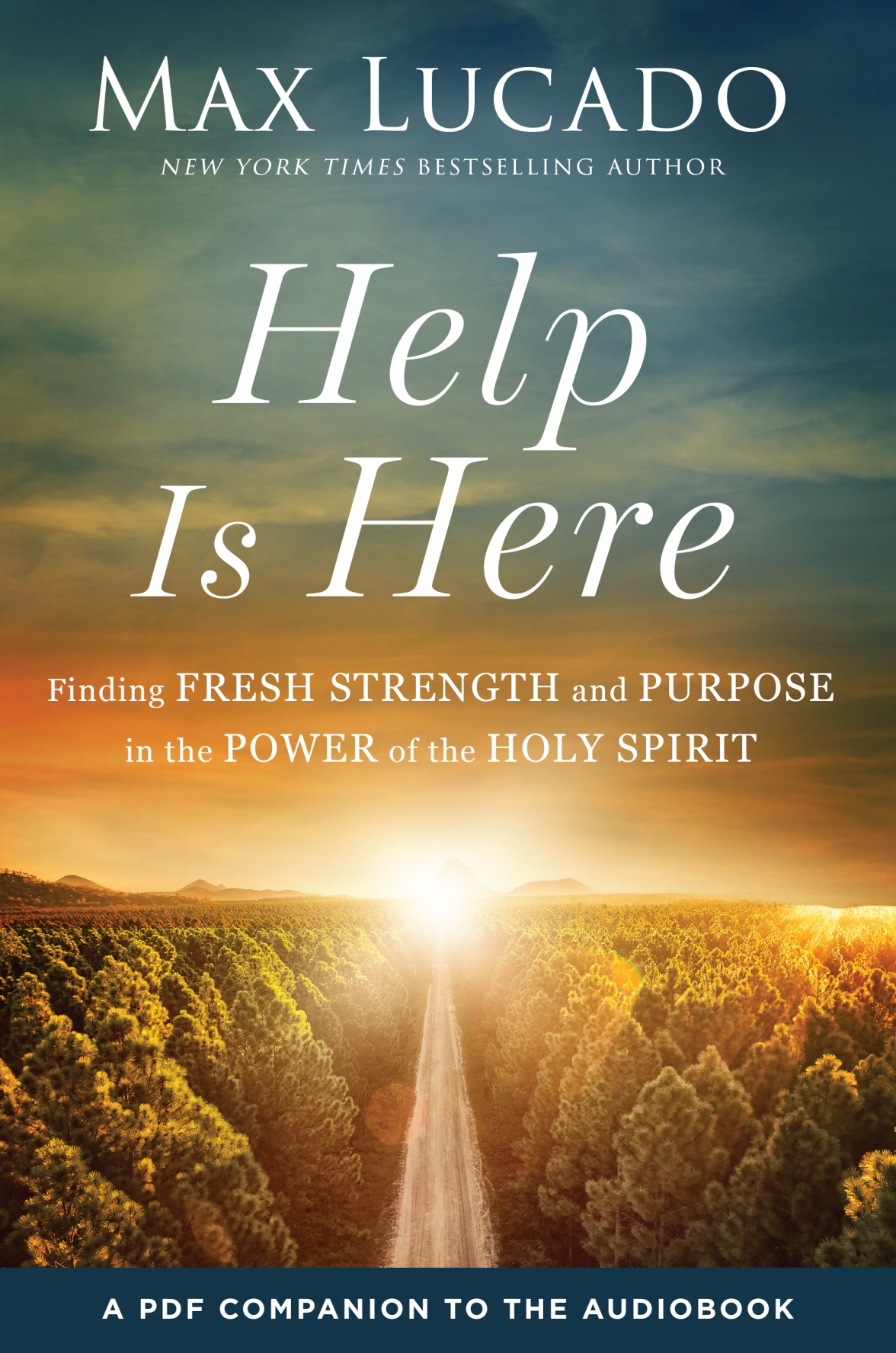


An aerial photograph of a dirt road winding through a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden glow that illuminates the scene from behind, casting long shadows and highlighting the texture of the trees and the road. The sky is a mix of deep blue and warm orange.

MAX LUCADO

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Help Is Here

Finding FRESH STRENGTH and PURPOSE
in the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

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Questions for Reflection

PREPARED BY ANDREA LUCADO

The Holy Who?

1. Scripture tells us the Trinity is made up of three figures: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How would you describe each one?
2. What is your understanding of the Holy Spirit? On what is your knowledge based—teaching by the church, personal study, or something else?
 - What were you taught about the Holy Spirit in church or by your faith leaders?
 - How did this teaching, or lack thereof, affect the way you view the Spirit today?
 - What role, if any, does the Holy Spirit play in your life?
3. Max describes the moment in high school when he first learned about the Holy Spirit. He was taught that “the Spirit is your life-giving friend, here to lead you home.”
 - Do you agree with this description of the Spirit? Has he proved to be a “life-giving friend” in your life? Give an example.
 - What would you change or add to this description?

