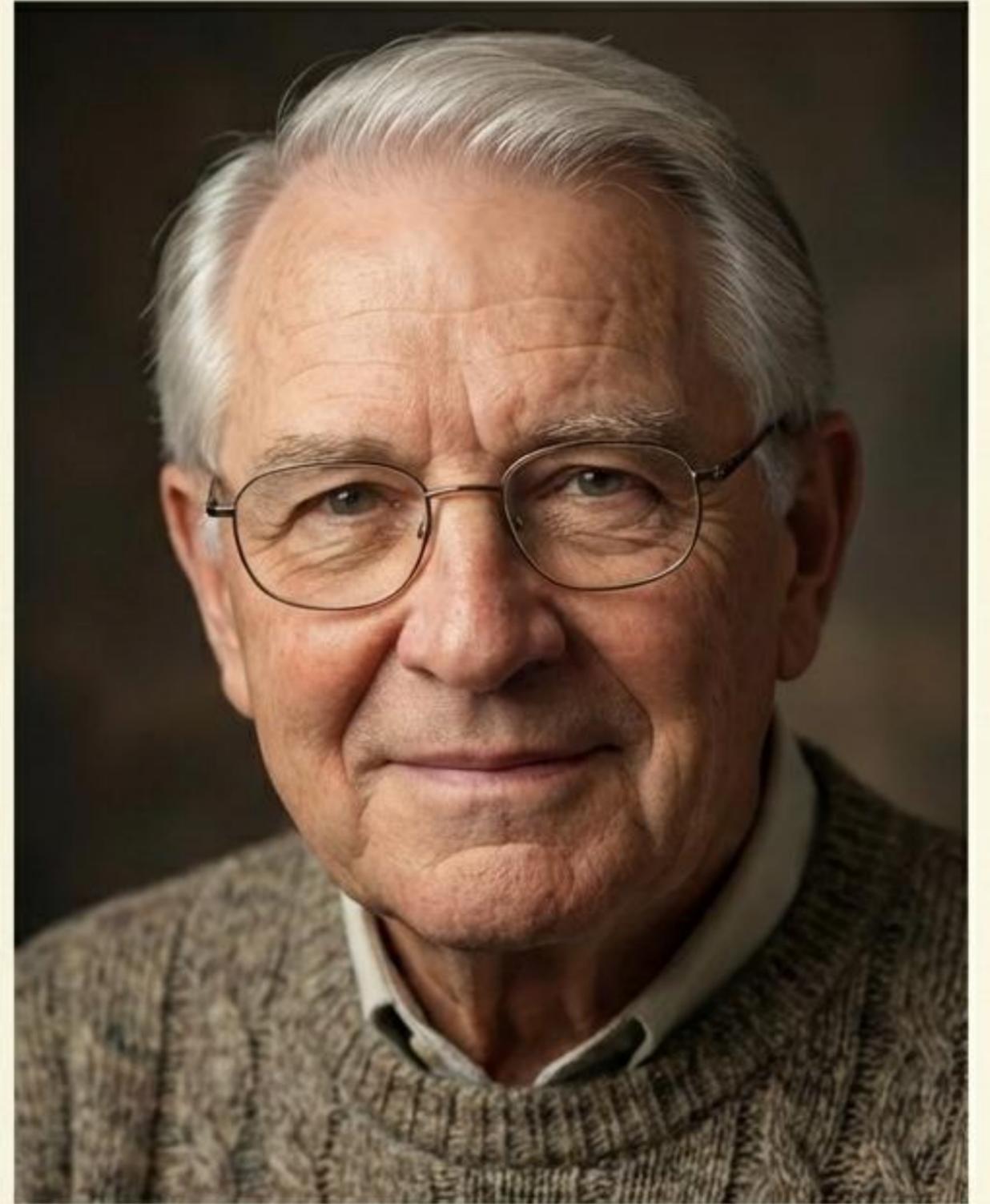
“We know that we all possess knowledge. But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.”  
(1 Corinthians 8:1)

*Physioō*: Inflated. Big. Takes up space. Empty on the inside.



