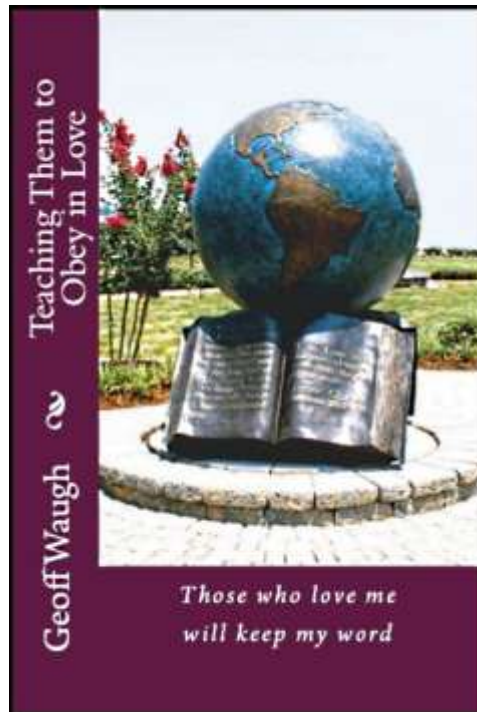


Teaching Them to Obey in Love

*Those who love me will keep my word
~ John 14:23*



Geoff Waugh

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*Some of this book is adapted with permission and gratitude from Bob Densley's book **Teaching Them to Obey All that I have Commanded** (2015).*

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

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Introduction

The Great Commission is a call to obey everything Jesus commanded. That's not easy! But Jesus reminded us that he now has all authority in heaven and on earth and he is with us to the end of the age:

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'
(Matthew 28:18-20)

This book is about learning to obey Jesus as we love God who loves us totally. Jesus said, *"If you love me you will keep my commandments"* (John 14:15, 23). The greatest commandments of all are to love God and love others.

I was teaching on revival and praying for and with people in the South Pacific islands when one of the leaders said to me, "You have written many books on revival. You should write one on the Great Commission: 'teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you.'"

Here it is! When I returned to Brisbane I discovered my friend Bob Densley had written a book, *Teaching Them to Obey All that I have Commanded*. So I adapted some of his work in this book.

Bob and I visited many countries, teaching on revival and praying with people. We encourage Christians, especially leaders, to obey what Jesus told us to do. All Christians love to speak and sing about Jesus but we may not follow his instructions. So I wrote a mission book about how Jesus trained

his followers: **Jesus the Model for Short Term Supernatural Mission**. It's the first in my Great Commission Series and this is the second book in that series – see Appendix.

Jesus taught his followers to do what he did. He commanded them to love one another as he loved us. He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God, to heal the sick and to cast out spirits. I hope this book will help you do what Jesus told us to do.

Jesus said that all the commandments could be summed up in two: loving God and loving others.

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it:



'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 22:37-40).

Jesus described our neighbour as anyone, especially those in need. He said that we would keep his commandments because we loved him.

Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. (John 14:23)

God our loving Father expects us to believe in Jesus, his Son, to trust him and to obey his teaching and instructions.

And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment (1 John 3:23).

What is obedience?

Jesus told a parable about two sons whose father told them to work in his vineyard (Matthew 21:28-32). One son said he would go but he did not. The other son said he would not go but changed his mind and went. The one who said 'No' but then went was more obedient than the one who said 'Yes' but didn't go. The story shows how we can repent, change our mind and obey.

Jesus' parable of the two sons encourages us to repent, turn around, and obey even if previously we did not. Often we may feel guilty that we are not obeying Jesus fully and wholeheartedly. When we pray we may remember how we disobeyed or were half-hearted or reluctant to obey. We can repent, and obey.

Some of Jesus commands seem hard for us to obey: *Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you; whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me; carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; sell your possessions, and give alms; those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples* (Luke 6:27-28; 9:23; 10:4; 12:33; 14:33). And that's just a few of his instructions!

We're not all called to be Saint Francis or Mother Teresa. But we are called to follow Jesus – and that's a challenge. Jesus' instructions can shape our attitudes and actions. We may live it out in different ways in different places, but his commands will always guide us as we are led by his Spirit. Jesus was wholly obedient in different ways at different times as a child, a student, a carpenter, a teaching rabbi, a healer, a sacrifice. We can obey in our different situations.

Our obedience springs from love and flows strong in God's love. *We love Him because he first loved us* (1 John 4:19).



Love is the reason we obey

Jesus says that we will obey his commandments because of our love for him. We obey from love, not just from duty. Our duty becomes our delight.

We understand obeying in love with people we really love such as our parents or husband or wife. We love to obey or please them because we love them. It's our delight, not just a duty. We love to please them, and we are so happy when our response to them pleases them.

Jesus' obedience was a natural part of his loving relationship with his Father, and he calls us into loving obedience also.

If you keep My commandments you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love (John 15:10).

Jesus lived in full fellowship and intimate loving relationship with his Father. Consequently his obedience flowed naturally and supernaturally from that.

So this book explores how we can obey Jesus in love by loving God and loving others. Loving God and loving others are inter-related. John, the Apostle of love, reminds us:

Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also (1 John 4:20-21).

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this

we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith (1 John 5:1-4).

Believing in God and in his Son Jesus changes us. It enables us to love God and to love one another. When we believe in God and trust him he gives us his life and we discover that his life in us gives us love for him and for others.

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1 Love God

Jesus reminds us that the greatest of all the commandments is to love God. *One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these'* (Mark 12:28-31).

God's love for us brings us into a loving relationship with him and with others. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life* (John 3:16).

C S Lewis wrote, "On the whole, God's love for us is a much safer subject to think about than our love for Him. Nobody can always have devout feelings: and even if we could, feelings are not what God principally cares about. Christian Love, either towards God or towards man, is an affair of the will. If we are trying to do His will we are obeying the commandment, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God.' He will give us feelings of love if He pleases. We cannot create them for ourselves, and we must not demand them as a right. But the great thing to remember is that, **though our feelings come and go, His love for us does not**" (*Mere Christianity*, Book 3, Chapter 9, emphasis added).

Jesus pointed out that our God who loves us is One Being. Jesus and the Father are one in eternal union with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, *I and the Father are one. ... Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ... But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ... You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you"* (John 10:30; 14:23, 26, 28). We have one God revealed in three divine persons who love us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

So this section on loving God looks at these three dimensions of loving God:

Faith in God our Father

Following Jesus our Lord

Filled with the Spirit our Guide



OR

**Faith is jumping out into the unknown
and landing on Someone**

Faith in God

Loving God includes having faith in God. *And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him* (Hebrews 11:6).

The Message translates that verse like this: *It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.*

That verse mentions two aspects of faith in God:

1. We believe that God exists (Some people don't believe that).
2. We know he responds to us (Some people don't seek him).

Jesus expected people to have faith, especially his disciples. He said, *Have faith in God. ... Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them* (Mark 11:22, 24).

Many people don't believe that. Some people think that Jesus was exaggerating. But, when we believe and ask according to God's will we do receive from him.

The disciples' small faith often amazed Jesus. For example, after stilling the storm he said to them, *Where is your faith? or You of little faith, why are you so afraid?* (Luke 8:24; Matthew 8:26)

Like us, the disciples sometimes failed through lack of faith. When Jesus came back from talking with Moses and Elijah about how he would leave the earth (Luke 9:29-31) he found that his disciples had failed to drive out a spirit from an epileptic boy. Jesus said, *O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me* (Matthew 17:17).

Jesus then rebuked the spirit and it came out. The boy was cured. When his disciples asked Jesus why they could not do that he answered, *“Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting”* (Matthew 17:20-21).

Loving God involves having faith in God. Believing him. Trusting him. We will explore faith this way:

- 1 Saving faith
- 2 The gift of faith



Saving Faith

Jesus often reminded people that their faith in him saved them and brought God's blessing. He expected people to have faith in him and often said things like these:

'Your faith has saved you; go in peace' (Luke 7:50).

'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace' (Luke 8:48).

Faith can be tricky. Some people seem to have faith in their beliefs or doctrines. Others seems to have faith in their own 'faith'! For example, some people believe that you can quote any verse from the Bible and it will happen.

Jesus calls us to have faith in him which also means having faith in God for they are One. That is different from having faith in your beliefs or doctrines. It is more personal. It means trusting God himself, not just believing things about him.

Paul explained it this way: *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

The Message describes it this way: *Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

We trust God. We trust Jesus. We don't trust in our own abilities or efforts. We don't even trust in our particular doctrines. Many Christians believe different doctrines. I suspect that when we are in heaven, in God's glorious presence, we will see that we've all been wrong about many things including some doctrines.

So we trust in Jesus himself, not just our doctrines about him. We have faith in God himself, not in our theories about him. That's why you can find people from all doctrines and denominations who really love God personally and follow Jesus in faith. People who differ from you may even love God more than you do!

Jesus reminded religious people that many sinners, prostitutes and hated traitors who collected taxes for Rome, would be saved but many religious people who trusted in their own goodness or 'works' would not.

Saving faith is just trusting Jesus himself, not trusting in your doctrines about him. You can trust him right now as you read this. You can trust Jesus. You can have faith in God himself. Why not pause now and thank him for his love and grace and mercy for you?



Gift of Faith

Faith is a gift. We can't earn it, not even by being good and obedient. God gives us faith. When we pray, "God, forgive me" or "God save me" we are using faith – the faith that God gives to us. Some people ignore that gift and turn away from God.

We are not only **saved** by God's grace through faith, but we also **serve** by God's grace through faith. Since I was a small boy I heard that we are **saved to serve**.

