

EXPERIENCING LIFE DOWNSTREAM

March 5, 2017

INTRODUCTION

We were made with purpose and for a purpose
Created for significance: positively impact our world

KEY POINT: The power of His life flows from the place of His presence

Text: Ezekiel 47:1-12

- **There's a river that flows from the presence of God**
Begins at the temple: the place of His presence
- **Where the river flows, everything lives**
"...where the river flows, everything will live." (vs. 9)

Downstream impact:

Transformation: "...where it empties into the Sea, the water there becomes fresh." (vs. 8)
Restores life

Empowerment: "...Fruit trees...their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them..." (vs. 12)
Ability to flourish
Not just about survival: about living life to the full

Healing: "...Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing." (vs. 12)
Restoration of the broken, Strengthening of the weak
The curse of sin would be broken and its impact reversed

- **This life opens the door to significance**
New Testament Reality: not just for a time a far off, but available to us because of what Jesus has done

We are the temple Holy Spirit
"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?" 1 Cor. 3:16

There is a river that flows from our lives to impacts others

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scriptures has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this He meant the Spirit... (John 7:37-39).

It's not just about what He does to us, but what He can do through us!
Opening the door of significance

Allowing His presence in me to bring life to those around me:

1. Pursue His Presence

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.” Matt. 5:6

Passionately pursue: opening our hearts to Him and His best
Filling of the Holy Spirit

2. See Our Lives Differently

Not as an end but an avenue

Freely you have received, freely give
Vessel through whom God desires to work

3. Deal with Barriers

Asking the questions

Ezekiel 8

What is prominent in our lives? (vs. 5)

What is happening in the darkness? (vs 12)

What are we allowing to overwhelm us emotionally? (vs. 14-15)

What direction are we bending? (vs. 16)

4. Flood our world with His grace

Impacting lives downstream

Allowing God to work through our lives to impact our world

Start as a trickle: kind word, helping hand

CONCLUSION

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Imagine what God could do through our lives...

Impacting people with the love of God