

Overflowing of the Spirit

Influence

Direction



Refreshing

Life

By: Dr. Steven J. Lynne

Overflowing of the Spirit

JCS Publishing

Onoway, Alberta, Canada

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By Dr. Steven J. Lynne

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JCS Publishing, Inc.,
RR1 Onoway, Alberta, Canada
T0E 1V0

Visit our Web Site at www.jcspublishing.com

Interior Design: **JCS Publishing**
Cover Design: **JCS Publishing**
Photo Credit: **JCS Publishing**

ISBN: 978-0-9868287-5-1

2012

Published in Canada

Dedication

My deepest

Appreciation to...

My wife, Dr Carmen Lynne, and my seven children who are amazing people! Thanks for stretching my imagination and keeping me young and spontaneous at heart.

To my local church members of Global Connections Church Canada, thank you for your love and support.

A special thanks to Pastors Neil and Nance Miers who are my parents in the Lord. They have always stirred me in my personal relationship with the Holy Spirit! Thank you both.

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Introduction

It is a sad reality that many Christians suffer from burnout, moral failure, stress, depression, fear, anger, greed, etc. The list is endless but there is a solution for each and every believer to live a victory filled existence. The answer is found in a daily personal relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Why are so many believers so distant from the Spirit of God? The answer is simply, “focus!” We find in the bible that at each stage of God’s appearing to humanity, people denied the one who was with them. At Mt. Sinai, the people rejected the Father; in the Gospels, the religious leaders rejected Jesus Christ; and today many in the church reject the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual living must be intentionally pursued. Following are four powerful chapters to help you pursue your personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. At the end of each chapter you will find a personal prayer that engages the teachings of the chapter. I encourage you to allow the materials to fill you with new ideas for relating to the Holy Spirit every day. You may discover methods of your own as you experience the Spirit of God in your daily encounters with Him.

Daily encounters with God will ensure that we are living in the overflowing of the Spirit. As we intentionally focus upon a personal (encounter-filled) relationship with the Holy Spirit we will live in the influence, direction, refreshing and life of His presence.

*I hope you enjoy the
experience!*

Chapter 1

Where the Wind Blows

“The wind blows where it wishes...”

– John 3:8

[Where the Wind Blows](#)

John 3:8

*"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but **cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes**. So is everyone who is **born of the Spirit**."*

"...every man...will be impelled to pray...He will not without it promise himself any noble success any more than a mariner would expect to reach a distant coast by having his sails spread in a stagnation of air..." – John Foster

Relational prayer to God is our spiritual breath! Without it we stagnate.

When we were born into a spiritual relationship with God (**John 3:3**), His Spirit breathed eternal life into us so that we could know Him and live for eternity with Him. Before we were born again, we didn't understand God's ways.

The Christian life is a life of knowing God personally. This new spiritual life is foreign to humanity. There are many things we can't explain. As Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz, there is a completely new landscape for us to explore.

1 Cor. 2:9 *" Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things God has prepared for those who love Him."*

Just as the wind of the tornado bore Dorothy to a new place, the wind of God's Spirit brings us into a new dimension of living. A new horizon opens up before us. We become living spiritual beings in natural human bodies. Our lives are changed forever and the way we live changes as well.

The only hope we have of understanding the new Christian life we live is to allow God to breathe His plans into us day by day. Step by step, we grasp a new piece of the puzzle. This is known as the *"God Inspired Lifestyle."*

Inspire: *"To breathe...to control or guide by divine or supernatural influence...to breathe into..." – The New Winston Dictionary and Reference Library*

God wants to breathe into us daily to inspire, influence, and refresh us. This leads us into the amazing adventure of true Christian living.

A Christian who is sensitive to the Holy Spirit will understand the ways of God. Knowing God's ways will lead us into a life that is beyond anything we could imagine. This is an unpredictable life filled and led by the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 32:8-9 "The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control."

Apart from the Holy Spirit, humanity doesn't have the capacity to predict God's movements or actions. The wind of God's Spirit blows wherever He desires. Linking with God through His Holy Spirit allows us to enjoy the strength of His presence and to live victorious Christian lives.

