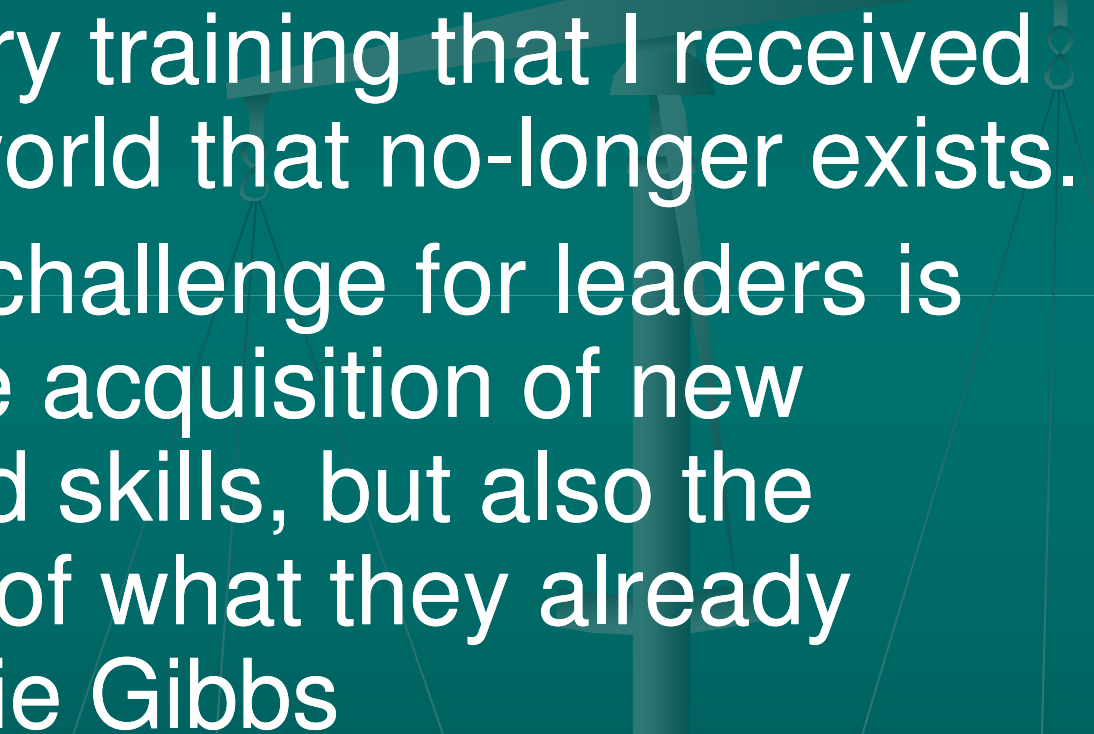


DISCERNING LEADERSHIP



Graham Cray

COULD THIS BE YOU?

- 'The ministry training that I received was for a world that no-longer exists.'
 - The major challenge for leaders is not only the acquisition of new insights and skills, but also the unlearning of what they already know.' Eddie Gibbs
- 

'The Age of the Unthinkable'

- 'As much as we might wish it, our world is not becoming more stable or easy to comprehend. We are entering a revolutionary age.'
 - 'And we are doing it with ideas, leaders and institutions that are better suited for a world now several centuries behind us.'
- Joshua Cooper Ramo

'The director of the whole enterprise'

- 'The chief actor in the historic mission of the Christian church is the Holy Spirit. He is the director of the whole enterprise. The mission consists of the things that he is doing in the world. In a special way it consists of the light that he is focussing upon Jesus Christ. John V Taylor

Theory or Practice?

- 'It may seem that in stressing the role of the Holy Spirit in the mission of the Church I am simply repeating what everyone knows. And yet I have become convinced that even when this belief is present and vivid, there are factors in the structures and traditions of our work, which can prevent the belief from becoming effective.' Lesslie Newbigin 1963

