

Lesson 9

Spiritual Flow

Opening Verse: **Romans 8:9 (AMPC)**

But you are not living the life of the flesh, you are living the life of the Spirit, if the [Holy] Spirit of God [really] dwells within you [directs and controls you]. But if anyone does not possess the [Holy] Spirit of Christ, he is none of His [he does not belong to Christ, is not truly a child of God].

Introduction:

Being filled with the Spirit of God entails some great privileges as a child of God that we will learn more about in this lesson. But the benefits of the infilling of His Spirit are limited to our desire and willingness to be continually empowered and led by the Spirit of God. We must realize that our failure to be entirely satisfied and fulfilled by the Spirit has real consequences both in the natural and in the spiritual. Until we receive and become fully submitted to that revelation – only then can the Spirit of God consistently flow through us as His conduits.

The Indwelling of the Spirit was the New Covenant

The promise of the New Testament, as the Old Testament and prophets declared, was the infilling of the Holy Ghost. And this was first experienced on the Day of Pentecost. And Peter was the first Apostle who preached the message of salvation on how to receive that promise of the Holy Ghost:

Acts 2:38

*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall **receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.***

To RECEIVE in this context from the Greek root word, is not a passive word but it means to REACH OUT, TAKE and SEIZE what is offered. Thus, there is some faith that is required when one receives the Holy Ghost, as they must demonstrate their faith by reaching out and taking in the gift of the Holy Ghost.

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When we receive the Holy Ghost, it becomes our seal or our security deposit that we will inherit the Kingdom of Heaven:

Ephesians 1:13–14 ¹³ *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*** ¹⁴ *Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

And without His Spirit, we would not possess the power to be raptured out of this world and to be with Him:

Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

And here's another revelation that we need to receive:

That when we receive the infilling of the Holy Ghost, **it is not just for our salvation BUT it's for EVERYTHING!** Because the Spirit in us that secures us for our eternal salvation ALSO becomes the "**Spirit of grace**" that empowers us:

2 Corinthians 4:7 *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

The Spirit that Quenches our Thirst

John 4:14

¹⁴ *But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

AMPC:

But whoever takes a drink of water that I will give him shall, no never be thirsty anymore. But the water that I give him shall become a spring of water welling up [continually flowing, bubbling] within him to eternal life.

Young's Literal Translation:

But whoever may drink of the water that I will give them. may not thirst—to the age (FOR OR TOWARDS THIS AGE OR WORLD); and the water that I will give him shall become in him a well of water, springing up to life age-during.

- In scripture, the term *water* is often used as a significant way to portray the Spirit of God.

Revelation 22:17 *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

- What type of **THIRST** is being quenched by the Spirit? We know that it is not referring to God's righteousness since He wants us to continually thirst after His righteousness (*Matt. 5:6*).
- But **the water of life is supposed to QUENCH our thirst for the things of this world** or for whatever things are being offered at this age!
- This also implies that the Spirit of God inside of you is **able to quench the desires or the longings of your flesh!**

And this revelation brings much hope to the SINNERS! Because **EVERY sinner has that EMPTINESS inside of them that only the Spirit of God can quench!** (*Eccles. 3:11 NKJV*) As the Lord was led by the Spirit to minister to the Samaritan Woman, we should do the same by REVEALING to the souls THEIR NEED for the water of life!

Are We Allowing the Flow of the Spirit to Quench Our Flesh's Thirst for this World?

If you are having a hard time living for God, or if there is a constant pull on your flesh from the outside world - **it is because you don't have a FLOW of living water since the FLOW of the Spirit has not quenched your flesh's thirst for this world!** Which also means that you are living BELOW your privileges as a child of God! **God's power is available but you're not using it!**

TEMPTATION is Always a Product of an UNSATISFIED Soul!

- Entertaining the temptations of the flesh can lead to ADDICTIONS – alcohol, drugs, pornography, gluttony, shopping, television, surfing the web, etc.
- You can repent and God will forgive you BUT that does not QUENCH the APPETITES of your flesh!
- COVETOUSNESS (wanting the things that God is not giving) is another symptom of an unsatisfied soul.
- When we seek satisfaction from the temporal things – relationships, career, ambition, wealth, MORE than God, our soul will never be satisfied.
- ONLY the flow of the Holy Ghost can quench the drives of your flesh.

It is God's will for us to LIVE IN THE SPIRITUAL FLOW of the Holy Ghost, in that bubbling well of living water SO THAT we won't have a need or appetite for the temporal things of this world!

What does it mean to LIVE IN THE FLOW?

