



Temptation and the Holy Spirit

By Wes Farrow

I was on the way to pick up my daughter when suddenly I heard a “WHAM” and felt my vehicle shake violently. Someone had crashed into the side of my car.

The other driver’s vehicle was in rough shape. The lack of a bumper made the damage to my car even worse. I immediately felt tempted by anger and fear. Angry that this man had been driving so irresponsibly. Fearful that he may not have insurance.

Taking a deep breath, I asked Jesus to provide me peace and wisdom. With my heart still beating quickly I asked the other driver to pull onto a side street and exchange information. To my surprise he was apologetic and humble. “Walter” was particularly worried about the consequences of his own mistake. His vehicle was now even more damaged than it was before the

accident. On top of that, Walter couldn’t find his insurance card and his phone was out of battery.

Still praying under my breath for patience, I offered to charge Walter’s phone with my charger. He continued to apologize profusely and call out to God for mercy. We took a moment to pray together.

As we talked more he revealed that he had some pending legal troubles including a charge of driving without insurance. My lesser self heard this and felt even more anger and fear. Yet somehow I also felt compassion and concern for this kind man.

After attempting to resolve the matter between the two of us, it became apparent that calling the police would be the responsible next step. I felt a

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INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

Growing in the Holy Spirit

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)

We live in the fulfillment of Ezekiel’s prophecy. Our life is all about the Spirit growing within us; a growth that goes through three deepening stages – purgative, illuminative, and unitive.

In the power of the Holy Spirit we are freed from sin (purgative), grow in understanding (illuminative) and become united with the divine will (unitive). It’s God’s heart and his Spirit coming alive in us. The Holy Spirit empowers us to share in the Trinity’s divine will to redeem all people and restore his creation.



Growing in the Holy Spirit draws us deeper into unity. Actively, letting the Spirit lead us, love through us, and continue the advancing of God’s Kingdom.

This month let us share with one another the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our ministry. Let us daily dedicate ourselves to this growth by surrendering our own will and letting God’s will define us.

April Reflections: Pages 2-4

REFLECTIONS WEEK 1

All In

By Richie Was

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity... (Ephesians 5:15-16)

I'm a man who goes all-in, no matter if it's sports, relationships, or my career. Yet, it took a difficult life event, and the continued work of the Holy Spirit, to lead me to commit my all to God.

God always stuck with me, but I didn't always put him first. That all changed when I suffered a health challenge that led me to leave my successful corporate jobs while I got my health in order. During this time, my family—which includes WorkLight founding member Cyril Rose—gathered to pray over me to receive more of the Holy Spirit into my life.

Several weeks later, while walking my dogs in the woods, the Holy Spirit rushed over to me and I fell to my knees. I told the Lord: I'm going to put you first now. Whatever you want to do with my life, I'm open.

I always had a sense that the Lord wanted me to be a leader in Christ. The support of brothers in Christ, united in the Holy Spirit and each seeking more of the Lord, helped me step more fully into that calling.

During the evening of the Holy Spirit event held in South Bend, Indiana, one of the men I was with received an image of a flame with me being fanned into a fire. I knew I had been holding in some of my ability to share the Holy Spirit with other people, but I was keeping it to myself. This image ignited something in me and gave me a direction going forward—to impact the world on a bigger level, spreading God's Word and helping more people.

The prayer night pushed me into the "all in" I had promised God.

Richie Was is the owner of the insurance agency and with his wife, Kelsey, they also co-founded a destination travel and wedding consulting firm. He can be reached at richie@kitchensinkit.com or rwas@healthmarkets.com.

PRAY

Lord, thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, and for the invitation to spread your Kingdom of renewal and restoration. Please give us boldness as we seek to serve you.

REFLECT

Do you make the most of every opportunity to put God first?

DISCUSS

Daily invite the Holy Spirit into your life more, and then share with one another over the next few weeks how you have seen him work.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

Growing in the Holy Spirit

Have you ever heard a soft quiet nudge toward goodness? Or perhaps a soft quiet inclination to step back and avoid temptation?

Since 1983 Christians in Commerce, now WorkLight, has been praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the workplace. This includes you, me, and all of God's children. Even for those who work from home or have retired from their career. If you are still on this Earth, God has good work for you to do.