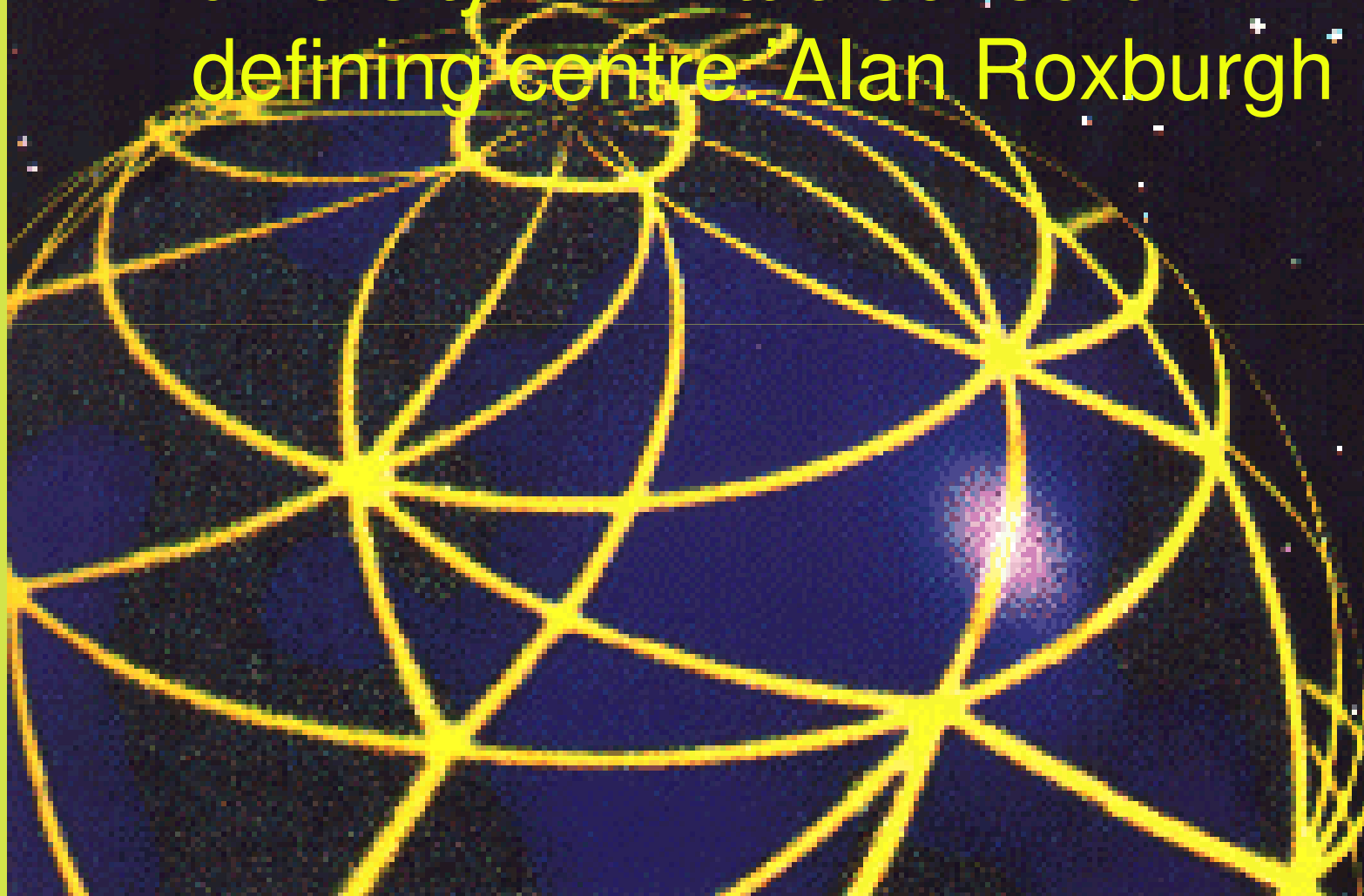
Culture Change



A Different Culture

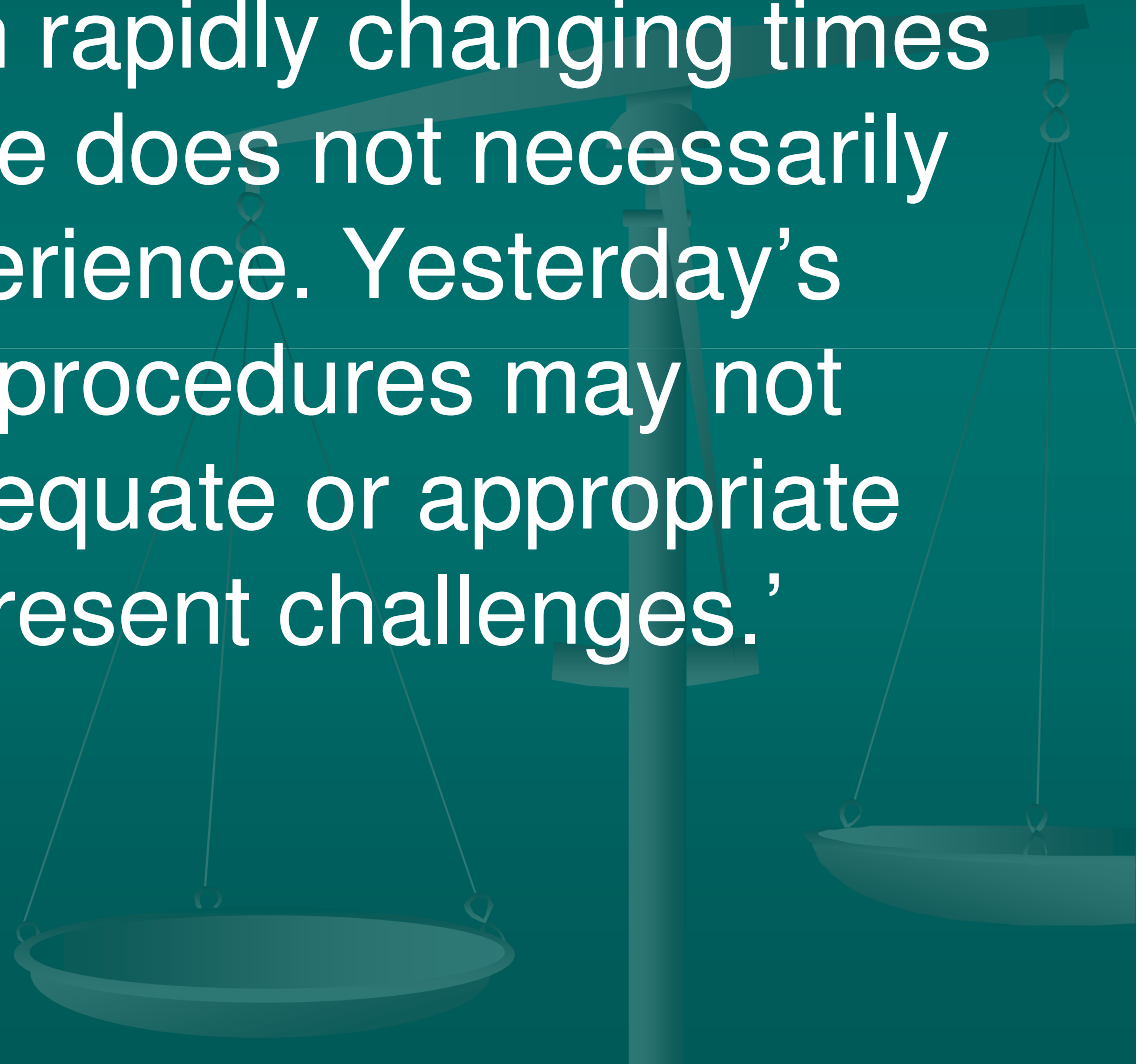


'Culture is now an organised
diversity with little sense of
defining centre.' Alan Roxburgh

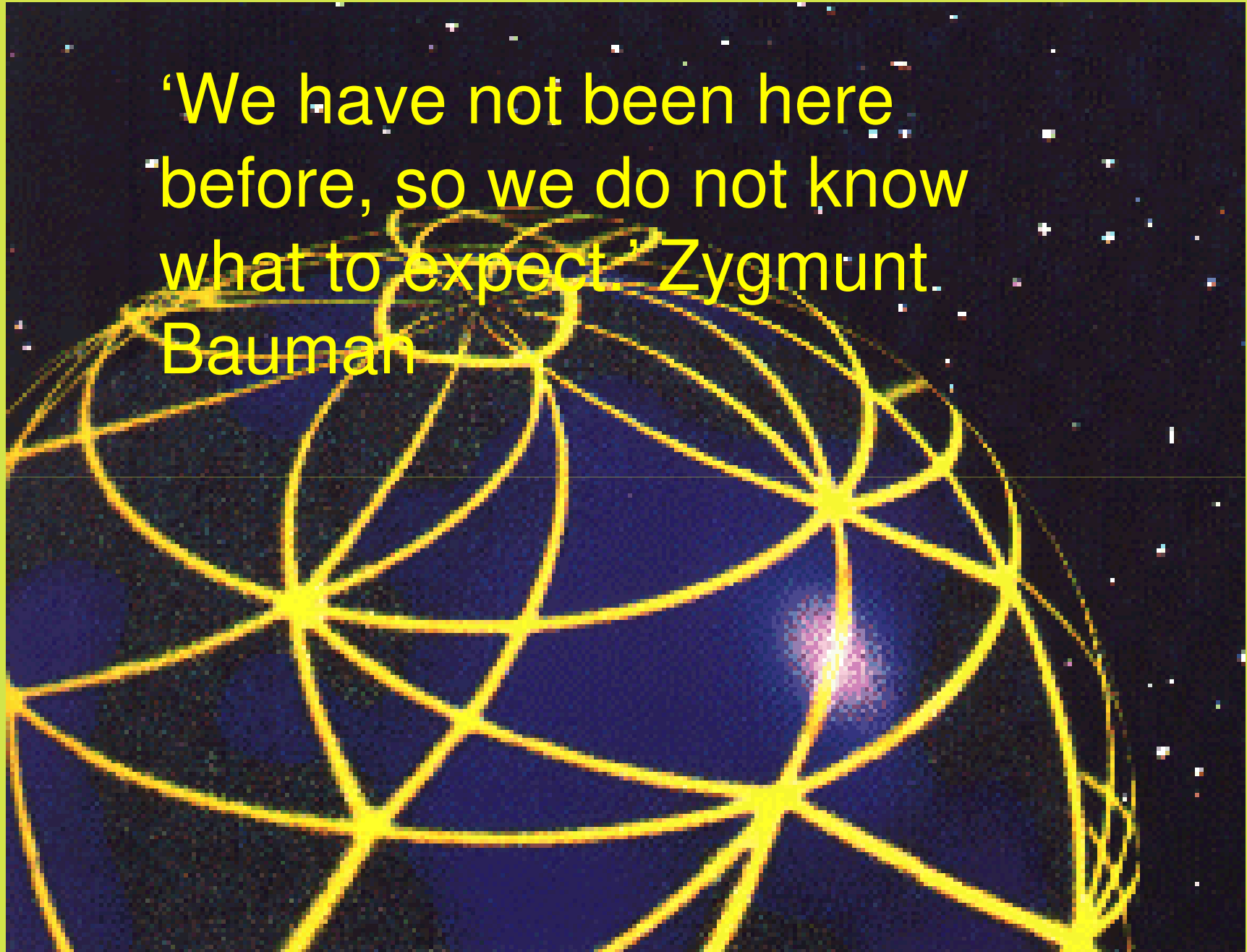


More of the same won't do

- 'It is evident in rapidly changing times that knowledge does not necessarily flow from experience. Yesterday's solutions and procedures may not provide an adequate or appropriate response to present challenges.'
Eddie Gibbs



'We have not been here
before, so we do not know
what to expect.' Zygmunt
Bauman



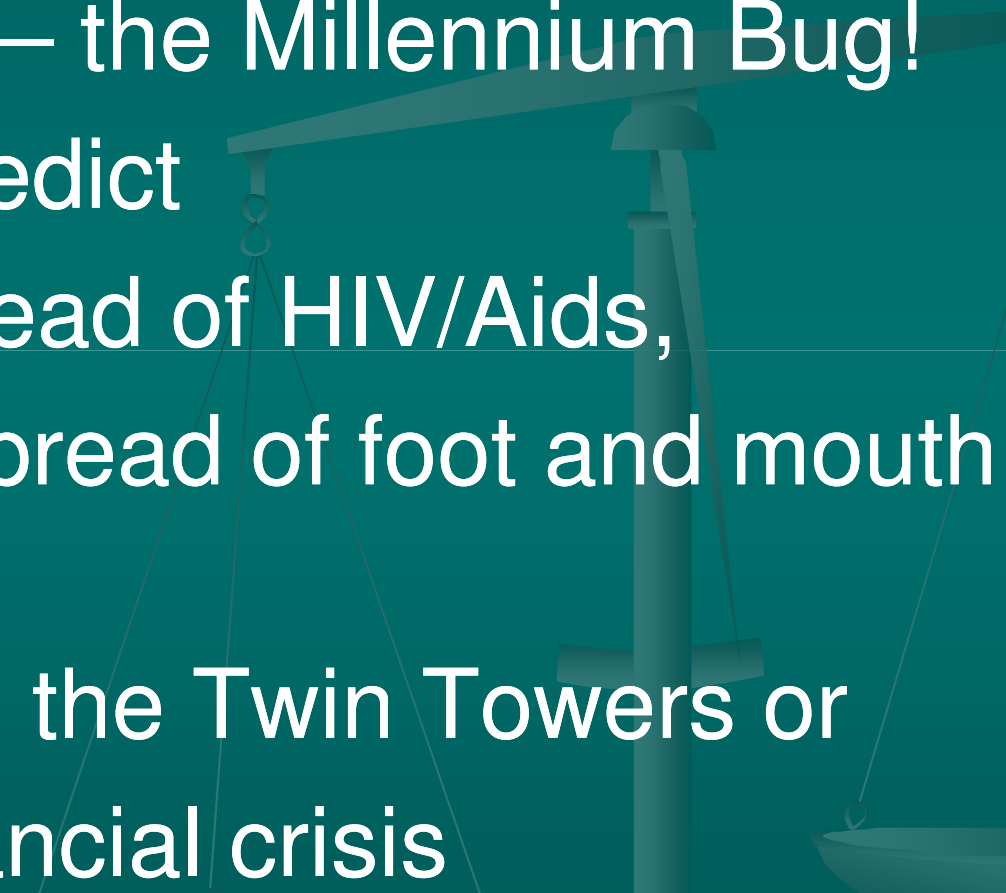
A changing culture

- 'Complex cultures are characterized by a multiplicity of perspectives and competing voices. In this context of flux and accelerated change, there are many voices claiming a place.
- Collectively they create a confusing, relativizing sense of choice. New rules are being written, and everything seems to be in flux.' Alan Roxburgh