It doesn't mean audibly praying 24 hours but it means that **deep down inside – YOU HAVE A CONNECTION WITH GOD THAT IS ALWAYS THERE, THAT IS ALWAYS SATISFYING.**

And when you have made a commitment to put God first in your life and you have experienced that **PATH OF LIFE**, God promises **FULLNESS of JOY** and **PLEASURES** for evermore!

***Psalm 16:11** Thou wilt shew me the path of life: In thy presence is fulness of joy; At thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

When you have spent enough time in the presence of God every day, that well of living water inside of you will just bubble up at any time, even when you are not consciously praying. It may be just 2 – 3 seconds that you feel that liberty to speak in tongues, or it may be a couple of minutes but that flow is just going so good it just has to come out! And that is living in the flow of the Holy Ghost!

God's process of **QUENCHING** is so much more than God just giving you a drink of His water. For when I receive the living water, I am not just drinking of it, but I am opening up my being for Him to impart or implant a SPRING inside of me that's continually bubbling and flowing and it never runs out! (*John 4:14*) Which means that whatever I may need – it will always be available!! Because that spring of water is inside of you!

This same living water is described as **RIVERS** ...

John 7:38 *He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly (INNER MOST BEING) shall flow rivers of living water.*

FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER = VERBAL Outflow from the Spirit of God dwelling in us

BELLY = Cavity; our **INNER EMPTINESS** (eternal)

Before we can have an **OUTFLOW** of rivers, there needs to be an **INFLOW** of His Spirit into us. **But the inflow is not possible if our will is not fully surrendered, and our flesh is still seeking satisfaction from the things of this world.**

PROCESS OF SPIRITUAL FLOW:

- I need to get out of God's way by **giving up my will and control and dying to myself** by His grace.
- Then **God fills my inner cavity.**
- When my cavity is filled **there is going to be an OUTFLOW!**

Therefore, subduing our human will that seeks satisfaction from the world AND dying to the desires of our flesh is the **FIRST STEP** for the living water to be able to fill our inner cavity so that it can fully satisfy our emptiness.

The Bible says that the **EYE** is never satisfied with seeing and the **EAR** is never satisfied with hearing. Thus, we shouldn't even try to satisfy the thirst of our soul from outside sources because it never works! It will only cause you to develop an appetite for it and then addiction! For you can't quench this thirst from what you're taking outside-in. You may get a moment's release but the emptiness will always come back.

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With the **OUTFLOW**, we have **RIVERS** of living water inside of us. And there can be different types of rivers flowing in us, such as the **river of tongues**: **(1)** rest and refreshing tongues (*Isaiah 28:12*), **(2)** prayer and praise tongue, **(3)** warfare intercession tongue and **(4)** travail intercession tongue. But I can also pray in English with a flow of the Spirit; I can witness with a flow; counsel with a flow; preach, teach or prophesy with a flow. We just need to yield to whatever flow that may be.

Contentment is Great Gain

When you've learned how to be CONTENT by the power of the Spirit of God – it is life-changing! And this should be our goal as we seek an empowered life with God.

1 Timothy 6:6 *Godliness with contentment is great gain.*

It is great gain – because when you're content – you don't want anything else and you don't need anything else. For you're satisfied!

Philippians 4:11 *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

Apostle Paul learned how to be content in whatever state that he was in by surrendering his needs to God and by enduring that thirst in his flesh. AND THEN that thirst was eventually QUENCHED when he found his flow in the Spirit, by spending time in God's presence and praying and allowing the power of the Holy Ghost to transform and deliver him.

- **Being CONTENT = absence of NEEDS and WANTS**
It is being satisfied wherein I don't have WANTS that tempt me to look for some other source for satisfaction.
- **Whatever you WANT becomes a NEED!**
- Having **WANTS is the same as COVETOUSNESS** = which is **wanting things that God is not giving you**.
Whatever is in my life and heart that is competing with God for my source of quenching my thirst, is a WANT that interferes in my relationship with God. May not even be immoral. But if you eat or shop or spend time with relationships as your source of comfort instead of seeking comfort from God = then that is a sin because it displeases God. You can enjoy these things without a guilty conscience as long as they are a **complement** and **not your source** to quench your inner thirst.
- And whenever you go through very difficult times in your flesh to satisfy God's will – **IT TAKES AWAY THE DESIRE TO SIN!!! IT TAKES AWAY LUST!!!** (1 Peter 4:1-2)

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1 Peter 4:1–2 (AMPC)

1 SO, SINCE Christ suffered in the flesh for us, for you, arm yourselves with the same thought and purpose [patiently to suffer rather than fail to please God]. For whoever has suffered in the flesh [having the mind of Christ] is done with [intentional] sin [has stopped pleasing himself and the world, and pleases God],

2 So that he can no longer spend the rest of his natural life living by [his] human appetites and desires, but [he lives] for what God wills.

