

Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church- Wednesday Bible Study

Fall 2023-Winter 2023/2024. Prepared by: Pastor Artee Williams

Book Review: Help Is Here: Fresh Strength and Purpose In the Power of the Holy Spirit -Author: Max Lucado

Study Emphasis: The power of the Holy Spirit to transform believers through inspiration, illumination, conviction, intercession, indwelling, sealing, restraining and filling.

## Introduction

Our church theme is: Spirituality- The Higher Calling for Discipleship, Worship, and Ministry.

Our church ministry focus is: The Season of Spiritual Transformation thru Revival, Renewal, Regeneration, Restoration , and Recovery.

Over the last several years our Wednesday Bible Studies have focused on spiritual transformation. We have gained much insight regarding spiritual transformation from the following book reviews/ studies:

1. Not A Fan: Becoming A Committed Follower of Christ-by: Kyle Idleman  
Key Focus: Spiritual transformation through submission to Christ.
2. Draw the Circle-by: Mark Batterson  
Key Focus: Spiritual transformation through prayer.
3. Master Life Series ( Christian Discipleship )- by: Avery T. Willis Jr  
Key Focus : Spiritual transformation through the practice of discipleship.
4. Spiritual Disciplines For the Christian Life- by: Donald S. Whitney  
Key Focus: Spiritual transformation through the practice of spiritual disciplines.
5. Twelve Ordinary Men- How the Master Shaped His Disciples for Greatness, and What He Wants to Do With You-by: John MAC Arthur  
Key Focus: Spiritual transformation through the development of Christ-like character.

Our new study is directly related to previous studies and focuses on relevant yet practical teaching on how the Holy Spirit is intimately involved in the process of spiritual transformation.

The believers submission to Christ is not possible without the power of the Holy Spirit. Prayer is futile without the power of the Holy Spirit. Practicing spiritual discipleship is

impossible without the power of the Holy Spirit. Practicing spiritual disciplines and character transformation are unattainable goals without the power of the Holy Spirit.

Over the next several months we will review basic doctrine regarding the Holy Spirit and focus on practical ways to receive fresh strength through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## II. Introduction to Lucado's book

The Bible makes more than a hundred references to the Holy Spirit, and Jesus says more about the Spirit than he does about the church, marriage, finances, and the future. But do we really know the Spirit? In *Help Is Here* Max gives you the tools and encouragement you need to:

Become more joyful, enthusiastic, and empowered as you draw closer to God.

Learn who the Spirit is and how the Spirit can help you.

Find true rest and peace as you let the Spirit carry your burdens.

Discover your unique gifts and purpose to further God's kingdom.

*Help Is Here* reminds us that our Good Shepherd doesn't just feed us; he leads us. He does more than correct us; he directs us. God keeps us on track-and best of all, he's commissioned the Holy Spirit to guide us down the winding roads of life, wherever they may lead us.

Note the following statements of prominent authors and Pastors regarding Lucado's book:

"Are you weary? Burned out? Simply dissatisfied with your spiritual life? Let my friend Max Lucado tell you all about your Helper-the divine Spirit who changes everything." Les Stobbel-best selling author

"Do you want to have a deeper, closer relationship with God? You can do that through the Holy Spirit. In my friend Max Lucado's new book, *Help Is Here*, he explores the person, power, and provision of the Holy Spirit. Max explains how having a relationship with Him makes your life fuller, richer, and more exciting than you ever dreamed possible." Robert Morris, senior pastor, Gateway Church and best selling author

"The Holy Spirit, the most misunderstood member of the Trinity-and yet, before Jesus ascended into heaven He told his disciples not to leave Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit had come upon them. The promise was that they would receive power from on high. Let Max walk you through the amazing scriptures that describe the wonder, the promise, and power of the Holy Spirit." Terry Meeuwsen

### III. Basic Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

Before we look at practical ways to receive fresh strength through the power of the Holy Spirit, it would be helpful to review some of the basic doctrine regarding the Holy Spirit.

#### Albert Garner's -Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

##### I. Personality of the Holy Spirit

###### A. Personal pronouns used with reference to the Holy Spirit

1. The Greek word "pneuma" is neuter gender, however, when used to describe the Holy Spirit it is referred to as a masculine person.
2. In John 14: 16 the promised Comforter (Parakletos) is in the masculine gender, and Jesus says of Him, ' He may abide with you forever.'
3. John 16:7,8,13,14 , in these Scripture passages the Holy Spirit is referred to as " He"
4. The Bible provides proof that the third person of the trinity is masculine and possesses personality.

###### B. Personal qualities of the Holy Spirit

1. Intelligence and power are attributed to Him ( I Corinthians 2:10-11 I Corinthians 12: 8, Romans 8:27).
2. The power of speech, teaching, communion, and intercession are attributed to Him ( John 14:26, John 16:12-14, Acts 13:2, Acts 21:11, Romans 8:26, 2 Corinthians 13:14). The Holy Spirit also has will and the ability to love ( I Corinthians 12:11, Romans 15:30).

###### C. Personal treatment of the Holy Spirit

1. A person can strive against the Holy Spirit ( Genesis 6:3 ).
2. A person can rebel, resist and vex the Holy Spirit ( Isaiah 63:10, Acts 7:51).
3. A person can grieve the Holy Spirit ( Ephesians 4:30 ).
4. A person can blaspheme the Holy Spirit ( Matthew 12: 31-32).
5. A person can lie to the Holy Spirit ( Acts 5:3 ).

##### II. The Deity of the Holy Spirit

By the Deity of the Holy Spirit is meant that that He is one with God, co-equal, and co-eternal.

1. He is called God ( Acts 5:3-4), to lie to the Holy Spirit is to lie to God.
2. He is called Lord ( II Corinthians 3:18).
3. Attributes used of Deity are attributed to Him: Hebrews 9:14, Psalm 139: 7-10, I Corinthians 2:10-12, John 14:26, Luke 1:35.

### III. The Work of the Holy Spirit ( In the Old and New Testament )

#### Old Testament

1. In creation- the Holy Spirit is described as the moving, creating agency, when the earth and all things in it were formed- Genesis 1:1-3, 26,27, Genesis 2: 7.
2. In preparation of men for special work as revealed in the Old Testament: the Holy Spirit prepared: Bezaleel-Exodus 31: 1-6, Joshua to lead-Numbers 27:18, Daniel to interpret dreams-Daniel 4:8, Daniel 6:3, Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple- Zechariah 4:6.

