

DML921 Following in Step with the Spiritual Mentors

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LE 3 Engaging the Holy Spirit in Believers

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Course Title: Living in and through the Holy Spirit

This course is made up of talks/lessons and labs/small groups, which are designed to help believers develop a relationship with the Spirit of God so that they may become the best versions of themselves in Christ. The context for this curriculum is the local church, and the participants pool would be Christians who long for a deeper connection with and reliance on the Holy Spirit. This course consists of seven teaching sessions over fourteen weeks; lessons and labs will alternate every other week. Therefore, each week following a lesson would be a two to three hour lab to process and practice what was taught the previous week. This format or a variation of it could be utilized as early as this summer in my local church, River Church, since we are reading and processing *River Dwellers*.

There are numerous impactful books on the seven lessons of this course which believers could benefit from. However, I have referenced the ones that I think would be the most beneficial for laypeople in my annotated bibliography. I believe that most Christians who have not been to seminary would find it quite difficult to read eight or nine books in a few months. Therefore, I have chosen five books to focus on. The class will read *Forgotten God* and *River Dwellers* in their entirety and will also reflect on a few chapters of *Soul Care*, *Joy Unspeakable*, and *Mansions of the Heart*.

In preparation for the course and the first lesson on the Holy Spirit, the participants will be asked to read, *Forgotten God* by Francis Chan, since it is a foundational book on who the Holy Spirit is and why He is often neglected in the church. They will also be asked to reflect and meditate on John 14:15-27, and they will write a two-page paper on what was most impactful from *Forgotten God*, as well as a one-page paper on John 14 prior to the first class.

Week 1: Lesson 1

A. Who is the Holy Spirit

“I realized how ludicrous it would be for anyone to say that they were going to explain the Holy Spirit. The Bible says we cannot fully understand God, and I am certainly not the exception to that rule. There are things about God that are mysterious and secret, things we will never know about Him. But there also are things revealed, and those belong to us.”

(Chan 65)

1. The Holy Spirit is a Person.

The Holy Spirit is not an It; He is a Person in the fullest sense of the word, since all people are made in the image of the Triune God.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19 NIV)

2. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity. God is a triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Three Persons in One God.

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:26 NIV)

“To God’s elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:” (1 Peter 1:1-2 NIV)

“God is not like anything. He is incomprehensible, incomparable, and unlike any other being. He is outside our realm of existence and thus, outside our ability to categorize Him. While analogies may be helpful in understanding certain aspects of Him, let’s be careful not to think that our analogies in any way encapsulate His nature.” (Chan 66)

3. The Holy Spirit understands and intercedes for us.

“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.”

(Romans 8:27 NIV)

4. Holy Spirit has emotions.

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30 NIV)

“Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy

and he himself fought against them.” (Isaiah 63:10 NIV)

5. Holy Spirit has His own will.

“All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.” (1 Corinthians 12:11 NIV)

6. Since the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, He is all powerful, all knowing, and everywhere at the same time.

- B. Why is He the least understood Person in the Trinity?

1. He is Spirit.

“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

(John 4:24 NIV)

Since the Holy Spirit is non-corporal, He is difficult for most people to comprehend.

2. Human fear of the unknown.

People fear what we do not know nor understand readily.

C. What are the main roles of the Holy Spirit?

1. Spirit helps us to know and experience Christ

“A sure sign of the Holy Spirit’s working is that Christ is magnified, not people.” (Chan 87)

2. Spirit convicts the world of sin.

“And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:8 NASB)

3. Holy Spirit helps resist the flesh.

“¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh ^(a)sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you ^(b)please. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.” (Galatians 5:16-19 NIV)

4. Holy Spirit crucifies the flesh

“Now those who ^(c)belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Galatians 5:24 NIV)

5. Spirit enables Christ to dwell within believers

“¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the ^(m)saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:16-19 NIV)

6. Spirit glorifies Christ and makes Him known.

“¹³ But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.” (John 16:13-14 NIV)

7. Spirit brings us into God's family

“¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.^(t) And by him we cry, “*Abba,*^(g) Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” (Romans 8:14-17 NIV)

8. Spirit brings freedom “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” (2 Corinthians 3:17 NIV)

9. Spirit brings supernatural power to the Church Acts 1:8; 1 Cor 12

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

“⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.^[b] ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-11 NIV)

Week 2: Lab 1

Reflect and discuss in small groups how the following passages apply to you.

