

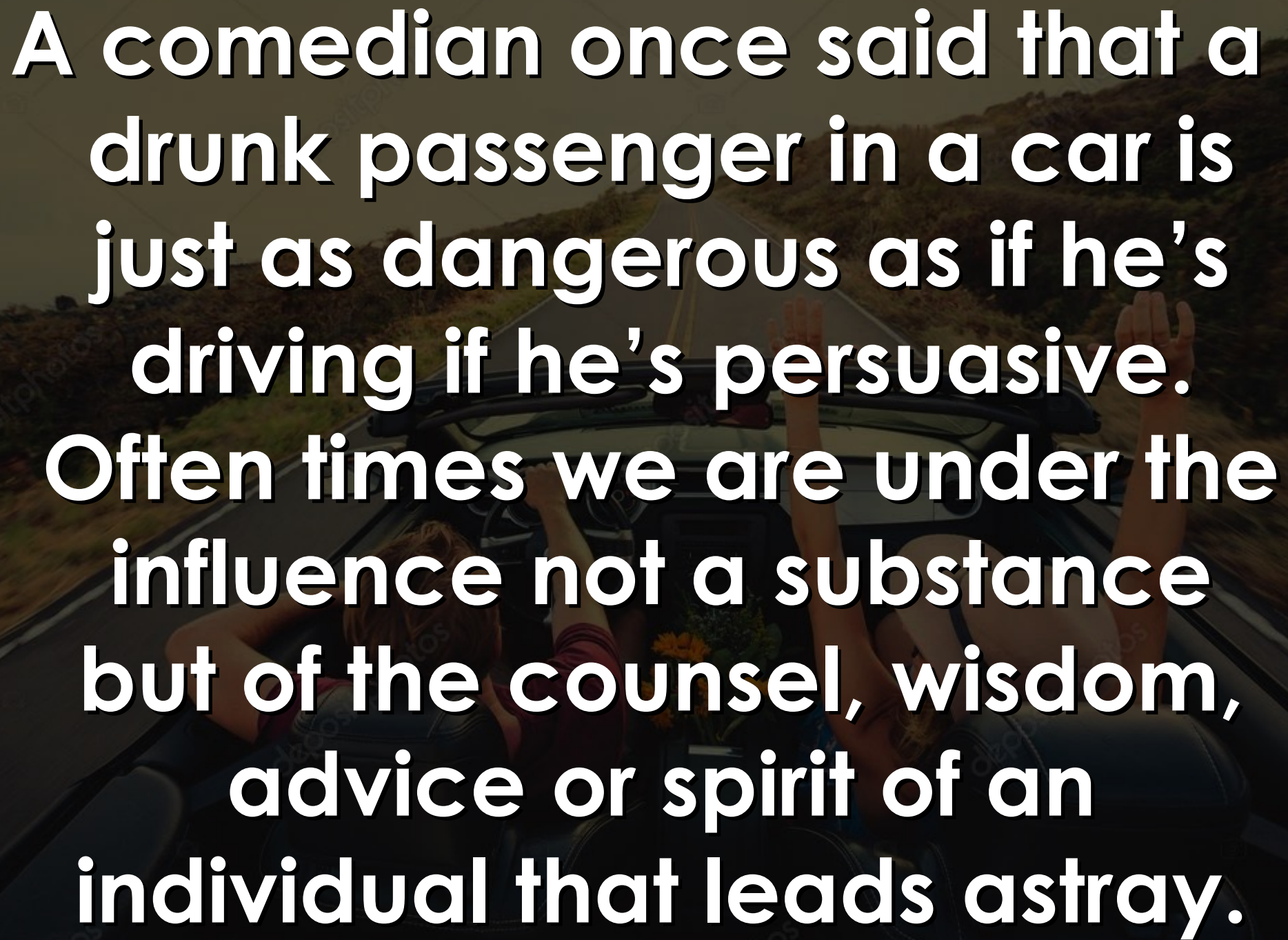
A hand holding a wine glass with a dark liquid inside, set against a blurred background of a person's face.

**WHAT HAVE YOU
BEEN DRINKING?**

1 Timothy 5:23

1 Timothy 5:23

**Drink no longer water,
but use a little wine
for thy stomach's
sake and thine often
infirmities.**

A photograph of a car driving on a winding road, with passengers' hands raised out of the windows, suggesting a fun or carefree atmosphere. The image is darkened to serve as a background for the text.

A comedian once said that a drunk passenger in a car is just as dangerous as if he's driving if he's persuasive. Often times we are under the influence not a substance but of the counsel, wisdom, advice or spirit of an individual that leads astray.