#### New Testament ( Revealed in the following ways)

1. The virgin birth-Luke 1:30-35.
2. At the baptism of Jesus- Matthew 3: 15-17, John 1: 31-33, Luke 3: 22.
3. He led Jesus into the wilderness-Matthew 4:1, Mark 1:22, Luke 4:1.
4. He empowered Jesus to preach-Luke 4:14, 16-21.
5. Jesus offered Himself to the eternal Spirit- Hebrews 9:14.
6. Jesus was resurrected by the Holy Spirit- Romans 8:11.
7. The Bible was written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit- II Peter 1:20-21, II Peter 3:15-16, II Timothy 3:16.

#### In Conviction

1. It is the special work of the Holy Spirit to draw men to Christ. Except God should take the initiative in convicting lost men, they would never be saved. It is the Holy Spirit who is the “invisible hand” which is upon all men for good that seek Him , See John 6:44, Acts 17:27.
2. The Lord promised that after His going away the Comforter would be sent to reprove ( convict) the world of sin, righteousness and judgment to come. See John 16: 7-11.

#### In Conversion

1. When one has been convicted by the Holy Spirit, drawn to a personal sense of eternal condemnation, so that he repents of his sins and trusts in Christ as savior , it is the Holy Spirit that then imparts the new divine nature, See John 6:63, II Peter 1: 4.
2. In conversion man’s spirit is born ( begotten ) of God’s Spirit. There is thereafter a divine nature in the saved man, as well as the depraved sinful nature that remains in the mind and body and are not regenerated. See John 3:6.
3. In conversion the Holy Spirit enters the life of the saved person to dwell with him forever. See John 14:16, I John 4:11.

## Charles Swindoll- Doctrine of the Holy Spirit ( Practical ways to submit to the Holy Spirit)

Dr. Swindoll's challenge to believers:

“ Is the Holy Spirit a real and relevant force in your life? What are the biggest challenges facing you these days ? Can you feel the weight of these daily struggles ? Let the heaviness of your list drive you to your knees. Ask God to show you what it means to have the Holy Spirit resident within you. Ask God to shoulder the weight of these struggles. Consciously yield your challenges to the Helpers control, to his invisible yet limitless power. Don't stop praying to God until your shoulders and heart feel lighter. “

“ If you are sincerely willing to be reshaped, refreshed and renewed by the Spirit of God- you will begin to discover new dimensions of living you've never known before. A whole new process will start in your life and Christ alone will be glorified. “

“ Christians all around the world need the reminder that the most powerful force in life is something we can't even see, so powerful we are rescued eternally until Christ comes, turning our destiny into reality, ushering us into eternity and until that time, He is ready to work within us and move among us in revolutionary ways, transforming our lives. “

### I. Some things the Holy Spirit is Not

1. The Holy Spirit is not an it , but a divine person , He is a Him according to the Bible, specifically Jesus makes the point in John 14: 14-17.

2. When Jesus was on the earth, the Spirit of God was with the people of God. But when Jesus left the earth and sent another Helper ( Comforter of the same kind) like Himself, the Helper came and became a part of their lives deep within.

3. The Comforter is called Him or He , never it anywhere in Scripture.

### II. The Holy Spirit is Not Passive but Active and Involved-John 16:7-8,13-14

1. When the Holy Spirit moves among a body of people, He mobilizes and empowers them . They become sensitive , motivated, spiritually alive. They are cleansed. They are purged, enthusiastic,actively excited about the right things.

2. Never doubt that the Spirit of God is incessantly on the move.

3. As with air we cannot see Him,nevertheless, He is hard at work convicting, guiding, instructing, disclosing, and glorifying. Just a few of His activities.

### III. The Holy Spirit is Not Imaginary, but Real and Relevant- Acts 1:6-8

1. Just because you cannot see the Holy Spirit , do not assume He is not there or is not real.
2. Just before Jesus' ascension back to heaven He met with a group of His followers. They had questions. Jesus had answers. He had some crucial news regarding the Holy Spirit who would come to take His place.
3. Jesus assured His followers that the Holy Spirit is not some imaginary, vague hope , it is a promise from Jesus Christ.
4. The promises of Jesus to His followers was that they would have the presence of the Holy Spirit wherever they went . Jesus in effect was saying the Holy Spirit will be in you, He will empower you, He will be your dynamic, a real and relevant force in my plan for your future.

### IV. The Holy Spirit is Not a Substitute for God but He Is Deity- Acts 5: 1-4

1. Acts 5: 1-4 alone proves that the Holy Spirit is Deity ( God ) because the Holy Spirit can be lied to: “ Why did you lie to the Holy Spirit, But you have not lied to men, but to God.”
2. The third member of the Godhead, the invisible , yet all powerful representation of deity is actually living inside your being. His limitless capabilities are resident within you and therefore He knows when you are guilty of lying . We know very little of how He knows, only that He knows.
3. This teaching regarding the Holy Spirit is a reminder that the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives can handle what we cannot.
4. The power of the Holy Spirit is infinite and unfathomable.
5. The Holy Spirit exists in invisible form, a powerful force we will never see-a force the early church witnessed according to Acts 5:1-4.
6. The invisible force of the Holy Spirit is at work enabling, filling, guiding, when he is in control we can experience the extraordinary.

### V. Some Things the Holy Spirit Accomplishes Among Believers- John 16: 8-15

1. The Holy Spirit takes the Scriptures and makes them clear ( the ministry of illumination).
2. The Holy Spirit takes circumstances and gives us insight into them.
3. The Holy Spirit takes pressures and predicaments and then uses them to mature us.
4. The Holy Spirit guides us into all realms of truth, He matures us, He nurtures us and comforts us when we are prone to fear. He tells us there is hope when we can't see the end of the tunnel. He gives us reasons to go on.
5. The Holy Spirit does not speak on His own, He takes truth from the things of Christ and discloses them to us. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ.

## Max Lucado- Help Is Here- Finding Fresh Strength and Purpose In the Power of the Holy Spirit

### I. Review of chapter 1- The Holy Who ? Acts 19:2, Luke 24: 49- The Living Bible

1. Lucado begins chapter 1 with a question: Who is the Holy Spirit ? Lucado answers that question as follows: “The Spirit is your life-giving friend, here to lead you home.”

2. Lucado recalls a time in his young life when he abandoned the “ steep mountain trail of spirituality.” It was not until a dear friend helped him understand that God’s grace was greater than his rebellion. Lucado confessed, repented, trusted God’s mercy and set out on the trail again. Forgiveness became his message and his story.

3. Lucado confessed that it is not God’s will that you lead a lifeless life, that God has someone you need to know, that someone is the Holy Spirit, your life-giving friend. Reference scripture: John 6:63.

4. Lucado attended seminary became a Pastor, however, at some point in his ministry ran out of spiritual fuel. On more than one Sunday he stood before the church having had little sleep , he was desperate.