4. Jesus instructed his disciples not to begin their ministries until they received the Holy Spirit. As Luke 24:49 says, “Don’t begin telling others yet—stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven” (TLB). What does this tell you about the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives and ministries?
5. Fill in the blank: The Holy Spirit comes with ____.
- What kind of power does the Holy Spirit give us?
 - If you have experienced the Holy Spirit’s power, explain the circumstances and what happened.
 - How did you know you were experiencing the power of the Spirit?
 - How do you need the Spirit’s power to work in your life right now?
6. Max describes three different relationships we can have with the Holy Spirit:
- a. the *show-offs*, who make the rest of us feel they are more in tune with the Spirit than we are,
 - b. the *Spirit Patrol*, who try to limit and control the role of the Spirit in their lives,
 - c. and the *healthy saints*, who are open to the Spirit and discerning of the Spirit’s voice.
 - Which one do you identify with most, and why?
 - Have you ever known a Holy Spirit show-off? How did this person affect the way you felt about the Holy Spirit?
 - Have you ever known someone who was part of the Spirit Patrol? How did this person affect the way you felt about the Holy Spirit?

- Examine your own relationship with the Holy Spirit. Have you ever been part of the show-off or Spirit Patrol groups?

7. The Bible uses several metaphors to describe the Holy Spirit:

- The Holy Spirit is the ultimate *teacher* (John 14:26).
 - The Spirit is the *wind* of God (John 3:8).
 - He is our *intercessor* (Rom. 8:26).
 - He is the *seal of heaven* upon the saint (Eph. 1:13).
 - He descends on us like a *dove* (Matt. 3:16).
 - He *equips* us with spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:1–11).
 - He is the *river of living water*, who flows out of us (John 7:37–39).
- Have you experienced the Holy Spirit in any of the ways just listed? If so, in what ways?
 - Which description of the Spirit are you most curious about, and why?
 - Which one, if any, spurs your skepticism? Why?

8. Max poses this question: “Is it your desire to know the Holy Spirit better and to nurture your relationship with him?” How would you answer that?

- Why did you decide to read *Help Is Here*?
- How do you feel about the idea that the Spirit led you to read this book and to participate in this study?

Come Alongside Me

The Spirit As a Teacher

1. What are the qualities of a good teacher?
 - Who is the best teacher you've had (in school, in church, or elsewhere)?
 - What traits made this person a good teacher? In particular how did the good teacher change your life?
2. The Greek word for the Holy Spirit used in John 14, 15, and 16 is *Paraclete* (Helper). What are the different ways this word can be translated, and what is their central message?
3. Read the following verses, and underline every descriptive word or phrase used for the Holy Spirit.

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper [*Paraclete*], to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. . . . The Helper [*Paraclete*] . . . whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:16–17, 26)

“When the Helper [*Paraclete*] comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.” (John 15:26)

“It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper [*Paraclete*] will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.” (John 16:7–8)

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:13–14)

- What descriptions speak most personally to you? Explain.
- Do you think of the Spirit in the ways the Spirit is described in these verses—as your teacher, as one who glorifies Jesus, as one who convicts people of sin, as the bearer of truth, etc.? Why or why not?

4. Max explains that according to Scripture the Holy Spirit is not an *it*. The Holy Spirit is a divine being. Why is this an important distinction?
5. Fill in the blank: “Yet the Spirit has a specific, overarching mission. His task is to teach us about ____.”
 - Why do we need the Holy Spirit to teach us about this subject?
 - How does the Spirit teach us about this subject?
 - Have you ever learned something about Jesus from the Holy Spirit? If so, what did you learn, and what was that experience like?
6. What are you struggling with in your life that a day-to-day teacher could help you with?
 - Do you feel confident that the Holy Spirit will respond and give you the guidance and teaching you need? Why or why not?
 - Have you seen evidence of this in the past? If so, give an example.
7. Read the story of Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10.
 - What role did the Holy Spirit play in the story?
 - What did the Holy Spirit tell Peter in verses 19–20?
 - How did Peter respond?
 - What did Peter ultimately learn about God, Jesus, the Jews, and the Gentiles in this passage?
 - What does this story tell you about the significance of the Holy Spirit in understanding Jesus’ message and purpose?

8. Max refers to a stressful season he had early in his ministry, saying, “I was under the impression that I had to fix everyone’s problems, shoulder everyone’s burdens, and never grow weary in doing so.”
- Have you ever felt this way? Perhaps you feel this way now. What burdens are you shouldering?
 - What revelation did Max have regarding this weight of responsibility he felt?
 - What can you do to invite the Holy Spirit’s help? How could you rely on the Holy Spirit to take care of the burden you are carrying right now?