Psalms 1:1

**Blessed is the man that
walketh not in the
counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of
sinners, nor sitteth in the
seat of the scornful.**

Proverbs 11:14

Where no counsel is, the
people fall: **but in the
multitude of
counsellors there is
safety.**

James 3:13-16

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. 14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 **This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.** 16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

1 Peter 4:17

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

1 Timothy 5:19-23

Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. 21 I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. 22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure. 23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

Many people have used this verse to illustrate that Timothy had a reoccurring illness that could only be remedied by using wine but if we look at the context this literal interpretation makes no sense. How does drinking wine instead of water for a stomach ailment keep a person pure from being a partaker in the sins of other men?

1 Timothy 5:24-25

Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. 25 Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.

Verse Elements

1. The water
2. The Wine
3. The Stomach
4. The Infirmities

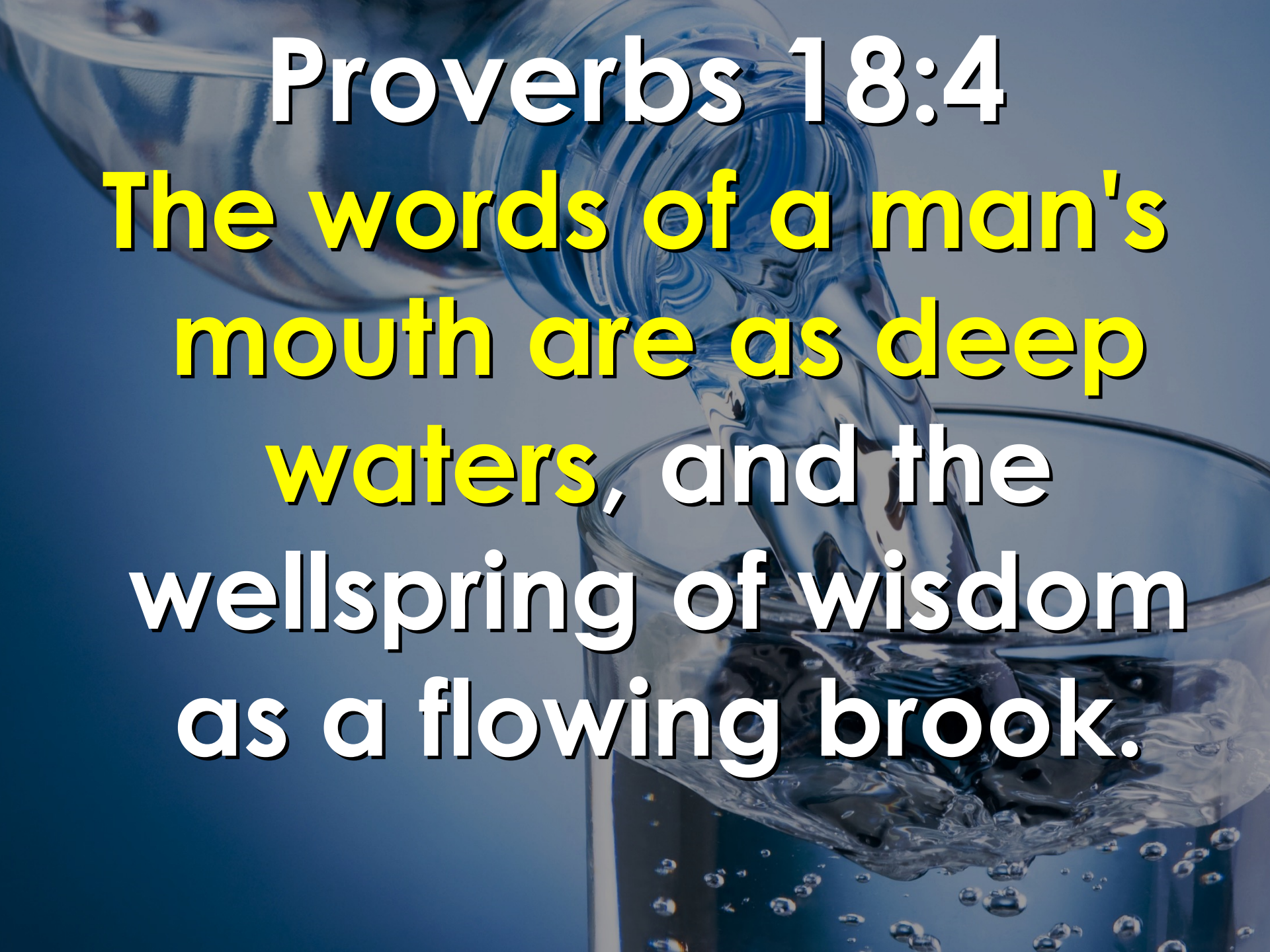
The background is a dark, textured composition of teal and green. It features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes and patterns, including a prominent checkered or tiled design on the right side. A faint, stylized figure of a person is visible in the background, appearing to be in a dynamic pose. The overall aesthetic is modern and artistic.

