

Flowing with Purpose

Ezekiel 47:1-9

Flowing with Purpose is not an accident but a divine design. In a world of shifting currents, God invites us to be vessels that carry living water, streams that bring life wherever we flow. Ezekiel 47:1-9 vividly pictures a river that starts as a trickle and grows into a life-giving current, a powerful image for how God designs us to be conduits of His life. As we lean into this passage and others, we discover that we are Designed to Bring Life.

The final fulfillment will definitely occur in the FUTURE. Like other prophecies, it contains a spiritual PARALLEL

Walk

1. Water To the Ankles – My Walk

Walk is often used in Scripture for conduct in life, general demeanor, and deportment. Thus, it is said that Enoch and Noah “walked with God,” i.e., they maintained a course of action conformed to God’s will and acceptable in His sight. In the Old Testament and New Testament, we find God promising to walk with His people, and His people, on the other hand, desiring the influence of the Holy Ghost that they may walk in His statutes.

Repentance is part of my walk with God. - **Ephesians 5:8** For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

Baptism is part of my walk with God - **Romans 6:4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

The Holy Ghost is part of my walk with God - **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Holiness is part of my walk with God - **Ephesians 4:1** I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2 John 6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

1 John 1:6-7 ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

The local **Church** is part of my walk with God - **Philippians 3:17** Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-4 ¹ Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. ² For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: ⁴ That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

3 John ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Of all the times the word “church” is used in the Bible, only FOUR TIMES does Scripture refer to the “universal church.” EVERY OTHER TIME, the Bible is referring to the LOCAL CHURCH

There are over 30 commands in the New Testament alone that YOU CANNOT OBEY unless you are committed to a LOCAL CHURCH

There are 58 “one another’s” in the Bible, such as:

- Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- Forgive one another (Colossians 3:13)
- Greet one another (Romans 16:16)
- Bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
- Honor one another (Romans 12:10)
- Teach one another (Romans 15:14)
- Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21)
- Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

The New Testament church family is all about MUTUAL MINISTRY

A Christian who has no membership in a local church is an ORPHAN

Worship

2. Water To the Knee – My Worship

Knee: To “bow” the knee is to perform an act of worship ... Kneeling in prayer was a practice of great antiquity, and references are made to it in both the Old Testament and New Testament ... Knees are used symbolically for persons (Job 4:4, Hebrews 12:12).

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his **knees** three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Psalms 95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Ephesians 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

The “knee” represents a **LIFESTYLE of WORSHIP**

Witness

3. Water To the Loins – My Witness

Witness: In the New Testament, the original notion of a witness is exhibited in the special form of one who attests his belief in the gospel by personal suffering. Hence it is that the use of the ecclesiastical term “martyr” has arisen.

The word “witness” comes from the Greek word “martureo” which means to “testify.”

Luke 24:48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

To be a “witness” is to **Give Your Life** to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Wave

4. Waters To Swim In – God’s Wave

When we finally enter “waters to swim in,” we will have walked with God in the shallow parts, and we will know for sure that ... **We Are In Over Our Heads**

If you take a class on surfing, you are taught everything you need to know about surfing: how to choose the right equipment and use it properly, how to recognize a surfable wave and catch it, how to ride a wave as long as possible and get off it without wiping out. But you’ll never find a course that teaches ... **How To Create A Wave.**

God makes the waves; surfers just ride them. No surfer tries to create waves, but they do make the most of them when they happen!

“Spiritual Surfing” is the art of ... **Catching The Waves That God Makes**. Are YOU ready for the “next wave”?

Three-Point Outline

1) Flow Begins with a Supplier: From the Temple’s Threshold

Ezekiel 47:1-2 describe the man leading me to the water’s edge, a source that originates from the temple. The current begins as a trickle at the threshold, not from human effort but from access to God’s presence.

- **Reflection:** Our life flows life-giving water when we stay near the Source. Jesus invites, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink” (John 7:37-38). The life we share is born from communion with God, not from our own strength.
- **Application:** Cultivate daily intake of the Spirit through prayer, Scripture, and worship so your life becomes a channel rather than a reservoir.

2) Flow Growth: From Measured Drops to Broad Rivers

Ezekiel 47:3-5 shows the water beginning as ankle-deep, then knee-deep, then waist-deep, until it becomes a river that could not be crossed. The design is for movement from personal blessing to public bearing.

- **Reflection:** God often grows us gradually, moving us from comfortable faith to expansive faith that touches others. Psalm 36:8-9 proclaims, “They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from the river of your delights,” underscoring that fullness comes to those who drink deeply.
- **Application:** Seek opportunities to extend your influence; serve, mentor, share blessings, and let your life’s current lift others toward God.

3) Flow to Life: The River’s Fruitfulness for the World

Ezekiel 47:6-9 describes the river bringing life wherever it flows, fish in abundance and healing waters. The stream’s fruitfulness is not for self-preservation but for others in need.

- **Reflection:** Jesus offers the living water so that our lives overflow in acts of mercy and justice. Isaiah 58:10-11 promises, “If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness.” When we flow for others, we participate in God’s restorative work.
- **Application:** Look for concrete ways to bless the vulnerable, acts of service, generosity, and advocacy. Allow your life to be a source of healing in your community, a sign that God’s life water is at work.

Designed to bring life means God intends us to be flowing streams, not stagnant ponds. Ezekiel’s river teaches us that proximity to God releases a current that grows, deepens, and extends life to all in its path. Let us position ourselves at the temple’s threshold, invite the Spirit to increase our current, and release life to a thirsty world.