Raise Your Sail

The Spirit As Wind

1. What is a rowboat type of faith? What is a sailboat type of faith? Explain the difference in the two.
 - Do you have a rowboat or sailboat type of faith right now? What makes you say so?
 - Where does your rowboat or sailboat mentality come from—the church you grew up in, a mentor, what you’ve read in the Bible, or an aspect of your personality? Explain your response.
2. Read the story of Nicodemus in John 3:1–15.
 - In verse 3 what does Jesus tell Nicodemus he must do in order to see the kingdom of God?
 - What do you think of Nicodemus’s response in verse 4?
 - According to verse 5, how does Jesus say we are born again?
 - Jesus compares the Spirit to the wind in verse 8. Why do you think he used this metaphor in this particular passage?

- Nicodemus expressed confusion during his conversation with Jesus. Are you puzzled by anything in this passage? If so, what?
 - Does this passage help you understand the Holy Spirit in a new way? Explain your answer.
 - What does this conversation tell us about the Holy Spirit and his power in our lives?
3. Max quotes theologian Abraham Kuyper, who compared the Spirit to the wind in that the Spirit does not appear “in visible form; He never steps out from the intangible void. Hovering, undefined, incomprehensible, He remains a mystery. He is as the wind! We hear its sound, but can not tell whence it cometh and whither it goeth. Eye can not see Him, ear can not hear Him, much less the hand handle Him.”
- Why is this, as Max describes it, good news?
 - Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit in this way, as something you could not see but you felt? If so, how did you know you were experiencing the Spirit?
4. Max says that because we are “born of the Spirit” (John 3:8), “we have his wind, his unseen power, within us. We host the mystery and majesty of God.”
- If you have a rowboat type of faith, how could this power from the Spirit help you let go of the spiritual work you are doing?
 - Perhaps you have a rowboat type of faith in just some aspects of your life. If so, what are those areas, and how could you rely on the Spirit for strength in those areas instead of relying on your own power?

5. Fill in the blanks: “Nicodemus was fixated on the word ____.
The Christian is fixated on the word ____.”
- What is “done” in the Christian faith? Do you really believe this? Why or why not?
 - Would your thoughts and actions suggest you believe this truth? Why or why not?
6. Even if you’ve been a believer for a long time, it’s easy to slide back into the rowboat type of faith.
- Why do you think this is the case?
 - What do you need to believe about the Spirit, Jesus, or God in order to have a sailboat type of faith?
7. Imagine that you do have a sailboat type of faith, one in which you rely wholly on the Spirit for all your needs and struggles. How would your daily life look different from the way it looks now?
- How would you be different from the way you are now?
 - How would you view yourself differently?
 - How would you view others differently?
8. Pinpoint one struggle you are facing today.
- What would you do if you were rowing your boat through that struggle?
 - What would you do if you were sailing your way through that struggle?
 - In what way do you need to rely on the Spirit today to get through this struggle?

Groans of the Heart

The Spirit As Intercessor

1. What role does prayer have in your life? Do you pray often? Sometimes? Rarely? Do you keep a prayer list or journal? Why or why not?
 - Have you ever felt at a loss for words when praying? Why was it hard to find words during this prayer time?
 - What do you do when you don't know what to pray for?
 - Max says when we don't know what to pray for, our prayers are like "groans of the heart." Have you ever felt as if your prayers were simply groans from the heart rather than actual words? If so, what kind of situation were you in?
 - Was prayer—even with a lack of words—helpful during this time? Why or why not?

2. Read Romans 8:22–23, 26–27:

“We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. . . . The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God” (NIV).

- According to this passage in the context of prayer, what does the Spirit do for us, and when?
- Have you ever thought about the Spirit interceding for you in prayer? How does this idea make you feel? Hopeful? Confused? Skeptical? Why?

3. Max points out that the word Paul used in Romans 8:26 for *weakness* is the same word he used elsewhere in Scripture to describe physical illness. Have you or someone you know ever been sick to the point you didn’t even know what to pray for? Healing? Doctors? Medicine? A miracle? What was it like to pray during that difficult time?

- Perhaps you haven’t been physically sick to this degree but you’ve had seasons of weakness because of losing a job, losing someone you love, or going through a divorce. Max describes it as a time when there is “a gap between what we want from life and what we get in life.” What did you pray for during this time?
- When you’re weak, is it difficult to pray? Why or why not?

4. Do you ever feel pressure to pray for the “right” thing?
 - If so, where do you think this pressure comes from?
 - How does this pressure affect your prayer life?
 - How would it affect your prayer life if you trusted what Romans says: “The Spirit himself intercedes for us” (8:26)?