Discontinuous Change

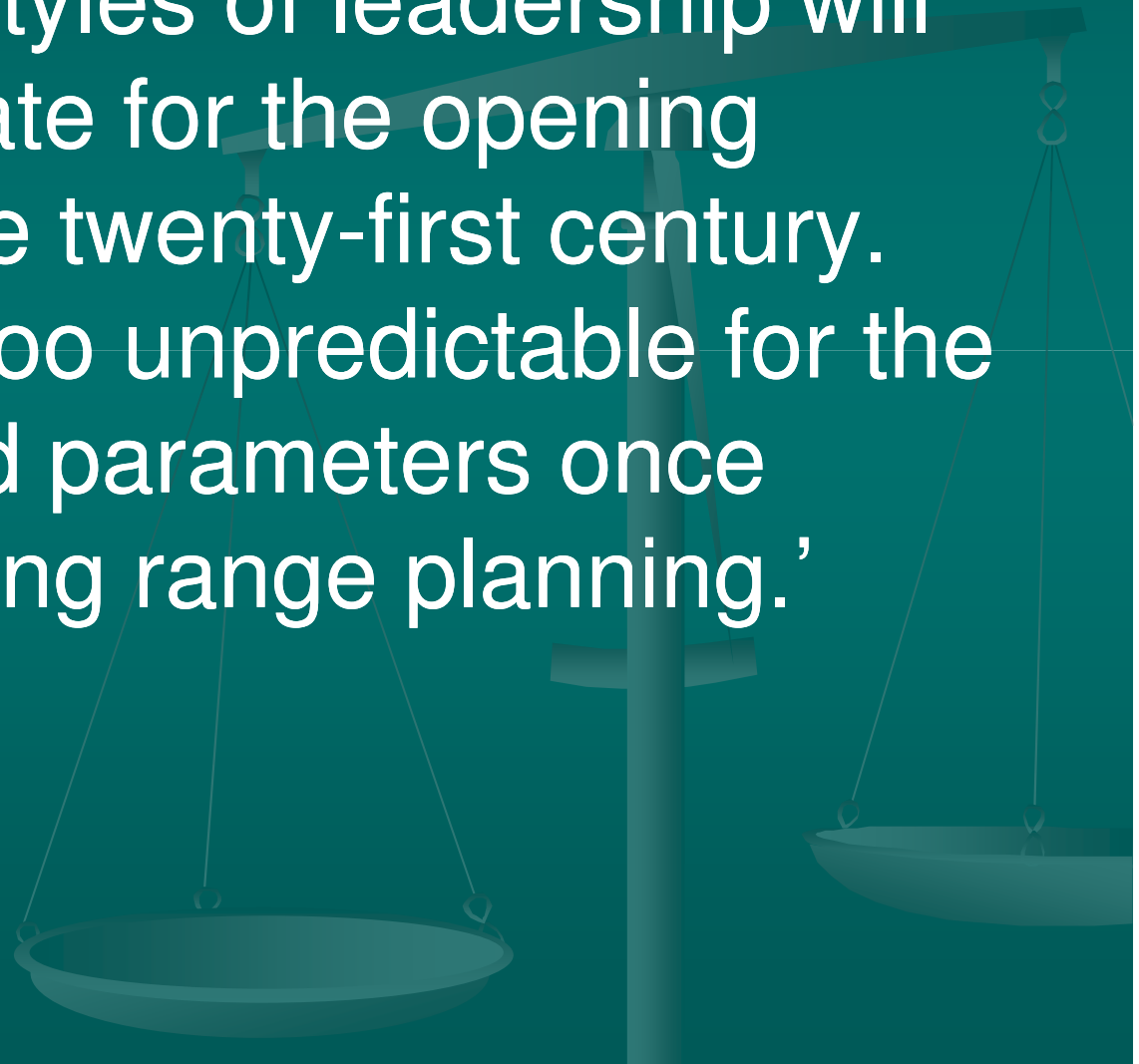


Unpredictable Change

- We predicted – the Millennium Bug!
 - We did not predict
 - the global spread of HIV/Aids,
 - the national spread of foot and mouth disease
 - the assault on the Twin Towers or
 - the global financial crisis
- 

An unpredictable culture

- ‘Yesterday’s styles of leadership will not be adequate for the opening decades of the twenty-first century. The future is too unpredictable for the predetermined parameters once provided by long range planning.’
Eddie Gibbs



Turn back to the Spirit



Putting things the right way round

- ‘Our theology would improve if we thought more of the church being given to the Spirit than of the Spirit being given to the church.’ John V Taylor
- ‘the Breath of God has always played a more decisive part than our human strategy.’
- ‘They were not invited to deploy their resources or plan their strategy.’

The shape of the Spirit's ministry



The Spirit as Leader

- 'He will bear witness to me' Jn.15:26-7
- 'He is the powerful advocate who goes before the church to bring the world under conviction.' Lesslie Newbigin
- 'The Spirit is not merely Jesus' substitute, but also Jesus' own emissary and executive power.' Max Turner

Spirit leadership is central

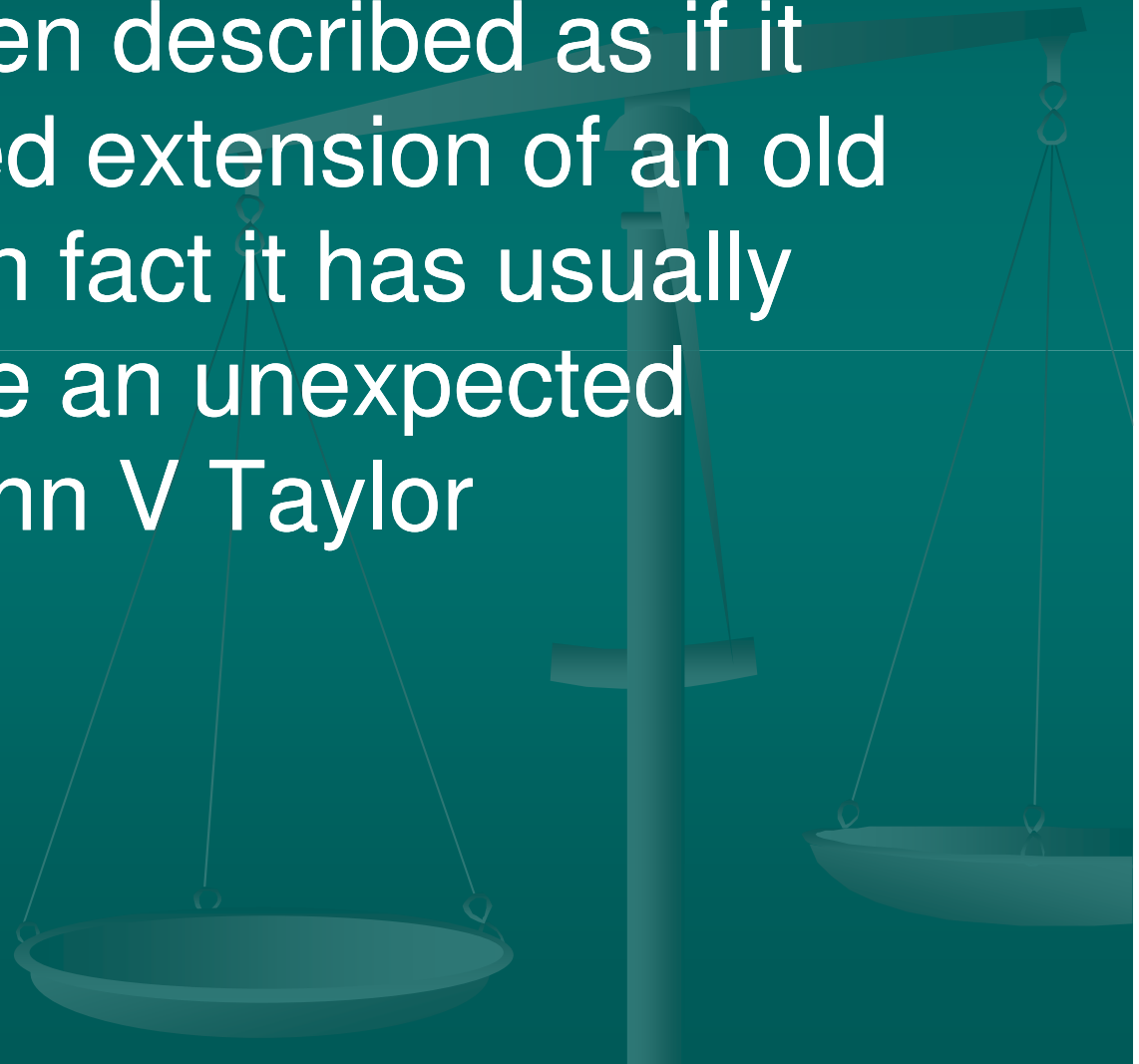
- 'The shape of empowered mission is not arrived at ideologically, or even pragmatically. In mission we ask not just "Is this action good and necessary?" We also ask, "Where is God leading? Is this God's undertaking? ... Spirit leadership is central.' Clark Pinnock

Both Present and 'Coming'