Our focus on 500 igniters on Challenge Weekends by 2025 provides a particular opportunity for us all to grow in the Holy Spirit. But this is more of an open door than a final destination. Bridging between the mountaintop experience of a weekend into the hills and valleys of day-to-day life is critical. Let us come together in our stewardship of growth as we seek to bring the next generation onto Challenge Weekends through 1:1 relationships and into the local communities of Chapters and Small Groups.

This work doesn't happen through any one of us alone. By collaborating with the Holy Spirit we grow in our ability and capacity to build God's Kingdom. Each prayer and every relationship count.

As individuals our daily prayer time and study of the Bible brings us closer to the truth and light of Jesus. As we join with one another as a movement of the Holy Spirit, we are far stronger together than we could ever be on our own.

Where are you personally growing in the Holy Spirit? How might God be using your own spiritual development to connect with others in building his Kingdom in the workplace? Who might the Holy Spirit be leading you toward for prayer and a relationship?

With you in Christ,
Wes

REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

New Life

By David Mazanowski

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)

When I was convicted of an illegal business activity, I was left with lots of time to pray and reflect. Eventually, I ran out of words to pray. What I truly desired was a communion with God: to know him better. So, when my words ran out, I started leaning into the Holy Spirit.

Dealing with the aftermath of my poor decisions, I was expecting the Lord to deliver justice. But, as the Holy Spirit guided my prayer, I was led to a truer understanding of who God is.

I had gotten to a place where I could hear the Lord's voice speaking to me, and was conversing with him in a candid way. I asked God, "Are you going to take everything away from me?" I heard him sigh, and respond: "You don't understand me at all—I only want to take away from you the things that are killing you."

This changed my whole idea of God. I suddenly realized that for him, justice and mercy accomplish the same thing: removing impediments, in order to enable greater closeness.

Since then, the Holy Spirit has empowered me to follow the Lord's will in my business and personal life. We all want to change the world around us, making an impact on our family, friends, and coworkers. The Holy Spirit breathes life into situations—renewing, and opening new possibilities.

the Holy Spirit working through the writers of the Psalms long before the full revelation of God. All of scripture points to Jesus Christ. The authors of the Psalms didn't have our perspective. We look back at the Psalms through the eyes of the New Testament.

Recently, when reading Psalm 146, I was struck by its current relevance. It emboldened me by its faith and hope. "I will sing praises with my dying breath. Don't put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there ... joyful are those who hope in the Lord ... The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down. The Lord loves the godly. The Lord will reign forever ... throughout generations." (NLT)

The Spirit is adaptive, the Psalms are never old, they are always fresh because situations and circumstances are always changing. Jesus prayed these prayers. Holy men and women of God did as well. The Spirit uses them to align us with the divine will of our Triune God. They orientate my heart and transform me.

David Mazanowski is a board member of WorkLight. He lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, with his wife, Donna. He is the co-founder of Mainscape Inc., and can be reached at damazanowski@mainscape.com.

PRAY

Lord, thank you for your unending love and mercy toward us. Help us to live in a way that recognizes and shares your mercy.

REFLECT

What are some impediments or idols that are hindering your closeness with the Lord?

DISCUSS

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit work in your life?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

Growing with Psalms

By Steve Becker

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. (Colossians 3:16)

I cherish prayer time and several years ago, I decided to add five Psalms a day.

It's easy to do. Take the day, read the related Psalm and then do four more, picking them in increments of 30. (Psalms 1, 31, 61, 91, and 121 to start the month.) I use different Bible translations each month for variety. The key is reading them aloud and being attentive to how, in light of Jesus' teachings, it speaks into our present situation.

Culturally, things haven't gotten easier. I've begun to appreciate the power of

Steve Becker is on WorkLight's Board of Directors and is currently volunteering as the managing editor of The Flame newsletter and The Spark emails.

PRAY

Come Holy Spirit, bring to life for me in the divine power of Psalms. Open my eyes to the fullness of your truth as I join the communion of saints in saying them.

REFLECT

Choose a Psalm and recite it. Reflect on how it applies to your current situation.