Warren Wiersbe

**"Some  
Christians  
grow. Others  
just swell."**



# The Choice of the Heart

Knowledge is simultaneously a tool and a weapon.

In the hands of love, knowledge builds up (Oikodomeō) – slow, patient work aimed at someone else's growth.

In the hands of pride, that same knowledge takes a sledgehammer to the people around you.



# Warren Wiersbe

"Truth without love is  
brutality — but love  
without truth is hypocrisy."

## **Luke 18:9-13**

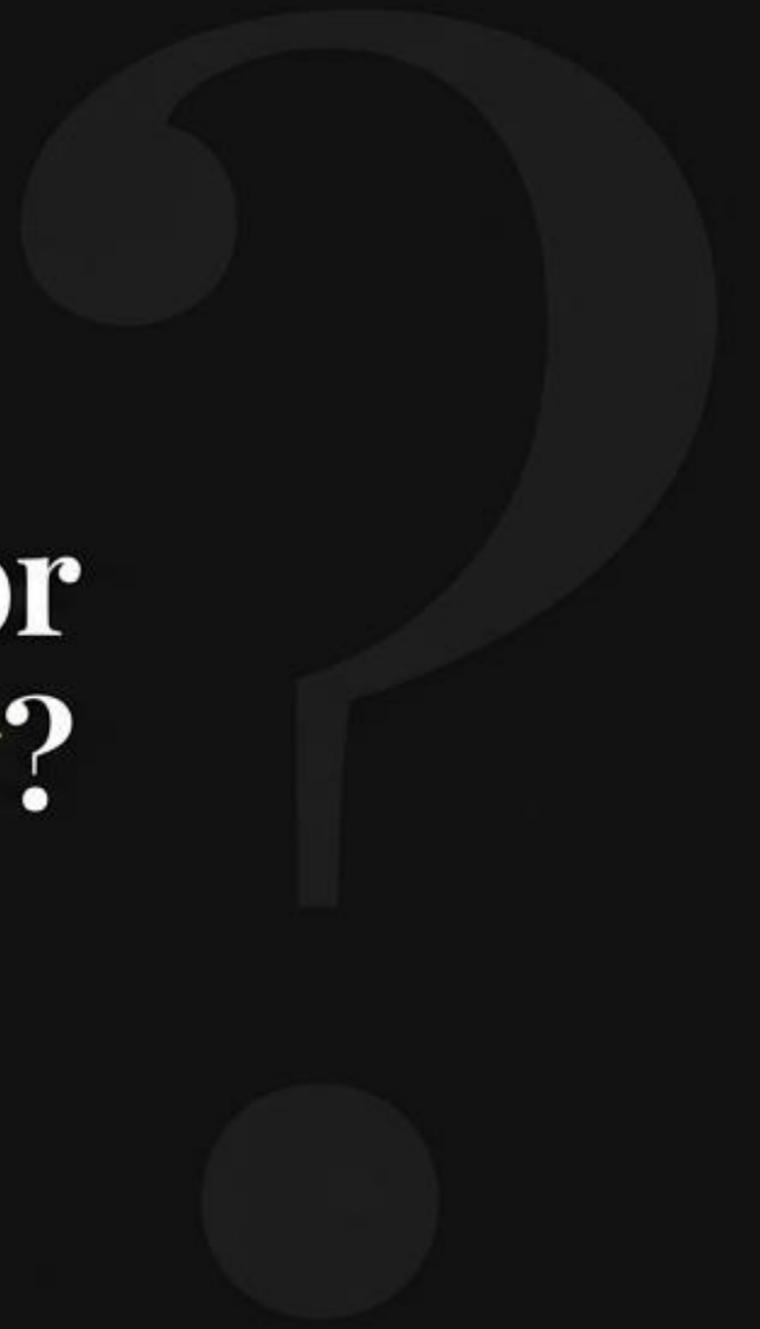
<sup>9</sup> To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

