

Ignite
Your
Passion
for Jesus

Your
Guide to
Experience
Personal
Revival

Tom Phillips
WITH EMILY ADAMS

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Ignite Your Passion for Jesus: Your Guide to Experience Personal Revival

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*To my wife Ouida
and our children, Cara, Matt, and Molly.*
TOM PHILLIPS

*To Anne Marie Armistead,
who first believed I could write
and set me free to do so in unconditional faith.*
EMILY ADAMS

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Foreword

By Dr. David Ferguson

Legacy is often defined as “what you leave behind when you leave.” In his earthly ministry, Jesus lived each day with legacy in mind. Even from his baptism, Christ was preparing the disciples for his eventual departure. Jesus certainly ended his time on earth with clear evidence of purpose!

My friend, Tom Phillips, is living out part of his legacy as a global champion of spiritual awakening. This significant resource not only reflects Tom’s legacy, but it will also bring clarity to your legacy as a passionate follower of Jesus.

Since we develop and deepen our legacies with intentionality and purpose, this interactive, experiential resource provides a clear framework for a life lived on purpose. You will realize more of your purpose through exercises that guide you in how to love the Lord and live His Word, love people, and live His mission.

Across the pages of the Gospels, we find people who encountered Jesus and went away different, changed, and transformed. Lives were changed because they had been with Jesus. Far too often, our contemporary resources, classes, and small groups leave us unchanged. To make matters worse, we realize we are unchanged, and the people in our lives *notice* we are unchanged. Not so with this resource! Thanks to Tom’s stewardship of passion and leadership for a Jesus Now Awakening, the power of the Gospel is transforming pastors, churches, and communities across the faith spectrum. With Tom’s commitment to spiritual awakening, your commitment to fresh encounters with Jesus, His Word, and His people, you can realize the transformation that was possible in the first century!

Tom’s book, *Ignite Your Passion for Jesus*, is unique. It is unlike any of the resources you’ve likely read before because the exercises in each chapter were written with the specific goal of engaging you in a Spirit-empowered faith. These exercises are created to move beyond seeking to simply know or study God’s truth and move toward actually experiencing it. Why is this important? It’s only an experiential, Spirit-empowered faith that can live out a Jesus Now Awakening.

Our team (from the Great Commandment Network) has developed the experiential exercises included within *Ignite Your Passion for Jesus*. The Great Commandment Network is an international collaborative network of strategic, kingdom leaders from the faith community, marketplace, education, and caregiving fields who prioritize the powerful simplicity of the words of Jesus to love God, love others, and see others become His followers (Matthew 22:37–40;

IGNITE YOUR PASSION FOR JESUS

28:19–20). You will find the exercises we added within brackets throughout this resource. When you see the brackets, pause to prayerfully complete each prompt. These exercises are designed to encourage a Spirit-empowered faith—moments when you move beyond knowing God’s Word to actually experiencing it.

This book is part of the *Jesus Now Awakening* resource series, which has been designed to engage followers of Jesus as they impart both the Gospel and their lives while living out a relevant, daily faith (1 Thessalonians 2:7–8). Just as the Word of God became flesh and “moved into the neighborhood” through the prompting and power of His Spirit, so we can live out a Jesus Now Awakening in our world (John 1:14 MSG).

We have drawn a framework for spiritual growth from a cluster analysis of several Greek and Hebrew words, which declare that Christ’s followers are to be equipped for works of ministry or service. Therefore, within *Ignite Your Passion for Jesus*, you’ll find specific exercises that we designed and organized around four themes. A Spirit-empowered disciple:

- Loves the *Lord* (Acts 13:2 NASB) – Exercises designed to strengthen this area of spiritual growth are marked L1–L10.
- Lives His *Word* (Acts 6:4 NASB) – Exercises for building up this aspect of spiritual growth are marked W1–W10.
- Loves *People* (Galatians 5:13 NASB) – Exercises intended to equip this area of growth are marked P1–P10.
- Lives His *Mission* (2 Corinthians 5:18 NASB) – Exercises provided to strengthen this area of growth are marked M1–M10.

Imagine this: You’re on a journey in *Ignite Your Passion for Jesus*. It’s as if you’re going for a walk. As you read through this resource, we invite you to walk:

- In the light of God’s Son—John 8:12
- In the light of God’s Word—Psalm 119:105
- In the light of God’s people—Matthew 5:14

The bracketed boxes and exercises in them incorporate these three sources of God’s light. They’ll encourage your awakening journey as a Spirit-empowered disciple of Jesus. God’s Word reminds us that it’s vitally important to walk in the light: “Walk while you have the Light” (John 12:35).

The Great Commandment Network has developed the experiential exercises, the Spirit-empowered discipleship framework, and the Spirit-empowered

Foreword

outcomes that we included in the appendices of this resource. We have listed each of the forty outcomes in Appendix 2. With all these contributions, the Great Commandment's deepest desire is to serve our friend, Dr. Tom Phillips, and the Jesus Now Awakening.

Be sure to use *Ignite Your Passion for Jesus* as a personal devotional, small group study, or in one-on-one discipleship. Tom has combined the power of story with practical exercises and passionate encounters with Jesus to help rekindle your First Love!

Read it and reap great reward.

Dr. David Ferguson
GreatCommandment.net

Foreword to the first edition

By Bill Bright

On July 5, 1994, I felt God lead me to begin a forty-day fast for two purposes. The first was to pray on behalf of a great spiritual revival and awakening in America and the world. The second was to fast and pray for the fulfillment of the Great Commission throughout the world. Though I have been committed to these two purposes since my conversion to Christ in 1945, I have recently sensed a special urgency.

As believers in Christ, we are at war with the enemy of our souls, and I think it is a matter of life and death to hundreds of millions that we be faithful to our Lord and fight the battle for the souls of men like never before in history. Unprecedented opportunities to help fulfill the Great Commission are now open to us.

The world in which we live is rapidly changing into a place where suicide, drug addiction, and murder are the norm, and being part of a normal nuclear family is unusual. Americans are selfish and cynical, and the church—the body of Christ—often seems asleep. *Ignite Your Passion for Jesus* is a call for the church to wake up to revival, one heart at a time.

We cannot ask God for too much as it relates to the fulfillment of the Great Commission if our hearts and motives are pure, and we do everything according to His Word and His will and for His glory.

Still, there are human hindrances that can stand in the way of fulfilling these goals, including pride, lack of faith, mediocrity, and carnality. There is no place for such attitudes. In the front lines of battle, soldiers know that their very lives depend on unity and cooperation as they support their fellow soldiers.

In this book, Tom Phillips encourages the church to stop waiting for God to pour out revival and to aggressively become a vehicle through which God can do that very thing. Revival begins in our hearts as we say, “Spirit of God, breathe on me. I’ll be obedient. I’ll walk in faith. I’ll fast. I’ll pray. I’ll share Your Word with all You put in my path.” As we take these steps, we will become vessels God can use to help bring revival to believers and an awakening to seekers after truth—an awakening to those around us, to our country, and to the world.

Ultimately, if we are going to see the world reached for Christ, you and I must die to self (Galatians 2:20), a biblical truth Tom emphasizes in this book.

I appreciate the heart Tom has carried for revival for so many years. He

Foreword to the first edition

shares his heart in this guidebook, and if you listen carefully, you'll learn and grow. It's time to change the world through personal revival. I stand on tiptoe with anticipation to see what God is going to do in and through His church and in and through you and me.

Bill Bright

Founder and President Emeritus, Campus Crusade for Christ (now CRU)

INTRODUCTION

The Time Is Now

Everywhere you turn, the news looks bad. Reports of violence fill the national and international news. Countries are at war. Millions of children suffer abuse while others are aborted daily. Senseless crimes and terrorist acts have stunned many. Consider these recent headlines: More than one thousand people die in the destructive path of Cyclone Idai;¹ Two teens who survived Florida school shooting commit suicide;² Sri Lanka mourns nearly three hundred who died in Easter Sunday terror attacks.³ Throughout the world, darkness erupts in every setting.