*"To walk in the Spirit and be **led by the Spirit** then means...victory over the desires and impulses of the flesh."* – Stanley M. Horton

How does God guide us into a victorious lifestyle? God reveals His secret paths of success to those who yield to His Spirit. A great illustration of how this happens is seen through a vessel sailing on the ocean.



The captain of this vessel is sensitive to the direction of the wind that fills the sails. He steers with the wind to allow the breeze to continually propel his craft forward through the water. The sails are trimmed to the correct angle to make full use of the gusts of air. Sailing against the direction of the wind is more difficult. "Tacking" (a constant change in direction) is required in order to stay on course. This requires a greater amount of time and effort.

Our lives are much like a sailboat on the ocean. The Spirit of God cannot be seen, like the wind, but His influence is always evident. When we yield to God's Spirit He fills our sails and we are thrust through the sea of life.

For us to have a successful journey in life, it is essential that we place ourselves in the path that God's Spirit is blowing. It takes time in the presence of the Holy Spirit to get to know His specific will and direction for our lives. This is a daily process.

A captain of a ship doesn't learn the ways of the ocean in a day. He becomes a proficient mariner through years of sailing on the ocean.

Experiencing the changing elements of the sea is how he becomes a seasoned captain! He is then able to victoriously steer his ship across perilous straits and into safe harbors.

When a sailboat is on the ocean and the sails are limp. The wind is not filling them or empower the vessel. When our lives lose direction and thrust, we must realize that our sails are limp or poorly adjusted to the direction of the wind of the Holy Spirit.

Our prayer relationship with God is the wind in our sails. Without dependence upon the Spirit of God in prayer and intimate relationship, our lives are powerless to accomplish God's end.

"Prayer is the one prime, eternal condition by which the Father is pledged to put the Son in possession of the world...If there had been...continuous prayer by God's people, the earth would have been possessed for Christ long before this."

– E.M. Bounds

Our hearts are like the sails of a yacht they must be opened up to the wind. It is no use having our sails tightly wrapped up when the wind is blowing. The Holy Spirit is always willing to breathe into our hearts if we will take the time to meet with Him. Christian maturity happens when we continually allow the Spirit of God to refresh us and keep us on God's course in life.

I loved to stand facing the ocean on the East Coast of Australia on a warm summer's day with the wind blowing off the Pacific, filling my nostrils. I now live in Alberta Canada, a far cry from the tropical climate where I was born. I have, however, enjoyed a similar experience in my morning times with the Holy Spirit. I am beginning to discover the living breath of God's presence!

To experience God's wonderful presence in my life, I simply ask Jesus to fill (*inspire*) me with His Spirit, then I welcome the Holy Spirit as I take a deep breath. God breathed life into Adam so that he could live in close personal relationship with Him. He does the same for us as we pray daily.

Genesis 2:7 *"And the LORD God formed a man's body from the dust of the ground and breathed into it the breath of life. And the man became a living person."*

Drawing near to the Holy Spirit is the most refreshing thing that a human can do. He inspires and refreshes us so that we can know Jesus and our Heavenly Father in dynamic new ways. Why don't you try it today? The encounter will be unpredictable and exciting. Go along for the ride as you allow the **Breath of God** to fill your life. A personal experience with the Holy Spirit will release power and direction to fulfill your God given destiny!

Each day that we open our lives up to the wind of God's Spirit, we are filled with a fresh sense and knowledge of God's heart.

Psalms 147:5 *"How great is our Lord! His power is absolute! His understanding is beyond comprehension!"*

Christianity is a supernatural experience lived out in a natural world.

The conflict between natural understanding and spiritual reality is a constant reminder to us that there are two worlds competing for our attention.

Our ways are foolishness to the Lord (**1Cor. 1:20, 2:14**). If we are led by our earthly understanding, we will inevitably be led astray.

Prov. 19:3 *"The foolishness of a man twists his way..."*

Time spent in prayer and communion with God through the Holy Spirit is never wasted. In fact, it is essential for successful Christian living.