A funny thing happens for some Christians. They seem to know that salvation is God's gift to us which we receive by faith, like a child. But then they seem to think we must earn God's favour or earn Jesus' love by obedience. But even our service is by grace, in faith, and not by our works. Our service does not earn God's grace! It is our way of saying, "Thanks". Our service is our act of love – love for God and love for others.

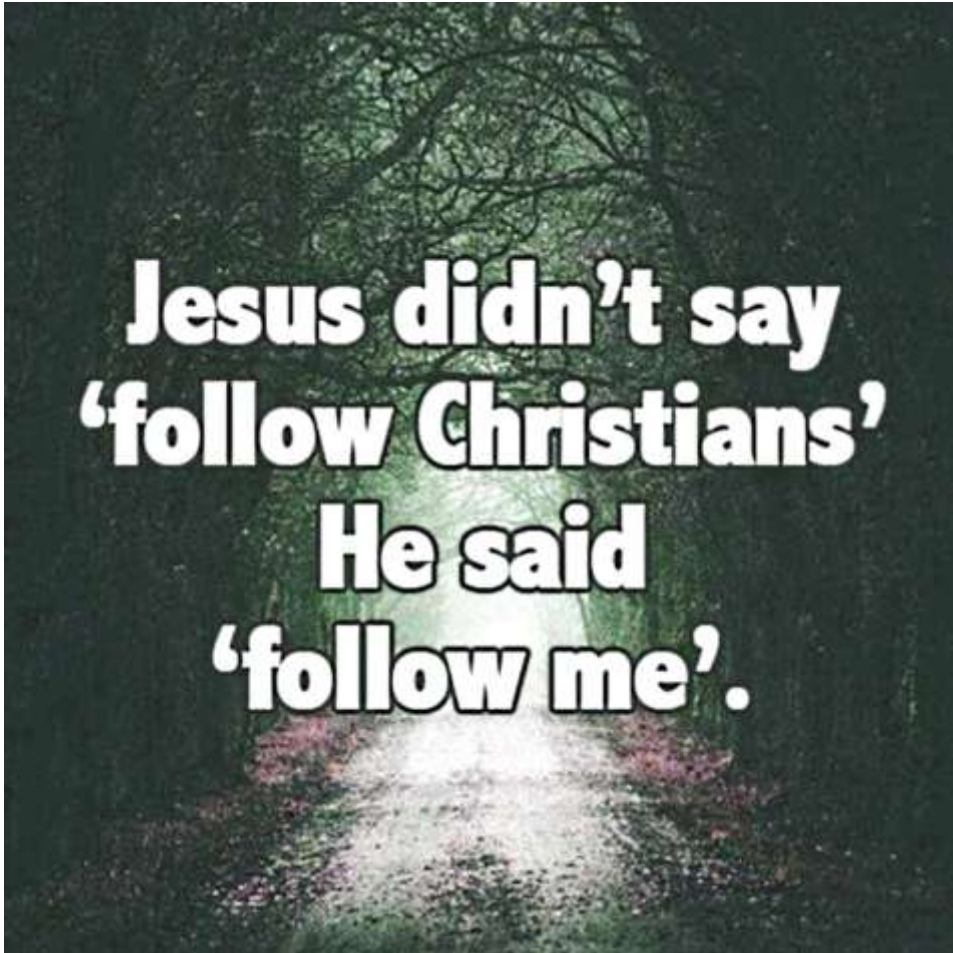
Then, as we express our love in obedience we *grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ* (2 Peter 3:18). Our obedience does not earn God's love for us. We already have that, for ever. Our obedience just expresses our love for him. We show our love for him by doing what he says to do.

There is also a gift of faith that is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Some people like to call this gift of faith 'mountain moving faith'. That refers to Jesus' word: *Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, "Be taken up and thrown into the sea", and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you.* (Mark 11:22-23).

We have no story of Jesus moving mountains around, although he did turn water into wine, still a storm on Galilee, walk on

water, and curse a fig tree that withered in a day (all done only once). So mountain-moving faith is not there for us to go around changing the landscape! But it is there for us to do the will of our Father, just as Jesus did.

We can all believe in God and have faith in his mighty power. Then as we obey what he puts into our heart we can move in faith, serve in faith, speak in faith, obey in faith. The gift of faith then flows in and through us. God does his mighty work in and through us. All glory goes to him, not us, because he does it in and through us as we obey. That is why some very young Christians can pray for the sick and see them healed in many different ways, because they believe and obey. Others may see God do miraculous things because they also believe and obey. We all can believe and obey.



Follow Me

If we love Jesus we will obey him more and more. He said:

‘Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me (John 14:23).

Then he added: *You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. (John 15:14)*

Sometimes we think that obedience is tough, and certainly Jesus did say: *Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me (Luke 9:23).* That can be tough. But it can also be wonderfully freeing for us. He frees us from our selfishness and self-centredness. He fills us with love for God and for others.

Jesus told his followers to come to him and he would give them rest. Obeying his commands is not a heavy burden but a delight. Jesus also said, *My yoke is easy and My burden is light (Matthew 11:30).*

Have you ever fallen in love? I mean head-over-heels in love! You wanted to be with the one you loved. You wanted to please him or her. You thought of ways to make him or her happy. Their wish was your command! If they liked chocolate you found many ways to surprise them with chocolate. If they asked you to do something you jumped to it as quickly as you could. You loved them. You wanted to please them. You wanted to bless them.

That's a small but powerful example of how we can love God and respond to his great love for us. We follow Jesus, like the disciples did, because we love him. We do what he wants because we love him.

Yes, our love can be weak, fickle, and muddied by our sin or selfishness. But the more we know him in all his grace, beauty, love and goodness, the more we really love him in gratitude and gladness. And the more we love him the more we delight to obey him.

No one, except Jesus, loves and obeys God fully and perfectly. We all fail at times, maybe often. But we all can grow in our love and obedience. Just trying to obey him is a sign of our love for Jesus and our response to God's love for us.



Filled with the Spirit

God's Spirit lives in all believers *and the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us* (Romans 5:5).

God is Spirit, not just a spirit. There are many spirits but God himself is Spirit. He is the Creator Spirit who made us in his image, like him.

Jesus pointed out that *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"* (John 4:24). We are made in God's likeness to love God with our whole being and worship him in spirit and truth. Our worship is not just an intellectual activity although we can love God with all our mind. We worship him in spirit with our whole being for we are like him as spirit beings.

God has given us his Spirit, who is also the Spirit of Jesus. Paul explains our relationship with God our Father and Jesus his Son through his Spirit, a beautiful description of the Trinity: *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 4:4-7).

A loving relationship with the Holy Spirit

Jesus said we need to be born again by being born of the Spirit. He explained it to Nicodemus, a Jewish leader, this way:

Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound

of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit' (John 3:5-8).

Jesus taught his disciples about the Holy Spirit on the night before he was crucified. He said that those who followed him would receive a Helper, a Counsellor, who would live in them and guide them into all truth. Part of this truth is the understanding and capacity to love.

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you (John 14:16-18).

The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people. ~ A.W. Tozer



Come Holy Spirit

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you (John 14:26).

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you (John 16:7-14).

The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, is our guide. Jesus himself was filled with and led by the Holy Spirit. He said that his followers would also be empowered by the Holy Spirit. This is why he said that we would do even greater works than he did because he was going to the Father (John 14:12) and that he would not leave us as orphans. (John 14:18).

Whoever believes in Jesus, whoever trusts him, has the Holy Spirit living in them. This is one of the most amazing aspects of our Christian faith and probably one of the least understood.

God's love poured into us by his Spirit

One of the miracles of receiving and being filled with the Holy Spirit is that we are filled with God's love by the Spirit of God himself. God is love, so his Spirit imparts his love to us.

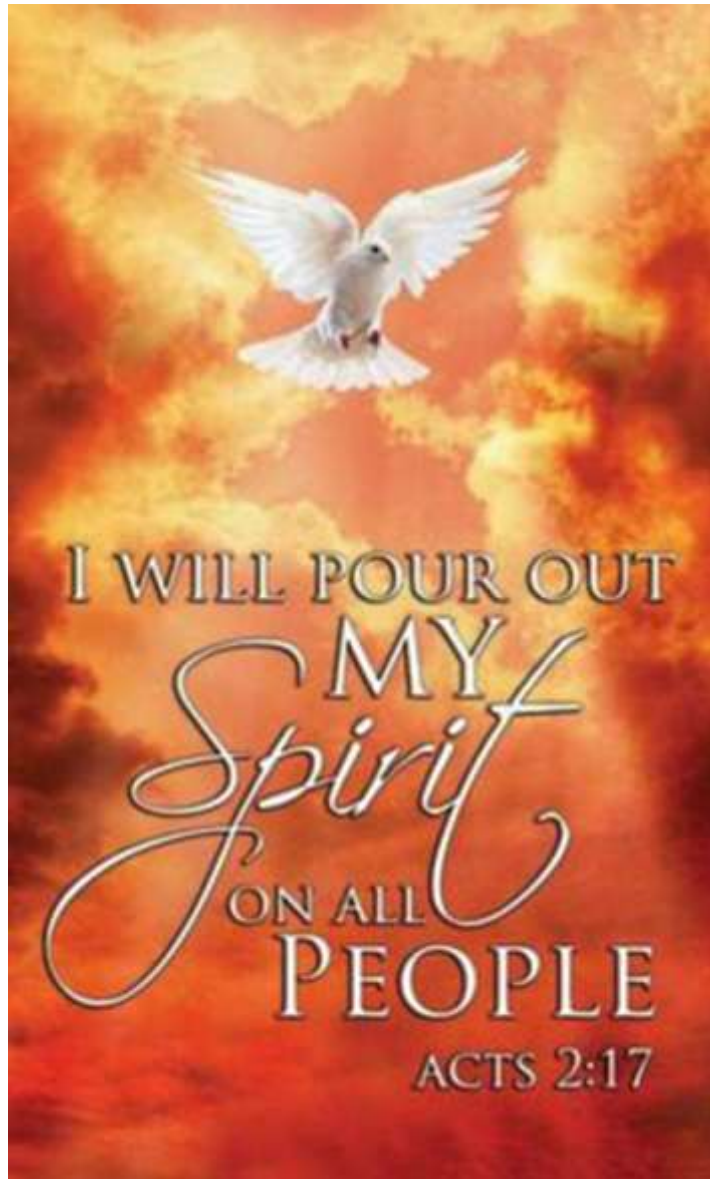
We not only receive God's love for us by his Spirit within us, but we also receive God's love for others as well. That's miraculous. Spirit-filled people should reflect the Spirit of Jesus.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified

the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25).

