

Divine Analogies Volume 2 Introduction

Reflections On Seeking God and Walking with Jesus

Divine Analogies, Volume 2 continues the journey begun in Volume 1—52 weekly reflections on what it means to seek God and walk with Jesus amid the ordinary, often unpredictable realities of modern life. These essays arise from my own story: a five-decade-long traveler—at times a straggler—on the road of faith. They are offered not as lectures but as personal reflections, written to encourage those seeking direction, asking hard questions, or wondering how biblical truths apply to daily challenges.

My journey with Christ began in earnest at age 30. At that time, I had achieved much that the world counts as success—a decorated combat pilot, a promising career, a young family—but I felt an inner emptiness I could not explain. One restless night, I cried out, “If You are real, God, prove Yourself.” He did. That moment marked the beginning of a lifelong journey during which I have learned that God meets me where I am —often in the midst of striving and brokenness — and patiently draws me ever closer to Him.

This second volume reflects that ongoing journey. Each essay combines Scripture, vivid metaphors, and real-life experiences—from flying combat missions to leading community development initiatives—to show how eternal truths can be grasped in practical ways. Reflections such as *Satiated as in God*, *Standing in the Gap*, *Jesus as a Fire Chief*, and *Holy Spirit as My Superpower* illustrate how faith speaks to both the heart and the demands of daily living.

The central theme of this volume is that faith is an ongoing walk, not a one-time event. It invites readers to return daily to Christ as their source of strength, to let the Holy Spirit shape character and choices, and to live with humility, forgiveness, loyalty, discernment, and hope. These qualities are not abstract ideals but daily practices that equip us to be light-bearers in a world often marked by hurry, conflict, and distraction.

My prayer is that these reflections will encourage others, as they have encouraged me, to pause, listen for God’s voice, and recognize His presence in the ordinary as well as the extraordinary. I learned that transformation does not come all at once but unfolds along the journey—sometimes slow and uneven—yet always guided by the One who calls us to walk with Him.

God created me to do good works in Jesus, emitting the aroma of Christ and the fruits of the Holy Spirit that are pleasing to our Heavenly Father. After decades of progress, I think I am becoming the person God intended me to be. However, this transformation will take an eternity to finish.

Chuck Vollmer

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Jesus' Mission as a Foregone Conclusion

The Incarnation was a pivotal event, not merely a rescue mission but a demonstration of divine strategy against evil. While the established reasons for Jesus' coming—salvation, revelation, and fulfillment of the law—remain foundational, they gain a sharp, dramatic focus in an ongoing spiritual war with Satan. Jesus, as God, was always the ultimate victor; the conclusion was, in fact, foregone. Unbeknownst to Satan, Jesus's primary reason for coming and ultimate goal was not to defeat Satan but to conquer death itself.

The true purpose of Jesus' first coming in physical form was to publicly, legally, and demonstrably dismantle Satan's claim over humanity, and, crucially, to show vulnerable humans how to overcome that claim for themselves. The Bible describes Earth as a contested testing ground. Satan, banished but still active and granted temporary rule, was highly successful in corrupting human souls. The prior interventions, such as the Flood and the confounding of the Tower of Babel, were interim measures—handicaps placed on Satan's recruitment efforts.

The core of this spiritual warfare was Jesus' Incarnation. Jesus, being God and all-powerful, voluntarily chose to submit to denying His royal power as a tactical necessity for a fair demonstration. He had to face the enemy on the same terms as humanity—relying not on inherent divine might, but on Holy Spirit power and obedience to the Father. This act served as a visible blueprint for humanity, showing us exactly how to access God's power to resist evil.



The first confrontation was the temptation in the wilderness. Satan's offer—his earthly kingdom for service—was a direct challenge to the legitimacy of God's authority on earth. Jesus' successful resistance signaled to Satan and his fallen angels that their time was indeed up and that Spirit-filled humans could overcome their temptations.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus mitigated Satan's recruitment by healing, casting out demons, and preaching a path of righteousness. Demons recognized Him immediately, a sign of their fear and inevitable defeat. The path Jesus laid out was explicitly described as a treacherous, narrow gate. This suggests His primary goal wasn't universal mass enrollment, but the assembly of a disciplined, resilient core—those willing to forego the temporary, material rewards offered by Satan's earthly system in exchange for eternal union with God.

Suffering, trials, and the eventual Crucifixion weren't just atonement; they were the ultimate act of resistance within the framework of spiritual warfare. Jesus proved that the fear of death, which the devil wielded, held no power over one who perfectly obeyed the Father. His victory wasn't just *for* us; it was a lesson on how to resist, endure, and ultimately triumph with the power of the Holy Spirit. The conclusion was foregone, but the lesson had to be lived.