5. Lucado became a depleted and confused disciple, had to admit his need for help. He prayed and he begin to sense the Spirit.

6. He requested strength, the Spirit gave it. He asked the Spirit to heal the sick, more than once the Spirit did. He prayed for vitality and joy, both returned.

7. Lucado no longer calls the Holy Spirit-a Holy Who?, but our “ Heaven -Sent Helper.”

8. Lucado sees the Holy Spirit as the ally of the saints, our champion, our advocate, our guide, who comforts and directs us. The Holy Spirit indwells, transforms, sustains, and will someday deliver us into our heavenly home.

9. The Holy Spirit is the executor of God’s will on earth today, here to infuse us with strength, supernatural strength.

10. Jesus promised to provide this supernatural strength to his followers: Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8. Jesus knew that even though the disciples had been trained by Him they were not ready to accomplish His plan without the Holy Spirit.

11. The Holy Spirit did come with power and Lucado makes additional points regarding the power of the Holy Spirit:

- To make good choices.
- To keep promises.
- Silence the inner voices of fear and failure.
- To get busy about the right things in the right way.
- To face the unexpected.

12. Scripture employs more than a dozen metaphors to describe the work of the Spirit:

- The Holy Spirit is the ultimate teacher-John 14:26.
- The Holy Spirit is the wind of God- John 3: 8.
- The Holy Spirit is our intercession- Romans 8:26.
- The Holy Spirit is the seal of heaven upon the saints- Ephesians 1:13.
- The Holy Spirit is the dove of peace who calms us, the gift giver who equips us, the river of living water who flows out of us to refresh the world- John 7:37-39. Page 7

## Help Is Here: Chapter 2- Come Alongside Me ( The Spirit as Teacher )- John 14:26

Lucado begins chapter 2 with a brief account of visiting the Sistine Chapel in Rome. Lucado had the benefit of an Italian guide who knew details about the chapel that Lucado would have never noticed. The guide changed the way Lucado saw the Sistine Chapel. He had admired the chapel from a distance, but on that day he was thrilled by it in person.

Lucado then asked a most important question: Would it not be great if someone could do for the story of Jesus what the guide did regarding the Sistine Chapel?

Lucado also added the following statement about our need for a spiritual guide:

“ If only we had an expert to teach us. Someone who knows Christ the way my friend knew the Sistine Chapel. Someone who can reveal him and remind us about him. Someone whose assignment is to stir in us a thrill about our Savior.”

“ That someone is alive and well. While I cannot recall the name of the fellow in Rome. Jesus made sure we all would learn the name of the Helper he left in charge. he called him the Paraclete. The word appears only five times in Scripture, and of those five times Jesus used it four times and he did so on the night before his crucifixion.” See John 14:16, 26, John 15:26, John 17: 7-8, 13-14. Also refer to pages 16-17 in Lucado’s book.

Lucado’s description of Paraclete

1. The Paraclete ( Holy Spirit ) is a person . And like a real person, the Spirit has intellect, emotions , and will.
2. The Spirit speaks to churches( Revelation 2:7), intercedes for believers ( Romans 8:26 ), leads and commands the disciples ( Acts 8:28, Acts 16: 6-7).
3. The Spirit appoints elders( Acts 20:28 ), searches all things ( I Corinthians 2:10), knows the mind of God ( I Corinthians 2:11),and teaches the content of the gospel to us ( I Corinthians 2:13).
4. The Spirit dwells among and within believers ( I Corinthians 3:16, Romans 8:11, 2 Timothy 1:14),distributes spiritual gifts ( I Corinthians 2:11), and gives life to those who believe ( 2 Corinthians 3:6).
5. The Holy Spirit cries out from within our hearts ( Galatians 4:6) and leads us in the ways of God ( Galatians 5:8 ).



6. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses ( Romans 8:26), works all things together for our good( Romans 8:28, and strengthens believers ( Ephesians 3:16).

7. The Holy Spirit can be lied to ( Acts 5:3-4), grieved ( Ephesians 4:30, insulted ( Hebrews 10:29), and blasphemed ( Matthew 12: 31-32 ).

8. Bible translators have identified different yet similar translations for the Greek word “ Paraclete”. The Phillips translation is very clear- “ someone else to stand by you. “

### The Holy Spirit Our Teacher, Mentor, Helper and Tutor

1. Lucado describes the overarching mission of the Holy Spirit, “ To teach us about Jesus.” Reference Scriptures: John 14:26,15:26, 16: 8,13.
2. The Holy Spirit’s role as Mentor is described on page 19 of the book along with the related Scripture references. Also review: I Corinthians 2:10, 12-13, 16.
3. The Holy Spirit our Helper is a divine instructor. He will save us from the cul-de-sac of confusion and the dead end of doubt. He does this by enrolling us in the primary course of his university: Jesus Christ.
4. Lucado also describes the Holy Spirit as a ‘ Tutor “ How would you describe the role of a Spiritual Tutor and your role as a student according to Lucado’s description on page 24?

### Conclusions

1. Since the Holy Spirit only glorifies Jesus ( John 16:14 ) what should be the believers goal in ministry and life ?
2. The Spirit does more than repeat the words of Jesus, he makes them contemporary and relevant, He unfolds their significance for the world in which we live. What does this statement say about the timeless nature of God’s word ? Can you identify Scriptures to support your answer ?
3. Lucado closes this chapter with a suggested prayer, paraphrased as follows: Welcome Holy Spirit into the details of my life each day, how am I to respond to the challenges of life ? Direct me and show me what to do. Page 9

## Help Is Here: Chapter 3- Raise Your Sail ( The Spirit as Wind ) Zechariah 4:6, Psalm 104: 30

### Introduction

A friend tells about the day his ten-year- old son ran away from home. After being gone the entire day, the boy walked up the driveway with his head hung low. Son, the father asked, what did you learn today? The boy answered, “ I learned that everywhere I go , I take me with me.” Don’t we all.

We take our greed, our selfishness, poor wounds and warts. We dare not think for a moment that we have the power to be the person God wants us to be. God empowers us to be what He calls us to be. This was the promise Jesus made to a certain religious leader who paid him a late-night visit. Review and discuss John 3:1-8, what does this Scripture passage teach us about the Holy Spirit ?

