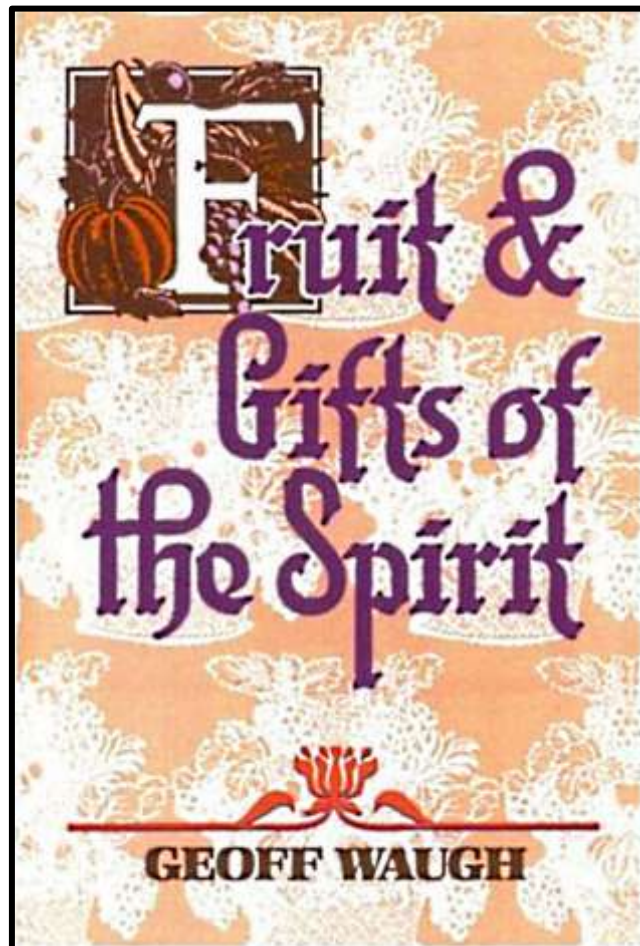


Fruit and Gifts of the Spirit



Geoff Waugh

Copyright © Geoff Waugh, 2014

See details on www.renewaljournal.com
Including free PDF books

Amazon: **ISBN** 978-1439255476

Renewal Journal Publications

www.renewaljournal.com

PO Box 2111, Mansfield, Brisbane, Qld, 4122

Australia



Logo: lamp & scroll,
basin & towel,
in the light of the cross

Contents

Introduction

Part I - Fruit of the Spirit

- 1. The Spirit of Jesus**
- 2. Fruit of the Spirit**
- 3. Fruit of the vine**
- 4. Fruit and growth**
- 5. Fruit and gifts**
- 6. The way of love**

Part II - Gifts of the Spirit

- 1. God gives - we receive**
- 2. Gifts to serve in power**
- 3. Gifts to motivate us**
- 4. Gifts to minister in unity**
- 5. Gifts to manifest the Spirit**
- 6. Gifts to use in love**

Appendix 1: GIFTS CHECK LIST

Appendix 2: BOOKS

Introduction

These studies are introductory. They help you to understand the issues and how God imparts Christ's life to us through the Holy Spirit within us.

The six sessions on Fruit of the Spirit explore the fruit or harvest of God's Spirit in our lives. The six sessions on Gifts of the Spirit examine the place of spiritual gifts in the church, the body of Christ.

Although these studies are for small groups you can also complete them on your own as a personal study.

Each of these studies follows the Serendipity style of small group sharing. Most of the work is done in small groups of three or four people. That gives everyone an opportunity to interact with others in a personal way.

The scripture passages are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. In your own preparation or personal study you can gain further insights by comparing them with other translations.

Each study has three parts:

- (1) Introduction / 10-15 minutes
- (2) Relational Bible Study / 30-40 minutes
- (3) Application / 10-15 minutes

If you have more than one hour available you can take a little longer on the study, especially on the Application.

Expect God's Spirit to guide and help you. The Holy Spirit is present in your lives and in your group experience. The Spirit comes in love and compassion, as Jesus did, for God has given us the Spirit of his Son (Galatians 4:6).

[Back to Contents](#)

Part I - Fruit of the Spirit

Study 1 The Spirit of Jesus

Goal: To examine our inheritance as those to whom God the Father has given the Spirit of his Son.

Introduction

This first study examines the astounding claim that every Christian is a child of God and heir to all he has for us - the most privileged position. In Paul's day the heir received everything. Slaves, peasants, and tenants had little or nothing. This radical passage shouts the liberation of all the oppressed. We are set free from slavery and made heirs of all God has for us all in Jesus Christ by his Spirit.

We can remain ignorant of our inheritance and live without it affecting our lives. On the other hand we can know what we have inherited, both with our minds and in our experience.

Knowing who we are and what we have as God's children can change everything. We live differently, alive in the Spirit of God, living and serving as Jesus did.

Relationship building:

When were you first really interested in knowing about God or knowing Jesus personally? Take a minute to tick the list then comment in groups of four.

- can't remember
- as a small child
- in primary school
- in high school
- after school years
- when I met _____
- at home
- at a camp
- in church
- when invited to this group
- today

Relational Bible Study - Our Inheritance

Read the passage, then move into groups of three or four. Comment on the first question for 5 minutes by each person giving their response in turn. Then reflect on your responses briefly. Repeat the process for the other questions.

When you come to the Application, slow down and let each person explain their story. Save time at the end for prayer.

My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

(Galatians 4:1-7)

1. Which of the following statements about the passage indicates your attitude? (Tick one or more)

- a. it's beyond me
- b. wow!
- c. put it on hold
- d. tell me more
- e. count me in
- f. I'm confused
- g. brilliant
- h. I get it
- i. not relevant to me
- j. count me in

2. If you were a slave offered freedom and an inheritance, how do you think you would you act? (Tick one or more)

- a. think it through
- b. stay put
- c. go for it
- d. play it safe
- e. celebrate
- f. haven't a clue
- g. depends on circumstances
- h. take it and work to free others
- i. get even

3. What does being a slave to the elemental spirits of the world mean for you? (Tick some)

- a. live for self
- b. power and status
- c. work for money
- d. ignore God

- e. spend beyond income
- f. get more things
- g. look out for number one
- h. build for security
- i. have fun
- j. other?

4. According to this passage, why do you think God sent Jesus? (Tick one or more)

- a. so we can have Christmas
- b. to free us from slavery
- c. it's beyond me
- d. to give us our rights
- e. for family reunion
- f. to start again

5. According to this passage, why do you think God sent the Spirit? (Tick some)

- a. because we belong to him
- b. we share his life
- c. to confuse us
- d. it's our inheritance
- e. for family reunion
- f. so the Trinity works
- g. to be in us
- h. so we know our Father
- i. to make us his own
- j. it's the Spirit of Jesus in us

6. What difference does having the Spirit of God's Son make in our lives, as you see it?
(Tick the most appropriate)

- a. we learn to say Abba
- b. we know God as Father
- c. we know Jesus personally
- d. we know the Holy Spirit
- e. we have Jesus in us
- f. we inherit eternal life
- g. we are heirs of the Father
- h. we are joint heirs with Jesus
- i. we are children of God
- j. we belong to one family

Application

On the basis of these passages it is clear that God gives us the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit of Jesus. How does this happen?

Some, or all of the people in your small group could comment on their own story of believing and receiving. Remember each story is unique, as in the Bible.

You could conclude with prayer in your small group.

[*Back to Contents*](#)

Study 2 Fruit of the Spirit

Goal: To examine the result or fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

Introduction

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus, God's Son. So the result of having the Spirit in our lives is that we have Jesus in us. That shows! The fruit or harvest of the Spirit is seen in the characteristics of Jesus present in us - even though limited, because we are limited.

At times our sinful nature shows through! However, God has provided a way for us to grow Christ-like. We have the Spirit of Christ in us. He lives in us. We can yield ourselves to him more and more fully.

Then the Christ-like qualities of the Spirit's life in us are seen more fully and clearly. In Galatians, chapter 5, Paul describes the contrast between our sinful nature and the Spirit's life in us.

Relationship building:

What impresses you most about the life of Jesus on earth? Discuss this in small groups of four people.

Some examples:

- love and compassion
- purpose and single mindedness
- unswerving obedience
- close fellowship with the Father
- acceptance of all kinds of people
- power to meet needs
- purity and honesty
- consistent leadership
- self-sacrificing service
- peace amid pressure
- his sheer brilliance
- other?

Relational Bible Study - Christ-likeness

Read the passage together. Then work in groups of three or four by responding personally to each question in turn and then commenting on your response. Then move on to the next question and repeat the process.

Make sure you leave at least 15 minutes for the Application.

Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

(Galatians 5:19-26)

1. What is your reaction to this passage? (Tick a few)

- a. heavy
- b. up to date
- c. beyond me
- d. disturbing
- e. there's hope
- f. convicting
- g. not interested
- h. right on
- i. too pious
- j. help!

2. What is the lifestyle of those who belong to Christ Jesus? (Tick some)

- a. be a monk
- b. quit sin
- c. condemn pagans
- d. stay clean
- e. enjoy life
- f. celebrate freedom
- g. be like Jesus
- h. preach at sinners
- i. be led by the Spirit

3. Why is there conflict within us? (Tick those most relevant to you)

- a. we get tempted, and sin
- b. no one's perfect
- c. we're selfish
- d. we may resist the Spirit
- e. holiness isn't automatic
- f. change is never easy

4. How is this conflict resolved? (Tick some)

- a. live by the Spirit
- b. give up
- c. let go and let God
- d. ignore it
- e. choose God's way
- f. resist sinful desires
- g. live in the desert
- h. follow Jesus
- i. let the Spirit control us

5. How does the fruit of the Spirit relate to the nature of Jesus? (Tick those most significant for you)

- a. it describes Jesus
- b. it's the Spirit of Jesus
- c. Jesus and the Spirit are one
- d. God is just like that
- e. it portrays Jesus' character

6. How does the fruit of the Spirit relate to our lives? (Tick some)

- a. the Spirit reproduces Jesus' life in us
- b. it's too unrealistic for us
- c. it's normal Christian living
- d. the Spirit's life transforms ours
- e. God does it in us
- f. it's the best way to live

Application

1. Rate yourself on the fruit of the Spirit. Note the two or three in which you are strongest and share this with your small group. Comment on the strongest aspects of the fruit of the Spirit's work in each person's life in your small group. Finish with prayer thanking God for this evidence of his work in your lives.

love 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

joy 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

peace 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

patience 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

kindness 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

generosity 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

faithfulness 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

gentleness 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

self-control 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

[Back to Contents](#)

Study 3 Fruit of the vine

Goal: To examine the significance of remaining united to Christ for the fruit of his Spirit to be seen in our lives.

Introduction

Jesus wants us to bear fruit. He used the vivid illustration of the vine and the branches. Just as life flows from the vine into the branches, so the life of God flows into us. When that happens we bear fruit; we show evidence of the Spirit's life in us.

The passage from John 15 in this study forms part of Jesus intimate discussion with his disciples on that eventful last night with them before he was betrayed, arrested, tortured and executed. Much of that deep personal sharing related to the coming of the Holy Spirit after Jesus was to leave his friends.

Jesus pointed out that his life would be in them through the Holy Spirit. In that context he urged them to remain united closely to him as the branches are joined to the vine and draw life from the vine.

Relationship building:

If Jesus were physically present with you in some of your current situations, what do you think he might do?

Remember his attitudes and actions which may be relevant to your situation. These can include:

- washing the disciples feet
- feeding the hungry
- healing the sick
- accepting the outcasts
- opposing religious bigotry
- forgiving sin
- challenging priorities
- demonstrating the kingdom of God

Relational Bible Study - Bearing Fruit

Comment on the first two questions in pairs for about 10 minutes, then join pairs to make groups of three or four for the rest of this study.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If

you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father's is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. (John 15:5-8)

1. When were you most aware of abiding in Christ or being close to him? Here are some examples:

- a. alone in prayer in your room
- b. by the sea or on a mountain
- c. praying with a friend
- d. in a crisis or personal need
- e. within a small group
- f. at a camp
- g. in a church service
- h. quietly reading the Bible
- i. serving God in helping others
- j. at work

2. When has the Spirit of God touched you deeply or been evident in your life? Some possibilities:

- a. when you became a Christian
- b. when someone prayed for you personally
- c. when you prayed for someone
- d. when you faced a new challenge
- e. when you went through tough times
- f. when others cared for you
- g. when you took a risk for God
- h. when your small group affirmed you

3. In practice, how do we bear much fruit or show the life of Jesus more fully? (Tick some)

- a. by praying for an hour a day
- b. by doing what Jesus did
- c. by serving others in love
- d. by singing choruses
- e. by having a clear conscience
- f. by following the Lord's leading
- g. by working in a vineyard
- h. by loving God and others
- i. other?

4. What does 'apart from me you can do nothing' mean for you? (Tick the most relevant to you)

- a. without God, I've had it
- b. I'm a puppet on God's strings

- c. what Jesus does in me counts most
- d. I depend on God for breath
- e. it doesn't apply to us now
- f. only what the Lord does through us lasts
- g. we really do need the Spirit's help
- h. Jesus was stretching the point
- i. it's true, then and now

5. How do you understand the promise to ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you? (Tick those closest to your thoughts)

- a. I don't understand it
- b. it all depends on remaining fully in Jesus
- c. it requires faith
- d. let's try it
- e. you would only ask in God's will
- f. Jesus wants us to trust him
- g. the sky's the limit
- h. stay close to the Lord and you'll receive
- i. the Spirit does just that in us

6. How do we give glory to the Father by bearing much fruit? (Tick significant ones for you)

- a. we are Christ-like
- b. God's life in us grows strong
- c. through singing a lot
- d. we allow the Spirit a free go
- e. our lives shine with love and grace
- f. Jesus does what he wants to through us
- g. it's beyond me
- h. that's real discipleship

Application

What is the growing edge for you in your discipleship at present? Comment on this in your small group and then pray for one another asking whatever you wish.

