

HALF LIFE

**Spirit-less**

Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. **Send me.**" [Isaiah 6:8](#)

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all **authority** in heaven and on earth. Therefore, **go**... [Matthew 28: 18-19a](#)

The **Kingdom** has come, now what?

# Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit, Francis Chan

Why would we need to experience the **Comforter** if our lives are already **comfortable**?

# Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit, Francis Chan

“The world is not moved by love or actions that are of **human** creation. And the church is not **empowered** to live **differently** from any other gathering of people without the **Holy Spirit**. But when believers live in the power of the Spirit, the evidence in their lives is **supernatural**. The church cannot help but be **different**, and the world cannot help but **notice**.”

# Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit, Francis Chan

"I don't want my life to be **explainable** without the Holy Spirit. I want people to look at my life and know that I couldn't be doing this by my own **power**."

"If it's true that the Spirit of God dwells in us and that our bodies are the Holy Spirit's temple, then shouldn't there be a huge **difference** between the person who has the Spirit of God living inside of him or her and the person who does not?"

"Since the days of Pentecost, has the whole church ever put aside every other work and waited upon Him for ten days, that the Spirit's power might be manifested? We give too much attention to **method** and **machinery** and **resources**, and too little to the source of power." [Hudson Taylor](#)

The western church is living in an **embrace** with **culture** so that our **values** and **methods** look exactly the same as culture.

Unintended consequences

# Reasons People Fear the Holy Spirit

Spooky

Irrational

Not quantifiable

Charismaniacs

Lack of Understanding

Whatever **Christianity** was supposed to be, at its core it is a **supernatural process**

What's so **important** about the Holy Spirit?

I've called this series "**Half Life**" because without a proper biblical **understanding** of His **role** and **function** you are only living **half** of what the bible promises

It isn't without exaggeration to state that everything stated in the New Testament (Christ-likeness, transformation, church etc) is predicated upon the **work** and **ministry** of the Holy Spirit

If you **want** what you've never had,  
you must **do** what you've never done



Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the **Kingdom** of God without being born of **water** and the **Spirit**. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to **spiritual life**. [John 3:5-6](#)

Christianity has been reduced to a **decision** and subsequently **behaviour modification** and **sin management**.

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some **disciples** and asked them, "Did you **receive** the Holy Spirit when you **believed**?" Acts 19:1-2

They answered, "No, we have not even **heard** that there is a **Holy Spirit**."

**λαμβάνω Lambano (receive):** to take with the hand, lay hold of, any person or thing in order to use it, of that which when taken is not let go, to seize, catch at, reach after, strive to obtain, to choose, select

Too often we think the Holy Spirit "**happens**" to us rather than we play a part in His work

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the **new believers** there that they might **receive** the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet **come** on any of them; they had simply been **baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus. [Acts 8:14-16](#)

So Paul asked, "Then what **baptism** did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. **vs 3**

Paul said, "**John's baptism** was a baptism of **repentance**. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." **vs 4**

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "**Repent**, for the **kingdom of heaven** has come near." **Matthew 3:1-2**

"I baptize you with water for **repentance**. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit** and **fire**." **vs 11**

**Repentance**-To feel remorse, contrition, or self-reproach for what one has done or failed to do; be contrite. To feel such regret for past conduct as to change one's mind regarding it

This is only **half** of what God intended, **feeling** bad for the past goes away, then what?

We want transformation in our life but don't have the **strength/power** to **sustain** it

# Spirit Avoidance Reasons

## Fear, avoid or edit the bible

A mark of a Spirit filled/led believer is their desire to **know, study absorb** the word of God

"The Bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of **scheming swindlers**. We **pretend** to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand, we are obliged to **act accordingly**." Soren Kierkegaard

# **Spirit Avoidance Reasons**

## **Fear, avoid or edit the bible**

Just One in Four Americans Is a **Practicing** Christian: Those committed to the spiritual practice of **Bible** reading have stayed just as committed, while those who never made this a consistent part of their lives are now more likely to never open a Bible. **Barna, State of the Church, 2020**

# Spirit Avoidance Reasons

## Fear, avoid or edit the bible

But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative –that is, the **Holy Spirit**–he will **teach** you everything and will **remind** you of everything I have told you. [John 14:26](#)

But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the **Spirit teaches** you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true–it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ. [1 John 2:27](#)

# Spirit Avoidance Reasons

## Fear, avoid or edit the bible

But it was to us that God revealed these things by his **Spirit**. For his Spirit **searches** out everything and shows us God's **deep secrets**. [1 Corinthians 2:10](#)