5. Max uses a story from his time in Brazil to illustrate how the Spirit intercedes for us. Has anyone ever advocated for you in the way Quenho advocated for Max? If so, who was it, and how did that person’s intercession affect your situation?
 - How does knowing that the Spirit is interceding on your behalf make you feel about your prayers?
 - How could believing that the Spirit is interceding on your behalf change the way you pray?
 - What does the Spirit’s intercession tell us about the character of God and how he feels about his children?
 - Have you ever experienced the peace of prayer when someone prayed over you?

6. The Message’s wording of Romans 8:27–28 says, “[The Spirit] keeps us present before God. That’s why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.”
 - What is the promise in this passage?
 - Is there anything in your life right now that you can’t find the words to express in prayer? If so, how could you apply this passage to that situation? What kind of hope could this promise bring you today?

A Sure Salvation

The Spirit As a Seal

1. Max shares a story of traveling to see his grandparents when he was a child. His dad stuck into his pocket a piece of paper that said, “This boy belongs to Jack and Thelma Lucado.” If you had experienced such a trip as a child, whose names would have been written on your piece of paper? Who gave you a secure sense of belonging?
 - How did this feeling of belonging affect you as you were growing up?
 - If you did not grow up with a strong sense of belonging, how did that affect you?
 - Why do you think it’s important to have a secure sense of belonging to our family, friends, and community?

2. According to Ephesians 1:13 and 4:30, to whom do we belong?

- What is the significance of the verb *sealed*?
- Max defines sealing as the act that says, “This is mine, and this is protected.” Do you feel that way about anything or anyone in your life? If so, what or who?
- Considering this, what does it mean for God to have sealed you to himself with the Holy Spirit?

3. Read Romans 8:14–17:

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, ‘Abba, Father.’ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs” (NLT).

- What spirit have we *not* received?
- What spirit *have* we received?
- When did we receive that spirit?
- According to Roman law what happened when a child was adopted?
- What does this mean for our relationship to God?
- What does this tell you about who you are in Christ?

4. Max points out that God is referred to as father fifteen times in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, however, God is referred to as father more than two hundred times. Do you relate to God as your father? If not, how do you relate to or view God?

- How would it affect you if you thought of God as a good father?

- What role does the Spirit play in allowing us to relate to God as our father? (See Galatians 4:6–7 and Romans 5:5.)
5. Second Corinthians 1:21–22 says, “God affirms us, making us a sure thing in Christ, putting his Yes within us. By his Spirit he has stamped us with his eternal pledge—a sure beginning of what he is destined to complete” (THE MESSAGE). What does the Spirit do to our salvation?
- At this point in your faith journey, do you feel confident in your salvation? Why or why not?
 - How could the promise of being sealed in the Spirit affect the way you feel about your salvation?
 - Max poses the question “Why is this security important?” How would you answer that?
 - How do you act when you feel insecure?
 - How do you act when you feel secure?
 - If you were completely secure in your salvation, would this change the way you act today, the way you feel about yourself, or the way you feel about others? If so, how?
6. First John 4:18 suggests that if we fear for our salvation, it is because we have not experienced God’s perfect love: “If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love” (NLT).
- Do you feel that you’ve experienced God’s perfect love? If so, how do you know? If not, what type of love have you felt from God?

- Max defines God's perfect love in this way: "God loves you with a perfect love: perfect knowledge of your past mistakes, perfect knowledge of your future missteps, and, yet, is perfectly willing to love you despite both." When we don't experience God's perfect love, it's not because his love is not perfect. It's often because we are unwilling to accept it. Is it hard for you to accept God's perfect love? Why or why not?
- With what you've learned about the Spirit in this chapter, how could you let God love you in his perfect way today?

Calm This Chaos

The Spirit As a Dove

1. Fill in the blanks: “Anxiety is not a sign of _____. But anxiety does _____ us.”
 - What is causing you anxiety right now?
 - How does your anxiety affect you spiritually, physically, and emotionally?

2. Genesis 1:2 says, “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters” (NKJV). What is the Holy Spirit’s purpose in this passage?
 - What is significant about the verb *hovering*?
 - What was possible after the Spirit calmed the earth?

3. Have you ever thought of the Holy Spirit as a calming presence? Why or why not?
- Have you ever known the calming of the Holy Spirit? If so, how would you explain that experience?
 - Was this peace of the Holy Spirit different from the peace you've experienced elsewhere in your life? If so, in what way?
4. All four Gospels record Jesus' baptism and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. Imagine that scene.
- What do you think the witnesses saw?
 - How do you think this demonstration of the Spirit made Jesus feel?
 - List the physical and personality characteristics you know about a dove: _____, _____, _____
 - What does this image tell us about the Spirit?
5. Max points out that the dove was a feminine symbol in biblical times and that the Hebrew word used for "Spirit" is a feminine word. What are some uniquely feminine or motherly characteristics?
- What female in your life have you gone to for comfort?
 - What unique comfort did this person provide you?
 - Why is it important that the Spirit has these feminine and motherly qualities?
 - How do you feel about the imagery of the Holy Spirit as feminine or motherly? Is it helpful for you? Strange or new? Do you resist it? Explain your response.