One example: Prayer triplets are now spreading effectively worldwide, where three Christians covenant to pray together regularly for three of each person's uncommitted friends and for each other - a total of 12. Many people are surprised how quickly some are won to faith and commitment to the Lord.

[Back to Contents](#)

Study 4 Fruit and growth

Goal: To examine how we grow in grace and in the fruit of the Spirit.

Introduction

Continual growth in Christian character and qualities is not only possible, but essential. Peter, the apostle, emphasized this and concludes his letter with the injunction to 'grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ' (2 Peter 3:18).

In our lives, the fruit of the Spirit is both the harvest or result of the Spirit's work in us and also a picture or metaphor of fruit growing and ripening.

The fruit of the Spirit grows. It is not static. The more the Spirit controls our lives, to more we grow like Christ.

This study looks at ways in which that growth can be encouraged and developed. We can all be more like Jesus. We can grow. The Spirit does this in us as we respond to his direction or leading. Then the harvest or fruit of the Spirit of Jesus produces increasingly Christ-like characteristics in our lives.

Relationship building:

What are some qualities or abilities you have which have grown in your life over the years? Comment on these together. Others in your group may see aspects of your growth which you have overlooked.

Some examples may be:

ability to walk, run, dance, play sport;
ability to write, compose, draw, paint;
ability in gardening, decoration;
ability in cooking, entertaining;
vocational insights and abilities;
counselling or caring abilities;
social welfare awareness and involvement;
ability to encourage, support, help others.

Relational Bible Study - Growing Up!

Divide into groups of three or four and work as a group through each question after you read the passage. Go round on the first question, then the second and so on. Leave at least 15 minutes for the Application.

May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and become participants of the divine nature. For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love.

(2 Peter 1:2-7)

1. What link do you see between the divine power and the divine nature? (Tick one or two)

- a. none
- b. interesting adjective repeat
- c. two ways of saying the same thing
- d. God's power produces God's nature in us
- e. power and nature are one
- f. Christians have both
- g. this is Peter's theory
- h. God makes us Christ-like

2. What is 'everything needed for life and godliness'? (Tick some)

- a. grace and peace
- b. the knowledge of God and Jesus
- c. the knowledge of him who called us
- d. his glory and goodness
- e. his great and precious promises
- f. the divine nature
- g. all of the above
- h. none of the above

3. If everything we need is given, why must we add to or support our faith? (Tick those most relevant to you)

- a. faith without works is dead
- b. believing is the beginning
- c. faith grows in action
- d. develop spiritual muscle
- e. faith can grow too
- f. we can be more Christ-like
- g. effort is needed to grow
- h. we activate what is given

4. Imagine (or draw) concentric circles labelled from the centre out this way:

faith
goodness
knowledge
self-control
endurance
godliness
mutual affection
love

What does that diagram suggest to you? (Tick some, or add your own)

- a. each quality builds on others
- b. as faith grows it leads to the rest
- c. the highest growth is kindness and love
- d. as you keep at it you grow
- e. starting well leads to more growth

5. Which of these qualities do you see as strongest in your life at present?

6. Rate yourself on each one as you see it developing in your life at present.

faith	1 _____	10
goodness	1 _____	10
knowledge	1 _____	10
self-control	1 _____	10
endurance	1 _____	10
godliness	1 _____	10
mutual affection	1 _____	10
love	1 _____	10

Application

In your growth into Christian maturity toward the full flower of the Spirit's harvest or fruit in your life, where do you need perseverance?

How can your group help you in that?

[Back to Contents](#)

Study 5 Fruit and gifts

Goal: To examine the relationship of the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit.

Introduction

The fruit or harvest of the Spirit in our lives concerns who we are - our character. The gifts of the Spirit concern what we do - our service or ministry in the power of the Spirit. Both flow from the Spirit, although the fruit clearly has priority.

Love is the key to that, and is the greatest commandment. God wants us to love him and to love one another most of all (Mark 12:28-31). Jesus emphasized this and gave us a new commandment that we are to love one another as he loved us (John 13:34-35). This is how people will know we are his disciples.

That fruit of the Spirit in us, with love at the heart of it, can then be expressed in the various gifts of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit produces fruit and gifts in us.

Relationship building:

What gifts of the Spirit do you recognise as part of your life at this stage of your growth? You could tick some of the following or add your own.

Romans 12:6-8

prophesying
serving/ministering
teaching
encouraging/exhorting
giving
leading
showing mercy/compassion

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

word/utterance of wisdom
word/utterance of knowledge
faith
healing
working of miracles
prophecy
discernment of spirits
tongues
interpretation of tongues

1 Corinthians 12:28-29

apostles
prophets
teachers
deeds of power
healing

helping others
leadership/administration
tongues
interpretation

Ephesians 4:11
apostles
prophets
evangelists
pastors
teachers

You could use the Gifts Check List in the Appendix to help you, either before your group session or as part of it, if you have enough time.

Relational Bible Study - Loving Power

Respond to the passage in groups of three or four, listening for the Spirit's leading and direction. Remember to leave at least 15 minutes for the Application.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

(1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

1. What is the main message of this passage for you? (Tick one)

- a. gifts are worthless
- b. love is all you need
- c. gifts without fruit are nothing
- c. fruit without gifts is fine
- d. use gifts in love
- e. forget gifts; just love
- f. don't be a martyr
- g. gifts are unimportant
- h. quit fighting over gifts
- i. love always finds a way
- j. don't argue over this list

2. Why do you think this passage follows on from the discussion of the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12? (Tick one or more)

- a. because 13 follows 12
- b. to put gifts in the context of fruit

- c. haven't a clue
- d. much ado about nothing
- e. using gifts in love is best
- f. fruit and gifts belong together
- g. everything depends on love
- h. it sums up the study on gifts
- i. other?

3. Why do you think this passage emphasizes love so much? (Tick a few)

- a. spiritual gifts cause division
- b. the Corinthians had zeal without love
- c. God is love
- d. it puts things in perspective
- e. Paul wanted to write a love song
- f. keen people need love most
- g. gifts must be used in love
- h. fruit has priority over gifts
- i. love sums up all the fruit and gifts

4. What do you see as the relationship between the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit? (Tick some)

- a. none
- b. two sides of one coin
- c. both are essential
- d. life and power
- e. Jesus' character and ministry
- f. opposing forces
- g. fruit enhances gift
- h. gifts need fruit

5. How can we encourage the use of spiritual gifts in love? (Tick those significant for you)

- a. too dangerous
- b. model it
- c. emphasise the fruit of the Spirit
- d. teach about fruit and gifts
- e. use gifts in love
- f. forget it; too hard
- g. go for it - in love
- h. other?

6. What do you see as the characteristics of using spiritual gifts in love? (Tick those most important to you)

- a. being like Jesus

- b. compassionate service
- c. joyful risk taking
- d. calm obedience in faith
- e. patient perseverance
- f. kindly action
- g. good and noble deeds
- h. faithful, steady ministry
- i. gentle strength
- j. disciplined power

Application

'Pursue love and strive for spiritual gifts ...' (1 Corinthians 14:1)

How can you do that in your situation?

Are there spiritual gifts you eagerly desire to use in love?

You could complete your discussion praying specifically for each person at a time.

[Back to Contents](#)

Study 6 The way of love

Goal: To examine the most excellent way of living.

Introduction

The way of love is the most excellent way (1 Corinthians 12:31). Love encompasses and expresses the fullness of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

Love

celebrates with **joy**

calms with **peace**

endures with **patience**

encourages with **kindness**

responds with **generosity**

supports with **faithfulness**

confronts with **gentleness**

differs with **self-control**

This is our highest calling, our noblest goal - to love. The Spirit of God produces this harvest or fruit in our lives, making us increasingly Christ-like.

Take time in this closing session to affirm and encourage one another. You may have discovered many differences in your understanding of the issues raised in these studies. You may have found surprising agreement. Let love bind you together in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3).

Relationship building:

What are some strengths or Christ-like qualities you see in the people in your group?

You can do this in small groups. If you have a larger group of 8 - 10 where you all know one another, you can do this in the larger group before moving into small groups for your study.

Use this space to write down some of the strengths you see that God has begun to develop in your life and then add to your own list the strengths or qualities that others see in you.

Relational Bible Study - Pursue love

Discuss the questions in groups of three or four after you read the scripture passage. Each person responds to each question in turn. Leave at least 15 minutes for the Application.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.
(1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13)

1. What do you think of this description of love? (Tick some)

- a. mind blowing
- b. right on
- c. I want to sing it
- d. I want to live it
- e. mission impossible
- f. that's me, almost
- g. wow!
- h. just like Jesus
- i. let's do it
- j. other?

2. Which aspects of love do you see corresponding to Paul's list in Galatians 5:22-23 - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control?

3. Which aspects of love do you see corresponding to Peter's list in 2 Peter 1:5-7 - faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, mutual affection, love?

4. Which aspects of love do you see growing strongest in you?

5. Which aspects of love need most work in your life at present?

6. Which aspects of love do you see most in the others in your small group? Comment on each in turn, and write down the qualities people see in you.

Application

Finish by giving symbolic verbal gifts to each person in your small group. These can be related to the qualities you have identified, or just your gifts which express your love and

care. Then pray together for each person, being open to the insights the Spirit may give you for them about the way the fruit of the Spirit is growing in their lives.

Some examples may be:

- * a red rose saying 'I love you'
- * a bell to celebrate life with joy
- * a glorious sunset to end each day in peace
- * a large book to read with patient anticipation
- * a first aid kit for kind assistance
- * a treasure chest for generous sharing
- * a gold watch for faithful service
- * a sail to catch the gentle breeze
- * a surf board to ride the wave
- * a glider to soar to new heights

[Back to Contents](#)

Part II - Gifts of the Spirit

Study 1 God gives - we receive

Goal: To consider ways in which God gives to us and we receive from him.

Introduction

These six sessions explore the gifts we can receive from God. Many people have strong and different opinions about this. Welcome that. It can be creative. There are many valid points of view about these topics. No one has all the answers, so we can learn from one another.

God loves to give us far more than any of us are willing to receive. We can easily limit what we receive to our tiny ideas of God and his gifts. God is always far bigger than we can understand or imagine. So are his gifts and mercies to us.

These studies are introductory. They help you to begin understanding the issues and how God offers the gifts of his Spirit to us.

Relationship building:

What are some gifts from God for which you are thankful? Take a minute to tick the list then comment in groups of four.

- being alive
- friends
- your childhood family
- your present family
- health
- food
- sporting abilities
- musical abilities
- learning abilities
- work skills
- Christian life
- freedom to choose
- seeing the sun rise
- watching sunsets
- listening to birds
- enjoying music
- sleeping
- walking
- mountain climbing
- visiting the beach

Relational Bible Study - God's Greatest Gifts

Read the first passage then work in groups of three or four. Comment on the first question for 5 minutes by each person giving their response in turn. Then reflect on your responses briefly. Repeat the process for the second and third questions. Then continue in your group by looking at the second passage in the same way.

When you come to the Application, slow down and let each person explain their story. Save time at the end for prayer.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of only Son of God.

(John 3:16-18)

1. Which of the following statements about the passage indicate your attitude? (Tick one or more)

- a. it's beyond me
- b. wow!
- c. put it on hold
- d. it doesn't compute
- e. heavy
- f. I'm committed to it
- g. brilliant
- h. a kid can get it
- i. my destiny depends on this
- j. I'm in - hook, line and sinker

2. Why do you think John 3:16 is so popular? (Tick one or more)

- a. it's easy to memorise
- b. it blows your mind
- c. it shows God's amazing grace
- d. it answers our need
- e. it reveals Jesus' divinity
- f. it sums up the way to know God
- g. it bombards you with God's love
- h. it's the gospel

3. Where are you now in your own faith journey? (Tick one)

- a. indifferent (so what)

- b. atheist (there's no God)
- c. sceptic (God? not likely)
- d. agnostic ('dunno' about God)
- e. seeker (I want to believe)
- f. commitment to ideas (I believe God exists)
- g. commitment to Jesus (I believe in him)
- h. disciple (I follow Jesus)

So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!
(Luke 11:9-13)

4. What is the point of Jesus' teaching for you? (Tick one or more)

- a. hang in there
- b. we give up too soon
- c. good things don't come easily
- d. God is reluctant to answer
- e. God's love is generous
- f. we can have anything we like
- g. go for it - in God's will

5. What is Jesus' picture of God's love here? (Tick ones most significant to you)

- a. God loves to bless us
- b. Father knows best
- c. God will not withhold good things
- d. God answers prayer - his way
- e. God wants us to have his Spirit
- f. God's Holy Spirit can be fully ours
- g. God responds to our deep longings

6. In the light of these two passages, what does God want most for us? (Discuss the possibilities as a group)

- a. to give us all we want
- b. to give us fish and eggs
- c. to teach us to beg
- d. to be our friend
- e. to help us know Jesus
- f. to give us the Holy Spirit
- g. to give himself to us

Application

On the basis of these passages it is clear that we can believe in Jesus and receive his Spirit, the Holy Spirit. How does this happen?

Some, or all of the people in your group could comment on your own story of believing and receiving. Remember each story is unique, as in the Bible.