Some people choose not to read newspapers or magazines or listen to the nightly news. They wave it off, proclaiming, “It’s all bad. What’s the point?” Perhaps it’s a matter of perspective. You can see those events from your view as a human or from Jesus’s view. I read the news with extreme interest as I desire to see world events from Christ’s perspective. My prayer has been from 1 Chronicles 12:32, to be like the people in the tribe of Issachar who “had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.” I’ve prayed and asked Jesus to help me be a person who understands the times, to see through His eyes what He is doing, and then to know how to respond during a particular “*chairos*” moment in time.

A *chairos* moment is a special moment in time that is predetermined in history. The Greek word appears only a few times in the Bible; it’s not the normal Greek word for time, *chronos*, from which we derive “chronology” or “time.” One of the places Scripture uses *chairos* is in the word “times” in Acts 17:26–28, which states:

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in

the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, “For we are also His offspring.” (NKJV)

The Lord of the universe used this concept of *chairos* to indicate a special moment, and today in history our world stands in such a time—a time when our world looks incredibly dark. We wonder, “Where is the Good News?” God reveals a bit of His purpose in this passage in Acts—that we should seek the Lord, grope for *Him*, and find *Him*. Those words mean that we have an invitation and responsibility as Christians to grow in our intimacy with Christ.

Why? Because, as the Scriptures note, it is in Him that we live, move, and have our being. Our life and breath are based on our relationship with God—intimacy with the Creator through Jesus Christ. It is only through this intimacy with Jesus that we can move out and effect change in our world. Revival begins with “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).

A *chairos* moment may have begun, or is about to begin, in your own life. Henry Blackaby, coauthor of *Experiencing God*, wrote that people should determine where God is working and jump in the middle of it.⁴ Dark events are taking place on earth, but perhaps Jesus is working in the midst of them. If you and I turn our attention to focus on Jesus, we will see how He is working personally in our hearts and calling us to open the door for revival in our communities, our country, and the world. He is beginning a worldwide awakening to revival one person at a time. Jesus is leading you and me into refreshing, experiential, and personal revival.

As you choose to take advantage of this *chairos* moment and seek personal revival, be kind to yourself and understand that sustaining a lifestyle of revival is by faith and trust in Jesus. The journey toward igniting your passion for Jesus will ultimately require you to give Him everything, all of yourself, in exchange for all of Him. The pilgrimage throughout the meditations in this book must impact your life and transfer into daily surrender to Christ. Otherwise this would be only an intellectual exercise. “You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).

Before we begin, here are some steps to consider:

The experiential devotionals in the “Walking in the Light” section at the end of each day will help you chew on and respond to what you read. Give yourself permission to move at your own pace. Probe for honest answers to

issues. A key ingredient of reflection is looking deeply. Remove any masks or self-doubt and look deeply into yourself. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Remember Jesus's promise: "He, the Spirit of truth, . . . will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come" (John 16:13 NKJV).

Each day you will find quotations, definitions, and, in some cases, songs to help you think and worship. Take time to read and listen to these treasures. Eat them. Stop and sing the songs. Look them up online and listen to them. Offer them back to Jesus. Post them in your world if they're particularly inspiring. Worship is key to rekindling our fire.

You will also find Bible passages within every day. Meditating on and memorizing these verses will throw wide the gates of your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to move in every moment of your life. You will begin to see Him work out His Word in specific situations in your everyday life so that you come to know it experientially. Hiding God's Word in our hearts and minds is vital to rekindling spiritual fire.

Jesus is calling the world to revival *now*, one heart at a time. In *Ignite Your Passion for Jesus*, you can find anew your personal and loving Lord and Savior. Revival begins with knowing and proclaiming, "God, I know that you love me." A word of warning, though. If your primary focus is on yourself or only things confined to this earthly world, this book will frustrate you. When Emily Adams first started working and writing with me on revival a few years ago, the Lord gently began to bring her into ongoing personal revival. Here is what she wrote about the process:

A Beginner's Experience of Personal Revival

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If you truly want to follow me, you should at once completely reject and disown your own life. And you must be willing to share my cross and experience it as your own, as you continually surrender to my ways. For if you choose self-sacrifice and lose your lives for my glory, you will continually discover true life. But if you choose to keep your lives for yourselves, you will forfeit what you try to keep." (Matthew 16:24–25 TPT)

Get ready to die. Personal revival isn't a lifestyle, it's a deathstyle—constant dying to self. You will probably feel like a camel passing through the eye of a needle. Prepare to be crucified into Jesus. “The way is narrow” may begin to have entirely new meaning for you. You should probably read Matthew 22:1–14, Luke 14:7–35, Philippians 3, and 1 Peter 4 before deciding if you really want to do this.

If you are going to receive all that God has for you, you have to want it as much as your next breath. You have to be willing to sacrifice organization, time, normalcy, ability, eating, drinking, sleeping, family, friends, career, security, money, fame, ambition, arrogance, strength, weakness, pride, entitlement, self-promotion, fear of man, inadequacy, perfectionism, independence, lust, idolatry, and above all, YOURSELF. To be empty enough to receive all Jesus wants to give you, you have to be willing to give up all else besides Him.

You will have to carry around a towel to mop up the blood of Jesus's grace as it pours off the people around you. You will also have to let others mop up the blood of Jesus's grace as it pours off of YOU. This process will be harder if you demand pristineness of yourself. Don't be afraid of messiness. The grace you're going to need to give birth to sustained personal revival is comparable to the grace you received for salvation.

As you become truly aware of God's goodness, you will want to allow yourself to die in Jesus. The only way to come through the fires of revival is in the presence of Jesus. Believe that He is good. Believe that He loves you. If you believe those two things, He will take you through the fire. He doesn't let those who aren't ready have ears to hear or hearts to understand this message. Ignorance is the bliss of His mercy. Be sure you want to wake up, for once you do, there is no going back. Do not “stir up or awaken love until it pleases” (Song of Songs 2:7). You have to want more of Him so much that you are unwilling to go on unless He gives it to you.

You might feel like you are losing your sanity. Jesus

will shake loose every structure in your life that is not from His Kingdom. You will lose the kingdom of this world. But you will gain the Kingdom of God. When you lose it all, you will gain permission to be the glove that God's hand uses to bring about "the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them" (Matthew 11:5).

The battle is not between life and death—Jesus defeated death on the cross. The battle is between hope and despair. If you can have faith to DIE in the hope of God's love, you will inherit Jesus's new creation life on earth as it is in heaven.

CHAPTER 1

A LIFEstyle OF Revival

When people think of revival, they often think of it as a tent meeting during the summer, somewhere in the Bible belt. Shouting itinerant preachers predict doom for unrepentant sinners as they pound out their message on a wooden podium. “Bringing in the Sheaves” or “Amazing Grace” ring through the tent as the preacher gives the altar call. “Come now and give your life to Jesus,” the preacher says. “Recommit your life to Christ.”

“Quit sinning. Quit drinking. Quit having sex outside marriage. You can’t quit by yourself, but God can deliver you,” the messenger explains. “Return to Him. Let God help you.” Then he adds, “Don’t let God pass you by!”

It sounds cliché, but many have come to salvation through these meetings. Commitments were real. God was present. But what happened when the meeting was over, when the preacher left, when the people resumed their daily lives?

For some, their relationship with God culminated at the end of the Sunday night meeting. For others, it was just a beginning. God met them in that tent, and nothing was ever the same. What made the difference? For the first group, “The Revival” was an event to be planned, to be experienced, to come to an end. For the others, “revival” became a way of life. It wasn’t a one-night or one-week experience but rather how they began, ended, and lived each day. A constant spiritual renewal of their relationship with Christ.

