

Part 7  
The Goal of the Believer

## Incredible Power Flows Out Of Me

John 7.37-39

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 . . .

We saw that God created man in his image. That means God created you and me to be filled with Himself, to conform to everything that God is so that God may be made visible through us. We are His temple, His body, His superhero suit.

God fills us. He wants us to comprehend, that means "to come to know," that means "to seize hold of," "to experience," the depth and height and length to which God can reach in us.

Now we want to look at what that means in a practical way.

Jesus said, "He that believes in Me, out of his belly will flow rivers of living water," that is the river of the life of God. We must understand what it is this river is meant for, what it does, what God intends to do through us.

On the one hand we understand what God does in us, but on the other hand we must understand what God does through us.

Luke 4:18-19:

Jesus stands in the synagogue at Nazareth and reads in the book of Isaiah.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal

the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

First, let's look at another statement Jesus makes in the book of Luke, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost." Those words tell us what Jesus is doing through us. But we need to enlarge our understanding of that statement, "to seek and to save what is lost."

Let's divorce our minds, please, from the idea that saved means "going to heaven." That is such a shallow and superficial definition of the gospel. When you see the words "to save," heaven should not leap to your mind. Becoming just like Jesus should leap to mind. Come to seek and to bring to the place where they are become all that God purposed from the beginning, conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

Let's look at the particular kinds of seeking and saving.

It is interesting that Jesus deliberately closed the book at "the acceptable year of the Lord." Jesus specifically chose not to add the next line, "And the day of vengeance of our God." Yes, that day will come, but that is not our focus. So many zealous Christians believe they are sent to proclaim the day of vengeance of our God. But no, we must leave that aside with Jesus.

These are the things that Christ in us is come to do. "To preach the gospel to the poor" and "to heal the brokenhearted" (stated second), "to bring liberty to the captive," that is to bring deliverance to those who are afflicted by demons, who are addicted, "to bring sight to those who are blind," that is both spiritual and physical blindness. "To bring liberty to the oppressed," "to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

It is the day of salvation; it is the day to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Today is the day to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

Romans 12: 20:

Therefore, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

God does not have passive Christians. God does not believe in “pacifism.” When someone attacks you, you are to attack back with the biggest weapon you have, **doing good**.

Do we understand the power of this river that flows through us? We have a weapon that is more powerful than any weapon in this world: machine guns, missiles, nuclear bombs, whatever. Our weapon is called “doing good”, doing good is an overwhelmingly powerful weapon. God wants us to use it.

We are here for the power of God to move through us to do the things that Jesus came into this world to do. Jesus’ ministry did not stop when He ascended into heaven. No. Ten days later, He sent the Holy Spirit so that His ministry would continue greater than it had been before.

We are filled with power. Over and over Paul says that we might know the extent, the extraordinary greatness of the power that is in us. You are a powerful being.

Power is relative. If I drive a VW bug with a little engine next to a huge racecar, his power is greater than mine. He leaves me in the dust. But compare that racecar to an aircraft carrier’s power. The power on an aircraft carrier will blow the racecar into oblivion. The most powerful machine man has made is the rocket that breaks the hold of earth’s gravity. But that is one tiny piece only of power on the earth. Yet, if you were to take the earth and all the power in it and drop it into the sun, you would not even notice the splash. But the sun is just an average sized star in the outskirts of an average sized galaxy.

Power is relative. All the power that powers the universe, spins the galaxies, lightens billions upon billions of stars, all the physical power God brought out of His being is as nothing, utterly inconsequential, compared to the power that raised Jesus from the

dead. That is real power. The power that raised Jesus from the dead makes all power in the universe as if it doesn't exist.

Paul says in both Ephesians and Romans that the power that raised Jesus from the dead is inside of me.

We saw that Jesus came to seek and to save that which is lost. I believe that the central message of Jesus, coming through both His words and His actions, found in the example of His life and ministry: the central message of Jesus is to meet people's needs.

