

SERIES: MAKING AN IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY

SERMON: LIVING WATER

8-6-17

By Pastor Rhonda Howard

OPENER:

Illustration:

Water is probably our most valuable resource that we have on this earth. The ocean holds 97% of the earth's water. The other 3% is fresh water from streams, rivers and lakes, glaciers, etc... Without water we would not survive.

If you're ever stuck out in the wilderness, remember what survival experts call "The Rule of Threes". You can live 3 minutes without air. In a harsh environment, you have 3 hours to survive without shelter. After 3 days you need water or you'll perish. You can make it 3 weeks without food.

Our bodies are 65% water. If someone took all the water out of our bodies we would be just like this--- a pile of dust of dry chemicals. It's God's plan that we live with water. Water performs a host of important internal functions, from maintaining body temperature; to transporting vitamins, minerals, hormones, and other substances; to lubricating joints, eyes, and intestines.

Since we can survive for only a matter of days without water, this is why we get thirsty. Thirst serves as an automatic reminder of that fact—so it plays a crucial role in keeping us alive. In the same way, if we don't drink spiritual living water, our spirits will also be just like dust.

WE NEED THE LIVING WATER OF GOD JUST LIKE WE NEED PHYSICAL WATER TO SUSTAIN US.

God is life and even scientists will tell us that where there is water there is life!

**WITHOUT WATER THERE WOULD BE NO PHYSICAL LIFE!
WITHOUT SPIRITUAL WATER THERE IS NO SPIRITUAL LIFE!**

BIBLE TEXT:

John 4:4-10 He(Jesus) had to go through Samaria on the way. ⁵ Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. ⁷ Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." ⁸ He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

⁹ The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" ¹⁰ Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

I.WE ARE ALL BORN THIRSTY

Jesus was thirsty and the woman who came to the well that day was thirsty. He affirmed this woman's need for physical water, but he also affirmed her need for spiritual water.

WE ARE ALL BORN THIRSTY!

As I said earlier, we are all born with a need for water. We are all born with a natural innate thirst to drink. We all have a natural craving to drink. It is instilled in us by God to help keep us alive.

Illustration:

You know what I am talking about. On a hot day, you have been outside working. To drink a tall glass of cold water is so refreshing. You can't seem to gulp it down quick enough! I have been walking in this summer heat. After a 4 mile walk when it is 90% plus I am extremely thirsty. In the extreme hot temperature, my body sweats and is depleted of water. So, I get very thirsty. That desire for thirst is my body is telling me to replenish its water content.

Dehydration symptoms- Dehydration is something that you have to be careful of, especially in hot weather. Symptoms are: Cramping, nausea, swollen tongue, blue and cracked lips. Eventually your organs shut down and you will die if you do not drink even within a matter of days.

**OUR DESIRE OF THIRST IS WHAT KEEPS US ALIVE!
OUR THIRST FOR GOD'S SPIRIT IS WHAT WILL KEEP US ALIVE SPIRITUALLY!**

II.TO DRINK OF THE WATERS OF THIS WORLD WILL NOT QUENCH YOUR THIRST

John 4:16-18 "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

¹⁷ *"I don't have a husband," the woman replied.*

Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband—¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

The woman at the well had an unquenchable thirst that had not been satisfied. She wanted to be loved and accepted, cared for and valued. Her thirst for these things had not been satisfied. Jesus asked about her husband. She said she didn't have one. He told her he knew that and that she had had five husbands and the man she was living with she was not married to.

**WE ARE ALL BORN THIRSTY FOR THE SPIRIT OF GOD.
BUT TO DRINK OF THE WATERS OF THE WORLD WILL NOT QUENCH YOUR THIRST.**

ILLUSTRATION:

This past year we had two different E-coli warnings in our SOWC drinking water. Nothing was noticeably different about the water when you turned on the faucet. It looked good. You couldn't see the bacteria.

Many times in poisonous water the contamination is odorless, colorless, and tasteless. Poisonous waters look the same as good water. It will taste good, but it contaminates your body.

