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ORU Faculty Ethos & History - Spirit-Empowered Life - Faith & Learning

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ORU Faculty Ethos & History - Spirit-Empowered Life - Faith & Learning



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Dr. Bill Buker



Dr. William Ranahan



Spirit-empowered Faculty

Dr. Daniel Isgrigg



*“Raise up your students to hear My voice,
to go where My light is seen dim,
where My voice is heard small,
where My power is not known,
even to the uttermost bounds of the earth.
Their work will exceed yours, and in this I am well pleased.”*

Granville Oral Roberts January 24, 1918 - December 15, 2009



“Build Me a University
...On My Authority
....And On the Holy Spirit”

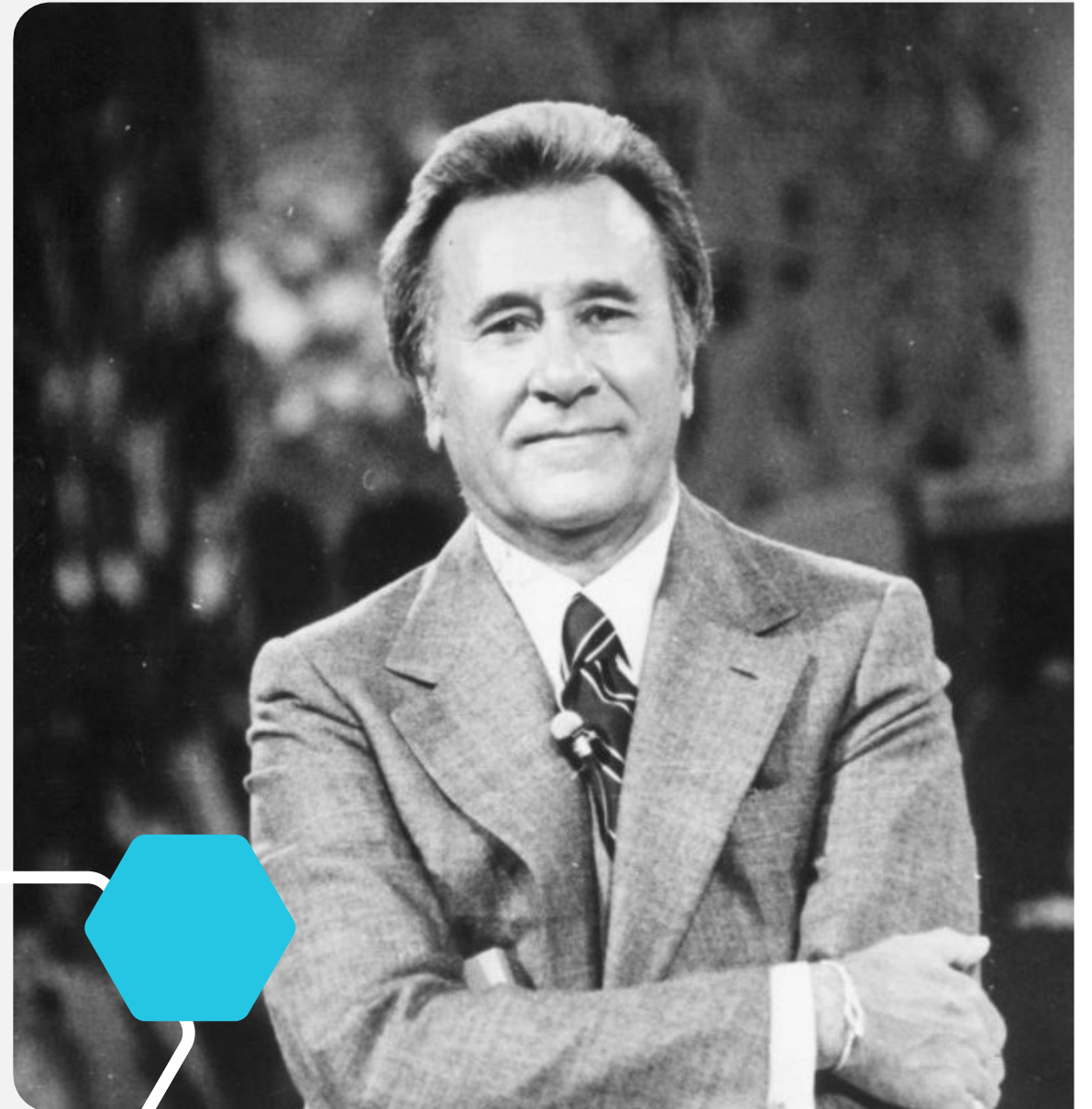
1970

- “Has received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and is growing in that experience, or has not received the experience as we believe and practice here, but continues to be “open” to the experience.”
- Section 3.F.a., *Oral Roberts University Faculty and Administrative Handbook*, 20 November 1970, 22.



1976

- “Has received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and is growing in that experience, or has not received the experience as we believe and practice here, but continues to be “open” to the experience. “Openness” as we define it means that an individual believes that the Prayer Language is scriptural, that Jesus wants him to have the Prayer Language, and that the individual is ready to enter in and to truly walk in the Spirit. .”
- Section III.E.2.a., Oral Roberts University Faculty and Administrative Handbook, 11 December 1976, 18.



Reshaping ORU's Ethos

1960s- Pentecostal and Mainline Charismatic

1970s-1980s – Charismatic – Mainline
(Methodist)

1990s-2000s – Independent Charismatic

2007 – New ORU is Born

2008 – New Generation Conversations on
Spirit-empowered living

2010 – Empowered21 first Congress

2013 – Globalization Initiative



The New ORU

- “In the absence of a denominational connection, many of these new Spirit-filled churches saw Oral Roberts University as a school they could call their own. Thus, ORU became the accredited higher education school of choice for several segments of the Charismatic church. . . During this exciting season of transition at ORU, **we have recognized the need for new vocabulary** that will help position the university at the cutting edge of the Charismatic/Pentecostal movement in the future.”
- “Holy Spirit Empowerment in the 21st Century”