DISCUSS

How have you viewed the Psalms in the past? How does this reflection challenge you to a new and different approach? What do you plan to do going forward?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 4

Discussions with God

By Ric Glover

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.” (John 10:27-28)

It was my first Challenge Weekend and my CIC brother Tim Rowland picked me up to give me a ride. I was a fairly well-formed Christian, or so I thought, but I know there is always room for growth, so I embraced the weekend.

I woke up early Saturday morning and took advantage of the quiet to read my Bible, but as I opened it, I could not actually read it. I walked around the library of the retreat center and examined the diverse selection of books, but returned to my Bible. Once again, I could not focus on it.

Soon, I was strongly drawn to a book, Yes, LORD! by Harold Bredesen. It starts with a man getting on a bus in New York City at 2:00 a.m. and he hears an internal voice saying, “Preach to the people on the bus.” He responds: “But Lord, I can’t. I’m a Lutheran minister and Lutheran ministers don’t preach on buses. ...”

As I continued reading, I got to a chapter where God reveals something to the minister, and to me. It was a vision of parched land and a large dam holding back water that would have made the area a beautiful garden. The only thing needed was for the minister to completely surrender to God. At that moment I knew why I was at the Challenge Weekend and I gave him an unqualified “Yes, LORD!”

God finds ways to speak to us even when we are not asking. It’s a journey where we hear his whispers at the most unusual times. He also reminds us that we do not need any skill or knowledge. We need him!

Ric Glover is currently the president of the Scottsdale, Arizona, Chapter and a member of the West Phoenix Men’s Chapter. He and his wife Cathy are members of the West Phoenix Coed Chapter. He can be reached at ricglover@gmail.com.

PRAY

Lord God, help me to surrender all of myself to you so that I may become an effective disciple.

REFLECT

How often has God asked us to complete a task or undertake an effort to build His Kingdom but our response is, “I don’t preach to the public on a bus in New York City.” What excuse do I have for not responding with “yes, Lord.”

DISCUSS

When God speaks to you do you recognize his voice? How do you respond?

SPOTLIGHT CHALLENGE WEEKENDS

Fresno Women’s Chapter

April 28-30
at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Three Rivers, California

In 2023 we are spotlighting one men’s and one women’s weekend for those open to traveling in order to come together in Christ.

Can’t make your local Challenge Weekend? Don’t live near a WorkLight Chapter? Curious to experience a Challenge Weekend with folks from other parts of the country? Here are two to consider for this purpose.

Learn more at

worklight.org/all-events/category/challenge-weekend/

Salinas Men’s Chapter

November 17-19
at Mission San Antonio De Padua in Jolon, California



More of the Lord

By Paula Lent

On January 17, men from the South Bend WorkLight chapter met together to ask the Holy Spirit to come more fully into their lives. While planning the event, the leaders had an insight: We want everyone to be set free from anything holding us back.

The night began with 57 men gathered together to worship God through song, with outstretched hands, and worship, including the gift of tongues. “It was great to see the majority of men with hands raised and singing,” says Jeff Walker. “It set the tone for prayer and hearing from God.” He notes that everyone came with an expectation that the Holy Spirit would answer their request for more. “There was a like-mindedness and kindred spirit. We all wanted to worship and see the Holy Spirit move.”

Afterwards, three items were shared and highlighted: vulnerability and the Holy Spirit’s ability to bring freedom, the call to go deeper with the Lord, and the gift that the Holy Spirit gives us to communicate with God on a more intimate level.

Lou Gionfriddo says he particularly appreciated Randy Raciti’s talk on “being in the Spirit—letting go and letting the Spirit take over.” He notes that Randy made the point that we can’t pick and choose where and how we want the Holy Spirit to be active in our lives, but that we have to be open to everything.

During the prayer time in small groups that followed, the men took turns laying hands on one another to pray for the Holy Spirit to speak his words into their lives, and for specific intentions.

“We all prayed together, and spoke words of knowledge that we received,” says Lou. “We prayed against any blockage, and for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The men had a true desire to bring the Holy Spirit into their lives more fully.”

“We received gifts of insights into each other’s needs and nobody disputed them. The men were grateful for the words that came. Eventually, they started asking for prayers for family members that were struggling. There was a level of trust and vulnerability involved—‘I trust in you to pray for me.’”