We can grieve the Holy Spirit by not seeking his guidance and by not listening to his advice. Paul told his readers not to do that: *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30).*

When we make decisions without responding to God's Spirit within us it can lead to less righteousness and holiness, less anointing, and less blessings in our lives. God gives us His righteousness and anointing as we respond to him and increasingly obey him. That's not a reward for our obedience but it is a result of our obedience.



Baptized in the Spirit

Some readers will check out this section to see if my doctrine agrees with their doctrine. Perhaps you did! But God's Spirit rises far above our little doctrines and limited understanding. He is God.

We need to be filled with the Spirit and empowered by the Spirit. Jesus promised this. It was his last promise before he left the earth. He promised that his disciples will have power and authority from the Holy Spirit to undertake the work of the kingdom.

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49).

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:4-5).

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8).

The more we are filled with the Spirit the more we can love God and love others in the anointing and power of God's Spirit. This is an amazing relationship with God.

Countless millions of Christians now tell how God's Spirit came upon them and transformed them with a new discovery of God's love and power and also a new, deep love for God.

The Holy Spirit, who inspired God's Word, speaks powerfully through that Word to the followers of Jesus who truly seek him. As we read the Word of God, seeking the Lord for His guidance, the Holy Spirit brings the Word to life and shows us what God's word means for us and how to apply it in our daily life.

Jesus lived that way, constantly obedient to the Spirit of God in him. We can learn to do that more and more. Sometimes we may feel too sinful or too weak to love and obey our Lord, but *the Spirit helps us in our weakness* (Romans 8:26).

We serve God in his mighty power, not in our own power.

Remember that! You have a Helper, an Advocate – the Holy Spirit who loves you, guides you, and empowers you.



Led by the Spirit

Jesus is, of course, our best example of being filled with and led by the Spirit.

When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age (Luke 1:21-23).

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness ... Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

*"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:1, 14-21).

The power of the Lord was with him to heal them. ... And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. (Luke 5:17; 6:19)

Jesus was constantly led by the Spirit and ministered in the power of the Spirit. He sent his 12 apostles and then 70 followers to do the same in the authority and power of the Spirit (Luke 8:1-3; 9:1-2; 10:1).

He sends us to do the same (Acts 1:8). We too can be led and empowered by God's Spirit: *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:1).*

Those who are led by the Holy Spirit learn to love and serve as Jesus did.



2 Love Others

An anthropologist proposed a game to African tribal children. He put a basket full of fruit near a tree and told them that whoever got there first won the sweet fruits. When he told them to run they all took each other's hands and ran together, then sat together enjoying their treats. When he asked them why they had run like that because one of the children could have had all the fruits, they said:

UBUNTU, how can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?

UBUNTU in the Xhosa culture means: "I am because we are".

God's kingdom is like that, only more so. We belong to God and to one another. We are caught up for ever in God's great love for everyone.

God's love for us all is unique, total, and eternal. He demonstrated that love in his Son Jesus. *God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:8).

We did nothing to deserve or earn his love for us. God is love. So John 3:16 has become the most famous verse in the Bible: *For God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

The Message puts it this way: *This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.*

When we surrender our lives to him God lives in us and we live in him – Spirit with spirit, or Spirit in spirit. We have new life. We are born anew.

So God's love is then poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). That is not only God's love for us personally, it is also God's love for everyone. We have a new kind of love within us – God's love.

That love, God's love, is poured into us by God's Spirit. What does that mean in practice?

Well, it certainly means that we
love one another,
serve one another and
encourage one another.



Love one another

Jesus gave his disciples a **new** commandment.

Jesus shared his heart with his disciples on his last evening with them before his crucifixion. He emphasized that we must love one another as he loves us: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another* (John 13:34-35).

What's new about that commandment? We are to love others **as Jesus loved us**. That's new. Jesus emphasized it: *This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.* (John 15:12)

Jesus' love is also God's radical love. On the cross he prayed forgiveness for those who were torturing and killing him. He taught that kind of pure love which often seems strange to us: *You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you* (Matthew 5:34-44).

Our natural, human love is not like that. But God's love in us by his Spirit is just like that. We are new creations in Christ Jesus with a new kind of love.

Paul gives us an inspired description of that kind of godly love in his famous love chapter: *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the*

truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13).

How do we love like that? We love Jesus (not just like him or learn about him) and he fills us with his love because *the love of God is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit* (Romans 5:5).

We find a new kind of love within us – a deeper love for God and his deep love for others flowing through us because his Spirit in us fills us with his love for all people. Then we find ways to show that love as we serve and encourage one another.



Bronze sculpture by Max Greiner

Serve one another

Jesus gives lasting joy, an everlasting joy found in loving and serving. Jesus' friends, his disciples, argued about greatness on the night before Jesus was crucified: *A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, ... 'I am among you as one who serves'* (Luke 22:24, 27).

After washing his friends' feet that night Jesus said: *I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them* (John 13:15-17).

Peter objected! It was not appropriate for Jesus, his Lord and Master, to do such a thing! The Lord and Master acting and dressed as the lowly servant? Peter still had much to learn about the kingdom of God. We find great joy and fulfilment in loving and serving one another.

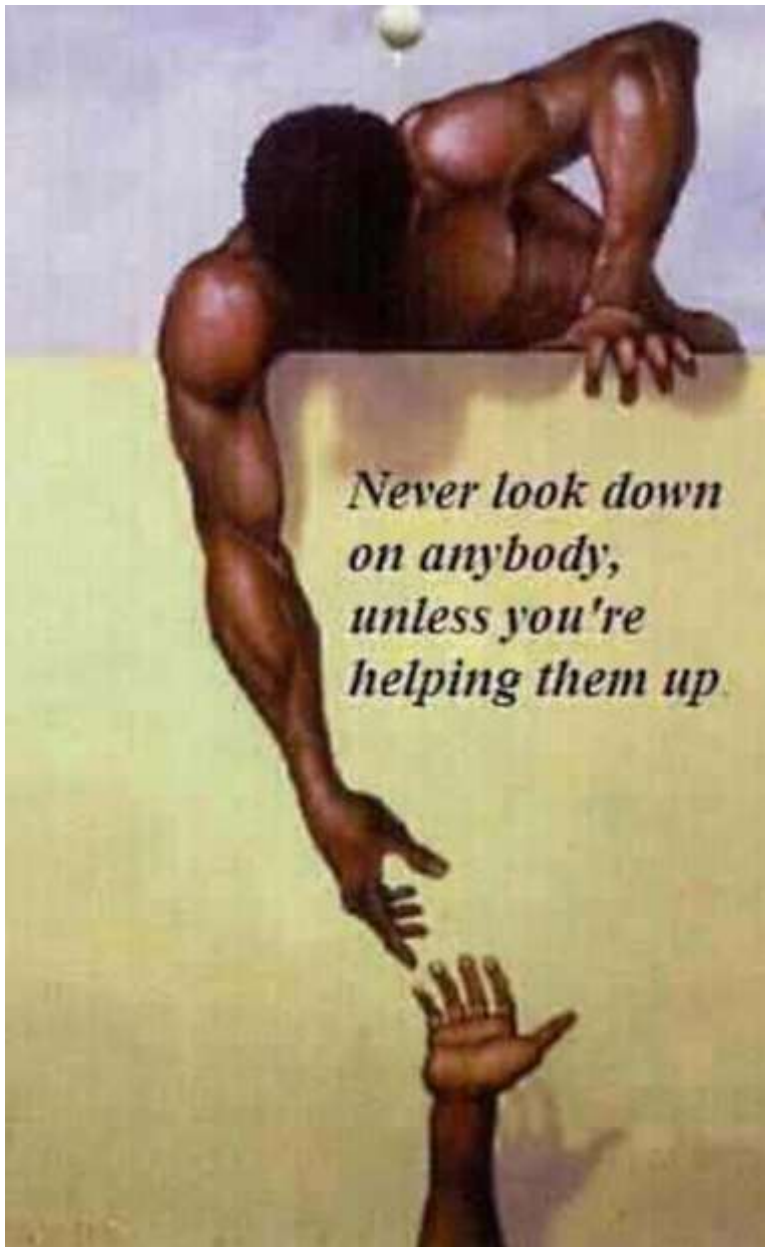
Later on Peter wrote about the 'joy unspeakable' or the inexpressible joy we have through believing, loving and serving Jesus: *Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls* (1 Peter 1:8-9).

Our lasting joy is found in Jesus, in following him and being made like him. Trusting in him we too have life everlasting and

we live out that eternal life here and now as we love and serve others just as Jesus did. That is something to celebrate, to enjoy and to share with others. It's good news indeed.