New Vocabulary

Pentecostal and Charismatic Movement

= Spirit-empowered Movement

644 Million Believers World-wide



ORU Today

- “Oral Roberts University is committed to appointing faculty members who maintain the academic integrity of the University, are Spirit-empowered leaders who support and promote the University’s mission and vision, and who are committed Christians seeking to grow in their own walks with God.
- As Spirit-empowered Christians commissioned to develop Spirit-empowered leaders through whole person education, faculty members demonstrate lifestyles founded upon the Word of God and attest to their own experiences of Spirit-empowerment, which includes praying in the Spirit or actively seeking a personal prayer language.”
- Faculty Handbook Sect. 2.1.1



ORU Today

- *2.1.12.2 Spiritual Commitments*
- *A. Criteria*
- 1. Confesses a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in alignment with the ORU Bylaws
- 2. Attests to a continuing experience of Spirit-empowerment which includes the ability to pray in the Spirit or be actively seeking experience (Acts 2:4; 1 Cor 14:14-15)
- 3. Cultivates a Spirit-filled life through an ethical lifestyle characterized by the fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-25), growing in the gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor 12:4-11), and God-given gifts to serve students (1 Pet 4:10)



Conclusion

- Spirit-empowered global community is our base.
- Spirit-empowered leaders is our goal.
- Spirit-empowered faculty make it happen.





Spirit-empowered Living: Inside and Outside the Classroom

Bill Buker, DMin, PhD, LPC

What is Spirit-empowered living?

When you think of Spirit-empowered living on a daily basis, what do you picture?

What distinguishes Spirit-empowered believers?

What facilitates Spirit-empowerment?

Spirit-empowered Distinctives

- Expectational
- Experiential
- Engaged
- Empowered
- Epistemological



Farewell Discourse (John 13-17)

Celebrates Passover—The Last Supper—washed disciples' feet

Gives them a new commandment to love as he loved them

Tells them he's leaving to prepare a place so they can join him

Says that it's better he go away so that he can send the Spirit

- The Spirit will not just be with them but within them
- He will advocate, teach, guide, reveal Jesus, and empower them to do even greater works

Compares their new relationship to a vine and its branches

Spirit-empowered Living

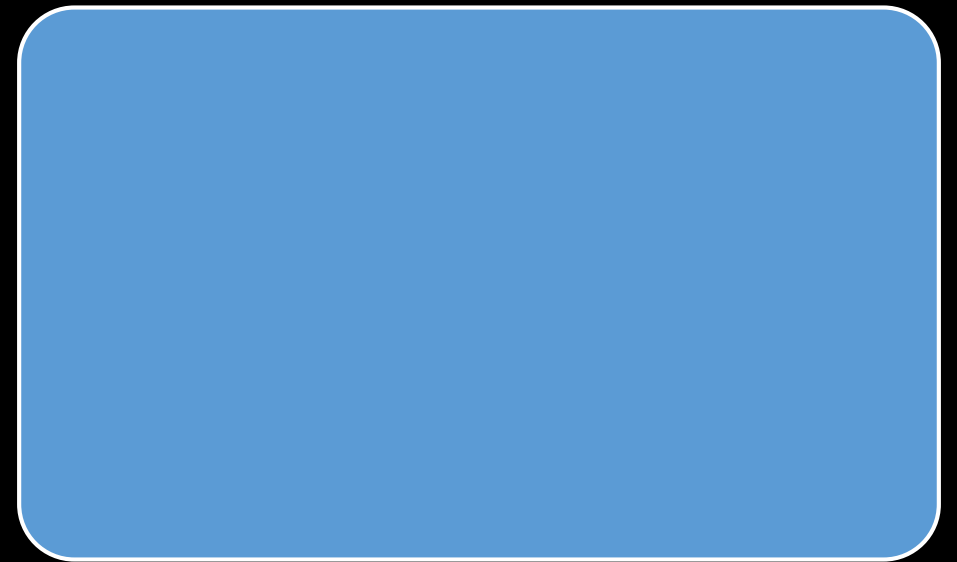
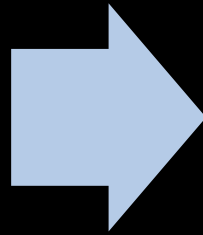
Abide

Filled

Fruitful

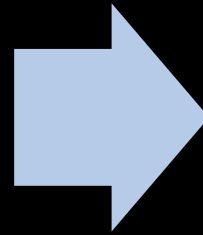
What Constitutes Abiding in the Vine?

Identity
Marker



Abiding in the Vine

Identity
Marker



Agape

Jesus' Vision

In commanding his disciples to love each other as he had loved them, Jesus seemed to be envisioning a process through which his love would be perpetuated across time and space such that this new community of disciples and the multiple communities to follow would become places of transformation where the love experienced would become the love expressed.

Mindset Issue

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5 NIV)

All of us have a mindset

- Assumptions, ideas, and beliefs that influence perception, attitude, and actions

Helps us make sense of the world and construct meaning

- It affects how we see things, especially how we define success and significance
- It influences how we see people and relate to others

One of the characteristics that most distinguished Jesus from those around him was how differently he saw things

- Pharisees saw tax collectors and sinners—Jesus saw people who were sick and need a physician
- e.g., “I desire mercy not sacrifice” (Mt. 9:13)
- “When he saw the multitude, he was moved with compassion” (Mt. 9:36)

In order for Jesus’ to see things so differently, his mindset must have consisted of different assumptions about success and significance than the Pharisees

Competing Mindsets

Pharisees

- Performance-oriented
- Image-driven
- Outcome-based

Jesus

- Relationship-oriented
- Grace-driven
- Process-based

Success and Significance

Appearance

- How am I supposed to look in order to be attractive?

Achievement

- What am I supposed to accomplish in order to be acknowledged?

Affluence

- What do I need to possess or be able to do in order to be esteemed?

Authority

- What type of influence do I need to exert in order to be significant?



Pharisees

Involved

Faithful attendees, seeking seats of honor

Righteous

Tough on sin and sinners

Study

Active in studying Scripture

Tithe

Of every “mint, dill, and cummin”

Give

Announce their alms giving

Pray

Long prayers

Fast

Disfigure their faces to prove it

Evangelize

Go over land and sea to get a single convert



Image looks good but...