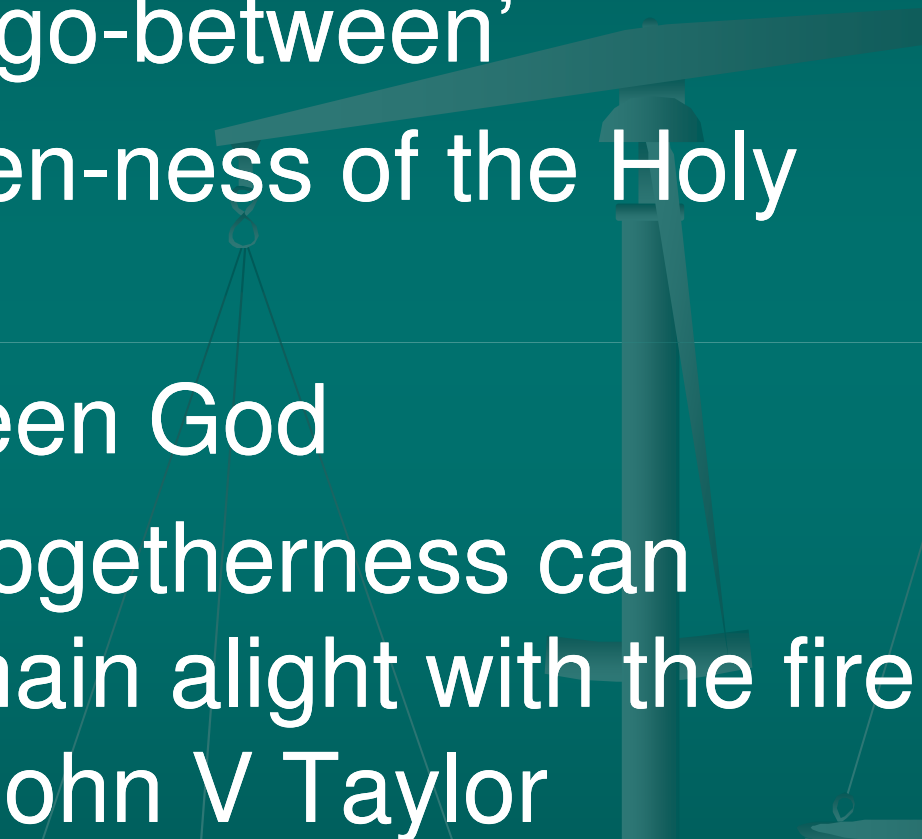
- Stability and risk
- 'Not exceptional endowment but permanent presence, not so much of a power but a partner.' John V Taylor
- Jn 3:8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Risk

- 'Mission is often described as if it were a planned extension of an old building. But in fact it has usually been more like an unexpected explosion.' John V Taylor

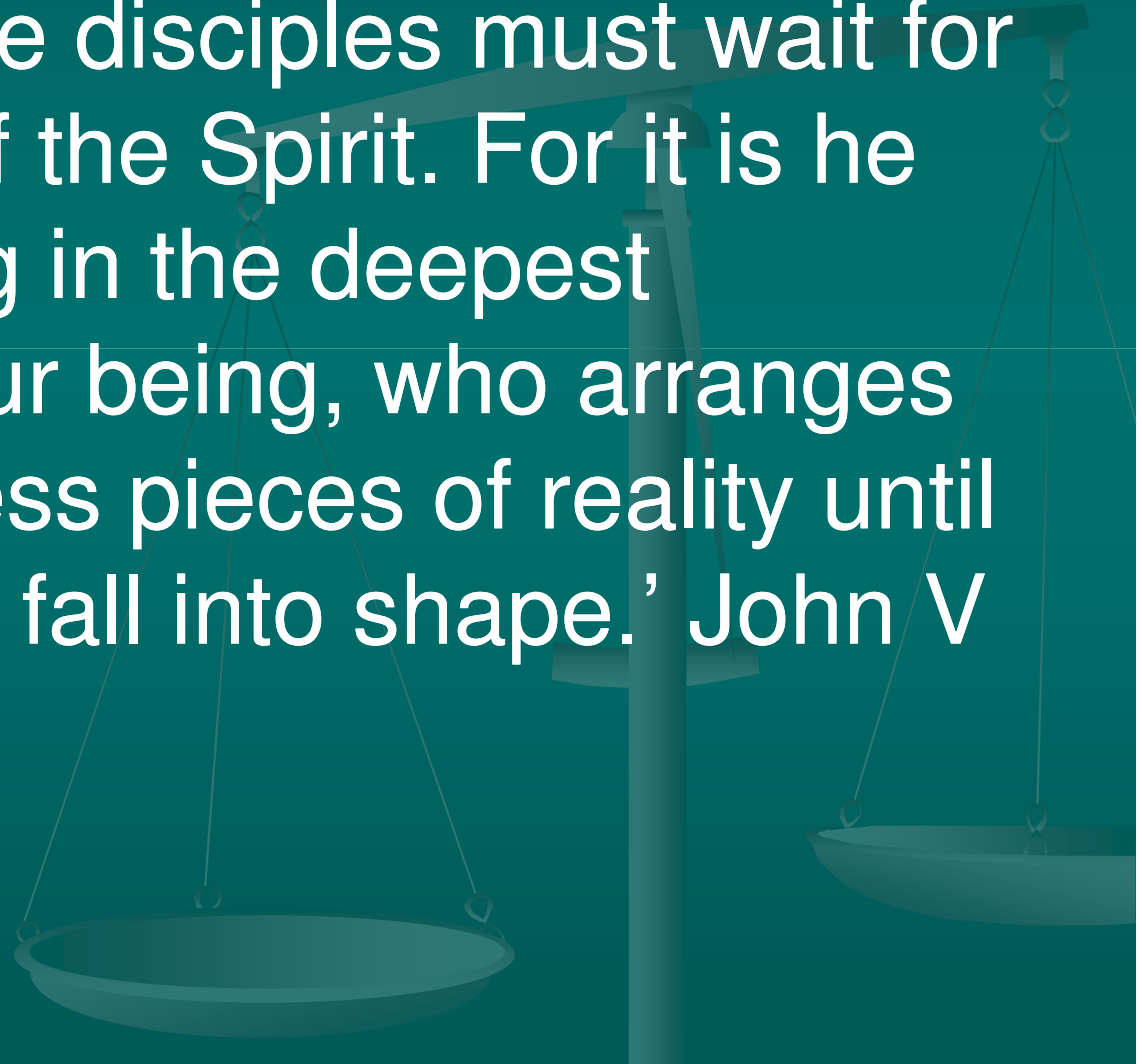


The Relational Spirit

- 'This invisible go-between'
 - 'The in-between-ness of the Holy Spirit',
 - The Go-Between God
 - 'Only in their togetherness can Christians remain alight with the fire of the Spirit.' John V Taylor
- 

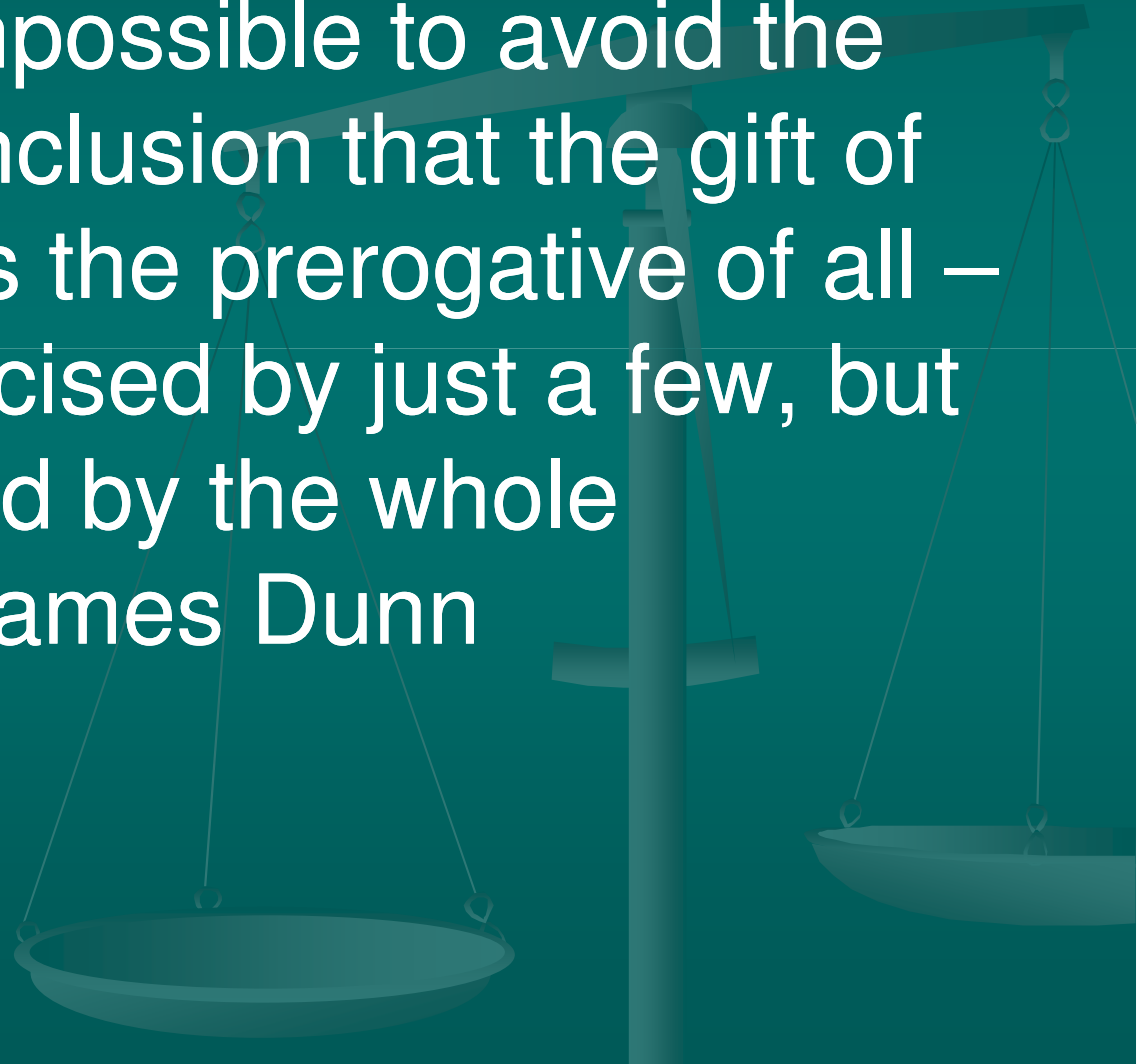
'Pattern Recognition'