And that is true revival—an ongoing renewal within. We cannot limit revival to a specific planned event. But revival does change lives, communities, and even the world.

Day 1

The Foundation— A Personal Relationship

In Mississippi, as an eight-year-old in my church's biannual evangelistic event called a "revival," I committed my life to Jesus Christ. It wasn't a hell-fire-and-brimstone time. The pastor simply asked us, "Do you want to love God completely all your life?" He didn't storm his audience with sin but talked about the love of Jesus. At the conclusion of his sermon, I responded to his invitation.

As I began to move forward, my neighbors in the pew tried to grab me. Luckily, I was so tiny—my nickname was Mouse—that they missed. They thought I was far too young to make such an important decision. Later the pastor agreed to talk with my parents, to pray about the validity of the decision. In the end, they all agreed, "Tom does know what he is doing."

Almost twenty years later, one of my cousins said to me, "You really met Jesus Christ that night when you were eight years old, didn't you?"

"Yes, I did," I said. "How could you tell?"

"Well, most of us in the South joined a church when we were young. And that's all we did. But you were different. Before that day, you were one of the meanest kids I had ever known, and you changed!"

"I am praying for an old-fashioned, heaven-sent, Holy Ghost Revival that will sweep our nation from coast to coast." – Billy Graham, 1949 and 2012

I have many faults. If you want the details, talk with Ouida, my wife! The Christian life has been a continual growth experience for me, a pilgrimage. But by meeting Christ personally, my heart and life changed. I am still on that pilgrimage.

The only way to understand the rest of this book is first to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The basis of our study in these pages is rooted in a relationship with Christ and His presence in our lives. The Creator of the universe loves you and wants you to know Him intimately, presently, and forever.

A LIFEstyle OF Revival

God has always loved you and will forever, whether you are His child or not. But He created us with the free will to choose whether to receive that relationship. The first man and woman chose to disobey God and go their own willful way. Many still choose to disobey God, and it results in a broken relationship. God's heart breaks for these people.

Throughout history, an unholy people have tried to reach a holy God through various routes: religion, good works, ethics, morality, and philosophy—all without success. Our Father God has provided a way for us to have a restored relationship through Jesus Christ, and He is the only way. Because Jesus died on the cross for your sins, He took your punishment and made a way for the restoration of your relationship with God.

God never forces us to respond. Each of us must accept that Jesus Christ paid for our sins through His death on the cross. As you give your life to Him, then you will have a right relationship with God.

If you have not given your life to Christ, is there any good reason why you shouldn't invite Him into your life right now? If you have already given your life to Christ, how is He calling you to greater depths? To connect with a Christian counselor and receive free discipleship materials as you make your commitment to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, go to www.PeaceWithGod.net.

STEPS TO PEACE WITH GOD

1. God's Plan—Peace and Life

God loves you and wants you to experience His peace and life.

The BIBLE says: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).



2. Our Problem—Separation

Being at peace with God is not automatic, because by nature you are separated from God.

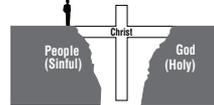
The BIBLE says: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).



3. God's Remedy—The Cross

God's love bridges the gap of separation between God and you. When Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave, He paid the penalty for your sins.

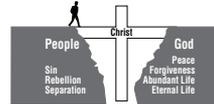
The BIBLE says: "He personally carried the load of our sins in his own body when he died on the cross" (1 Peter 2:24 TLB).



4. Our Response—Receive Christ

You cross the bridge into God's family when you receive Christ by personal invitation.

The BIBLE says: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12).



To receive Christ you need to do four things:

1. ADMIT your spiritual need. "I am a sinner."
2. REPENT and be willing to turn from your sin.
3. BELIEVE that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.
4. RECEIVE, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and life.

CHRIST says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in" (Revelation 3:20).

The BIBLE says, "Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

What to Pray:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus's name, Amen.

Go to www.PeaceWithGod.net

Revival Truths

- Revival is a lifetime process, not only a one-time event.
- A personal relationship with Jesus Christ is the beginning of revival.
- Scripture assures us of God's forgiveness.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

ROMANS 10:13



Walking
in the Light
of God's
Word

His Abundant Gifts

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, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 PETER 1:3-4 NKJV

Consider your relationship with Christ. Reflect upon how God has given you everything you need for life and godliness, enabled you to participate in the divine nature, and made you a joint heir of Christ.

When you became a follower of Christ and accepted His gift of salvation:

- You were adopted (placed as an adult heir) into the family of God (Romans 8:15, 23; Ephesians 1:5).
- God forgave all your sins (Ephesians 1:7; 4:32; Colossians 1:14; 2:13; 3:13). They have been removed “as far as the east is from the west” (Psalm 103:12).
- You have been brought near and made a citizen of God's Kingdom (Ephesians 2:13, 19; Philippians 3:20; Colossians 1:13).

IGNITE YOUR PASSION FOR JESUS

- You are no longer a slave to sin. You are free by His Spirit to yield to God, obeying Him out of a desire to love Him (Romans 6:17–18).
- Christ has purified you and made you eager to do what is good (Titus 2:14).
- Jesus prays for you and the concerns of your heart (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25).

What does it do to your heart that not only did God love you so much that He did all the above for you, but that He also delighted in it? That He is eager and passionate in His love for you to give you a life of continuing revival. Express your heart to God.

Dear God, as I consider these truths revealed to me by You in Scripture—all that you have done for me when You saved me, how You have blessed me through your Holy Spirit with so many different blessings because of Your infinite love for me, my heart is stirred with _____. Please continue to reveal who I am in Your eyes so I can live intimately in Your transforming love.

L4. A Spirit-empowered disciple rejoices regularly in their identity as "His beloved."



Day 2

Delighting in Discipline

After meeting Jesus personally, I began the discipline of reading the Bible and praying nearly every day. Even as a young boy, God showed me the need to be disciplined and purposeful in life. I had a clear set of personal guidelines. Each night before I went to bed, I read a chapter of Scripture. If I forgot, then the next morning I would read two. If something prevented my reading and I missed again, the next night I read three. With this primitive schedule, the

chapters could stack up quickly. Fortunately, I was lazy enough to not want to get too far behind. It wasn't the purest motive, but it kept me on schedule. Through the discipline of Bible reading, I was learning more about God. In the process, I was changing, for something supernatural occurs in the heart when it absorbs the truth of God's Word.

In addition to reading Scripture, I began talking daily with God through prayer. That beginning of my relationship with God was the sweetest part of my childhood. I couldn't understand why anyone would not want to know God. If God made us and had a plan for our lives, then a person would be foolish not to know Him. Perhaps this view was a tangible example of coming to God as a child—living obediently through childlike faith. I learned that reading Scripture and praying were the way to grow in my relationship with Christ, so I innocently obeyed.

When I was in high school, our church had “cold turkey” visitation on Thursday evenings where we knocked on doors in our neighborhood to talk with others about Christ. That may sound like bold intrusion today, but in the South in those days, it was not. Back then, you usually didn't call ahead; you just stopped by. If it was at mealtime, you had a meal. If the neighbor was out on the tractor, you got on and rode along. The farmer kept working while he talked with you.

What an adventure! As a young boy, I went from a rewarding personal relationship to moving outside myself to share Christ with others. It was a logical progression of spiritual growth. God's love had changed me, and I wanted others to have the same opportunity. At times, the listeners openly received my message. At other times, they did not. What a shock to learn that not everyone had the contentment and security of a relationship with Jesus. What an even bigger shock to realize that many people rejected Christ.

Yet, it was these adventures of sharing my faith, along with prayer and Scripture study, that caused me to grow.