1 Cor. 2:11-12, 16 *"...no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. And God has actually given us his Spirit (not the world's spirit) so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. How could they? For, "Who can know what the Lord is thinking? Who can give him counsel?" But we can understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ."*

Everyone who is "born of the Spirit" has the capacity to know the mind of God. The Holy Spirit refreshes our human spirits to receive new guidance each day. As we seek fellowship with the Holy Spirit, a fresh inspiration of God fills our senses. Wisdom and guidance then enfolds our lives and cocoons us in God's protective guidance system for life.

The Christian life should be the most exciting life, filled with God given direction and encounters. Just as the wind blows and we don't know where it comes from, we have a source of inspiration that only spiritually alive people can benefit from. It is up to us to make good use of the new capacity that we possess as believers. This lifts us and propels us into a relationship with our heavenly Father that we may never have imagined.

Daily Prayer: *Father in heaven, breathe on me today so that I can flow with You and be swept along by Your Spirit. Jesus, inspire me to know You in a more personal way. Holy Spirit I open my heart to You, refresh and empower me as I set my sails. Give me understanding as I seek to encounter God's astounding ways. Thank You. AMEN.*

Chapter 2

The Spirit and the Word

“All Scripture is inspired by God...”

– 2 Tim. 3:16

The Spirit and the Word

2 Timothy 3:16

*"All Scripture is **inspired** by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right."*

*"The Scriptures were **plenary-verbally inspired**. The Holy Spirit breathed upon the human vessels the very thoughts and words He wanted written. This word flowed through the human channels involving their emotions, personalities and frames of reference, without violating such." – Kevin J. Conner*

We certainly need the *inspired* word of God. It is the only "God-breathed" and infallible divine revelation ever given to man. **The Bible is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and morals.** The word of God guides us along life's course as a compass. Without it we are lost!

It is possible to know the scriptures and yet miss God's plan for our lives (**John 3:6-11**). God's ways are *unsearchable* and higher than human understanding (**Romans 11:33**). We need the author of the Bible guiding us as we read it. Let us not drift away from His plan for our lives.

John 14:26 *"...the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you (NKJV)."*

God's Spirit brings us into harmony with true wisdom. To understand what God is speaking into our minds and hearts through the Bible, we must allow the one who wrote it (*the Holy Spirit*) to fill us and *tune us in to God's frequency* so that He can guide us as we read and study His word.

John 16:13-14 *"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not be presenting his own ideas; he will be telling you what he has heard...He will bring me glory by revealing to you whatever he receives from me."*

As we invite the Holy Spirit to inspire our daily Bible reading we receive greater revelation and truth. Truth frees us to enjoy God's will (**John. 8:32**).

The potential of God's Kingdom is immense (**Mark 4:30-32**). Our journey as Christians may start small but it holds great promise. There are no limits to our ability in God (**Matt. 19:26**) as we believe His Word and work with Him! If we allow the Holy Spirit to plant God's Word into our hearts, we will receive greater inspiration, direction, faith and power for living a robust life.

The Word of God acts like a compass to keep our lives on course.



No matter where you stand on Earth, you can hold a compass in your hand and it will point toward the North Pole. Imagine that you are lost at sea, you look all around you and you can only see water. The day is overcast so you cannot see the sun. How in the world can you know which way to go unless you have a compass? The Earth's magnetic field keeps the compass needle pointing North. This gives you direction and confidence to travel on the right course.

The Word of God is the will of God! The Holy Spirit is like the invisible magnetic field that circles our planet. He holds us on course as we look into the compass of God's word. He guides our steps during the darkest times.

Ps. 119:133 *"Guide my steps by your word, so I will not be overcome..."*

God confirms our true destiny as we hear His voice by His Spirit, through the Bible. I found this out during a Bible College class in Australia, taught by a guest lecturer, Bob Pearson. He spoke on listening to God's voice. The steps were simple. During his class I was reassured of God's will for me to travel to Canada and marry my future wife, Carmen Lynne. I am now living out my destiny because I have learned to hear the voice of God!