### Explanations

1. Nicodemus was obsessed with what a person can and cannot do. He was all about human effort and achievement. Jesus, on the contrary made four references to human inability , absent the help of heaven as follows:
  - we cannot see ( experience) the Kingdom of God-verse 3
  - We cannot enter the Kingdom of God-verse 5.
  - We cannot give birth to the Holy Spirit-verse 6.
  - We cannot discern the movement of the Holy Spirit-verse 8.
2. The phrase “ Kingdom of God” refers to relationship with God in this life and entrance into heaven in the next. How do we receive citizenship into that Kingdom? Be born again.
3. In our first birth we become brand-new humans. In our second birth we become brand-new creations. And who oversees our second birth ? The Holy Spirit. Indeed, were it not for the work of the Spirit , the new birth would be impossible. “ No one can say, Jesus is Lord, Except by the Holy Spirit.” ( I Corinthians 12:3 NIV ).
4. The Spirit , like the wind, is an unseen force-John 3:8.
- 5.The Spirit, like the wind, goes and does what it wishes-John 3:8.
6. “ So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit”-John 3:8. That is to say , we have His wind , His unseen power within us. What we cannot do, the Holy Spirit can.
7. Nicodemus was fixated on the word can. The Christian is fixated on the word done. The work of salvation is done. God helps those who admit they cannot help themselves.

### Challenge

The challenge to Nicodemus and every believer is: We cannot fulfill our mission on our own. We do not have the strength, resources, or power. But the Spirit does, so trust Him.

Help Is Here: Chapter 4- Groans of the Heart ( The Spirit as Intercessor )  
John 16: 19-21( NIV ), Romans 8:26 ( Message Translation )

## Introduction

The groans of the heart. You have heard them. You have made them. They are the vernacular of pain, the chosen tongue of despair. When there are no words, these are the words. When prayers won't come, these will have to do. Sunnier days here, nice poetic petitions, but stormy seasons generate mournful sounds of sadness, fear and dread.

Romans 8: 22-23 NIV reveals the tender heart of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit curates and translates the incoherent prayers of the weak until they are heard in the tribunal of heaven.

It is during the time of our weakness that the mind is too troubled to articulate prayer.

There is often a gap between what we say we want from life and what we get in life. And during such times of weakness - " We do not know what to pray for as we ought." Romans 8:26.

## Key Question

Does heaven hear the enfeebled prayers of a weary soul? Thanks to our heavenly helper the answer is yes. " The Spirit himself intercedes for us." Romans 8:26 NIV.

## Key Definition ( Intercede )

To intercede is simply to stand in between. When a strong person takes up the cause of a weak one, intercession happens.

## Explanations

### The Holy Spirit Our Advocate

1. In those moments when you have nothing going on for you, be assured, you have God's Spirit as your Advocate.
2. You have the Spirit as your Advocate and your Father as your provider. You may be weak, but you've never been stronger.
3. The eternal, unending ever-creating Spirit is speaking on your behalf.
4. Review Romans 8:28 Message Translation.
5. Review Psalm 56:8- What does this passage teach about God's concern for believers ?

## Challenge

Have you experienced the Holy Spirit's intercession? Did it impact your faith?

Help Is Here : Chapter 5-A Sure Salvation ( The Spirit As a Shield ) John 6:39  
Romans 8:38-39  
Introduction

To whom does the Trinity entrust your protection ? You “were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit”, Ephesians 1:13. Later in the same epistle ( Ephesians 4:30) Paul urges us “ not to grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” In both passages the apostle spoke in simple past tense so as to emphasize an accomplished deed. We are not being sealed, nor do we hope to be sealed. We have been once-and-for-all sealed by the Spirit for redemption.

### Key Definitions/ Explanations

#### Sealed

1. You know the verb. Sealing declares ownership and secures contents. Sealing is the act that says, “ This is mine, and this is protected.”
2. When you accepted Christ, God sealed you with the Spirit. He cocooned you, assuring your safekeeping.
3. Satan might woo you, discourage you, and for a time , influence you. But he cannot have you.
4. Christ “has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption” ( Ephesians 4:30 NLT ).

#### Adopted

1. Believers have been adopted by God the Father.
2. Review Romans 8: 14-17 NLT, Amplified, and Message translations. How does Paul describe our adoption?
3. Believers are not slaves who live in fear that their master will not provide for the future. The father-child relationship, however, is one of assurance.
4. In the Old Testament, God is described as a father only fifteen times. In the New Testament he is referred to as our father more than two hundred times. The New Testament is much smaller than the Old Testament. So what happened between the Old and New. Christ happened. His death on the cross was the final payment for our sins. “ As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us”( Psalm 103: 12 NIV).
5. You are adopted by God. This idea is amazing in any era. Yet to the audience of the apostle Paul, it was especially significant. By Roman law an adopted son:
  - lost all relationship to his old family. Everything was gone, and he gained all rights to the new family.
  - became heir to the father’s estate.
  - was forgiven of all prior debts.
  - and was, in the eyes of the law, the son of his new father.
6. We are undeniably God’s sons and daughters. We have nothing to do with our old identity. The Holy Spirit convinces us of this transaction. Review Romans 8:16, Galatians 4: 6-7.

## Forgiveness

1. God's forgiveness is irreversible. Review Micah 7:19.
2. God has fully dealt with your sins. Your sins are submerged at sea , loaded on the eastbound train , while you fly toward the sunset.
3. Headline this truth: when God sees you, he does not see your sin. God “blots out your transgressions” and remembers your sins no more” ( Isaiah 43:25 NIV ).No probation, No exception, No reversals. God will not change his mind about you.

## Assurance and Completion

1. When we are converted a supernatural change occurs. Our affection toward God begins to warm. We turn to him. We trust him. We begin to perceive him as the perfect father. We can do this “ because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given us”( Romans 5:5).
2. The Spirit convinces your spirit of this truth: your destiny is in the hands of a loving father.
3. Your name is not written in God's book with a pencil. He does not hover an eraser above your entry, just waiting for an excuse to remove it.
4. God is not a cruel master who demands perfection and promises retribution. He is a good father , who has recorded your name in the book of life with the blood of the Lamb.
5. “ God affirms us , making us a sure thing in Christ, putting his Yes within us. By his Spirit he has stamped us with his eternal pledge-a sure beginning of what he is destined to complete” ( 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Message Translation ).
6. Why is this security important? Why does this matter ? Why do you need to know that you are adopted by the Father and sealed by the Spirit ? Simple. There is power in assurance. Review I John 4: 17-19.

## Application

God loves you with a perfect love; perfect knowledge of your past mistakes, perfect knowledge of you future missteps and , yet, is perfectly willing to love you despite both. He is committed to getting you home safely.

## Help Is Here: Chapter 6- Calm This Chaos ( The Spirit As a Dove ) John 14:27

### Introduction

We are powerless to calm our inner storms. These storms produce anxiety, the result of living in a fast-changing, challenging world. Anxiety is not a sign of weakness, but anxiety weakens us. It takes our sleep. It numbs our minds. It clutters our hearts with dread. Yet help is here.

