

THE SPIRIT ... MOVES.

Find a balloon, one that hasn't been blown up yet,
and sit with it in the palm of your hand.
What can it do, this flat disappointing piece of lifeless rubber?
Throw it up and catch it; squeeze it and pull it.
Is this really something that kids love to play with?

Then add the magic ingredient.
Lift it to your lips and gently breathe your life into this balloon.
Feel it expand under your fingers.
Keep blowing until it is fat and round.
Tie a knot in it and pat it around the room.
Hit it up and watch it gently float down.

READ GENESIS 2:7

God breathed life into dust and created a person.
Throughout history, God has continued to breathe his life into his people,
awakening,
creating,
restoring.

But those who receive the breath of God need to be ready to go where the
Spirit takes them.
Are you ready to be like the balloon that has no control of its own direction?

Are you ready to let go?

Stand tall, stretch your arms wide, breathe deeply, and surrender to the Spirit.

God knows where you'll end up.

PRAY.
The breathe of life

BALLOON



THE SPIRIT ... MOVES.

Pick up an egg.

As you sit, turn the egg gently in your hands.

Feel the smoothness.

Explore the egg with your fingertips

Feel the imperfections, the slight roughness.

Continue to explore the texture of the egg carefully.
To you, an egg may represent nothing more than breakfast.

But in some other cultures, it represents far more:
the hope for new life, the hope of a future.

Think about your future for a few moments.

How do you feel about your future?

Are you hopeful?

Hopeless?

Or somewhere in between?

An egg's thin shell can protect a heartbeat.

Your future may feel fragile—one wrong move and you'll crack open
or be tossed aside. But you needn't be fearful.

READ ROMANS 15:13

You're held in the hands of someone who knows you and knows your future.

Someone who loves you.

Someone who wants you to experience peace, joy and hope.

Bask in God's love today.

PRAY.

Overflow with hope.

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GOD...IS NEAR.

How good is your eyesight? Is it twenty-twenty, or do you have to wear glasses? (If you are wearing glasses now, take them off.)
Can you still read this? Put on a pair of the glasses.
How do things look? Can you read?

Try another pair. How do they differ?
Can you find two pairs the same?

READ-MATTHEW 6:22-23

How good is your inner eyesight? How do you see the world? Do you look for good or evil?

Do you see black and white shades of gray, or sixteen million colors? Think about where your soul gets its glasses. Are they from God? If not, where are they from? Your friends? yourself? the world? Do they color what's inside you?

Are there things that distort our vision? Ask God for healing or for help to leave those things behind. Are there things in your life that help you see true? Thank God for them and wear those "glasses" as much as you can.

PRAY.

GLASSES



CHRIST... IN ME.

Pluck a hair from your head
Look at the hair closely with a magnifying glass
Consider the craftsmanship that God put into that hair-
the delicate structure, the color, the curliness or straightness of it.

How important is your hair to you?

Ever had a bad hair day? a good hair day?

What difference does it make?

What messages does your hair (the look of it, its style)
communicate to others about you?

READ LUKE 12:6-7

This passage contains another message about hair.
Jesus uses hair to communicate his great love for you and his care of you.

Every detail of your life is important,
every circumstance,
every fear,
every worry.
God cares.

What are the concerns or situations most troubling to you right now?
Share them with God.

Ask God to show you ways to rest in his hand, free from worry and fear.

PRAY.

You are worth more than many sparrows.

H A I R



GOD...IS NEAR.

Choose a pebble, close your hand around it. Turn it in your hand. Explore its surface with your fingers, What shape is it? Is it rough or smooth? Or both in different places?

READ PSALM 139:1-5, 23-24.

Like the pebble, you are unique. God holds you in the warmth of His hand, turning you gently, searching your surface, He knows the rough places of your life. Ask God to show you and to help you offer them to Him. Where are the smooth places, the parts that are pleasing to God's touch? Ask God to show you and to help you offer them to Him.

Still ponds don't make pebbles – it takes moving water, like a river or the sea. The water takes the rock on a journey and wears it smooth by rubbing it against other rocks. How far have you traveled in the water of the Spirit?

Think about the people and situations God has used to smooth your sharp edges, and give thanks for them.

How willing are you to be made a different shape? Sometimes we fear that God will make us all into the same shape. Look at your pebble, compare it the others. No two are the same. You are unique, God made you.

PRAY.

PEBBLES



THE SPIRIT ... MOVES.

Do you like spicy foods?
Even if you don't, place a drop of the hot sauce on a chip.

Enjoy.

Now how does your mouth feel? How do you react when you eat something spicy? Maybe you gulp a glass of water. Maybe you fan your mouth with your hand. Maybe you take short, shallow breaths. Maybe you close your mouth, relish the burn, and start to sweat.

READ MARK 13:11

Did you know the Holy Spirit has the power to give you words to say? Not words to crush or intimidate, but words to teach and to reveal God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit knows what to say, even when you don't. And just as your brain moves you to cool down your spice-abused mouth, the Holy Spirit moves you to speak.

Have you ever spoken God's words?

If you don't remember that a glass of water is available when your mouth is burning your brain will find an alternative. Likewise, if you don't rely on the Holy Spirit within you for words to say, you'll find an alternative to God's words – your own.

How can you learn to be available to speak what the Holy Spirit knows to say?

Think about the kinds of words God wants to use in His name.

PRAY.

PEPPERS



THE SPIRIT ... MOVES.

Listen to the radio.
Turn the dial until you hear nothing but static.

Listen carefully. Can you hear any words or music?
Can you decipher anything? Almost – but not quite.

You're just not close enough to hear it.

Now dial in a station.

Hear it? The signal is crisp and clear and, most important,
close enough that you can receive it.

God is not far away. He's near. If you've committed your life to him, you can
believe he's there in the person of the Holy Spirit. It's a promise.

READ ACTS 2:37-39 aloud.
Read it again, slowly.

This promise isn't just for those who stood, brokenhearted,
in a audience that could hear Peter's words. The promise is for you, too.

Are you listening?

PRAY.
Whom the Lord Our God Will Call...

RADIO