John 10:27-28 *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish..."*

"In just ten minutes, you can listen to God. I've seen this happen in congregations as we follow a simple process...As people share how God has spoke to them the atmosphere is charged with the presence of God... "God actually spoke to me," said one young man, as though he could scarcely believe it." – Bob Pearson

Steps for hearing God speak to you through the bible, adapted from Bob Pearson's book "Listening to God":

1. **Tune in** - focus your attention on Jesus. Ask Him to help you concentrate your attention on what He has to share with you today.

2. **Read a short, simple passage** - if the passage is too long, you have to spend too much time reading before you start looking for truth. If the passage is complicated then you have to spend too long trying to determine what it means, and for a ten minute devotional time, this is not helpful...here we are talking about ten minutes of "Listening to God."

3. **As you read, ask:**

- a) *What is God saying?* I'm sure that as you read the passage you may see all kinds of answers to this. I have found that the Holy Spirit usually works with one area of truth. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct your attention to a particular truth (which could be from a small part of the passage or sometimes from the total passage). When you feel drawn to a particular truth, ask:
- b) *What is God saying to me?* Think about the area of truth that stood out to you. Carry on a dialogue with the Lord, a kind of question and answer. "Holy Spirit, what did you have in mind when you directed my attention to this truth?" "How does this apply to my life today?" Think about your life and how this truth applies at the present time. Listen for relevant thoughts. This is usually a good starting place. Then ask:
- c) *What is my response to God?* Decide upon it and act upon it. If God has spoken, it is up to us to respond in obedience. I ask the Holy Spirit to guide me and to help me to do what He is speaking to me about.

"It is wonderful to realize that the Holy Spirit is involved in helping us to hear from God...The Holy Spirit will bring...revelation...Then as we talk with the Lord about how that truth relates to our life, the Spirit of wisdom helps us to hear from God in a personal way." – Bob Pearson

If you think this method is too simplistic remember, God wants us to come to Him with childlike faith. This is a powerful key for hearing His voice!

I often have time with my children reading the bible aloud and asking them questions about what they think God is saying to them. I have told them that whenever someone reads aloud from the Bible, God is speaking directly from His Word, through that person to them. This is wonderful!

It gives me confidence to know, as Jack Hayford says, *"...this Book does not merely contain the Word of God, but that it is the Word of God in its sum and in its parts."*

The Bible is a live telecast from Jesus. Any time we read it, God is chatting with us. When we also pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth, the picture becomes brighter. Jesus' bright light will always lead us into life!

John 1:1, 4, 9, 14, 17 *"In the beginning the Word already existed. He was with God, and he was God. Life itself was in him, and **this life gives light to everyone**. The one who is **the true light, who gives light to everyone**, was going to come into the world. So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us...**Jesus Christ**."*

Jesus gives an amazing promise to those who regularly listen to His voice as they spend time reading the Bible.

John 15:7 *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you (NKJV)."*

Amazing, Jesus wants us to stay in tune with His heart so that our prayers will always be answered. I have found that the Holy Spirit is the one who helps us to remain in tune with Jesus' heart and pray His perfect will.

1 Corinthians 2:10-12 *"...his Spirit ...shows us even God's deep secrets...we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us."*

Without the guidance of God's Spirit and His Word, I would not be experiencing the joy of living out my God given destiny. The Holy Spirit *reveals* the Lord's secrets as we spend time reading and pondering the Bible. The Spirit of God *primes* us to receive and understand the wonderful, unfathomable wisdom contained in the scriptures. It is up to us to read the Word of God every day, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit. An astounding, God given destiny awaits you! Will you pray, read and listen to God today?

Daily Prayer: *Father, thank You for making Your Word available to me. Jesus, please speak to my heart as I read the Bible today. Holy Spirit, I invite You to illuminate my understanding. Prepare my heart and guide me into all truth. Help me to see what Jesus is saying to me through each verse that I read. Draw me into my destiny as I apply the directions that you give me. Thank You Lord, in Jesus name! AMEN.*

Chapter 3

Be Filled with the Spirit

“...be filled with the Spirit...”