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

(2 Corinthians 3:17 NIV)

“For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God^[a] gives the Spirit without limit.” (John 3:34 NIV)

“In the same way, 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.” (Romans 8:26 NIV)

“⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[a] gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You^[b] must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” (John 3:6-8 NIV)

“² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you^[a] free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh,^[b] God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.^[c] And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.” (Romans 8:2-6 NIV)

During Week 2 participants would be asked to read and pray through the first chapter of River Dwellers and chapter five and six of Joy Unspeakable in preparation for Lesson 2 on the Baptism of the Spirit.

Week 3: Lesson 2

A) What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

“I baptize you with^[a] water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with^[b] the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matthew 3:11 NIV)

The fire of the Holy Spirit brings God’s manifest presence and illumines.

“³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”^[a] ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.” (John 7:37-39)

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is an immersion from within and without and refreshes thirsty souls.

B) Evidences of the Spirit’s Power in Believers:

1. Power to Witness:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 NIV)

“Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 13:11 NIV)

2. Power to Minister: Healing, Prayer, Counsel

“⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.” (Acts 4:8-10)

3. Power to Love

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love,” (Galatians 5:22 NIV)

4. Power to Prophecy

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.” (Acts 2:17 NIV)

5. Power of Conviction and Confession

“In Joel 2, right before the promise of the outpouring of the Spirit, there is a call to repentance. “‘Even now,’ declares the Lord, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.’ Rend your heart and not your garments.” (Joel 2:12).

Repentance prepares the way for fresh encounters with God. Sin blocks the flow of the Spirit in our lives. We must repent from our sins, and humble ourselves and pray for the Spirit to move afresh.” (Reimer 43)

6. Power of Transformation

“We will never know the power of God unless we risk it all for the gospel. (Reimer 46 quoting Francis Chan)

Week 4: Lab 2

Seek the Lord for more of His Spirit

“For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.” (John 3:34 NIV)

Meditate and seek the Lord in prayer to be filled with His Spirit. Praise and worship Him for He is worthy!

“Do not get drunk on wine... Instead, be filled with the Spirit,” (Ephesians 5:18 NIV)

Journal what the Lord is showing you about His Spirit. Worship Him

During Week 4 participants will read and reflect on the second chapter of River Dwellers “The River Rises: Prophecy” (Reimer 53) in preparation for the lesson on Communication with the Spirit

Week 5: Lesson 3

A. Communicating with and through the Spirit

1. Whispers

“The Spirit guides your thoughts; it is a whisper of the Spirit. Many of the ancient writers referred to this as ‘the still small voice of God,’ referencing Elijah’s encounter with the whisper of God in 1 Kings 19...Often the Spirit tries to reveal to us that someone is in need of prayer or a helping hand, but we are too busy to notice or too unaware that it is God gently tapping us on the shoulder.” (Reimer 97)

2. Audible Voice

“³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” (Acts 9:3-4 NIV)

3. Visions/Dreams

“In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered. (Acts 9:10)

4. Physical and Emotional Communication

“When the Holy Spirit convicts us, there is often an accompanying reaction – for example, we may feel unsettled, or uneasy, or our inner peace may be disturbed. This is part of the conviction of the Spirit. He makes us uncomfortable, and we can feel it. He isn’t doing it to make us feel bad; He does it to get us back into alignment.” (Reimer 63)

5. Words in the ‘mind’s eye”

“Sometimes the Spirit speaks by giving us a word in our mind’s eye. We can see the word in our mind and read it.” (Reimer 66)

6. “The Knower”