You could conclude with prayer in your small group, acting on your discussions .

[*Back to Contents*](#)

Study 2 Gifts to serve in power

Goal: To see the range of gifts available to us to serve God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

The Holy Spirit is holy. Obvious? Yet, we often miss the point of that. God gives his Spirit to us so that we can be forgiven, set free and made more like him - clean. So the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives involve being clean and equipped to serve God in purity and power.

What about failure or sin? "Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven" - though not by other drivers when someone with that bumper sticker cuts in front of them! Peter addresses these issues in his passage about spiritual gifts, or the gifts of God's grace. Grace is available. We can be made clean and can learn to stay clean. Then we can serve people in the power of the Spirit - the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual gifts shine best in clean lives. God's power is released in our lives as we respond to his Holy Spirit.

Relationship building:

What are some gracious gifts people have given you which meant a lot to you and were a kind or thoughtful expression of the giver's love or concern for you?

Some examples to get you started may be:

- a birthday present
- a Christmas present
- a Valentine card or gift
- a wedding gift
- a house warming
- a graduation gift
- a surprise letter
- a flower
- a bunch of flowers
- a meal out
- a morning or afternoon tea
- a supper
- a clothing item
- a day together
- a holiday
- a trip away
- a surprise party
- a lift in a car
- a kind word
- a prayer for you
- and so on

Relational Bible Study - Tools for the Job

Read the passage together. Then work in groups of three or four by responding personally to each question in turn and then commenting on your response. Then move on to the next question and repeat the process.

Make sure you leave at least 15 minutes for the Application.

Above all maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Christ Jesus. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

(1 Peter 4:8-11)

1. How do we discover God's grace? (Tick a few)

- a. we don't; God gives it
- b. by copying someone
- c. never thought about it
- d. by using spiritual gifts
- e. by trusting God
- f. by obeying the Spirit
- g. in love and service
- h. use a computer
- i. speak or serve
- j. in faith

2. What does it mean for you to be a steward of God's grace? (Tick a few)

- a. haven't a clue
- b. copy Mother Teresa
- c. teach Sunday School
- d. take up the offering
- e. support stewardship campaigns
- f. give more money
- g. use my gifts
- h. be gracious
- i. serve God

3. What is the will of God as you see it from this passage. (Tick some)

- a. be a monk
- b. serve others
- c. love one another

- d. stay clean
- e. enjoy life
- f. don't complain
- g. be like Jesus
- h. use spiritual gifts
- i. glorify God

4. How do spiritual gifts bring glory to God? (Tick some)

- a. God works in us
- b. God's Spirit is holy
- c. clean lives can be powerful
- d. loving service honours God
- e. we can show off our gifts
- f. God works this way
- g. God is honoured in us
- h. Jesus lived this way
- i. Jesus lives in us

5. What are some speaking gifts you see developing in your life? (Tick them in the list below)

6. What are some serving gifts you see developing in your life? (Tick them in the list below)

Application

How can you use some of the following gifts in your situation as God leads and empowers you? Pray together about that.

<i>SPEAKING GIFTS</i>	<i>SERVING GIFTS</i>
1 apostle	14 service
2 prophet (prophecy)	15 mercy
3 evangelist	16 helping (helps)
4 teacher (teaching)	17 voluntary poverty
5 pastor	18 giving
6 exhortation	19 leadership
7 words of wisdom	20 faith
8 words of knowledge	21 administration
9 discerning spirits	22 celibacy
10 missionary	23 hospitality
11 courage (martyrdom)	24 intercession
12 tongues	25 healing
13 interpretation of tongues	26 miracles
	27 exorcism (deliverance)

You can use the Gifts Check List in the Appendix to help you. Descriptions and Bible references for these gifts can be found in ***Living in the Spirit*** by Geoff Waugh, pages 47-48. Information on www.renewaljournal.com

[Back to Contents](#)

Study 3 Gifts to motivate us

Goal: To explore some of the ways God has gifted us and find ways of expressing those gifts in service for others.

Introduction

One of Paul's favourite [DESCRIPTIONS] of the church is the body of Christ. His teaching about spiritual gifts comes in this framework. We belong to one body. We are all different. We need one another. No one has all the gifts of the Spirit.

After developing his profound salvation and missionary theology in Romans 1-11, Paul applies it to us in very practical terms from chapter 12. Motivated by God's grace and love we offer ourselves to him and live out our lives together in service for others. His gifts to us equip and empower us for this service.

This study begins to explore the ways in which we can serve others with God's gracious gifting.

Relationship building:

What are some activities you are good at doing or really enjoy doing? Tick some of the following or add your own.

- cooking
- gardening
- painting rooms
- painting pictures
- drawing
- speaking
- holding conversations
- leading Bible studies
- praying with others
- sport
- singing
- playing an instrument
- driving
- swimming
- hiking
- writing letters
- creative writing
- carpentry
- electronics
- computer programming
- sewing
- hairdressing
- committee work
- other activities?

Relational Bible Study – motivated to serve

Comment on the two questions for the first of the following passages for 5 minutes each in groups of three or four, then repeat that process for the other passages.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.

(Romans 12:1-2)

1. What are some of the world's pressures on you and how do they affect you? (Rank about three to five in order)

- a. the almighty dollar
- b. sex saturation
- c. greed and graft
- d. fame - be popular
- e. power to dominate
- f. status - climb the ladder
- g. earning big bucks
- h. self - first and last
- i. bigger is better
- j. follow the fashions

2. How do we get to know God's will for us? (Tick three most significant for you)

- a. offer our bodies to God
- b. be a living sacrifice for God
- c. be holy and pleasing to God
- d. live out our worship in action
- e. don't conform to world values
- f. be transformed from within
- g. let God renew our minds
- h. test God out
- i. get committed to God's will
- j. do what is good, acceptable and perfect

For by the grace given to me I say to every one among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

(Romans 12:3-5)

3. What does the picture of a body say to you about the nature of the church? (Tick two or three)

- a. it can be healthy or sick
- b. it's still growing
- c. we're all members of it
- d. it's us - not them
- e. I'm a vital part of it
- f. I need others; they need me
- g. we all have different gifts
- h. each person is really important
- i. we are all gifted by God
- j. we're strong when we pull together

4. How does being a living sacrifice relate to using your personal spiritual gifts? (Rank three to five in order of importance to you)

- a. I stop trying to do everything myself
- b. I discover God's will for me
- c. I relax a whole lot more
- d. I focus on what God want me to do
- e. I encourage others
- f. I stop shoving and I fit in more
- g. I recognise others' gifts
- h. I do less on my own, more with others
- i. I really value team ministry
- j. I am part of the ministry

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.
(Romans 12:6-8)

5. What does this passage say to you about your spiritual gifts? (Tick one or two main ideas)

- a. get on with it
- b. don't bite off more than you can chew
- c. hey, you have gifts too
- d. come join the team
- e. let's celebrate together
- g. share the load
- h. God's grace involves us all
- i. my gift is important
- j. I'm needed

6. Rank yourself on a scale of 1 - 10 for each of the seven gifts and check out if your group agrees with you. (1 for very weak; 10 for very strong)

1. prophecy - receiving and giving words from God
2. serve/minister - finding ways of helping others and doing it
3. teaching - imparting truth to help others know and grow
4. encourage/exhort - helping others to see and use their gifts
5. giving - supporting others in their need and work
6. leadership - involving others in ministry and service
7. compassion - reaching out to others to help them

Application

How can you use your strongest gift or gifts as a living sacrifice in the body of Christ, the church?

Discuss this together in your small group and pray for one another about that.

[Back to Contents](#)

Study 4 Gifts to minister in unity

Goal: To consider how spiritual gifts promote unity and function in unity.

Introduction

The picture of the church as the body of Christ emphasizes the need for unity. We belong together. Our great diversity finds expression in a wonderful unity given by the Spirit of God.

This is not uniformity. Our gifts differ. Our ministries differ. Our understanding and insights differ. The unity of the Spirit blends all these significant differences together in an amazing unity.

That unity transcends our organisational and cultural differences. We still differ, but we know we belong together and function in harmony as the Spirit of God unites us in ministry together.

Relationship building:

What part of the human body do you think best describes you or your ministry. Share this in your group of four and encourage each other as you comment together.

head - usually in leadership

ears - able to hear others' calls

eyes - aware of what's going on

nose - can smell anything fishy or fragrant

mouth - often talking with others

teeth - ready to bite into tough jobs

lips - a willing smile and encourager

shoulders - available to cry or lean on

arms - reaching out to others with hugs

hands - active in doing what needs to be done

backbone - steady and strong and dependable

legs - standing firm in faith; walking with God

feet - reaching out with the gospel of peace

other?

Relational Bible Study - One in Christ

After reading the first passage, divide into groups of three or four and work as a group through each question. Go round on the first question, then the second and so on. Repeat the process for the second passage. Leave at least 15 minutes for the Application.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another

in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.
(Ephesians 4:1-6)

1. The word 'one' is emphasized 7 times. Why? (Tick one or two reasons you see as important)

- a. God only recognises one group - mine
- b. we should all think the same way
- c. only one way of baptism is right - ours
- d. Jesus is Lord of one church - his
- e. we should get rid of denominations
- f. the Holy Spirit unites us together
- g. our differences aren't important
- h. unity is enriched by our diversity
- i. God is in us all, so we are one

2. What qualities describe a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called? (Tick the ones most significant to you)

- a. humility
- b. gentleness
- c. patience
- d. bearing with one another
- e. maintaining unity
- f. peaceful

3. How do these qualities promote unity in the body of Christ? (Tick those most significant for you)

- a. they show the nature of Jesus
- b. the Spirit flows through them
- c. unity is only possible when we have them
- d. these are the fruit of the Spirit
- e. we must work at this
- f. they dissolve our divisions
- g. other?

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift... The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.
(Ephesians 4:7,11-13)

4. What are the marks of Christian maturity? (Tick ones you agree with)

- a. grey hair
- b. like Christ
- c. speak in tongues
- d. give prophecies
- e. humble service
- f. unity in faith
- g. attend meetings
- h. love
- i. right doctrines
- j. filled with Jesus' Spirit

5. Christ gives gifts to his church: some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Why? (Tick some)

- a. because they earned it
- b. because they are mature
- c. because they're his favourites
- d. because we need leadership
- e. to equip us all for ministry
- f. to boss us
- g. to build up the church in faith
- h. to serve as Jesus served

6. The person is the gift. Why? (Tick some)

- a. This list is about leaders
- b. We don't all have gifts
- c. Special people have special gifts
- d. These people help others to serve
- e. Christ runs the church this way
- f. They got voted in
- g. It's a five year gifting
- h. God calls and equips us

Application

1. Do you recognise any of these gifts of leadership in your group or church?

apostles - general oversight; church planting

prophets - speaking words from God

evangelists - reaching others of Christ

pastors - caring for people; shepherding

teachers - helping people learn and grow

2. Name some differences between the unity that already exists in the first passage and the unity we must reach in the second passage. Pray for help to do that and for your part in it.

[Back to Contents](#)

Study 5 Gifts to manifest the Spirit

Goal: To affirm one another in our different gifts and be open to the surprises of the Spirit.

Introduction

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to answer questions about various church problems including spiritual gifts. The church was divided over this and other issues (see 1 Corinthians 1:11 and 3:3). Paul saw such division as immature and worldly.

Chapters 12 - 14 give the clearest teaching in the New Testament on the place of the gifts of the Spirit in the church. Here Paul pleads for unity amid the diversity of gifts and ministries. The body of Christ needs to function in harmony, not disharmony and disunity.

We still face these same issues today and need the grace and love emphasized in these chapters.

Relationship building:

Tick some live issues or hot potatoes in your church on which Christians have different opinions and may strongly disagree. We can agree to disagree on many issues, and in fact be enriched by our different perspectives in the body of Christ.

- Scripture songs
- versions of the Bible
- guitars in worship
- cell groups
- ordination of women
- dancing
- charismatic renewal
- wine
- tongues
- pipe organs
- clerical dress
- evangelism
- social justice
- ethnic groups
- moving pews
- one hour services
- street kids in church
- selling church property
- giving to the poor
- healing
- missions
- relational Bible studies

Relational Bible Study - Church on Fire

Respond to each passage in groups of three or four, listening for the Spirit's leading and direction.

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:1-3)

1. What are some idols which may have influenced us and lead us astray? (Tick some you recognise)

- a. money (Mammon)
- b. love things and use people
- c. bigger and better possessions
- c. knocker spirit; put people down
- d. one-upmanship; pride
- e. cliques; exclusive clubs
- f. power plays; manipulation
- g. self indulgence;
- h. gluttony
- i. other?

2. 'Jesus is Lord' is the first and basic Christian creed. Why? (Tick a few)

- a. it's easy to memorise
- b. you can spell it
- c. it shows the uniqueness of Jesus
- d. the Holy Spirit reveals it
- e. it's in hymns and chorouses
- f. all Christians believe it
- g. everything depends on it
- h. it's true
- i. other?

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

3. What does this passage emphasize most? (Tick a few)

- a. God is boss
- a. there's only one God but many gifts
- b. the Trinity
- c. the Spirit manifests in many ways
- d. we all have different spiritual gifts
- e. appreciate our differences
- f. the Spirit is creative
- g. expect surprises
- h. there's more to discover yet
- i. let's celebrate!
- j. other?