6. How do you typically cope with anxiety?
 - Which coping mechanisms help, and why?
 - Which fall short, and why?
7. What coping mechanism does Max suggest for combating anxiety?
 - Have you ever used praise or worship to fight your anxiety? If so, what was that experience like?
 - In what ways are praise and worship comforting to us when we are weary with anxiety?
 - What role can the Holy Spirit play in fighting anxiety with praise and worship?
8. Think about a time you felt comforted either by the person in your answer to question five or by praise and worship. What aspect of this person or experience brought you a sense of peace?
 - How could you apply this type of comfort to the anxiety you are facing today?
 - Spend some time in prayer asking the Spirit for comfort. Pay attention to any comforting words or feelings of peace the Spirit may be offering.

How to Hear from God

The Spirit As a Pillar of Cloud and of Fire

1. When was the last time you had to make a big decision? What were you trying to decide?
 - How did you ultimately make your decision? Did you spend time praying, talking to friends, listing pros and cons, or something else?
 - How did this decision process make you feel?
 - Are big decisions hard for you to make? Why or why not?

2. How did God guide the Israelites after they fled Egypt?
 - The Israelites had just been through a traumatic experience. (You can read more about their story in the chapters leading up to Exodus 13.) How did they respond to God's guidance?
 - Would you like to have a clear sign from God about each step you should take in life? Why or why not?
 - Why do you think God doesn't lead us with fire and pillars of clouds anymore?
3. According to Isaiah 63:11–14 who was the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire? Why did the Israelites need this type of guidance?
4. Max says, "Who leads the children of God today? The Holy Spirit! We have what the Hebrews had minus the manna."
 - Have you ever consciously involved the Holy Spirit in your decision-making process? Why or why not?
 - If you have, did you sense the Holy Spirit's guidance? If so, how?
5. Read Romans 12:2:

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

 - What does this verse tell us to do in order to know God's will for us?
 - What behaviors and customs of the world do you think Paul was referring to here?
 - How can following these customs keep us from knowing God's will for us?

- Have you ever “followed the crowd” in a direction that led you to a bad place? If so, what were the consequences?
 - Have you ever resisted the temptation to follow the crowd? If so, where did God lead you instead?
6. Max says, “If you want to hear from God, the first question you need to ask is not ‘What should I do?’ but ‘Whom will I hear? Who has authority? Who calls the shots in my life?’”
- Who calls the shots in your life right now?
 - Is this voice leading you where you think God wants you to go? Explain.
7. After Moses built the tabernacle as God instructed, Scripture says, “Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle” (Ex. 40:34 NKJV).
- Where did the Spirit of God dwell from this moment on?
 - Why do you think God did this for the Israelites?
 - What significance does this have for us?
 - Do you believe the Holy Spirit dwells in you? If so, how do you know? If not, why not?
8. When we are trying to discern God’s will for our lives, Max says, “Go first to the verse. Go next to the voice.”
- How can Scripture help us in our decision-making?
 - Has Scripture ever helped you make a decision? If so, how?
 - What is the voice Max is referring to?
 - Are you able to hear this voice? If so, what is an example of a time this voice provided guidance for you in deciding what to do next?

- From what you learned in this chapter, what do you think the voice of the Spirit sounds like?
- What does it not sound like?
- Why is this distinction important?

Soul on Fire

The Spirit As a Flame

1. When you hear phrases like “on fire for the Lord” or “on fire with the Spirit,” what do those phrases mean to you?
 - Have you ever felt this way in your spiritual life? If so, when?
 - If you haven’t heard phrases like this before, what do you think of them? Are they strange or confusing? Do they resonate with you? Explain your answer.
2. In this chapter Max explains three ways the Holy Spirit is like fire. The first is a refiner’s fire. As Malachi 3:2–3 says:

“For He is like a refiner’s fire
 And like launderers’ soap.
 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver;
 He will purify the sons of Levi,
 And purge them as gold and silver,
 That they may offer to the LORD
 An offering in righteousness.” (NKJV)

- According to this passage what does a refiner's fire do?
 - What is the resulting material after a refiner's fire?
3. When you try to imagine the Holy Spirit as a refining or purifying fire, do you feel peaceful or nervous or anxious or fearful? Can you explain the reasons for your response?
- Have you ever experienced the purifying power of the Holy Spirit in your life? If so, how did the Spirit change you in this process?
 - Is there anything in your life that needs this work from the Spirit—a bad habit, a sin pattern, a toxic relationship?
 - How could you invite the Spirit to purify this area of your life?
4. Fill in the blank: “Victory over sin is the result of the presence of _____ within us.”
- What part does this play in our strategy to conquer the sin in our lives?
 - How do you typically try to address your sin?
 - Does this strategy work? Explain.
 - What is the difference between what Paul wrote in Romans 7 and Romans 8?
 - How could you use more Holy Spirit and less “I” when it comes to facing your sin?
5. The second way the Holy Spirit is like fire is in his energy. Max shares a story about a student who had lost his passion for his faith. What was the student's reason for losing his passion, according to his pastor?

