

Experiencing the Spirit

Chapter 1 - Revealing the Unknowable

1. How would you summarize your present understanding of who the Holy Spirit is? What has been your experience with the Holy Spirit?

2. How is the Holy Spirit like the wind in the sails of a ship? How does that relate to your own life? pages 21,22

3. Look at what Jesus says in Matthew 12:31-32. Why is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit so serious? pages 22-23

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Chapter 2 - The Ever-Present God

1. How open have your eyes been to God's work all around you? How much of His work do you think you are recognizing?

2. After reading the story of Elisha and his servant, what is the important lesson that we need to learn about the activity of God and spiritual warfare? pages 30-31 See also II Kings 6:16-17, and Ephesians 6:12.

3. What names for God carry special significance for you in your own experience with Him? page 33

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Chapter 3 - Gifted to Serve

1. When Jesus entered His ministry, what gift did He receive to enable Him to do the Father's work on the earth? Who else has this same gift today? page 43

2. How does Paul describe the humility of Jesus in Philippians 2:5-8? Did Jesus cease to be God while on the earth? Explain. page 47

3. Read the following verses: Luke 4:1, 4:14, 4:18-19, and Acts 1:2. What was the secret of Jesus' life and ministry? How does this apply to believers today? pages 54-55

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Chapter 4 - His Gift to Give

**1. At what point in Jesus' life and ministry on earth did He begin to teach His disciples extensively about the Holy Spirit? Why did He wait until then?
pages 56-57**

2. In chapters 14-16 of John's gospel, give the significant things Jesus taught His disciples about the Holy Spirit. See verses 14:16-17, 26, 15:26, 16:7-8, and 13-14.

3. Read the following verses and explain what it says the Holy Spirit will do in us. John 14:18, Colossians 1:27, and page 59.

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Chapter 5 - The Gift of Relationship

**1. Why does the Church seem to have so little impact and why are so many Christians frustrated, sensing that there has to be something more?
pages 71-72**

2. According to God's promises in each of the following passages, what exactly are we meant to experience because of the Holy Spirit?

John 7:38-39

John 16:13-15

Romans 8:11

Romans 8:15-16

Romans 8:26-27

3. The authors said, "Paul also said the Holy Spirit would manifest Himself 'to each one.' Nobody is overlooked. You have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, and He'll manifest Himself in your life (page 80)." How have you seen the Holy Spirit manifest Himself in your life?

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Chapter 6 - Shaped for Service

1. Why did God send the Holy Spirit to believers? What type of believer is the Lord looking for today? pages 83-84

2. Think again of what is taught about Jesus in Hebrews 5:8: "He learned obedience by the things which He suffered." This is also taught about Christians in II Timothy 3:12 and I Peter 2:20-21. What do these statements imply about your life? What will it mean for the Holy Spirit to make you Christlike? What must the Holy Spirit do to build great character in you?

3. Are you willing for the Holy Spirit to build great character into your life? Are you willing no matter how much suffering and hardship it brings? Personal question.

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Chapter 7 - God's Best in Your Life

1. The authors said, "Anchor this truth in your mind: the gift of the Holy Spirit is primarily about God and His work, not about you and your work." What happens when we function according to the power of the Holy Spirit? pages 98

2. What are two dangers of relying on spiritual gift inventories to decide how God desires to use you in the future? page 104

3. Read I Peter 4:10-11. What overarching purpose for the use of our gifts did Peter teach here and what does this mean for you in practical terms?

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Chapter 8 - Talented or Gifted?

1. Look closely at each of the following passages. What does it teach us about those whom God chooses and why He chooses them?

Matthew 11:25-26

I Corinthians 1:26-29

James 2:5

2. What examples from Scripture can you recall of ordinary people who were gifted and equipped by God to do something outside the "normal" range of their abilities?

**3. What are the qualities God is looking for in order to use a person?
pages 117-120**

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Chapter 9 - From Ordinary to Extraordinary

1. What reason did God give the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) before the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)? Why is this reason necessary to discover and to complete our assignment? page 129

2. The authors said, "Great assignments take great character, and the building of character takes time (page 131)." Explain the reasons they made this comment that were listed in the preceding paragraphs. page 130

3. What are the ministries that have captured your heart and that you sense God might want you to invest your life in?

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Chapter 10 - Keeping the Relationship Alive

1. When King David sinned grievously he cried out to God, "Don't take your Holy Spirit from me (Psalm 51:11) ." Even though a genuine believer can never lose his salvation (John 10:27-30) and the Holy Spirit (John 14:16), what can he lose? pages 144-145

2. What do you have to gain if you have an intimate fellowship with Christ and are obedient to the Holy Spirit's guidance? page 144

3. What are the negative responses to the Holy Spirit among people today? Please give and explain. pages 148-152

4. What is the simple formula for living the Spirit-filled life? page 155

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Chapter 11 - A Life Filled to the Full

1. List and explain four characteristics of a person who has understood the Christian life and is walking in the Spirit. pages 160-163

2. The story of Tonya on pages 164-66 tells of a prompting she received from the Holy Spirit to give a birthday cake to Carla. Share a time in your life that you sensed the Holy Spirit was prompting you and you were obedient to Him.

3. Is there any prompting you have been hearing from the Lord but have been ignoring? Personal

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Chapter 12 - Complete Surrender

1. Both Henry and Melvin Blackaby shared a time when they fully surrendered their lives to the Lordship of Christ. Relate the time you completely surrendered your life to Christ's Lordship. If you have never done it, will you do it right now? Share your experience if you desire to do so.

2. On pages 177-178, Henry Blackaby related a story of leading a conference in Taiwan where a man had come forward at the end of the service to fully surrender his life to Christ, even if it cost him the losing his physical life, in order to preach the gospel in mainline China. Through God's strength and grace, are you willing to obey the Holy Spirit's direction in your life, even at the cost of your physical life? Personal

3. In Luke 11:13 Jesus says "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." In Ephesians 5:18 we are commanded to "Be filled with the Spirit." Will you today surrender yourself to the Holy Spirit so that He will fill you and move in power in your life? Personal