**Water can
symbolize
counsel**

Proverbs 20:5

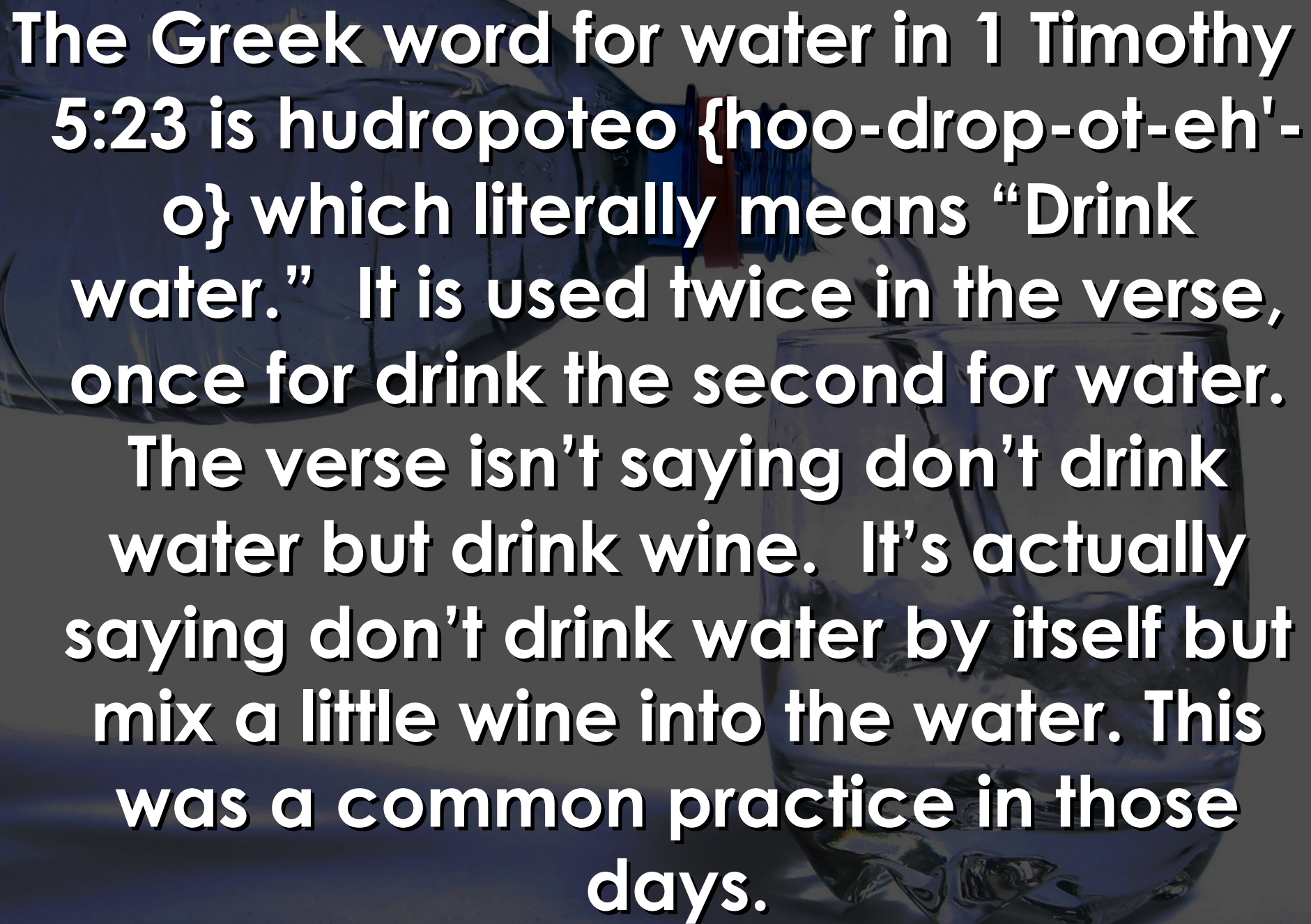
Counsel in the heart of
man is like deep water;

**but a man of
understanding will
draw it out.**



Proverbs 18:4

**The words of a man's
mouth are as deep
waters, and the
wellspring of wisdom
as a flowing brook.**

A glass of water with ice cubes and a blue cloth in the background.