Spirituality as a Calling

Spirituality is not merely a personal choice—it is a calling. It is an invitation, extended by God, that often precedes conscious recognition. Some hear a whisper and turn to Him, while others, like me, deeply entrenched in worldly pursuits, require a dramatic encounter. My experience speaks to the reality that God was calling me long before I formally accepted Christ at age 30.

My earliest recollections of this calling date back to my childhood. One Sunday morning in Lincoln, Nebraska, I found myself walking alone to a church half a mile away while my parents slept in. This was not a Samuel-like moment, where a voice called in the night and Eli instructed him to say, “Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening.” (1 Samuel 3:9). Yet, it was something—an inexplicable pull toward God’s house, toward something beyond my understanding.

Later, at age 16, in Pennsylvania, I trained as an acolyte in the Episcopal Church. I recall a priest telling me that no one enters ministry without a calling. One particular moment stands out: during a service, as I retrieved the bread and wine, I felt an overwhelming spiritual presence, a force so strong that the priest came to check on me. These moments marked something deeper—whispers from God, calling me even as I remained largely agnostic.

By the time I was 30, life had given me everything that should have brought me fulfillment. I was a decorated fighter pilot, an academy graduate, married to my high school sweetheart (and still am), and very prideful. From the outside, my life looked complete. And yet, within, I felt hollow—an emptiness growing into a darkness that no earthly achievement could fill.

One restless night, unable to escape this void, I walked into the open air and cried out in frustration: “If You are real, God, prove Yourself!” He did. What followed was a spiritual battle—two months of wrestling between darkness and light. I did not realize it at the time, but this tug-of-war was real, culminating in a divine encounter: an apparition of Jesus Himself. In that moment, He told me it was time to make a choice. I asked only one question: “Do I have to quit being a warrior and become a holy roller?” He smiled and answered, “I want you for you.” No conditions, no mandates—just acceptance. In that moment, my answer came naturally: “Okay, I’m in.” Jesus vanished, and the spiritual fog lifted at 2 AM. Four hours later, my Christian mentor called. She had been awakened at the very same time and had prayed for me without knowing why—an undeniable confirmation of what had transpired.



Not every calling comes with dramatic encounters. Most hear a gentle whisper and, in faith, respond. For me, entrenched so deeply in the enemy’s camp, that whisper was not enough—it took the direct intervention of Christ Himself. Yet, in every calling, one truth remains: He calls each of us in a way that meets us precisely where we are.

You as Before Me

One of the most profound lessons Jesus taught was the principle of submission, which involves placing the Father's will above personal desires.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, facing the agony of crucifixion, Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42). That moment wasn't weakness—it was divine strength. It was the embodiment of "YOU before me." Jesus didn't just teach this; He lived it. And He instructed His disciples to do the same: to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in His absence, to wait, to discern, and to act appropriately and decisively.

As a long-time follower of Christ, I've come to understand that this posture—putting God's will and others' needs before my own—isn't just a spiritual concept. It's a daily discipline. One that shows up in the most ordinary places: the grocery store, the workplace, the sidewalk. I've learned to be respectful to all people, even those who show me none in return. That's not a boast—it's a testimony. The Spirit has trained my heart to recognize discontented and angry souls from a distance. Not to avoid them, but to approach them with kindness and understanding.

Sometimes, all it takes is a smile. A simple "hello." A gesture that says, "I see you." However, I'm not naïve. I don't engage recklessly. God has given me discernment—a gift that helps me know when to speak and when to stay silent, when to lean in and when to walk away. Proverbs 1:5 says, "Let the discerning get guidance." The Holy Spirit is my counselor and guide, just like the guide that Jesus relied on when dealing with the Romans, Pharisees, and his fellow citizens who wanted to do harm or kill Him.



Discernment is the Holy Spirit's whisper in the noise of human emotion and the chaos of the world. It's the pause before the reaction. It's the difference between confrontation and compassion. Jesus modeled this perfectly. He didn't treat every person the same. He didn't respond to every insult with a rebuke. Sometimes, He answered with a question. Sometimes, He walked away. And sometimes, He wept.

In my own walk, I've come to see that "YOU before me" is not just about obedience to God—it's about honoring the image of God in others. Even with anger. Even with disrespect. Even in those who seem unreachable. Because grace isn't earned—it's extended. And when I choose to reflect that grace, I'm not just being polite. I'm emulating my mentor.

So whether I'm writing, creating, or simply living, I try to keep this posture: YOU as before me. God's will before mine. Others' dignity before my pride. The Spirit's leading before my impulse. It's not always easy. But it's always well worth the effort.