Our love for God, our commitment to Jesus, and our life in the Spirit, plunge us into serving others. Loving and serving others can also lead us into confrontation, just as Jesus' love for all people led to conflict. We may confront injustice and hatred as we truly seek to live for God or follow Jesus, led and empowered by his Spirit. Martin Luther King Jnr died doing that, opposing injustice in Jesus' name. Millions around the world do that as they also love and serve Jesus in the power of his Spirit.

Obedying Jesus' commands means that we will love and serve one another as Jesus did. The more we love him the more we will love and serve like him.



Encourage one another

We are called into service, fellowship and community as the Body of Christ. We need one another and we need to encourage one another.

Our physical bodies have many different members, and so does the Body of Christ as Paul explained: *If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased (1 Corinthians 12:15-18).*

Your gifts and abilities are different from mine, although they do overlap. We all worship, sing praise, and serve others. But the way we do it and the abilities we have vary a lot. We need to enjoy and celebrate our differences.

As we love and serve the Lord together we can encourage one another. The word encourage means to put courage in someone (en-courage). That's a great way to show love for one another. We all need it, and we all can give it.

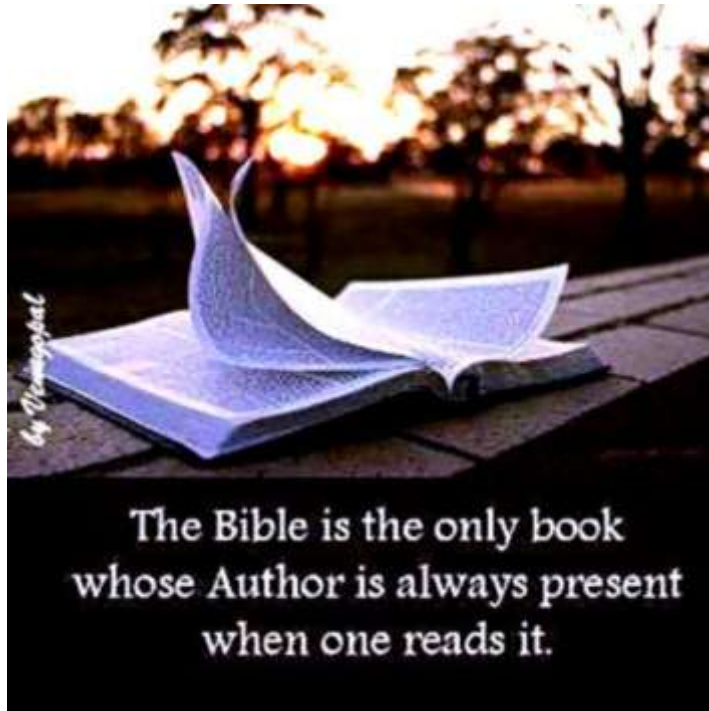
Serving God together is a great way to support and encourage one another. Jesus sent his apostles and followers out together in pairs, not alone. As we do things together we bring our different gifts and abilities to the task.

For example, if you are praying for someone you can do it alone, and we often do. We can also do it together, and then we bring

added faith and gifts to the prayer. Someone may get a Scripture, or a picture parable, or a 'word of knowledge' or use a gift of faith for that person. Many healings and miracles happen that way as we pray and obey.

I have been blessed hundreds of times when people have prayed for me or thanked me or encouraged me. We have prayed for and encouraged hundreds of people in our ministry and mission. You can too.

As we *encourage one another and build each other up* (1 Thessalonians 5:11) and *encourage one another daily* (Hebrews 3:13), we all grow stronger in our faith and Christian living. We can do this in many ways - face to face, facing challenges, and even on Facebook! We can stir one another up to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24), to love God and to love others.



Conclusion

This small book gives guidelines and suggestions to help us all to love God and to love others.

Best of all we can know, love and live for Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

I love the way John, possibly the youngest disciple and the one Jesus loved in a unique way, concludes his good news about Jesus. His conclusion applies to this book also: *Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.*

Have faith in God.

Believe in Jesus.

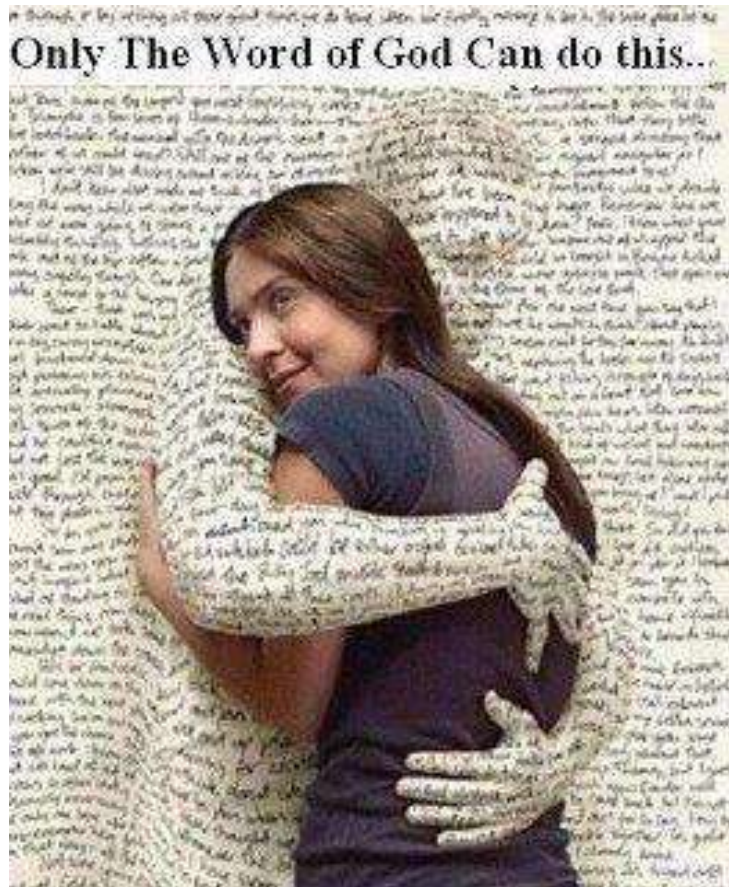
Trust the Holy Spirit.

We live out that wonderful relationship with our Lord as we love, serve, and encourage one another. That way we can obey everything Jesus has commanded us with grateful hearts and glad love.

Jesus himself told us to make disciples, teaching them to obey everything he commanded his disciples – right through to the end of the age.

Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore^[c] and make

disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.



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Appendix: Resources

Appendix: Books

Renewal Journal Publications

See

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for Blogs on each book

PDF Boks, eBooks, and Paperbacks

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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](#)

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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

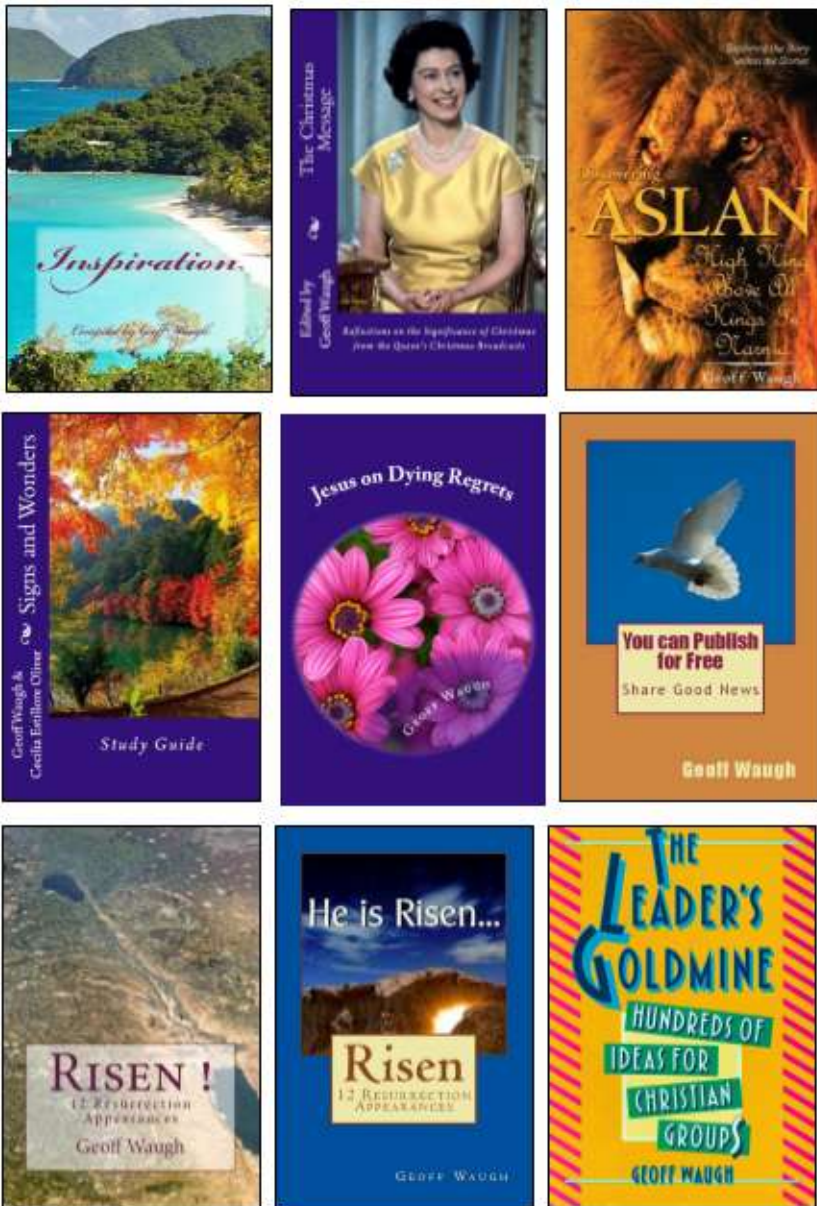
[*Travelling with Geoff* by Don Hill](#)