The Greek word for water in 1 Timothy 5:23 is hudropoteo {hoo-drop-ot-eh'-o} which literally means “Drink water.” It is used twice in the verse, once for drink the second for water. The verse isn't saying don't drink water but drink wine. It's actually saying don't drink water by itself but mix a little wine into the water. This was a common practice in those days.



**Wine can
symbolize blood**

Matthew 26:27-29

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

Drink ye all of it; 28 **For this is my blood of the new testament**, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

**The stomach is used
to describe the inner
most being or the
origin from which the
spirit of God / person
flows from.**

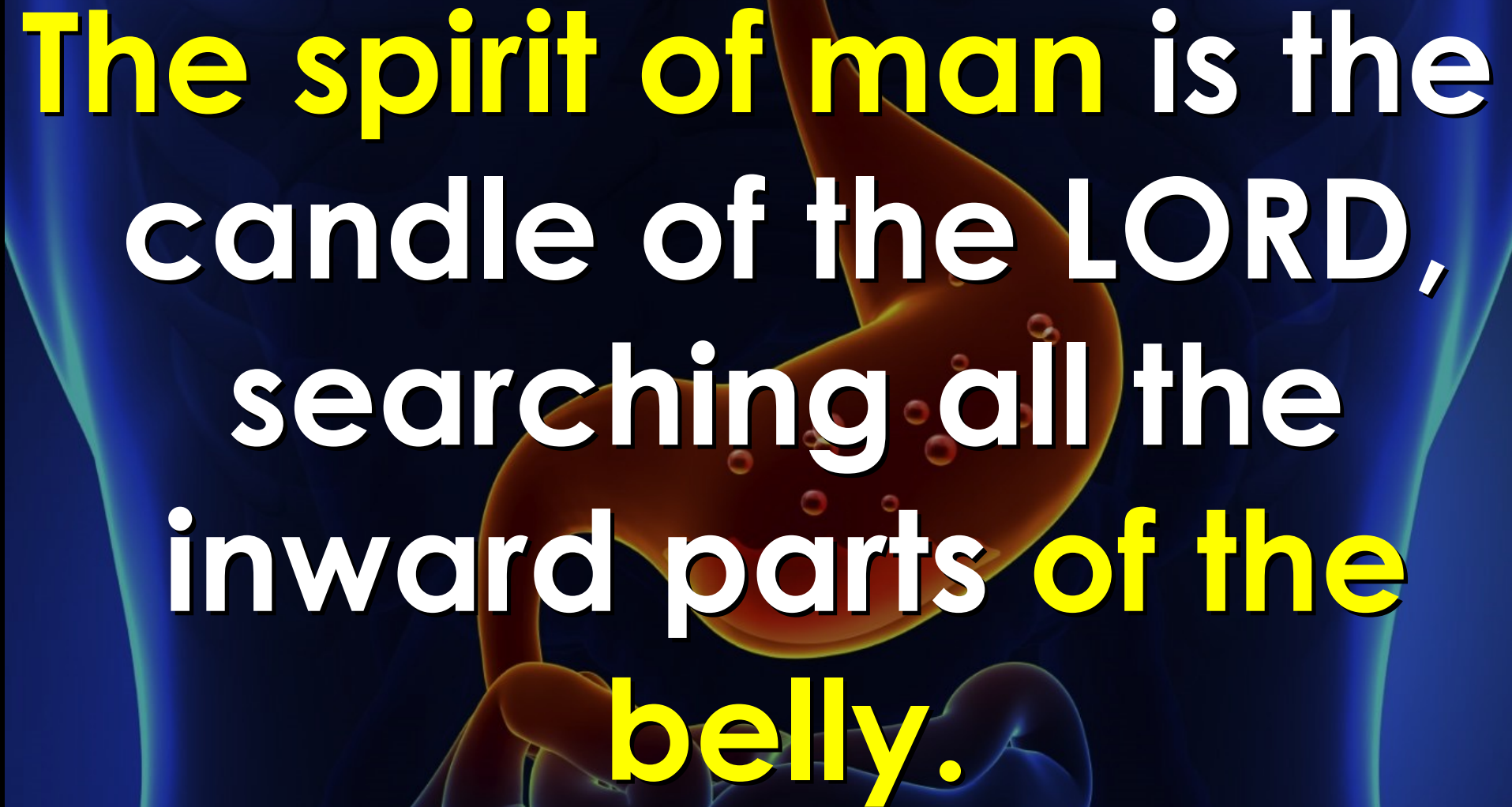
A person wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans is shown from the waist up, with their hands resting on their hips. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be clearly visible over it.

