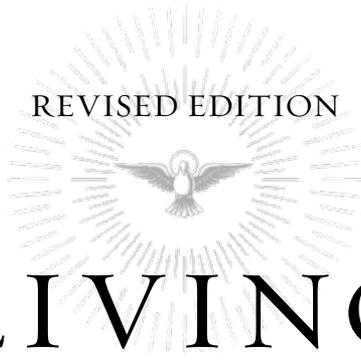


REVISED EDITION



LIVING
THE
SPIRIT-
FORMED
LIFE

GROWING IN THE 10 PRINCIPLES
OF SPIRIT-FILLED DISCIPLESHIP

JACK W. HAYFORD



Chosen

a division of Baker Publishing Group
Minneapolis, Minnesota

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Foreword

Pastor Jack began influencing my life years before I met him. The first time I heard him speak was at a Bible conference in the early 1980s. He spoke on the beauty of a spiritual language. As a young Baptist minister, I had not heard anything like it. But Jack had a very nonconfrontational way of humbly presenting Scripture. He did not try to defend or argue a position; he simply presented his belief. He did not say, “This is the *only* way. Either I’m right or you’re wrong.” His presentation, mannerism, Christlikeness and humility, not to mention his knowledge of Scripture and theological soundness, caused me to open up to him and his Pentecostal background. He caused me to start thinking about Scripture differently, and I began reading his books and watching him on television.

In 2001, a year after I began Gateway Church, I went to a small pastors’ gathering to hear Pastor Jack share

about how we could help Messianic Jews. I met him in the parking lot and told him how much he ministered to me and how much I appreciated him. He was very kind and gracious. He took an interest in me and asked about the church.

A couple of years later, I sent him an invitation to come speak at our first pastors' conference. When he arrived, it was like being with family. As we spent time together and got to know one another better, I fell in love with his character and his fatherly nature, and he seemed to fall in love with me as a teachable son he could pour into. A spiritual father/son relationship began to develop, and we started spending more and more time together.

As Gateway grew, we realized we needed more apostolic counsel. So in 2010, we asked Pastor Jack to join us as one of our apostolic elders. It was an easy choice to ask Jack, because he is a spiritual father to me and a spiritual grandfather to the Church. I can always reach out to him for guidance. I can call him anytime and ask, "How did you do this? How did you work through this? How did you help? What did you do? How did you handle it?" He has so much wisdom and shares it freely.

I once heard someone say that for years the Church has been over-mothered and under-fathered. Mothers nurture us. They are the ones we run to when we fall off our bikes and scrape our knees. It is not that fathers are not nurturing, but it is the father's responsibility to call out the destiny of God in our lives. A father will say, "Get over it! Get up! Let's do it again! I know you fell and scraped

your knee, but get up. Let's go for it again!" We need more fathering in the Church today. Jack is a tremendous example of a father who not only is loving and nurturing but also will encourage you and call out your destiny.

In 2 Kings 2:8–10, Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion of the spirit that was on him. And Elijah said, "If you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you." He was saying, "If you'll stay with me to the end." We need to stay with our spiritual mothers and fathers until the end. They have something to contribute to the Kingdom, and they have something to teach us. They have impartations and anointing for us. I have experienced the benefit of that by spending time with Pastor Jack, and I have seen the results in Gateway Church as well as around the world.

Paul told the church at Corinth, "For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers" (1 Corinthians 4:15). We are blessed today with many wonderful teachers and instructors but just a few spiritual fathers, and even fewer Jack Hayfords.

No one has been more of a spiritual father to our generation than Pastor Jack Hayford. He has helped us to understand what it means to fully believe in the work of the Holy Spirit by unashamedly yielding to Him. In fact, it was during Pastor Jack's weeklong school of pastoral nurture with about forty other pastors when I first began to grasp this. As he poured into each of us, I realized that in addition to his vast knowledge of theology, he had a practical pastoral wisdom every person could apply. It

was the first time I had heard anyone use the term “Spirit-formed life,” and when he said it, something in me began to go off like rockets. I understood how to live a Spirit-filled life, but to think about the Spirit of God forming my life was exciting to me! I discovered that living the Spirit-formed life is when I allow the Holy Spirit to set the structure for my life and get my life organized, under control and disciplined.

That is what this book is about. On the following pages, Pastor Jack speaks as a spiritual father to the Body of Christ and explains how you can allow the Holy Spirit to bring order, structure, balance and fullness to your life. When you apply the spiritual disciplines outlined in this book, you can live a victorious life every day. I pray you will allow the revelations in this book to permeate into your heart and soul.

