



livestream

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BRETT HEINTZMAN



Seedbed

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Introduction

This daily reader is intended to help you meaningfully engage Ivan Filby's *Livestream: Learning to Minister in the Power of the Holy Spirit*. Ivan has a knack for making God's supernatural gifts seem very natural and accessible, and in the book he offers practical steps to help you on your journey. This companion guide goes one step further by offering encouragement, asking probing questions, and a providing guided prayer—everything you need to be on your way in your spiritual gifts journey.

Our hope is that, along with the book, you will:

- gain practical strategies for hearing the Holy Spirit;
- discover simple, biblical teaching on how God works through miracles; and
- be filled with a renewed passion for loving and serving people.

There are five entries for each chapter, allowing you to read it throughout the week while taking a break on weekends. Or you can set your own regimen for what works with your own reading rhythm.

Hundreds have already used this guide to deepen their journey as they mature in their use of spiritual gifts in service to the church and world. Our hope is that you will also be awakened to step out in obedience in all the ways that God is still working miracles today.

CHAPTER ONE

DAY 1

Hunger and Thirst for More

The opening pages of Ivan's book tell the story of a bass player named Dennis, who was healed of Raynaud's syndrome—a condition that causes fingers and toes to turn white and numb, losing feeling or feeling very cold.

But that's not the whole story. The story truly begins when the Holy Spirit, out of love and care, speaks to Ivan with images and words, calling forth some information about an illness present in the room of which Ivan could not be aware.

Unaware of the illness, yet aware of the Holy Spirit!

Are you and I hungry and thirsty for more encounters with the Holy Spirit such as this? What a joy it would be to see God raise up an army of *livestreamers*—to begin to speak to us of conditions that we could never know of so God can use us to bring restoration and healing, encouragement and comfort to countless hurting souls.

I want to invite you today, at the outset of this book study, to allow the Holy Spirit to amp up your hunger and thirst for more of him.

Today's question: *Do you want to be a livestreamer for the glory of God?*

The prayer: *Father God, Lord Jesus, Holy Spirit, I am open and ready to hear your voice on behalf of others. I'm willing to be used by you to send healing and encouragement to the broken and bruised. I surrender myself to your work as you would have me do it. Amen.*

DAY 2

Eagerly Desire the Gifts

Instead of discouraging the use of spiritual gifts, he encouraged the Corinthians to desire them even more. Why? Because a mature use of the Holy Spirit's gifts is vital for the healthy growth of any church. We should not be surprised

to learn that most churches multiplying worldwide are very open to the use of spiritual gifts. (p. 8)

Eagerly. Are you eager in your spiritual posture?

Eagerly desire. Do you have a desire—a deep yearning?

Eagerly desire the gifts. Are you eager and desirous of the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Ivan points us in the direction of the apostle Paul and his instruction to the Corinthian church for one purpose: to show us that Paul's first letter to that church was not a letter of condemnation, but one of commendation. Paul wanted to commend to the church that they indeed should eagerly desire the gifts of the Spirit, especially that they would prophesy (speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit).

Many of us have been conditioned by a church that warns against abuses of spiritual gifts but does not encourage us to eagerly desire them. We are lulled into religion-without-power, which is no religion at all. As we read pages 8 through 10, let us be stirred to eagerly desire the gifts.

Today's questions: *Has your spiritual life been mainly a religious experience with no power? What shall we do about that?*

The prayer: *Holy Spirit, I am not only open to your voice, but my heart desires and now pursues it. I want to be used by you. Equip me with the gifts of your choosing. As Paul instructed, I desire to prophesy—to speak under your inspiration. My heart is stirred and yearning. Amen.*

DAY 3

Livestreaming

I find livestreaming a helpful metaphor, and I'll use it throughout the book to capture the sense of risk and excitement of allowing the Holy Spirit to move in and through us. We simply have no idea what the Holy Spirit will do next. When we stream the Holy Spirit's love and power, we live a life full of jaw-dropping, head-scratching, mind-boggling surprises. (p. 11)

Ivan quotes J. D. Walt in the title of the book and in chapter 1 as he describes the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Livestreaming, in the technological sense, is to broadcast a stream of audio or video in real time that we receive like a live performance on a stage. It comes to us in bits that we assemble as we experience it. The Holy Spirit can work in our lives in the very same way. He *livestreams*—bit by bit—the words or images we need to minister in the moment.

Ivan says that this creates an experience of “risk and excitement.” How true! The risk comes as we must process and trust that, indeed, the Holy Spirit is speaking, despite our internal questioning, wondering if we’ve heard correctly. The excitement comes when we step out in faith, speak forth the words

and describe the images we've been given, then see God do the work that no human being can do!

Risk and excitement. That's livestreaming!

Today's questions: *Have you ever taken the risk to speak out what the Holy Spirit has given you? If not, what will it take for you to risk for the sake of a holy miracle?*

The prayer: *Holy Spirit, you are welcome to speak to me with words and images at any moment of my days. I commit to you that I will be willing to risk for the sake of a holy miracle in someone's life, that your glory may be seen clearly in this earth through your great love and power. Amen.*

DAY 4

Increase Our Faith

I've found that telling stories about God's goodness creates faith naturally. (p. 16)

On pages 13 through 18, Ivan tells the stories of intertwined and numerous miracles that all came through ordinary people being willing vessels of God's extraordinary power. At the conclusion, Ivan encourages us by revealing the number of gifts at work in the stories. Giving, healing, miracles, words of wisdom, and faith were all at work. And Ivan points out

one very interesting fact: none of these things happened in a church or during a church service.

If you and I are looking to increase our faith and to walk in step with the Holy Spirit, we must not put all our expectations in the Sunday-morning box of a worship service. We might be called to pray in a restaurant or on a bus like the people in these stories. Our everyday lives are the places where our faith can be increased. Our expectations must expand to consider the work of the Holy Spirit livestreaming to us as we work and play—in the very ordinary settings of our very ordinary days.