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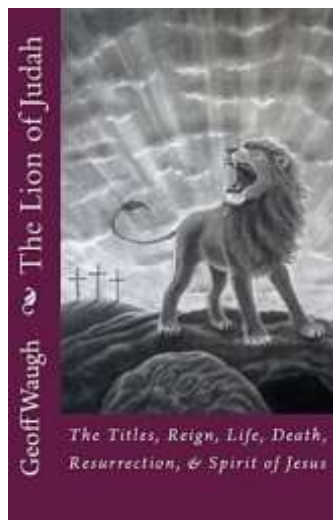
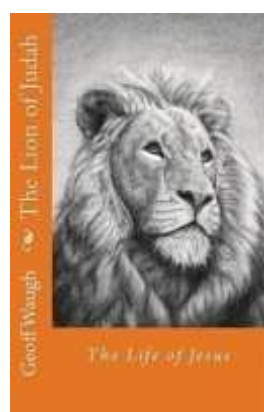
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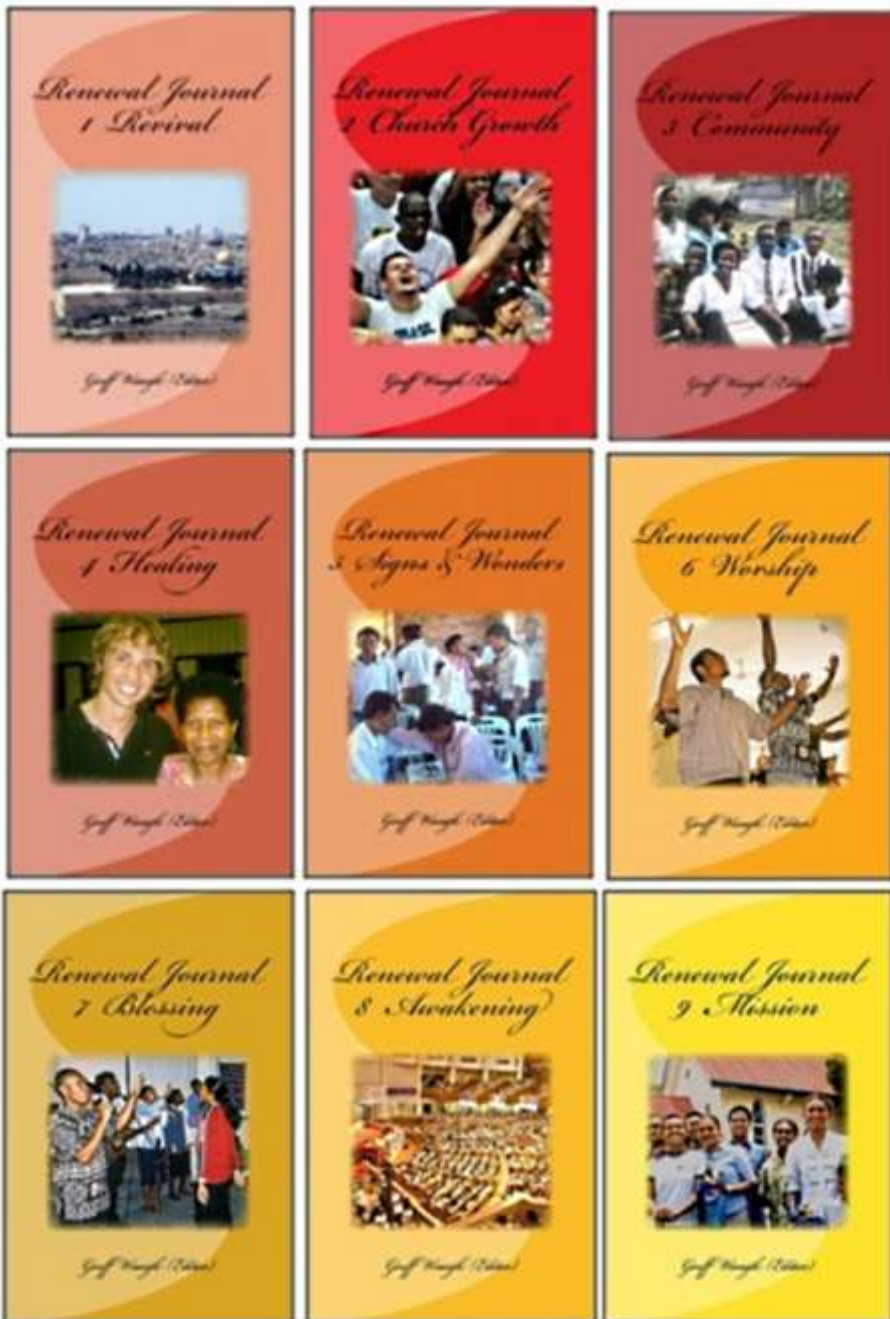


[Study Guides](#)

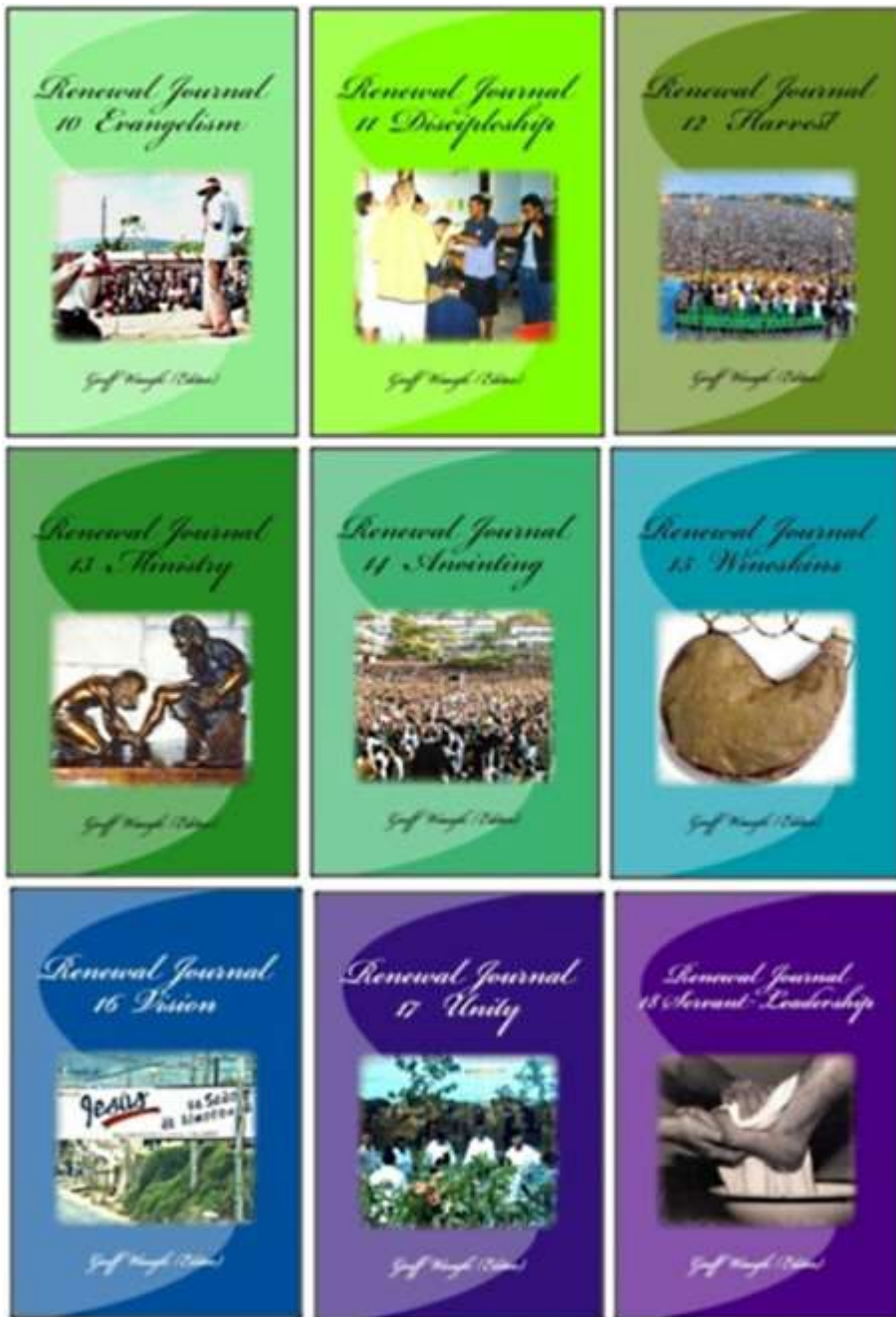
Teaching Them to Love



[The Lion of Judah Series](#)

