

Ezekiel 47:1-9

Sunday 10/15/2023

I. Review

Last week we finished Psalms 1:1-3 and we have laid out almost every aspect of these verses and now we understand the importance of a biblical walk with God. The walk we have with the Lord (being in agreement with him and delighting ourselves in his word) is the most important aspect of our Christian life. Through that walk we are that tree being planted by the river of waters that in its season brings forth fruit. We also looked at all the blessings and benefits of a walk with God.

Last week we laid out four key areas that are built around the teachings of us being a garden filled with trees. We saw in Mark 8 that people in the Bible are liken to trees. Trees have families, so do we. Trees with leaves that are barren and trees with leaves that bear fruit.

We talked about the job of a pastor is like a husbandman in the Bible. He keeps the garden, dresses the garden and makes sure it does bear fruit.

1. Tree planted by the river of waters.
2. Bring forth fruit in our season.
3. Our leaf shall not wither.
4. Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

All of this is based on us being transplanted from the world to the river of God and getting your roots down deep. The word of God being a type of the Holy Spirit. Getting your roots down deep so when the heat or drought comes, we still flourish because of our roots in the word of God.

II. Current World Situation

Everybody has a defining moment that will define who you really are. The moment that we are living today is not only going to be the defining moment for the church, but the defining moment for God's people. We are going to find out what God's people have done with the word of God and if it really meant anything. It's fine for a preacher to talk about prophecy when you get to go home and eat or do something with your friends. It's fine to talk about the things that are coming as your life goes on. But it is something else when those things that we have been preaching are on your doorstep. Based on what has been happening lately our lives will never be the same. I think it is a good thing because the Laodicean church has not had its defining moment for the people that are in it. It's about time we find out in God's people who stands where and with what.

When Israel went to war with Hamas, the leadership of America stood up and said how they support Israel and will give them whatever they need. Let's see how that changes when the situation changes. We know that Americans were killed and there are American hostages. The

question remains. What are we going to do? America is in a no-win situation. Hamas comes up from the south and Lebanon from the north and Israel is surrounded by those nations.

In this country 40% of American people are against the Nation of Israel. Some people don't believe those tragedies happened to Israel. Just like some people don't believe the Holocaust happened. What is it going to take for God's people to understand what is going on and know you are on the verge of meeting the Lord face to face at the Rapture of the church and then the judgement seat of Christ? But God's people continue to ignore that and live their lives the way they want.

Israel cannot sustain a two or three front war. What would you do if it was your family, and your home was surrounded that you could not fight them off with conventional weapons? But you have one weapon that will eradicate your enemy and save you, would you use it? This thing is going to go nuclear sooner or later. It is the one deterrent factor that Israel will use.

We went through the list of Prime Ministers that Israel has had since 1948, but Benjamin Netanyahu is the best. He is a warrior. In 1976 the Palestinian movement took Israeli hostages and flew them down to Uganda. At that time, Uganda was ruled by a brutal dictator Idi Amin. They wired the hanger at Entebbe airport with explosives and demanded the release of more than fifty terrorists, most of whom were imprisoned in Israel. But Israel has the greatest military organization on the planet. Their special ops unit is unparalleled. They mounted a campaign out of Israel with C130's loaded with commando troops. They landed in Uganda in the middle of the night and rescued those hostages. The leader of that raid was Netanyahu's brother, Yoni. He was the only military casualty; he was shot and killed by a sniper. Netanyahu is the wrong guy to mess with.

III. Our Defining Moment as Christians

I said all of that to say this. This is Christianity's defining moment. No more can we just talk about the persecution, we can talk about this, or we can talk about that. If you are sitting here this morning or listening on air and you don't know for sure if you died today you would go to heaven, then you are a four-hundred-pound man walking on a half inch of ice. And you are going to go through. It's here. The Bible says that no matter how hot it gets, how bad it gets, how rough it gets, we can still flourish! The heat of the desert will not affect us. We can go and do what God has called us to do instead of hiding in a bunker some place.