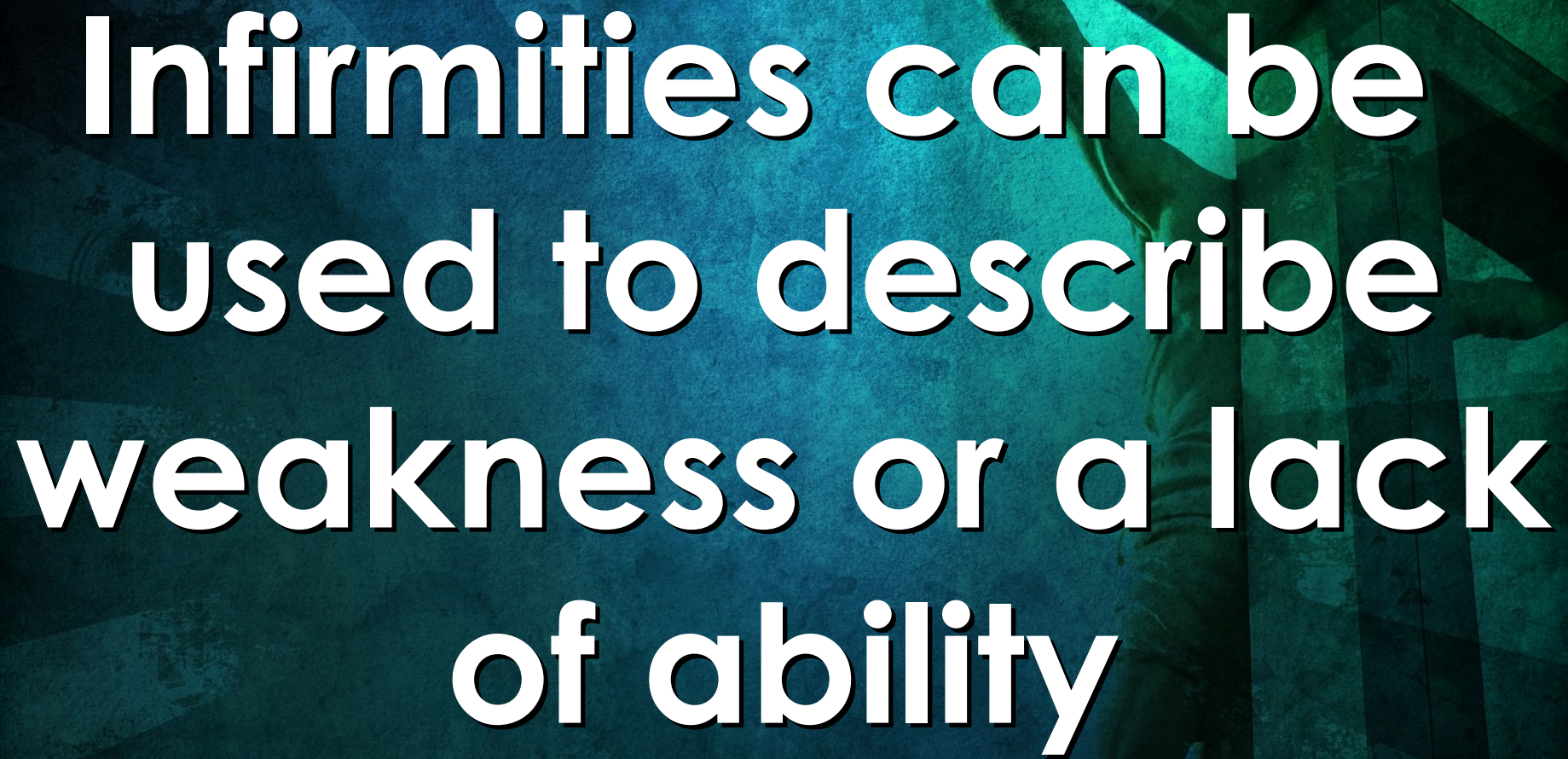
John 7:38

He that believeth on
me, as the scripture
hath said, **out of his
belly** shall flow rivers of
living water.

Proverbs 20:27

The spirit of man is the
candle of the LORD,
searching all the
inward parts **of the**
belly.