“You have neglected the
weightier matters of the law:
justice and mercy and faith”
(Mt. 23.23)



Jesus

Serve

- If you want to be great, serve

Prefer

- If you want to be first, prefer others over self

Give

- If you want to receive, be generous

Release Control

- If you want to find your life, lose it

Die

- If you want to live, die to self absorption

Vulnerable

- If you want to be strong, embrace your weaknesses

Humble

- If you want to be exalted, humble yourself

Surrender

- If you want to be free, submit to the Father's authority

Clash of Mindsets

Performance/Image

Appearance

- Externals

Achievement

- Recognition by culture

Affluence

- Possessions, leisure activities

Authority

- Power, exerting control, becoming an influencer

Relationship/Grace

Appearance

- Internals

Achievement

- Recognition by God

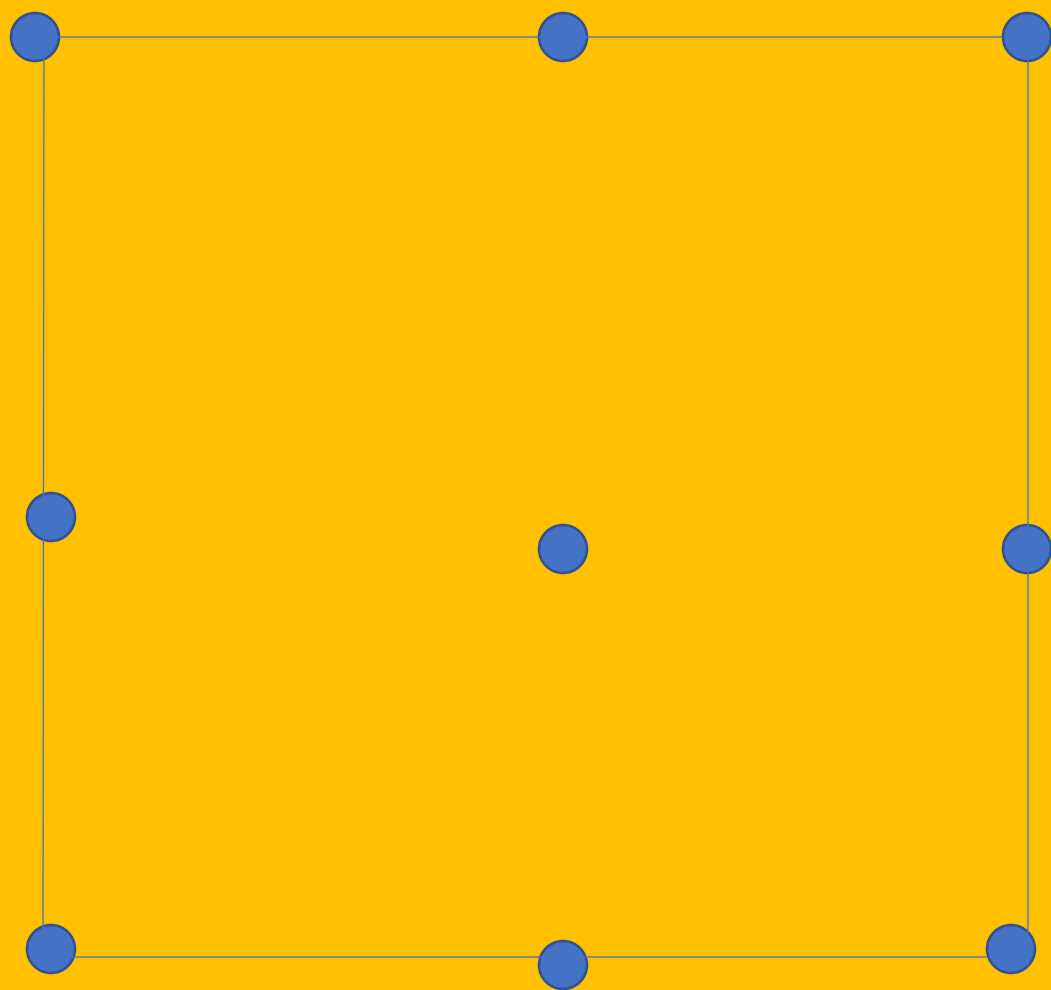
Affluence

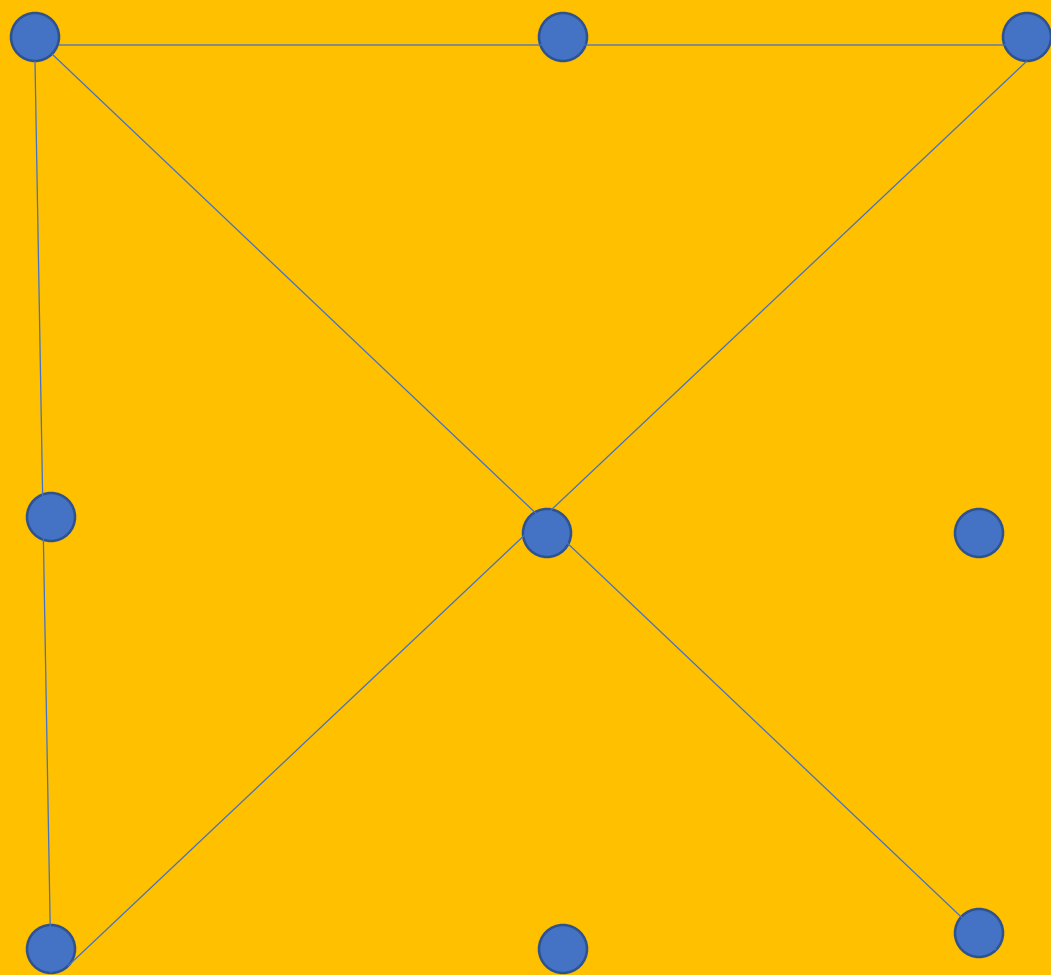
- Contentment, generosity

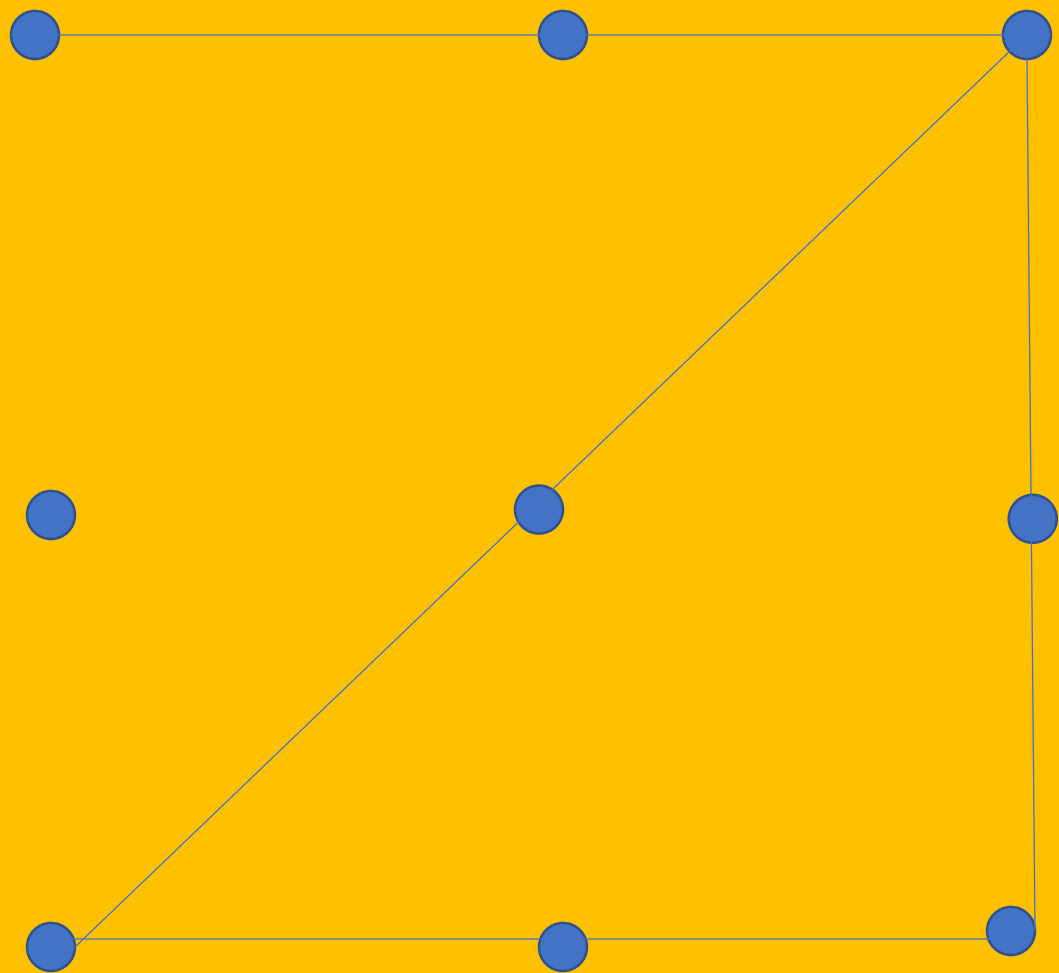
Authority

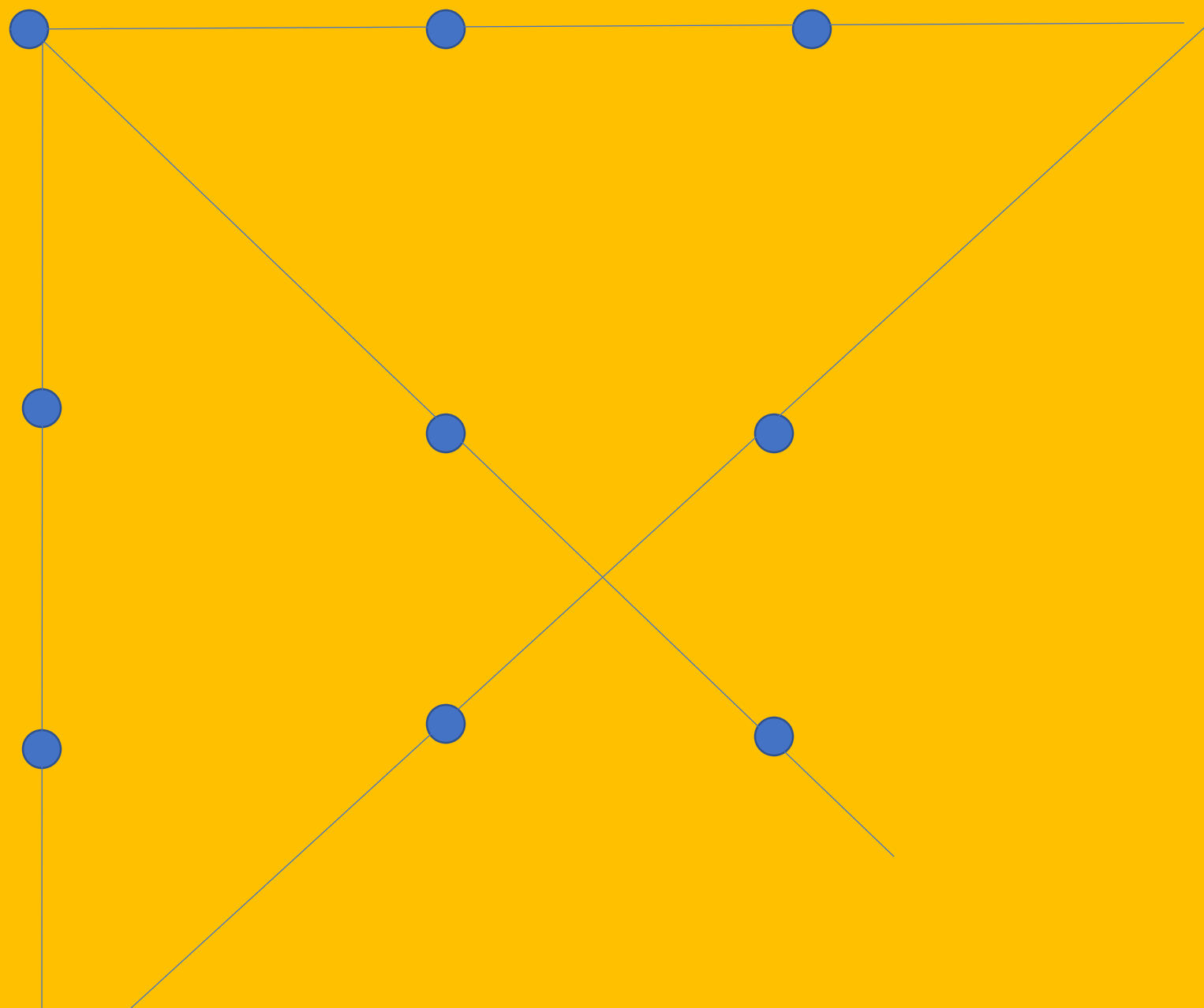
- Empowered, under control, accepting influence











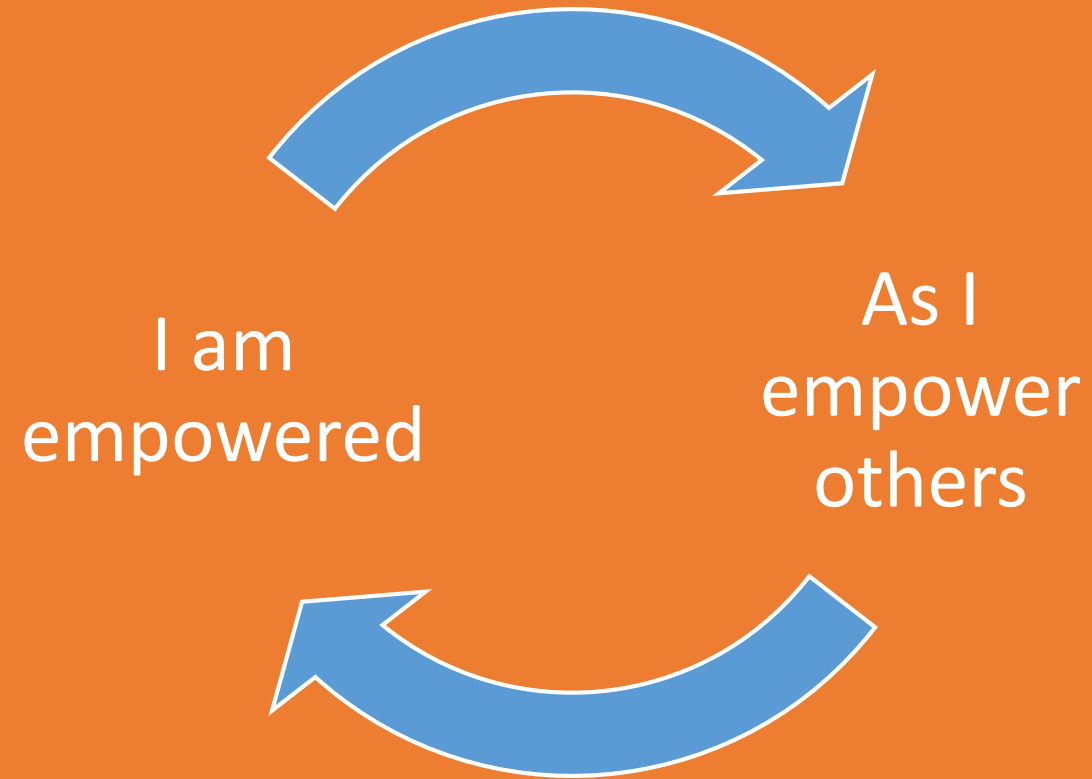
Power vs Empowered—Keep the (em) in empowered

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”