It is not just prayer and sharing that help us to grow in our faith. God gives us many exercises to “flex” our spiritual muscles. Richard J. Foster, in his excellent book *Celebration of Discipline*, listed several disciplines for spiritual growth. He discussed corporate disciplines like worship that reflect our part in the body of Christ, our need to connect others. These outward disciplines, such as service, relate to the way we live. Foster also discussed inward disciplines, which include meditation, prayer, fasting, and study. While discipline often conjures thoughts of punishment, or at best a negative influence, Foster stated that “God has given us the Disciplines of the spiritual life as a means of receiv-

ing His grace. The Disciplines allow us to place ourselves before God so that He can transform us.”⁵

“No one experiences the secret of freedom, except by discipline.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer⁶

In one of his sermons, Jim Tomberline, also discussed spiritual disciplines. He referred to them as “habits of the heart.” In 1 Timothy 4:7–8, we read, “Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” What are the spiritual exercises that keep a person spiritually fit? Here are eight key areas that Pastor Tomberline noted:

1. Renew your strength through worship (Isaiah 40:31).
2. Deepen your peace of mind through prayer (Philippians 4:6–7).
3. Strengthen your commitment through fellowship (Hebrews 10:24–25).
4. Expand your perspective through biblical exposure (John 8:31–32).
5. Increase your joy through witnessing (1 Peter 3:15).
6. Practice your love through giving (2 Corinthians 8:7–8).
7. Develop your talents through serving (1 Peter 4:10).
8. Restore your soul through retreating (Matthew 11:28–29).⁷

Growing in our relationship with Christ requires discipline. The word *training* in 1 Timothy 4:7–8 comes from the Greek word *gumnazo*, from which we get *gymnasium*. It is continual discipline in training that produces growth. In athletics, one often hears, “No pain, no gain.” It’s a comfort to know that any pain we might encounter is merely a growing pain. With Jesus, who has gone before us, we are to “lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).

Amazingly, we can receive discipline from Jesus by resting in Him instead of striving in ourselves, and true delight and love for God can motivate our discipline. Relationship is the key to consistent discipline: “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4).

Revival Truths

- It is through spiritual discipline that we exercise our spiritual muscles for growth.
- Discipline is not punishment but a way to put us before God so He can bring us into freedom in Jesus.
- Delight in Jesus is the key to resting in discipline.

Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

HEBREWS 12:1



Walking
in the Light
of God's
People

What Would Jesus Do?

Jesus said, “Follow Me.”

JOHN 1:43

Two simple but profound words can guide my daily walk as Light in a dark world: “Follow me.” Whatever may come my way today, Jesus has gone before me. He has led, and I’m to follow as I live in the “disciplines” of intimacy with Him.

“WWJD” is my key to following Him as I practice the “habits of the heart.”

- What would Jesus *do* becomes a guiding principle when uncertainty abounds.
- What would Jesus *choose* guides me away from a broad road of destruction onto the narrow road of life abundant.
- What would Jesus *say* guides my speech from unwholesome words and into words that edify.
- What would Jesus *think* guides my thoughts away from this world into His Word, which renews my mind.

- I find clarity and adequacy for daily living in the powerful simplicity of two words from the Gospel: “Follow Me.”

Pause to celebrate with a partner or small group:

“Recently I sensed an important “following” of Jesus as I faced and found strength to _____.”

L9. A Spirit-empowered disciple yields to the Spirit's fullness as life in the Spirit brings supernatural intimacy with the Lord, manifestation of divine gifts, and witness of the fruit of the Spirit.



Day 3

A God-Directed Life

When I entered college, it was time to decide on a career. Medicine was a natural for me. I enjoyed people, I could think fast in an emergency, and I loved to witness while helping others. Medicine would be a great platform for sharing my faith because a doctor is often helping people in crisis as they consider serious life issues. But I felt a spiritual force pulling me toward the ministry, a pull I worked hard to ignore.

Around this time, my girlfriend, Ouida (who eventually became my wife), and I had been dating for two years. We came to a point in our relationship that we either needed to get married or break up. So we broke up—for two weeks!

During that time, I asked out another girl. We went to dinner and then returned to her apartment. While in the living room, I saw other couples, partially dressed, go in and out of a bedroom. I could see what was going on and walked out of the apartment, probably hurting the girl's feelings. I didn't belong in the midst of such obvious temptation. I knew God watched over me all the time, but I was also young with budding hormones. The Bible says, “Flee youthful passions” (2 Timothy 2:22)—so I did.

My date stood at the window watching me walk down the outside stairs of her apartment building. When I reached the bottom step, these wise words

spoke to my mind: “What’s more important? Helping someone live seventy years with quality of life or helping someone live eternally?” God was speaking to me, and in an instant His profound, simple truth overwhelmed me. My legs lost all energy, and I fell to my knees. It was a *chair* moment with God. I looked up to realize this girl was still watching me from her window above, while my weakened knees were glued to the concrete walkway. I couldn’t get up.

I prayed, “God, you’ve got to let me get up. This is one of the most embarrassing experiences of my life.” Finally, I was able to get up and walk away, and probably to her relief, I never saw that girl again.

You’d think that after hearing God loud and clear I would have submitted to His call, but I still held on to my dream of becoming a doctor. Later that same summer, the Lord spoke to me again. “Tom, you’re going to be a preacher.” Immediately I protested. These were not the words I wanted to hear, even though I had been asking His direction for my life. Intellectually I wanted God’s direction to be the same as my desire.

“If we really knew just how much He loves us, we would always be willing to receive anything from His hand.”

– Brother Lawrence

One day during the early part of the summer, I read Billy Graham’s syndicated column, “My Answer,” in the *Daily Corinthian*, the local newspaper of Corinth, Mississippi. Dr. Graham wrote that he prayed about everything. He even prayed when he parked his car because if he prayed about where to park, then he could help people as God guided him.

So I too began praying about where to park. Every time I prayed about parking, I sensed God’s direction, and each time I left my car, someone with a need would be there. After helping them, I often had an opportunity to talk about Christ. It was amazing, and the many opportunities began to convict my heart because I thought, *Wow, God cares about all the details in people’s lives, including mine. Even parking is important to Him. Well, if where to park is important, then everything is important—especially my calling in life.*

Perhaps as you read this, you feel discouraged, as though you may have missed God’s call for your life. Remember that there is nothing wasted in the kingdom of God. Though my journey of faith started at a young age, Jesus will begin with you right now where you are, regardless of your stage in life. Don’t

IGNITE YOUR PASSION FOR JESUS

feel discouraged if you are further along in life but just now beginning to follow His plan for you. God will redeem lost years for His children.

As we grow in our relationship, we grow in our obedience, and His plan and purpose for our lives come forward. Perhaps God is not calling you into “professional” ministry, but He is calling you to minister as He directs you in your daily life. When Jesus Christ walked the earth, He carefully followed God’s direction in His life. One of His keys to following God’s will each day was to focus on God’s desires and not His own.

It may be completely new to you to realize that God cares about the intimate details of your everyday life. Even if thinking about God’s direction isn’t new, it may be a good reminder for you. God’s direction in your life isn’t always specific. The Lord wants you to trust Him step by step for His direction.

Revival Truths

- Everything in your life is important to God.
- God will guide you in making decisions if you ask Him.

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

JOHN 5:19



Walking
in the Light
of God's
Word

Reveal, Empower, Provide

Lazarus became very sick to the point of death. So his sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, our brother Lazarus, the one you love, is very sick. Please come!”

JOHN 11:2-3 TPT

Jesus heard the word of His Father and courageously yielded to it. He lived

life directed by His Father. In John 11, we observe an example of the Father revealing His word and the Son exhibiting courage to yield to His Father's will despite a request from His friends.

Living a God-directed life:

- Informs judgment: "He remained where he was for two more days" (John 11:6 TPT).
- Empowers courage: "Finally, on the third day, he said to his disciples, 'Come. It's time to go to Bethany'" (v. 7 TPT).
- Clarifies vision: "This sickness will not end in death for Lazarus, but will bring glory and praise to God. This will reveal the greatness of the Son of God by what takes place" (v. 4 TPT).