Now the **Holy Spirit** tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow **deceptive** spirits and **teachings** that come from demons. [1 Timothy 4:1](#)

Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place...those prophets were moved by the **Holy Spirit**, and they spoke from God. [1 Peter 1:19-21](#)

# Spirit Avoidance Reasons

**Avoid discomfort, embrace culture**

There is a **lie** that has been at the foundation of western Christianity for a while. Be a **good person** and good things will happen to you. This may be the most subtle and satanic ideas that has seeped into Christianity that I can think of

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must **give up** your own **way**, take up your cross, and follow me." **Matthew 16:24**

# Spirit Avoidance Reasons

**Avoid discomfort, embrace culture**

Men of Athens, I notice that you are very **religious** in every way, for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an Unknown God.' This God, whom you worship **without knowing**, is the one I'm telling you about. [Acts 17:22b-23](#)

# Spirit Avoidance Reasons

**No transformations, no victories**

They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could **make** them godly. Stay away from people like that! [2 Timothy 3:5](#)

Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the **Kingdom** of God without being born of **water** and the **Spirit**. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to **spiritual life**. [John 3:5-6](#)

# Water and Spirit

Repentance and spiritual life

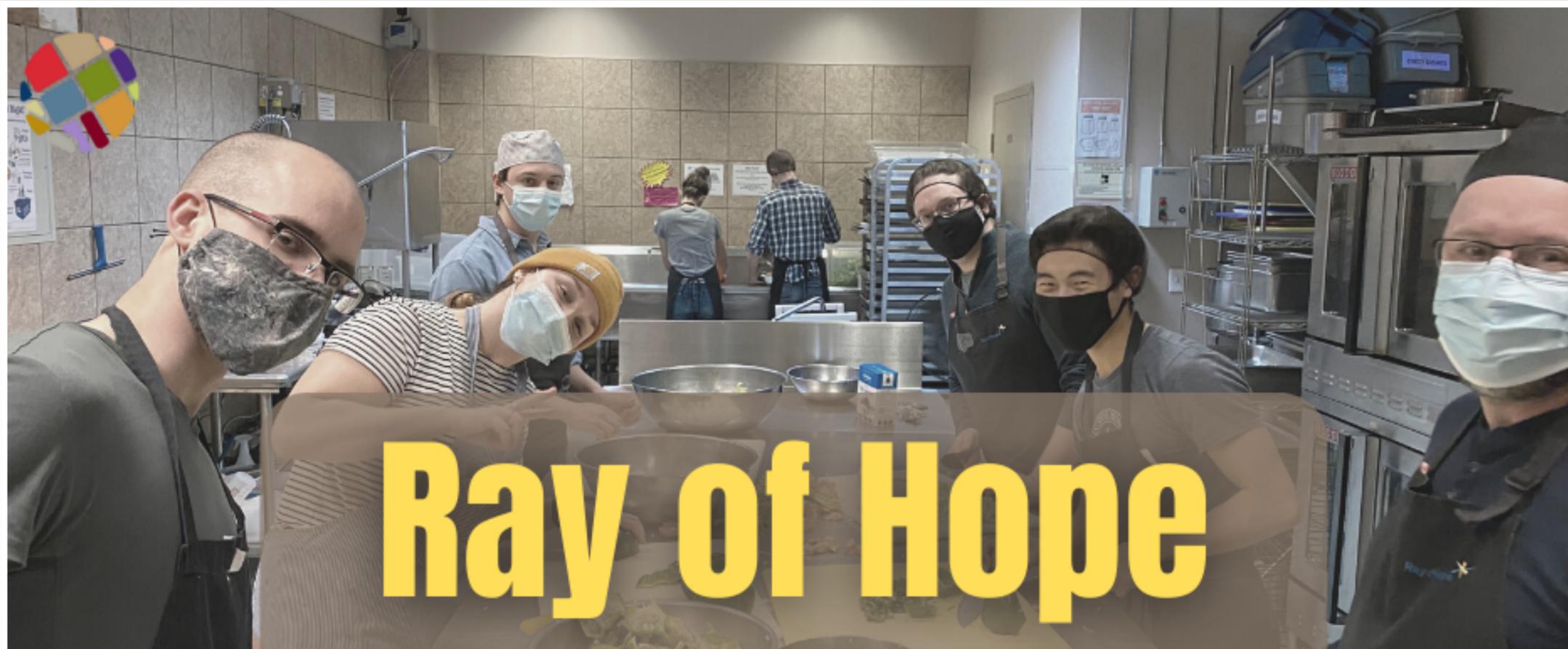
Our part **vs** the Holy Spirits

I **discipline** my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should.

