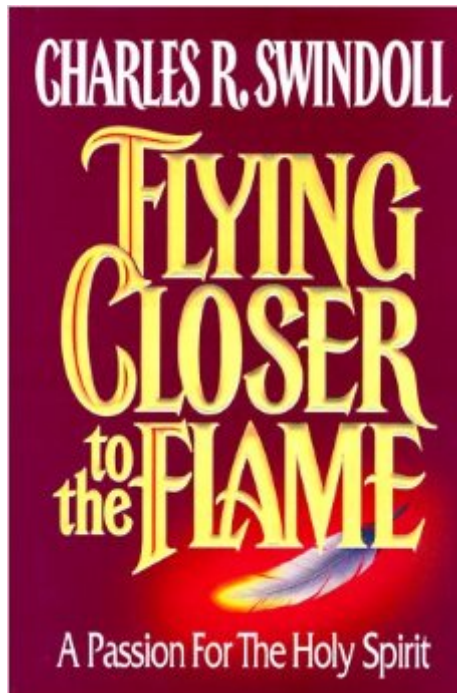


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# Flying Closer To The Flame: A Passion For The Holy Spirit



## Synopsis

Chuck Swindoll suggests that many of us have spent our lives trying to keep a safe distance between ourselves and the Holy Spirit. It's time, he says, to experience all the blessings God has in store for us. It's time to start flying closer to the flame.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As usual, Chuck Swindoll hits it out of the park! This book gives us a view of God's Holy Spirit not often taught from the pulpit. He tells us that incredible power is available to the believer to accomplish much for the cause of Christ, but we usually don't trust God to do much more than the mundane in our lives. "Let's face it - many of us simply do not understand the Holy Spirit. We feel awkward relating to Him..." And, he goes on to teach us how to understand Him and how to comfortably relate to Him. This book is easy to use, taking little time out of the day, and listening to the audio tapes will really give you the complete picture.

Charles Swindoll encourages the reader to get closer to the Holy Spirit yet seems more than cautiously skeptical of any claims of the Spirit's more dramatic manifestations. I found myself more than once starting to get excited about where he was going only to have him cut himself short to redundantly warn readers about getting "fanatical" or joining "cults". While I do agree that Christians should be duly cautious about dramatic experiences, claims, cults, and the plethora of charlatans who have paraded so called "gifts of the Spirit" on Television weighing everything they hear of and experience against the scriptures, I feel his cautions tended to overpower the many excellent points

he made about how the Holy Spirit can empower, revitalize, and enable believers. I commend the fact that Mr. Swindoll was clearly trying to be conscientious by gearing his work to a general audience of believers at all points of the spectrum of belief. Still, the repetitive admonitions gave the impression that he felt most dramatic and/or physical "manifestations" were not to be believed and that most readers of this book were looking for a grand miracle to confirm their weak conviction, rather than a deeper relationship with this integral Person of the trinity. I feel the point that should have been more stringently stressed is how Christians themselves limit the Holy Spirit's influence and gifts because of feeble faith and a poor diet of God's word. When one is daily in the Bible and prays frequently and fervently seeking God's will in ALL they do, the influence and revitalizing qualities of the Holy Spirit are most poignantly experienced. This is not to imply that the book has no merit or that there is nothing to be gleaned from it. On the contrary, Mr. Swindoll infuses most of his many excellent points with a healthy smattering of pertinent scripture and tended to lean more on Biblical truths than his own understanding. This is the sort of attentive preaching and teaching we could use much more of.

I bought this used to give away. It arrived in EXCELLENT condition and came earlier than expected. I have read the "study guide" several times and find it very easy reading and very informative. A very good study guide on the Holy Spirit.

If not for the dated nature (15 years old) of "Flying Closer to the Flame" I would surely give it five stars. In 1993, Chuck Swindoll, then President of the non-Charismatic, cessationist Dallas Theological Seminary somewhat shocked the Evangelical world by his authorship of this book. As his title suggested, Swindoll was encouraging those who believe that the sign gifts have ceased to hold those theological views while remaining open to experiencing the full power and presence of the Holy Spirit today. Non-charismatic cessationists teach that the sign gifts (such as healers, miracle workers, speaking in tongues, prophesy, etc.) ceased at the completion of the New Testament canon. This has often caused them, according to Swindoll, to minimize the ongoing role of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life today. With careful exegesis presented at the lay level, with careful balance avoiding extremes, and with an irenic spirit, Swindoll invites non-charismatics and charismatics alike to consider what the Bible does say about the Spirit's non-sign-gift-work today. He rightly teaches that there is much that the Bible promises about the Spirit's ministry that is still alive and well today. Laying this foundational biblical theology, Swindoll moves into practical/pastoral theology of the spiritual life. He explores with readers the role of the Spirit in decision-making,

guiding, and leading the believer. He examines the filling and fruit of the Spirit and how the Spirit produces spiritual maturity in believers today. For readers wanting an updated and more scholarly focused study of the same topic from a cessationist perspective, "Who's Afraid of the Holy Spirit" by Wallace and Sawyer is the recommended text. Reviewer: Bob Kelleman, Ph.D., is the author of "Beyond the Suffering," "Soul Physicians," and "Spiritual Friends."

This is an excellent book for knowing more about the Holy Spirit, how He works, the ways He works, His purposes, and how we all can draw closer to Him and have Him fill us to overflowing. Written by Swindoll in his usual readable and understandable style.

"Flying Closer To The Flame" by Charles Swindoll concerns a topic controversial to some people - the Holy Spirit. Indeed, the Holy Spirit can be ignored when discussing God the Father and God the Son (Jesus Christ). The topic of the Holy Spirit has been a source of disagreement between charismatics and non-charismatics for some time. Swindoll treats the topic evenhandedly and seems to be grounded biblically in his discussions. The book is around 270 pages and covers such topics as: 1. The filling of the Holy Spirit. 2. Drawing close to the Holy Spirit. 3. The inner promptings of the Holy Spirit. 4. The role of our emotions. 5. The power of the Holy Spirit. As with other Swindoll titles, the book is readable and the narrative flows freely. Read and enjoy. Recommended.

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