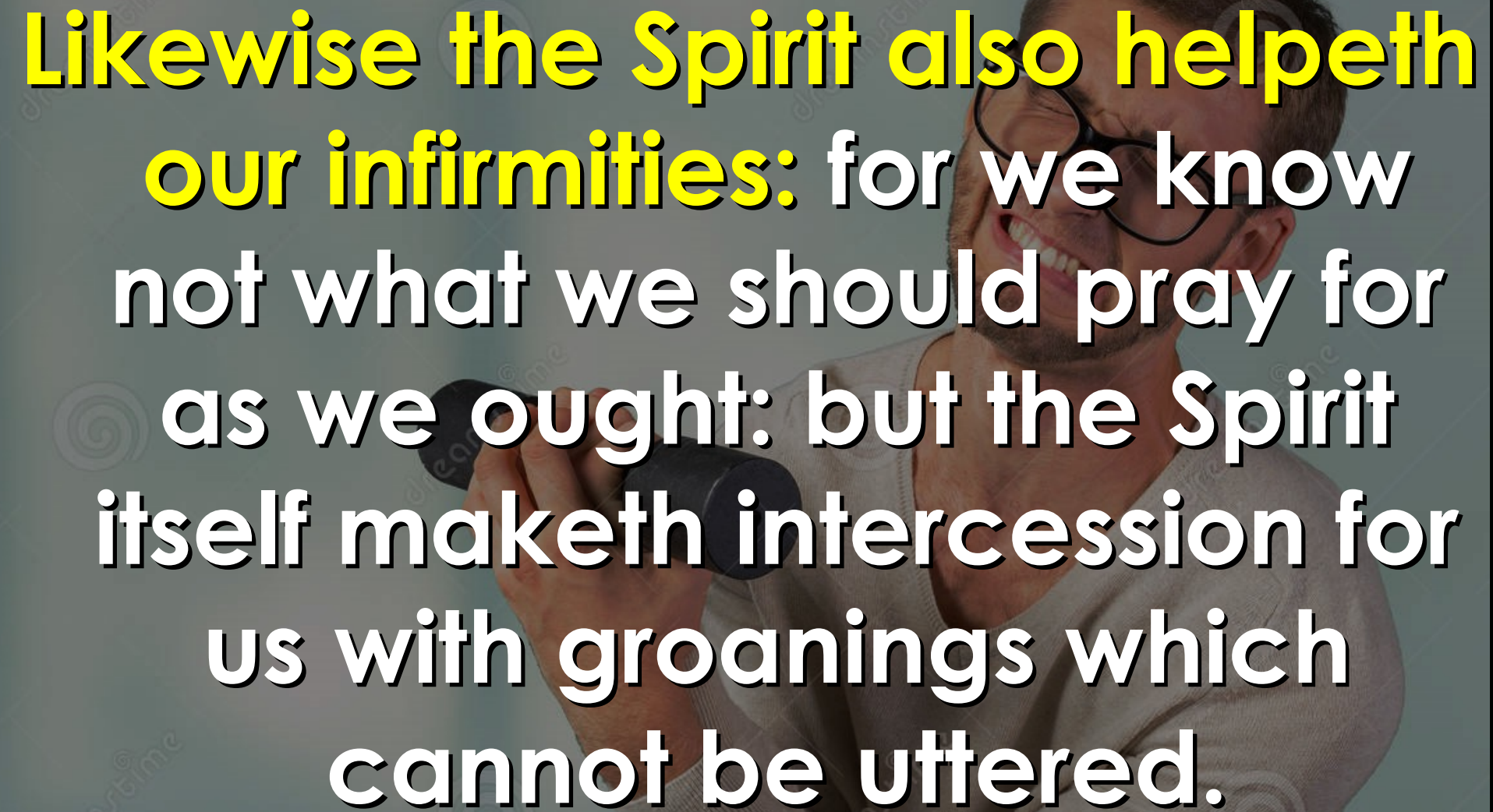


The background is a dark, textured composition of teal and green geometric shapes, possibly representing architectural elements or a stylized environment. A faint, dark silhouette of a person is visible on the right side, appearing to be in a dynamic pose. The text is centered and rendered in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a subtle drop shadow.

**Infirmities can be
used to describe
weakness or a lack
of ability**

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.



Paul's Message Decoded

He is saying drink or partake no longer of the **counsel (Water)** of men alone. Drink or partake only of the **counsel (Water) or spirit** that has been mixed with the **blood (Wine)** of Jesus Christ for the sake of your innermost being **(Stomach) or spirit** and to protect yourself from the **(infirmities) weaknesses** that are in the flesh.