4. Which of these gifts have you begun to experience in some way? (Tick one or more)

- a. utterance of wisdom
- b. utterance of knowledge
- c. faith
- d. healing
- e. working of miracles
- f. prophecy
- g. discernment of spirits
- h. tongues
- i. interpretation of tongues

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

(1 Corinthians 12:27-31)

5. What does 'strive for the greater gifts' mean for you? (Tick some)

- a. go overboard on gifts
- b. emphasize tongues
- c. love is the greatest
- d. don't fuss over small issues
- e. aim for maturity
- f. gifts are important
- g. some gifts are more important
- h. go for it
- i. balance is vital
- j. get priorities right

6. What is your part in the body of Christ? (Tick one or more)

- a. haven't a clue; tell me
- b. still finding out; help me
- c. I'll settle for just being there
- d. I'm learning to pray
- e. I'm learning to pray for others
- f. I'm learning to pray in faith
- g. I like administration
- h. things happen when I reach out to others
- i. it's a mystery but I'm in
- j. my main gift seems to be _____
- k. other?

Application

Give yourself a rating from 1 (very weak) to 10 (very strong) on how you see the spiritual gifts of these passages in your life at this stage of your growth. Then pray for one another thanking God for your strengths and asking for his strength where you need it most.

- ___ apostles - general oversight; church planting
- ___ prophets - speaking messages from God
- ___ teachers - imparting truth to help growth
- ___ workers of miracles - see God step in suddenly
- ___ able to help others - serving or encouraging or both
- ___ administration/leadership - good at planning or organising
- ___ word/utterance of wisdom - clues from God to help others
- ___ word/utterance of knowledge - insight from God
- ___ faith - you know God will do it
- ___ discerning of spirits - awareness of spiritual powers
- ___ tongues - personal or occasional public prayer language
- ___ interpretation of tongues - sense of its meaning

[Back to Contents](#)

Study 6 Gifts to use in love

Goal: To respond to one another and to God in love as we use spiritual gifts.

Introduction

Our final study pulls it all together. Paul's teaching on spiritual gifts gave birth to the great love chapter - 1 Corinthians 13.

Here we have the heart of the matter. Gifts without love are useless and divisive. Gifts with love dynamically transform us and the church. Churches come alive. People's needs are met. We see God step into our lives in new ways. We change.

Take time in this closing session to affirm and encourage one another. You may have discovered many differences in your understanding of spiritual gifts or their place in your lives, your group, or your congregation. Fine. These passages have emphasized our diversity. Love holds that together - God's pure love in us.

Relationship building:

What are some strengths you see in the people in your group?

You can do this in your small groups. If you have a larger group of 8 - 10 where you all know one another, you can do this in the larger group before moving into groups of 4 for your study.

Use this space to write down some of the strengths you see that God has begun to develop in your life and then add to your own list the strengths or gifts others see in you.

Relational Bible Study - The greatest of all

Work in groups of three or four. Each person responds to each question in turn. Leave at least 15 minutes for the Application.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

(1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

1. What's the main point of this passage as you see it? (Tick one)

- a. spiritual gifts are useless
- b. tongues clash
- c. moving mountains is nothing
- d. don't be a martyr
- e. forget gifts; just love people
- f. gifts without love mean nothing
- g. gifts are unimportant
- h. quit fighting over gifts
- i. love always finds a way
- j. don't argue over this list

2. Why are spiritual gifts and love linked so much? (Tick a few)

- a. spiritual gifts cause division
- b. spiritual gifts are dangerous
- c. God is love
- d. gifts can be abused
- e. love oils the cogs
- f. keen people need love most
- g. gifts can show love
- h. gifts are powerful

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

3. What do you think of this description of love? (Tick some)

- a. mind blowing
- b. right on
- c. I want to sing it
- d. I want to live it
- e. mission impossible
- f. that's me, almost
- g. wow!
- h. just like Jesus
- i. let's do it

4. Which aspects of love do you see growing strongest in you? (Tick one or two)

- a. patient

- b. kind
- c. not envious
- d. not boastful
- e. not arrogant
- f. not rude
- g. not self-seeking
- h. not irritable
- i. not resentful
- j. not glad about wrong
- k. rejoices in the truth
- l. bears all
- m. believes all
- n. hopes all
- o. endures all

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophecy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.
 (1 Corinthians 13:8-13)

5. Love never fails. What about gifts? (Tick some)

- a. they fail
- b. they're temporary
- c. knowledge is incomplete
- d. prophecies are partial
- e. no one has it all
- f. perfection lies ahead
- g. love outlasts gifts
- h. gifts can express love
- i. love's in; gifts are out

6. What's the point of it all? (Tick some)

- a. grow up
- b. sing love songs
- c. let gifts express love
- d. forget gifts; just love
- e. gifts pass; love lasts
- f. love wins
- g. use gifts lovingly
- h. make love your aim

Application

Finish by giving symbolic verbal gifts to each person in your small group. These can be related to their spiritual gifts, or just your gifts which express your love and care for each person. Then pray together for each person being open to the insights the Spirit may give you for them.

Some examples may be:

- * a box of matches to light fires of the Spirit
- * a green traffic light to go for it
- * a gentle breeze to fill the sails
- * a warm sunrise to give light
- * a key to open doors in ministry
- * a welcome mat to show hospitality
- * a telescope to see ahead in faith
- * a personal X-ray lens to see hidden needs
- * a wide angle camera to catch the whole scene
- * a red rose saying 'I love you'

[Back to Contents](#)

Appendix 1: GIFTS CHECK LIST

This list gives you a simple way of checking to see what God is already doing in your life. You can identify some of the gifts you see in yourself.

It's a simple self-assessment guide adapted from similar questionnaires. Give yourself a score on each statement from 5 (strong) to 1 or 0 (weak). Avoid too many scores of 3! Then add your scores in the table to get totals for each line.

You can also get others to score how they see you – and you for them.

Your highest scores will indicate some areas of strength or gifting, as you see it. You could also get a friend to score you as they see you and you could do that for them. Remember this provides a very general guide. You are growing, and other gifts or strengths will emerge as you grow.

Gifts Check List

Scoring: 5 = strong, to 1 or 0 = weak

1. I like to affirm people.
2. I am good at listening.
3. I love to explain things clearly.
4. I like talking to a group about Jesus.
5. I sense what God is saying to a group.
6. I enjoy witnessing.
7. I give generously to God's work.
8. I choose to live simply for the Kingdom.
9. I am good at organising.
10. I have compassion for people in need.
11. I often pray with sick and hurting people.
12. I am helpful and adaptable.
13. I like doing things for others.
14. I enjoy having visitors or guests.
15. I relate well to other cultures.
16. I often give a lead in discussions.
17. I usually feel courageous in serving God.
18. I sense spiritual oppression quickly.
19. I have strong faith in God's promises.
20. I enjoy praying with people.
21. I find ways to encourage others.
22. I relate to others easily.
23. I love teaching Bible truths.
24. I like preparing messages from the Bible.
25. I get insights or impressions from God.
26. I love helping people to become Christians.
27. I use my resources freely for Christian work.
28. I give away my goods to help the needy.
29. I plan things well.

30. I feel deeply for lonely people.
31. I bring peace to troubled people.
32. I like being helpful.
33. I am active in serving others.
34. I have an open home.
35. I enjoy mixing across cultural groups.
36. I am often chosen leader in a group.
37. I like taking risks for God.
38. I detect spiritual opposition readily.
39. I act in faith on the Spirit's leading.
40. I see my prayers answered regularly.
41. I love building others up, not knocking them.
42. I care about people and like to help them.
43. I like mastering and explaining truth.
44. I find my messages bless others.
45. I get impressions or pictures from the Lord.
46. I have lead people to faith in Christ.
47. I always give more than a tithe.
48. I gladly do without many material goods.
49. I easily set goals and work for them.
50. I relate closely with hurting people.
51. I pray for the sick and see them helped.
52. I am happy doing practical work.
53. I see needs and do something to help.
54. I like having people drop in on me.
55. I adapt well to different lifestyles.
56. I put plenty of thought into things I lead.
57. I often speak boldly in Jesus' name.
58. I have taken authority over evil spirits.
59. I believe in God's word very strongly.
60. I often tune into God through the day.
61. I work at encouraging people.
62. I really care about people.
63. I am patient in helping others understand.
64. I have a strong call to preach in some way.
65. I often get a word or leading from the Lord.
66. I love talking to non-Christians about Jesus.
67. I give gladly to many Christian ministries.
68. I am happy on a small income.
69. I pay attention to details in organisation.
70. I like to get along side people in need.
71. I take time to comfort and pray for the sick.
72. I help people in practical ways.
73. I am fulfilled when I serve others.
74. I love having people at my place.
75. I enjoy making friends with foreigners.
76. I often delegate work to others in teams.
77. I am willing to stand up for Jesus anytime.
78. I have commanded evil powers to leave.
79. I step out in faith and see things happen.
80. I pray for others regularly.

SCORING TABLE

Write your scores for each sentence then total them horizontally in the last column.

1	21	41	61	A
2	22	42	62	B
3	23	43	63	C
4	24	44	64	D
5	25	45	65	E
6	26	46	66	F
7	27	47	67	G
8	28	48	68	H
9	29	49	69	I
10	30	50	70	J
11	31	51	71	K
12	32	52	72	L
13	33	53	73	M
14	34	54	74	N
15	35	55	75	O
16	36	56	76	P
17	37	57	77	Q
18	38	58	78	R
19	39	59	79	S
20	40	60	80	T

AREAS OF GIFTS

- A ENCOURAGEMENT - supporting and affirming others
- B PASTORAL - caring for people and helping them
- C TEACHING - imparting truth to help people grow
- D PREACHING - proclaiming God's word
- E PROPHETIC - revealing insights received from God
- F EVANGELISM - introducing people to Jesus
- G GIVING - spirit of liberality and generosity
- H VOLUNTARY POVERTY - going without for the sake of others
- I ADMINISTRATION - helping plans to fulfilment
- J MERCY - compassion and care for others
- K HEALING - bringing wholeness to hurting people
- L HELPING - assisting others in their work
- M SERVICE - finding ways to serve other people
- N HOSPITALITY - open heart and home for people
- O MISSIONARY - cross-cultural ministry
- P LEADERSHIP - involving others in ministry
- Q COURAGE - gifted with boldness or authority
- R DISCERNMENT - awareness of spiritual forces
- S FAITH - firm belief leading to action
- T INTERCESSION - commitment in prayer for others

Note: This Gifts Check List is also included on pages 28-29 of *The Leader's Goldmine* by Geoff Waugh.

Book details are included on www.renewaljournal.com

Including free digital books.

[Back to Contents](#)

Appendix 2: Books

Appendix: Books

Renewal Journal Publications

See

www.renewaljournal.com

for Blogs on each book

PDF Boks, eBooks, and Paperbacks

Available on
Amazon and Kindle
Most Paperbacks in both
Basic Edition and
Gift Edition (colour)

[Renewal Journal Publications](#)

<https://renewaljournal.blog/>

[PDF Books, eBooks, and Paperbacks](#)

[Most Paperbacks are in both](#)

[Basic Edition and](#)

[Gift Edition \(colour\)](#)

Revival Books

[Flashpoints of Revival](#)

[Revival Fires](#)

[South Pacific Revivals](#)

[Pentecost on Pentecost & the South Pacific](#)

[Great Revival Stories](#), comprising:

[Best Revival Stories](#) and

[Transforming Revivals](#)

[Renewal and Revival](#), comprising:

[Renewal: I make all things new](#), and

[Revival: I will pour out my Spirit](#)

[Anointed for Revival](#)

[Church on Fire](#)

[God's Surprises](#)

Renewal Books

Body Ministry, comprising:

The Body of Christ, Part 1: Body Ministry, and

The Body of Christ, Part 2: Ministry Education, with Learning Together in Ministry

Great Commission Mission comprising:

Teaching Them to Obey in Love, and

Jesus the Model for Short Term Supernatural Mission

Living in the Spirit

Your Spiritual Gifts

Fruit & Gifts of the Spirit

Keeping Faith Alive Today

The Leader's Goldmine

Word and Spirit by Alison Sherrington

Study Guides

Signs and Wonders: Study Guide

The Holy Spirit in Ministry

Revival History

Holy Spirit Movements through History

Renewal Theology 1

Renewal Theology 2

Ministry Practicum

Devotional Books

Inspiration

Jesus on Dying Regrets

The Christmas Message – The Queen

Holy Week, Christian Passover & Resurrection comprising:

Holy Week, and

Christian Passover Service, and

Risen: 12 Resurrection Appearances

Risen: Short Version

Risen: Long version & our month in Israel

Mysterious Month – expanded version Risen: Long version

Kingdom Life series

Kingdom Life: The Gospels – comprising:

Kingdom Life in Matthew

Kingdom Life in Mark

Kingdom Life in Luke

Kingdom Life in John

A Preface to the Acts of the Apostles

[The Lion of Judah series](#)

[The Titles of Jesus](#)

[The Reign of Jesus](#)

[The Life of Jesus](#)

[The Death of Jesus](#)

[The Resurrection of Jesus](#)

[The Spirit of Jesus](#)

[The Lion of Judah](#) - all in one volume

[Discovering Aslan - comprising:](#)

[Discovering Aslan in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe](#)

[Discovering Aslan in Prince Caspian](#)

[Discovering Aslan in the Voyage of the 'Dawn Treader'](#)

[Discovering Aslan in the Silver Chair](#)

[Discovering Aslan in the Horse and his Boy](#)

[Discovering Aslan in the Magician's Nephew](#)

[Discovering Aslan in the Last Battle](#)

General Books

[*You Can Publish for Free*](#)

[*My First Stories* by Ethan Waugh](#)

