

Monday, March 23, 2020

Turn off the outside “noise” for a couple of minutes and consider this message from God’s Word. I am praying that it calms your spirit and encourages your heart.

PSALM 46 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,**  
the holy place where the Most High **dwells.**

<sup>5</sup> God is **within** her, she will not fall;  
God will **help** her at break of day.

— PART 3 —

“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God” — here **the river flows from the dwelling place of God**, “the city of God.”

In the future that God is preparing for us, **“the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, [flows] from the throne of God and of the Lamb” — flows from the heart of God.**

So from the beginning (Genesis 2) till the end (Revelation 22), there is a river that flows from the presence of God! **But the river that Jesus promised will flow from deep within God’s people:**

JOHN 7:37-39 (NIV)

Jesus stood and said in a loud voice,  
“Let anyone who is **thirsty**  
**come** to me and **drink.**

Whoever **believes** in me, as Scripture has said,  
**rivers of living water will flow from within them.”**  
By this he meant **the Spirit...**

**Jesus tells us that the river “will” flow under four CONDITIONS: Thirsting, Coming, Drinking, Believing.**

1. The river will flow from within you . . . if you **KEEP THIRSTING** — *if you’re like me, life drains us; life dries us up . . . but our thirst can be quenched by the Living Water. As Dwight Moody once put it, “the reason I need multiple ‘fillings’ is that I leak!”*

PSALM 81:10 (TNIV)

<sup>10</sup> I am the LORD your God,  
who brought you up out of Egypt.  
**Open wide your mouth**  
**and I will fill it.**

PSALM 107:9 (TNIV)

<sup>9</sup>for he satisfies **the thirsty**  
and fills **the hungry** with good things.

MATTHEW 5:6 (TNIV)

Blessed are those **who hunger and thirst** for righteousness,  
**for they will be filled.**

REVELATION 22:17 (TNIV)

<sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the bride say, **“Come!”**  
And let those who hear say, **“Come!”**

**Let those who are thirsty come;  
and let all who wish take  
the free gift of the water of life.**

2. The river will flow from within you . . . if you **KEEP COMING** to Jesus — of course, as Peter said, “Where **else** would we go? **You alone have the words of eternal life!**”

ISAIAH 55:1 (TNIV)

**“Come, all you who are thirsty,  
come to the waters...”**

MATTHEW 11:28-30 (TNIV)

<sup>28</sup> **“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,  
and I will give you rest.**

<sup>29</sup> **Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.**

<sup>30</sup> **For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”**

JOHN 6:65-68 (NIV)

<sup>65</sup> **“...I told you that no one can come to me  
unless the Father has enabled them.”**

<sup>66</sup> **From this time many of his disciples turned back  
and no longer followed him.**

<sup>67</sup> **“You do not want to leave too, do you?”  
Jesus asked the Twelve.**

<sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him,

**“Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.”**

3. The river will flow from within you . . . if you **KEEP DRINKING** — our problem is that we keep getting filled up on “empty calories,” on things which don’t satisfy:

JEREMIAH 2:13 (NIV)

**“My people have committed two sins:  
They have forsaken me,  
the spring of living water,  
and have dug their own cisterns,  
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”**

4. The river will flow from within you . . . if you **KEEP BELIEVING** in Jesus.

JOHN 3:14-16 (TNIV)

<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness,  
so the Son of Man must be lifted up,

<sup>15</sup> **that everyone who believes  
may have eternal life in him.”**

<sup>16</sup> **For God so loved the world  
that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him  
shall not perish but have eternal life.**

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So we cry out, ***“Lord Jesus, I am still thirsty for you!  
I am still coming to you.  
I am still drinking of you.  
I am still believing in you.”***  
***“Flood me, fill me, saturate me with your living water!”***

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May God’s joy and gladness be poured out on you today,

Pastor Doug

P.S. We would love to hear from you! How are you doing right now? And we would love to pray for you! Email us at [info@bethanyonline.net](mailto:info@bethanyonline.net)

P.P.S. Keep checking this page — we will try to post fresh encouragement **every day** during this crisis!

P.P.P.S. And watch our **LIVE-STREAM Worship Service** this coming Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for more encouragement.