

Sermon Text and Notes

I. The Scripture

(NIV84) Jn 7:37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

- A. Streams of living water will flow from within him. 39 By this he meant the Spirit

(KJV 1900) Jn 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Sermon title:

Let The Rivers Flow – Part 3
Learning and Growing
So the Waters May Start Flowing

1. Water and Spirit
 - a. Water has always meant the Word of God and
 - b. Spirit has always meant life.
 2. Meaning his word shall come forth, as freely as water, from the lips of his children, bringing life to all who will receive them.
- B. This is an important principle for all believers to recognize. Again, Jesus said: 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 39 By this he meant the Spirit,
1. Every believer will have streams of living water that will flow from within him.
 2. An analysis of this means that believers have the ability to share life with others from the life that is within them.
 - a. This makes great sense when you think about it.
- C. Jesus restored what man lost from the beginning. Now, every true believer in Jesus has much more available to him than he recognizes.
1. Many will be ashamed when they come to realize the potential that God has given them and their failure to walk in that potential.
 2. The spirit can overflow from within every believer and give life to whosoever receives him.
 3. Each true believer has him and The Holy Spirit is life!
 4. We are witnesses to his power within us!

- D. How does he flow? By the words we speak!
 (NIV84) Pr 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
1. We can speak words of life or we can speak words of death.
 2. We must be careful how we speak. Careful how we speak to others.
 3. The believer has the ability to speak life into others.
 4. The believer speaks life to others by using the word of God which is life.
 5. Jesus words gave life: (NIV84) Jn 6:63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.
 6. Words of the flesh count for nothing.
 - a. We should be mindful of the gift that has been given to us. The gift of the Spirit. Meaning the ability to give life to circumstances.
 7. When you are hearing the word of God, you are hearing the words of life.
 8. It is our hearing of these words and then speaking of them to others causes us to become rivers of living water.

E. Think again of what Jesus said:
Streams of living water will flow from within him. 39 By this he meant the Spirit

(KJV 1900) Jn 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

1. We have the ability with the words we speak to lead others to eternal life!

WE HAVE THE ABILITY WITH THE WORDS WE SPEAK TO LEAD OTHERS TO ETERNAL LIFE!

2. The rivers of living water can flow from within us, if we allow the rivers to flow.

Let The Rivers Flow!

F. There is now a no to what you can't do!
THERE IS NOW A NO TO WHAT YOU CAN'T DO! IN CHRIST YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS!

(NIV84) Jn 7:37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, **"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.** 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

1. We have to begin by drinking from Christ. By coming to know him. We are coming to church learn of him.

Start August 21

WE MUST GROW FOR THE RIVERS TO FLOW!

(NIV84) Ga 4:1 What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. 2 He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. 3 So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. 4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, 5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

G. We must grow for the rivers to flow!

1. All must come to learn of him. When we taste of him we are changed. Just as the food we eat changes our bodies when we drink and eat of Christ we are changed.

(NIV84) Jn 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

2. You are no longer the same person. When you are born-again you born into something different than what you were before. There are a new set of rules to live by!
3. There are many different species and each has a different set of rules by which they live.
 - a. In many cases the environment changes.
 - (1) Think of the butterfly.
 - (a) Caterpillar, cocoon, butterfly
 - (2) Human

(a) Baby, child, teenager, adult

H. We have been born of the Spirit of God. We are now unique in the earth!

I. 2 Cor 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

(NIV84) 2 Co 5:15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

1. There now are a different set of rules
2. How are we supposed to live? How does Christ want us to live? What should be the purpose of our life?
3. Now, if you will think ahead... Where will we get the power to live the life Christ wants us to live? You are right, from the spirit.
4. However, we will not experience the fullness of the spirit until we have the knowledge that we can live in the spirit. Once we do, we have to alter our behavior so that we walk in the spirit.
 - a. Our attitudes should be those of Christ. We should allow words of the spirit to speak for us. Not words of the flesh
 - b. To do this we must be trained.

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

5. Here is a stumbling block before us. I have tried to share this with you before. Perhaps you will now begin to understand the significance of what I have been trying to reveal to you.
6. You see, once we begin to understand what Christ has done for us we think differently about people.
 - a. We see people from a spiritual point of view. They are either saved or they are lost!

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

7. We must begin to recognize what Christ has done for us! We are a new creation! If we are in Christ, we are no longer black, white, brown, olive, yellow, red or any other thing defined by the human mind.

WHEN YOU ARE IN CHRIST, YOU NO LONGER SHOULD ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE DEFINED BY HUMAN STANDARDS
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- a. We have been changed! These are descriptions of the flesh. If this is what we see, we are not seeing correctly.
- b. We have not truly learned to live in the spirit!

- c. We are indeed speaking words of the flesh. The flesh is death! By you referring to your race, or any reference according to the flesh of yourself, you are degrading yourself from the high standard that Christ has set for you!