– Eph. 5:18

Be Filled with the Spirit

Eph. 5:18

*"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **be filled with the Spirit...**" (NKJV)*

"The tense of the Greek for be filled makes clear that such a Spirit-filled condition does not stop with a single experience, but is maintained by "continually being filled," as commanded here." – Jack W. Hayford

The context of this verse is walking in wisdom (**see Eph. 5:15, 17**). This is more than earthly wisdom it is the knowledge of God's heart. We are instructed to, "...*understand what the will of the Lord is.*" The inference is that we would understand what His will is, moment by moment. This means to walk in continual fellowship with Him. For this to occur we need to be filled with His Spirit regularly. A continual filling with the Holy Spirit helps us to stay close to God's heart, and to constantly understand His will.

The continual filling of the Spirit is contrasted with a person whose life is influenced by alcohol (**Eph. 5:18**). I used to drink beer. I didn't have a craving for it when I first started drinking. How did I get addicted to it? I drank it until I acquired a taste for it and then just kept drinking. It wasn't long and I was addicted to the influence of alcohol in my life. I thank God that I no longer crave alcohol but I thirst for God's Holy Spirit. We need to continually drink of the Holy Spirit and develop a craving for Him. This is how we get **addicted to His presence!**

Prov. 20:1 *"Wine produces mockers; liquor leads to brawls. Whoever is led astray (**intoxicated** - NASB) by drink cannot be wise." (NLT)*

What does it mean to be intoxicated?

Intoxicated (Shagah): to waiver or wander astray into error, transgression and misdirection, to reel, as if intoxicated after drinking wine.

We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit in such a way that we are intoxicated! We are to be **under the influence** of the Holy Spirit!

A drunkard has chosen to remain under the influence of alcohol. Christians are to choose to come under the influence of the Holy Ghost moment by moment, to be led by the Spirit.

Our Father in heaven wants us to know His heart. Communion with the Holy Spirit saturates our lives with the wisdom of God (the knowledge of God's heart).

Being intoxicated with the Spirit allows us to waiver and wander away from the ways of this world and into the ways of God!

It is not enough to experience the filling of the Holy Spirit once and leave it at that. Many times Christians get a taste of the Holy Spirit and forget that it is a continual experience. Others come for more but only sip Him in! God does not want us to be "*Sipping Saints*." He wants us to guzzle, lap, soak, bathe, drench, and marinate in His presence. God wants us to get *drunk* in the Holy Ghost again and again!

When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost, it was not a trickle.

Acts 2:4 "*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...*"

Peter's explanation of this occurrence was as follows: "*For these are not drunk, as you suppose...this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "...I will **pour out** of My Spirit on all flesh..." (Acts 2:15-17).*

God does not give a trickle! He *pours out* His Spirit upon all who will come!

Niagara Falls



Imagine being at the base of these falls soaking up all this water!

Facts about Niagara Falls:

- more than 168000 cubic meters of water go over the brink every minute
- it dumps 2832m³/sec (100000 cfs) or 37.4 million Canadian Imperial Gallons of water per minute
- the generating capacity at Niagara Falls is about 4.4 million kilowatts (5 million horsepower)

Niagara Falls is a picture of what God wants to do in us by His Spirit!

Acts 1:8 "*But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, **you will receive power** and will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*"

Power (Dunamis): Derived from *duna*- being able or capable.

There is amazing power available to every Christian who is willing to allow the Holy Spirit to fill them continually! As we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit, we are given the ability to continue walking in God's miraculous power. All things are possible for those who believe (**Mark 9:23**) and will allow the Holy Spirit to fill and empower their lives (**Acts 1:8**). Just as Niagara Falls is a source of great power, so is the Holy Spirit in our lives.

With God, all things are possible (**Matt. 19:26**). The things God asks us to do are impossible in our own strength! It would have been impossible for the Christians in the book of Acts to reach their then known world for Christ if they had not continually received a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit.

The book of Acts displays examples of believers experiencing the filling of the Spirit (**Acts 9:17; 10:44-46**), being refilled (**Acts 3:19; 4:31; 13:52**), and being full of the Spirit (**Acts 4:8; 6:5; 11:24; 13:9**). The examples of ongoing filling display the desire of God to continually empower His people for daily living and to fulfil His purposes.