Now we walk by faith and not by sight! The thing that is missing from all this stuff from the news media and many of the pastors, is that nobody can put what is before us in a biblical context. They put it in a world context, a political context and a Hamas or Palestinian context. But nobody sees it from God's standpoint. We are at the end! So why do you persist in living your Christian life without doing anything for God?

This church will transplant you and then you are to transplant your kids. This is all a picture of Ezekiel 47, the water that flows from the throne of God.

IV. Our Walk & the River of Waters

I feel an urgency today. The Bible says in *2 Corinthians 5:7* (*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*). Today when you leave here, you will find out what that really means. Today I will define how our walk is connected to this river and show you the very process of how it will work in your life. We have laid it out doctrinally, and today I want to do it inspirationally. I want you to understand the importance and the process of your spiritual growth.

Two Areas of the Holy Spirit of God

- 1.) Indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- 2.) Infilling of the Holy Spirit

I want you to understand the difference between the two which will be key to getting it right in your life and in your walk.

Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:19 *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

The day you got saved, *Colossians 2* tells us an operation of God took place called spiritual circumcision and cut your flesh from our soul. Your soul got sealed with the Holy Spirit of God and now you are a new creature in Christ Jesus. Now that your soul is cut lose, the Bible says in *Ephesians 1:13* you “*were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise*”. Now you are “**indwelt**” with the holy Spirit of God which is called the Spirit of Prophecy. This is what saves you, cutting your flesh away from your soul and your body becoming the temple and now the Holy Spirit indwells you till the rapture of the church.

Infilling of the Holy Spirit

The infilling of the Holy Spirit of God is for your daily walk with God. This has nothing to do with the indwelling. *2 Corinthians 4:16* says “*...but though our outward man perish, (that is your body) yet the inward [man] (that is your new nature) is renewed day by day.*”

Ephesians 5:18 *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.* This is a daily filling. This would be when you get up in the morning and get into your Bible before your day starts you pray and ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit of God. This is where you **get filled (infilling)** to do the work of God. It has nothing to do with your salvation or the indwelling. This is an unknown doctrine that has been taught in the past, and it is called your “**standing and state**”.

When you got saved you got indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God, and you have all the power of God now that there is. The problem is you don't know how to use that power when you are a baby Christian. The greatest example would be when you go home today, look at the power lines. The power off the telephone pole must go through a transformer. That transformer takes that raw power and converts it into a usable power so that you can use it in your home.

When you got saved you got the raw power of God, but you don't know how to use it. This church would be that transformer that takes that raw power that you got when you got saved. And through discipleship, working with you, Bible Study and Sunday morning it converts it into a Spirit filled life. Now you have the ability on a daily basis of being filled with the Holy Spirit to use that power to do tremendous things for God. The job of this church is to help you grow to learn how to harness the power of God to do what he saved you to do. Through this process of the indwelling, you may have gotten all the Holy Spirit of God when you got saved, but now dealing with the infilling, does he have all of you? Defining moment!

Romans 8:13-14 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

The Bible says we are not to be drunk with the world but gives the indication we are to be drunk with the Spirit. Have you ever studied a person that is drunk? If you want a picture of what the child of God walking in the Spirit should be, just look at a drunk. When a drunk gets the spirits of the world in him, the parallels of you and I getting the Spirit of God is quite incredible.

Drunks are friendly with everyone. When you have the Holy Spirit of God, you don't have any strangers. Drunks are always happy and singing. We ought to be happy and have a song in our heart. *Psalm 40:3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, [even] praise unto our God: many shall see [it], and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.* When they really lose control of their spirit, they lose control of their walk. When God's people get filled with the Holy Spirit of God, you lose control of your walk. When they are really drunk, they need a designated driver. Just like we as God's people need a designated driver because we have been driving the car ourselves. We all need a designated driver and that is the Holy Spirit of God.

V. A Pastor's Job – Transplanting Trees

There are all kinds of guys on the radio and YouTube, but I never judge a man's ministry by how good he preaches or how exciting his YouTube channel is. I judge him on how he invests his life in the people God gave him.