“The Holy Spirit speaks to our spirit, and we know something we would not otherwise have known. We don’t see anything or hear anything or feel anything...All of a sudden, we just know something.” (Reimer 68)

B. Testing prophecies

“¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good,” (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 NIV)

1. Interpreting the Word

“After we have received a word, then we need to interpret the word. Many mistakes in the prophetic are made during the interpretation process. We need to approach interpretation humbly, just as we must be humble about receiving a word.” (Reimer 71)

2. Delivering the Word

“When we receive words for someone else, it’s important to learn how to deliver the word in a way which honors God and edifies the person.” (Reimer 73)

“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. ² For anyone who speaks in a tongue^[a] does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. ³ But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.” (1 Corinthians 14:1-3 NIV)

3. Preparation to Hear the Spirit: Stillness, Removing Barriers/Distractions

“If we are going to hear God’s voice distinctly, we must make sure all barriers are removed. Isaiah 59:2 says, ‘Your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you.’ Sin hides God’s face from us. Sin separates us from God. We know what to do with sin – we must admit it, confess it, and repent over it.”

(Reimer 79)

Week 6: Lab 3

Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to each participant during the Lab Time

Meditate and pray “Give us eyes to see and ears to hear” (Proverbs 20:12 NIV)

Practicing the principles of listening and living in His Spirit from Lesson 3

During Week 6 participants will be asked to read and meditate on chapter 3 of River Dwellers, “Living in the River” (Reimer 87) in preparation for Lesson 4 Daily Dependence on the Spirit

Week 7: Lesson 4

A. Daily Living in and through the Spirit

1. Living Water Thirst

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink” (John 7:37 NASB)

Different ways people are thirsty: physically, emotionally, spiritually

2. Cultivating God's Presence

"If we are going to become full-time River Dwellers, then we must cultivate God's presence." (Reimer 91)

"There is a big difference between God's omnipresence and His manifest presence. Sometimes His presence is manifested; it is revealed or made known. The manifest presence of God cannot be missed. It can be misunderstood and mislabeled, and it often is, but it will always be noticed." (Reimer 92)

3. Manifestations of His Presence

"Sometimes there are significant manifestations of God's presence. Sometimes when the Spirit comes upon someone, there is a bodily reaction; the person has a visible manifestation of the Spirit's presence. In Acts 13:52, we read 'the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.'" (Reimer 96)

4. How to test manifestations

"Just as we need to test words humbly, we should also test manifestations. Not everything is from God, but just because it is outside of your experience, doesn't mean it is from the evil one, either. Sometimes manifestations are from God, sometimes they are human, and sometimes they are demonic." (Reimer 99)

B. Practicing the Presence of God

1. Scripture meditation

"¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV)

2. Worship – corporate and personal

3. Prayer - including praying the prayers of the Bible

“The discipline of praying Scriptures, especially the Psalms has helped me to process my emotions, surrender my heart to God, and get into the River.” (Reimer 104)

4. Solitude

“I am intentionally pausing my busy day to be in His presence. This pause not only allows me to adjust and get back into the River, but it allows me to move through my next sequence of events with greater awareness of the Spirit.” (Reimer 105)

5. Listening Prayer

“I practice listening prayer on a regular basis, and when God speaks, it is like a cup of Living Water quenching the thirst in my soul. Often when I listen in prayer, the Lord simply reminds me that He loves me.” (Reimer 106)

6. Spiritual Hunger

“Our spiritual hunger is a gift from God to draw us into the River, but far too often we don’t recognize this hunger as a spiritual tap on the shoulder by the Spirit of God.” (Reimer 107)

7. Silence

“Silence helps me to fix my attention on Jesus. It takes practice, because usually when I first come in silence, my mind is jumping all over the place. My to do list is screaming at me. Problems are present to me. I don’t give up; instead I keep turning my loving attention to Jesus, because I long for Him.” (Reimer 112)

Week 8: Lab 4

Begin with being still and meditating on “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10 NIV)

Then seek to remove the “static noise” of your daily routine by practicing the seven spiritual disciplines in Lesson 4.