- What role has community played in your faith?
 - Have you ever gone through a season—or perhaps you are in one now—without a church or faith community? How did that affect your faith?
6. Hebrews 10:24–25 says, “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (NRSV).
- According to these verses how does community help refine us?
 - How does community encourage our faith?
7. Finally, the Holy Spirit is like fire in that he can protect us. God says in Zechariah 2:5, “I myself will be a wall of fire around it . . . and I will be its glory within” (NIV).
- What do you need spiritual protection from? Sin, anxious thoughts, fears?
 - How does it feel to know you can be protected from these things by the fire of the Holy Spirit?
8. In what ways do you need the fire of the Holy Spirit today?
- In what ways do you need the refining of the Holy Spirit?
 - In what ways do you need the energy of the Holy Spirit?
 - In what ways do you need the protection of the Spirit?

9. End your study time reflecting on David's words in Psalm 139. Pray that the Holy Spirit will see every part of you and do a mighty work.

God, examine me and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

See if there is any bad thing in me.

Lead me on the road to everlasting life. (vv. 23–24 NCV)

Oily Footprints

The Spirit As Anointing Oil

1. Have you ever been given a new title or a new role? Perhaps you were named to a new position at work or took on a new role in life such as “mother” or “uncle.”
 - Think of a time you received a new assignment.
 - Was there any sort of ritual, ceremony, or celebration to mark this change? If so, why did you mark it in this way?
 - Why do you think cultures have rituals and celebrations to mark changes like these in our lives?
2. Read the following passages.

“Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on.” (1 Sam. 16:13 NLT)

“Anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from the town of Abel-meholah to replace you as my prophet.” (1 Kings 19:16 NLT)

“God . . . poured fragrant oil on your head, marking you out as king, far above your dear companions.” (Heb. 1:9 THE MESSAGE)

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me.” (Luke 4:18)

- In these passages what role does oil play?
- What was the significance of anointing someone with oil?
- How is this ritual of anointing someone with oil similar to the ritual or celebration you talked about in question 1? How is it different?

3. According to 2 Corinthians 1:21–22, how has God anointed us?

- Considering the passages in question 2, how does this anointing change our identity?
- How do you feel about the imagery of being anointed with the Spirit? Is this a familiar or strange concept for you? Explain your response.

4. When Moses anointed Aaron and his sons, it marked their new identities as priests of the Lord. What does Max say was the significance of this?

5. First John 2:20 says we have a similar anointing to Aaron:
“But you have an anointing from the Holy One [you have been set apart, specially gifted and prepared by the Holy Spirit], and all of you know [the truth because He teaches us, illuminates our minds, and guards us from error]” (AMP).
 - What does your anointing say about your purpose?
 - What does your anointing say about God’s favor upon you?
 - What does your anointing say about your authority?
6. Acts 2:17 says, “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.” What is significant about the verb *pour*?
7. “You’ve been anointed by the Holy Spirit. This anointing changes everything,” says Max. Do you feel as though the Holy Spirit’s anointing has changed you? If so, in what ways?
 - If you’re unsure, how could the confidence of this anointing change the way you think and feel about yourself?
 - How could it change the way you relate to others?
 - How could it change the way you view your purpose in life?
8. Max shares a story of how the Holy Spirit’s power intervened in a conversation he was having with a friend.
 - What did Max do during this conversation?
 - How did the Holy Spirit respond?
 - Has the Spirit ever intervened for you in this way—given you wisdom or knowledge you wouldn’t have had otherwise? If so, what did the Spirit teach or show you?

9. What would your day look like if you consistently reminded yourself that you are anointed by the Holy Spirit, that the Spirit's power has been poured on you, and that you now walk with the Spirit's authority?

The Coming Wave

The Spirit As a River of Living Water

1. Max describes the state of Christianity in America in the late eighteenth century. How does this spiritual landscape compare to the one you see around you today?
 - Is Christianity alive and well where you live, or is it dwindling in its influence?
 - How do you feel about the state of faith in your community?
2. How would you define *revival*?
 - Have you ever been a part of a revival or witnessed one? If so, what was it like for you or those who were a part of it?

- Have you ever experienced a personal revival—a reviving of your own faith? If so, what prompted this revival for you?

3. Read John 7:37–39:

On the last and most important day of the feast Jesus stood up and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. If anyone believes in me, rivers of living water will flow out from that person’s heart, as the Scripture says.” Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit. The Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet been raised to glory. But later, those who believed in Jesus would receive the Spirit. (NCV)

Jesus spoke these words at the end of the Feast of Tabernacles, which celebrated the miracle of the rock that gave water to Moses and his people. Read that story in Exodus 17:1–7.