On the day of Pentecost, the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit as they waited expectantly for the promise of the Father (**Acts 1:4-5**). Peter's address to the onlookers brought clarity to what God was doing in their day. God made a wonderful promise to them and it was fulfilled.

Acts 2:15-17 "...what you see *this morning was predicted centuries ago* by the prophet Joel: *'In the last days, God said, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people...'*"

As humans, we get dry. This planet is not our home, Heaven is. We are like fish out of water. The Christian life was not meant to be dry and powerless. We need to continually go to God for a drink and a refreshing! Our confidence to continually come to Him for refilling is in the fact that He has promised to fill us. If we become empty, then the promise is for us again!

We can receive *all* of the promises that the first disciples received. God wants to pour out His Spirit on *all* flesh in our day! Jesus told His disciples to teach *all* nations to observe *all* things that He had commanded them (**Matt. 28:20**). One of Jesus' last commands was to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:4**). This command is also for us today!

Someone asked my Pastor, Neil Miers, why we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit continually, why do we need to go back again and again? He said, "*That's simple, we leak!*"

The apostle Paul encourages us not to be satisfied with a one-time experience with the filling of the Holy Spirit. Yes He is always with us but there is an active part we play in drawing near to drink from His presence. James encourages us to take the initiative.

"Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you..." – James 4:8

Have you ever heard of the term "**Bottle-neck?**"

This term represents a *cutting off* or *limiting* of what is meant to flow. Jesus asked His Father (**Matt. 6:10**) to allow His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. We can stop what God wants to do in our lives as we fail to drink lavishly from the flow of the Holy Spirit. God will not force His presence upon us. It is our decision to drink and allow Him to refresh and empower us for our daily assignments from heaven.

We restrict the will of God on earth when we choose to live in our own strength. God wants to release His will through imperfect vessels that leak. Our Heavenly Father's purposes are realized more consistently when Christians receive and release the Holy Spirit on a consistent basis.

We need to expand our capacity to drink from God's Spirit. By continually coming to God and filling our lives with His Spirit our capacity grows. With a greater capacity to receive God's presence in our lives, more power flows through us. This allows us to accomplish His vast plan. *So keep drinking!*

I simply hold my hand to my mouth (as if a glass is in my hand) and invite the Holy Spirit to fill me as I drink. I open my heart to God and drink. It is an act of faith but as a child, I am instantly filled with the Holy Spirit as I do so!

The Father is waiting for us to come and receive His promise today. He is ready to fill us with the Holy Spirit if we will acknowledge Him, draw near and accept His plan. We are to be vessels, **filled with God's Holy Spirit**, not just holding a drop or two but a vast reservoir of His presence!

Daily Prayer: Heavenly Father, I welcome you to fill me right now with Your Spirit! Holy Spirit, help me to drink from Your presence continually. As I choose to drink Your presence in today, influence me, drench me, refresh me, overwhelm my life. Flood me with Your power and wisdom today. Give me the ability to do all that You want me to do, moment by moment. Reveal Jesus to me in a fresh new way. Help me to stay close to Your heart. Thank You God! AMEN!

Chapter 4

In the River

“...the angel showed me a pure river...”

– Rev. 22:1

In the River

Revelation 22:1

"And the angel showed me a pure river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb,"

"The river symbolizes the blessings of God..." – Dr. Earl Wesley Morey

God has a plan to continually water and bless His people (**Isa. 58:11**). As we are swept away in the river of life, we begin to live wondrous lives that display the unlimited fruitfulness (**Ps. 1:3**) of God's Kingdom. Christian living becomes an animated experience through the *river* of God's Spirit.

When God plants something, He waters it (**Gen. 2:8-10**). As we are planted or born (**John 3:3-8**) into God's kingdom, we are given access to His Holy Spirit so that we may experience continual watering (**Acts. 2:17**).

There is no end to the capacity of God's river. As often as we come, there is a promise of a **never-ending flow** to refresh our lives.