The Spirit of God is described as hovering over the face of the waters before the earth and universe were created. The Spirit of God ruled, commanded, directed, or declared. Yet the inaugural activity of the Holy Spirit was to hover over a frenzied world.

God's relationship to ancient Israel is described as a hovering protective eagle.

An eagle cares for eaglets who are full of energy, yet, inexperienced and no ability to take care of themselves or fly. The mother eagle's presence calms the flock, nourishes the flock, protects the flock. The mother eagle's task was simply to calm the chaos.

In like manner the Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters. And once there was calming, there could be creating.

Review and discuss Deuteronomy 32:11.

The Spirit was also described as a gentle dove in Matthew 3:13-18. What is the significance of this description?

### Explanation

1. The Holy Spirit is depicted in Scripture as fire, wind, oil in a lamp, and a river surging with living liquid. But at the coronation of Christ, the Spirit chose to descend gently, softly, kindly, as a dove.
2. The Spirit chose to come as a dove, perhaps because of the maternal tenderness of the Holy Spirit.
3. In biblical times the Hebrew word for Spirit was feminine. Doves are commonly considered a symbol of motherhood because of their unique ability to produce their own milk.
4. The Holy Spirit, like a mother, ministers to us with affection.
5. Many times our spirits are troubled and anxious. During those times we long for the tranquil assurance of a loving mother. For this we turn to the Holy Spirit.

6. The Holy Dove of God soothes the noisy , tumultuous, excitable, and vindictive atmosphere of the human heart.

7. Satan peddles the fear of anxiety, dread and doubt.

8. Satan teaches his demons and they graduate with one assignment: to stir faith-robbing, nail-biting, sleep- stealing unease. Are they whispering in your ear ?

#### From Chaos to Celebration

1. The next time a wave of anxiety begins to roll over you, go immediately to the Spirit in worship.

2. Is Ephesians 5:18-20 a call to worship, why ?

3. “Constant worship clears the debris from our hearts. Praise is the cleansing element that flushes the trash of worry and anxiety.” Paul and Silas modeled this practice. Review Acts 16: 25-26 and describe their worship and praise.

4. Paul and Silas did not know how their story would end. They had not read Acts 16. They were not sure of their deliverance. But they were sure of their deliverer. You can be too. Rather than panic you can choose to praise.

5. The Holy Spirit will give you power, you just have to use it.

6. When the storm of fear comes, speak against it. When the evil one draws near, rebuke him. Stand firm against the forces of hell. “ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV

7. Lucado describes the difference between the old version of a believer and the new version of the believer that is taking shape. The new version of the believer faces the challenges of life in a new and different way. The new version of the believer has received the fullness of the Holy Spirit. A version that does not face challenges alone but turns quickly to worship.

#### Application and Challenge

Review Psalm 34:4-7 and the suggested format for worship and praise on pages 71 and 72. Is this format beneficial for dealing with the attacks of satan and the challenges of life ?

## Questions and Points to Ponder- Section A

1. What do you do when you need help with the bigger challenges in life ?
2. What thoughts or images come up when you hear the name Holy Spirit ?
3. When did you first hear about the Holy Spirit ? What were you taught ?
4. Jesus told his disciples they already knew the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17). Do you feel like you know the Holy Spirit ?
5. Followers of Christ have been given access to the Holy Spirit. Just like a big brother, he chooses each day to be our powerful ally.
6. The Holy Spirit is the executor of God's will, come to infuse us with strength. He equips us not to just get by but to actually thrive, shine forth and live the abundant life that Jesus spoke about so often.
7. Believers can be a part of the outflow of the Holy Spirit's power. We have something to offer others who are spiritually thirsty.
8. Challenges come with life, but they need not define your life. Help is here. And that help comes with the promise of power.
9. From what you know about the Holy Spirit , how could he be an Ally fo you ?
10. Read Acts 1:4,8 and be prepared to discuss how the Holy Spirit is described. Have you experienced the Holy Spirit in the way He is described in this passage of Scripture ?
11. Read Isaiah 44:3-5 and be prepared to discuss how the Holy Spirit is described in this passage of Scripture ?
12. Describe a time you felt the Holy Spirit's power flow out of you ?
13. Read Romans 8:5-11 and be prepared to describe how the Holy Spirit as our Ally can help with burnout, stress and anxiety, and take the load off so we can rest and feel at peace.
14. According to Romans 8:5-11 what is the difference between living in the flesh and living in the Spirit ?
15. How does Paul describe the power of the Holy Spirit in Romans 15:13 and Ephesians 1:19-20 ?



Help Is Here: Chapter 7- How to Hear From God ( The Spirit As a Pillar of Cloud and of Fire). Nehemiah 9: 19-20 (TLB) Ezekiel 36: 27( NIV)

## Introduction

According to God's plan, life is a series of decisions.

Small decisions, decisions everywhere. **We make our choices, and they make us.**

So what can we do ? Given the weightiness of choices, how can we make good ones. You will be encouraged by the **promises of Scripture** . We can be led by the **Holy Spirit**.

God our good shepherd, doesn't just feed us; **he leads us**. He does more than correct us; **he directs us**. He keeps us on track. He has commissioned the Holy Spirit to **guide us** down the winding roads of life. An example of this promise is found in the story of the Hebrew people, review Exodus 13:2, Exodus 14:19-20, and Isaiah 63:11-14. The stress of **decision -making for the Hebrews was reduced to them keeping an open eye toward heaven.**

## Explanation

1. How can we be led by the Holy Spirit ? Here. Is a direct answer( Romans 12: 2 NLT)

“ Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world , but let God **transform** you into a new person by changing the way you think.” Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

2. God's voice must outrank the voices of society. God wants us to be **different**. Not odd. Not peculiar. Our aim is not to blend in but to look up. God told the Hebrews, “ Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong.” ( Exodus 23:2 NIV ).

3. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world. You cannot hear the Spirit if you are listening to them. You can't soar like an eagle if you are running with dumb sheep.

4. Stop following a culture that doesn't follow God and start listening for the Spirit, who **speaks on behalf of God.**

5. Just like the glory of God filled the tabernacle ( Exodus 40:34 ) , the Holy Spirit fills every believer ( John 14:17, 23, I Corinthians 3: 16 ). God has turned your heart into his tabernacle.

6. The Spirit of God dwells within you. The Spirit **moves** within us to **lead** us. He does so with two tools: **the verse and the voice.**

7. The primary communication tool of the Holy Spirit is the Bible. He speaks to us through **Scripture** ( Ephesians 6:17, Psalm 119:105 ).