Ivan told us his stories because he believes that telling of “God’s goodness creates faith naturally.” Do you feel that you need more faith to take the risk of livestreaming? Well, how is your faith after reading today’s stories?

Today’s questions: *What stories of God’s goodness have you heard that have increased your faith? What stories of God’s goodness can you tell others to increase their faith?*

The prayer: *God, use me to write new stories of your goodness, that faith may increase in countless people—including me. Thank you for being profoundly good and eternally loving. With each page of this book, I am yearning more and more to be a conduit of your power. Amen.*

DAY 5

How Much More!

The word of God is full of promises. We often enjoy quoting them to encourage ourselves and others. Ivan quotes Luke 11:11–13 as one of the promises Jesus spoke while on this earth. Let's read this passage again: "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The promise here is related to God's goodness and the power of the Holy Spirit. It is because God is good that he promises to give the Holy Spirit in power to those who ask him.

Two key things for us to notice here: first, that God's goodness is *more*—far beyond our own ability to be good and give good gifts to our children—far greater than our love for even our children. *More*. Second, that the Holy Spirit is given to those who *ask*. Certainly this must imply prayer—conversation with God—asking, requesting, seeking more of the Holy Spirit. But God will not only give us *more*, he will give us *much* more.

During this book study, I'd love to see God raise up an army of livestreamers—people who regularly hear the voice

of the Holy Spirit and obediently risk that God may use us to release his power to heal and encourage, bless and comfort people everywhere. I believe it can happen as we ask.

Today's question: *Are you willing to ask God for more of the Holy Spirit?*

The prayer: *God, I'm asking you today for more of your Holy Spirit. I know that I've asked you for many other things, but today I'm shifting my prayers to seek more of your holy love and power. I ask for the sake of others who need your touch and mercy. I ask for those who need to be healed. I confess that I don't fully understand why you choose to engage us in this way when you are fully able to do these miracles on your own—but through the words and promise of Jesus, I ask—for more. Amen.*

CHAPTER TWO

DAY 6

Words of Knowledge

“How can I pray for you?” Have you ever asked that question before you prayed for someone? I have. It reveals something very interesting about you and me: we feel we need all the information before we can pray. It also reveals that we feel the needed information can only come from the person we’re praying for. However, there is only one who has all the needed information we need to pray, and that is not the person or situation we are praying for.

Quite often, the Holy Spirit wants to do things through us that are impossible for us to do alone. Words of knowledge

are simply insights the Lord livestreams to help us minister more effectively. Do you remember Jesus telling his disciples that he only did what he saw the Father doing (see John 5:19)? Words of knowledge are simply one way the Lord shares what he wants to do and invites us to participate. (p. 26)

How amazing would it be if we could testify to the same thing Jesus experienced—that we only did what we saw the Father doing? Words of knowledge are the key. When you and I ask a person how we can pray for them, we must also ask the Father how to pray for them. It's okay to pause before we speak and listen first. Wait. Breathe. Open our hearts to what the Father would say. As we hear from him or receive images, we begin to speak out what we are seeing. It really is that simple. And yet, it is that profound!

Livestreamers live by every *word of knowledge* that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Today's questions: *Do you pause to ask the Father how to pray for someone before you pray? How might your next prayer time be changed by asking and listening before speaking?*

The prayer: *God, I confess that neither I, nor the person or situation I pray for, know their deepest need. Only you know. Help me to become a person that asks you first before I speak a prayer. I trust that you will provide every word that is needed. Help me to be still and listen. Amen.*

DAY 7**It Really Isn't about Us**

As I sang “Good Good Father,” I was reminded that our ultimate value doesn’t rest on our education, looks, or accomplishments. Our value stems from the fact that God loves us. He chooses to love us, knowing all our grubby little secrets and our tendencies to fall short, give up, puff up, run out, or talk down. The more we can grasp this beautiful truth, the easier it is for us to receive from the good, good Father. (p. 30)

Perhaps like me, you’ve questioned why God would use you in this way as he does with Ivan. Isn’t it good to know that even Ivan has questioned why God would choose to use him in such a powerful way? We can rest in knowing that God is prepared to use broken and cracked vessels for his glorious purposes.

It’s essential that we overcome thoughts of our own inadequacy and inability so that we might be fully surrendered to God’s work in and through us. Yes, we all fall short of whatever holy standard we might believe God is looking for before we can be counted worthy to minister as a livestreamer. But that is not the point. The key condition needed for you and me to be livestreamers is the goodness of God, not the inadequacies

of us. The truth is that he loves both the livestreamer and the recipient so much that he engages both so that his power might be put on display in the earth.

That truth will set us free.

Today's questions: *Are thoughts of your personal inadequacy getting in the way of you being a livestreamer? What are we to do about that?*

The prayer: *Lord God, you are good! Your goodness surpasses all our shortcomings and failures. Thank you! Thank you that you are desirous to work miracles through broken and cracked vessels like me. I offer my entire self to you to be a livestreamer for your glory. I surrender all my feelings of inadequacy and failure—they don't count in light of your goodness! Amen.*

DAY 8

When Nothing Happens

One of the biggest roadblocks to our willingness to risk being a livestreamer is the deep-seated fear that nothing will happen when we pray. When we live by this fear we will not pray—and when we will not pray, guess what happens? Nothing. This roadblock becomes insanity to us because when we fear nothing will happen, we stop praying, which guarantees

nothing will happen. When we risk praying we take a chance on *something*. When we don't pray at all we guarantee *nothing*.

Let's get over this roadblock and pray regardless.

It wasn't a good start. I'd had a word of knowledge, a person had responded, we'd prayed for her several times in front of about twenty other students, and nothing appeared to happen. She neither felt the presence of the Holy Spirit nor experienced any diminution of pain.