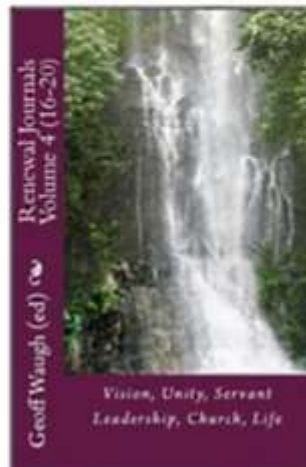
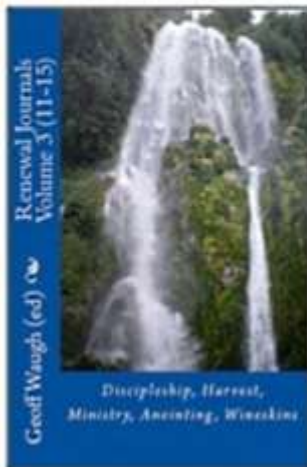
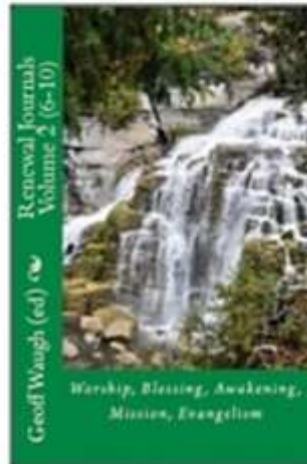
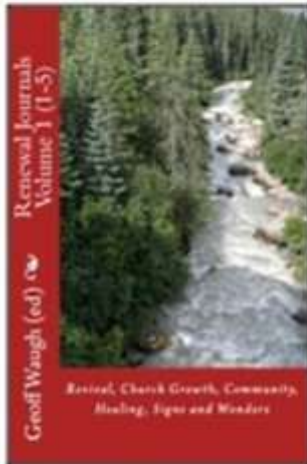
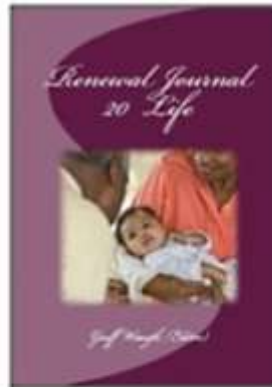
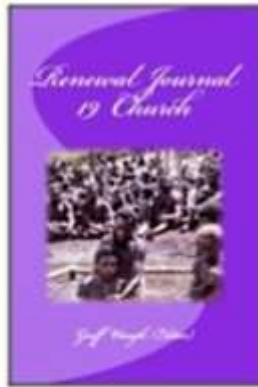


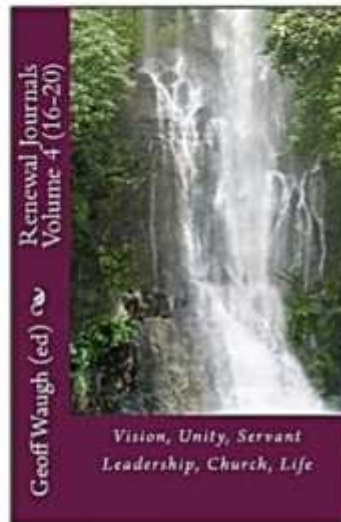
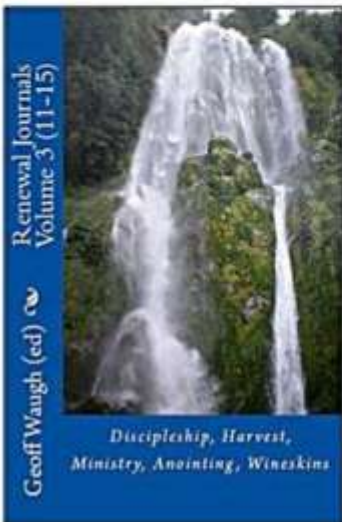
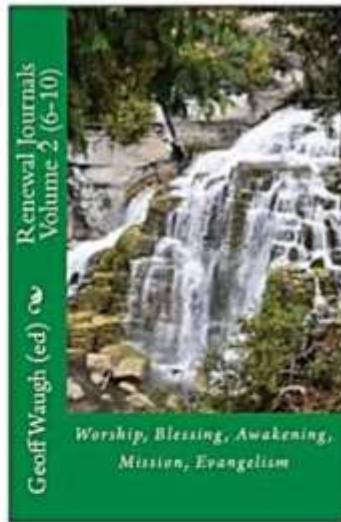
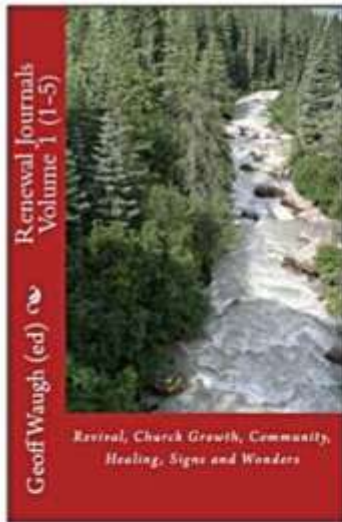
Renewal Journals



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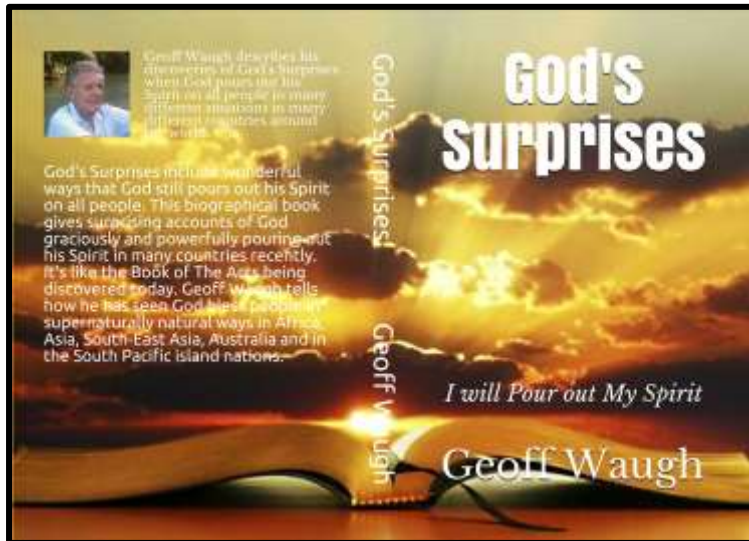




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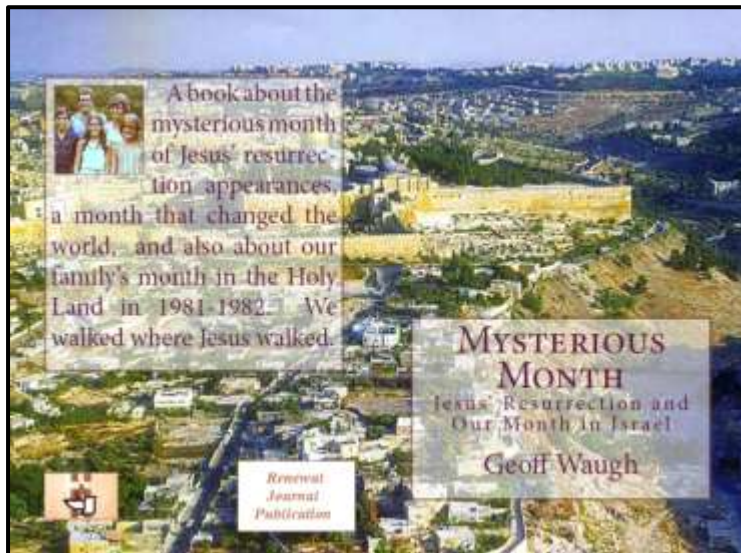
Double Page Book Covers



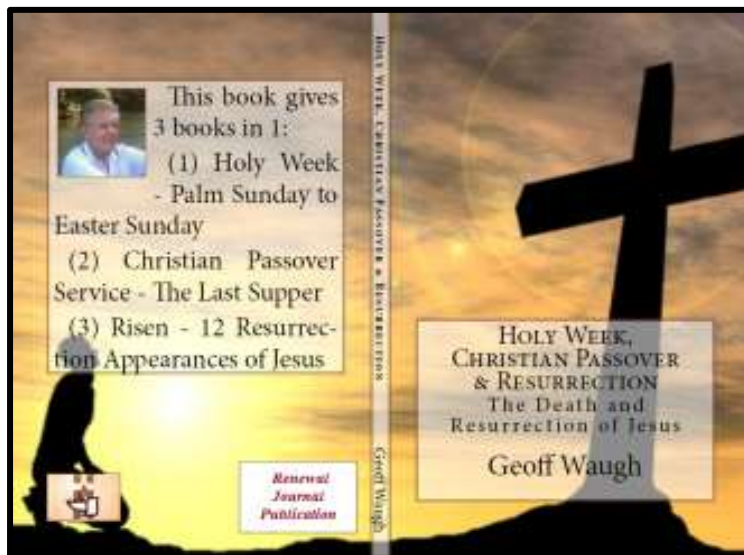
[God's Surprises](#)



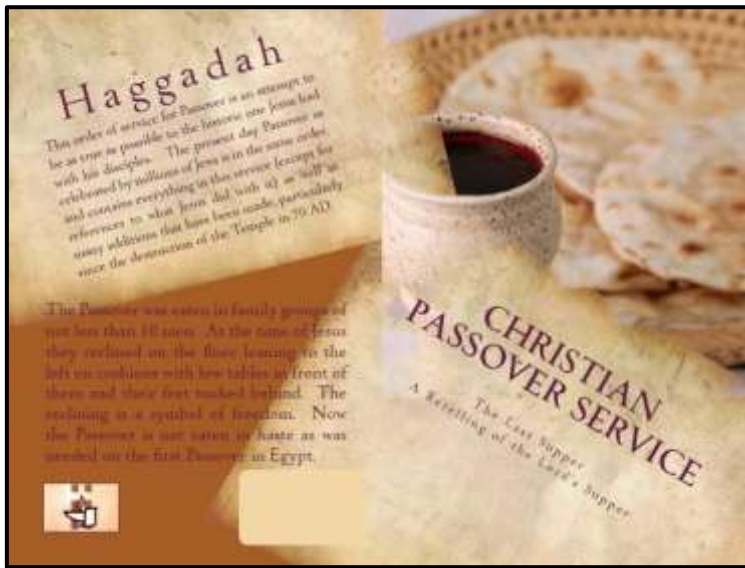
[Risen!](#)



