



# The River of **Life**

**Pastor Mason Phillips | March 15, 2026**

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## **Day 1: The Source of Life**

**Devotional:** The river of life doesn't begin with us—it flows from God's throne. Just as Ezekiel saw water flowing from the temple, Jesus invites us to come and drink from the only source that truly satisfies. We often search for life in careers, relationships, or possessions, but these leave us empty. True life—Zoe life—comes only from Christ. Notice that Ezekiel didn't wade into the river on his own; God brought him deeper. You cannot manufacture spiritual depth through effort alone. Surrender to God's leading today. Stop striving and start receiving. The divine life you're longing for flows from intimacy with Jesus. Where are you searching for satisfaction outside of Him? Return to the source.

### **Reading:**

*John 7:37-39 NKJV*

*On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

*But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

*Ezekiel 47:1-5 NKJV*

*Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar.*

*He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side. And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles.*

*Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed.*

**Revelation:** In what ways have you sought life and fulfillment in things other than Jesus, and how has that left you feeling empty or stagnant?

## **Day 2: Going Deeper**

**Devotional:** Ankle-deep. Knee-deep. Waist-deep. Swimming. God's invitation is progressive—He wants to take you deeper into His presence and purpose. Many Christians remain at the threshold, experiencing just enough of God to be saved but not enough to be transformed. Spiritual maturity isn't about your effort; it's about your surrender. God is the one who measured and brought Ezekiel through each

level. He's working in you "to will and to do for His good pleasure." The question isn't whether God wants to take you deeper—it's whether you're willing to follow. What fears keep you in the shallow water? Today, ask God to lead you beyond your comfort zone into the depths where you can no longer touch bottom but must trust Him completely.

### **Reading:**

*Ezekiel 47:3-5 NKJV*

*And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured on thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. Again he measured on thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist.*

*Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed.*

*Philippians 2:12-13 NKJV*

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

**Revelation:** Ezekiel didn't go deeper into the water on his own but was brought deeper by God. How does this truth about God leading us deeper change the way you approach your spiritual life and growth?

## **Day 3: Beware of Stagnation**

**Devotional:** The marshes and swamps had water but no flow—and death prevailed there. A stagnant Christian life receives God's blessings but never releases them to others. When we hoard grace instead of sharing it, our faith becomes toxic and lifeless. The river must flow through you, not just to you. Your spiritual vitality is

measured not only by what you receive in worship but by what flows out in service, witness, and love. Are you attending church but never sharing your faith? Praying but never serving? Learning but never applying? Stagnation happens when intake exceeds outflow. Today, look for one opportunity to let God's life flow through you—pray for someone, share an encouragement, serve a need. Keep the river moving.

### **Reading:**

*Ezekiel 47:11 NKJV*

*“But its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt.*

*James 2:14-17 NKJV*

*What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

**Revelation:** The marshes and swamps had water but no flow, leading to death rather than life. What areas of your life might be experiencing stagnation because you're receiving from God but not allowing His life to flow through you to others?

## **Day 4: Wherever the River Flows**

**Devotional:** Wherever the river went, life followed. The desert bloomed. The Dead Sea teemed with fish. Trees flourished. This is God's purpose for you—to be a carrier of His life-giving presence into dead places. Your workplace, your neighborhood, your family—these are your mission fields. You don't need to be louder; you need to be fuller. When you're saturated with God's presence, you leave a mark wherever you go. People sense something different without you saying a word. The atmosphere changes. Hope awakens. Healing begins. You're not a bucket meant to contain God's blessing—you're a conduit designed to release it.

Where is God calling you to bring His river today? Don't just attend church; be the church that transforms environments with Christ's presence.

**Reading:**

*Ezekiel 47:8-10 NKJV*

*Then he said to me: "This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.*

*"It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many.*

*Matthew 5:13-16 NKJV*

*"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.*

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

**Revelation:** How might your workplace, home, or relationships change if you truly believed that wherever you go, the river of life should flow through you to bring healing and transformation?

## **Day 5: Living in the Overflow**

**Devotional:** "Exceedingly many"—this is God's abundance. Trees that never stop bearing fruit. Leaves that bring healing. Fish multiplying everywhere the river touches. This is the overflow life Jesus promised: "life more abundantly." Abundant

life isn't more possessions; it's participation in God's divine nature. It's experiencing His joy in difficulty, His peace in chaos, His love overflowing to others. When you live connected to the Source, you become a source of blessing to others. Fruitfulness becomes your normal. Impact becomes inevitable. Spiritual maturity isn't measured by how deeply you feel but by how much life flows through you to others. Today, evaluate your fruit, not your feelings. Is life following you? Are people encountering Jesus because of your overflow? Remain connected to the river, and watch God produce exceedingly many blessings through your life.

**Reading:**

*Ezekiel 47:12 NKJV*

*“Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.”*

*John 10:10 NKJV*

*“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

*2 Corinthians 9:8 NKJV*

*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.*

**Revelation:** The sermon challenges us to let the river flow out through acts like praying for strangers or sharing faith downtown. What specific fears or obstacles keep you from allowing God's life to overflow from you to others?