[*An Incredible Journey by Faith* by Elisha Chowtapalli](#)

Biographical:

[*God's Surprises*](#)

[*Looking to Jesus: Journey into Renewal & Revival* - Geoff's autobiography](#)

[*Journey into Mission* - Geoff's mission trips](#)

[*Journey into Ministry and Mission*](#)

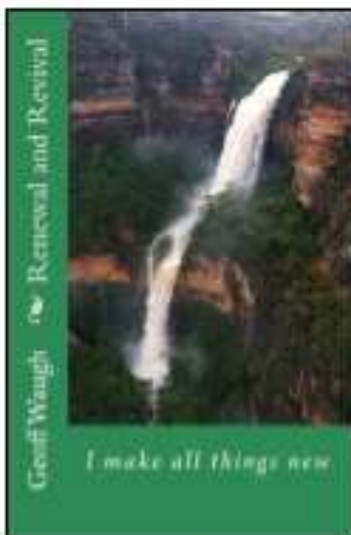
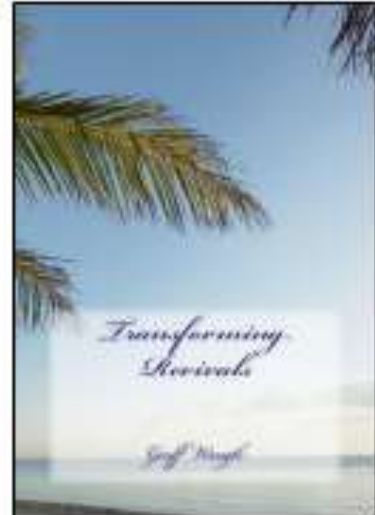
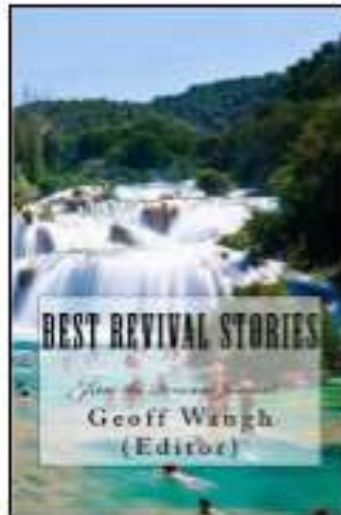
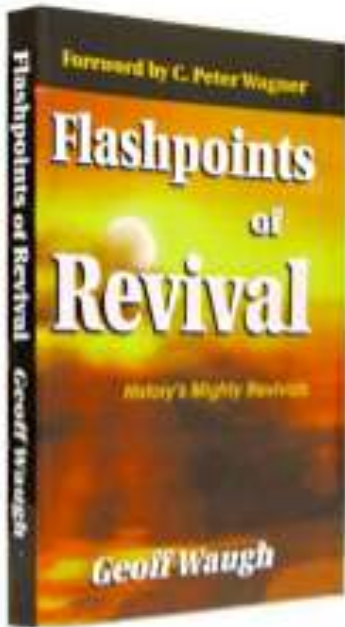
[*King of the Granny Flat* by Dante Waugh](#)

[*Exploring Israel* - Geoff's family's trip](#)

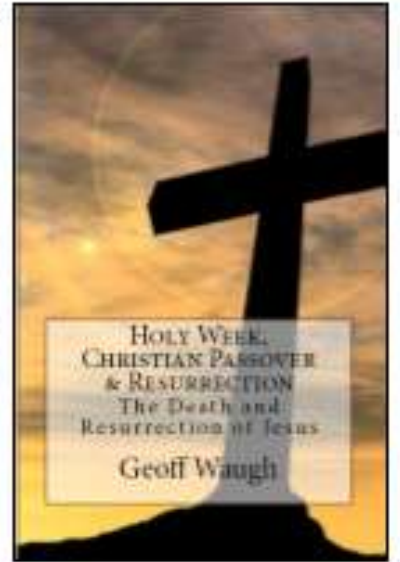
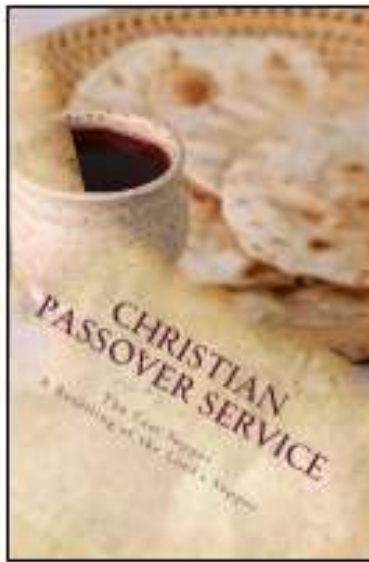
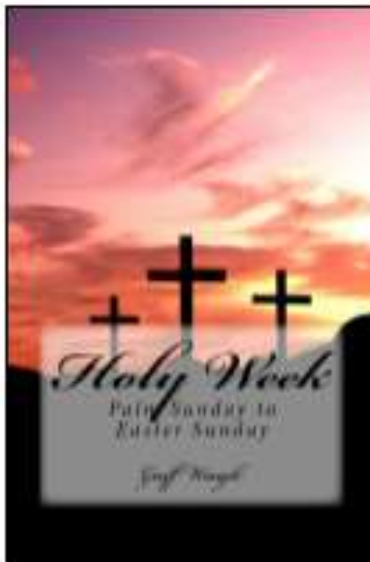
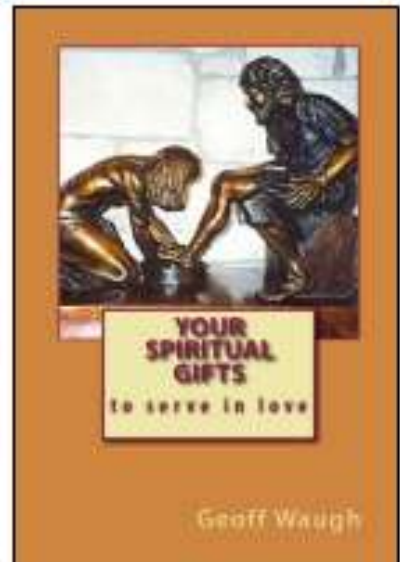
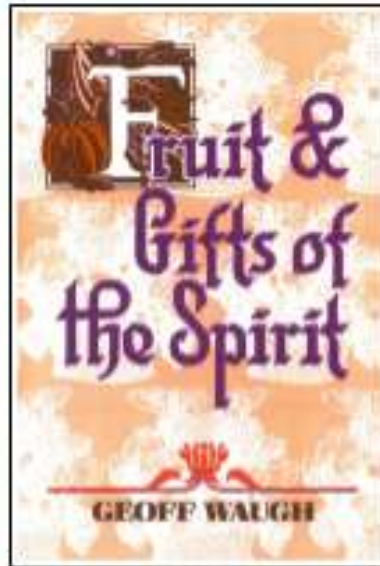
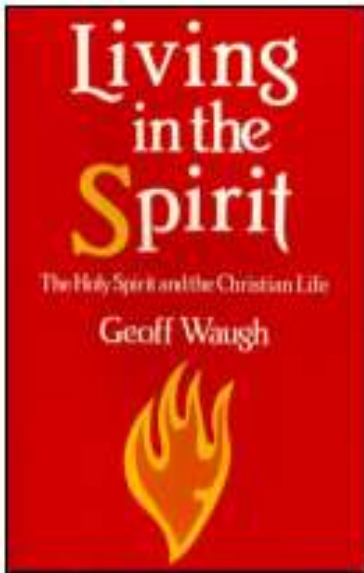
[*Light on the Mountains* - Geoff in PNG](#)

[*Travelling with Geoff* by Don Hill](#)

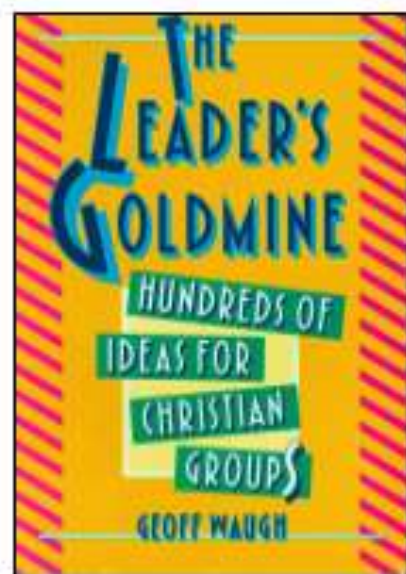
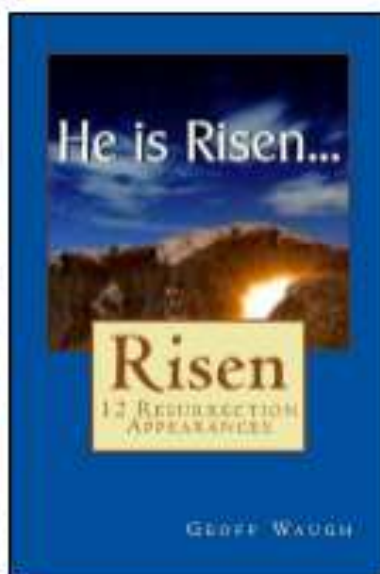
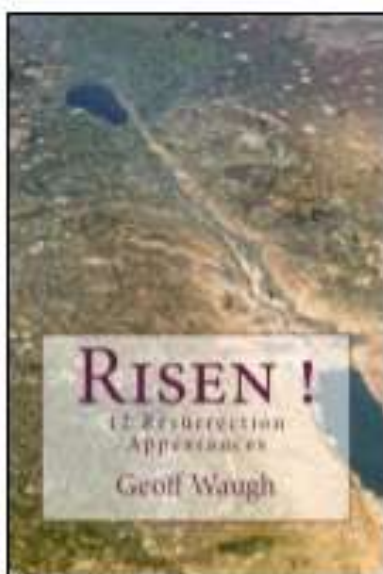
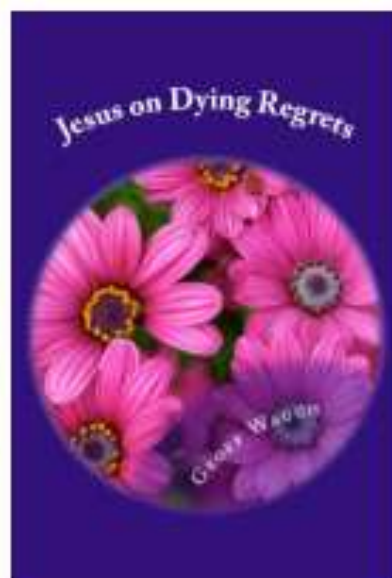
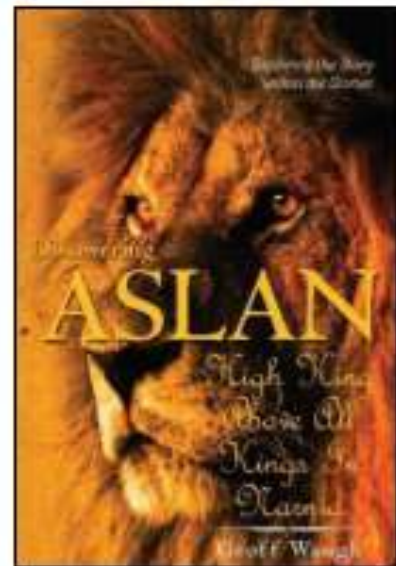
[*By All Means* by Elaine Olley](#)