Get ready for an exciting adventure with the Holy Spirit as you rediscover Him in a new way.

Robert Morris, founding senior pastor,
Gateway Church, Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas

Prologue

SPIRIT FULLNESS AND TIMELESSNESS

My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you.

GALATIANS 4:19

This is an invitation to adventure. You hold in your hands a handbook designed to help serious Christians find fulfillment in life and maturity under Christ's lordship by linking their souls to timeless practices and principles set forth in Scripture and proven valid.

Mind you, the adventure I speak of is neither a spartan excursion nor an amusement-park ride. I say this because I have sought to make the disciplines of the Christian life accessible without seeming trivial.

You see, although I have benefited greatly from my exploration of contemporary books on spiritual discipline, nevertheless they tend to be the kind of heavy reading that

intimidates most earnest believers. I think this is because the disciplines have sometimes been reduced to a legalistic form of demanding, exacting accomplishment.

Further, the pursuit of these disciplines has often been measured by the patterns established by the saints of earlier centuries. Whatever value we may draw from these spiritual giants—and there is a great deal to be learned and much wisdom to be acquired from them—these men were living in a world with radically different schedules, pressures and demands. Their writings on issues of discipline were lengthy, but often in their monastic or mystic lifestyles they had little else to occupy their thoughts.

I have sought with this book to be concise and personal, hopefully without being too “here and now.” I realize this might strike the elite disciplinarian as shallow; but if it does, my hope is that he or she will pursue the abundance of other materials I have written and taught on these grand themes. And so, to the task of becoming a deepened disciple *in the present hour*.

Just as the dawn of the 20th century marked an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon spiritually hungry souls, the turn of the 21st century is witness to a new dimension of passion for God. The quest of those earlier seekers was satisfied, and their witness has spanned a century and helped to shape Christian history. Today we surge forward in the wake of this holy stream of grace that has been experienced from Azusa Street to the far corners of the earth.

This global spread of Christ-exalting evangelism and Spirit-empowered ministry has been advanced by the posi-

tive impact of Christian media—radio, television and publishing. But simultaneously, a gradual shift in focus toward success or entertainment in these media, often mixed with a quick-fix or bless-me centeredness, has produced confusion about what Spirit-filled, Spirit-formed living is really about.

The call to the Spirit-formed life defines the normal Christian life as conceived by our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the kind of life, experience and witness that is described in the book of Acts. Indeed, the steps forward to the Holy Spirit-formed life are clearly set forth in God's Word:

1. Be *Spirit-born* by repenting for your sins and by putting your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior, verifying the commitment by obeying Jesus Christ as Lord and being baptized in water (see Acts 2:38–39).
2. Be *Spirit-filled* by receiving the promise Jesus gave that His followers shall receive power—power to move in new dimensions of worship, praise, prayer, service and witness (see Acts 1:5–8; 2:1–4).
3. Be *Spirit-formed* by recognizing that the entry door of new birth and the birthright blessing of Holy Spirit fullness are only *beginnings*—both calling us as believers to *growth* in Christ's likeness and *discipleship* under His lordship (see Romans 12:1–2; Acts 2:42, 46–47).

It is the apostolic heart cry of Paul, Peter and John that all believers are called to the Spirit-filled life, whether they are born in the first or the 21st century.

Stop indulging in transient style and stimulation. Instead, keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit, as you sing and worship the Lord from your hearts, and as you live in timeless gratitude to God in Jesus' name, and as you relate to each other in a climate of mutual submission to God's wisdom and order.

Ephesians 5:18–21, author's paraphrase

Every generation since the Church was born has been called to an abiding lifestyle that learns God's grace but lives Christ's laws. This is called being a disciple. Christian discipleship consists of those life principles that beget a timeless quality in the life of the believer. It is the *practical* aspect of eternal life, lived in the here and now, in contrast with the *promised* aspect of eternal life, which we will enjoy then and there, forever in God's presence.

Our generation of believers has now crossed over the line into Century 21, and I have a deep, joyous sense about it. I believe this new era is the one in which we will experience the setting in place of the new reformation. By this I mean that we will see the global Church filled with people who not only are settled in the solid, biblical realities of the unshakeable truths regarding Jesus Christ, His person and work, as achieved through His life, death and resurrection; but we will also see a full recovery of the kind and quality of life in Christ that is characterized by all the passion and power of true Holy Spirit fullness.