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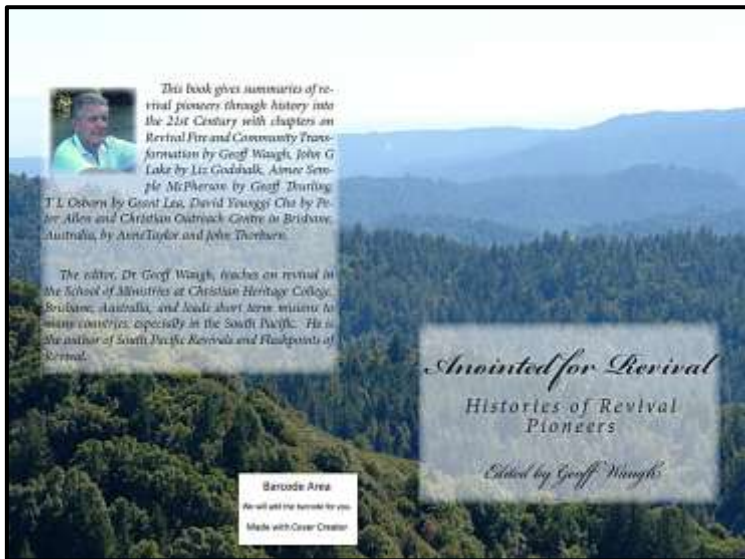


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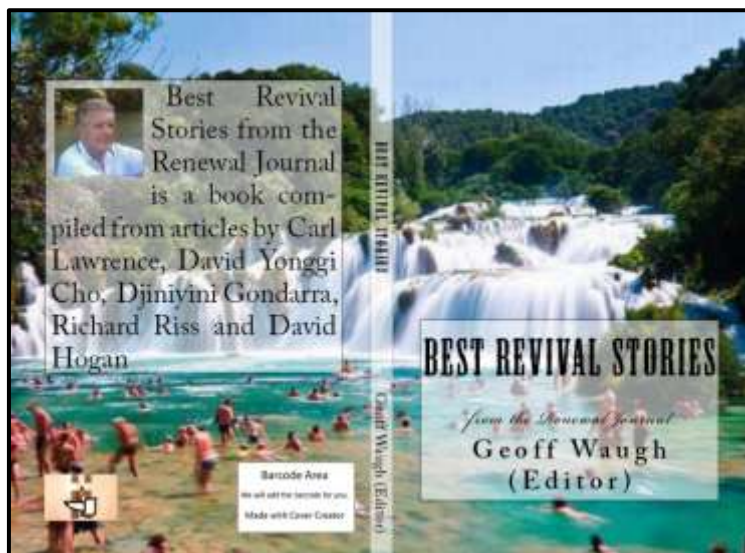
A Retelling of the Lord's Supper



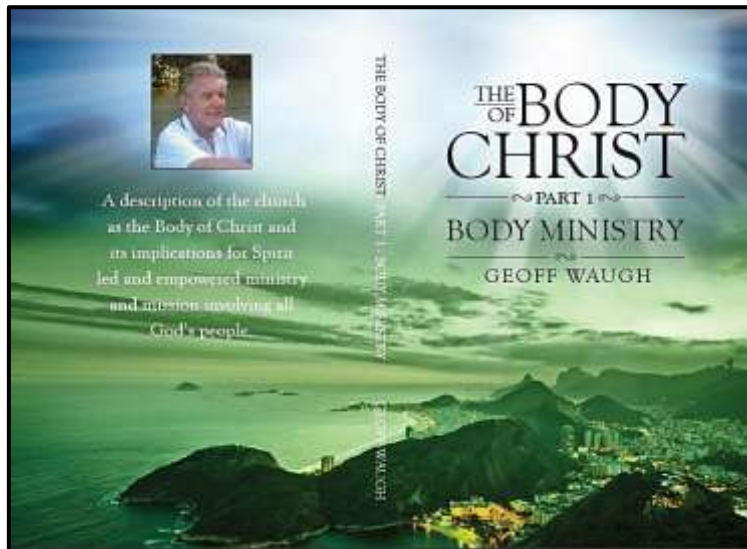
[The Christmas Message](#)



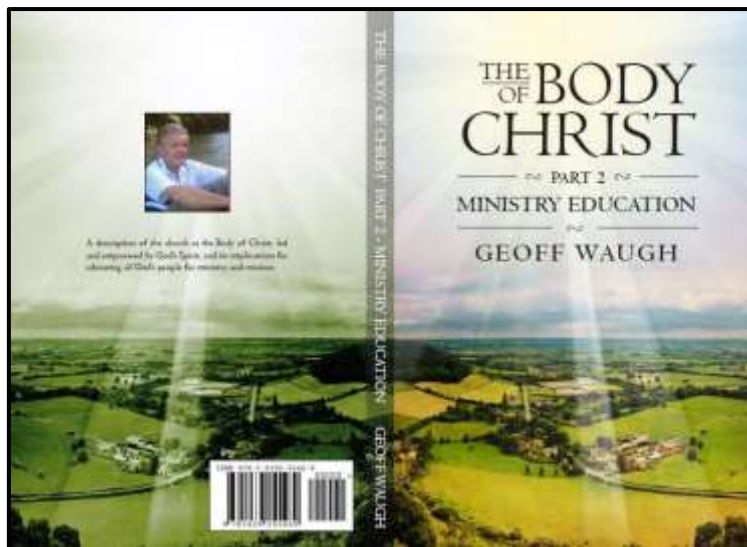
[Anointed for Revival](#)



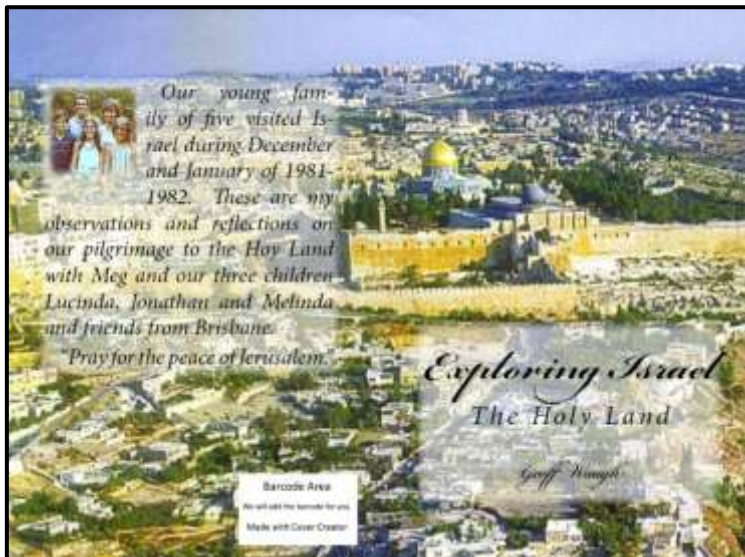
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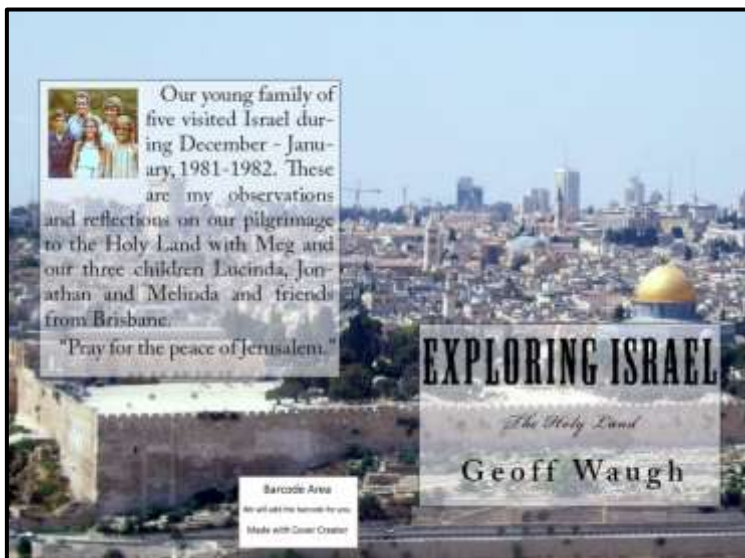
[The Body of Christ, Part 1: Body Ministry](#)