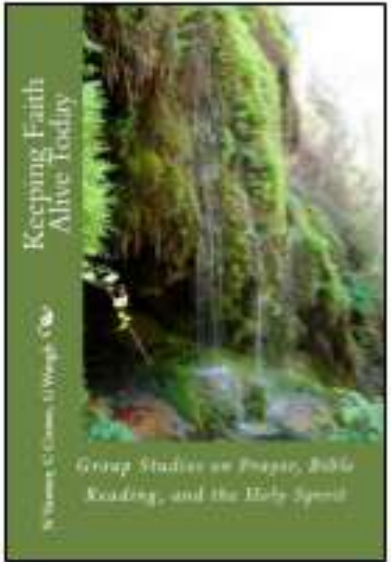
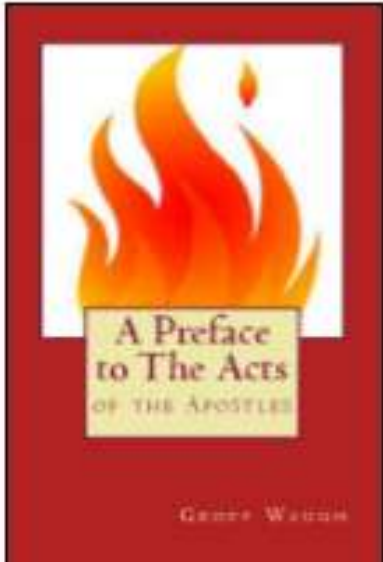
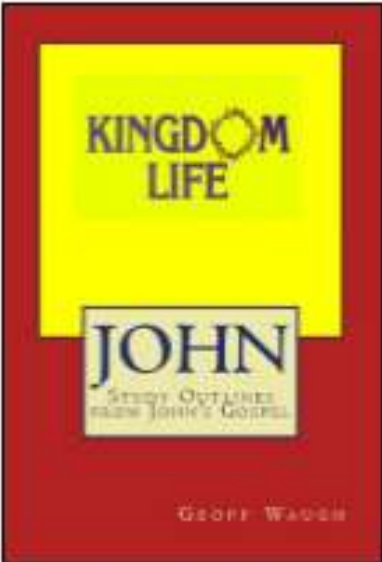
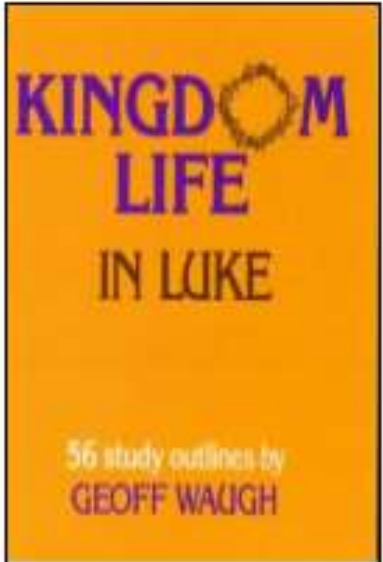
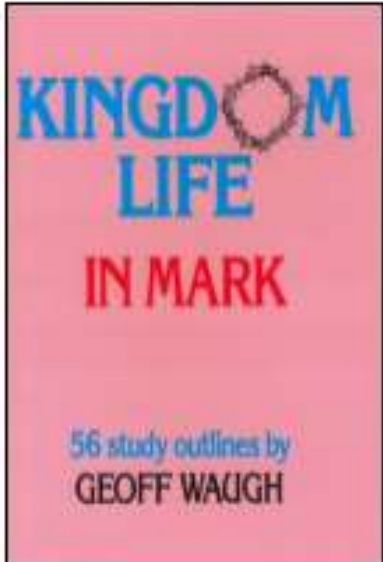
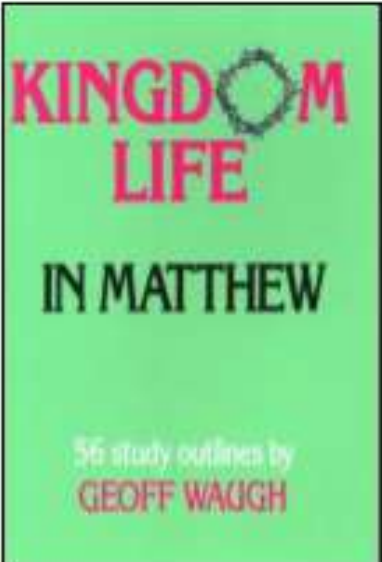
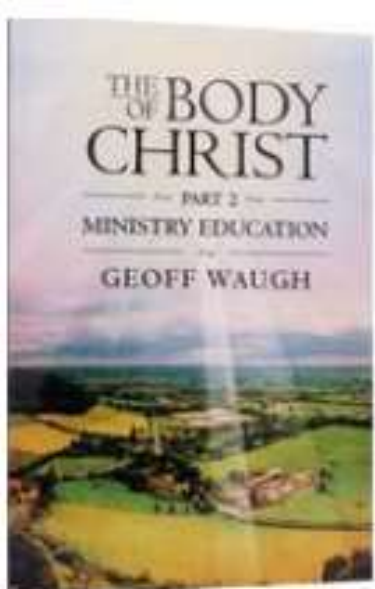
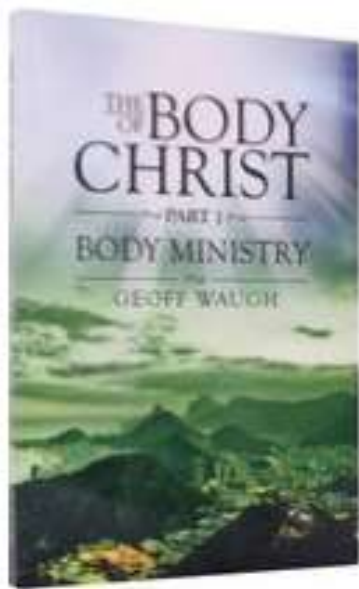
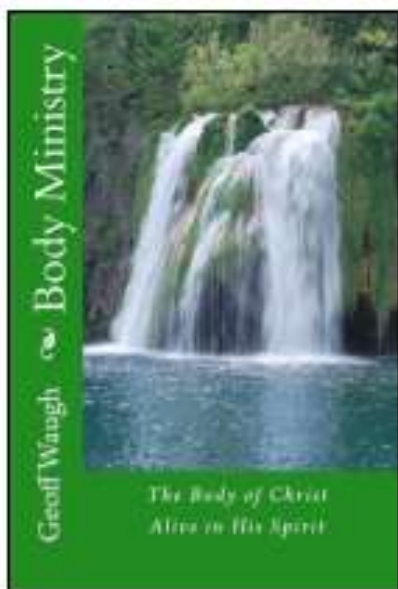
[Renewal Journal Publications](#)



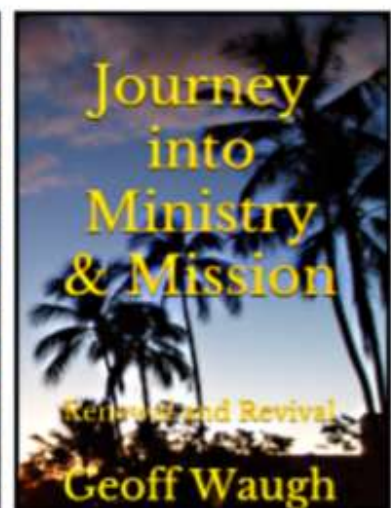
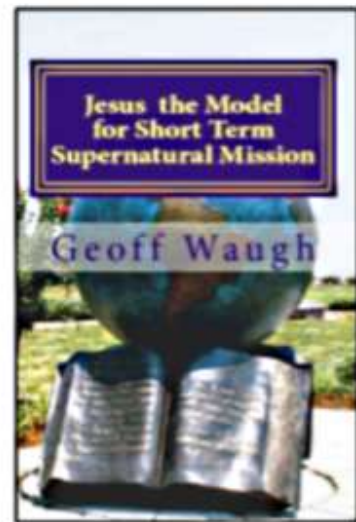
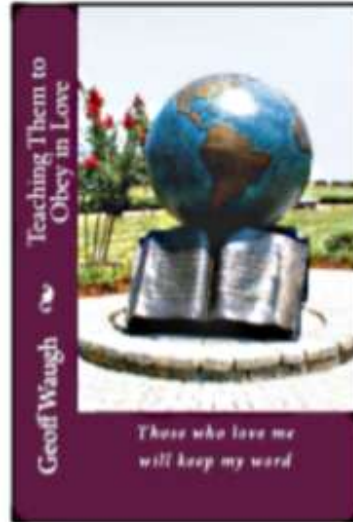
www.renewaljournal.com



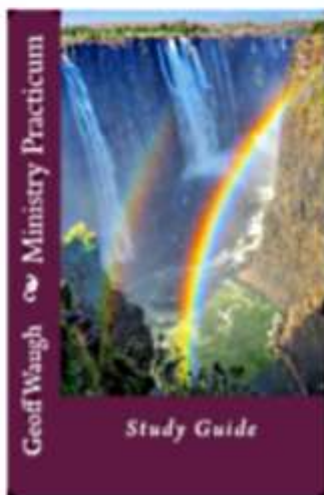
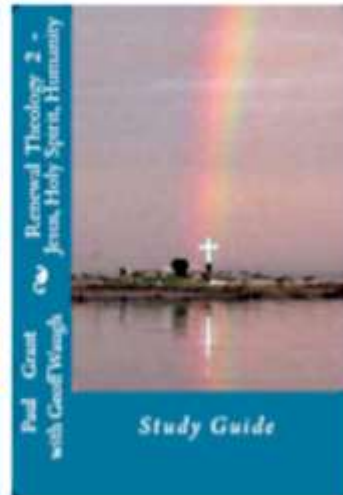
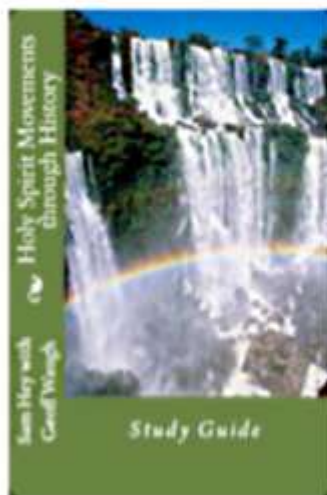
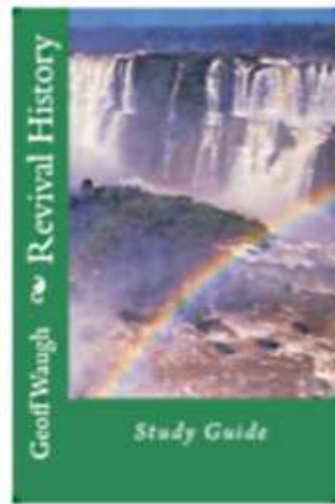
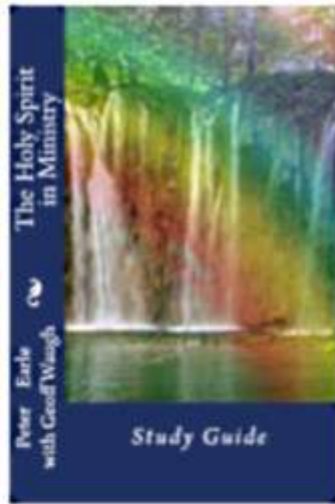
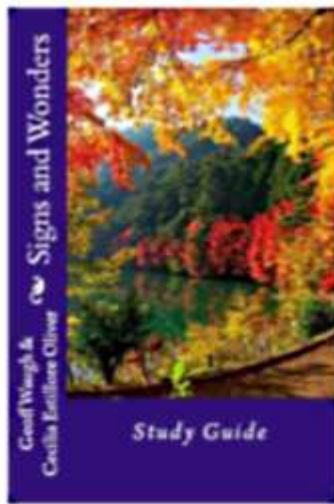
[Renewal Journal Publications](#)



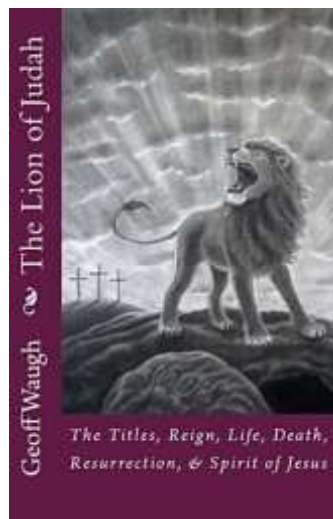
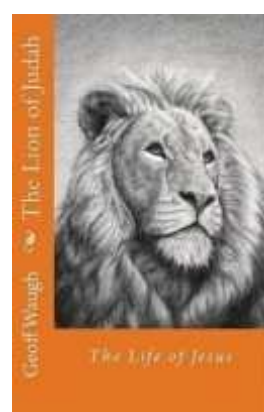
[Renewal Journal Publications](http://www.renewaljournal.com)



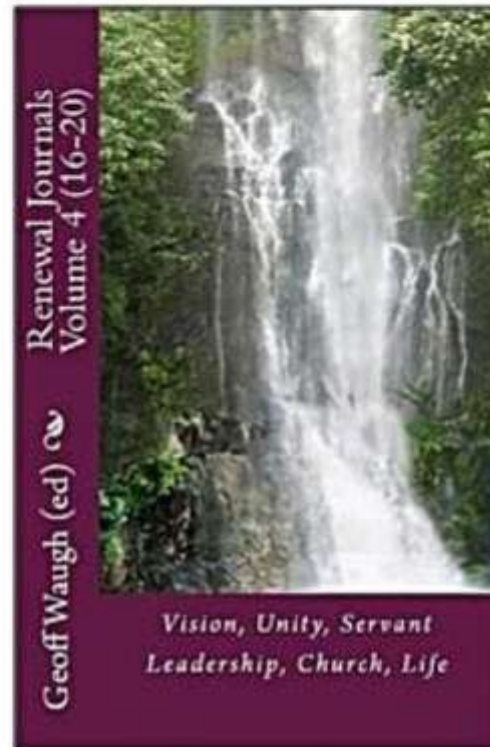
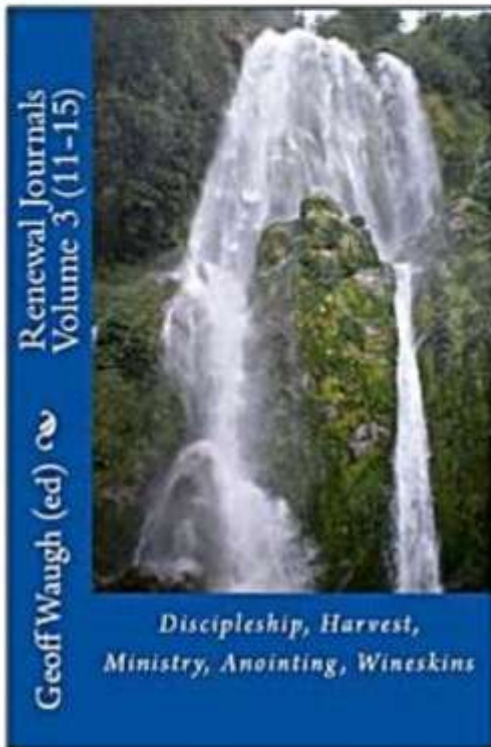
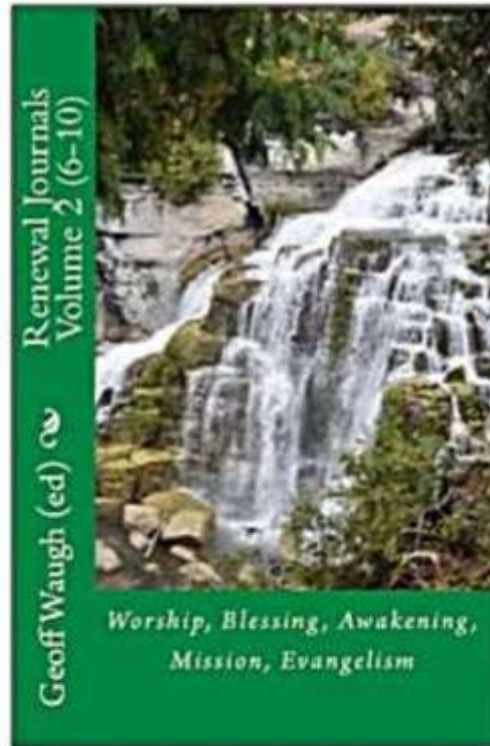
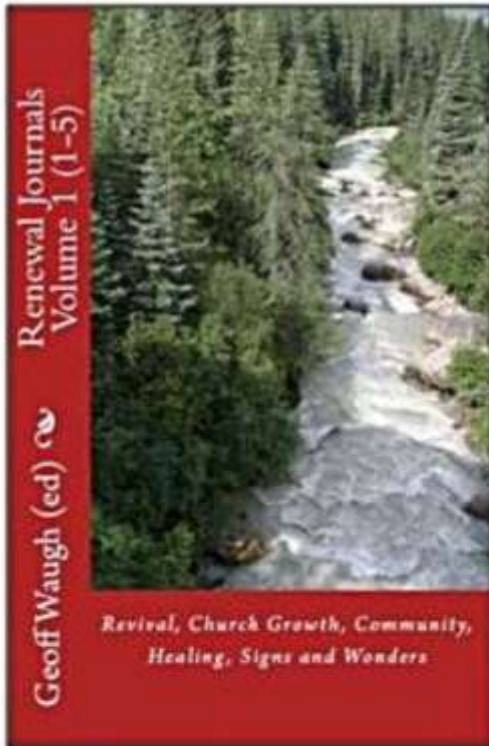
[Renewal Journal Publications](#)