During Week 8 participants will read and reflect on the obstacles of living in the Holy Spirit through the fourth and fifth chapters of River Dwellers.

Week 9: Lesson 5

Challenges to Living in the Spirit

A. Pull of the flesh

“¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.” (James 1:13-14 NIV)

B. Pull of the world

“¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father^(a) is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.” (1 John 2:15-16 NIV)

C. Pull of the enemy’s temptations

“in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.”

(2 Corinthians 2:11 NIV)

Living in the Light of the Spirit

A. Revealing Sin

“The Spirit of God shines light into our souls for three purposes: to reveal our sins, to reveal our secrets, and to increase our self-awareness. First, the Holy Spirit shines light into our life to reveal our sins. God doesn’t do this to condemn you. He shines light into your soul about your sin so you will repent.” (Reimer 126)

B. Revealing Secrets

“secrecy often still blocks us from God’s fullness – that was my experience in the story I told earlier about struggling with lust. Secrets become barriers to God’s presence.” (Reimer 131)

C. Need of self-awareness

“We will never rise above our level of self-awareness. If you are in the dark about something in your life, you cannot walk in victory over it.” (Reimer 134)

D. Do Not Quench the Spirit

“¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.”

(2 Thessalonians 5:19-20 NIV)

E. Do Not Grieve the Spirit

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30 NIV)

F. Guarding the Heart

“Proverbs 4:23 says, ‘Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.’ To guard our heart is to guard it from becoming hard. The soft, humble, contrite heart is essential for River Dwelling.” (Reimer 143)

Week 10: Lab 5

Reflect where you are being tempted by your flesh, by the world, and by the devil. Ask the Holy Spirit to illumine your heart and mind to draw closer to Christ because of His love for you.

Are there any unconfessed sin or secrets that are blocking your intimacy with the Lord?

Confess, share, and pray for one another as you dwell in the River of Life.

During Week 10 participants will read the seventh principle of Deliverance, Conclusion, and Addendum of Soul Care in preparation for the lesson on spiritual warfare.

Week 11: Lesson 6

Spiritual Warfare

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the

breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. (Ephesians 6:10-18 NIV)

- A. Demonization is allowing the spiritual enemy to influence our minds, hearts, spirits, and/or bodies by giving them ground or strongholds in our lives.
- B. Deliverance is the process in which demons are rebuked in the authority of Christ and the ground for their influence in people is broken through confession, and they experience freedom for spiritual oppression in the power of Jesus' name.
 - 1. Spiritual tests (Reimer, Soul Care, 253-258)
 - 2. Deliverance questions (Reimer, Soul Care, 258-261)

Week 12: Lab 6

Ask your cohort to go through a spiritual test with each another.

Address any spirits that manifest through deliverance in the authority of Jesus.

During Week 12 the participants will read chapter 9 of Mansions of the Heart, The Long Dark

Corridor: The Dark Nights of the Soul

Week 13: Lesson 7

A. What are the Dark Nights of the Soul/Spirit?

Dark Nights are extended periods of time where God's presence seems to be absent from believer's lives. It feels like prayers go unanswered, and there is little sense of God's intimacy.

"They are created by God as an essential part of our pilgrimage, occurring in the more mature years of our Christian journey toward a union of love with Him. The Dark Nights wrongly interpreted, have derailed many a maturing follower of Jesus." (Ashbrook, 150)

B. Why does God allow dark nights of the soul where the Spirit seems distant?

"In the same way that a warrior must be strengthened and equipped for battle, we who would pursue the union of love with God must be stripped of the weaknesses that cannot tolerate God's holiness, and be given a transformed heart that will love and trust God fully. For those of us willing to journey onward to the heart of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit leads us into the boot camp and vision quest of these Dark Nights." (Ashbrook 152)

Week 14: Lab/Worship

Share in your cohorts any dark nights members of the group might have experienced.

