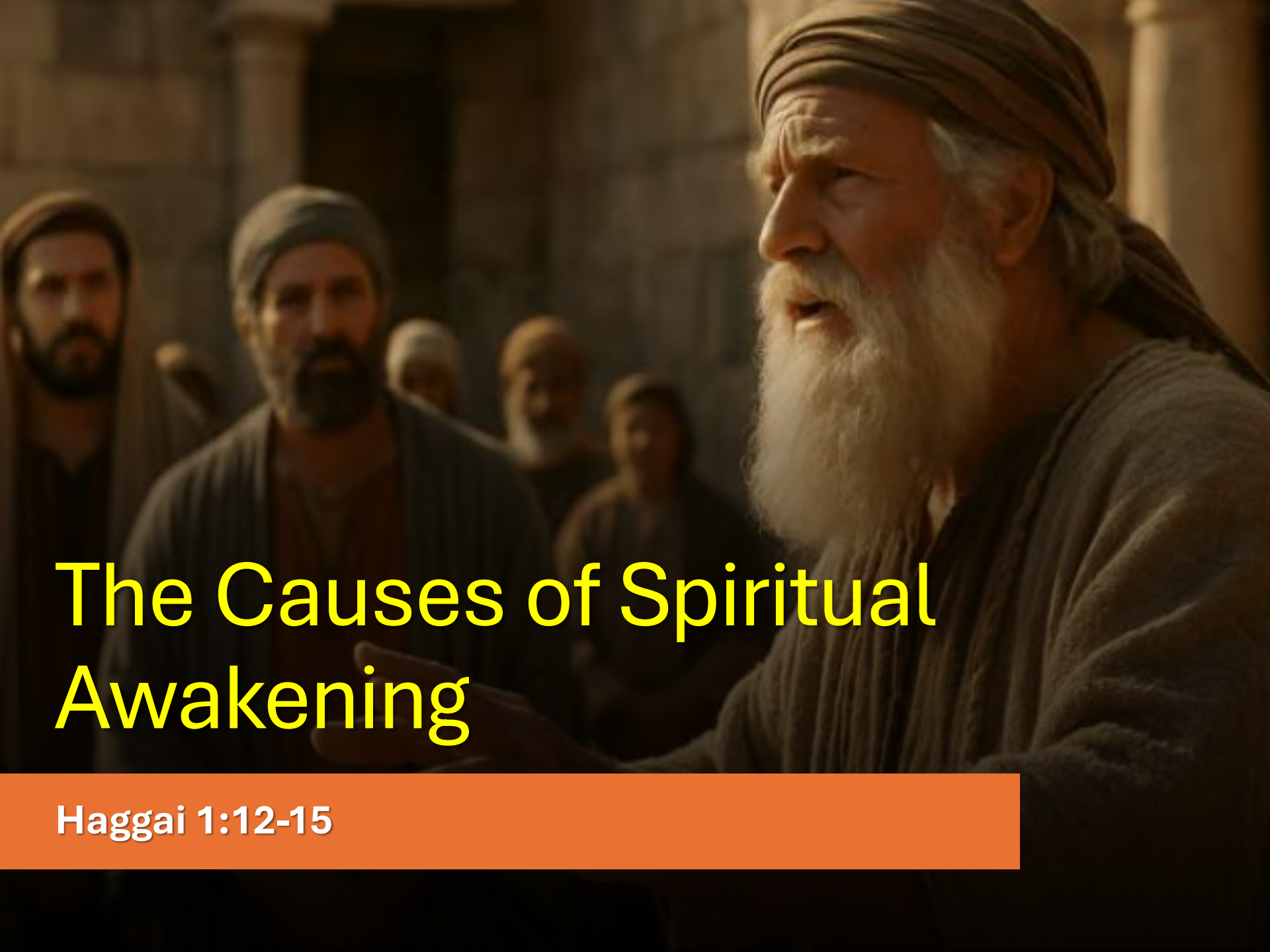


A man with a long white beard and a turban is speaking to a group of people in a stone building. The man is in the foreground, looking slightly to the left. Behind him, several other men are visible, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The scene is set in a stone building with arches in the background.

The Causes of Spiritual Awakening

Haggai 1:12-15

A Relevant Message

- God had not spoken to the people through a prophet for many years because of their past sins.
- God, in His grace, decided to awaken His people by sending them a man who would declare the Word of God to them.
- Haggai's message dealt with the immediate major spiritual problem -- spiritual apathy.
- Haggai told the people what God thought about their neglect of work on the Temple.