<sup>13</sup> “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

Before you correct someone, pause and ask yourself one honest question:

**am I trying to build them up — or  
am I trying to show what I know?**

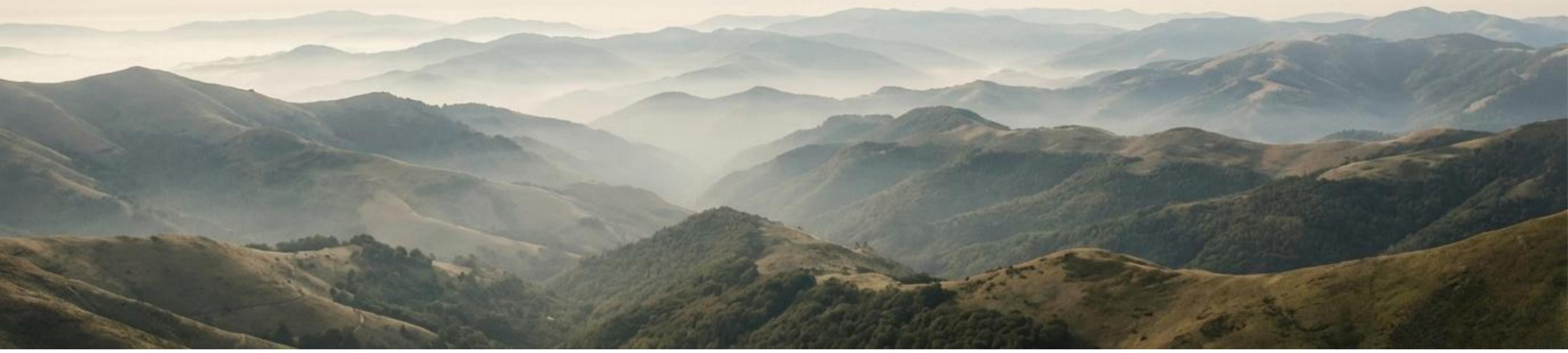
Knowledge without love is working against the God you're trying to serve.



# Point 2 — Humble

Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know (1 Corinthians 8:2)

Dokei: The attitude that sees oneself as arrived, complete, and done. The moment you believe you've graduated, you prove you never understood the course.



# Charles Spurgeon

'The doorstep to the temple of wisdom  
is a knowledge of our own ignorance.'

## **Matthew 11:29**

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

# The Posture of Jesus

Praus (Gentle): Strength under control.

A powerful patience under pressure.

Tapeinos (Humble): Choosing to go low.

A posture held only by someone completely secure in who they are.

Jesus had all authority in heaven and on earth — and used it to wash feet.



When you meet someone who doesn't know what you know –  
do you feel **superior**, or do you feel **responsible**?

*Stay at the feet of Jesus.*

There is always more to learn and always someone to serve.