The parable that best expresses this truth is in Luke 19, starting with verse 9:

Today salvation is come to this house . . . for the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost . . . (Read the parable of the Talents in your own Bible.) For I say to you that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

Jesus is giving us this understanding. Jesus is saying, "Take what I have given you, and invest it into the concourses of this world, and bring back to Me a return, an increase of that which I have given you." I am to take everything God gives me and invest it all, wisely as He teaches me and bring back to Him a great increase of what He has invested in me. "Take what I give you and use it to produce fruit for Me." Because I use what God has given me, I will have more abundance.

Jesus has given us a mission, to seek and to save what is lost, that means find and meet people's needs. If someone needs healing, we heal, if someone needs salvation, we lead them to Jesus, if someone needs protection, we meet their needs, if someone needs provision, we give. Now how do we meet needs without power? How can I heal the blind if I don't have the power to heal blind eyes?

I have the power of the river of life from God flowing out of me. I have that power, and I experience the release of that power. Jesus says very clearly, "Having given you the river of life, I expect to

you to let it flow.” “When I return, I want to see the extent of those who are blessed and healed and made alive from the river of life that flows out of you.” “You’re standing with Me in the ages to come is measured by the fruit of that river of life that I have put in you, what it brings back to me from your life in this world.”

Satan has tricked the majority of Christians into standing in the position and way of thinking of that third servant. Who say, “Look, I still have what You gave me, I have kept it. I know You are an austere man, I know You are critical, I know You will find fault with me. I know that if I had gone out and done this or that with what You gave me, You would look at my motives, You would look at my heart, and You would find fault.”

The difference between those who bring forth fruit from the river of life versus those who simply give back to Him what He gave them is this. Those who are the third servant are so concerned about their own standing with God, their own flesh nature, their own self-centeredness, “Oh, I am fleshy, and if I were to move in any kind of ministry to others, it would be just a fleshy work, I am not ready. I am not saved sufficiently yet for God to use me. I haven’t got there yet; therefore I cannot let the river flow.”

So many dear believers are caught in this trap, so many precious saints. Always concerned about the motive of their hearts, their flesh, denying the sufficiency of the blood of Jesus. Denying the completeness of the work of the cross. Unable to stand in the salvation of God and move out from it in the ministry and purpose for which God put them on this earth.

Yes, they will be able to show God that they are born again. They have preserved what God has given them and can give it back to Him. But God is not pleased.

God is a risk taker and He is looking for risk takers.

I quote from my book, *The Jesus Secret*, page 99.

At the moment that every Christian is born again, God deposits the following into their accounts:

- The down payment of the Holy Spirit inside them.
- All things pertaining to life and godliness.
- All authority in heaven and earth.
- A divine commission.
- Victory over death.
- Overcoming faith.
- All the riches of heaven.
- The right to become His son.
- The same power that raised Jesus from the dead.
- The measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

All of this found in a river of living water that is pressing, pressing, desiring to be released out into the concourses of this world, into every dark crevice, into every hurting heart, to heal, to set free, to give life.

Further from *The Jesus Secret*, pages 99-100.

A very large number of Christians do make some good use of the things God has given them. They live good Christian lives, they pray for their children when they are sick. They are generous to others and hospitable. But, though they draw from their accounts for the needs and situations of this life, they have no real knowledge of the above list. They have no real idea of what is actually there.

Then there are those who are bolder in the things God has given. They pursue anointing for ministry, or for giving. They build orphanages; they develop prison ministries. They draw on their talents and divine gifts to lead exemplary lives and to provide wonderful help to many. These people are a blessing to all who receive of their ministry.

Conversely, there are some who get a revelation of anointing and gifts. They go out and make a big splash, with great boastings about what God can do. A few years later, you find them empty. Their faith is gone. But before you judge too critically, some of these do learn their lesson. They come back to God humbled and broken, no longer inter-

ested in the big splash, but now deeply useful to God and to His kingdom.