- 'No wonder the disciples must wait for the promise of the Spirit. For it is he alone, working in the deepest recesses of our being, who arranges the meaningless pieces of reality until they suddenly fall into shape.' John V Taylor



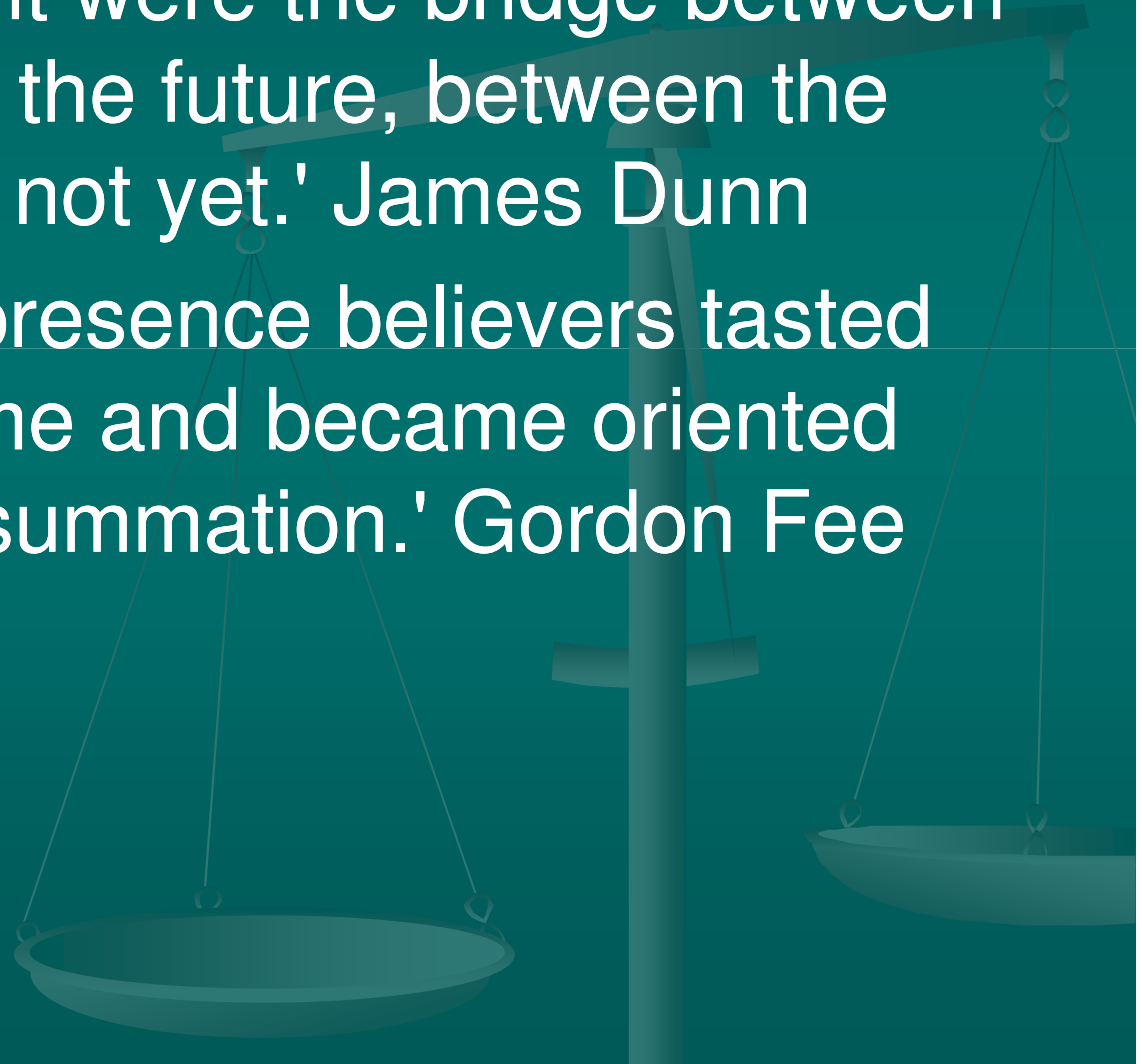
A communal gift

- ‘It is almost impossible to avoid the exegetical conclusion that the gift of discernment is the prerogative of all – not to be exercised by just a few, but to be exercised by the whole community.’ James Dunn



Anticipating the Future

- 'The Spirit is as it were the bridge between the present and the future, between the already and the not yet.' James Dunn
- 'By the Spirit's presence believers tasted of the life to come and became oriented towards its consummation.' Gordon Fee



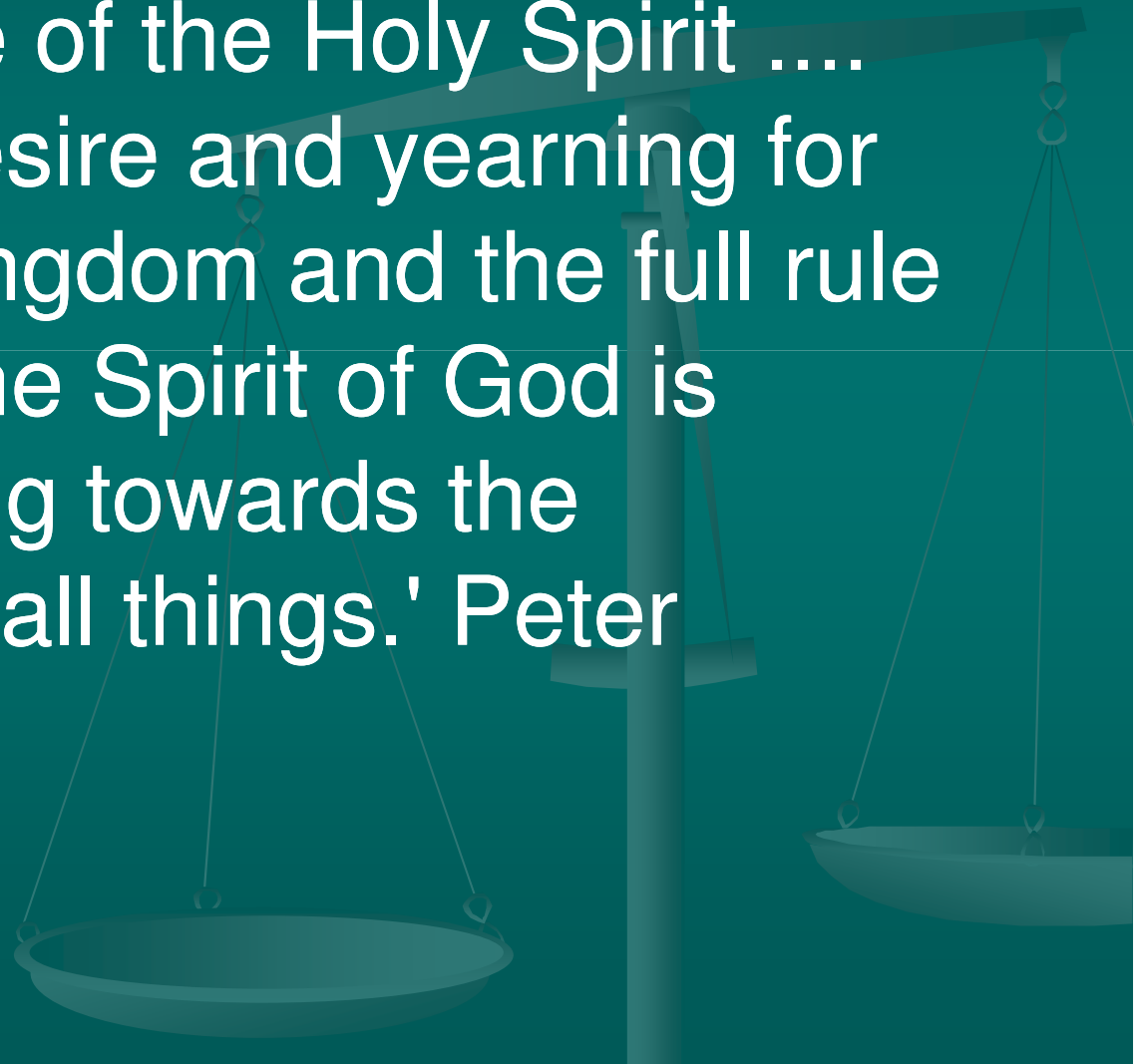
Pentecost

- Acts 2:17 " '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. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.