How Do I Learn How to Flow in the Spirit?

(1) Having a connection with God that will always satisfy me - **for God to fill our inner cavity**

John 15:1-3

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ²Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. ³Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

⁴**Abide (RELATIONSHIP – staying connecting with God on a daily basis) in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.**

- Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches.
- The **Spirit of the Father flows into the vine and nurtures the branches.**
- Then we bear fruit as we are connected to the vine.

KEY: To ABIDE = to have a CONNECTION with GOD 24/7

Everything starts with a **healthy relationship** with God. And that's our only way to be known of God.

During your PRAYER TIME - ENTER into His presence and FIND and CONNECT with your FLOW in the SPIRIT for that day and then – live the rest of the day in the flow! **And when you do that - you'll be tempted by very few things.** BUT if you're still being tempted – that means you're not sincerely connecting with God (it's more of a chore than a relationship) or you're not spending enough time to connect with God and experience the path of life.

Because when you are abiding in Him and **LIVING IN THE FLOW** - it means that **deep down inside there - you have a connection with God that is always there, that is always SATISFYING.**

Every time you find that flow in the Holy Ghost – just enjoy it and fellowship with the flow. That process is **LIVING in the flow of the presence of God every day.** And you can flow at any time, any place because He's given you a spring inside of you of His living water!

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And as we **ABIDE in the Vine** with our relationship with Him 24/7 - we can't afford to be separated from the Vine, which is the Source of our life or power that flows into us.

We cannot allow ANY GAP (i.e. stress of life) **in our relationship with God** that would cause us to become disconnected from the Source of life.

We need to abide in the vine continually, securing our connection with God every day and that process will always keep us satisfied.

(2) Dying to myself - to remove hindrances in our flesh that affect the outflow

That's a choice that I need to make EVERY DAY. For we wouldn't be able to flow in the Spirit if our flesh is in control. We need to **ignore** and **un-learn the ways or habits of our flesh**: religious tradition, human logic or intellect, convenience, pressure to perform, or desire to please man.

(3) Study the Word, take ownership of the Word. Hide it in your heart - to develop an inflow of Rhema that's ready for outflow

As we spend time learning the Word - we need to take ownership of it even if it's Rhema spoken from others. And as we do this - He puts good treasure in us. Then when it's time for it to come out – all He has to do is speak a Word. He just needs to give you a starting point and then you let it flow.

But before we can flow – we need to prepare.

Preparation = is studying to take ownership of it and **Flowing** is a delivery method for what has been prepared.

PROGRESSION when we study the Word with the Author:

- It starts with getting **KNOWLEDGE** in my mind/head. That's a good starting point BUT knowledge that does not change me.
- But when I take ownership of what I know, making it a part of me – that is called **UNDERSTANDING!** And it takes place in the heart, when I hide it in my heart or inner man. And when I begin to cooperate with what I understand then that's what changes me.
- Then the Spirit takes what I understand, and as I gain **EXPERIENCE** with that understanding (by applying it in my life), it puts that understanding into my spirit. Then that is called **WISDOM**.

WISDOM is the ability to take what I have learned and have proven through “understanding” in my life, which has also affected my life - so that the Spirit can then use it to affect other people's lives.

Knowledge is in the head, **understanding** is in the heart (inner man), and then when understanding gets in my spirit, that is **wisdom**. Knowledge is what I learn, and when I keep it in my head, I minister with head knowledge. But when it becomes mine – wherein that understanding shows me how that knowledge is to be used to change my life, to draw me closer to the Lord, and to grow me (inward). Then as that understanding works, it gets into my spirit, then it becomes wisdom that I can share with others (outward).

John 15:7

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you (RHEMA, hearing and receiving the utterance of the living voice), ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

(4) Pray in tongues a lot - to become familiar with the outflow and to have liberty

James 3:8 says that when my tongue, the most unruly part of our body, is tamed, then my whole body is tamed. So if I allow the Spirit to pray through me in tongues, what I am really doing is I'm letting the Spirit train my whole being, **HOW TO FLOW IN HIM.**

When I pray in the spirit, my mind is unfruitful or is not producing what I'm saying (*1 Cor. 14:14*). That means that those words are not coming out of my head but from the Spirit. And when I let the Spirit flow when I speak in tongues = I learn what that feels like when it flows so that I know how the FLOW feels when I speak the Rhema in English, **as I've let the Spirit teach me how to "sense" that flow.**

In Conclusion:

John 15:5 *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that **abideth in me**, and I in him, **the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.***

This is the #1 Principle of Fruitfulness. As I stay firmly connected to the vine – I can bear fruit. **And there will be RESULTS when we flow with God's Spirit and minister His Word.**