

*“Theological statements operate with what we may call open concepts – concepts which, to be sure, must be closed on our side, for we have to formulate them as carefully and exactly as we can, but which on God’s side are open to the infinite objectivity and inexhaustible reality of the divine Being. That is to say, the kind of conceptuality with which we operate in theology is one in which our acts of cognition are formed from beyond them by the reality disclosed so that the content of what is revealed constantly bursts through the forms we bring to it in order to grasp it. This can happen only under the power of the Spirit, as He presses upon us from the side of the divine Being. The Spirit is thus the act of God upon us which keeps our concepts or cognitive forms open, so that our thoughts and speech are stretched out beyond themselves toward the inexhaustible nature of the divine Being.*

*Apart from this impact of the Spirit upon us, the forms of our thought and speech become quite obscure and indeed may even become a form of obstruction to the divine revelation or a means of suppressing the truth through the transmutation of knowledge into our own constructs. It is worship which keeps the epistemological process personal.”*

T.F. TORRANCE