On to Completion

- 'The presence of the Holy Spirit stirs up the desire and yearning for the coming kingdom and the full rule of the king. The Spirit of God is always pushing towards the completion of all things.' Peter Hocken

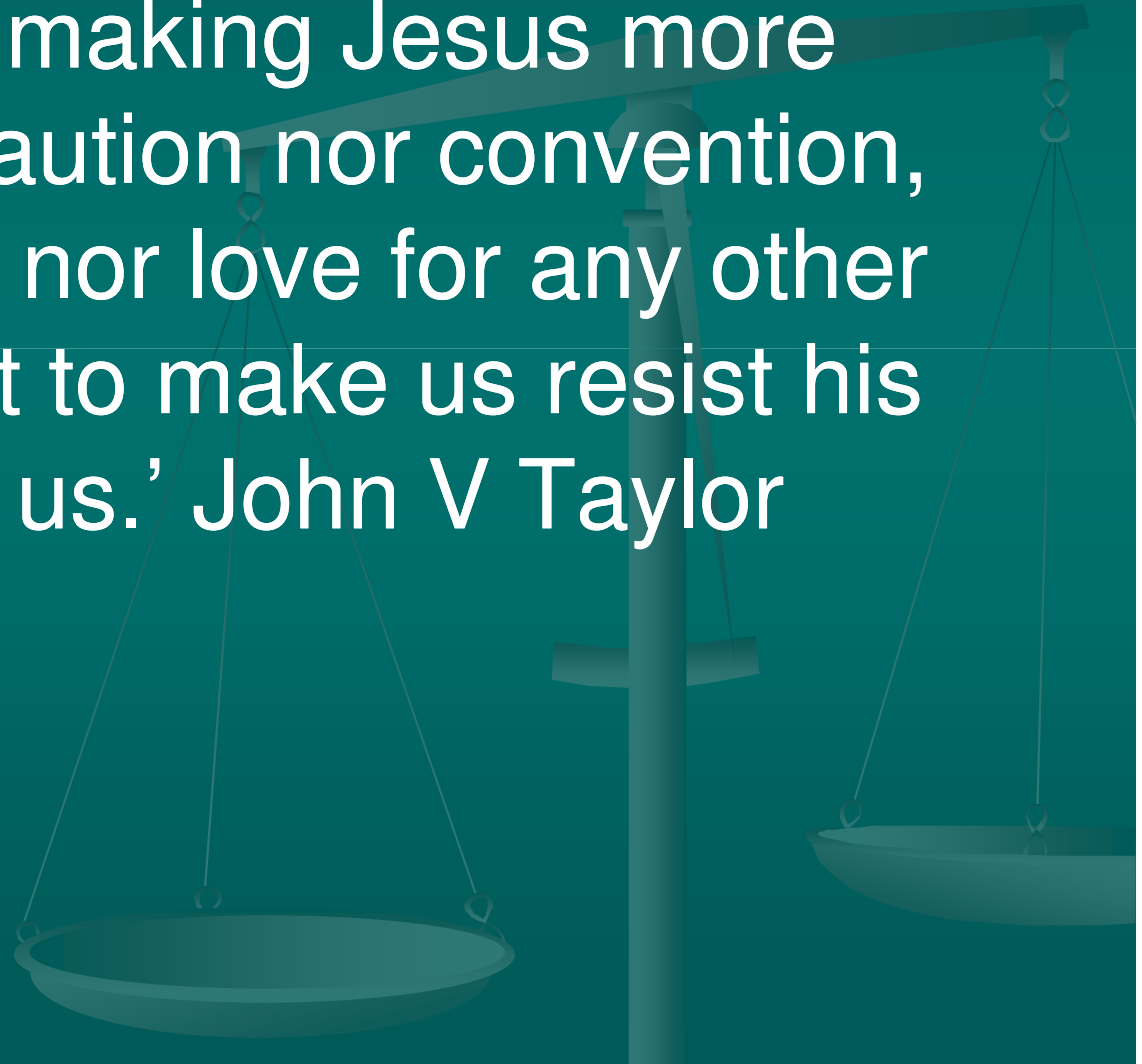


The Spirit of Christ

- 'Christians ... are caught up into the desire of the Spirit of God to make men profoundly aware of Jesus Christ, of what he is himself, and of what he makes available to the whole world, so that in him they may be confronted by the question and the call of God, and make their free choice.' John V Taylor

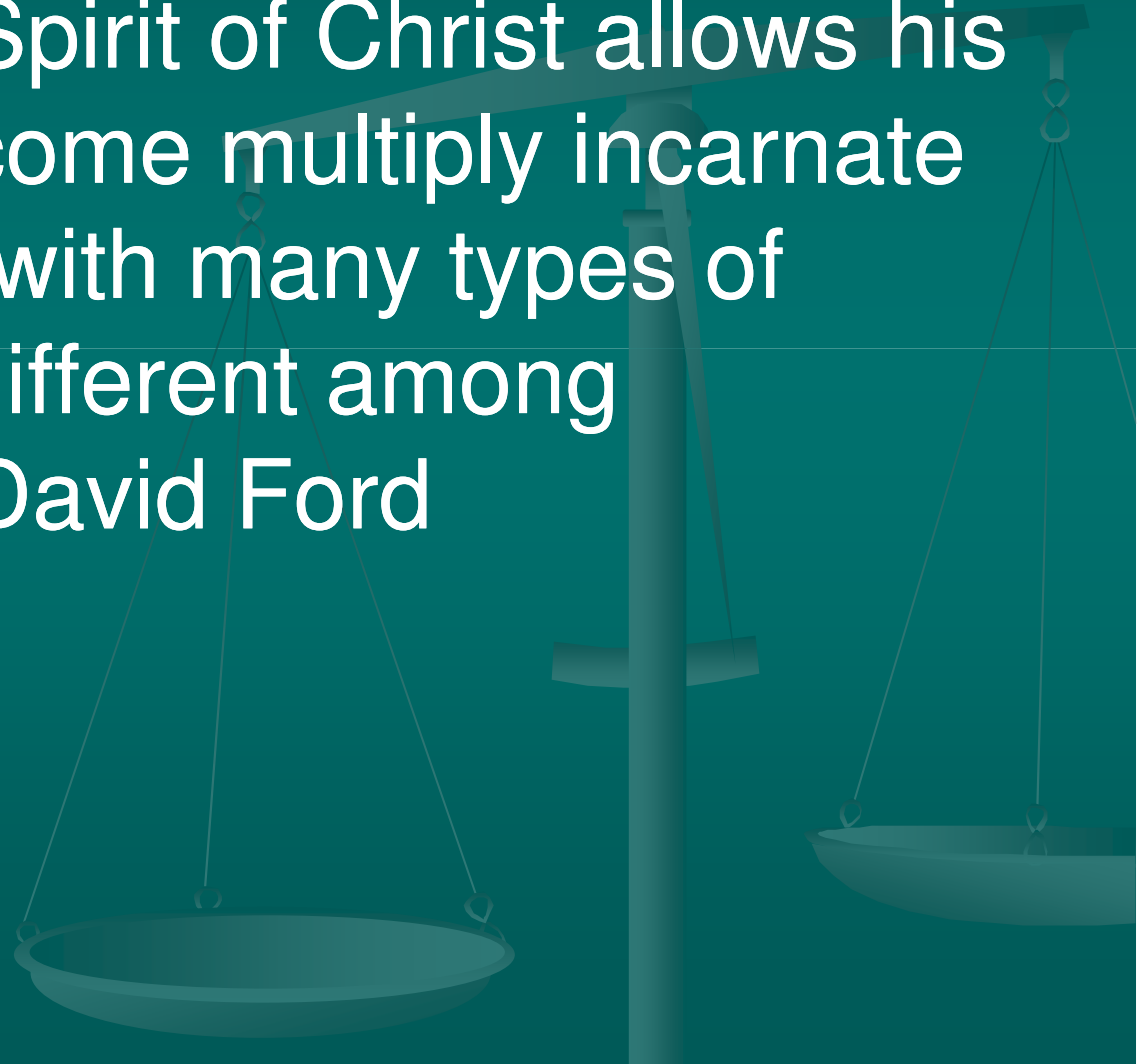
A safe risk

- 'If the Spirit is making Jesus more real, neither caution nor convention, nor reputation nor love for any other creature ought to make us resist his possession of us.' John V Taylor



Christ taking shape

- 'It is as if the Spirit of Christ allows his imitator to become multiply incarnate by identifying with many types of people, very different among themselves.' David Ford



The practice of discernment



Discernment



- ‘The main concerns of any missionary training ... should be to help people to become more receptive to the revelation of God’ John V Taylor
- ‘We have greatly extended out power to transmit, to communicate ... but not our power to receive.’ John V Taylor