- What is the significance of Jesus’ saying these words during a festival that commemorated this miracle?
 - If you had been in the crowd that day and were familiar with the miracle during Moses’ time, what would you have thought of Jesus’ words?
 - What does “living water” symbolize?
- ### 4. Max points out the significance of these words: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink” (v. 37).
- According to this passage who is invited to come to Jesus and drink?
 - What promise does this give you?
 - Do you feel a spiritual thirst for anything in your life right now? If so, for what?

- How have you tried to quench this thirst?
 - According to this passage whom should we go to in order to quench our thirst?
 - In what ways can Jesus uniquely quench our spiritual thirst?
5. Next Jesus said, “If anyone believes in me, rivers of living water will flow out from that person’s heart” (v. 38 NCV).
- What did Jesus mean by this?
 - Max says when the Spirit flows out of Christ followers, “We refresh. We soothe. We soften. The Holy Spirit flows out of us into the dry places of the world.” Has the Spirit ever worked through you in this way? If so, what was the result?
 - Or have you ever experienced the Spirit from someone else in this way? If so, how did the Spirit’s flowing out of this person affect you?
6. Max says the Spirit flowing out of us can lead to revival. What would it look like in your community or city if every Christ follower in that area allowed the Holy Spirit to flow out of them? What would change?
- What prevents us from letting the Spirit flow out of us?
 - Can you imagine a Cane Ridge type of revival happening today in your city? Explain your answer.
 - What prayers do you have for your city?
 - What role could you play in making these prayers a reality for your community?

7. Max wrote a short prayer at the end of this chapter: *God, please release living water upon and through your children. Let us be sources of life and love everywhere we go. We want to be useful servants.* How could you be a source of life and love everywhere you go today?

Speak Up

The Spirit As Tongues of Fire

1. At the beginning of this chapter, we met a new Peter, one who was bold and preaching the good news during Pentecost. Read Acts 2:14, 38–39:

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. . . . Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” (NIV)

- What three things did Peter do in verse 14?
- How would you describe the tone of his words to the crowd?

2. Read what Peter did after Passover and before Jesus' crucifixion (Luke 22:54–62).
 - How would you describe Peter in this passage?
 - How does his behavior in Luke 22 compare to his behavior in Acts 2?
 - In your faith right now do you feel more like a Passover Peter or a Pentecost Peter? Why?
3. Do you know anyone who has a strong Pentecost faith like Peter's? If so, what qualities does this person have?
 - What makes this person's faith strong and courageous as Peter's was on that Pentecost?
 - How would you answer Max's question about Pentecost Peter: "What's gotten into Peter?"
4. Read Acts 2:2–6:

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

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

- How did the Spirit arrive?
- What did the Spirit look like?
- Whom did the Spirit fill?

- What did the Spirit enable the people who were gathered that day to do?
 - Why is it significant that this act of the Spirit occurred in Jerusalem on Pentecost?
 - How many nations were represented in the house that day?
 - What does this story tell you about the power of the Holy Spirit?
 - What does it tell you about those the Spirit can work through?
5. In Acts 2:12 witnesses of this event of the Spirit asked, “Whatever could this mean?” (NKJV). How would you answer this question?
6. Have you ever felt at a loss for words when sharing your faith? Or have you ever regretted not speaking up about your faith?
- If so, what kept you silent, or why was it difficult to find the words you wanted to say?
 - What does the story of Pentecost tell us about sharing our faith with others?
 - Who has shared their faith with you?
 - What words did they use?
 - What do you think made them able to share their belief with you?
7. Max shares the stories of three ordinary people who experienced profound conversions that they then shared with others: Brenda Jones, Antenor Goncalves (and his father), and Max’s high school friend Mike. Of these three stories which one resonated with you the most, and why?

- What did all three people have in common?
- How did they share their faith experiences in different ways?
- What impact did their sharing have on others?
- What does this tell you about the different ways the Spirit can use us to share God with our neighbors?
- How could the Spirit use you? Do you like to share your faith with people one-on-one like Brenda, by preaching like Antenor, or through your actions like Mike?

8. What is an Ebenezer?

- Do you have any Ebenezers in your life? If so, what are they, and why are these significant moments for you?
- Do you feel called to share your story of faith with someone in your life or through the work of writing or teaching? If you do, with whom do you want to share your story, and how could you tell this person or group of people about your Ebenezer?
- If you are hesitant to share your faith story, how could this Ebenezer embolden you to do so?