Are you a church leader, worker or member seeking freshness and power in your life? Are you looking for more

than either the formal or the flamboyant, the painfully predictable or the merely excitable? Do you want more of Christ and the freedom to move in the life of His Holy Spirit? Then join me in answering the call to Spirit-filled *disciplines* as well as Spirit-filled dynamics.

When the power life is linked to the disciplined life, we will have overthrown any misinterpretation of what being filled with the Spirit means; and we will have reaffirmed the timeless lifestyle that has always been foundational to renewal, revival or anointing—true Spirit fullness. We will have entered a new era of the Church where lines of separation—differences over Pentecostal experience, evangelical solidity, charismatic passion and fundamentalist purity—will gradually disappear.

I believe this new era will be hastened in direct proportion to the Spirit fullness manifested among those of us who seek full-dimensional spirituality—

where Jesus Christ is exalted and is central in all,
where God's Word is honored and authoritative in all,
where the Holy Spirit is welcomed and free to work in every way and

where spiritual dynamics and spiritual disciplines are joined by all.

What a time! What a goal!

Join me. Let's go for all of it!

In Jesus' name, His life and His love,
Jack W. Hayford

PART ONE



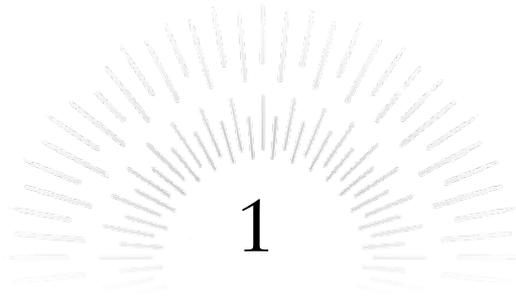
The Spirit- Formed Disciple

Fear not that thy life shall come to an end, but rather
fear that it shall never have a beginning.

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN (1801–1890)

Ask not for gifts but for the Giver of Gifts: not for life
but for the Giver of Life—then life and the things needed
for life will be added unto you.

SADHU SUNDAR SINGH, INDIAN EVANGELIST
(1889–1929)



The Making of a Disciple

THE PILLAR PRINCIPLE

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God. . . . I will write on him the name of My God.

REVELATION 3:12

As we begin our pursuit to deepen our discipleship as followers of Jesus Christ, it is more than merely imaginable that some readers will feel doubtful about their capacity to rise to the dimensions of maturity one might expect to see in a settled servant of the Savior. Before we proceed any further, lay hold of this: If ever you may be tempted to doubt or to wonder about your potential as a disciple, take a good look at Simon Peter.

There is a reason Peter is a favorite of almost every reader of the Bible. His stumblings seem to summarize the sum and substance (or lack of it) we all frequently feel about our own feeble steps as we attempt to move forward in Christ! Consider these extremes. With one utterance—“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16)—Simon Peter rises to the highest heights of insight and declaration. Then, just moments later, Jesus denounces another of Peter’s “insights” as satanic in origin, saying, “You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men” (v. 23). (Such a thing should never happen to you!) On the night of Jesus’ capture, Peter declares, “I will never fail you!” (see Mark 14:29). But within hours he denies three times even knowing his Lord.

As we look over Peter’s life as a disciple, we see him as both a saint and sinner, a spiritual giant and spiritual dwarf. But in the end, we are touched and encouraged, because he is so much like us. He is everyman wrapped into a single person. He is the reflection of our secret ambitions fulfilled and the picture of our visible embarrassments revisited. Yet at whatever point we see him in the span or spectrum of his exploits or his flops, whether at a pinnacle or a pratfall, Peter inevitably ends up at the right place, showing the right attitudes and aiming in the right direction en route to the right goal.

It is the *end* of Simon Peter’s “becoming” that finally captures our hearts. He fumbles the ball, but he also picks it up and runs for a touchdown. He is decidedly *not* the

person described by the modern-day concept that employs his name (but is actually named after the man who coined the term). The Peter Principle describes the corporate businessperson who rises within an organization to reach a point beyond his or her competence. Our man is quite the opposite. *This* Peter—Simon Peter—continued growing as a committed disciple, and he matured through and *beyond* his apparent limitations. He became a *pillar*—a tower of strength in his own generation.

That is why I have come to think of Simon Peter as the Bible's Rocky—not only because his name means the same thing (the Greek *petras* = “rock”), but because there are a number of similarities between the big fisherman of history and the fictional boxer portrayed by Sylvester Stallone in a popular movie series. Both are rough, unpolished men. Both are products of a distinct ethnicity. Both are laden with undeveloped potential (until trainers get hold of them). Both end up finding their possibilities maximized, and they rise to the level of a champion.

