

Elder Reflection - Steve Orth - 4/21/26 “Catalyst or Inhibitor” - My Choice?

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the **fellowship of the Holy Spirit** be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

Last week I had the privilege and the Fun and challenging role of Scientist Steve in my daughter's elementary school class in Boise, ID. I do this every year and look forward to trying to stimulate and encourage young minds about science. I always do experiments that demonstrate a catalyst (substance that speeds up a chemical reaction) and some type of exothermic reaction (emitting heat/energy). As always, some of the experiments work better than others and some are a little more energetic (that is why it's called Science). And occasionally I mess up an experiment and inhibit the outcome.

While in Boise, Connie and I were prepping for our Familiar Stranger Life Group when I started considering how I interact with the Holy Spirit. I fully believe that He resides in me, reveals truth, comforts, etc. I know during times in my Christian walk that I have completely leaned on the Holy Spirit to see me through. I can think of church building projects, mission trips, important decisions in my family life and work life where He has really gotten me through. Like a science experiment, He has been the catalyst to energize me to accomplish things I would not be capable of on my own.

And yet, I sometimes wonder, is there more? Sometimes, I know I miss the mark. It is my choice to allow Him to catalyze me or to inhibit the reaction. I can so often ignore the Holy Spirit and try to control/do things on my own. I can sometimes only partially engage with Him and not have as energized an outcome as might be possible. I know sometimes I am fearful of what He might lead me to and fully quench the interaction. In my heart as I have grown older I want all that God through His Spirit has for me! I want to be fully ready to step into whatever He has for me. I want to be a part of a church that lives just like the early church in Acts, filled with the Spirit and sharing our **God given gifting** for the betterment of the Kingdom.

I love knowing that the God who wants to partner with us is a God who knows we can't be Holy on our own. He knows we need His Spirit to help us, change us, lead us, pray for us, commune with us, and many times catalyze us! Thankfully he made a way for us to participate in Kingdom work. Through the Holy Spirit's empowerment, we as believers are enabled to live Godly lives, confidently witness for Jesus, and serve others through our spiritual gifting.

I am so excited to be challenged, inspired, and catalyzed through The Familiar Stranger series. I pray for new insights into all aspects of the Holy Spirit, I want to fellowship with Him anew, more deeply, fully expecting a new adventure with Him! I hope that we as a church family would be open to all that He has for us!

Let Him become your **Known Advocate!**