1 Corinthians 9:27

So I say, **let** the Holy Spirit **guide** your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. Galatians 5:16

"You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! So if you **sinful** people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the **Holy Spirit** to those who **ask** him." [Luke 11:11-13](#)



# Ray of Hope

Thursday May 19th





# Uptown Funk



Monday, 7pm

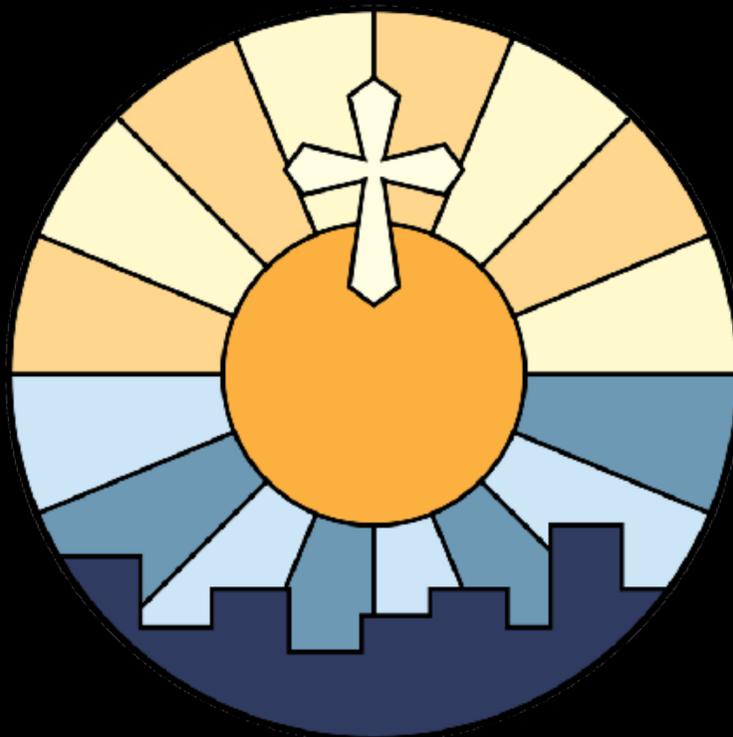
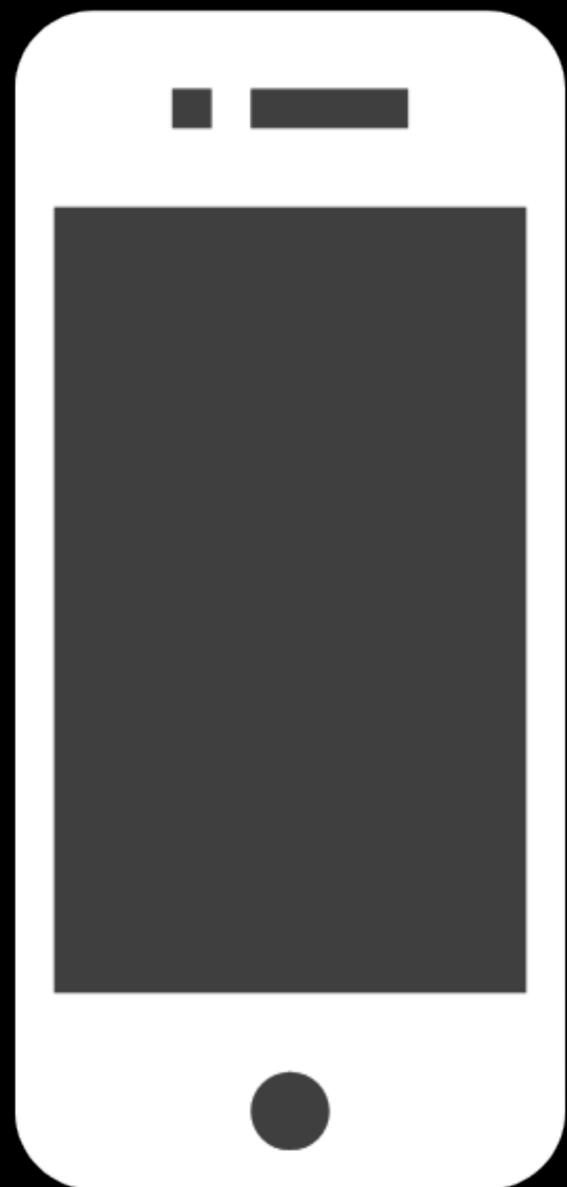


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