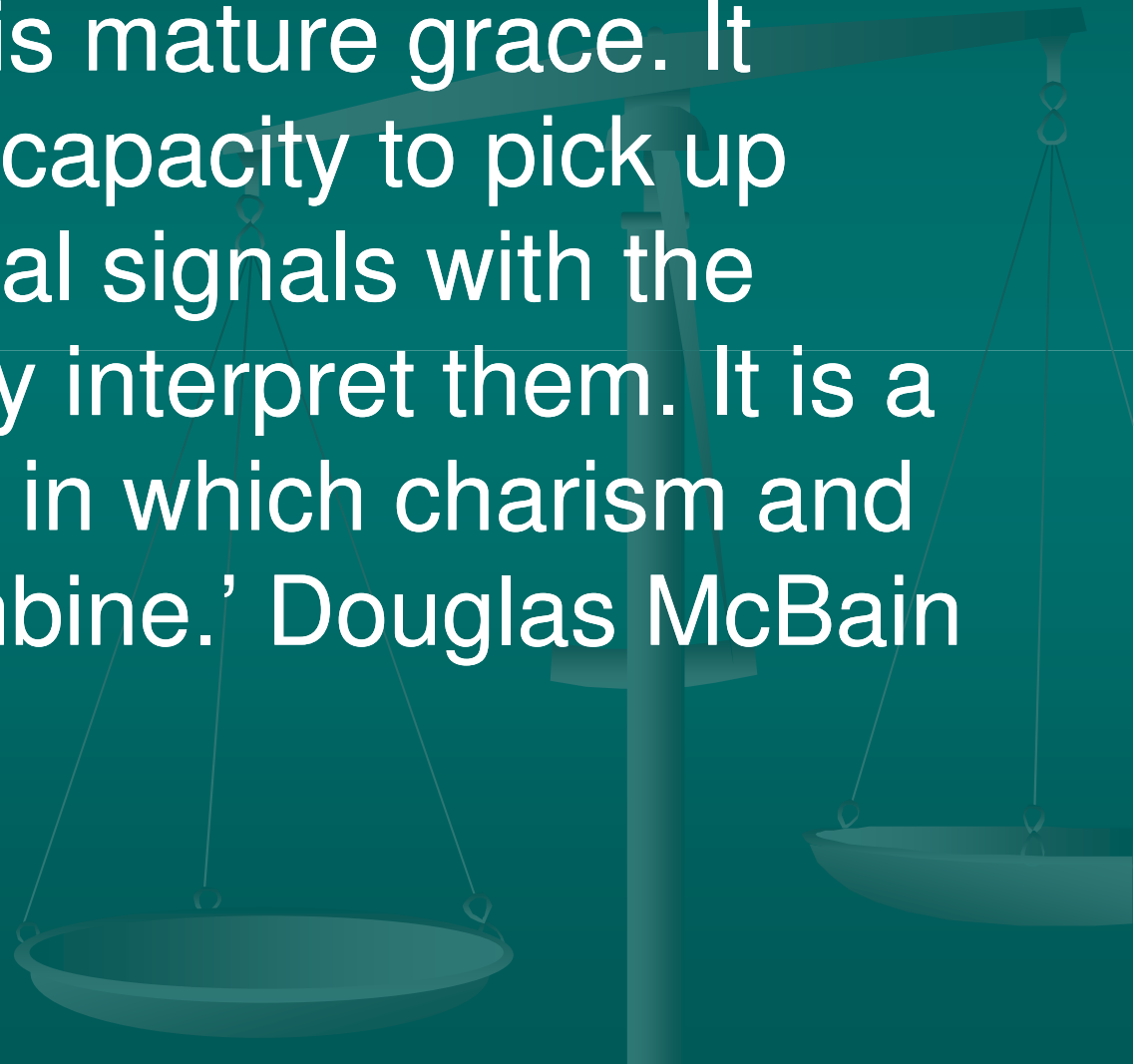
WATCHING



- ‘We must relinquish our missionary presuppositions and begin in the beginning with the Holy Spirit.
- This means humbly watching in any situation in which we find ourselves in order to learn what God is trying to do there, and then doing it with him.’ John V Taylor

Discernment

- 'Discernment is mature grace. It combines the capacity to pick up unseen spiritual signals with the ability to rightly interpret them. It is a unique quality in which charism and character combine.' Douglas McBain



DISCERNMENT



- Maturity
- Gifting
- World view
- Experience

World view



- ‘Two prime criteria of discernment: on the one hand, disposition, character and lifestyle, on the other hand, a message whose content and searching challenge reflect God’s priorities and seek to engender unreserved engagement with God.’
Walter Moberly

Experience

- 'The things of the Spirit are discerned by the Spirit, and such discernment grows only with use.' Lesslie Newbigin



LISTENING

- To the Spirit
- Acts 10-11
- Acts 16:6-10



LISTENING

- To the Spirit
- To the church

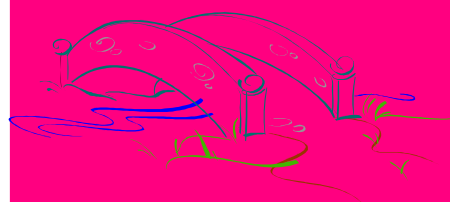




8 til late

Nelson

Bridging the Gap



CoNnect

PULSE



Greenerway

Emerg
e

GENERATION



"NO LIMITS"