Discuss "How might you let God strengthen you today so that you can persevere if, someday, He hides Himself from you?" (Ashbrook, 168)

Then conclude the last two hours of this final lab with worship, full of praise and prayer

Bibliography

Ashbrook, R Thomas. *Mansions of the Heart: Exploring the Seven Stages of Spiritual Growth*.

San Francisco: Fortress Press Publishing, 2019

Mansions of the Heart was an eye-opening book that both transcends most devotional books by going to depths of the heart that most people are not even aware of. The examples given to highlight the developments of growth in the areas of spiritual disciplines were insightful. Ashbrook's perspectives on the Dark Night of the Spirit were particularly powerful and gives believers the framework to process what God is doing in and through that journey. Mansions of the Heart is a must read for Christians who want to grow in their ardor for the Lord.

Chan, Francis. *Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit*. Colorado Springs: David C.

Cook, 2009

Forgotten God was the first book that challenged my paradigm of the Holy Spirit. I knew the Spirit existed and that He was powerful, but I did not often experience His power or presence. However, after reading this book, I began looking for how the Holy Spirit was and is working in my life and situations. My sensitivity to His leading became heightened and my heart began to sense His inklings more often.

Fenelon, *Let Go*. Amberson, PA: Scroll Publishing Co., 2007

I have read *Let Go* more times than any other book, not because of its brevity, but because of its depth. Even though the chapters are short, usually one or two pages, I would read them over and over again in order for the truth of my need to deny myself to sink in my soul. The chapters on humility and death to self were powerful in shaping my heart to be ready for His Spirit's leading.

Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. *Joy Unspeakable: Power and Renewal in the Holy Spirit*. Wheaton: Shaw Books, 2000

Joy Unspeakable is a well thought out theological and experiential book that shares Lloyd-Jones' journey and growth in the Spirit. Coming from a reformed tradition myself, I found his discoveries to be similar to my own, and many of my thoughts and questions were addressed by *Joy Unspeakable*. His precise and yet honest reflections were refreshing and enriching to my soul. His chapters on seeking the Spirit were particularly encouraging.

Reimer, Rob. *Pathways to the King: Living a Life of Spiritual Renewal and Power*. Franklin, TN: Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2013

Pathways to the King was foundational for myself to understand and experience on how the Lord communicates through His Spirit. The stories that Rob shares gives insightful context to the principles and truths in his book. His exhortations to "practice" and strengthen the pathways to the

Lord were both convicting and uplifting. Rob's teaching on praise and worship were particularly helpful in seeing the priority of knowing and loving God first.

Reimer, Rob. Soul Care: Seven Transformational Principles for a Healthy Soul. Franklin, TN:

Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2016

Soul Care has been life changing for my life and ministry. It was the first book I read that shed light into areas of my soul that I had never had even reflected on. Because of its impact, Soul Care became the inspiration and resource for my doctoral dissertation. I really can't say enough of the insightful content and how the Holy Spirit worked in my life through Soul Care. The concluding chapter and addendum also gave me a framework to not only understand spiritual warfare in a practical way, but also to lead people out of spiritual oppression through deliverance.

Reimer, Rob. Spiritual Authority: Partnering with God to Release the Kingdom. Franklin, TN:

Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2020

Spiritual Authority is an encouraging book that lays a solid biblical foundation on the authority of Christ and how to utilize that authority in our battles with the flesh and the enemy. The chapter on expanding our intimacy was perspicacious in deepening the authority we have in Christ. I plan to read Spiritual Authority with a group of pastors this year so that we can apply Jesus' authority in our lives, families, and ministries.

Reimer, Rob. River Dwellers: Living in the Fullness of the Spirit. Franklin, TN:

Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2015

River Dwellers has truly been refreshing to my soul. I have read it at least four times in the past three years and it seems to get better and more insightful each time. I have felt the Lord's conviction as well as His love through meditating and praying through this book. The Holy Spirit put it on the hearts of the leaders of River Church to read, reflect, and apply it this summer. The chapters of this book reinforce why we call ourselves the River Church, and we want to grow in the depths of His Spirit in the years to come.