But there are also those few who look closely at the things God has deposited in their account. When God says that we have the victory over death, they want to know what that really means. When God says that those who believe in Jesus, out of their hearts will flow rivers of living water, they want to know the full extent to which that outpouring will go. When God says that He is determined that we would be just like Jesus, they are determined to know exactly what He means.

These are the risk takers. And in that they are just like God. God is the greatest risk taker in the universe. He risks it all, and, in the end, He wins it all. He sent the King of heaven to invade the strongholds of evil in the form of a human baby, the epitome of weakness. He challenged the king of death while wrapped in the humility and shame of the worst form of death conceived by the mind of evil. He challenged and He won.

Faith is risk. Faith declares: "I am what God says I am. I have what God says I have." But faith wants more than "having." Faith is determined to see the full potential, the full increase possible from what God has given.

These are the overcomers. These who take God at His word, who insist on the full experience of all God has said, who are determined to know what being filled with all the fullness of God really means. These make God's heart sing. These are the ones for whom He lives.

And further, from *The Jesus Secret*, page 109 (taken from the book of Acts).

I give what I have in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. To those who are lame I say: "Rise up and walk." Many signs and wonders are done through my hands. Multitudes are added to the Lord. The sick pass by and are healed.

Multitudes gather, both sick and those tormented by demons, and all are healed. Wherever I go, unclean spirits come out of those who are possessed. Paralysed and lame people are healed. Through me, Jesus the Christ heals you. Through me, the dead hear the voice of Jesus and arise. He grants that signs and wonders are done through my hands. God works unusual miracles through my hands. I speak to one who is injured and he rises up healed. I lay hands on the sick and they are healed.

This is the testimony; this is the confession of faith of one who desires to release the river of life that is inside, that is bursting at the seams, longing to flow out.

Reaching out and touching people, lifting up and meeting their needs, whatever those needs might be is the central drive and ministry of Jesus. My central drive and ministry is reaching out and touching people, lifting them up and meeting their needs, whatever those needs might be.

It is my calling, it is my purpose, it is why God put me on this earth: to be an extension of God. That Christ through me might reach out and seek and save that which is lost.

I have the power of God upon me, not for myself, but for others. If someone is sick (that includes everyone), I reach out and touch them and they are healed. If someone is tormented by demons (that includes everyone on the planet), I cast those demons out and bring the freedom of the Spirit of Christ to that person. I get down into the trenches; I climb down into the pit; I get right alongside of people in their pain and grief and hurt; and I bring them the HELP God has entrusted to me.

I believe in Jesus. I believe in Jesus, and I can expect rivers of living water to flow out of me at all times. This is my calling, my inheritance. This is my ministry. That the river of life from the throne of God might flow out of me into every hurting place in this world to bring out of me the life and the salvation of God, to bring everyone

called of God into the image of Jesus Christ, into the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

God has also put us into this earth to overcome evil with good. God has every intention of conquering and winning the victory over all evil right here in this earth; He does it with good. God does not use the weapons of this world. Anyone who says, "Let's go and use the weapons of this world," he is not speaking from God, he is speaking from the other guy. God does not use the weapons of this world; His sons do not use the weapons of this world.

In order for you to be able to kill physically and violently another human being, you have to draw on the spirit of Satan, you cannot draw on the Spirit of Christ. Christ in you will do no such thing. And you can rationalize it all you want, you can find verses in the Old Testament to use as your weapon to strike down what Jesus said. Why, I don't understand. Why would you abandon the most powerful weapon in the universe, **doing good**, in order to pick up the weak weapons of this world.

If a natural man saw a group of thugs coming to his house to kill him and to violate his family, and he had on his table a rusty, broken pocketknife sitting next to a loaded machine gun. Which one would he pick up to defend his family? He would pick up the most powerful weapon.

The same with a believer, as we walk through the experience of life in this world. When you are assaulted in any way by any form of evil for any evil and violent purposes, and you have near to hand a machine gun, but at the same time you have inside of yourself the power of God, the power of doing good, the most powerful weapon on the planet. Which one would you pick up? The puny little machine gun that will most likely get you and your family killed? Or the power of God?