8. Scripture has an answer for any issue you face. The Bible is not only **inspirational** but also extremely **practical**.

9. The Spirit speaks first through the **verse**. He may complement the **verse** with a **voice**. Then again the verse may be enough. The **voice** might be wise counsel, a dream, or a vision.

Challenge

Go first to the **verse**. His will never contradicts his **word**.

Are you seeking direction? Open your Bible. Are you in need of guidance ? Open your Bible. Are you at a crossroads in life ? Open your Bible. When you open your Bible, God opens his mouth.

The **verse** and the **voice**. The Spirit uses both to lead us to the promised land.

God is calling. Keep **listening**.

Help Is Here: Chapter 8- Soul on Fire (The Spirit As a Flame) Luke 3:16

Introduction

Jesus is the giver of the Holy Spirit fire.

Believers are baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire according to Malachi 3:2-3 and Matthew 3:11. Jesus will plunge, immerse and submerge believers in the very being of the Spirit.

“ The soul baptized in the Spirit is a soul ablaze.”

If believers let the Spirit do his work, he will not be set back. Like a raging fire he will not be put out. He will not be quenched. Everything that is good about a fire can be listed as a blessing of the Holy Spirit.

Explanation

1. The Holy Spirit is a purifying force, the **ultimate purifier**.
2. The **purifier** comes to eradicate the defilement from the human **vessel**. Page 18

3. In order to serve as a temple of the Holy Spirit, believers need the cleansing, sanctifying work of heaven to prepare us for this assignment. So the Spirit comes not just to **purify** but to **beautify**, not just to **cleanse** but to **adorn**.
4. The fire of the Spirit produces ultimate **good**, although it may result in **discipline, disappointment, set back, or loss**.
5. When Jesus baptizes us in the fire of the Spirit, it is so we can bear **better** and more **abundant fruit** for him.
6. God's person of **preparation** is the Spirit. Let him do his work in you.
7. The Holy Spirit wants **access** to every square inch of our souls.
8. The Holy Spirit, like a hot iron , can straighten out the **crumpled** areas of your life so you will feel no need to hide them.
9. Victory over sin is the result of the **presence** of God's Spirit within us.
10. Do not quench the fire of the Holy Spirit by **dismissing** his presence or **resisting** his leading.
11. We need the presence of the Spirit to thaw out our resistant hearts. As he shines his light, you can expect to **love** people who you used to resist and have a change of heart regarding **old biases** and **racist attitudes**.
12. God doesn't want us just to give him our best effort. He wants us to look to him as the **source** of **our effort**. We don't try our hardest and then turn to God. We turn to God and **trust** him to do the work **for and in us**.
13. The greatest force in the universe will work within you to give you the **power** you **need** to become **more like him**. He will make you **holy** in an **instant**, and he will make you **holier** over a **lifetime**.

#### Challenge

The evil one can see you, but he cannot reach you. He may bare his fangs, but he will not set them into your skin. The Spirit is artillery around you, defying the demons and their tricks. **God will not leave you unguarded.**

Welcome the help of the Holy Spirit . He will **purify, refine, energize, and protect.**

**No one can do more than the Holy Spirit.**

## Help Is Here: Chapter 9- Oily Footprints ( The Spirit As Anointing Oil ) (Acts 10:38 NIV Romans 5:5 NIV )

### Introduction

Anointing with oil is often a **symbol** of the presence of God's Spirit.

According to I Samuel 16:13 , Samuel the prophet, took a flask of oil and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of God came powerfully upon David from that day on.

God instructed Moses to anoint and ordain Aaron, and his sons, to **consecrate** them to **serve** as priests of God. Moses was instructed to **cleanse** the altar by **purifying it**; to make it holy by **anointing** it with oil- Exodus 28:41, Exodus 29:36.

Jesus began his ministry by announcing, " The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me" ( Luke 4:18).

Anointing oil is a **metaphor** for the Spirit of God.

According to 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, God has anointed believers, set his **seal** of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a **deposit, guaranteeing** what is to come.

God has **poured out upon believers** the power-providing, heart-healing oil of the Holy Spirit. This is the promise of God according to Acts 2:17.

Just as Old Testament characters, places and vessels for worship were consecrated for service to God ( Exodus 30:23,25,29,30 ), so are believers consecrated by the Holy Spirit for a **holy work**.

### Explanation

1. Review I John 2:20 and be prepared to discuss the role of the Holy Spirit described in that passage of Scripture.
2. From the perspective of heaven, the gift of the Spirit is the **greatest gift imaginable**.
3. What would it be like to have Jesus near you ? Could anything be better ?  
Something could -the **Spirit within you**.
4. The Holy spirit is **unlimited**, He can be everywhere all at the same time. Jesus was a regional force; the Spirit is a **global force**. **There is no place he is not**-Psalm 139:7-8.

5. God offers his anointing to **all of us**. When you **pray, preach, prophesy, or live out your faith**, you are **empowered** by the **Holy Spirit**.

6. The Spirit never grows weary, has unsearchable wisdom, present in tomorrow and today, never bewildered, befuddled, or confused.

7. The Spirit will give you **whatever you need** to do the holy work he has called you to do.

Challenge

Do not neglect your anointing !!

Help Is Here: Chapter 10- The Coming Wave ( The Spirit As a River of Living Water)  
( Isaiah 44:3-4 )

Introduction

Lucado uses in this chapter the metaphor of water ( a river of living water) to describe the Holy Spirit.

Lucado indicates a need for a revival due to the decline in Christianity, millennials feeling alone , increase in isolation, depression ( especially among teens ) and the alarming increase in suicide.

Revival can come at any moment. At the right hour God will open the flood gate and release his Spirit like a flowing river into society. This was the promise of Jesus according to John 7:37-39.

It is God's plan for believers to become **sources of living water to those around us**.

The presence of Spirit-filled believers has an impact on society. We **refresh**. We **soothe**. The Holy Spirit flows out of us into the dry places of the world. **This is how revival happens**. We drink Christ and, consequently, **leak life**.

## Explanation

1. There are over 2.3 billion Christians in the world. Suppose each of us each day responded to the prompting of the Spirit to bless someone else. Acts of **kindness, words of encouragement** .Might **revival** happen in our day ?
2. Revivals cannot be forced, faked, or conjured up. Revival, as one man wrote,” is a strange and sovereign work of God in which he visits His own people, restoring, reanimating and releasing them into the fullness of His blessing.” By it’s power, writes another, “ vast energies hitherto slumbering, are awakened, and new forces-for long preparing under the surface -burst into being. “
3. The Spirit can accomplish in short order what an entire Christian community could only accomplish over a longer period of time, using every means at their disposal.
4. Believers should long to see a mighty and mysterious work of God among his children and in society. Are we ready to request such a movement ?
5. A country preacher once prayed for revival. He was so distraught with the conditions of the world that he went outside and drew a circle in the dirt. He stood in the center of the circle and prayed, **Lord bring revival and begin with everyone in this circle.**
6. **Change begins when change begins with me.**

## Challenge

Do we desire to see a new day? To see revival in our homes, church, community and the world ?