Everyone who takes the risk of praying for the sick will encounter this experience many times. When it happens, I hear voices in my head saying, "You're a fraud," "No one will be healed," and "Better give up now." These voices stem from both my insecurities as well as from the enemy. The devil very much wants to prevent anyone from having profound encounters with our heavenly Father. If one of Satan's minions can prevent prayer, he's well on the way to victory, at least for that day. (pp. 31–32)

The best takeaway we can learn from Ivan's account is that *he was obedient and prayed*. We are not fraudulent when nothing happens—we are human and at the mercy of our sovereign God. We must learn that we are not the agency of healing—only the conduit. In moments when nothing happens as we pray, we must resist the lies that we are fraudulent or inadequate. Both of those lies point to a greater lie that

we are the source of power. We are not. We rely entirely on God to do the work.

When nothing happens we can rejoice knowing we were obedient, we sought the words of knowledge God would provide, we prayed in accordance with his words, and we cared for a person whom God loves deeply. We risked. Hallelujah! The life of a livestreamer will include “nothing moments.” But don’t let that keep you from being obedient.

Today’s questions: *What have been your “nothing experiences” in prayer? Have they discouraged you from praying more? How does less prayer play into the plans of the Enemy?*

The prayer: *Father, I confess that moments of prayer when nothing happens have created discouragement in my heart and mind—they would even tempt me to pray less. But I am turning now to more prayer, that something will happen through me, your willing servant. I will risk rather than relent. I will press in rather than back away. I will do this for your glory alone, God. Amen.*

DAY 9

When Something Happens

As Ivan’s story continues from the bottom of page 32 and on, we learn that, indeed, a young woman wearing a black cardigan sweater was in the room and she had been cutting

herself. Ivan had heard the Lord correctly and went to minister to her. He prayed over her in this way:

Father, thank you that you love Susie. Holy Spirit, would you come now and just wash away her shame and fear. Help her to see herself as you see her. Father, break the power of the lies she has believed about herself. In Jesus' name, I break the power of these lies. Come close, Holy Spirit, and do your work. (p. 34)

There are a few things to note about the manner in which Ivan prays for Susie:

1. It's laced with the love of the Father.
2. His prayer is authoritative and uses words like “break the power . . .”
3. His prayer is invitational and says, “would you come now . . .”

God moves in this powerful moment. We read that Susie trembled as the Holy Spirit worked in her life. In the end her countenance changed and there was clear evidence that a healing work had taken place in her life. Ivan recounts that it was likely impossible to know all the many ways the Holy Spirit worked that day.

When something happens it can be as intimidating as when nothing happens. Put yourself in the place of Ivan—perhaps you've been there before—when your prayer opens the way for

the Holy Spirit to begin a marvelous work in someone's life. Perhaps there were tears, trembling, laughter, or other manifestations reflecting the work of the Spirit. We must not be intimidated by either "nothing" or "something," but be steady and faithful in our ministry regardless of outcomes.

Today's questions: *Have you prayed over a person and witnessed God at work? Do you use authoritative language in your prayers as Ivan did?*

The prayer: *Lord, use me, a willing vessel. Amen.*

DAY 10

Thanksgiving and Reflection

Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. (Ps. 106:1)

After his time of ministry, Ivan engages in his regular practice of thanksgiving and reflection. He thanks the Lord for all of his loving work, healing, and moving in the lives of the students. But he also reflects on the time in a very introspective way, bringing questions before the Lord and questions of himself.

I also had questions. Two young women responded to the same word of knowledge; one was healed instantly, and

one experienced no visible improvement. I can think of all kinds of explanations; perhaps I missed something in my prayer for her. Might there have been some demonic strongholds that needed breaking before healing could take place? Maybe her healing would be gradual. I simply didn't know. It remained a mystery to me.

I'm equally puzzled that no one responded to the "neck" word of knowledge. Had I simply made a mistake? Might I have seen the poster in some hospital or doctor's office and dredged up the memory from my subconscious, erroneously believing it was insight from the Lord? I didn't think this was the case, but I know I've made mistakes before, and I'm sure I will again. (p. 38)

As livestreamers, we would be wise to engage in the same questioning. It is a way to bring our humanity into the moment and reflect before the Lord to consider we may have been mistaken.

This is a very healthy approach to curtail pride when there are moments of miraculous healing. Ivan's vulnerability in chapter 2 is a good example of remaining both dependent on the Lord, and yet willing to take great risks in prayer. Both are needed for livestreamers.

Today's question: *How are you at remaining both vulnerable, open to failings, yet bold and risk-taking?*

The prayer: *Lord, I humbly serve you. You alone are the source of all power, and your ways are higher than ours. Yet, you invite us into your work! Hallelujah! Make me both bold and humble. Guide me gently and wisely when I get things wrong. I am your servant now and always. Amen.*

CHAPTER THREE

DAY 11

Prophecy

In the opening pages of chapter 3, Ivan shares stories of his first experiences with speaking prophetic words. Prophecy is an amazing and powerful gift of God that allows ordinary people to speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. His inspiration is given through our voice. When you think about it, to prophesy is a high honor for a child of God!

Once again, Ivan is vulnerable in that he allows us to know his feelings, emotions, apprehensions, and ultimate obedience to speak under the Spirit's inspiration.

For one young woman, Ivan simply heard: “Pray with her” (p. 54). In another instance, Ivan heard: “Take my hand” (p. 57), which led to a season of hearing those same words over and over each time the Lord wanted him to trust his leading and begin speaking. While the Lord does not work the same in each of us, he has one yearning for his people: that we’d be a people of giving voice to prophecy.

Today’s questions: *Are you ready and willing to speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit? How can you relate to Ivan’s emotions and apprehensions?*

The prayer: *Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. I will give voice to your words and thoughts and stand ready to receive them. Amen.*

DAY 12

Would You Say “That”?

This time, I felt the Holy Spirit say to me, “Go tell that woman that ‘God sees her like a banana.’”

Far be it from me to tell God he doesn’t know what he’s doing, but that didn’t seem like a winning strategy to me. Once again, I had the same strong impression: “Go tell that woman that ‘God sees her like a banana.’”