Pause and practice, allowing God's Spirit to direct your life.

- Ask God to reveal through His Word the areas in your life in which your opinions might be coloring your judgment: *Lord, help my beliefs, behaviors, and relational encounters to align with Your Word.*
- Ask the Lord to empower your decision making: *Heavenly Father, may I have the boldness to address issues in my own life and to offer courageous confessions when appropriate. Help me to stand for what is right and not "cave in" to others' pressure. Also, Father, grant the awareness and the grace to hold others accountable for their growth.*
- Ask God to provide clarity and confirmation through His Word regarding His will in your current situation: *Lord, give me a clear purpose in life and the ability to support and encourage others in following a clear purpose.*

L2. A Spirit-empowered disciple listens to and hears God for direction and discernment.



Day 4

Decision Time

As Billy Graham pointed out, God cares about our prayers for parking—and a lot more. After realizing God cares not just about parking but also about what I did with my life, I finally asked, “God, what do you want me to do?”

During the final night of another evangelistic campaign in my hometown, the voice that responded to my question was so booming I thought everyone in the church heard it—yet no one seemed to notice a thing. God was again speaking to my mind. I clung to the back of the pew with white knuckles, weeping because I realized God had called me to preach. It wasn’t what I wanted. At the age of nineteen, my only goal was to be a wealthy physician. I didn’t want to put up with church boards or elders or people who think they are the majority stockholders in the pastor’s life. Raised in the church, I had seen preachers tormented by carnal congregation members. I didn’t want that for me or my future family.

My mind filled with stereotypes about pastors. I didn’t want to eat a lot of chicken. I didn’t want to get fat. I didn’t want to spend days counting nickel-and-dime offerings. I didn’t want to be a preacher, but I knew God had called me; I knew His voice. I wanted to trust Him, but I wept thinking of giving up *my* dreams to follow God’s call.

From listening to God, I knew I should respond publicly and make a commitment, but I just didn’t want to. I was proud and fearful. I didn’t go forward. After the service that night, I was desperate to find Leroy Tubbs, our pastor. I felt like I would burst open. I finally spotted him outside the church. I grabbed him, jerked him into a side room off the narthex, and fell on his shoulder broken and bawling.

At first, he didn’t understand my tears, but when I finally could tell him, he rejoiced. Pastor Tubbs knew that Jesus had been working in my heart for about two years, but neither of us could understand the purpose. At that moment, he knew. He encouraged me to transfer to a Bible college instead of returning to the University of Mississippi. After my decision to change careers, my concerned parents brought me back home to attend a local junior college. They thought I was mentally cracking up. As a pre-med student at Ole Miss, I was a success, making excellent grades, and they couldn’t comprehend the apparently sudden switch in career choices.

Confusion reigned. I headed toward the pastorate, for I wanted to be obedient to Jesus's call on my life. Meanwhile, my family and friends thought I was nuts and told me so. But I knew that the Lord would guide my decisions. He had prompted me and was leading me. It was a *chairos* moment—a “Wow!”—when God intervened in my life and I responded.

Worship Experience

Listen to “New Wine,” by Hillsong Worship:

***“In the crushing,
in the pressing,***

You are making new wine.”

God speaks in many ways but mostly through His Word. Another way God speaks is through people in our lives. Through a “multitude of counselors there is safety,” the Bible says in Proverbs 11:14 (NKJV). At times God also speaks in the still, small voice or through circumstances of life—positively and negatively. When God speaks, we must trust Him.

Revival Truths

- Following Christ and His goals for our life is a matter of obedience.
- God speaks through the Scriptures, to our minds during prayer, and through other people.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

PROVERBS 3:5–6

Walking
in the Light
of God's
Word

Opportunities for Nourishment

As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word,
that you may grow thereby.

1 PETER 2:2 NKJV

One of the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations is to reduce malnutrition, a condition that occurs when the body doesn't get enough nutrients.

Christ followers are nourished into personal revival as we receive and yield to God's Word. To receive the nourishment of God's Word, we must take full advantage of every opportunity to encounter God in Scripture and experience its nourishing benefits and blessings.

- As we *hear* the Word of God taught, preached, and shared, our faith will be strengthened: "faith comes from hearing the message" (Romans 10:17 NIV).
- As we *read* the Word, we will receive blessings: "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy" (Revelation 1:3 NIV).
- As we *study* the Word, God will approve us as "a workman who . . . correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15 NIV).
- As we *memorize* it, we will be less vulnerable to sin: "I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11 NIV).
- As we *meditate* upon God's Word, we will increasingly yield to it: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success" (Joshua 1:8 ESV). Our meditation on the Word will also produce spiritual prosperity, health, and fruitfulness (Psalm 1:1-3).

A LIFEstyle OF Revival

Consider these five opportunities for nourishment from God's Word. How many have you taken advantage of this week? Sadly, too many of God's children remain "babes" in their faith as they come to hear God's Word preached or taught by others, but rarely take advantage of other avenues of nourishment.

Pause now and take a moment to express your gratitude to God for providing so many different ways for us to be strengthened by His Word. Decide which one these opportunities you will take advantage of today. Will you memorize the suggested Scripture passage for this week? Will you spend time meditating on particular passages or stories of Christ? Will you spend time studying this week's sermon text for yourself, allowing God's Spirit to impress you with insights?

Lord, I sense your prompting to more deeply nourish my life in Your Word through additional priority on _____.

W1. A Spirit-empowered disciple is frequently led by the Spirit into deeper love for the One who wrote the Word.



Day 5

Revival 101

Throughout this week, we have focused on our personal relationship with Christ. We've considered our initial commitment, the importance of spiritual disciplines, and the need to hear God and obey His call in our lives. These are the foundations for personal revival and spiritual renewal. Let's begin to look at revival as a concept that moves beyond our personal lives to impact the lives of others.

Lewis Drummond, a gifted evangelist and professor, became my mentor during seminary. Dr. Drummond loved to tell people how to know God, and I took every course I possibly could from him. One of those courses was entitled Revival 101. I went into the class with a preconceived notion of its content. To me, revival was an evangelistic campaign, and I thought this course would

teach me the how-tos. I signed up believing I knew what to expect, but I found something totally unexpected.

Dr. Drummond described great periods of history when the Holy Spirit moved on a people in a powerful fashion. He began in the Bible where God intervened in the affairs of men and women, then in history with nations transformed through His intervention, or *chairois* moments. Dr. Drummond challenged us regarding how such movements came through prayer, brokenness, and humility. Once an individual is spiritually broken, then God can intervene in a mighty manner.

I learned that revival is a continual process of brokenness and restoration, not just a one-night event or even a series of meetings. As I listened to his explanation, my heart jumped. I suddenly knew that I was born for revival and to be part of a spiritual awakening—an awakening that I believe is now in the toddling stages of touching America and the world!

This call to revival is not exclusive or only for me. I believe the Holy Spirit is right now in the process of establishing the call to revival over the lives of many, if not all, of His children. When the Lord gripped Emily Adams's heart for revival at twenty-one years old while she was sitting in the breakroom of the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, NC, she said to me, "You have shown me that for which I could live the rest of my life—Jesus REVIVED in us!"