“There was a vulnerability that was able to happen that night that allowed for freedom,” Jeff says. “All apprehensiveness was left at the door. Part of my prayer request was to remove every weight and sin that so easily entangles us (Hebrews 12:1)—to break free of whatever hindrances I had in place.”

For several of the men, Jeff included, this involved a freedom and impetus to step more fully into where they had felt the Lord calling them.

“There’s been a difference in my life since then,” Jeff says. “I had been desiring to have more of a presence of the Holy Spirit and been already sensing beforehand that God was leading me into a direction of fanning a flame in my life. I believe he was trying to energize me in a new way this year.”

Paula Lent is a member of WorkLight’s Editorial Team and lives in South Bend, Indiana.

Temptation and the Holy Spirit

Continued from page 1

continuous nudge to be kind, patient, and compassionate. By the grace of God and some deep breaths, Walter and I talked through our options and eventually we agreed he would leave before the police came.

As he drove away, Walter’s front wheel almost fell off. Soon the police arrived and I was thankful for their support in the form of an official report. But they also informed me that I would likely be 100% liable for the damage to my car. My heart sank, but even as my mind calculated the repair costs, my heart felt somehow at peace.

The next day Walter surprised me by sharing that he had insurance coverage. Hallelujah! I contacted his insurance company and filed a claim. How easy it felt to praise God in that moment!

After a few weeks I still hadn’t heard the final approval from Walter’s insurance company to get my vehicle repaired. When I called, I learned the claim was denied. Walter didn’t have proper insurance coverage after all. Temptation toward anger and fear came back as strong as ever, but so did the opportunity to pray and give this up to Jesus.

I’ve continued to stay in contact with Walter and we are working through this together. We are both in a tough spot. But by praying together the Holy Spirit creates space for us to collaborate. Now that we are close to putting this behind us, I’ve invited Walter to WorkLight’s Challenge Weekend in Minnesota this May.

Through the ups and downs of this experience I was tempted over and over by anger and fear. Yet through prayer the Holy Spirit provided peace and compassion.

Wesley Farrow is president of WorkLight. He can be reached at wesley@worklight.org.



Always on the Lookout

By Greg Aitkens

Joe Blanco is always on the lookout for opportunities to grow in the Holy Spirit. These days, he parks cars at a casino four or five days per week and interacts with many people, especially his co-workers.

Larry is a co-worker in his mid-70s and has been married six times. He was regularly angry and unpleasant, and requested not to be on the same shift as Joe. For whatever reason, Larry did not like Joe, and Joe knew it.

But Joe requested that he be put on the same shift with this man, feeling called to help him. One day, Larry was visibly upset and shaken. Joe asked him what was wrong and Larry told him that his wife had left

him. Joe asked him if he could pray with him and Larry mentioned that no one had ever prayed with him before. They hugged and Joe asked Larry to follow along as he led him in the Sinner's Prayer. Larry received the Lord on the spot. Today, Larry and Joe are good friends.

Jolene is a security guard at the casino. One day, Joe was coming to work through a back entrance and was hassled and interrogated by Jolene. Joe thought she was showing off her authority unnecessarily and he was embarrassed and humiliated in front of others.

After this incident, Joe felt a lot of contempt for Jolene. He wondered

why he had been singled out for such rude behavior.

A few days later, Joe saw that Jolene was asleep in a chair at her post just before a huge event at the casino. He saw that her supervisor, who had a reputation for being tough and uncompromising, was on his way to check on things. Joe scrambled over to nudge her awake, and gave her some M&M's and water.

A few days later, Jolene saw Joe from a distance, and hurried over to thank him for saving her job and they hugged.

He learned that Jolene had been caring for two children, who are 5 and 7 years old, and had recently become their foster mom. She was regularly exhausted from working full-time at the casino and caring for two young children.

With his keen sense of discernment from the Holy Spirit, Joe has been able to speak the name of Christ on a daily basis to his fellow workers at a casino with 3,000 employees. He is building God's Kingdom as a long-standing member of WorkLight in the Phoenix, Arizona area.

Greg Aitkens is a member of the editorial team who lives in Cambria, California, with his wife Ginny. He can be reached at greg.r.aitkens@gmail.com.