That's all I had, nothing else. I had to make a choice. Was I going to obey God and do something that seemed insulting and downright stupid, or was I going to walk away? (p. 62)

Put yourself in Ivan's shoes for a moment. You receive a vision of a banana on a woman's head and then the words, "Go tell that woman that 'God sees her like a banana.'" This kind of combination, says Ivan, is not a "winning strategy" (p. 62). Yet, in the same moment, Ivan thinks to himself that, "I've been hanging around with the Holy Spirit long enough to know he is up to something; I just don't know what" (p. 62).

There's the key. How well do you know the Spirit's voice that you are willing to trust even the most unthinkable of words and visions? If you *know* the Spirit, then you *know* he can be trusted.

Today's question: *Do you know the Spirit well enough to trust his words and visions, no matter how unconventional?*

The prayer: *Today, Lord, I will trust you with all my heart. I will not lean on my own understanding and in all my ways I will acknowledge you. This I do with all my heart. Amen.*

DAY 13

The Very Same Words

It was in a coffee shop that Ivan received the nudge from God he was to pray with and for someone. Out of the thirty-some customers, Ivan felt what he called a “click in [his] spirit” (p. 67) to pray for a young woman, but had no idea what to pray. In miraculous fashion, God knew that they would sit next to one another at a lunch Ivan would attend that week. At the lunch Ivan decided to simply pray, not knowing what the words would be; he still had not received a specific word from the Lord.

He would later learn from the young woman that his words were the *exact words* her parents prayed over her many times before. Verbatim! Livestreamers can trust God to deliver specifics even when we receive nothing in advance. In our obedience, our mouths become a vessel of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. How amazing!

At the end of this story, however, Ivan issues a sober warning to all who would prophesy about delivering *only* God’s words, and to do so with a pure heart.

While it’s God’s job to watch over his word to see that it comes to pass (see Jeremiah 1:12), it is our responsibility to give prophetic words clearly and accurately. We can do great

harm to individuals and churches if we are not careful with our words and don't watch our attitudes. Prophetic words should liberate people and lead people to Jesus; something is seriously wrong if people feel manipulated or controlled by a prophetic word. (p. 69)

Today's questions: *What do you make of the notion that God can deliver exact words when we simply begin to speak? Has this happened to you? Are you willing to speak when you have no specifics?*

The prayer: *Lord, we thank you that you know the deep things of the human heart and are willing to reveal them for the encouragement and healing of others. Use me, Lord, to be an agent of such healing. I am willing regardless of specifics or no words in advance—regardless of ease or discomfort. Use me. Amen.*

DAY 14

Good Prophetic Practice: Part One

Beginning on page 69, Ivan shares questions that point to good and holy prophetic practices. We should pay particular attention to these questions as people who would livestream for the Lord. Pages 69 through 73 should be marked in our books with a note to pay particular attention to this wise

insight. David Thomas, a leader in awakening and prayer movements in the church, likes to say, we need a “wise experimentation with the Holy spirit.” Ivan’s thoughts in answering these important questions are an accurate description of such a wise experimentation. Today we will examine the first three questions and tomorrow we will examine the remaining two.

Question One: What has the Holy Spirit revealed?

We are encouraged to process words, visions, movie-clip visions, nudges, feelings, or a sense of knowing before speaking. Consider how to best describe what we’re seeing, feeling, and hearing. At the same time, Ivan encourages us not to dismiss important details as we gather facts.

Question Two: What does it mean?

“We need the Holy Spirit’s inspiration just as much to help us interpret a picture as to receive it,” says Ivan. Additionally, he encourages us: “Here’s my rule of thumb: unless the Lord gives you the interpretation, don’t interpret it. You’re just as likely to misinterpret it as you are to get it right” (p. 70). When speaking with people about what you’ve heard, simply tell them the plain facts of the visions/words/feelings, then ask them if it means something to them.

Question Three: Do I need to say anything at all?

Ivan says that sometimes, though not commonly, the Holy Spirit will share information only so that we can intercede for the person but are not asked to share the specifics with them.

Today's question: *What is the most significant point that strikes a chord in your soul from these questions and why?*

The prayer: *Lord God, we hold as a sacred trust everything that you would give us in the way of words, visions, or feelings. Help us to be good stewards of that trust and to learn how to handle your prophetic insights with wisdom. Amen.*

DAY 15

Good Prophetic Practice: Part Two

Question Four: How can I most accurately communicate the revelation?

Ivan encourages us to rehearse what we will say to people in our minds before speaking. In this way we can ensure that we first describe clearly what we saw or heard, then offer any interpretation that we feel the Lord wants to communicate. Ivan says, "I find it helpful to pay attention to the tone of my delivery . . . We must be careful not to allow any frustrations we have in our own lives or with the person we are speaking with to distort the Lord's tone, which is often very loving and gentle" (p. 72)

Question Five: Do I have pure motives?

In short, our hearts and motives must not take precedent for the prophet. We are simple messengers of God's love, grace, and mercy. Ivan says, "We should not give prophetic words to

get people to like us or think better of us” (p. 72). Checking our hearts is essential to the work God would have us do.

Be Encouraged

In the closing pages of chapter 3, Ivan applies the questions we’ve covered these last two days in light of a story. His vision of the girl in the shower made him uncomfortable at first, yet the Lord used it in miraculous ways.

“The Lord can use you,” says Ivan, “to encourage others just as easily as he uses me. Livestreaming the Holy Spirit’s gifts, remember, is not a sign of maturity, but a sign of availability” (p. 79). Are we available to the Holy Spirit, both to be used, and to be trained in wisdom so we can be the most effective prophets?

Today’s questions: *What are you learning about being a prophet for the Lord? How are you being both encouraged and challenged?*

The prayer: *Lord, create in me a clean heart. Help me to be an excellent communicator of the visions and words you give. Help my heart to reflect yours when I speak your prophetic words. Teach me, I pray. Amen.*

CHAPTER FOUR

DAY 16

Learn to Love Scripture

It's been said that there is a big difference between knowing *about* God and *knowing* God. Ivan opens chapter 4 with the encouragement to learn to *love* Scripture. By learning to love it, we will know God more intimately, for he has revealed himself in his living Word.

