

A STUDY IN

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Have They Ceased?

What Were Spiritual Gifts?

- “Signs” (semeion) - A mark signifying or certifying as being from God.
- “Wonders” (teras) - An omen or event designed to attract attention.
- “Miracles” (dunamis) - The power (namely, of God) superseding or suspending a natural law.
- “Spiritual Gifts” were given to men enabling them to perform signs, wonders, and miracles
- **1 Corinthians 12:7-11**

What Was Their Purpose?

- **To Reveal The Will Of God** - John 16:12-13
- **To Confirm The Words Spoken**
- Hebrews 2:2-4; Mark 16:20
- **To Edify And Convict** - 1 Corinthians 14:1-6
- **To Bring About Belief** - John 20:30-31
- **Never For Personal Gain**
- 2 Timothy 4:20; Philippians 2:26-28
- **Only To Exist For A Time** - 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

I Corinthians 13:8-10

⁸Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, **they will fail**; whether there are tongues, **they will cease**; whether there is knowledge, **it will vanish away.** ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

Some Important Questions

- Have these miraculous gifts served their purpose and passed away? Or...
- Are we still in a state of immaturity awaiting “that which is perfect” to arrive?
- How are we to answer these questions?
 - Passed experiences? **Matthew 7:21-23**
 - A lack of passed experiences? **Acts 19:1-6**
 - The revealed scriptures? **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

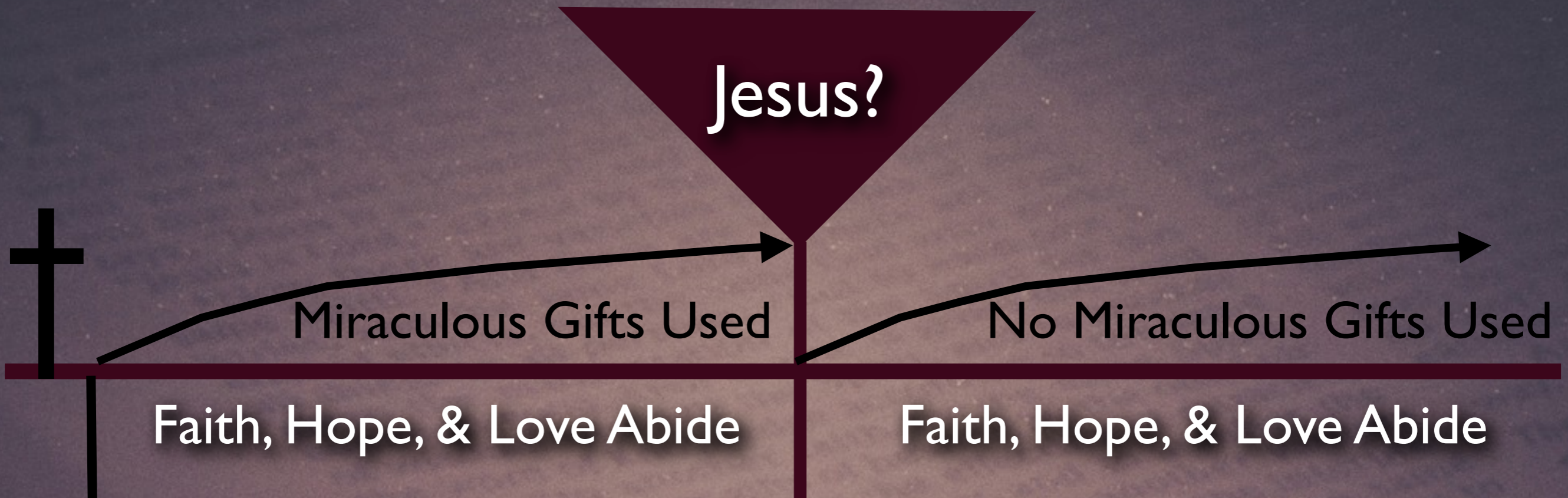
Understanding “Part” and “Perfect”

- Does “perfect” in this passage mean “sinless”?
 - If so, the “part” would have to mean sinful!
- **James 1:13**
- “Part” has reference to something that is only partial or only partially accomplishes the task.
- “Perfect” is that which is whole or complete or fully completes the task.
- So, what is the “perfect” in this passage?