What does a pastor do? What is his fundamental job? Look at a man's church. Has he built anyone? What is his job? His job is transplanting trees. The real mark of a pastor's success in ministry will be the people's lives he has changed and built through his ministry. In a place of God's structure (NT local church) through a husbandman, you will grow to be that tree that is planted by the river of waters.

After today you will have everything, I have on Psalms 1 to the best my heart can lay it out. Now in a defining moment, you are without excuse!

VI. Ezekiel 47:1-9 Walking by Faith & Not by Sight

Ezekiel 47:1-9 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house [stood toward] the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south [side] of the altar. 2. Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side. 3. And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters [were] to the ankles. 4. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters [were] to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters [were] to the loins. 5. Afterward he measured a thousand; [and it was] a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over. 6. And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen [this]? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river. 7. Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river [were] very many trees on the one side and on the other. 8. Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: [which being] brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. 9. And it shall come to pass, [that] every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

We already know what we have here doctrinally. The millennial temple and the river of God flowing out of it to the world. But today I want to define and teach you what it means to inspirationally walk by faith and not by sight. The first thing for us to see is that we have a literal temple that the water comes from. From a practical application 1 Corinthians 6:19 says we are the temple, and the water of God (Holy Spirit) should flow out from us to the world.

A couple of weeks ago on a Thursday night Bible study (9-28-2023) we were in Nehemiah 8, and I showed you the Seven Characteristics of a Successful Church. The last thing we get is the book (Bible) and send portions out to those that don't have anything. What we do here works because it is based on the Bible, transplanting trees.

A.) Four Stages of Spiritual Growth

What I am about to show you is what this church will do for you in your life and in your family. I want to show you out of this passage your own individual spiritual growth process. Learning to walk by faith and not by sight. In this passage of Ezekiel 47 you will find **four stages of your spiritual growth in this river**. The picture here is simply a man walking out into the river of God. The farther he gets into the river the deeper he gets into the water. We already know that the river of water is a type of the Holy Spirit of God. What we have laid out in this passage is the progression of your spiritual growth walking every day deeper into the Holy Spirit of God (the river of God out of the throne of God). This is the filling of the Holy Spirit of God in your life on a daily basis.

This will be *1 John 1:7* “*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light....*”. Step by step as the Holy Spirit of God gets control of your life. And now you walk and live in the Spirit of God.

B.) Eastern Gate

A couple of things that jumped out in these verses to me is the Eastern Gate. This is the gate the Lord will come through when he comes back and sits down on the throne to initiate the beginning of the millennium. Right now, the Eastern Gate is walled up. It was sealed shut in 1540-41 AD by a man named Suleiman a Muslim. He was going to take Jerusalem and he fancied himself to be a god, so when he took Jerusalem, he himself was going to walk through the Eastern Gate and claim Jerusalem like Christ is going to claim it. The night before he had a nightmare and dreamed he walked through the Eastern Gate and God killed him. To make sure he did not give over to his flesh, he walled-up the Eastern Gate. No man has ever gone through that gate because it is reserved for the Lord Jesus Christ to go through at the second coming of Christ.

C.) Water Comes from Right Side of Temple

The water came out of the right side of the Temple. Remember when Christ was crucified? They put a spear in his right side and water and blood came out. *1 John 5:6 This is he that came by water and blood, [even] Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.*

D.) Man with a Line in His Hand (Ezekiel 1:1)

First thing I want you to see is in verse 1 a man with a line in his hand that will measure how far you will go with your spiritual growth. That line is defined in *Ish 28:9-13 (Verse 10)* “*For precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little*”, you learning the word of God. Our ability to measure our growth by what we do with the word of God. We need to measure our spiritual growth.

Six basic marks of your own spiritual growth

- 1.) Do you love God more today than when you got saved?
- 2.) Can you trust the promises of God more today than when you got saved?
- 3.) Do you love God’s people more than the day you got saved?
- 4.) Is heaven more real to you now than the day you got saved?
- 5.) Is hell more real to you now than the day you got saved?
- 6.) Can you love your enemies more or an unpleasant situation more than the day you got saved?