Knowing Scripture well, of course, is also essential for weighing prophetic words. Even though God sometimes does unique and surprising things, he never does anything inconsistent with who he has revealed himself to be in Scripture. Furthermore, God will bring Scripture to your mind when you are livestreaming, so the more Scripture

you know, the more Scripture the Spirit can bring to your mind during ministry. (pp. 86–87)

Notice the use of the word *essential*. Weighing prophetic words requires an essential knowledge of Scripture. When you and I seek gifts above God, we have things in the wrong order. Seek first the kingdom and his righteousness, and then all these things will be added (Matt. 6:33). When we seek loving God and loving his Word first, then we have put things in the right order. Then, when God's gifts flow, they do so in harmony with Scripture.

When we make reading Scripture a priority, not to become know-it-alls, but to learn to love God well and serve others, it's like we are putting down a great big welcome mat for the Holy Spirit, letting him know we're ready for adventure. (p. 88)

Today's question: *How well do you love Scripture?*

The prayer: *Lord, give us a hunger and thirst for your Word. Thank you that you have given us this living Book that we may have minds that are storehouses for your truth and life. Give us a desire to fill our minds with your Word and use us to love and serve others well. Amen.*

DAY 17

Who's Got Faith?

Faith is the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). Ivan likens faith to a red carpet for God to work miracles, yet he is careful to ask the question burning in our minds . . . *Who* should have such faith? Should it be the sick person, the person praying, or someone else? I'm grateful that Ivan points out the damage we can do when we put the onus on the sick person to have all of the faith—as if a lack of faith in the sick person somehow blocks healing from taking place.

It wasn't Ivan's faith that healed the boy with the "ugly leg brace" (p. 89). It was not even the faith of the boy. It was the faith of his grandmother insisting that Ivan pray. God healed him completely and the brace was no longer needed! Isn't it reassuring to know that God can use us even when we are leaning on the faith of someone else in the equation? Isn't it also reassuring to know that we're not seeking God for any specific formula other than being obedient to the Holy Spirit in any given moment? God is so very good!

What are your experiences in terms of "who's got faith" when it comes to prayer? Have you prayed for someone when you honestly felt you didn't have the faith to do so? Were you leaning on someone else's faith? Have you searched for the right words—an equation that somehow will unlock God's

healing if we just say things right? My goodness, we need the mercy of God!

Today's question: *How is your faith and your understanding of faith in terms of being a livestreamer?*

The prayer: *Lord Jesus, thank you for teaching us that our faith need only be as small as that of a mustard seed. We bring our belief and our faith and yet cry, "Help our unbelief!" We will pray when asked and even lean on the faith of others if that is what it takes to be used by you. Bless us, dear Lord, in all our shortcomings. Amen.*

DAY 18

Get A Good Mentor

A good mentor can also help us to develop our faith (p. 96).

Let's listen in on Ivan sharing the wisdom he received from his first mentor, Geoff Shipman:

One of the first areas of weakness he pointed out was my tendency to speak prophetic words prematurely. When I received a prophetic word, I'd want to give it right away. I'd never considered any alternative to this practice. He coached me that when I felt the Holy Spirit had given me prophetic insight for someone, if possible, I should

intercede for the person before delivering the message. He kept reminding me that prophetic words should encourage, comfort, advise, or guide, and that intercession increases the word's effectiveness. (p. 97)

Consider this: we not only need prophetic words, but we also need prophetic *character*. The character of a prophet needs to be developed in us in the same way that we grow in the image of Christ as disciples. Can you hear the character development in Geoff's encouragement to Ivan? Opening ourselves up to learning from a good mentor is essential to our prophetic character development.

Today's question: *Who do you know that could mentor you in your ministry as a livestreamer?*

The prayer: *Lord, we submit ourselves to you to not only be used as a prophet, but to be developed into the character of you, Jesus, as we minister. Let us not get ahead of ourselves, yet let us boldly press into the gifts you give us. We want your words and your character for your sake and your glory. Amen.*

DAY 19

One and Done?

On page 100, Ivan teaches us to learn to pray with “shameless audacity.” Pointing to Luke 11:5–13, he uses Jesus’ parable of going to a friend for bread for another friend to show how we need to pray like going to someone’s door at midnight and asking for bread. It would be audacious to bang on a friend’s door at midnight for any reason, wouldn’t it? But that is what Jesus is encouraging us to do—to come knocking at all hours and in all manners in prayer that we might receive bread for a friend.

Let’s consider the story of the woman with severe back pain that begins on page 102. Ivan experienced frustration when he had prayed for her numerous times with no results. The Holy Spirit prompted Ivan to be more bold and more forceful in his prayers and so he was obedient.

After the evening service he and Kathie prayed again and again until results came.

Why was this situation different? Why was she not immediately healed? In short, we simply do not know. What we do know is that Ivan heard the Spirit ask him to be bolder and he was. He did not stop at one, two, or even three prayers—he continued in prayer until results came.

Today’s question: *How are you learning that God works in a multitude of ways and not just a few specifics?*

The prayer: *Lord Jesus, teach me. I'm a learner and always will be. Help me to be obedient in the multiplicity of the ways you work. I will partner with you whether it takes one prayer or twenty. Teach me your ways. Amen.*

DAY 20

Fail Forward

I learned this phrase from a pastor friend of mine. We will never ride a bike unless we fall and skin our knees a few times. In the same way, prophets and healers must be willing to risk the “dreaded nothing” in order to learn. It is our failings that can drive us forward as learners.