Understanding “Part” and “Perfect”

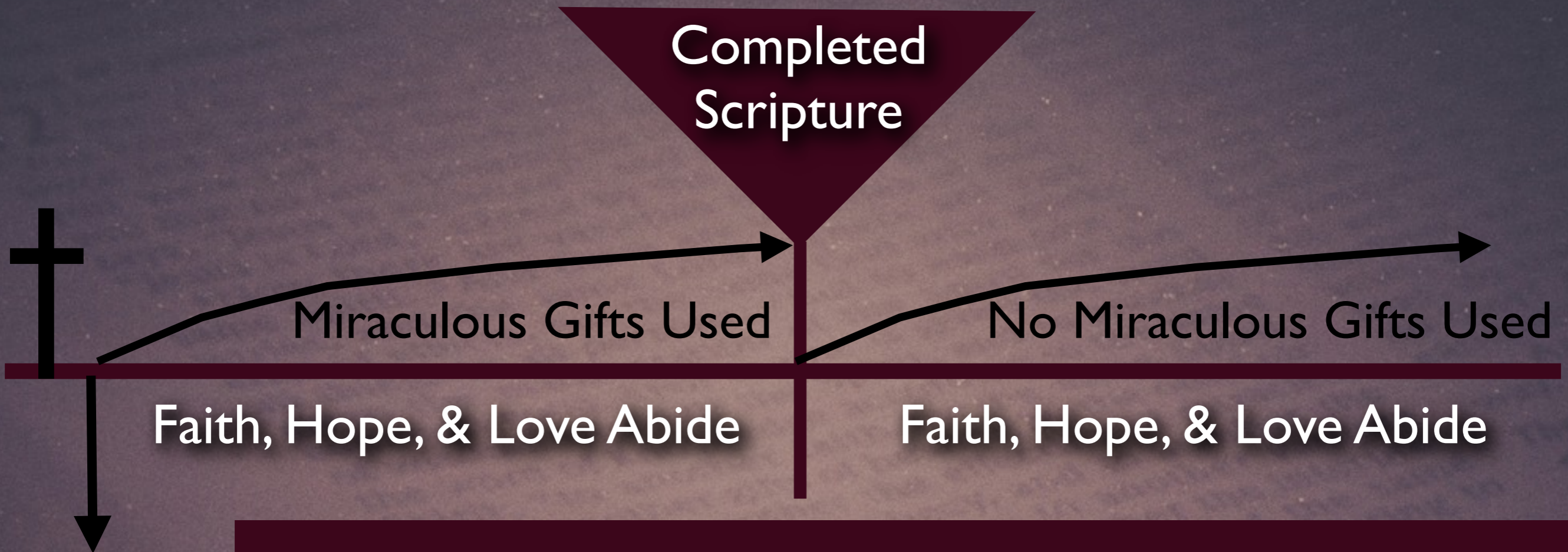


Understanding “Part” and “Perfect”