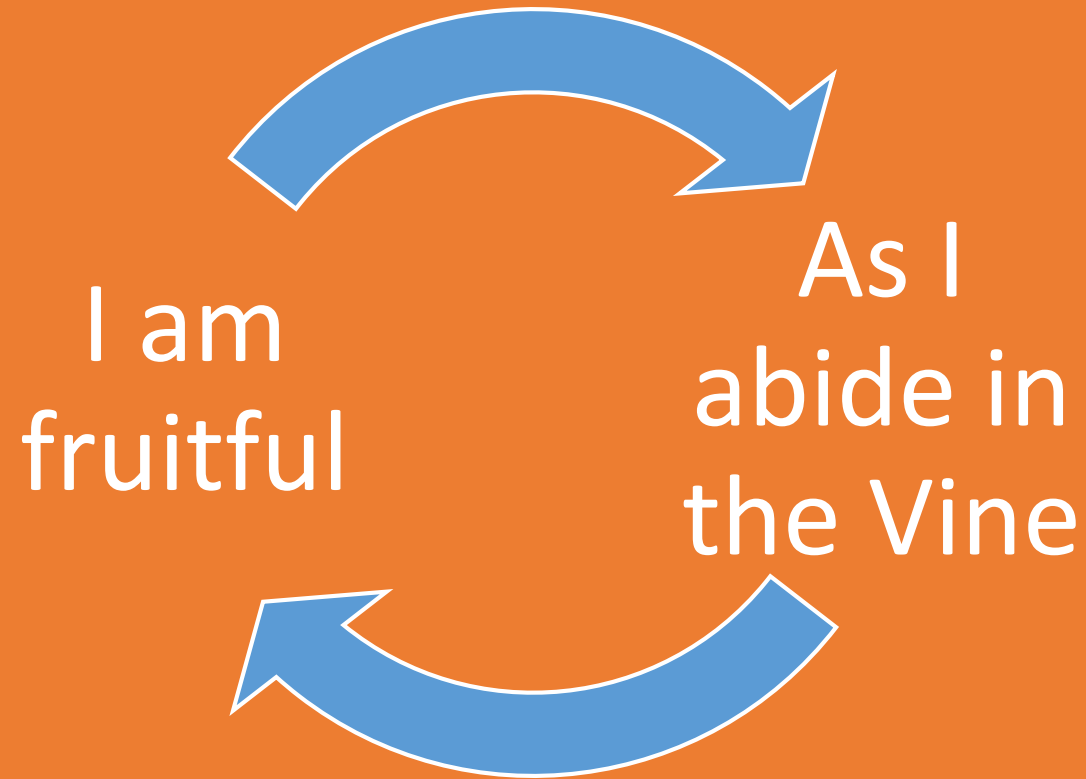
(Acts 1.8 RSV)

The power in Spirit-empowerment is not in my ability or performance but in the Spirit's ability to take who I am and make it a witness

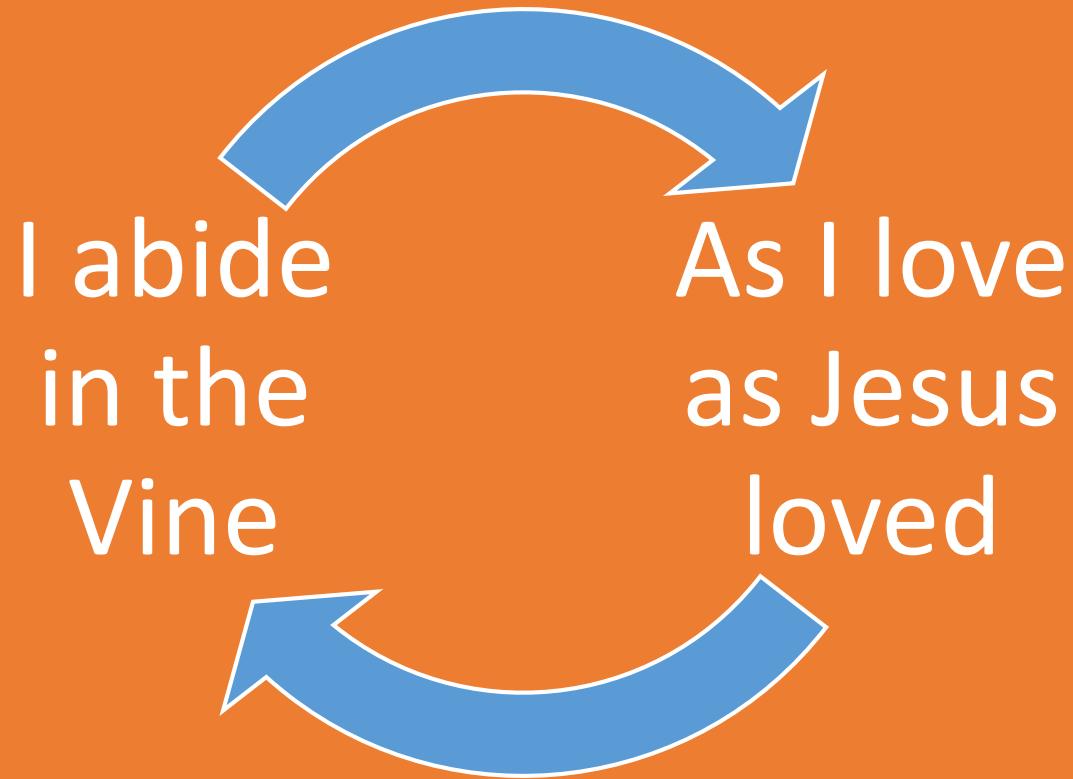
Power vs Empowered



Living the Spirit-empowered Life



Living the Spirit-empowered Life



How do I live the Spirit-empowered life?

I abide in the Vine by loving others as Jesus has loved me

Learning Through Faith

William P. Ranahan II PhD.

Romans 1:20

- “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead...”
- The visible creation reveals the invisible God.