In his closing encouragement of chapter 4, Ivan says this:

It has taken me many years and lots of failures before I saw any success in healing prayer. This is not uncommon. I remember reading that John Wimber, the founder of the Vineyard Church movement, prayed for hundreds of people to be healed over nine months before anyone was healed. One of the reasons I saw little healing at first was that I didn't pray scripturally. I'd pray, "O, God, please take so-and-so's pain away if it is your will. Amen." Interestingly, Jesus never asked the Father to heal a person; he commanded

the condition to be healed. He also never doubted it was God's will to heal. I used to pray long drawn-out prayers. I never asked questions to see if anything was happening, and I never had any way to measure if there was any improvement. (p. 107)

Let's examine all the ways Ivan learned from his experiences:

1. He learned to pray scripturally.
2. He learned to pray with faith and assurance that God wanted to heal.
3. He learned to pray short prayers that commanded the pain/disease/sickness to leave.
4. He learned to ask questions of the person being prayed for to see if anything was happening.

Our experiences will teach us as we fail forward. There will be ups and downs and twists and turns. We will pray and nothing will happen. It will come to pass, however, that we will all learn the ways of Jesus and minister prophetically. Now is the time to press in and learn to fail forward.

Today's questions: *What do you make of this idea of failing forward? What experiences have you had that have taught you?*

The prayer: *Lord Jesus, if I must fail to learn, then so be it. I'm ready to risk all to be an agent of your healing power and touch. Amen.*

CHAPTER 5

DAY 21

Get onto the Golf Course and Risk Humiliation

As chapter 5 opens, Ivan uses golf as a metaphor for praying. If we don't get out of the clubhouse and onto the golf course, nothing will happen. "Praying the course" (p. 111) is the only way we can experience God's livestreaming.

I share Ivan's lack of interest and skill for golf. Nothing could be more humiliating than for me to play a game that I have no skill for. I've tried. Perhaps you're like me. It's interesting to me that Ivan's story of the rugby players and their disdain for his testimony posters was simply a test of

obedience. Are you and I willing to get onto the course *and even humiliate ourselves* for the sake of being obedient to God?

Have you? What is your story of obedience that caused you to question yourself, your ability to hear God, or God's instruction?

In short, if we are to be livestreamers—living in obedience to God—we must risk everything; even humiliation.

You can choose to play or not to play. In golf, if you decide not to play, nothing will happen. In our followership of Jesus, we pray the holes instead of playing them. If we don't pray the first hole, we will miss the adventure of holes two, three, four, five, and so on. But, if you choose to follow God, you may be in for an adventure. One act of faith often leads to another opportunity. (p. 112)

Today's questions: *What is the one act of faith God is asking you to do today? Will you be obedient?*

The prayer: *Lord Jesus, Holy Spirit, it's hard to pray in ways where I surrender all to you, but I must. I surrender everything to you—even the possibility of being humiliated—because the greater loss would be to miss out on what you have for those who need encouragement or healing. Help me to count the cost and say yes, no matter what. Amen.*

DAY 22**Healing Is Evangelistic**

Ivan tells the story of “praying the course” in chapter 5. It all starts very poorly from a purely human perspective at “Hole One” (p. 112), as a team of rugby players tear down Ivan’s posters with his testimony and an invitation to follow Jesus. However, God had great plans that would flow from Ivan’s obedience.

Sarah was “Hole Two” (p. 114), and had stomach problems that caused her a great deal of pain. Here’s the account of Ivan praying for Sarah:

I offered to pray with her. After coffee, the three of us found an empty room in the Student Union to pray. I simply asked Jesus to heal her. To my surprise, the power of God overwhelmed her, and she fell to the floor. None of us had expected that. I wasn’t sure what to do next. It seemed apparent something good was happening. From what I’d already observed, Sarah was highly strung. She appeared stressed and anxious much of the time. Now, lying on the floor, Sarah was peaceful for the first time since I’d met her. (p. 115)

Healing is never the end of the story. Healing immediately sets off an evangelistic chain of events. I don’t know about you, but I’ve seen it time and time again. In Ivan’s case, in the pages

that follow, Ivan is introduced to Yasmin, then her mom, then her entire Muslim family. When the Spirit of God is involved in the healing of his dearly loved people, his love and power set off a domino effect of evangelism.

Today's question: *Knowing that healing becomes evangelistic, how does this change or expand your thinking about evangelism in general?*

The prayer: *Lord Jesus, teach me to share your gospel through signs and wonders. Amen.*

DAY 23

I Want More of You

After I'd finished reading the books, I decided to ask the Holy Spirit to fill me. I believed the promise of God to pour out his Spirit on all people. I believed God was a good Father who longed to give good gifts and, most of all, the Holy Spirit, to those who asked. (p. 125)

I personally love Ivan's story of asking God to baptize him in the Holy Spirit. Don't you? It's so real and honest—full of childlike faith that God would do what his Word said he would do. Ivan confesses that he was on his own with regard to spiritual gifts. There was no one he could ask to help. Yet, he wanted more of God, including praying in tongues.

Spiritual renewal, Ivan read, comes through “being filled with the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts like prophecy, healing, and speaking in tongues to one extent or another” (p. 125). Renewal comes with desperation and hunger for more of God.

Imagine you’re alone in your own prayer closet with the opportunity to pray in faith that God would fill you with his Spirit. Perhaps you’ve done this in the past or perhaps you’ve never done it. Could today be the day for you to pray that prayer? Why not now?

Today’s question: *Are you ready to ask God for his Holy Spirit and the gifts needed to bring spiritual awakening?*

The prayer: *Lord God, fill me with your Holy Spirit. I am ready to receive the gifts that will bring spiritual renewal through me for the sake of your kingdom. (When you are ready, you may choose to pray in tongues.)*

DAY 24

Spiritual Workouts

Take a moment to read the sections titled “Spiritual Workouts” and “Chasing the Dragon” on pages 127 through 130.

Can we be honest for a moment? How comfortable are you with the subject of praying in tongues? Is this new, scary,

illusive, ambiguous, or exhilarating to you? If any of your instincts are averse, may I ask a pointed question? Since it is biblical, and we are not cessationists (people who believe the miraculous spiritual gifts have dried up and are no longer needed), what is the big deal? Why does this gift and mere mention of it cause some to become resistant or even fearful?