8 til late

Balcony

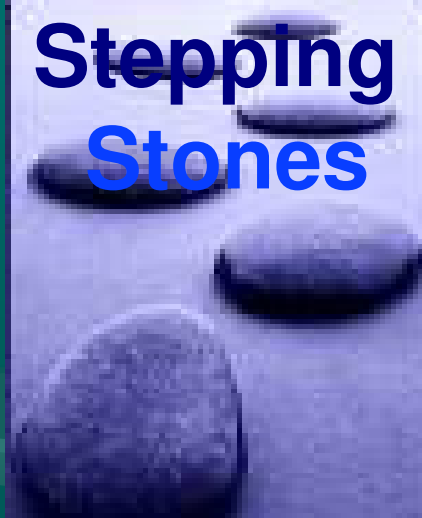


Trans4m



Lighthouse

Stepping
Stones



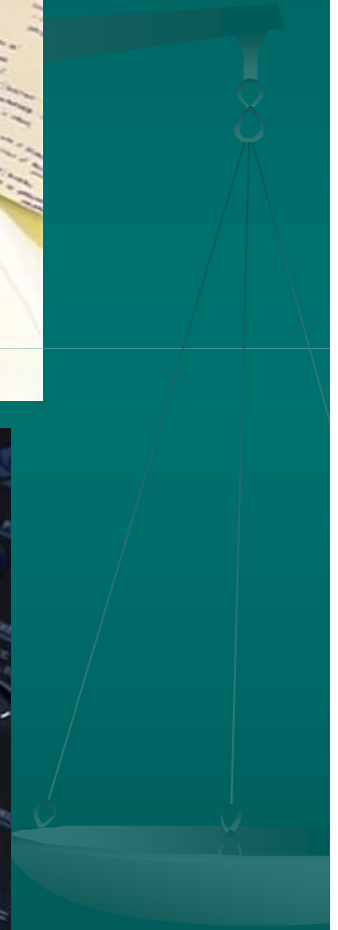
Centrepoin~~t~~



LISTENING

- To the Spirit
- To the church
- To the community or network



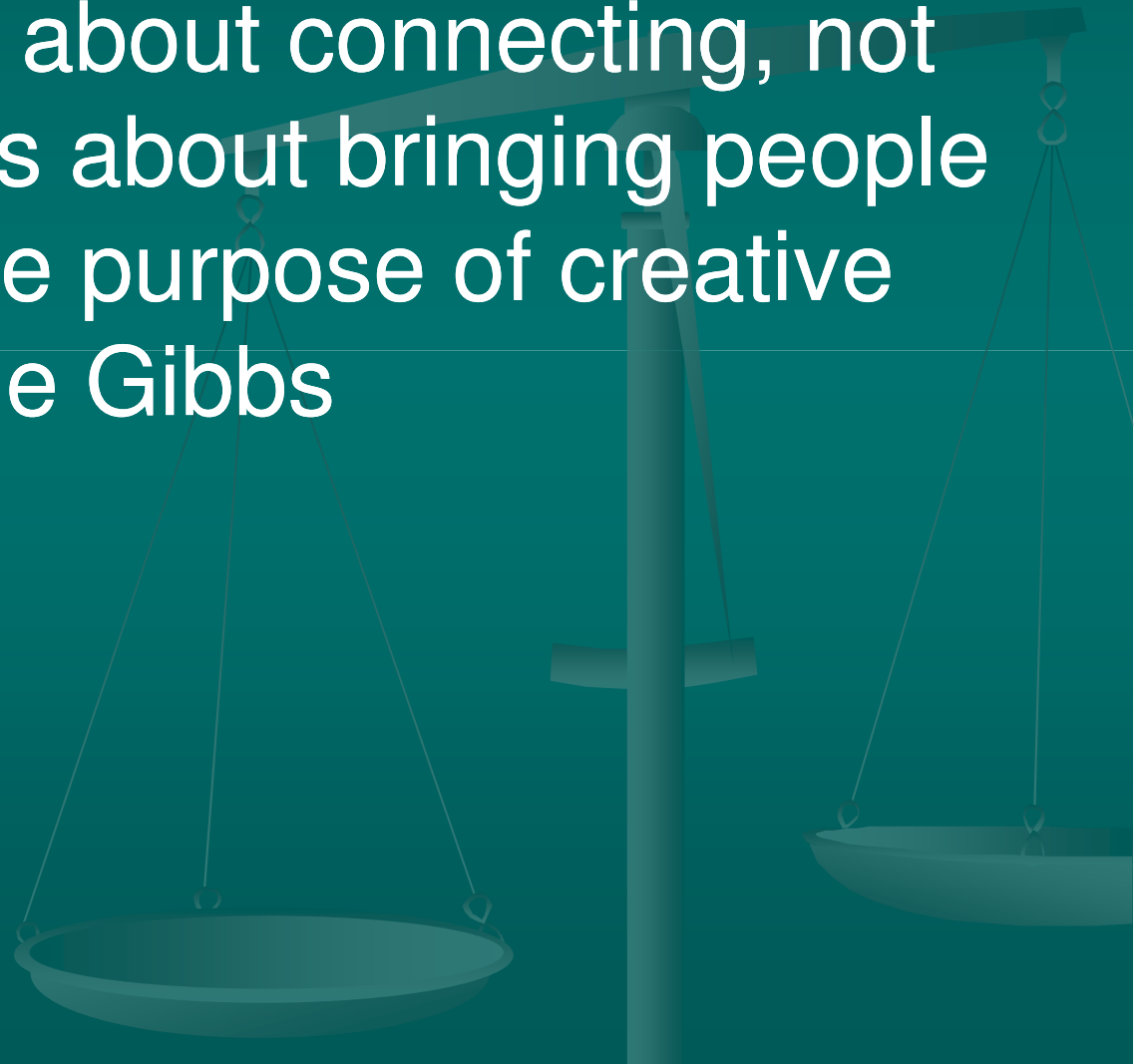


Leadership



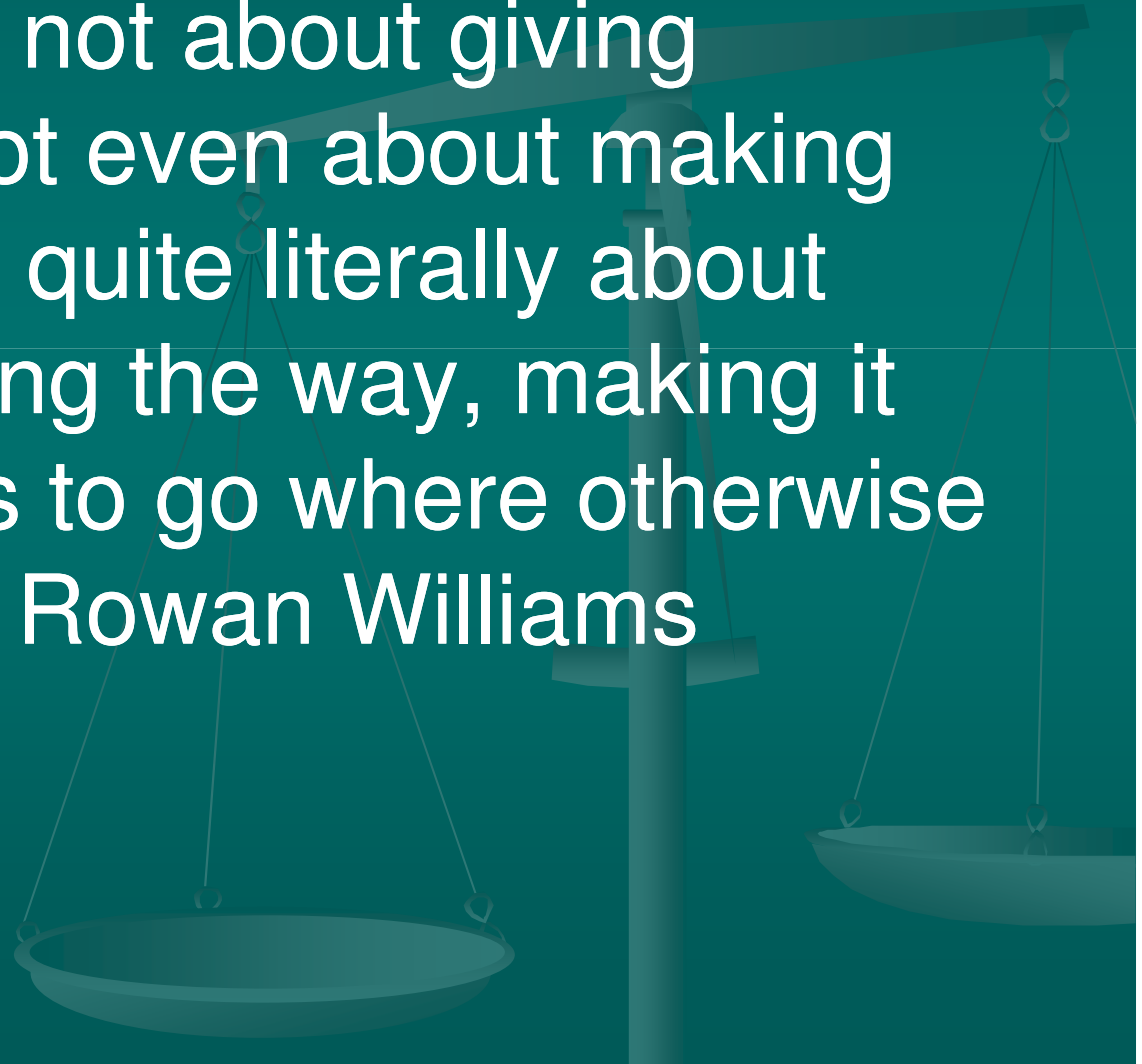
Leadership

- 'Leadership is about connecting, not controlling. It is about bringing people together for the purpose of creative synergy.' Eddie Gibbs



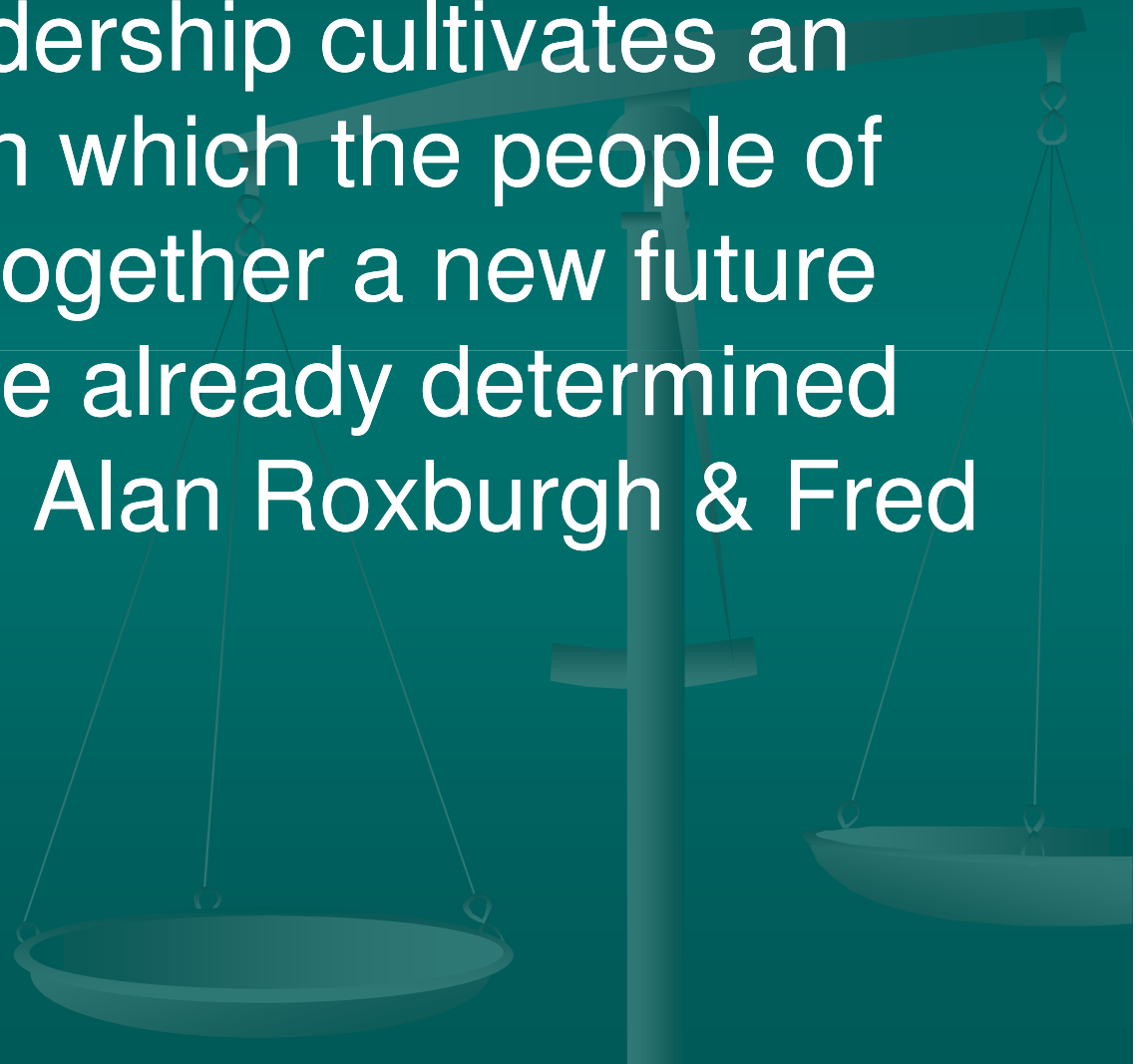
‘Oversight requires insight’

- ‘Leadership is not about giving commands, not even about making decisions, it is quite literally about leading, clearing the way, making it possible for us to go where otherwise we could not.’ Rowan Williams



Leadership

- 'Missional leadership cultivates an environment in which the people of God imagine together a new future rather than one already determined by the leader.' Alan Roxburgh & Fred Romanuk



LEADERSHIP

- 'Leadership is about cultivating an environment that innovates and releases the missional imagination present in a community of God's people.'



THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT



- 'An environment in which the Spirit given presence of God's future may emerge among the people of God.' Al Roxburgh

And finally!

- 'How do you make God laugh?
Tell him your plans'



DISCERNING LEADERSHIP



Graham Cray