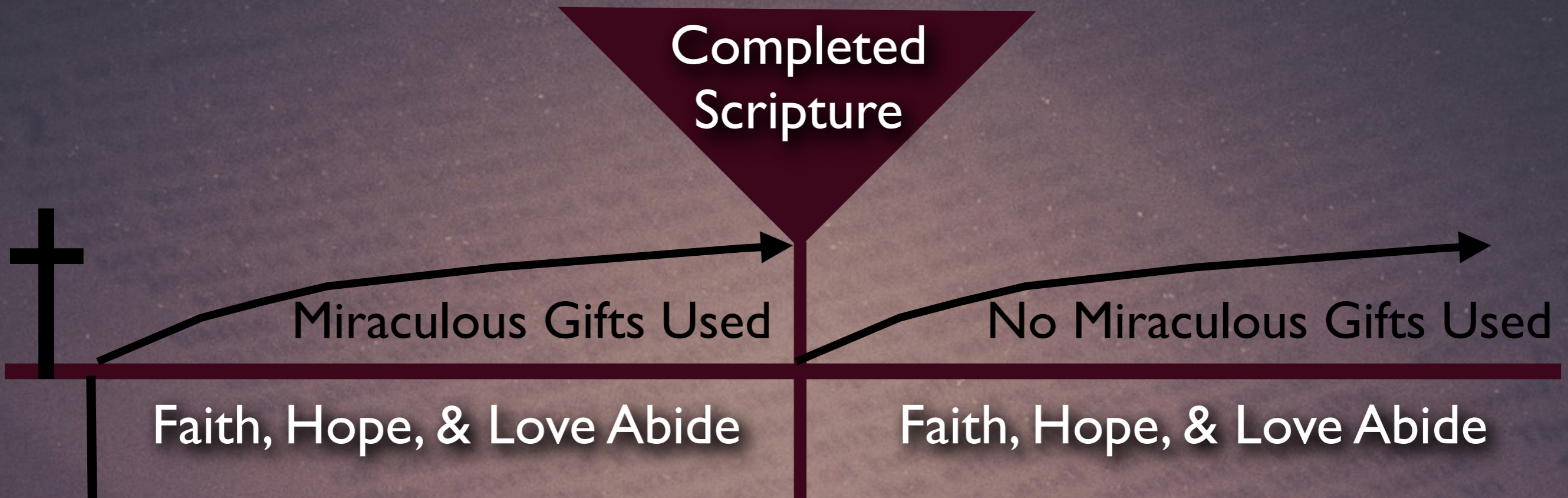
- This view contradicts **Hebrews 11:1** regarding faith.
- This view also contradicts **Romans 8:24-25** regarding hope.

Understanding “Part” and “Perfect”



If the “part” reveals, confirms, edifies, and convicts, dimly, then the “perfect” is that which reveals, confirms, edifies, and convicts, wholly.

Understanding “Part” and “Perfect”

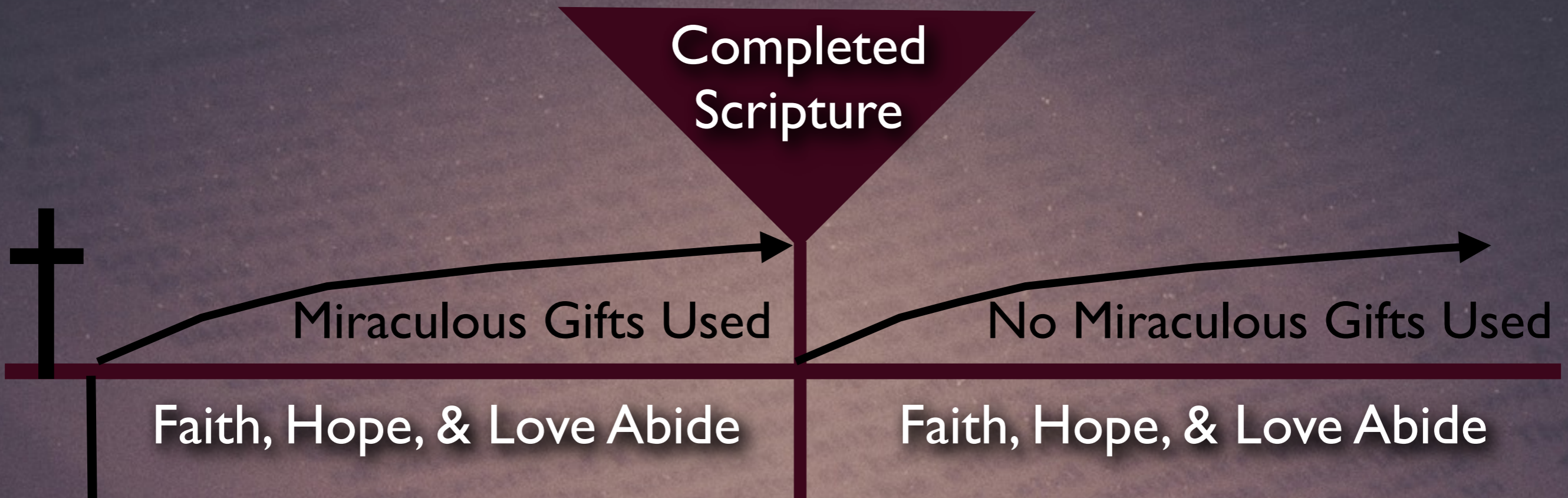


Spiritual
Gifts Begin
Acts 2

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Understanding “Part” and “Perfect”

