

Go in the Flow



Go In The Flow

Scripture Readings

Psalms 36:9 (NKJV)

9 For with You is the fountain of life;
In Your light we see light.

Revelation 22:1: "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb."

Jeremiah 2:12-13 (NKJV)

12 Be astonished, O heavens, at this,
And be horribly afraid;
Be very desolate," says the LORD.

13 "For My people have committed two evils:
They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters,
And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Introduction

This new series GO is inspired by the Holy Spirit and the urgency He raises for the times we are living in and our proximity to the coming of the Lord. And today's message begins with a warning for us because we cannot afford to living with a cistern mentality. As the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must be committed to flowing by the leading of the Holy Spirit and not become stagnant in cistern like systems.

Definitions and Examples

A cistern is:

- An **ancient water tank**
- A **rainwater storage system**
- A way to save water when there's no steady well or river

Cisterns could be:

- **Carved into rock**
- **Lined with stone or plaster**
- **Above ground or underground**

Strengths:

- Predictable
- Controlled
- Familiar
- Feels safe

Limitations:

- Finite supply
- Vulnerable to drought
- Becomes stale if unused
- Only as good as the structure holding it

A well is:

- A well accesses a hidden, renewing source.
 - **Draws from underground springs or aquifers**
 - Replenishes continuously
 - Less dependent on weather
 - **Water stays fresh and moving**
 - Works in drought if the source is deep
 - Requires trust in what you can't see

Strengths:

- Renewable
- Resilient
- Life-giving
- Sustains long-term growth

Difficulties:

- Requires digging
- Takes patience to develop
- Can't be rushed
- Demands faith before results

The biggest difference between cisterns and well is this:

- A cistern manages **what already fell**
- A well trusts **what is still flowing**

I want to talk to you about 3 levels of this topic "Go in the Flow."

1. Go With the Flow
2. Go Where He Flows
3. Stay in the Flow

Go With the Flow

There are certain kinds of individuals who don't necessarily take a solid position on things, particularly in the area of interest in being used by the Lord. They take an approach of "well...if it happens..it happens." "I'm not saying never, but I'm also not saying right now either." "I'm not saying no, but if I'm honest I haven't fully given God my yes."

And so when a move of the Holy Spirit comes and begins to gush around them, they respond reactively and wherever that current is going, they tend to "go with the flow." These are individuals who tardily respond to the move of God but don't sit in the move of God. It's almost as if they are surprised that the Lord would show up as a wave of His Presence while they remained in the closed tank of their normal expectations.

In a tank or cistern, there's very little movement. There's a trickle in of rain water, but there's no currents moving the water within the tank other than when it is tapped for its contents or if there is a leak!

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The prophet Jeremiah spoke with a sense of urgency because the Lord's Presence that offers an ever flowing fountain of life as in Psalm 36 and the water of life as in Revelation 22 has been substituted by religious systems that gather what the Lord sent as rain and have held it stagnant, slowly distributing it through plumbing systems:

- Redundant hierarchies
 - Too many committees
 - Unheard proposals
 - Too many voting systems
 - So many serve teams
 - Exhaustive rosters
 - Recycled sermons
 - Recycled set lists
 - Old programs
 - Stale thinking
 - Decaying methods

People who are in water tanks like this are surprised when something fresh, new, unexpected, inspired, anointed, prophetic, longed for, comes along. When all of the above is what the Flow of the Holy Spirit is for!

"Be astonished, O heavens, and be horribly afraid." I believe the heavens look at the mindset of the western church in astonishment and deep concern because we're sitting in tanks instead of Going Where The Holy Spirit is going.

Go Where He Flows

What does that look like?

- Going where the Holy Spirit is flowing looks like surrendering to the leading and authority of the Holy Spirit in reaching thirsty souls and upending any system or hinderance that would impede the thirsty being filled.
- Addressing the reluctances within ourselves and our current structure to getting water to those who are thirsty
- Identifying where The Holy Spirit is raising our awareness and placing priority, synergy and resources firmly to see the thirsty begin to gulp what the Holy Spirit is sending.

We need to ask The Lord and also look inward and ask a fundamental question in prayer:

- "Where is the Lord flowing?"
 - "In what areas and in what situations is the Holy Spirit moving?"
 - And then ask "Why are we not spending more time there?"

Remember the strengths of the cistern/tank

- Predictable
- Controlled
- Familiar
- Feels safe

Remember the difficulties of the well

- Requires digging
- Takes patience to develop
- Can't be rushed
- Demands faith before results

You'd be surprised how far the Lord has walked away from systems that collected what He sent years ago. He may return to see if they've even emptied the tank and drank it's contents or to see if the tank has indeed leaked, and if those dependent on the tank are still THIRSTY for real living water.

The unique flow of the river implies direction, movement, accessibility, connection, flourishing and nourishing. Several towns and cities are recipients of a river's flow! It supplies wells with a reliable supply.

The book of Acts is full of examples of men and women being led by the Holy Spirit. Here is another level to this:

Rivers follow a path where the paths of the water have already been set. New paths can open over time, but there are also routes that the water CANNOT take because it's not open or there is an obstruction, embankment or a dam.

Acts 16:6-15 (NKJV)

The Macedonian Call

6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. 8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Lydia Baptized at Philippi

11 Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. 14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

What started as a conversation after a sermon with a business woman by a riverside (Lydia) led to a meeting with her family. And the Church in Philippi was born out of a family's encounter with the Word of God. And the letters to the Philippian Church we still have today as spiritual guidance for our walk with The Lord Jesus.

But notice how the Holy Spirit had to say NO to going to Asia first. Going where the Spirit Flows means being sensitive to His yes AND His no.

Stay in the Flow

Galatians 5:16-26 (NKJV)

Walking in the Spirit

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are

contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

The works of the flesh take us out of the Flow!

But the fruit of the Spirit maintain the Flow

Romans 8:14-17 (NKJV)

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Perhaps what is most striking is the psychological relationship between FEAR and VICES.

- We cheat because we truly fear accountability with our spouses
 - We fornicate because a past trauma that produced a fear of loneliness and a lack of intimacy
 - We embrace the idols that fear produce
 - We drift into superstition, subtle forms of witchcraft and sorcery because out of fear of not being protected or the fear of feeling powerless
 - We embrace hatred out of the fear of not being loved or accepted or loving others
 - We become jealous out of the fear that others are better than us or have what we don't
 - We pursue selfish ambitions out of the fear out of what we won't have for ourselves

Fear is the antithesis to faith and thus it cannot please the Lord.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Staying in the Flow means breaking up with Fear! And trusting that the River of God's Spirit is still flowing for you. It will not stop! And it will not sweep you away where you shouldn't go. He keeps you through every experience, season, location and realization in your life and as you stay in the Flow, He uses you to bless the lives of others.

GO IN THE FLOW!