Peter is some kind of a person!

But so are you! That is a proposition Peter himself asserted in his first letter (call it 1 Peter or Rocky 1, take your pick). There we find Holy Spirit-inspired words that breathe hope and promise for every one of us who would become a maturing disciple. Doubtless remembering how Jesus had first prophesied that he would be called a stone (see John 1:42), Peter harkens to the day Jesus leveled His gaze, looked deep into his eyes and said, “I say to you that you *are* Peter!” (Matthew 16:18, emphasis added). Moved

by these memories of what Jesus had processed in his life, Peter declares something about every believer's potential as a disciple: "You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5).

In light of these words of promise—words of prophecy—the Bible holds a similar word for us from Jesus Himself. Just as Peter's experience speaks to you and me and points the way to the possibilities that Christ can bring about in our lives, so Jesus adds His own "pillar" promise: "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore" (Revelation 3:12 NASB).

Here we are introduced to the elements of the Master's program for exceeding man's Peter Principle with God's Pillar Principle; it gives us reason to believe we can pursue growth as disciples without being plagued with doubt as to whether we are dreaming beyond reality. Christ's words outline His program: *faith* ("he who overcomes"), *creative power* ("I will make him") and *stability* ("a pillar"). To understand these words is to believe.

Faith

Faith is not demanded in giant proportions but only as a basic, foundational trust in Jesus—that is, faith in who He is and confidence in what He has done for us as mankind's only Savior. That is how the Bible defines "overcoming": "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:4–5).

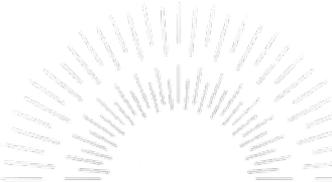
So to begin, the question is settled as to your or my candidacy as a disciple—a potential pillar. Our commitment to Jesus as Savior opens the door: Salvation plants the seed of eternal life inside of us, and within that seed is a holy DNA destined to grow us into Christ’s likeness.

Creative Power

Awesome creative power is promised in Jesus’ words “I will make him a pillar.” Here Jesus speaks in terms totally opposite those of human programs and philosophies of self-help and self-cultivation-unto-achievement. He does not say, “*You can* make it happen.” He says, “*I will* make it happen.”

“I will make him a pillar,” He says. Especially moving to me is the meaning of the word used in this passage. The word “make” encompasses both ideas—the shaping of something already present, but also *bringing into existence anything that is needed but lacking*. In short, Jesus is saying, “I’m going to take the raw material of your life and shape it. But if you’re concerned that what you lack will hinder My work, don’t be afraid. I can *create* things in you that don’t yet exist!”

“I will make him a pillar.” Equally significant to the meaning of this phrase is that the future tense of a Greek verb conveys the idea of continuous action. Our Lord promises, “I will keep on making, creating and



The interior journey of the soul from the wilds of sin into the enjoyed presence of God is beautiful. Ransomed men need no longer pause in fear before the Holy of Holies. God wills that we should push on into His presence and live our whole life there.

A. W. TOZER (1897–1963)

shaping until your possibilities are developed—until My pillar project is completed.” This is His way of saying, “I’ve got the will and the power if you’ve got the willingness and the availability.”

Stability

He is talking about making a *pillar*—a strong support to others, an architecturally strategic column upon which structures lean and find strength. He is talking about making me into a father my kids can lean on, a husband my wife can trust and a friend my associates know will not fail them.

Whatever your gender or your circle of influence, He means to do the same with you: faithful church worker, dependable employee, loving spouse, wise parent, good pastor, considerate boss, helpful neighbor, etc. Jesus is in the business of making pillars—that is, producing a settled stability that will bring an end to vacillation and undependability in us as surely as it did in Simon Peter.

So step up to examine the disciplines of the Spirit-formed life. Be encouraged that you are moving forward in a process that holds the hope of fruitfulness and fulfillment, because it happened in another person very like us—a man named Peter. Because the New Testament traces

Jesus' dealings with Simon Peter, who became a pillar in the end, we can believe.

Jesus Christ is still in the pillar-forming business. It is a principle of His—the Pillar Principle. His Pillar Principle declares, “I can and I will take those who put abiding faith in Me, and I will make them into dependable disciples—people who will prove to be strategic in My ongoing work of building My Church!”