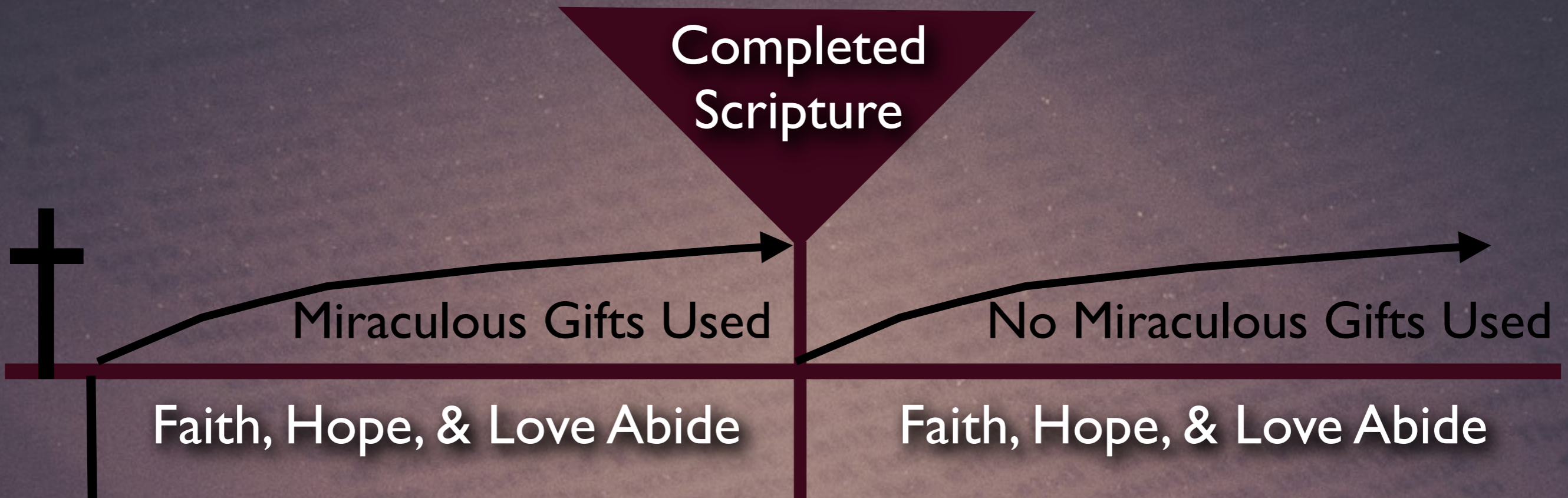


Spiritual
Gifts Begin
Acts 2

Jude 3

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

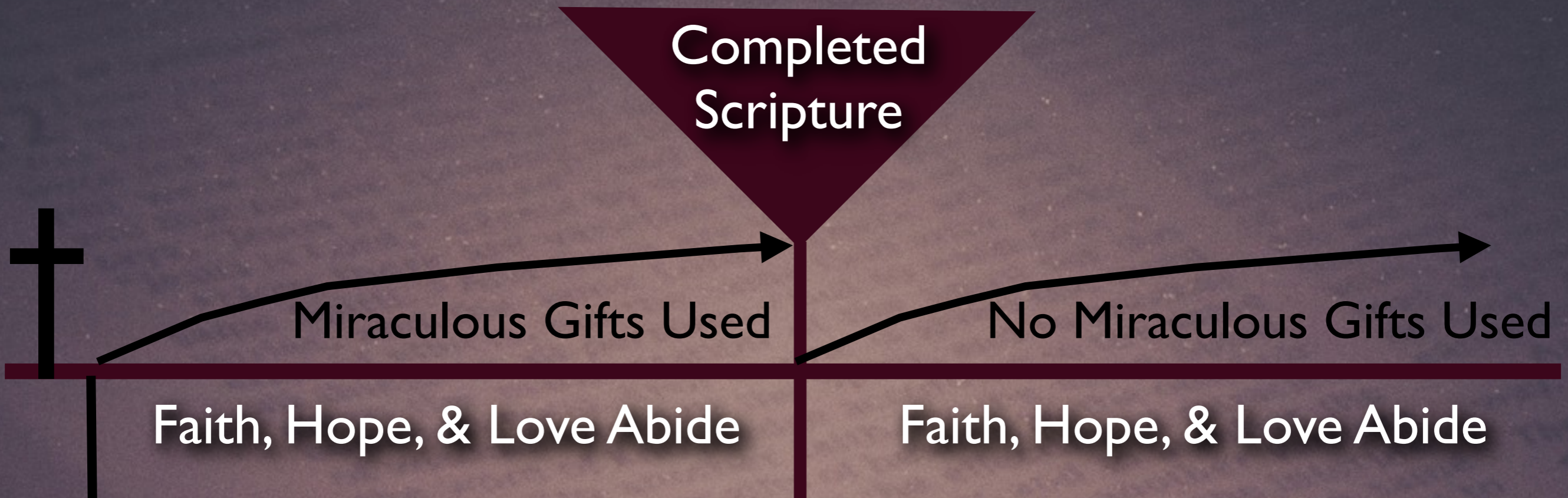
Understanding “Part” and “Perfect”