The Invitation

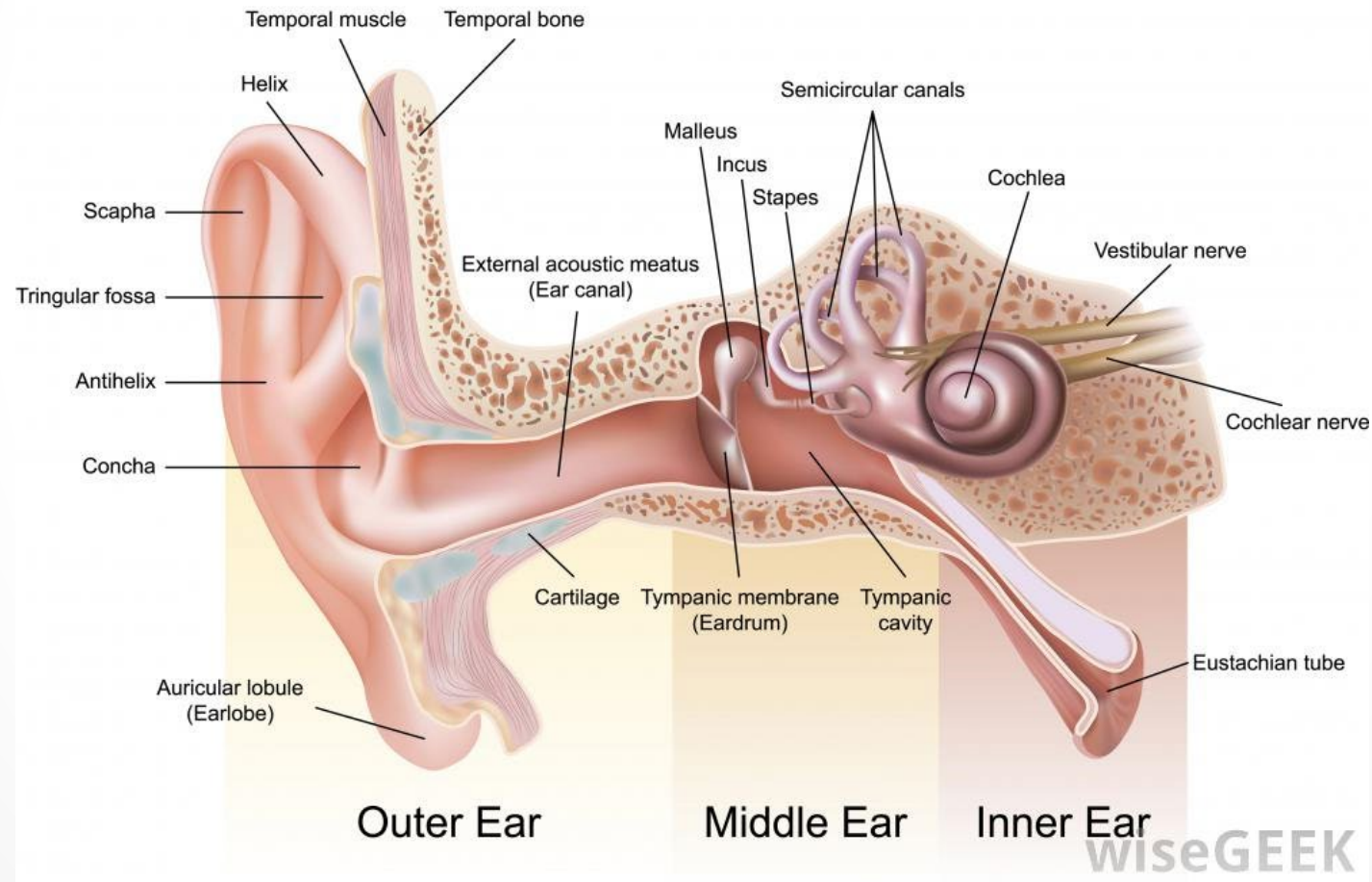
“Raise up your students to hear My voice, to go where My light is seen dim, where My voice is heard small, where My healing power is not known...”

Waves without water



Designed to capture and translate

Anatomy of the Ear



Genesis 1:1-3a

- “Then God said...”

God Spoke to Create

- Psalm 33:6+8
 - “The LORD merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born...Let the whole world fear the LORD, and let everyone stand in awe of him. For when he spoke, the world began! It appeared at his command.”

A Great Gift

- We are made in God's Image
- We are persons (*personare*)
- We too can create with our words and with our worship.

First we hear, then we speak

- The invitation welcomes listening

The Invitation

“Raise up your students to hear My voice, to go
where my light is seen dim”

Genesis 1:3

- “Then God said, let there be light.”
- First word of God; to call forth light

How is light generated?

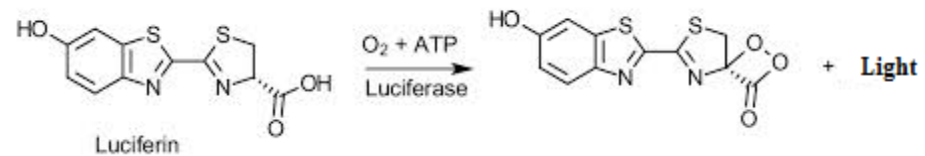
- Light is only generated from reactions/conversions



- The presence of light indicates the process of reaction/conversion

How is light generated?

- Light is only generated from reactions/conversions



What does the Bible say about light?

- What was the brightest moment in human history?



What does the Bible say about light?

- What if Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to catalyze the same reaction/conversion in us?

Holy Spirit
Sinners + Surrender  **Children of God + light**

- Light comes from within.
- What if, when God said, “Let there be light,” He was saying to you – “Let this process happen in your life!”