You Unleashed

The Spirit As the Gift Giver

1. What did you know about spiritual gifts before reading this chapter?
 - Do you have any spiritual gifts? If so, what are they, and when did you realize these were gifts?
 - If you're not very familiar with the idea of spiritual gifts, is this something you'd like to explore? What questions do you have?
2. Max references five passages that list gifts of the Spirit: 1 Corinthians 12:8–10; 1 Corinthians 12:28–30; Romans 12:6–8; Ephesians 4:11–12; and 1 Peter 4:10–11. Read these passages, and list every gift they mention.

- How many different gifts of the Spirit do you find here?
 - Which gifts on these lists do you think you have?
 - Do you consider some gifts more important than others? If so, which ones, and why?
3. Fill in the blanks: “The presence of gifts requires the _____ to use them _____.”
- How could someone use a spiritual gift in an unwise or immature way?
 - Have you or someone you know ever misused a spiritual gift? If so, what was the result?
 - What is the danger of misusing a spiritual gift?
4. What is the difference between a natural talent and a spiritual gift?
- What are some of your natural talents?
 - What are your spiritual gifts?
 - Do you use any of your natural talents for God’s purpose? If so, how? If not, can you imagine a way to do this?
5. What are the discerning gifts?
- Do you or someone you know have one of these gifts?
 - If you have a discerning gift, how has this gift been helpful in your spiritual life?
 - Or if you’ve encountered someone with a discerning gift, has that person’s gift blessed your spiritual journey? If so, how?

6. What are the dynamic gifts?
 - Do you or someone you know have one of these gifts?
 - If you have a dynamic gift, how has this gift been helpful in your spiritual life?
 - Or if you've encountered someone with a dynamic gift, have that person's gifts blessed your spiritual journey? If so, how?
7. What are the declarative gifts?
 - Do you or someone you know have one of these gifts?
 - If you have a declarative gift, how has this gift been helpful in your spiritual life?
 - Or if you've ever encountered someone with a declarative gift, have that person's gifts blessed your spiritual journey? If so, how?
8. Max shares his story of receiving the gift of speaking in tongues despite having mixed feelings and thoughts about this gift at times in his ministry. Are you hesitant about or skeptical of any gifts? If so, which ones, and why?
 - Has what you learned in this chapter affected or changed those hesitations? If so, how?
 - Perhaps you have a long history with or a deep belief in spiritual gifts. If so, how has this chapter encouraged you in that part of your spiritual journey?
9. Max quotes a professor of theology who talked about little-godders and big-godders.
 - What is a little-godder?
 - What is a big-godder?
 - Considering the state of your faith today, would you consider yourself a little-godder or a big-godder, and why?

10. Answer the two questions Max poses toward the end of this chapter:

- What would happen if each believer identified and employed his or her Spirit-given gifts?
- What if each of us operated according to the prompting and provision of the Spirit?

Breath on Bones

The Spirit As Breath

1. In this chapter Max talks about the vision of the dry bones in Ezekiel 37. Read the passage below:

“God’s Spirit took me up and set me down in the middle of an open plain strewn with bones. He led me around and among them—a lot of bones! There were bones all over the plain—dry bones, bleached by the sun.” (vv. 1–2

THE MESSAGE)

- Ezekiel saw dry bones and felt hopeless. Are there any “dry bones” in your life that give you a sense of hopelessness? What are they?
- Strikingly, God invited Ezekiel to invite his Spirit. How does he do the same with you?

2. Read Ezekiel 37:4–6:

Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

Read verses 7–8:

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them.

- What happened to the dry bones when Ezekiel prophesied over them?
- What didn’t happen to the bones?

3. Read Ezekiel 37:9–10:

Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

- What happened to the bodies when Ezekiel prophesied to the breath?
 - What does the breath represent?
 - Where did the breath come from?
 - What role does breath play in our bodies?
 - What does this tell you about the vital nature of the Holy Spirit?
4. What role did Ezekiel play in bringing the dry bones back to life? What does this tell you about the role we play in bringing our dry bones back to life?
5. Read John 20:19–23:

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

- How did Jesus give the disciples the Holy Spirit?
- What is significant about how Jesus gave the disciples the Spirit?
- What does this tell you about how and when God will give you his Spirit?

- Have you allowed God to give you his Spirit as a gift? Why or why not?
 - If you have, how have you experienced the Spirit as a gift?
 - If you haven't, what is holding you back from receiving the Spirit?
6. Think about the dry parts of your life you talked about in question one. What would those dry bones look like if they were to come to life?
- Have you asked the Spirit to breathe on these dry areas of your life? Why or why not?
 - Imagine your dry “bones” reviving and becoming vibrant. How would your life be different by partnering with the Spirit in this way?
7. Perhaps you are the one who feels dry. As Max says, “Are you weary? Inhale him. Is stress mounting? Inhale him. Does fear threaten to suck you out to sea? Take a deep breath of life.” Take a deep breath right now. As you do, ask the Holy Spirit to breathe life into every dry bone in your body, and trust that the Spirit can give you new life.