If the answer is yes, let’s pray this prayer until something happens:

**God, please release living water upon and through your children. Let us be sources of life and love everywhere we go. We want to be useful servants.**

Help Is Here:Chapter 11- Speak Up ( The Spirit As Tongues of Fire)  
( Acts 2:14,38-39 Romans 10:14 )

Introduction

There are two statements that capture the essence of what Lucado teaches in this chapter:

“ The Spirit turns common folk into uncommon forces.”

“ God’s plan is reduced to one strategy:ordinary folks telling the extraordinary story of Jesus with the extraordinary power of the Holy Spirit.”

That is exactly what happened on the day of Pentecost when 120 ordinary people were filled with the extraordinary power of the Holy Spirit. One man preached one sermon and 3,000 souls were saved in one day.

The central point of Peter’s message was: “ God has made Jesus-the man you nailed to the cross-both Lord and Christ”-Acts 2:36.

Believers should never underestimate the extraordinary power of the Holy Spirit to produce extraordinary results.

On the day of Pentecost, just as Jesus had promised , the Holy Spirit, suddenly, like the sound of a blowing, violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues as the Spirit enabled them.**

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, **because each one heard their own language being spoken (Acts 2: 2-6 ).**

The gift of the Spirit came where the 120 were gathered, waiting on the **promise. The Holy Spirit is God’s gift to believers.**

The Holy Spirit came **suddenly, it descended and filled each of the 120 assembled in obedience to the command of Jesus- “Wait”**

So, could it be said of Pleasant Branch: **We are an uncommon force empowered by the Holy Spirit to accomplish the extraordinary for God’s glory.**

## Explanation

1. After receiving the promise of the Holy Spirit, unschooled, ordinary men and women were able to speak in languages they had never studied ( at least 15 different languages were represented on the day of Pentecost ) and impact nations they had never visited. God's will for his church has not changed.
2. What is the central message of Matthew 10:19 and Acts 1: 8 ?
3. The Holy Spirit takes our tongues of flesh and renders them tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit makes **communication his priority**. The Holy Spirit is mentioned **55** times in the book of Acts. Of those occasions he speaks **through someone to someone else 36 times**.
4. Lucado encourages believers in this chapter to be willing to share with others “ only God moments” or “Ebenezer moments” Reference Scriptures to support this challenge are: I Samuel 7:12 and Mark 5:19. Will you allow the Holy Spirit to speak through you to someone else ?

## Challenge

Always remember by whose authority you are empowered to do His work. Pray with confidence. Preach in power. Counsel as one who knows the counsel of heaven and the **Counselor, the Holy Spirit**.

Help Is Here: Chapter 12- You Unleashed- (The Spirit As the Gift Giver)  
( Ephesians 4:8 )

## Introduction

Lucado introduces the next metaphor for the Holy Spirit : **The Gift Giver**.

In the midst of the wreckage of sin is the church- **God's intended rescue center**.

The church provides a haven for hurting people, a safe place to come in out of the storm.

Each believer has responsibilities , and when we work together, the **displaced** find a **place**. And, behind it all, overseeing the operation is the **Holy Spirit**.

The **Holy Spirit** oversees the work through the distribution of **spiritual gifts**.

“ All spiritual gifts are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he **distributes them to each one , just as he determines**” ( I Corinthians 12:7,11).



The Holy Spirit is the ultimate gift giver. He garnish's his children with **supernatural abilities** that glorify God, bless the needy, and edify the church.

Would it not be a tragedy of the highest order to miss out on your **unique -to you- assignment**.

Review and be prepared to discuss the teaching of( I Corinthians 12: 1-30 ) concerning spiritual gifts.

Explanation

1. Christ gives gifts to his church. The Spirit is the authorized distributor. While the gifts are **diverse**, their goal is **singular: the common good of the community**.
2. No list of the spiritual gifts is **complete**, there are at least five in the New Testament: I Corinthians 12: 8-10, I Corinthians 12: 28-30, Romans 12: 6-8, Ephesians 4:11-12, I Peter 4:11-12. No two lists are **identical**. They are **suggestive** of the type of work the Holy Spirit does.
3. Not all gifts are given at the moment of **conversion**. Part of the excitement of living in step with the Spirit is to expect further equipping- I Corinthians 14:1.
4. Spiritual gifts are exactly that, gifts. When the apostle Paul referred to " gifts of the spirit", he used a Greek term that is translated "charisma" , which means a gift in the purest sense of the word. You **receive it** , but you **don't deserve it**", and you certainly **do not earn it**. It is purely by the grace of God that the Spirit gives **supernatural empowerment** to believers.
5. Spiritual gifts are not an index of spiritual maturity. The presence of gifts requires the maturity to use them wisely.
6. Natural talents and spiritual gifts are not always identical. Natural gifts advance personal causes; spiritual gifts advance God's cause. Your spiritual gift is often a **divine application** of your natural strength. Paul, for example, taught powerfully before his conversion. On the Damascus road Christ **requisitioned** the teaching strength for his **purpose**.
7. Spiritual gifts exist to **exalt Christ, edify the church, and bless the needy**. Spiritual gifts are to be used to build up the church not for personal glory.
8. The Holy Spirit has given each of us a part in the wondrous song of grace. But we were not made to sing alone. Only when we **blend** our gifts can we expect a beautiful sound.

The types of spiritual gifts and the right way to use them

A. The discerning gifts

1. A word of wisdom- I Corinthians 12:8,10.
2. A word of knowledge - John 4:17-18.
3. Discerning of spirits- Acts 16:18.

B. They dynamic gifts ( I Corinthians 12:9-10 )

1. Gift of faith.
2. Gifts of healing.
3. Working of miracles.

C. The declarative gifts ( I Corinthians 12:10 )

1. Prophecy.
2. Speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues. ( review pages 136-139 for detail explanations regarding this gift).

9. The church is the **supernatural expression** of God on the planet. He operates in ways **beyond ours**. Believers should welcome the **mysterious work of heaven in the church**.

Challenge

The Holy Spirit is directing the church in extraordinary ways. What would happen if each believer **identified** and **employed** his or her Spirit-given gift ? What if we, each one of us, **operated** according to the **prompting** and **provision** of the Spirit ?