You can drink toxic waters. It will take care of your thirst for the time, but it will poison you. And continuing to drink contaminated water will cause death.

**DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE WATER THE WORLD OFFERS.
IT MAY LOOK GOOD, TASTE GOOD FOR THE MOMENT, BUT
YOU CAN BE POLLUTED SPIRITUALLY WHEN YOU DRINK OF THESE TOXIC WATERS.**

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS LIKE A SPRING

John 4: 13-14 Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again." ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

Those who drink the living water that Jesus gives will never thirst again. Meaning they will never have to look for other sources of water. They will have the living water of God bubbling up within them.

Spring – fresh water, continual running water, continually flowing up from the deep, it is water that is untouched by human hands, it's cool, it's pure and untainted or polluted, refreshing, good to the taste

IV. THIS LIVING WATER IS THE SPIRIT OF GOD

John 7:37-39 Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! ³⁸ Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" ³⁹ (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)

THIS LIVING WATER IS THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Illustration:

I have a glove here in my hand. The glove cannot do anything by itself, but when my hand is in it, the glove can do many things. True, it is not the glove, but my hand in the glove that acts. We are the glove. It is the Holy Spirit in us, the hand, who does the work. We must make room for the hand so that every finger in the glove is filled.

YOU ARE A TEMPLE FOR GOD'S PRESENCE, A HOUSE, A VESSEL OF LIVING WATER!

Romans 8:11 *The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.*

This Holy Spirit is.....

- The resurrection life of God in me.
- Part of the trinity Godhead. A person, not a force.
- The Holy Spirit is a He; not an it.

We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God. Without His living water filling us, flowing through us, we are lifeless, dead, useless. We are dust!

STORY:

A young missionary, Herbert Jackson, was given a car to help him in his work. The car was a major asset, but it had one difficulty—it would not start without a push or a jump-start. Jackson devised a system to cope with the car's inability to start. When he was ready to leave his home, he went to a nearby school and asked permission to bring some of the children out of class to help him push-start his car.

Throughout the day, he was careful to always park on a hill or to leave his engine running when he stopped for short visits. For two years the young missionary used what he believed was an ingenious method to enable him to use the car.

When poor health forced the Jackson family to leave the field, a new missionary arrived to lead the mission. When Jackson explained to the new missionary his methods for starting the car, the young man opened the hood and began inspecting. "Why, Dr. Jackson," he interrupted, "I believe the only trouble is the loose cable." He gave the cable a twist, pushed the switch, and the engine roared to life.

For two years, Dr. Jackson had used his own devices and endured needless trouble. The power to start the car was there all the time—it only needed to be connected.

Ephesians 5:18 *Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.*

Filled – Greek means filled again and again

JUST LIKE YOU MUST DRINK MORE THAN ONCE TO SUSTAIN YOU, YOU MUST BE FILLED AGAIN AND AGAIN WITH GOD'S SPIRIT.

CLOSING:

SOME MAY SAY, "I BELIEVE IN JESUS BUT I DON'T SENSE THE FLOWING POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN ME.

What does God tell us as believers.....

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Do not scoff at prophecies, ²¹ but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. ²² Stay away from every kind of evil.

Ways we stifle the Holy Spirit's flow within us:

➤ **1. When we question God's Word**

Prophecy is "the Word of God spoken". This can be in instruction, preaching, A word of knowledge, etc.. We should put it to the test. When you test something you see if it works. Practice God's word and see if it works in your life.

Scoff or Contempt- to disregard, to be disrespectful, to be disobedient

➤ **2. When we let go of what is good.**

➤ **3. When we practice evil. (Or even hang out with evil)**

Jesus said to the woman, " *If you knew the gift of God, you would ask me for a drink.*"

You have living water for those who are thirsty. You have life for them in the drought of this world. The only way we can impact this community is with the life of God. The power to impact lives is the Holy Spirit within us. Let it flow into the lives of others, filling their empty cup of despair and hopelessness. They are thirsty. Give them a drink of the waters that flow from your spirit.

COMMUNION: Keep the cup today. Set it somewhere where you can see it this week to remind you to offer someone a drink of this living water.