

GET OVER **YOURSELF** SERIES

GOD PLACES IT **IN YOU** FOR WHAT HE WILL DO **THROUGH YOU**.

BE THE STREAM

JOHN 7:37-39



RECEIVE **IT**.



RELEASE **IT**.



GUARD THE **FLOW**.



BE THE **STREAM**.

Be The Stream

Text: John 7:37-39

The Stream in My Backyard

After weeks of heavy rain, the stream behind our house became difficult to overlook. Most days it quietly carries water from one yard to the next until it reaches the street. But after a storm, it swells, moves quickly, and sometimes continues rising even after the rain over our house has stopped because water is still traveling toward us from somewhere upstream.

Watching that stream raised a simple question:

1. Why does the water keep moving instead of remaining where it landed?
 1. A stream exists to carry water toward another destination. Water enters it from somewhere, travels through it, and affects places far beyond where the rain originally fell.

Last Sunday, our Splash Kids learned that rivers of living water would flow from those who believe. Jesus does not describe a cup that we carry. He describes a river moving from within us.

The Water Motif in John

Throughout John's Gospel, water repeatedly reveals something about Jesus and prepares us for His declaration in John 7.

John 4:13-14 — Jesus satisfies our deepest thirst

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

At Jacob's well, Jesus meets a woman whose soul is thirsty. He uses the natural water she understands to reveal the spiritual life only He can give.

John 6:20-21 — Jesus has authority over troubled waters

"But he said to them, 'It is I; don't be afraid.' Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading."

The disciples' faith is tested on a troubled sea. The water that frightened them remains under Jesus' authority.

John 7:37–39 — Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

"On the last and greatest day of the festival, 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, whom those who believed in him were later to receive."

During the Feast of Tabernacles, the people remembered how God provided water in the wilderness. Jesus directs them beyond the ceremony to Himself. The "living water" is the Holy Spirit, working from the innermost part of the believer and moving outward.

From Watching the Stream to Becoming One

We live in a streaming generation. We stream television, music, worship, sermons, podcasts, and church services. Streaming gives people access to the Word wherever they are, but it can also train us to remain consumers and observers.

- We can watch worship without becoming worshipers.
- We can hear the Word without allowing it to transform our lives.
- We can observe ministry without participating in ministry.
- We can receive encouragement while overlooking the person God has called us to encourage.

James 1:22

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

Point One: Receive It. Release It.

Rivers of living water flow from within those who believe. This is a picture of faith that is active and alive. The Holy Spirit is received personally, but His work in our lives is meant to be lived out loud. When the Holy Spirit activates, God uses us beyond ourselves.

- **A Stream Does Not Exist for Itself**

- A natural stream carries water from one place to another, and the places along its path are affected by what it carries.

Ezekiel 47:8–9

"This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows... so where the river flows everything will live."

In Ezekiel's vision, water comes from beneath the temple. The stream grows from ankle deep to river deep enough to swim in. Most importantly, it does not remain at the temple; it moves outward and brings life to a barren place.

What does this mean?

We gather because we need worship, prayer, the Word, fellowship, refreshment, teaching, and restoration. This is biblical. But if everything we receive remains inside the room, we have experienced only part of God's intention. The river has to leave the house.

Most opportunities God gives us occur in ordinary moments, familiar relationships, and unplanned encounters not necessarily through a microphone or title. Ministry may look like a conversation, practical support for a family member, a

timely prayer, or making room for someone's questions.

2 Corinthians 1:3–4

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

The comfort was genuinely for us, but it also has a ripple effect. The grace we received should shape the way we respond to someone else. What God placed in another person once reached us; now what He placed in us can reach someone else.

Point Two: Guard the Flow

The current in a stream carries more than water. It can also carry leaves, branches, soil, and whatever else has fallen into its path. One leaf may make little difference, but debris accumulates. The current slows, the water grows cloudy, and areas that once flowed freely can become backed up.

The stream still contains water. Too many other things have entered it.

When Life Enters the Stream

Many of us began our relationship with God with genuine passion. We were excited to learn, eager to pray, and willing to serve. Then life happened. Disappointment, delayed answers, distraction, fear, wounds, and weariness accumulated gradually.

Prayer becomes less consistent. The Word receives less attention. We remain active, but we are no longer being replenished. Usually no single experience stops the flow; it is the accumulation of things we never addressed.

Proverbs 4:23

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

The condition of our inner life eventually affects what comes out of our lives. The Holy Spirit Himself cannot be contaminated, but our expression of His life can become mixed with the unresolved condition of our hearts. We can speak truth through bitterness, serve while carrying resentment, or use our gifts while running on empty.

Sometimes we assume the stream has dried up when it has simply become blocked.

2 Timothy 1:6

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands."

Paul did not tell Timothy to search for a new gift. He told him to tend to what was already there. There are seasons when we ask God for something new while He draws our attention back to what He has already given us.

Ways to Guard the Flow

- Return to rhythms that keep you grounded in prayer and Scripture.
- Become honest about what has been occupying your heart and shaping your thoughts.
- Receive wise counsel and proper rest.
- Forgive, release offense, and allow God to address wounds you have learned to work around.
- Recognize weariness before it becomes withdrawal.

When we allow the Holy Spirit to examine, heal, and renew us, the flow can become clear again. The stream may still be there beneath everything that has accumulated.

This may be a season for clearing away instead of walking away.

Closing Challenge

Jesus said that anyone who is thirsty could come to Him and drink. Then He said rivers of living water would flow from within those who believe. We receive deeply, release freely, and guard carefully what God has placed within us.

At The Well, our mission is to end thirst one home at a time. That mission asks us to think beyond what happens during a Sunday service, because someone downstream needs what God has placed within us.

Receive it.

Release it.

Guard the flow.

Be the stream.