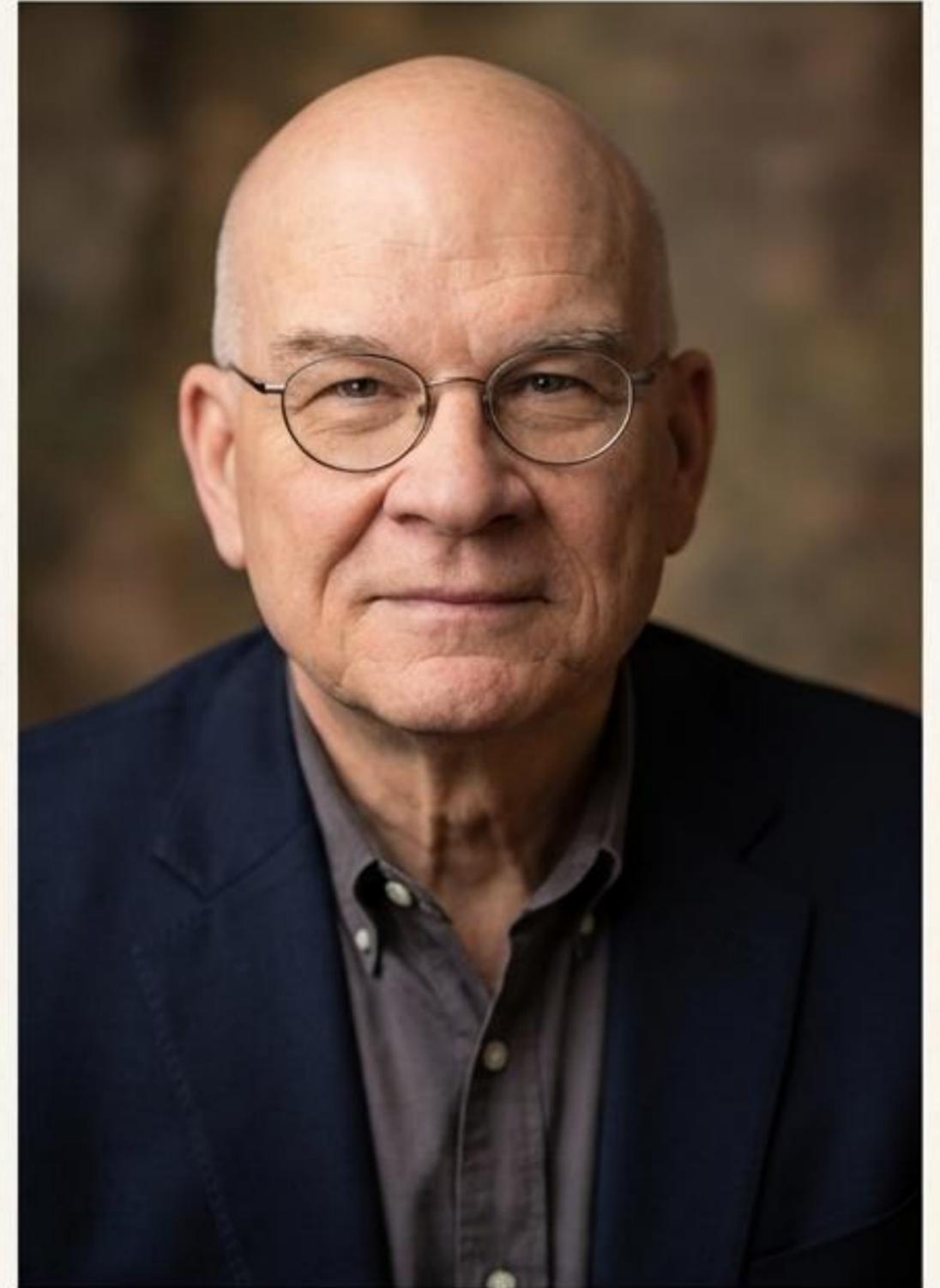
## Point 3 — Held

“But whoever loves God is known by God.” (1 Corinthians 8:3)

Ginōskō: Full exposure. Nothing hidden or filtered. It is the knowing that has seen everything — and stayed anyway. The knowing that matters isn't something you achieve; it was already given.

Tim Keller

“To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything.”



Are you striving to be known - or resting  
in the fact that you already are?

# Stop rehearsing.

God already knows you, sees you, and holds you.  
You don't have to earn what's already been given.

Rest in that - and then out of that rest,

**go build somebody else up.**

# The Two Paths

## The Pharisee (Luke 18)

Correctly informed, but accurately failing. Uses knowledge as a measuring stick against everyone else.

## The Prodigal (Luke 15)

Rehearsing the speech, calculating the debt. Trying to earn a place place that was already claimed by the Father.



# Put Down the Measuring Stick

- Stop rehearsing your speech.
- Rest in being fully known.
- Build others up out of the overflow of a soul that has finally come home.