"Revival is about God. His children meeting with God, the nation being confronted with Him." – Colin Urquhart

There are many glimmers of hope regarding this spiritual awakening, but here are a couple of examples. On October 4, 1997, an estimated one million men from all races and denominational backgrounds gathered in Washington, DC, for prayer and reconciliation in an event organized by Promise Keepers, a group focused on bringing revival to the hearts of men. Reports said the event, "Stand in the Gap: A Sacred Assembly of Men," was the largest religious gathering in American history. Spiritual and racial reconciliation has been enhanced immeasurably in recent years, and we have seen much greater trust and desire to work together locally and nationally from spiritual brothers and sisters of all ethnic groups and denominational backgrounds. Promise Keepers announced in May 2019 that it is planning a new season of men's ministry using digital media resources and connecting men through a national event in the summer

of 2020. They are expecting eighty thousand men to attend the event in person and another five million to join the gathering digitally, courtesy of simulcast.⁸

Or consider the commitment of young people gathered at the flagpoles of their schools to pray for their teachers, principals, parents, city leaders, and each other—unprecedented in the youth movements of history. Since its small beginnings in 1990, the Lord has exploded See You at the Pole™ through elementary, middle, high school, and college students from public, private, and homeschools in more than sixty-four nations. It took only a few years for the movement of student-led prayer to move beyond America. Across the globe, from Canada to Korea, in places as unlikely as Japan and Turkey, more than one million students gather each year to participate in See You at the Pole™, responding to God’s call and accepting His invitation to pray.⁹

In 2016, Franklin Graham spoke at every United States state capital in all fifty states, calling the nation to return to prayer and Jesus. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association organized this as a “cry out and up” to our Heavenly Father in trying times. Averaging about five thousand people per stop, an estimated 236,950 joined the Decision America Tour.¹⁰ At these events, Franklin called Americans just like you and me to put God first in their lives and go to their knees in prayer, laying a foundation for increased faith in our nation. Franklin Graham and the continuing Decision America Tours have been instrumental in establishing a prayer movement for the Kingdom of God. They have become a basis for what God will continue to do as Jesus moves America back to His love, biblical values, and principles of life.

These signs of rekindled spiritual renewal are appearing across our world and nation. Each sign gives us hope and encouragement for our daily walk with Jesus Christ. As each person walks in obedience, God weaves those individual acts of obedience together into a greater move of His Spirit.

The purpose of revival is to renew Jesus in the believer and to then bring the lost to Jesus. Being a goal-minded person, I determined a mission statement for my life. “I exist to help others know God personally through Jesus Christ through the spiritual awakening of the church and the resulting action which brings salvation to all possible and justice for all possible globally.”

This seemed to be an impossible mission statement to fulfill. Alan Redpath, a great British preacher, told me in 1983 that when God wants to do an impossible thing, He takes an impossible man (or woman) and crushes him. God uses the broken vessel He reconstructs. Be encouraged.

Jesus’s ways are a part of my daily life as I die to Tom and open myself by faith to Him. As I experience personal revival and grow in my intimacy with

IGNITE YOUR PASSION FOR JESUS

Christ, it increases my desire to be obedient to His Word and to share Him with others. And as others experience personal revival, they will live holier lives and share Christ too. Again, be encouraged.

We desire to see the reality of 2 Chronicles 7:14. We pray for a spiritual awakening in the United States. We want God to heal our land. In a world full of self-help and New Age teaching, our hope for revival must be found in Christ alone. For God to heal the land, He must heal one person at a time, beginning with you and me. If revival is to spread, it must begin with individuals.

More than any other time in recent history, Americans are aware of their growing spiritual needs. Printed material on spirituality has been in great demand during recent years. Why? It's an indicator of the searching heart.

Revival Truths

- World revival begins with personal revival, through *chairois* moments with God.
- Personal revival begins with daily and consistent intimacy with God through prayer and Bible study.
- Personal revival requires daily obedience to His call.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

MATTHEW 5:14



Walking
in the Light
of God's
Son

Test and Reveal

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

PSALM 139:23-24

Each of us was born with a human nature that goes our own way. We are

born separated by our sin from a holy God. Each of us has fallen short of His perfection and that means we are disconnected from God. We become separated from the very One who most loves us and can help us.

Could you take the next few moments and ask God to reveal any areas in which you fall short of His perfection? Pray the Psalmist's prayer: Ask God to search your heart and reveal the things that ought to worry you about your life. Could it be: anger, pride, selfishness, lying, arrogance, self-centeredness, being rude, disrespectful, unkind, gossip, lust, unforgiveness, bitterness, sexual sin, insensitivity to others, judging others, betrayal, critical to others, withholding love, disobedience, coveting, filthy language, ungrateful attitude, envy, jealousy, unacceptance, deception, short temper, addiction, or theft? Confess these things to Him as He reveals them.

- *God, one area in which I fall short of your standard is . . .*
- *God, I ask for your forgiveness. I know Jesus gave up His life for this sin in me. I ask you to forgive me and revive my heart.*

A part of why Jesus chose to go to the cross was because of what you and I have just named. He chose to take our sins upon Himself. God is certainly a God who is rich in mercy and He is a holy God. God is so holy that He cannot relate to sin in any form (Ephesians 2:4; Habakkuk 1:13). So rather than lose relationship with us, God restored the possibility of relationship by sacrificing His Son.

How does your heart respond knowing that Jesus gave His life in order to lift these burdens and sins from you?

Jesus, I feel _____ (amazed/grateful/astounded) as I think about how You gave Your life for my _____ (name one of the struggles you have just identified.) I'm especially grateful because . . .

I am astounded by your love for me, Jesus. I choose to receive your forgiveness and ask for your continued transformation.

L10. A Spirit-empowered disciple practices the presence of the Lord, yielding to the Spirit's work of Christlikeness.



Looking Forward

Revival begins in the hearts of individuals. As we personally experience revival, growing out of a relationship with Christ, we then share this hope with others. It's a process that bears the fruit of God in our lives—not an event. Next week we will learn about the methods God uses to bring us to a point of personal revival.

Appendices

Appendix 1

A Spirit-Empowered Faith

A Spirit-Empowered Faith

*Expresses Itself in Great Commission Living
Empowered by Great Commandment Love*



Spirit-empowered faith begins with the end in mind: The Great Commission calls us to make disciples.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19–20 NASB)

The ultimate goal of our faith journey is to relate to the person of Jesus because it is our relational connection to Jesus that will produce Christlikeness and spiritual growth. This relational perspective of discipleship is required if we hope to have a faith that is marked by the Spirit’s power.

Models of discipleship that are based solely upon what we know and what we do are incomplete, lacking the empowerment of a life of loving and living intimately with Jesus. *A Spirit-empowered faith is relational and impossible to realize apart from a special work of the Spirit.* For example, the Spirit-empowered outcome of “listening to and hearing God” implies relationship—it is both relational in focus and requires the Holy Spirit’s power to live.



Spirit-empowered faith begins at the right place—the Great Commandment calls us to start with loving God and loving others.

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:37–40 NKJV).

Relevant discipleship does not begin with doctrines or teaching, parables or stewardship but with loving the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and then loving the people closest to you. Since Matthew 22:37–40 gives us the first and greatest commandment, a Spirit-empowered faith starts where the Great Commandment tells us to start: A disciple must first learn to deeply love the Lord and to express His love to the “nearest ones”—his or her family, church, and community (in that order).



Spirit-empowered faith embraces a relational process of Christlikeness.

“Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you” (John 12:35 NKJV).

Scripture reminds us that there are three sources of light for our journey: Jesus, His Word, and His people. The process of discipleship (or becoming more like Jesus) occurs as we relate intimately with each source of light. Spirit-empowered discipleship will require a lifestyle of:

- Fresh encounters with Jesus (John 8:12).
- Frequent experiences of Scripture (Psalm 119:105).
- Faithful engagement with God’s people (Matthew 5:14).



Spirit-empowered faith can be defined with observable outcomes using a biblical framework.

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11–12 NKJV).

The metrics for measuring Spirit-empowered faith or the growth of a disciple come from Scripture and are organized/framed around four distinct dimensions of a disciple who serves.