Help Is Here: Chapter 13-Breath on Bones ( The Spirit As Breath ) ( 2 Corinthians 3:6)

Introduction

Lucado indicates that it is possible for believers to experience a dry heart, a waning love and feel disconnected in their relationship with God.

The Holy Spirit gives life, a robust, resilient and hope-filled life.

Sometimes like the children of Israel we abandon God, but **God never abandons us**.

God promised the children of Israel in Ezekiel 36: 24-28 ( Message Translation)that he would deliver them. God's promise was sealed with his "**I will**"

**I will rescue, I will gather, I will cleanse, I will give my people a new heart, I will put my Spirit in them, and they will obey my commands.**

Is not this the same promise Jesus makes to those who turn to him and accept him as Savior and Lord ? Without a relationship with Jesus man would live in a kind of “**Death Valley**” with no spiritual life .

God kept his promise to the children of Israel, they returned to their homeland some seventy years later. And they will return again in the new kingdom. **What the Spirit did then, he will do again for you.**

Explanation

1. The deep, lasting change that mankind needs, can only be provided by the Holy Spirit.” **It is the Spirit who gives life, the flesh is no help at all-John 6:63.**
2. It is not God’s will that you lead a lifeless life.He will breathe on your dry bones.
3. Are you willing to invite the Spirit into the **dry** and **dead** patches of your world ?
4. It is important to note the stunning element of the miracle of dry bones recorded by the prophet Ezekiel. The prophet was **invited** to **invite the power of God**.God told Ezekiel to prophesy, and once he did-and only once he did- **the wind of heaven began to blow.**
5. The breath of heaven is awaiting **your invitation**. Proclaim a declaration. State a heartfelt petition. **Spirit, I welcome you.**
6. The Holy Spirit enters when **welcomed**, he does not coerce, cajole, or force his way into our lives.
7. The Holy Spirit is not a computer to be programmed. **He is a person to be welcomed.**
8. Jesus gave his Spirit as he had given himself on the cross, as a gift, pure and **undeserved.**
9. The gospel never says, clean yourself up, so God may come in. It offers, **welcome Christ , and the Spirit will clean you up. The Spirit , like salvation, is received by simple faith.We need not strive to earn what the Father is so happy to give.**
10. In God’s economy the **ultimate good** is the Holy Spirit.

Challenge

Ask the Spirit to infuse you with his power: Throw open the door ! Swing wide the gate ! Stand on the threshold and say, “ Come in!”

## Questions and Points to Ponder- Section B

1. According to Romans 8:5-11, what is the difference between living in the flesh and living in the Spirit? Do you feel differently about your earlier answer after this study?
2. How does Paul describe the power of the Holy Spirit in Romans 15:13 and Ephesians 1:19-20. Do you feel differently about your answer after this study ?
3. The Holy Spirit is the calming presence of God in the world today. He will help us defy the voices of fear and come into his presence of peace.
4. There are times in which our spirits are anxious . We long for the tranquil assurance of a loving mother. For this , we turn to the Holy Spirit.
5. Sealing of the Holy Spirit is the act that says: “ this is mine, and this is protected. The Holy Spirit’s work is in sealing not only your present salvation, but also future blessings.
6. Even in a world defined by chaos ,we are undeniably God’s own children. We can persevere through the storms that rage not only around us but also inside us.
7. Have you ever heard the voice of God ? If so, how did you know it was God ?
8. According to Isaiah 30:21, what can the voice of God tell you ?
9. According to John 8:47 and John 10:27-28, who can hear God’s voice ?
10. The Bible tells us the raw appeals of our hearts find their way into the presence of God. How can we be sure ? Because they are entrusted into the care of the Holy Spirit.
11. When you pray, preach, or live out of your faith, you are empowered by the Holy Spirit’s presence. So lean into him. You may grow weary, but the Spirit never does.
12. What is one way you need the Holy Spirit to intercede for you today ?
13. According to I John 2:1-2, what was Jesus’ ultimate act of advocacy on your behalf?
14. What is the key teaching of Acts 2:14-18, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, and I John 2:24-27 regarding the anointing of the Holy Spirit ?
15. What metaphor for the Holy Spirit that you learned about in this study, has been most interesting or helpful to you ?

Thirteen ( 13 ) Challenges for believers; based on this study

1. Is the Holy Spirit your heaven-sent helper ?
2. A suggested prayer : Welcome Holy Spirit into the details of my life each day.
3. We cannot fulfill our mission on our own. We do not have the strength, resources, or power. But the Holy Spirit does, so trust Him.
4. Have you experienced the Holy Spirit's intercession ? did it impact your faith ?
5. God loves you with a perfect love, perfect knowledge of your past mistakes, perfect knowledge of your future missteps and, yet is perfectly willing to love you despite both. He is committed to getting you home safely.
6. Receive the promise of Psalm 34:4-7 ( message Translation):  

“God met me more than half way,  
He freed me from my anxious fears.  
When I was desperate, I called out,  
And God got me out of a tight spot.  
God's angel sets up a circle of protection around us while we pray.”
7. Go first to the verse. His will never contradicts his word. Are you seeking direction ? Open your Bible. Are you in need of guidance ? Open your Bible. Are you at the crossroads of life ? Open your Bible. When you open your Bible, God opens his mouth. The verse and the voice. The Spirit uses both to lead us to the promised land. God is calling. Keep listening.
8. The evil one can see you, but he cannot reach you. He may bare his fangs, but he will not set them into your skin. The Spirit is your artillery around you, defying the demons and their tricks. God will not leave you unguarded.
9. Do not neglect your anointing !
10. Do you desire to see a new day ? To see revival in our homes, church, community and the world ? If the answer is yes, let's pray until something happens. “ God, please release living water upon and through your children. Let us be sources of life and love everywhere we go. We want to be useful servants.
11. Always remember by whose authority you are empowered to do His work. Pray with confidence. Preach in power. Counsel as one who knows the counsel of heaven and the Counselor, the Holy Spirit.

12. The Holy Spirit is directing the church in extraordinary ways. What would happen if each believer identified and employed his or her Spirit-given gift ? What if we, each one of us, operated according to the prompting and provision of the Spirit?

13. Ask the Spirit to infuse you with his power. Throw open the door ! Swing wide the gate ! Stand on the threshold and say, "Come in"

### **A Prayer for the Power, Presence, and Provision of the Holy Spirit**

**Holy Spirit, come alive in me today. I confess that there are times when I fail to acknowledge your presence in my life. I do not want to quench your fire. I want to grow. Make me aware of your power and your ability in my life. Remind me to call on you when I need help rather than relying on myself. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen."**