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer

- d. We now have eternal life. We have the key to share with all; not regarding their race as anything to be regarded!

(1) Is this a stumbling block for you? Perhaps the problem is that you have not grown spiritually enough to realize the importance of the Holy Spirit in your life.

(2) this is a deception of the devil.

RACIAL DISTINCTION OR CLASS DISTINCTION IS OF THE FLESH
THERE IS NONE OF THIS IN THE SPIRIT!

So many are babes in the spirit subject to thoughts of the flesh! Such will never see the fullness of the spirit!

WE MUST LEARN AND GROW IN THE SPIRIT AND NOT BE HINDERED BY CONCERNS OF THE FLESH!

(KJV 1900) Ro 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

(KJV 1900) Ga 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

8. We must stop pursuing the things of the flesh for they are not for us!
We are of the Spirit created to have living waters flow from within us!

LIVING WATERS SHOULD BE FLOWING FROM OUR LIPS

- J. People will die if we do not warn them! We have been given the responsibility to warn them!

(NIV84) Eze 33:7 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. 8 When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold

you accountable for his blood. 9 But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself.

- K. **Who we are in the Spirit!** We are now unique creatures on this earth with a new future in Christ, though many of us don't develop it. We are now children of God but will not experience the blessings of the majesty available to us because we do not value what he has done for us to be obedient to him. Consider (NIV84) Eph 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with **every spiritual blessing in Christ.**

These blessing are secure and we should stand on them and do what he says regardless to what the world says! 1 Peter 1 & 2 tells us of our greatness and the need to be holy as children of God.

(NIV84) 1 Pe 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

(NIV84) Ro 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Eph 1:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. 9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their

fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

1. Obedience is the requirement to experience these things

L. We have a ministry. A ministry to speak God's word to every living creature!

2Cor 5:18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

1. We have two missions in the earth

a. Ministry of reconciliation: the work of reconciliation; being reconciled to our brothers

b. the message of reconciliation: allowing the words of the spirit of Christ to flow so that men and women might be made right with God.

20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2. We have to let the message of this gospel flow from out of our mouths.

3. Paul then appeals to us:

(NIV84) 2 Co 6:1 As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. 2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

M. Jesus said we were born of the Spirit and it is the spirit that gives life. If we are of Christ then the rivers of living water, the spirit of God should be heard being spoken on our lips.

MEN AND WOMEN WILL DIE WITHOUT KNOWING ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE IF WE DO NOT TELL THEM!

1. A person must be truly born again so that the living Waters can flow from within them. There are many that are in church today that have not been born of the Spirit.
2. The spirit gives you power to witness! Isn't that what he said? (NIV84) Ac 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

N. Now, let there be a stirring of the waters. Let there be a stirring of the healing waters. Let the spirit flow and then with the words of your mouth let the streams of living water come forth from within you to a dry desert land and cause it to bloom giving life to all that drink of it.

O. Let us perhaps understand now why so many in the church are failing to witness and allow the living waters to flow. Let us start the final words Christ to his disciples before he was crucified and I will give you a revelation. (NIV84) Jn 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

1. Obedience is the key the greatness in Christ!

OBEDIENCE IS THE KEY TO GREATER REVELATIONS IN CHRIST!

P. He reveals that he will show himself to those who are obedient to him! 21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

1. We should be seeking even greater revelations from God.
2. We must throw off all hindrances of fleshly thinking. We are a new creation of God and we all must learn to walk in this revelation!

Q. He also reveals another important point.
20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

1. Imagine what he is saying:
he is in the father and we are in him, therefore,

we also are in the father.

This means we have been reconciled and we are on right standing with God!

But the final statement is what is yet to be developed in all of us. He says "I am in you."

2. Christ is in us!

CHRIST IS IN US, BUT YET,
WE MUST ALLOW HIM TO REIGN IN US
TO BE SEEN IN US!

3. The greatest failure of the church is not allowing, by the acts of obedience, Christ to grow in us so that the world no longer sees us but sees Christ is in us.

4. An example would be this:

- a. You see a pregnant woman and you know a child is in her but what you don't see is the mother or father in the child until the child matures and develops. Then, you begin to see the behavior of the child that reflects their mother or father.
- b. It is likewise with Christ; We are in him and he is in us but we will not see him in us until we began to mature.
 - (1) We mature by hearing and doing the word of God!

WE MATURE IN CHRIST BY HEARING AND DOING THE WORD OF GOD. THEN, THE
CHRIST IN US IS SEEN

THE RIVERS OF LIVING WATER BEGIN TO FLOW,
AS CHRIST IN US,
BEGINS TO GROW IN US!