A relational framework for organizing Spirit-empowered discipleship outcomes draws from a cluster analysis of several Greek (*diakoneo*, *leitourgeo*, *douleuo*) and Hebrew words (*abad*, *Sharat*), which elaborate on the Ephesians 4:12 declaration that Christ’s followers are to be equipped for works of ministry or service. Therefore, the “40 Spirit-empowered Faith Outcomes” have been identified and organized around:

- Serving/loving the Lord – “While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting” (Acts 13:2 NASB).⁸⁶
- Serving/living the Word – “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4 NASB).⁸⁷
- Serving/loving people – “Through love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13 NASB).⁸⁸
- Serving/living His mission – “Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18 NASB).⁸⁹

Appendix 2

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple

A Spirit-empowered disciple LOVES THE LORD through:

L1. Practicing thanksgiving in all things

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving” (Psalm 100:4 NIV). “In everything give thanks” (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV). “As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing” (2 Corinthians 6:10 NKJV).

L2. Listening to and hearing God for direction and discernment

“Speak LORD, your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:8–9 NLT). “Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching” (Luke 10:38–42 ESV). “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do” (Genesis 18:17 ESV). “His anointing teaches you all things” (1 John 2:27 EHV).

L3. Experiencing God as He really is through deepened intimacy with Him

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:4–5 NKJV). “Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice” (Isaiah 30:18 NIV). See also John 14:9.

L4. Rejoicing regularly in my identity as “His beloved”

“And his banner over me was love” (Song of Solomon 2:4 NKJV). “To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:6 NASB). “For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep” (Psalm 127:2 NASB).

L5. Living with a passionate longing for purity and to please God in all things

“Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His

holy place” (Psalm 24:3 NASB). “*Beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God*” (2 Corinthians 7:1 NKJV). “*I always do those things that please Him*” (John 8:29 NKJV). “*Though He slay me, I will hope in Him*” (Job 13:15 NASB).

L6. Consistent practice of self-denial, fasting, and solitude rest

“*He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do’*” (Matthew 16:23 NABRE). “*But when you fast*” (Matthew 6:17 NABRE). “*Be still, and know that I am God*” (Psalm 46:10 NIV).

L7. Entering often into Spirit-led praise and worship

“*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me*” (Psalm 103:1 NASB). “*Worship the LORD with reverence*” (Psalm 2:11 NASB). “*I praise thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth*” (Matthew 11:25 JUB).

L8. Disciplined, bold, and believing prayer

“*Pray in the Spirit at all times*” (Ephesians 6:18 NLT). “*Call unto me, and I will answer*” (Jeremiah 33:3 KJV). “*If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us*” (1 John 5:14–15 NIV).

L9. Yielding to the Spirit’s fullness, as life in the Spirit brings supernatural intimacy with the Lord, manifestation of divine gifts, and witness of the fruit of the Spirit

“*For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit*” (1 Corinthians 12:13 NKJV). “*You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you*” (Acts 1:8 NKJV). “*But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good*” (1 Corinthians 12:7 NASB). See also 1 Peter 4:10 and Romans 12:6.

L10. Practicing the presence of the Lord, yielding to the Spirit’s work of Christlikeness

“*But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit*” (2 Corinthians 3:18 ASV). “*As the deer pants after the water brooks, so my soul pants after You, O God*” (Psalm 42:1 MEV).

A Spirit-empowered disciple LIVES HIS WORD through:

W1. Frequently being led by the Spirit into deeper love for the One who wrote the Word

Love the Lord thy God—love thy neighbor; upon these two commandments deepens all the law and prophets (Matthew 22:37–40, paraphrase). “I delight in Your commands because I love them.” (Psalm 119:47 NIV). The ordinances of the Lord are pure—they are more precious than gold—sweeter than honey (Psalm 19:9–10, paraphrase).

W2. Being a “living epistle” in reverence and awe as His Word becomes real in my life, vocation, and calling

“You are our letter . . . known and read by all men” (2 Corinthians 3:2 NASB). “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14 ESV). “Husbands, love your wives . . . cleansing her by the washing with water through the word” (Ephesians 5:25-26 NIV). See also Titus 2:5. “Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord” (Colossians 3:23 NASB).

W3. Yielding to the Scripture’s protective cautions and transforming power to bring life change in me

“I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path” (Psalm 119:104 NIV). “Be it unto me according to thy word” (Luke 1:38 KJV). “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word” (Psalm 119:9 WEB). See also Colossians 3:16–17.

W4. Humbly and vulnerably sharing the Spirit’s transforming work through the Word

“I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame” (Psalm 119:46 NIV). “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2 NASB).

W5. Meditating consistently on more and more of the Word hidden in the heart

“I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11 WEB). “May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14 NIV).

W6. Encountering Jesus in the Word for deepened transformation in Christlikeness

“All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:18 NABRE). “If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you” (John 15:7 ESV). See also Luke 24:32, Psalm 119:136, and 2 Corinthians 1:20.

W7. A life explained as one of “experiencing Scripture”

“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel” (Acts 2:16 KJV). “My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life” (Psalm 119:50 NIV). “My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times” (Psalm 119:20 NIV).

W8. Living “naturally supernatural” in all of life as His Spirit makes the written Word (*logos*) the living Word (*Rhema*)

*“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word (*Rhema*) of Christ” (Romans 10:17 NASB). “Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105 WEB).*

W9. Living abundantly “in the present” as His Word brings healing to hurt, anger, guilt, fear, and condemnation—which are *heart hindrances* to life abundant

“The thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy” (John 10:10 WEB). “I run in the path of your commandments, for you have set my heart free” (Psalm 119:32 WEB). “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free” (John 8:32 JUB). “For freedom, Christ set us free. Stand firm then and don’t submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1 CSB).

W10. Implicit, unwavering trust that His Word will never fail

“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God abideth for ever” (Isaiah 40:8 DARBY). “So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty” (Isaiah 55:11 NASB).

A Spirit-empowered disciple LOVES PEOPLE through:

P1. Living a Spirit-led life of doing good in all of life: relationships and vocation, community and calling

“He went about doing good” (Acts 10:38 ESV). “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16 NASB). “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men” (Luke 6:35 NASB). See also Romans 15:2.

P2. Startling people with loving initiatives to give first

“Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return” (Luke 6:38 NASB). “But Jesus was saying, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’” (Luke 23:34 NASB). See also Luke 23:43 and John 19:27.

P3. Discerning the relational needs of others with a heart to give of God’s love

“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear” (Ephesians 4:29 NASB). “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19 NASB). See also Luke 6:30.

P4. Seeing people as needing BOTH redemption from sin AND intimacy in relationships, addressing both human fallenness and aloneness

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8 NASB). “When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, ‘Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house’” (Luke 19:5 NASB). See also Mark 8:24 and Genesis 2:18.

P5. Ministering God's life and love to our *nearest ones* at home and with family as well as faithful engagement in His Body, the church

"You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered" (1 Peter 3:7 NASB). See also 1 Peter 3:1 and Psalm 127:3.

P6. Expressing the fruit of the Spirit as a lifestyle and identity

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22–23 NASB). *"With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; He will be satisfied with the product of his lips"* (Proverbs 18:20 NASB).

P7. Expecting and demonstrating the supernatural as God's spiritual gifts are made manifest and His grace is at work by His Spirit

"In the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the Gospel of Christ" (Romans 15:19 NASB). *"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also"* (John 14:12 NASB). See also 1 Corinthians 14:1.

P8. Taking courageous initiative as a peacemaker, reconciling relationships along life's journey

"Live in peace with one another" (1 Thessalonians 5:13 NASB). *"For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall"* (Ephesians 2:14 NASB). *"Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed"* (James 5:16 NASB). See also Ephesians 4:31–32.

P9. Demonstrating God's love to an ever growing network of "others" as He continues to challenge us to love "beyond our comfort"

"The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4 NASB). *"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen"* (1 John 4:20 NASB).

- P10. Humbly acknowledging to the Lord, ourselves, and others that it is Jesus in and through us who is loving others at their point of need**
“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:29 NASB). “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet” (John 13:14 NASB).