E.) First Stage of Spiritual Growth - Water to Your Ankles

Your ankle is the key to your walk. Ankles give you the ability to walk, but they don't give you any flexibility. If you turn your ankle, there is no flexibility in it. I've noticed how flexibility plays a part when it comes to getting into swimming pools. Some do it an inch at a time and some just jump right in. I think there are a lot of Christians like that who never go past their ankles in this river. They are just waders of Christianity, never going in past their ankles. The world uses the saying "just get in and get your feet wet". That comes from this passage. A lot of God's people never go past getting their feet wet in the Spirit of God. They are in every church, but they have come to the place where they will not go past their ankles.

F.) Second Stage of Growth - Water to Your Knees

This is a scary time when going into the river because now you are up to your knees and the river is a fast-moving river and you can't see the bottom anymore. Inspirationally, this is a picture of the church age which means it is happening at nighttime. You are up to your knees and realize there could be a drop off, and you don't know what is under there. You could trip over a stump or hit a sink hole and go down. This is a scary time. Spiritually speaking regarding your spiritual growth, this will be where you will have to come to a surrendered will of God. You have gotten through the word of God, the basics in Discipleship 1, Discipleship 2, you have come up to the ankles.

You have been coming Sunday and Thursday night and now you begin to see what the word of God is all about and you realized what you have. Now you are going to give it all you've got. Knees are symbolic of surrender. When you get to this part in your life, this is where you surrender. Like the song we sing "All to Jesus I surrender". It's a picture of our surrender to Christ. *Philippians 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* You can bow your knee now under a God of love to serve him, or your going to keep your stiff neck and bow at the judgment seat of Christ.

With the water up to your knees it shows that you are learning to be flexible. Your knees are the flexible part of your walk. You are at the place in your life as a Christian that you are not going back, because you are being transplanted.

G.) Third Stage of Spiritual Growth - Water to Your Loins

At this point in your walk with the Spirit of God, you get the strength of God to do his work. It is a process that starts with the ankles, moves up to your knees where you begin to get flexible, and you surrender. Then it moves up to your loins. The Bible says in *Ephesians 6:14 "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness"*. That verse is further defined in *1 Peter 1:13* where it says "*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ*" Your strength is going to be in Christ, "*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*" *Philippians 2:5*. It is not going to be in how fast you can run, or

how many footballs you can catch. It is going to be measured in what you take in life, the adversity you are faced with. Your faith and strength is found in the mind of Christ being in you. Which gives you the perfect context for whatever circumstance you are in. You made your commitment to the word of God (your ankles and your knees). Now God really begins to use you. Your ankles will be the key to your walk, but your loins will be the anchor point of your walk, your strength.

H.) Fourth Stage of Spiritual Growth – Waters to Swim in

Verse 5 should be the goal of every Christian. *Ezekiel 47:5* “*Afterward he measured a thousand; [and it was] a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over*”. This is getting into the ministry. This is the definition of 2 Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:). You are in it now where you are up past your loins and up to your head. Let’s look at this river. This is a wide river, and he is in 3,000 cubits. That is almost a mile. He started with the ankles, went in a thousand cubits more to the knees. Then he went a thousand cubits more to the loins, and a thousand more and here is where he is at. He is almost a mile into the river, and he is still in the middle. It is a fast-moving river that he can’t pass over and get to the other side. God never intended this man to get to the other side. **Nor does he intend us to get to the other side.** In verse 5 it says, “waters to swim in”. He is totally emersed up to his head in the water (type of Holy Spirit of God). In a practical application, all you can see is his head. In *1 Corinthians 11:3* “*But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ:...*”. Now you are emersed in the water the Holy Spirit of God daily. When the world sees you, they see Christ, your head.

At this point you are walking by faith and not by sight. You are now in the ministry with me in this church and you are up to your head. You have lost control because your feet are no longer touching the bottom. You have lost all control over where you go in life. In your spiritual growth you have come to a place of no control over your life. No walk with the world, you go with the flow. You go where the Holy Spirit of God takes you. You can’t get out now, you can’t touch the bottom. Waters to swim in. You are off your feet, carried by the river of water and you will go wherever the Spirit of God will take you. That should be the goal of every child of God.