- c. We must be transformed to become the rivers of living water by the renewal of our minds as we present our bodies as living sacrifices to God. Rom 12:2
 - (1) But we have to learn to present our bodies first in obedience.
 - (2) Then study to have our minds renewed so that we are then transformed into what
 - (3) Christ created us to be!

- R. Many people fail to understand the necessity for obedience. Obedience develops maturity so that Christ is seen in us.
(NIV84) 2 Co 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1. We are already in Christ. Therefore, obedience is not necessary for salvation. Obedience is necessary for maturity.
2. We are already the righteousness of God, but we must allow the righteousness of God to be seen in us.

OBEDIENCE IS NECESSARY FOR MATURITY

- S. We are the children of God created in his image and likeness. Just as God gave life to man by his spirit, we give of the spirit of God, in us, to others by the words we speak.
- (KJV 1900) Ge 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.
1. Man was a lifeless form until the breath of God, the Spirit of God, gave man life.
 2. The Spirit is life the flesh counts for nothing.
 3. The Spirit is the power of God and he has been given to us for us to do the works of God.

¿WHAT GREATER WORKS CAN A MAN DO THAN SHARING THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE WITH HIS BROTHER?

- T. The word and the spirit always go together.
- (KJV 1900) Ge 1:1 IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.
- Notice, the earth was a lifeless form. God had spoken but when he spoke he spoke with the spirit and the spirit gave life
- And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
1. Here is the power of the word of God and the Spirit of God.
 2. Inside of every believer dwells the spirit and dependent upon the word the individual has fed upon comes the power to give life.
- U. This is the reason we must study the word of God. The quality of the word we have, united with the spirit determines the flow of the river that comes forth out of us.
1. Some of us are just a trickle
 2. I believe that as Disciples of Christ, the members of Guiding Light have the ability to fulfill what Jesus said would happen.
 - a. (KJV 1900) Jn 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.
- V. To the members of The Guiding Light Church I say
- (NIV84) Mt 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth.But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything,

except to be thrown out and trampled by men. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

1. Speak the words of life so that men and women might experience the life that Christ desires for them to have.
2. You are the ones that carry the living water of the word of God.
3. If you don't share with people, how are they going to know the truth?

BE THE SALT AND LIGHT AND LET THE GLISTENING WATERS FLOW FROM WITHIN YOU

(NIV84) Ro 10:14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

- W. Let the world know the truth by allowing the truth to come out of your mouth!

LET THE RIVERS OF LIVING WATERS FLOW!

(NIV84) Eph 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

1. See, your words can build up people!
- X. This is so important in this day and age:
(NIV84) Php 2:14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16 as you hold out the word of life
—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.
1. We must let the world know the truth. We must let the rivers of living waters that is within us flow out of our mouths. We must help to bring salvation to this dying sin sick world!

WE MUST HELP TO BRING SALVATION TO THIS DYING SIN SICK WORLD!

- Y. This is the will of our father in heaven that we be fruitful and we multiply his presence in the earth.
- Z. The Lord said: to the woman at the well.
(NIV84) Jn 4:9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,

14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

1. We have this water within us. We must let it flow!
 2. We must share with everyone we meet the truth of the salvation that we have in Jesus Christ.
 3. This is the expectation that Christ has of his disciples!
- AA. We multiply his presence in the earth by the words of our mouth that flows from depths of the Holy Spirit within our hearts.
1. It is the same word that overpowers the shackles of Satan and gives freedom to the captives.
(NIV84) Re 12:11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;

they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.
 2. Because Christ dwells within us his word and his spirit give us the ability to overcome Satan by the confession of the word of God in our mouths.
- BB. The power of God is within us to give life to everyone we meet!
1. Therefore, let us speak the words of life, the words of salvation, the words of Jesus Christ to everyone we meet.
Isa 43:18 Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.
 - a. The new thing is the new creation. People who have been rejected by the world will be the ones that give life to those that rejected them.
 - (1) You become new able to bless those that may have more than you but you with your less are still fulfilled.
 - b. Through the words we speak, the word of God we provide true living water to those that are thirsty.
 - c. We give them an opportunity to begin anew with God. Reconciled into God by Jesus Christ.

- d. We continue his work in the earth
- e. What a blessing to be of service to God! What an awesome and wonderful blessing!

CC. We are to evangelize the world with the water that flows from within us. We are to give to all to drink of this living water.

(NIV84) Mt 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations,**

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.** And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- 1. We are to do more than show the love of God, we are to share the word of God!

CHRISTIANS OUGHT TO DO MORE THAN EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF GOD, THEY OUGHT TO EXPOUND THE WORD OF GOD

DD. Now it is time you let the Lord feel your cup so that you may overflow with the rivers of living waters so that men and women might hear the gospel truth and be saved!

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO EVANGELIZE THE WORLD WITH THE WORD THAT YOU KNOW!

LET THE RIVERS FLOW!