I found the Bible had much to say about speaking in tongues. The apostle Paul wrote that speaking in tongues is not talking to people but speaking directly to God (see 1 Corinthians 14:2). Speaking in tongues has the same effect on your spirit as working out in the gym has on your body; it builds you up and strengthens you (see 1 Corinthians 14:4). Jude encourages us to “[build] yourselves up in your most holy faith and [pray] in the Holy Spirit” (Jude 1:20). (p. 127)

Knowing that praying in tongues is likened to a wonderful, beneficial spiritual workout, does this change your perception? For those who pray in tongues, can you testify to the benefits of praying in tongues? For those of us who would be livestreamers, building ourselves up in the faith and praying in the Holy Spirit are essential. Doors to the miraculous open as a result.

Consider the story Ivan recalls of Jackie Pullinger. Her experiences with evangelism in Hong Kong’s Walled City were fruitless until she began to pray in tongues. Once she did, God began to move, and fruit was born from that ministry.

However, as she continued to pray in tongues daily, she noticed the people she met on her walks were ready to hear about Jesus. Even more miraculously, many opium addicts were freed from their addictions and, when filled with the Spirit, they spoke in tongues. They were set free by prayer rather than through medication. Her success in helping drug addicts was recognized by the Hong Kong government, who donated land, allowing her to set up the first St. Stephen's Society center in Hong Kong. (p. 129)

Today's question: *Are you ready to pray in the Holy Spirit—in tongues—as a spiritual workout?*

The prayer: *Lord Jesus, use me entirely. I surrender all to you, even my tongue. Help me to pray to you in ways that bear fruit in and through my life for the glory of Jesus in this earth. Amen.*

DAY 25

Luke 11:1–13

Read Luke 11 slowly, from verse 1 through verse 13. The context is important. Jesus is responding to the request: “Teach us to pray.” Jesus’ teaching goes much further than what we typically refer to as the Lord’s Prayer. Jesus didn’t stop with “lead us not into temptation,” but talked about

persistence in prayer; the importance of asking, seeking, and knocking; and the desire of the Father to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. Think about it this way: when the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he responded by telling them to ask the Father for the gift of the Holy Spirit. (p. 132)

Ivan encourages us to read Luke 11:1–13 slowly together to tie the gifts of the Spirit to prayer and to understand this passage more deeply. Here's the Scripture passage:

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a

journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

What part(s) of this passage brought you new meaning as you read it slowly and thoughtfully? A change in thinking is only the beginning. A change in our ways is ultimately the goal. The Scripture is not only given to us to change our thoughts but to change our ways to mirror the kingdom of heaven.

Today's question: *How is God asking you to change your ways regarding what you've experienced in the Scripture today?*

The prayer: *Lord Jesus, give me the Holy Spirit!*

CHAPTER 6

DAY 26

How God Guides

In the opening pages of chapter 6, Ivan shares the story of his friend Rose and how he shared his copy of *The Cross and the Switchblade* with her as a way to share his faith. Ivan learned that through what he calls “ridiculous if-then prayers” and normal thoughts, God was at work with his “invisible hand” (pp. 141–42).

How do you and I see God at work in our lives? Have you ever had such an experience with God? How many ridiculous if-then prayers have you uttered? Did you expect that God would answer them? We should praise God that he truly works

in mysterious, unpredictable, invisible ways. For God alone reveals his omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence even in the ridiculousness of if-then prayers and chance meetings.

I was also surprised God answered Rose's if-then prayer. To me, these seem like manipulative prayers, and certainly not prayers I've ever seen God rushing to answer. Clearly, God hadn't changed the gender of Wilkerson's baby in answer to Jo-Jo's if-then prayer. Nonetheless, the prayer changed Jo-Jo's life. God's answer to Rose's prayer was far more statistically improbable. After all, Jo-Jo had a fifty-fifty shot of guessing the right gender of Wilkerson's baby. In contrast, the chances of my turning up unannounced on Rose's doorstep on the exact day she prayed must be a zillion to one. It was like an invisible hand was bringing all the parts together. (p. 143)

We must acknowledge that God guides in the most mysterious of ways and uses even our ridiculous if-then prayers to show his great love for us. He also shows up in the zillion-to-one chances of chance meetings. However he works, *he works*.

Today's question: *How do you see God at work in unpredictable and even ridiculous ways in your life?*

The prayer: *Praise you, Lord God, for your ways. They are higher than our ways, yet you invite us to participate with you in the great adventure that comes with following you. Thank you that you are not limited by human failings and are merciful*

beyond measure. Thank you that you desire to use me—yes, even me—for your glory in the earth. Guide me. Use me. Amen.

DAY 27

Overcoming the Deceiver

Satan loves to discourage us. I've often been amazed at the power of the devil's discouraging whispers on the most powerful of God's saints. People who minister in power are often tempted by the Deceiver to be discouraged. The devil will call previous stories into question, attempting to cause doubt. He causes believers to question the value or validity of their partnership with God. He comes "to steal and kill and destroy" (John 10:10). How do we livestreamers overcome the Deceiver? With pen and paper.

I've learned that a written record is a powerful tool during times of discouragement. Just as the serpent tempted Eve with the question: "Did God really say?" (Gen. 3:1), during times of discouragement, he may whisper to you: "Did God really do that?" If you've recorded what God has done, you can look it up repeatedly and use it as a weapon in your spiritual warfare. Jesus gives us a clue into some of Satan's strategies when he tells us, "The thief comes only to

steal and kill and destroy” (John 10:10). Recording what God has done with pen and paper puts a spiritual burglar alarm on our memories, helping to keep them safe from the thief. When we reread our notes and remember God’s greatness, we switch on the alarm. (p. 144)

Do you journal the stories of God’s work in and through you? Are they a tool you use to overcome the deception of the devil? Whatever the method, it is important that anyone who ministers in the power of the Spirit be ready to overcome the whispers of the devil.