[Study Guides](#)

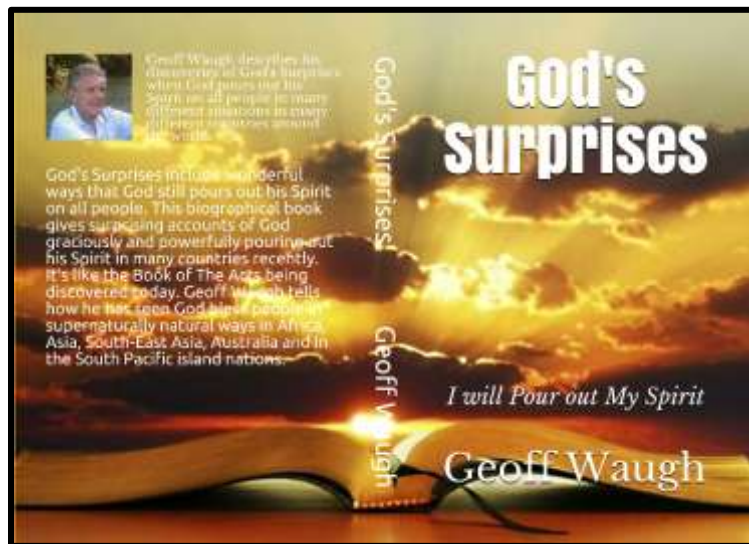


[The Lion of Judah Series](#)

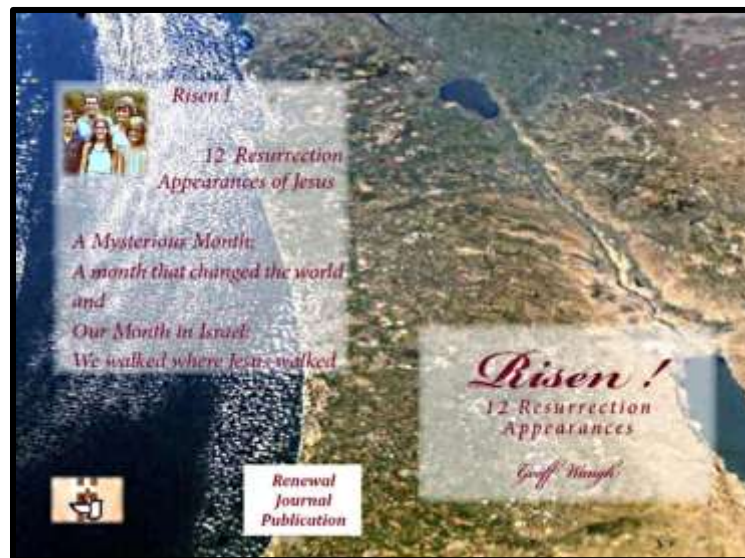


[Renewal Journals](#)
[20 issues in 4 bound volumes](#)

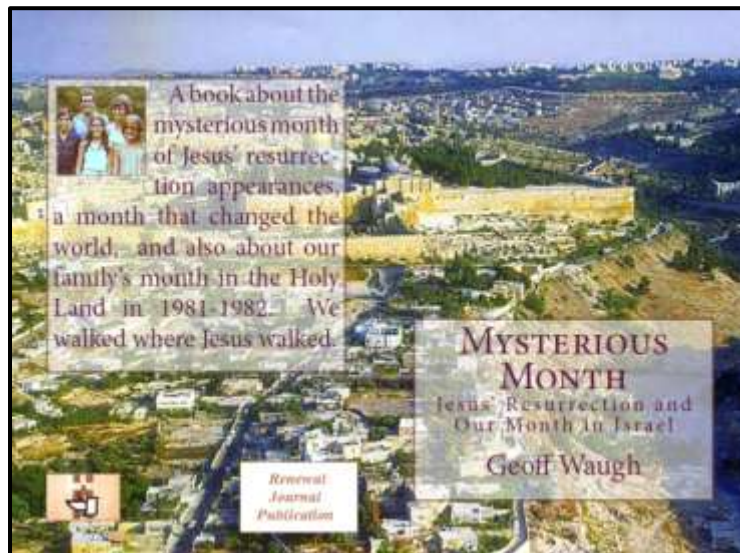
Double Page Book Covers



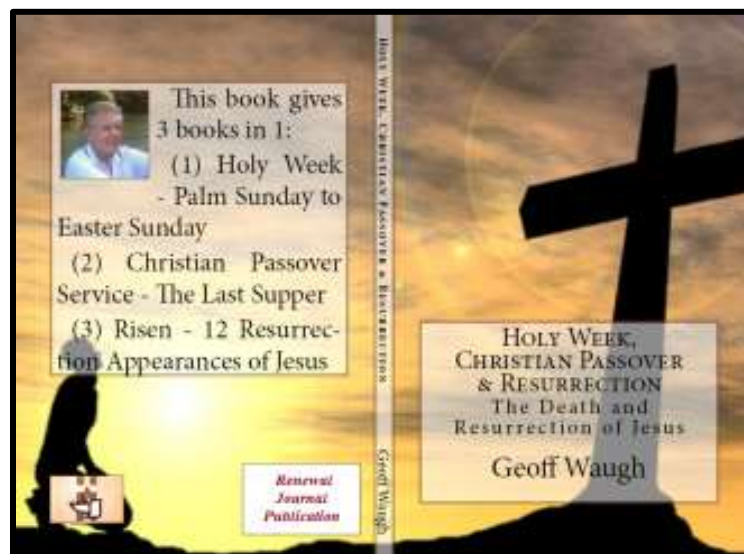
[God's Surprises](#)



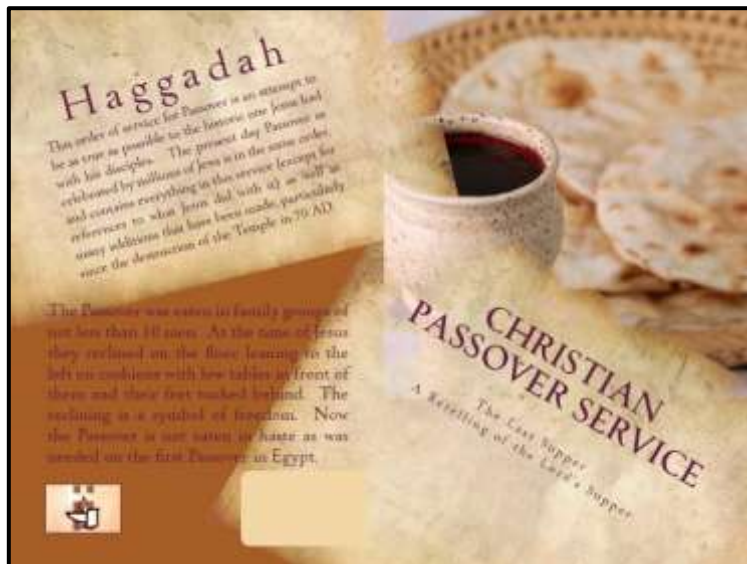
[Risen!](#)



[Mysterious Month](#)



[Holy Week, Christian Passover & Resurrection](#)

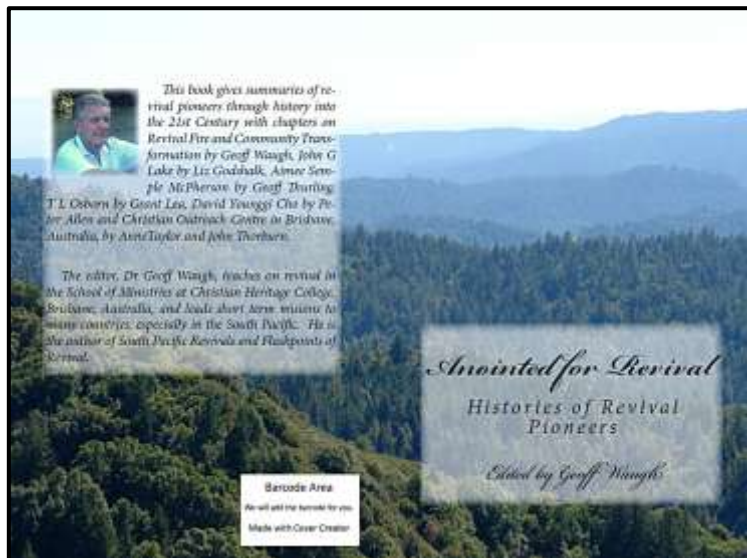


[Christian Passover Service](#)

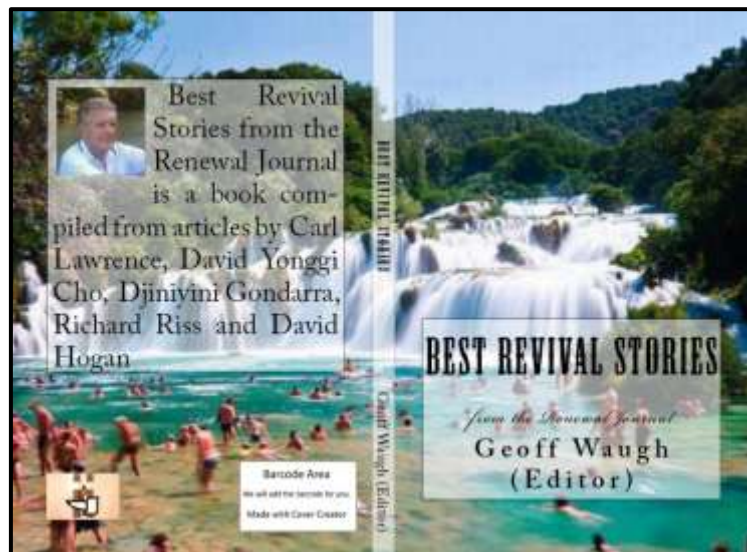
A Retelling of the Lord's Supper



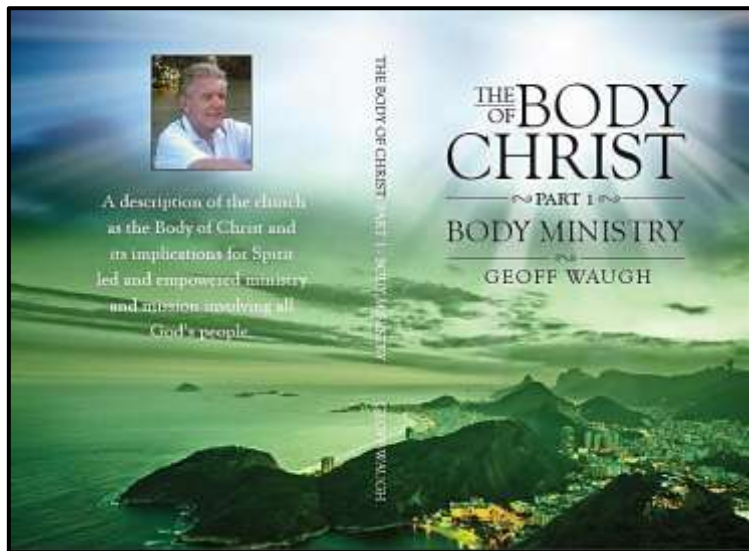
[The Christmas Message](#)