Here is a problem with the definition of the goal of the believer and salvation as meaning "you go to heaven when you die," it doesn't take any faith to believe it. It is a philosophical theory. You are not faced with it right now; it takes no faith to say it. Anyone can

adopt the idea; “Well, hey, I’m going to heaven not hell.” Big deal! You’re not faced with it right now.

But let’s say someone with the intent to do you and your loved ones harm attacks you physically. Suddenly you are a practical atheist. Right? Suddenly we reach for the weapons of this world because the power of God in us to do good, to overcome evil with good, that power vanishes from our thought and we pick up the weapons of this world. Is that what we do? Is that what we argue? Is that what we teach our children? Is that how we live our life? Theoretical Christians; practical atheists.

This river of life that is in us, flowing out of us, has the power to turn every circumstance and every situation through which we walk, everything, to turn it around, to turn it into good. To save, to redeem, to heal.

If we really believed God in us, that gang of leather-coated, long-haired thugs would pose to us no more than an opportunity to see the power of God transform hurting lives.

Love your enemies. It is on this point that God is going to win on this earth. It’s not going to be in the great revival campaigns, as wonderful as they are. It’s not going to be in the great healing ministries, as wonderful as they are. Let me tell you the place where God will triumph, where the moment that changes the earth is going to be found. It will be found inside of “Love your enemies.” It will be found in the moment of the love of God triumphing over the greatest evil intent that can be found in this world.

Let me give you a clue where that will take place. It will take place in the Middle Eastern city that men call “Jerusalem,” but that the Holy Spirit calls “Sodom.” The final showdown, the place where God wins against those who have rejected the One whom He has sent.

We are in a great endeavor. We’re not just little believers who go to work every day and then drive home to our families. Yes, that is where God wants us to triumph right now. But we are part of an issue, of a contest, so far greater than what we understand.

Dear believer, if I could persuade you to separate yourself from the kingdoms of this world. From the causes and issues of this world. They have nothing to do with us. The countries of this world, the flags of this world, they have nothing to do with us.

My hope and my prayer is that through these teachings, I can give you a vision of the reality of what it means to believe in Jesus, of what it means to be part of God's kingdom in this world. That I can speak in such an anointing that will lift you up above all the nonsense, the ins and outs, the kingdoms and countries and governments of this world, and all the evil that they perform, separate you from all of that, into the understanding that you are part of the triumph of a kingdom that is not of this world, that is so far greater than any cause of man upon this earth.

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but they are mighty in God. Do we understand that the power of God that is inside of us is able to stop and drop a nuclear barrage of ICBM's that are intent on killing and destroying, to drop them in mid-air. And I'm not talking about missiles fired at America, I'm talking about them being fired from this wicked country to kill others on the other side of the world. That is even more evil than some nation that never knew God resorting to such weapons.

How do we come to understand such power, the power of good to triumph over evil? How do we come to understand such power? By practicing at home, at work. Stop worrying about the salvation of Jesus in which you live, stand in it and learn to move in it, to release it, to see, to comprehend the extent to which God can move through you. To know how far and how effective the river of life that God releases in you is, because you believe in Jesus.

To practice, to practice. The reason we don't see it is because we don't believe.

But I know that you would not have read this far except that you believe in Jesus. Release Him. See the triumph of good in this world.



I want to add one final note. Reading through this message, one could come up with the burden of thought that God expects much from me, basing my future experience on my present release of the river of life from within me.

Yes and no. Yes, God expects much from us. But everything Jesus expects from us, He Himself does. Though we believe God for the release of that river of life, our expectation never becomes a weight of “requirements” that stands against us. We trust in Jesus. I am weak. I can’t do anything. Yet I groan and long for the full release of His life in me.

Believe in Jesus and trust Him. He is transforming me into His own image.