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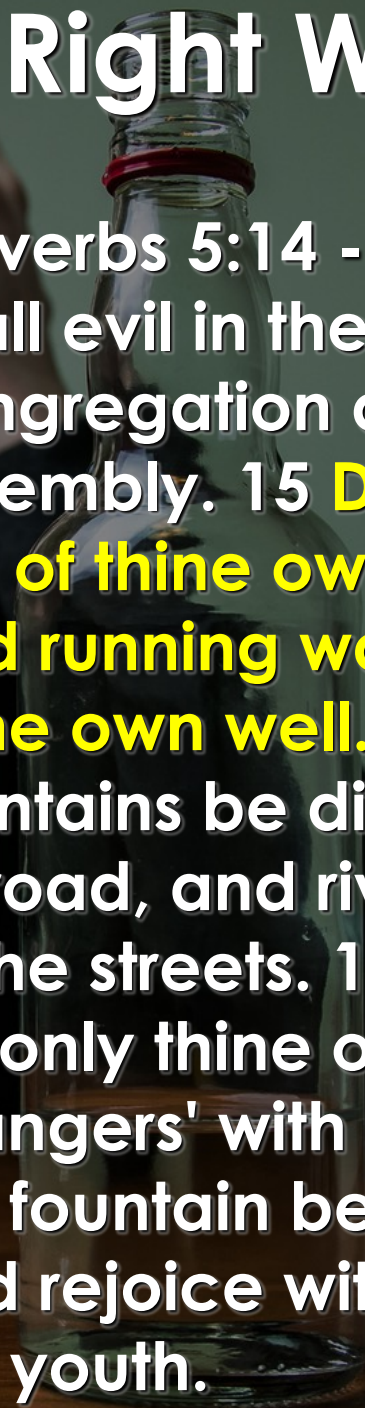
1 Corinthians 10:21

Ye cannot drink the cup
of the Lord, **and the**
cup of devils: ye
cannot be partakers of
the Lord's table, and of
the table of devils.

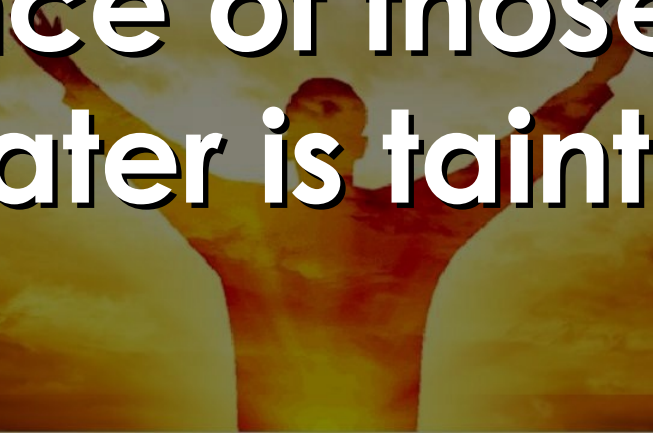
Drink From The Right Well

Proverbs 27:9 -
Ointment and
perfume rejoice
the heart: **so doth
the sweetness of a
man's friend by
heartly counsel.**

Proverbs 5:14 - I was almost
in all evil in the midst of the
congregation and
assembly. 15 **Drink waters
out of thine own cistern,
and running waters out of
thine own well.** 16 Let thy
fountains be dispersed
abroad, and rivers of waters
in the streets. 17 Let them
be only thine own, and not
strangers' with thee. 18 Let
thy fountain be blessed:
and rejoice with the wife of
thy youth.



**We as believers need to drink,
partake, or fellowship with
those whose wells have
been purified by the blood of
Jesus Christ. If we don't we
will come under the
influence of those whose
water is tainted.**

A person is visible in the lower half of the image, with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or worship. They are silhouetted against a bright, orange and yellow sunset sky. The person appears to be wearing a light-colored shirt. The overall mood is spiritual and uplifting.

1 John 1:6-7

If we say that we **have fellowship with him**, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, **we have fellowship one with another**, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

John 2:1-6

And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: 2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. 3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. 4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. 5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. 6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