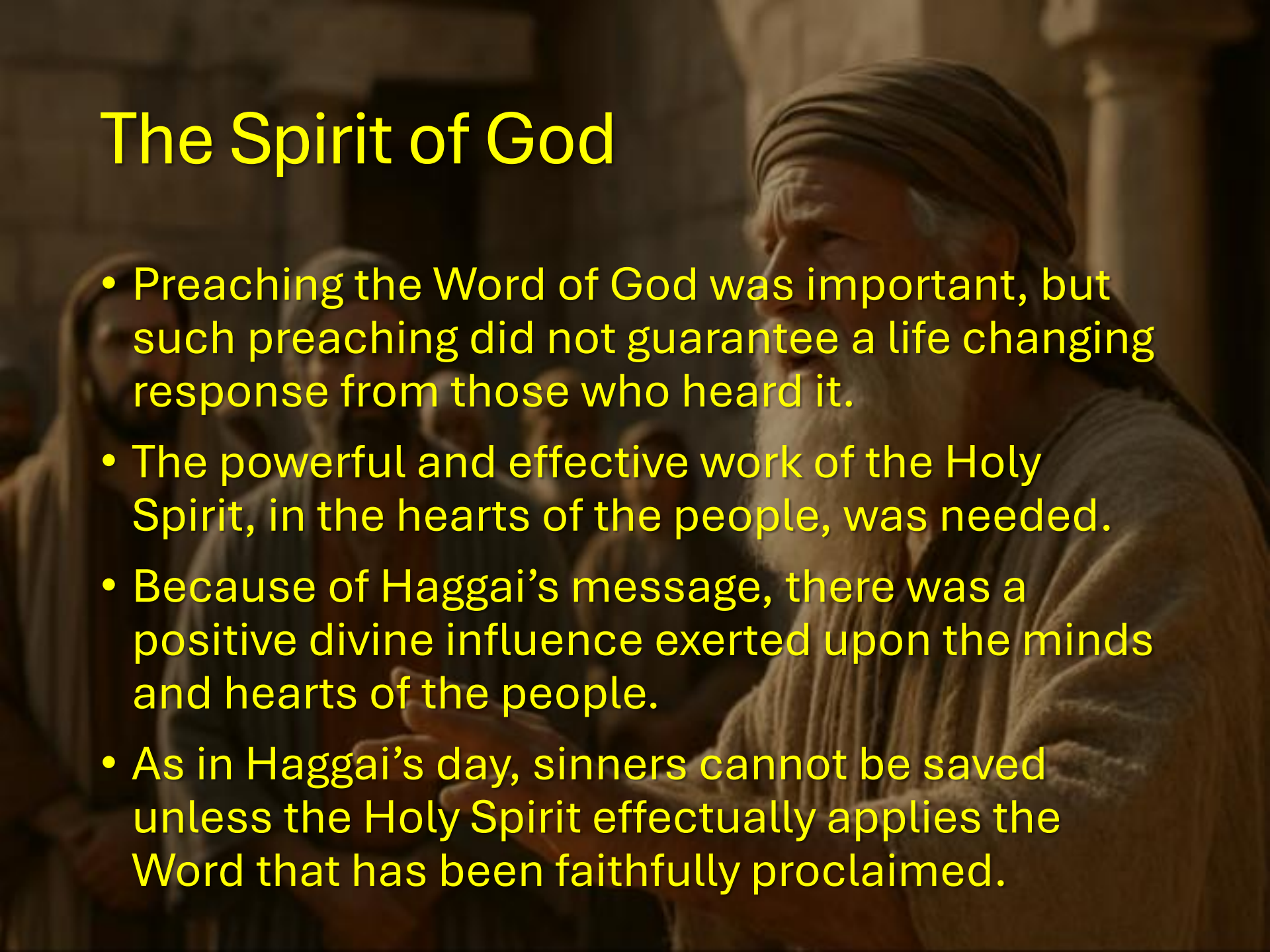
An Unwelcome Message

- Haggai's message was not only relevant, it was challenging.
- Haggai's message hit home and demanded a response
- Haggai was aware of the way people had treated prophets in the past.
- Haggai's faithful preaching was one of the means God used to awaken His people from their spiritual apathy.

Faithful Preaching

- The primary means God purposes to bring about a spiritual awakening is the faithful preaching of the Word of God.
- God used the faithful preaching of His Word to awaken and reinvigorate the people.
- We need to pray that God will raise up preachers who are not afraid to expose sin and call people to repentance from sin.
- We need to pray that God will raise up preachers who fear the face of God more than the face of man.