Today’s questions: *What is the Enemy’s go-to weapon to discourage you? How do you overcome him and his temptation to speak discouragement into your life?*

The declaration: *In the name of Jesus we come against you, devil. We declare to you the glory and majesty and power of our God—Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit. We break all of your lies with the truth of God. We declare to you that no weapon formed against us will prosper. We recall every miracle of God with great confidence and gratitude. Devil, you are a defeated foe! This we declare in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

DAY 28**Where the Wind Blows**

Ivan describes what it is like to be carried along by the Spirit. Let's reread Ivan's account found on pages 147 through 148.

Jesus says that those full of the Spirit are swept along by this wind, never quite sure where they are heading, trusting the Holy Spirit will take them where God wants them to go. This was undoubtedly the apostle Paul's experience. In Acts 16:6–10, we see Paul preaching in what is now Turkey, obviously intent on heading east into Asia.

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

As we can see in Acts 16:6, the Holy Spirit kept them “from preaching the word in the province of Asia,” and in verse 7, we read, “they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.” We are left guessing how or why the Holy Spirit blocked their paths, but whatever happened, Paul attributed it to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes the Spirit of God opens a door and sometimes the Spirit closes a door. We do not always know why, but what we should know—what we should be familiar with—is the sense of the wind, and know and understand where it is blowing. Sensitivity to the Spirit is of the utmost importance to livestreamers. We know God and learn his ways so that we can walk in step with the Spirit.

Take note that Paul’s purpose for going to Asia was noble—it was to spread the gospel. However, God said, “not yet,” and clearly closed the door. As Ivan points out, clearly Paul knew the ways of God as to recognize that God closed the door and didn’t attribute it to chance or circumstance.

Today’s questions: *How sensitive are you to the leading of the Spirit? Do you know his ways? Can you sense when his fingerprints are all over something, either opening or closing a door?*

The prayer: *Teach us your ways, God, that we may walk in harmonious step with your Spirit always. Amen.*

DAY 29**As We Near the End of Our
Livestream Journey**

Difficult words are difficult to speak and difficult to hear. On page 154 Ivan tells the story of livestreaming a difficult message to a church leader who lived in a land where persecution of Christians was the norm. Ivan confesses that he felt he had little to say *to* them and could have learned much *from* them. However, Ivan was used of God to give many prophetic words to the gathering of church leaders he taught. One stood out: a man who was told he would be on the run for his life from authorities because of his love for Jesus. A difficult message that was difficult to speak and difficult to hear.

The man responded with tears. He had heard that message twice in recent months. He responded that it is a privilege to suffer for Jesus.

Let's stop there.

It is a privilege to suffer for Jesus.

Friends, we've been processing through the need to experience the fullness of the Spirit for over four weeks now. Indeed, we've shared experiences and theological thoughts on many topics related to this book. This story, however, jumped

off the page to me . . . that we would count it a privilege to suffer for Jesus.

Beloved, we live in difficult times. How are you and I doing at responding to the times we live in? Are we frustrated, angry, depressed, cynical, or do we count it a privilege to suffer for and with Jesus during these unprecedented days? I must confess that my heart has been heavy as of late.

Could it be that livestreaming is also the ability to be a conduit of the heart and suffering of Jesus in days like these?

Today's question: *Suffering for Jesus is not something we Americans know well. Are you ready to count it a privilege to suffer for Jesus, come what may?*

The prayer: *Teach us your ways, God. Let us be a conduit of your heart and mind. Let us not become weary in doing good but rejoice even in our sufferings. We want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, and to share in the fellowship of his sufferings. Amen.*

DAY 30

Go Forth and Livestream

During the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics, the Chinese government reportedly invested millions in weather modification systems to prevent rain from disrupting the summer

games. In 2009, the Beijing Weather Modification Office created a snowstorm. Here's the question: If governments can influence natural weather patterns, can Jesus followers create the conditions to attract a move of the Holy Spirit, a great awakening?

I believe the answer is yes and no. The timings of great moves of the Spirit ultimately lie in God's hands alone. Acknowledging that, I believe Scripture gives us several ways to create spiritual low-pressure zones that attract the Holy Spirit's wind. (p. 157)

There is a partnership in this business of livestreaming. As you and I draw our time in Ivan's wonderful and inspiring book to a close, we have before us an open door. Will we choose to walk through it into the rest of our lives? How amazing it would be that God would use this time together to raise up a small army of livestreamers in our day! That would be beautiful indeed.

First, be a desperate seeker of God. Never stop asking, seeking, and knocking on the throne-room door of heaven. Pursue the Lord with your whole heart. Plead with him for an awakening in our day.

Second, be truly submitted to the Lord's will and ways. This is not a passive posture, but an active one. Ivan does not approach his ministry with passivity, but with active anticipation of what the Lord will do. This kind of submission creates

an opening in our heart and mind for the Lord to work as we anticipate he will.

Third, be bold and take risks. Do you believe the Lord has given you words, images, visions, or thoughts? Are they to be given to a person or situation? If yes, then humbly and boldly deliver them in the name of Jesus. Be the prophetic mouthpiece of the Lord as he leads and guides.

Friends, it has been a privilege to be a tour guide of sorts for these thirty days together. I pray that you will be desperate seekers, truly submitted, and take bold risks for the Lord. May it be so. Amen.

Today's question: *Of the three qualities mentioned (desperate seeker, truly submitted, bold risk-taker), which one strikes you as the one you need the most and why?*

The prayer: *Holy Spirit, come! I am your willing and humble servant. I open myself now to receive all you have for me—indeed, I expect it! We declare you are a miracle-working God and pray that you would raise up an army of livestreamers in our day. May it be so, that others may know your wonderful love, mercy, grace, and power. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

About the Author

Brett Heintzman is director of communications for the Free Methodist Church—USA. A seasoned local leader as well as a denominational leader, he is passionate about the ongoing spiritual transformation of people in the kingdom of God, especially in the areas of addiction and prayer. Heintzman is author of *The Crossroads: Asking for the Ancient Paths* and *Jericho: Your Journey to Deliverance and Freedom*.