WORKLIGHT

CHALLENGE WEEKEND

Awake the Dawn. Host a Weekend.

Free from pandemic restrictions, 2023 is our year for Challenge Weekends. Our National Conference introduced a new look and new resources. Schedule a weekend now so a new generation in your area can experience its power.

Learn more at WorkLight.org/Challenge-Weekends

"The night is over, the day is almost here." Romans 13:12



NEWS

CHALLENGE WEEKEND TOOLKIT

Have you checked out the new Challenge Weekend Toolkit? This resource was designed to do even more than help us toward 500 by 2025. It was made to unify us across the country in our efforts and activities. The new Eventbrite page streamlines and simplifies registration. An all-volunteer resource team stands ready from coast-to-coast with years of expertise in weekend administration, music, worship, outreach, and more. The Coworker Challenge helps connect the mountaintop experience of a weekend with the hills and valleys of day-to-day life. Learn more at <https://worklight.org/challenge-weekends/cwetoolkit/>.

WORKLIGHT REMOTE SMALL GROUP

Every Tuesday from 9:00–11:00 a.m. Pacific time, brothers in Christ gather via Zoom for our weekly WorkLight Remote Small Group. Everyone is welcome, from re-igniters to igniters. Contact bryan@worklight.org for meeting details.

WEEKLY PRAYER CALLS

Looking to start and/or end your workweek with Jesus? Join us on

Mondays at 7:15 a.m. Pacific time and Fridays at 8:30 a.m. Pacific time for 15 minutes of prayer at 612-699-2818. No passcode required.

DID YOU KNOW?

As a U.S.-based ministry, our focus of 500 igniters by 2025 is most active in California, Arizona, Minnesota, Indiana, and Virginia. But did you know that there is also a history of Challenge Weekends outside the USA? If you think you know which other countries have experienced the power of a Challenge Weekend, let us know by sending your answer to communications@worklight.org.

JOHN MOONEY MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN AND FOUNDERS IGNITER FUND

Thanks be to God and a generous gift from a longtime donor, the John Mooney Memorial Campaign is now almost halfway toward the goal of raising \$200,000. Hallelujah! Please join us in prayer for the next major donor who is meant to help us reach the next generation with this movement of the Holy Spirit.



UPCOMING CHALLENGE WEEKENDS

Salinas Men's Chapter

- April 28–30 at Mission San Antonio De Padua in Jolon, California

Fresno Women's Chapter

- April 28–30 at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Three Rivers, California

Minneapolis–St. Paul Men's Chapter

- May 5–7 at Dunrovin Retreat Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

Phoenix Men's and Women's Chapters

- May 6–7 at St. Helen's Catholic Church in Glendale, Arizona

Salinas Men's Chapter

- November 17–19 at Mission San Antonio De Padua, Jolon, California

Check out these events and more at <https://worklight.org/events/>.

LOOKING TO PLUG IN?



Here's two ways to plug into WorkLight no matter where you are:

WORKLIGHT REMOTE MEN'S SMALL GROUP

Every Tuesday from 9:00–11:00 AM PST
Contact bryan@worklight.org for details.

WEEKLY WORKLIGHT PRAYER CALLS

Mondays at 7:15 – 7:30 AM PST;
Fridays at 8:30 – 8:45 AM PST
Call 612-699-2818. No passcode required.

2023

APRIL

*"I have been crucified
with Christ and I no
longer live, but Christ
lives in me."*

Galatians 2:20

THE FLAME

WORKLIGHT PRAYER

Father,

*Fill us with your Holy Spirit
that we may be made new
and bring the presence of Christ into all we do;
That we may grow in love for you, and for all;
That we may be humble and wise stewards of your creation;
That we may bring your light into our workplaces;
That we may lead all to unity in you;
Through Jesus, our Lord.*


Amen

VISION Being Christ in the workplace

MISSION To encourage and equip Christians to be God's presence in the workplace by the power of the Holy Spirit, exercising faith, integrity, and excellence

VALUES Christians in Commerce (DBA WorkLight) is an ecumenical organization committed to:

- Growing and being transformed in Jesus Christ
- Manifesting the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Building strong brotherhood and sisterhood
- Serving God and expanding his Kingdom in all aspects of our lives

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