VII. The Process

The water came from the right side of the altar. You get saved and you begin your relationship (your walk), that is discipleship one, and two (ankles). You keep moving deeper into the water and now you come to your knees. Now you begin to understand what the word of God does for you, what God has done for you, and you surrender all. You continue to go even deeper up to the loins, and this is where you can get some things done for the Lord. Your strength is now apparent and your ability to use the word of God becomes clear.

In verse 5 the Holy Spirit of God has all of you and when the world looks at you, they only see the head (Christ). You have been indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God and now you are filled daily with the word of God.

A.) The End Result of a Spirit Filled Life

Let's look at the end result. Remember *Psalms 1:3* “...his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper”. Look at *Ezekiel 47:9* *And it shall come to pass, [that] every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.*

Here is the end result of walking in the Spirit of God and getting your roots down deep. Christ is the head of your life, and you are going with the flow. The Bible says there are a great multitude of fishes. That will be the souls you will win to Christ along your way.

B.) Sending it Out to Others

Look at verse 8 *Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: [which being] brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.* The river splits and part of it continues south, part of it goes to the Mediterranean and then to the world. That is our ministry's work. This is not about just supporting missionaries. The success of a church and a Christian will depend on; did we reach the world with what we have? Because of what you give and what you put into this work, it will go around the world and people will be saved because of your unselfishness. Because you understand this concept, that yes, the river splits. But you keep doing the ministry here, but then you send it out to others to whom nothing has been prepared. The ministry success of any church or Christian will be on an individual basis. **Did we take what God gave us and use it to reach the world?** God is probably never going to call you to be a missionary, but that should never stop us from reaching the world. We have her a pure biblical missionary program at this church. It is taking what God has given us. Not just sending somebody else to go in our place, but taking what God has given us that we have worked on together and sending it around the world. Giving everybody out there what God has given us.

VIII. Summary

You are always going to have people who do not like what you do. What makes the difference is you. Starting with your ankles, moving to your knees. I surrender all, then moving into the loins and pretty soon emerged in the Spirit of God that when the world sees you, all they see is your head and the head is Christ. The river of your life (Holy Spirit of God) will come down through your life and at some point, the river will split. It still goes south but wherever God takes you, go with the flow. Wherever you go you will bring life and at the end of your life when you stand before God, multitude of fishes (winning people to Christ). Winning people to Christ is not a program or something you read from a book. Soul winning is the intimacy between you and God that produces fruit by your walking in the Spirit of God. Where we are at today and what we are facing, this is not the time to go through life without God. This will be our defining moment and all we will have is each other. This is my goal for you as your pastor.

We are at the beginning of the end. And the world is looking for a man to step up on a worldwide basis to bring peace and safety. He is right around the corner *1 Thessalonians 5:3* *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.* For us from this time forward will be our defining moment. For us as a church, as a Christian and as your family. God's people that have no roots in the water of God, no depth, they will be the first to fall. In this church there is no reason for you to fall. You have everything you need here to be everything God wants you to be.

We as a church understand this and moving forward are in a survival mode. We may be in a survival mode, but you write it down, we will never be in an isolation mode. We are not on the defense hiding away some place, we are on the offence, on the attack!

Back in 1912 when the Titanic sank, it brought a great revival across Europe and America because of that tragedy. It is a fact that when bad times come, when disastrous times come, people are more open to the gospel. When disaster happens, people become tender to the gospel. But the problem today is that God's people are fearful of the disaster, and nobody is willing to stand and be there for the people and show them what we have that is supposed to get us through.

I can't speak for you, but my desert all around me is blooming like a rose (Ish 35:1). Heat will not stop us, drought will not stop us, the world will not stop us. We will use everything in life, just like our Halloween activity to give us a chance to witness.

In the midst of the world's disaster, we enjoy the blessings and benefits of being planted by the river of God. No matter how bad it gets, if we stay true to the word of God and each other, we will be like the tree planted by the river of waters that will bring forth our fruit in our season.

Now is not a time to be a defector or to not be in church on Sunday. We need to get past the ankles to the knees and get it as fast as you can. Now is not the time to walk out of here today and not know Jesus Christ as your own personal savior.