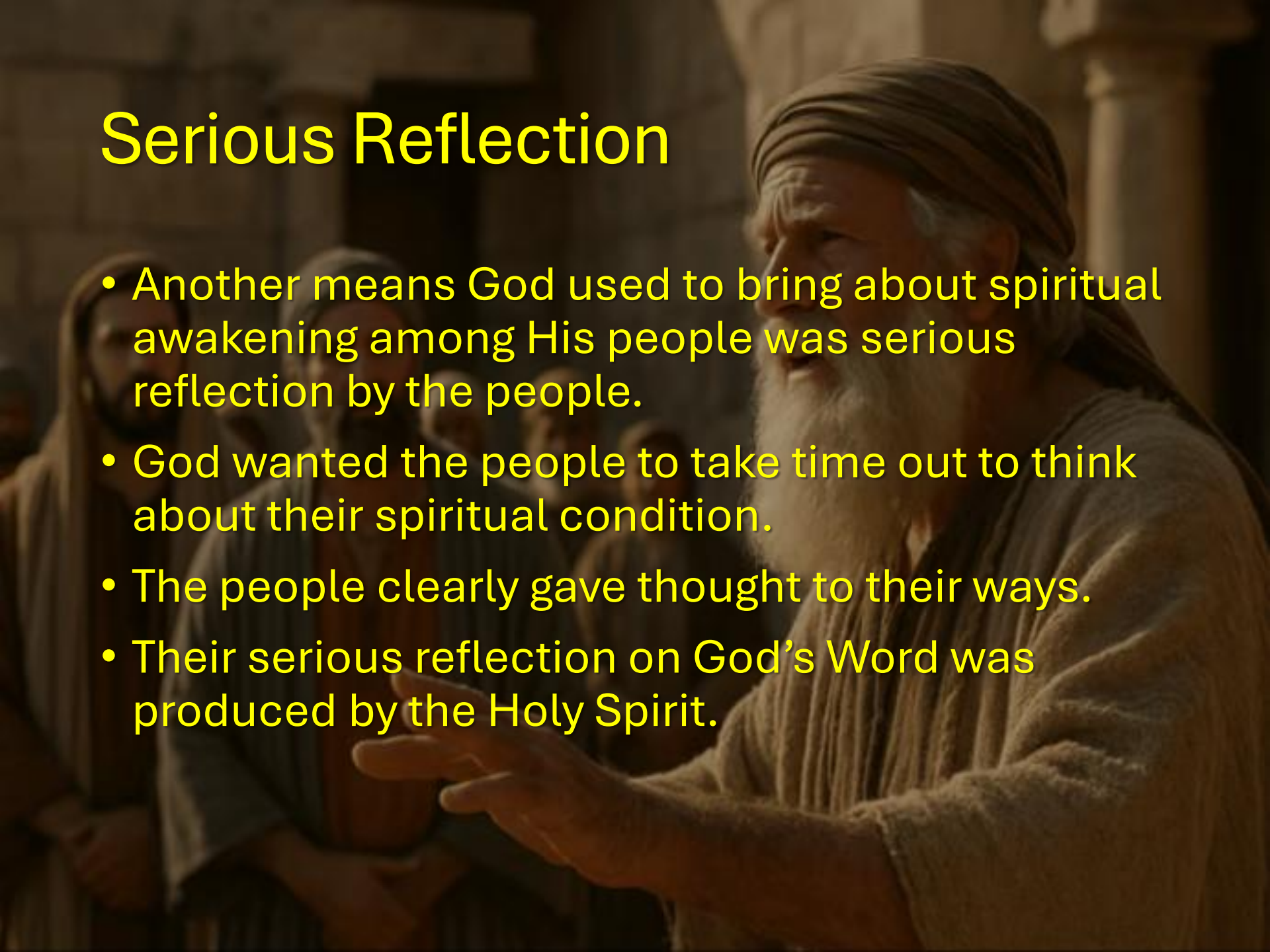
The Spirit of God

A background image showing a man with a long white beard and a turban, likely a prophet, speaking to a crowd. The scene is set in a historical or biblical context, with stone buildings visible in the background.

- Preaching the Word of God was important, but such preaching did not guarantee a life changing response from those who heard it.
- The powerful and effective work of the Holy Spirit, in the hearts of the people, was needed.
- Because of Haggai's message, there was a positive divine influence exerted upon the minds and hearts of the people.
- As in Haggai's day, sinners cannot be saved unless the Holy Spirit effectually applies the Word that has been faithfully proclaimed.

Serious Reflection

- Another means God used to bring about spiritual awakening among His people was serious reflection by the people.
- God wanted the people to take time out to think about their spiritual condition.
- The people clearly gave thought to their ways.
- Their serious reflection on God's Word was produced by the Holy Spirit.



Conclusion

- God calls us to serious reflection when we hear the preaching of His Word.
- God continually tells us to “Give careful thought to our ways.”
- May the Holy Spirit, through God’s Word, cause us to consider our ways.