Revelation 22:18-19

¹⁸For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book

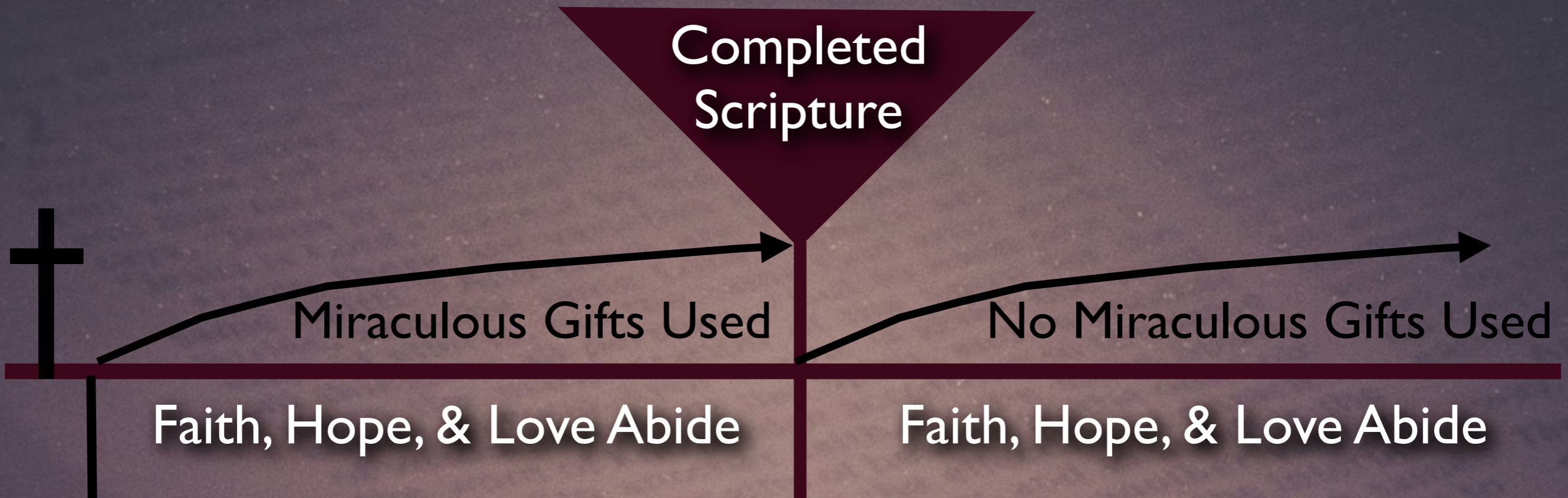
Understanding “Part” and “Perfect”



Revelation 22:18-19

¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Understanding “Part” and “Perfect”



2 Peter 1:3

as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue

Ephesians 4:11-14

¹¹And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting

What This Means For The Church

- The church is no longer in its infancy
 - Spiritual gifts are associated with the childhood period of the church
- We can know the full will of God
 - Spiritual gifts could only partially reveal
- The scriptures are more powerful than miracles
 - No miracles can produce what the Word of God can!

Are You Trusting
The Word?