The Invitation

- The invitation welcomes listening
- The invitation welcomes surrender

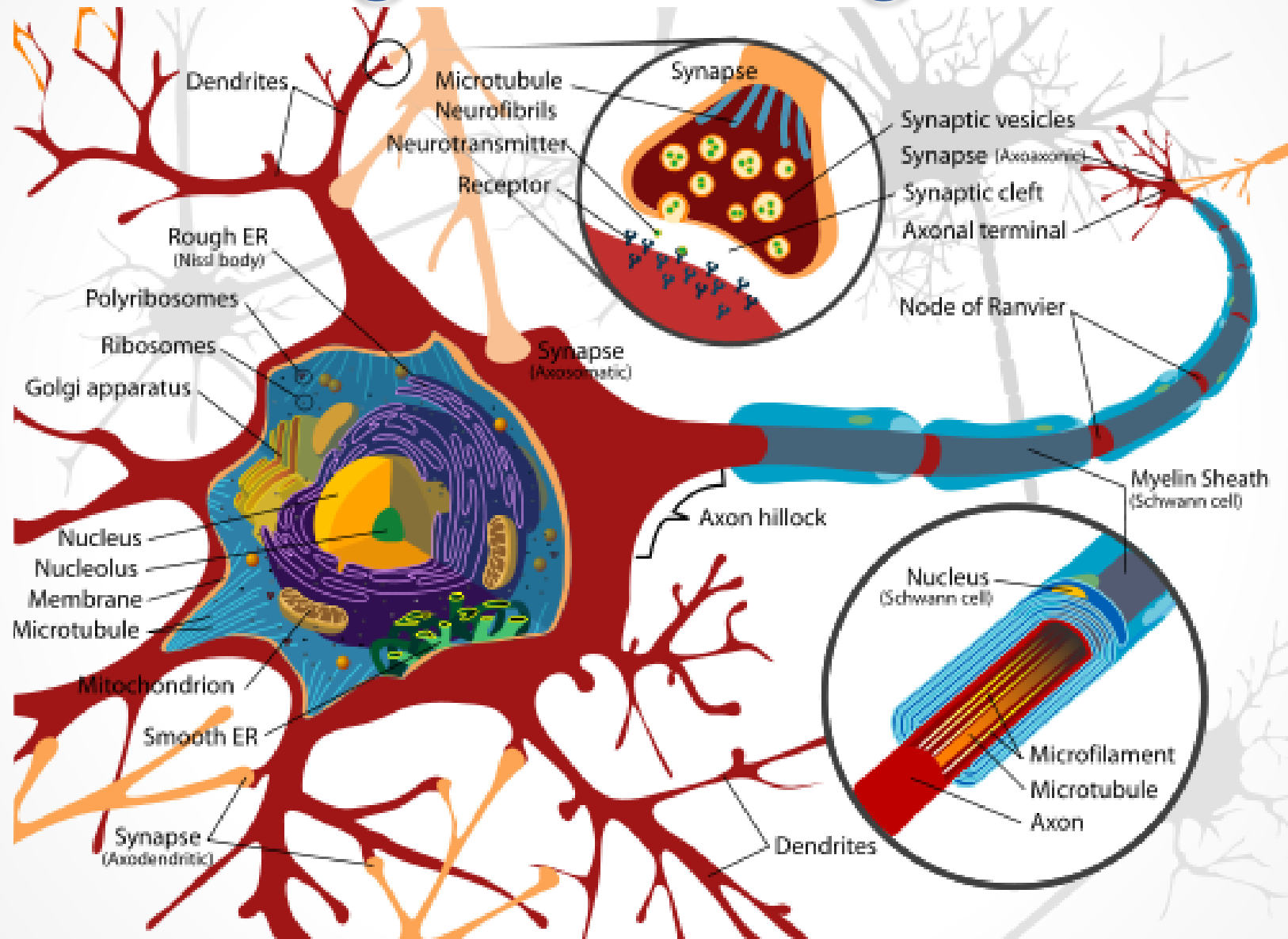
The Invitation

“Raise up your students to hear My voice, to go where My light is seen dim, where My voice is heard small, where My healing power is not known...”

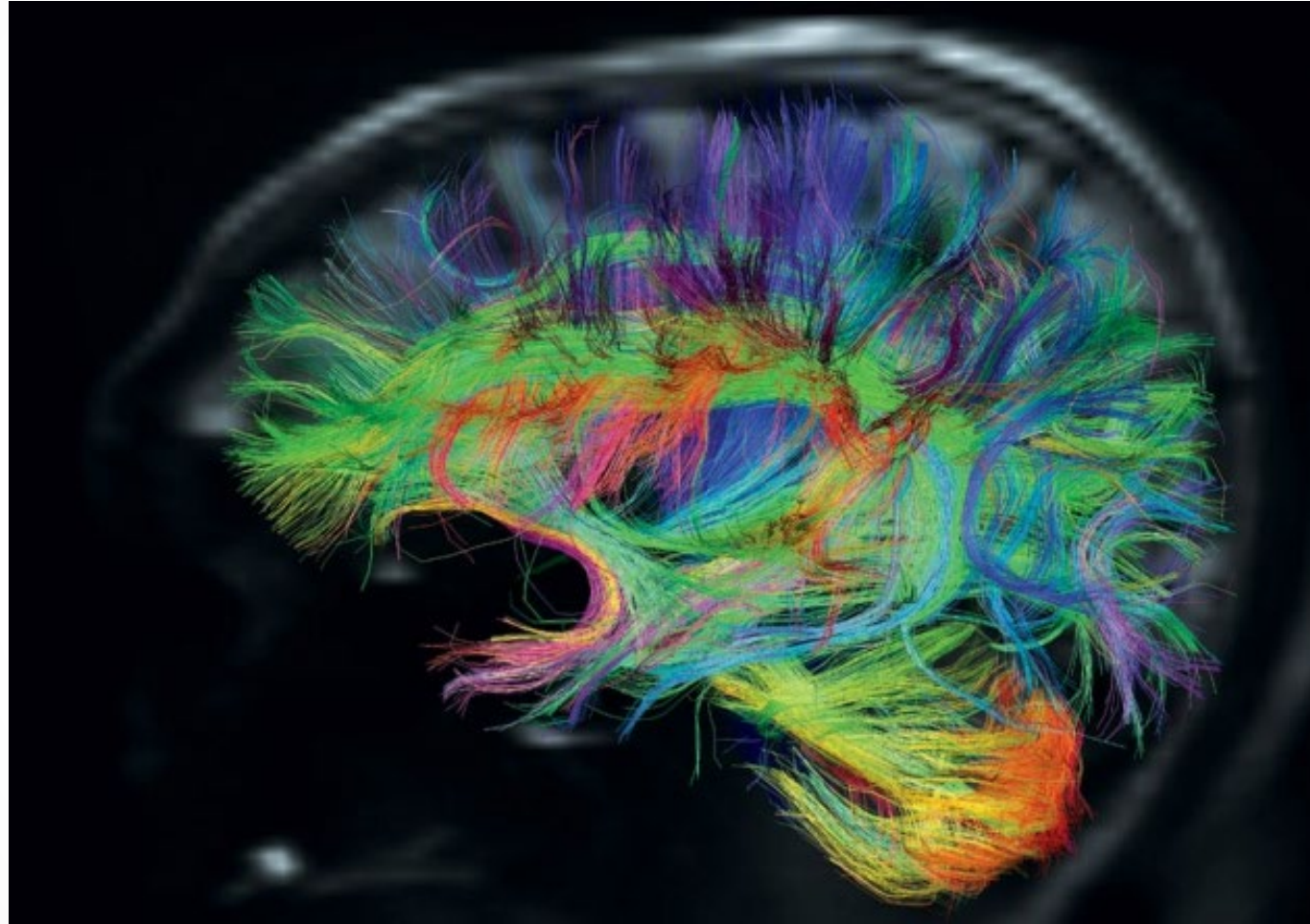
Healing Power

- 1 Corinthians 4:20 “For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power.”
- Romans 12:2 “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Biological Background



Hope in the Gap



The Invitation

- The invitation welcomes listening
- The invitation welcomes surrender
- The invitation welcomes intimacy

The Invitation

“Raise up your students to hear My voice, to go where My light is seen dim, where My voice is heard small, where My healing power is not known...”

ORU

ACADEMY FOR EXCEPTIONAL
TEACHING & INNOVATION



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Q&A