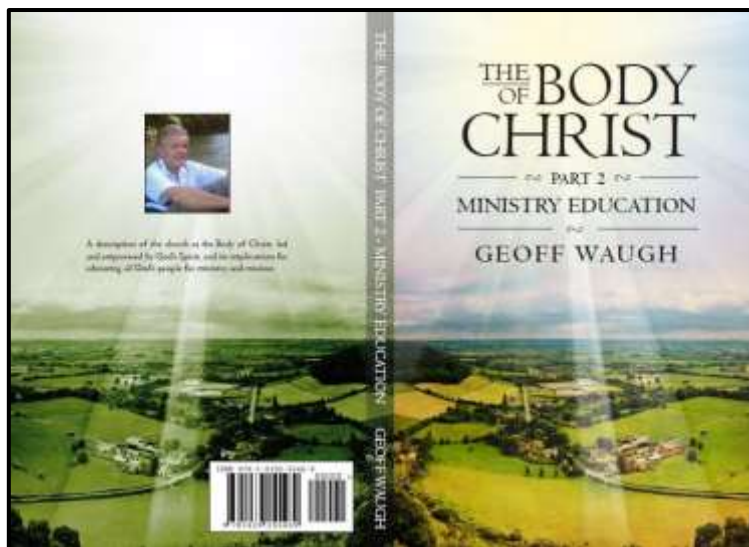
[*Anointed for Revival*](#)



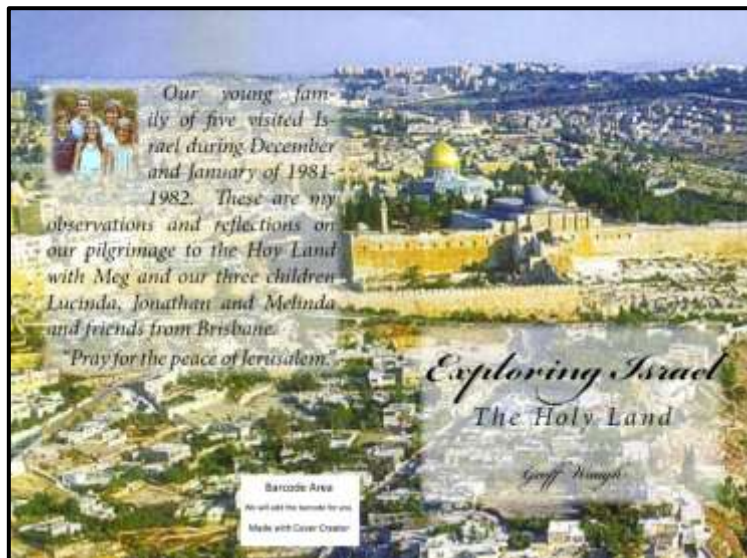
[*Best Revival Stories*](#)



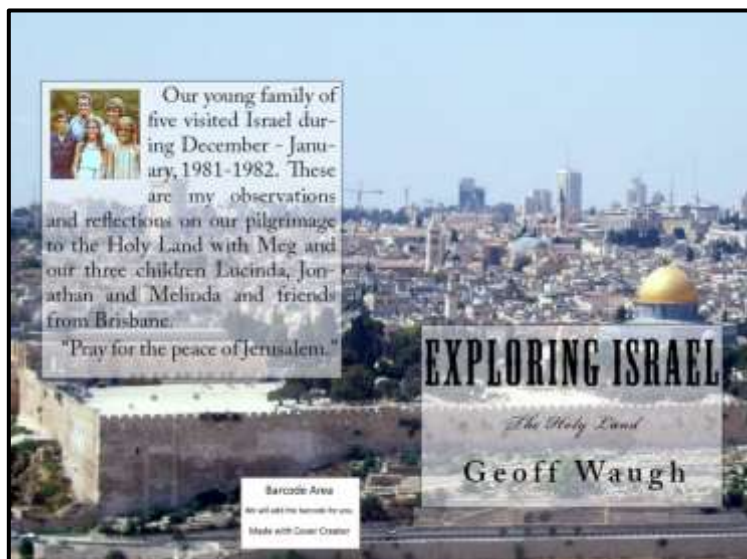
[*The Body of Christ, Part 1: Body Ministry*](#)



[*The Body of Christ, Part 2: Ministry Education*](#)



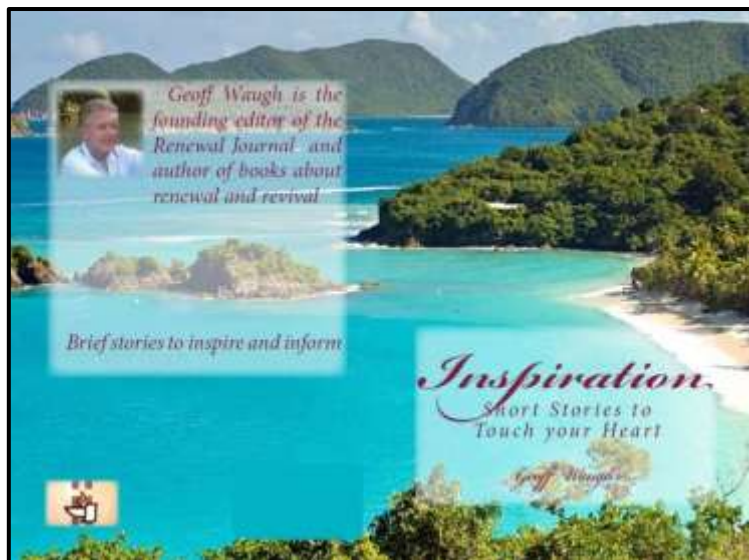
[Exploring Israel \(colour\)](#)



[Exploring Israel \(black & white\)](#)



[Great Revival Stories](#)



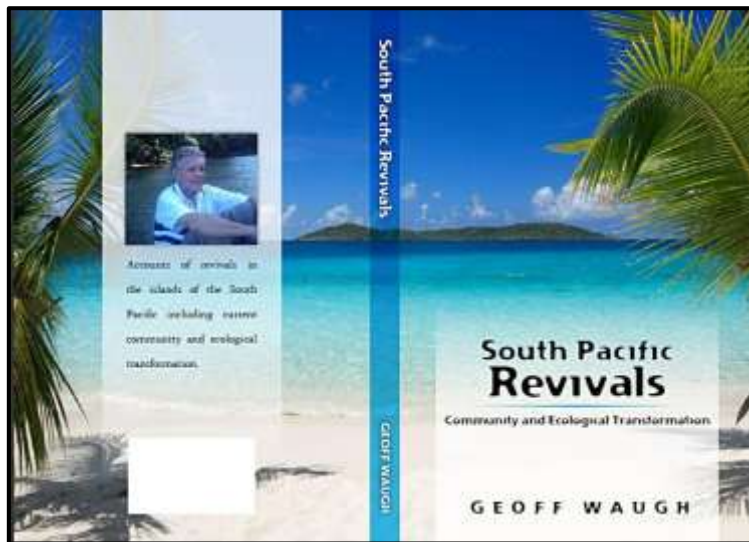
[Inspiration](#)



[Renewal: I make all things new](#)



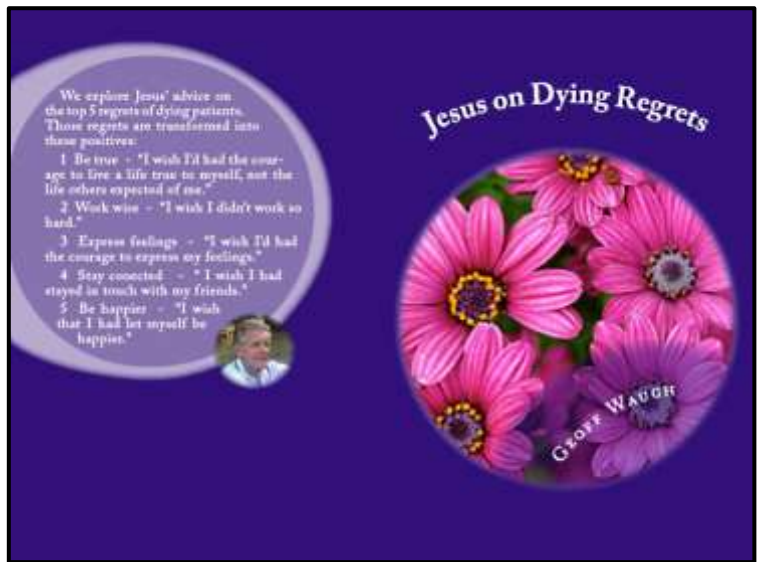
[Revival: I will pour out my Spirit](#)



[South Pacific Revivals](#)



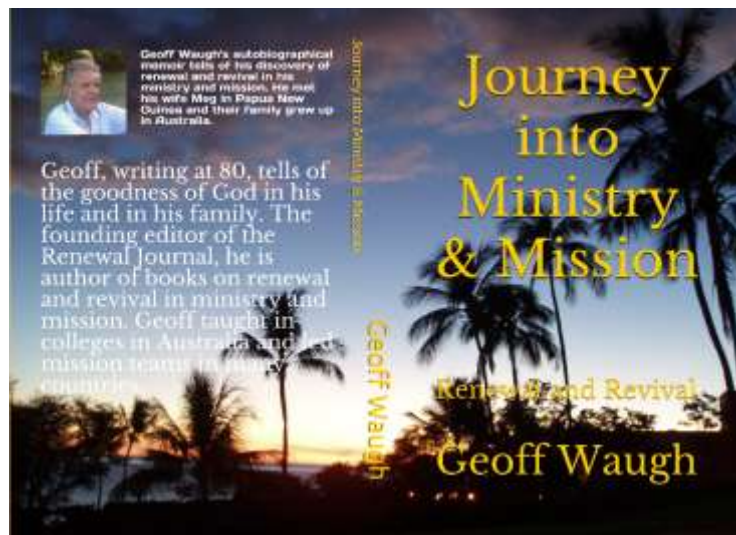
[Transforming Revivals](#)



[Jesus on Dying Regrets](#)



[Looking to Jesus: Journey into Renewal & Revival](#)

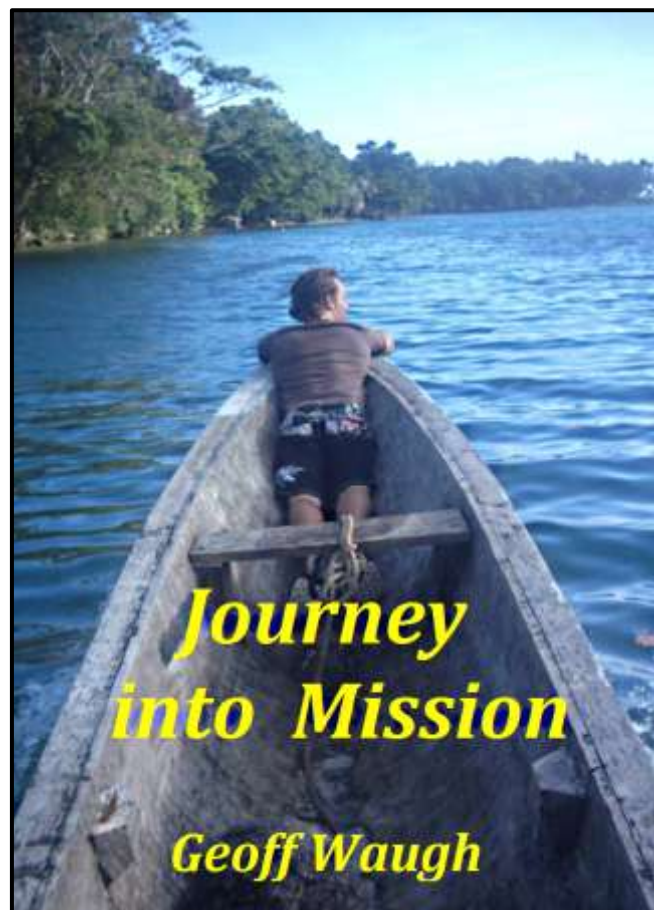


Journey into Ministry and Mission

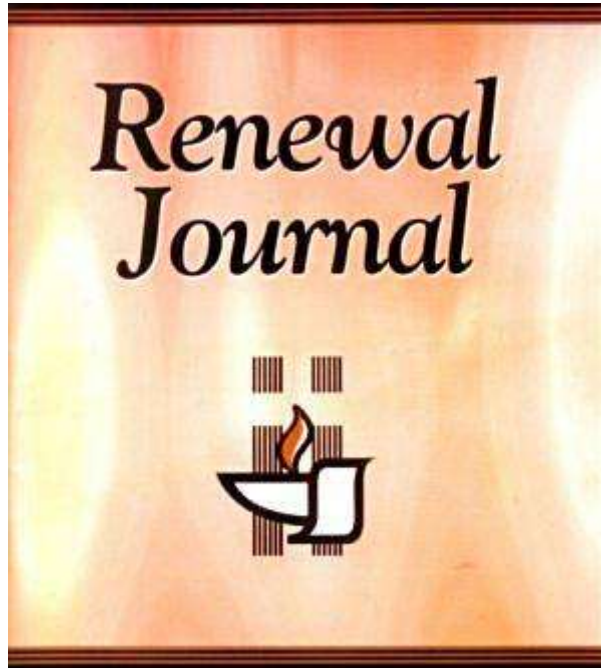
Condensed from two biographical books:

Looking to Jesus: Journey into Renewal & Revival

& Journey into Mission



[Renewal Journal](#)



www.renewaljournal.com

The Renewal Journal website gives links to

Renewal Journals

Books (including PDFs)

Blogs

FREE SUBSCRIPTION: for new Blogs & free offers
Free subscription gives you updates for
new Blogs and free offers
including free eBooks

PDF Books available

renewaljournal.com

All books both Paperback and eBook

Most Paperbacks in both

Basic Edition and

Gift Edition (colour)

I need and appreciate
your positive review comments
on [Amazon and Kindle](#)