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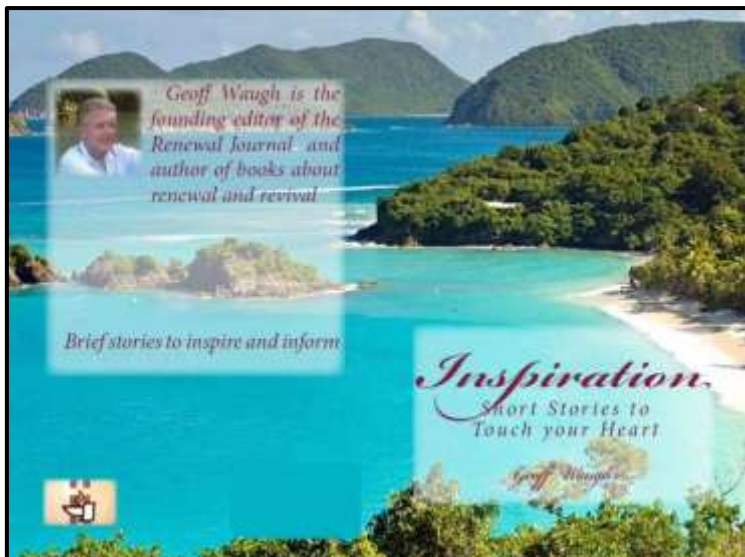
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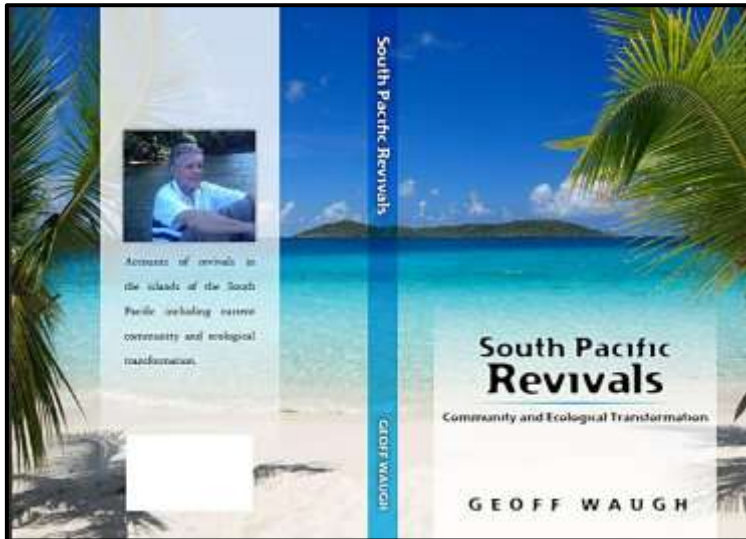
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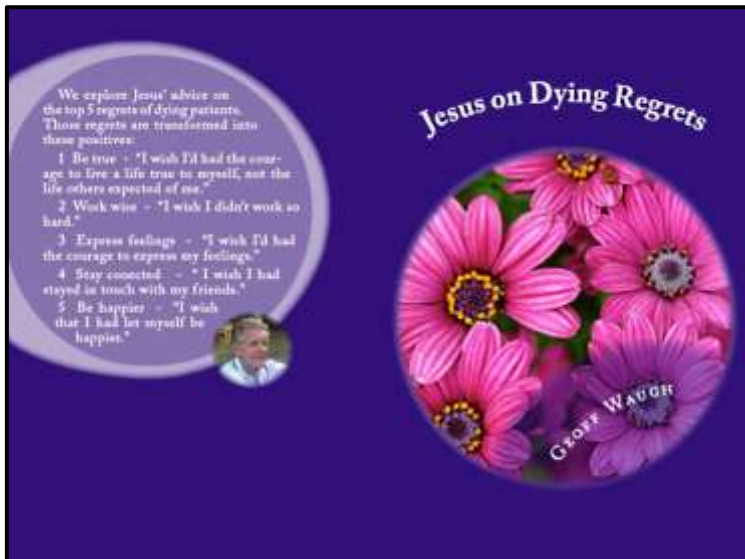
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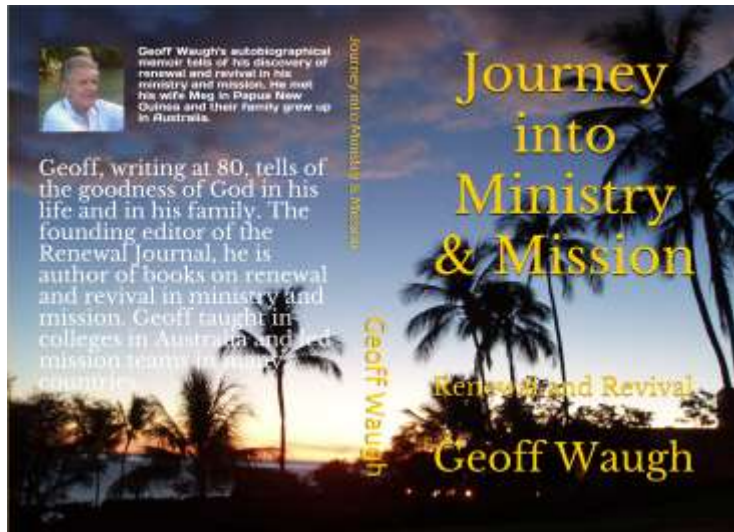
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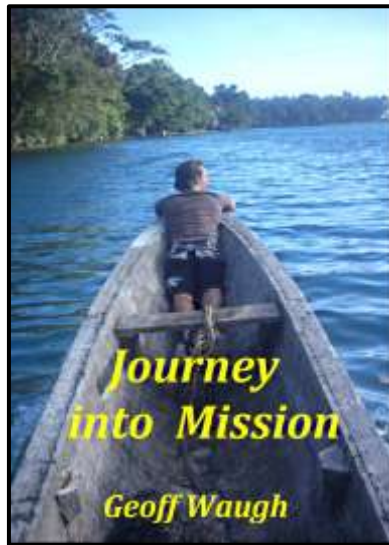


Journey into Ministry and Mission

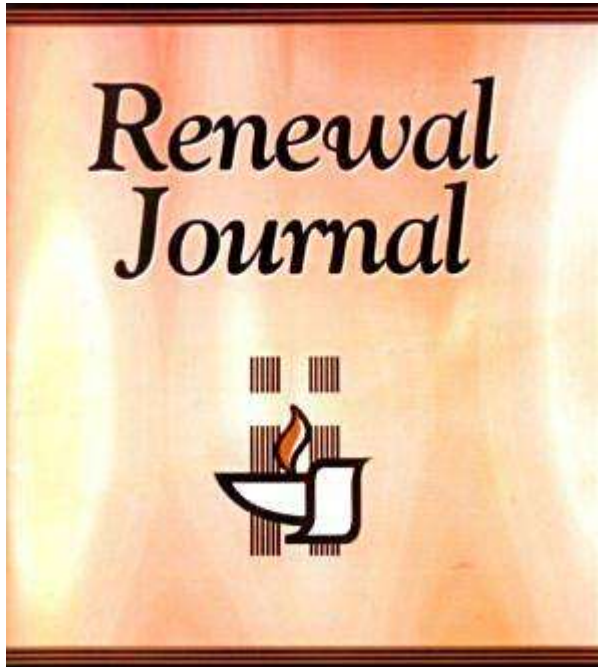
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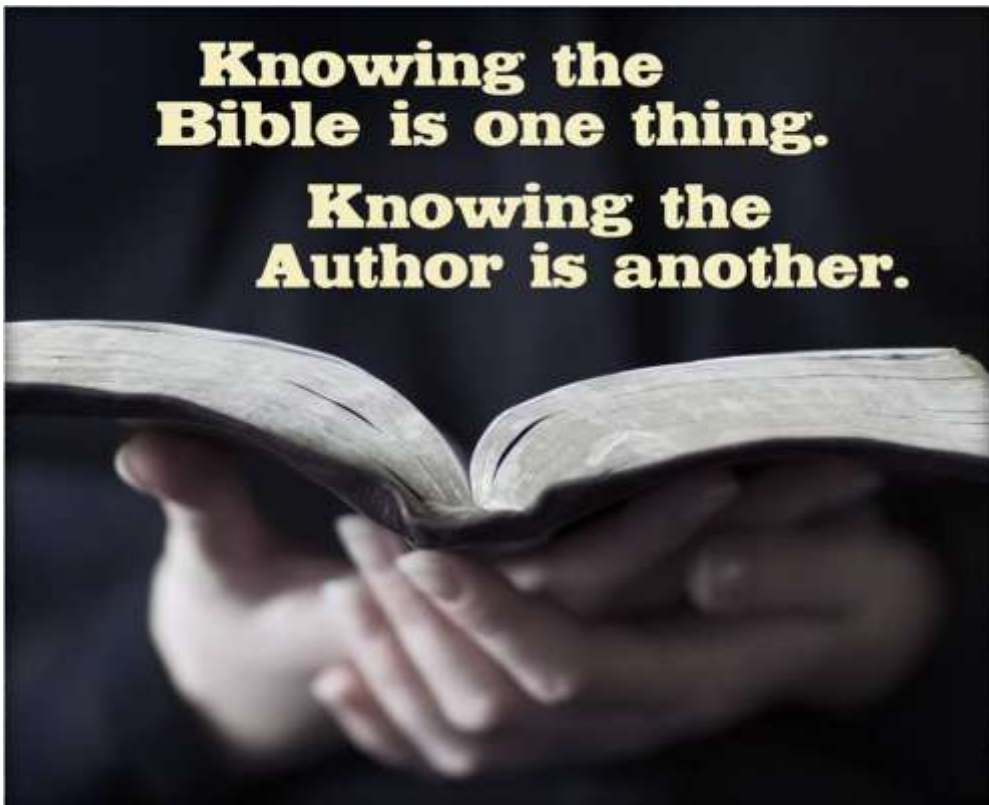
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About the Author

Geoff Waugh taught on renewal and revival at Alcorn College (Methodist), Trinity Theological College (Uniting, Anglican, and Catholic) and Christian Heritage College (Charismatic) in Brisbane, Australia, as well as in Bible Schools in Papua New Guinea (Baptist) and in the South Pacific Islands (with Churches of Christ and United Churches). He led short term missions and taught church leaders in Africa, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, China and in the South Pacific in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. He is the founding editor of the *Renewal Journal* and is an author of books on renewal and revival including *Flashpoints of Revival* and *Revival Fires*. Geoff is father to three adult children and grandfather of eight, lives in an extended household with two of those families, and is grateful to his family and to God for his strong evangelical heritage and for enriching fellowship with God's wonderfully diverse people.







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