Water Pots of Stone

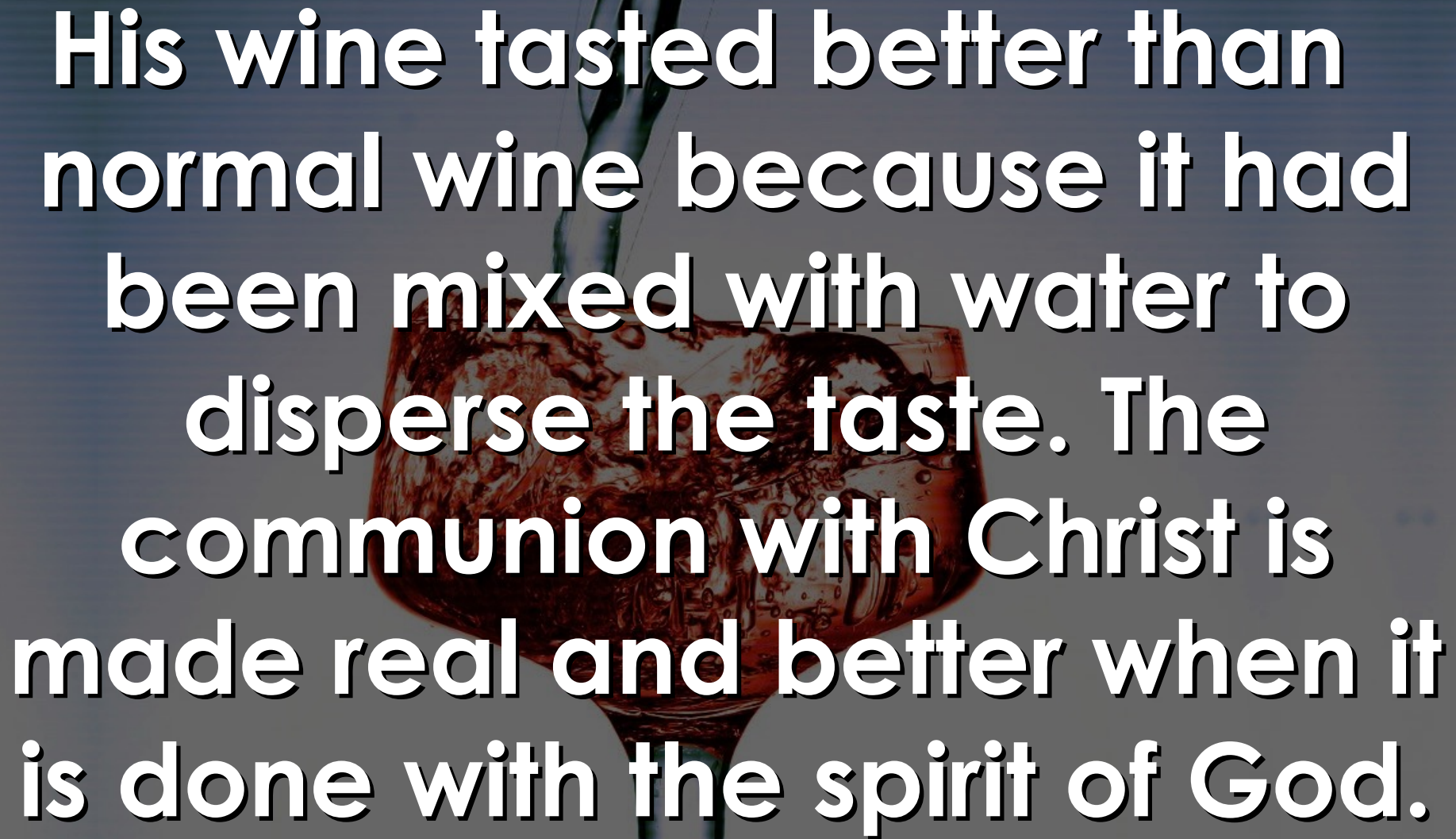
A close-up photograph of a dark, textured stone water pot. Water is being poured from its spout, creating a dynamic splash against a dark blue background. The pot's surface is rough and uneven, with some water droplets visible on its rim.

Ephesians 2:20 -
And are built upon
the foundation of
the apostles and
prophets, Jesus
Christ himself being
the chief corner
stone;

1 Corinthians 10:1 Moreover,
brethren, I would not that ye
should be ignorant, how that
all our fathers were under
the cloud, and all passed
through the sea; 2 And were
all baptized unto Moses in
the cloud and in the sea; 3
And did all eat the same
spiritual meat; 4 And did all
drink the same spiritual
drink: for they drank of that
spiritual Rock that followed
them: and that Rock was
Christ.

John 2:7-11

Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. 9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, 10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: **but thou hast kept the good wine until now.** 11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

A glass of red wine is shown with a dynamic splash of liquid being poured into it from above. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wooden surface. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, white, bold font with a black outline.

His wine tasted better than normal wine because it had been mixed with water to disperse the taste. The communion with Christ is made real and better when it is done with the spirit of God.

Exodus 15:22-27

So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; **and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.** 23 And when they came to Marah, **they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter:** therefore the name of it was called Marah. 24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? 25 And he cried unto the LORD; **and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet:** there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, 26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: **for I am the LORD that healeth thee.** 27 And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.