A Spirit-empowered disciple LIVES HIS MISSION through:

- M1. Imparting the Gospel and one’s very life in daily activities and relationships, vocation, and community**
“Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the Gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us” (1 Thessalonians 2:8–9 NASB). See also Ephesians 6:19.
- M2. Expressing and extending the kingdom of God while sharing compassion, justice, love, and forgiveness**
“I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose” (Luke 4:43 NASB). “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world” (John 17:18 NASB). “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You” (Psalm 51:12–13 NASB). See also Micah 6:8.
- M3. Championing Jesus as the only hope of eternal life and abundant living**
“There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved” (Acts 4:12 NABRE). “A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10 NABRE). See also Acts 4:12, John 10:10, and John 14:6.
- M4. Yielding to the Spirit’s role to convict others as He chooses, resisting expressions of condemnation**
“And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:8 NASB). “Who is the one who

condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us” (Romans 8:34 NASB). See also Romans 8:1.

M5. Ministering His life and love to the “least of these”

“Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me’” (Matthew 25:45 NASB). “Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world” (James 1:27 NASB).

M6. Bearing witness of a confident peace and expectant hope in God’s Lordship in all things

“Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all” (2 Thessalonians 3:16 NASB). “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful” (Colossians 3:15 NASB). See also Romans 8:28 and Psalm 146:5.

M7. Faithfully sharing time, talent, gifts, and resources in furthering his mission

“Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God” (Colossians 1:25 NASB). “From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more” (Luke 12:48 NASB). See also 1 Corinthians 4:1–2.

M8. Attentive listening to another’s story, vulnerably sharing of your story, and a sensitive witness of Jesus’s story as life’s ultimate hope; developing your story of prodigal, pre-occupied, and pain-filled living; listening for another’s story and sharing Jesus’s story

“But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence” (1 Peter 3:15 NASB). “For this son of mine was dead and has come to life again” (Luke 15:24 NASB). (Mark 5:21–42). (John 9:1–35).

M9. Pouring our life into others, making disciples who in turn make disciples of others

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19–20 NASB). See also 2 Timothy 2:2.

M10. Living submissively within His Body, the church, as instruction and encouragement, reproof and correction are graciously received by faithful disciples

“And be subject to one another in the fear of Christ” (Ephesians 5:21 NASB). “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted” (Galatians 6:1 NASB). See also Galatians 6:2.

Appendix 3

About the Great Commandment Network

The Great Commandment Network is an international collaborative network of strategic kingdom leaders from the faith community, marketplace, education, and caregiving fields who prioritize the powerful simplicity of the words of Jesus to love God, love others, and see others become His followers (Matthew 22:37–40; 28:19–20).

The Great Commandment Network is served through the following:

Relationship Press – This team collaborates, supports, and joins together with churches, denominational partners, and professional associates to develop, print, and produce resources that facilitate ongoing Great Commandment ministry.

The Center for Relational Leadership – Their mission is to teach, train, and mentor both ministry and corporate leaders in Great Commandment principles, seeking to equip leaders with relational skills so they might lead as Jesus led.

The Galatians 6:6 Retreat Ministry – This ministry offers a unique two-day retreat for ministers and their spouses for personal renewal and for reestablishing and affirming ministry and family priorities.

The Center for Relational Care (CRC) – The CRC provides therapy and support to relationships in crisis through an accelerated process of growth and healing, including Relational Care Intensives for couples, families, and singles.



For more information on how the Great Commandment Network can serve you, your church, ministry, denomination, or movement, write or call:

Great Commandment Network

2511 South Lakeline Blvd.

Cedar Park, Texas 78613

#800-881-8008

Or visit our website: www.GreatCommandment.net

Appendix 4

Resources

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Appendix 5

Worship Experience Sources

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Chapter 3

Day 4: “Out of Hiding (Father’s Song)” by Amanda Cook and Steffany Gretzinger (2014).

Chapter 4

Day 2: “Into the Light,” by Laura Woodley Osman (2016).

Day 3: “Trading My Sorrows,” by Darrell Evans (2002).

Chapter 5

Day 2: “Clean,” by Michael Fatkin, Taya Gaukrodger, and Hannah Hobbs (2019).

Day 5: “Sweet Hour of Prayer,” by William Walford (1845).

Chapter 6

Day 2: “Reckless Love,” by Caleb Culver, Cory Asbury, and Ran Jackson (2017).

Day 5: “Cecie’s Lullaby,” by Steffany Gretzinger (2014).

Chapter 7

Day 1: “I Give Myself Away,” by William McDowell (2009).

Day 3: “Born for Such a Time,” by Chris Burns (2013).

Day 5: “I Surrender All,” by Judson Van DeVenter (1896).

Chapter 8

Day 1: “Lead Me to Some Soul Today,” by Will H. Houghton (1936).

Chapter 9

Day 3: “Fall Afresh,” by Kari Jobe, Sarah Reeves, and Henry Seeley (2017).

Chapter 10

Day 5: “So Will I” (100 Billion X), by Joel Houston, Benjamin Hastings, and Michael Fatkin (2017).

Chapter 11

Day 1: “For the Beauty of the Earth,” by Folliot Pierpoint (1864).

Day 5: “Made a Way,” by Travis M. Greene (2016).

Chapter 12

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About the Authors

Tom Phillips



Tom Phillips is a farm boy from Mississippi whose grandfather was a circuit-riding preacher. His family's spiritual heritage originated in the great awakenings throughout the Southeast, beginning in Kentucky in the early 1800s. The Word of God as a daily guide for faith and practice bred a strong devotional life, a life of sharing God's love through Jesus, and the joy in the Lord that historically changed the southeastern portion of the United States eventually touched Tom's family.

Tom Phillips's upbringing compelled him to share his faith as a young man. Desiring to help people and share the love of Jesus through healing, he began studying medicine with the intention of becoming a surgeon. But God intervened, calling him to share not physical healing but spiritual healing with the good news of Jesus Christ, a loving and forgiving Lord and Savior. Tom's education quickly moved from medical school to seminary.

Tom yielded to God's call to a life of evangelism while in his second year of seminary. He realized the world had a desperate spiritual need, and a revived church could be the catalyst to renew society as had happened in previous revivals. God impressed upon Tom that he would share in a great revival to bring this nation back to Jesus's love and forgiveness. God's call opened a world of ministry to Tom, and he eventually had the opportunity to serve with Billy Graham. Tom has seen millions surrender to salvation through Jesus.

Emily Adams



Emily Adams grew up the middle child in a family with legacies of faith on all sides in the Four Corners of the Southwest where New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona all meet. The Lord began tempering her at the early age of seven when she was diagnosed with a seizure-related movement disorder. Miraculously healed five years later through doctors, medicine, and diet, she now thanks Jesus for teaching her to cling to Him through the darkness of her early journey.

Emily decided to study writing in college because, as she struggled to narrow down her passions to one area of focus, Jesus showed her that with writing she could develop one passion to be able to incorporate any other. After deleting the application three times, she followed the prompting of the Holy Spirit to come as a summer writing intern to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in Charlotte, NC. She was privileged to begin to write the story of God's ongoing work saving and healing His children at the Billy Graham Library, where she also served the volunteer team.

A few weeks before her job at the Billy Graham Library was complete and she planned to return home to New Mexico, the Lord began to awaken Emily to experience the revival of Jesus in her life about which Tom Phillips, then Vice President of the Library, had shown her. Emily said yes to follow a new path unfolding before her as a child of revival and as Tom's assistant at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Prepared for such a time as this, Emily now uses the many passions God has given her as she seeks Jesus in bringing together the generations for awakening.

To connect with the authors, share Sparks of Revival on our podcast, and receive the latest information on the Jesus Now Awakening Series visit us at www.TheCenterForAwakening.com.”

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