Ps. 65:9 *"...The rivers of God will **not run dry**..."*

God's river is near to us all. It flows from His throne and the Lamb, Jesus Christ. God Himself dwells in Christians (**2Cor. 6:16**) making them the house of the Most High (**1Cor. 3:16**). His Spirit flows like a river out of us (**John 7:38-39**) if we believe and drink lavishly from His presence.

John 7:38 *"If you believe in me, come and drink! For the Scriptures declare that **rivers** of living water will flow out from within."*

*"...The figure of **rivers** contrasts with "a fountain" (**John 4:14**), illustrating **the difference between** one's new birth and one's experience of the overflowing fullness of the Spirit-filled life." – Dr. Siegfried Schatzmann*

The fountain (**Jn. 4:14**) gives eternal life, brings us into God's Kingdom whereas the river (**Jn. 7:38**) is an overflow of God's spirit given to those who already believe in Jesus (**Matt. 3:11, Acts. 19:1-6**). The Holy Spirit is given to believers so that they can live life overflowing with God's presence.

Life can be hard and dry like a desert landscape. Christians sometimes go through barren experiences.

God's Spirit was sent to refresh and energize us so that we could be lush and vigorous in the midst of harsh conditions.

Isa. 43:20 "...Yes, I will make springs in the desert, so that my chosen people can be refreshed."

Life in the river of God is simply a life filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The early disciples lived every day in the refreshing flood of the river of God. Jesus Christ was a living reality to them because they stayed close to His Spirit. Their lives were never dry or without direction.

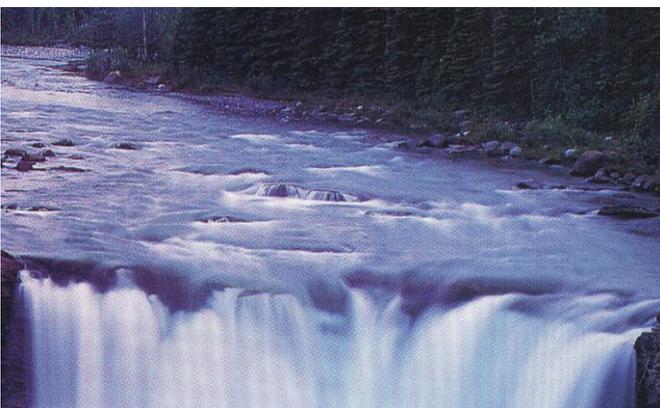
Jesus revealed Himself to John while he was in the presence of the Holy Spirit (**Rev. 1:10, 13-17**) on the island of Patmos. He wrote the book of Revelation as a result. As we soak daily in the river of God's presence we receive a greater revelation of Jesus, the light of the world (**John 8:12**). We also receive directions for living life in God's perfect will.

Ps. 36:8-9 "...letting them drink from your rivers of delight. For you are the fountain of life, the light by which we see."

Much of the Bible came to God's servants through prophecy, visions, impressions, and dreams. This is the guiding voice of the Spirit of God.

Acts 2:17 "In the last days, God said, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will **see visions**, and your old men will **dream dreams**."

When my wife and I planted our first church in Canada, God gave me an impression of how He purposed to change my life.



Water rushed over a block of clay as it sat in a river. The object softened and sank down into a lump. After time, it dissolved in the river and was picked up and swept away by the stream. The block had become one with the river. Instead of sitting still on the bottom, it was now moving along with the current.

I saw that if I would spend time in the river of God's presence, I would soften to God's will and be swept away in His purposes for my life.

If I stayed on the dry bank, I would remain hard like a piece of sun-baked clay.

Life becomes an inspirational adventure rather than a draining experience when flooded by the river of God's presence. I would rather be dissolved in God's will and animated by His presence than walk in the natural capacity of my human faculties. I would rather be borne along by God's presence than push through circumstances in my natural strength.

The river of God's Spirit will swell as we continue to open our hearts to His influence. Let us be carried away by God's growing flood around our lives.

Ezekiel 47:1-5 *"Then the man brought me back to the entrance of the Temple. There I saw a stream flowing...Measuring as he went, he led me along the stream...the water was up to my ankles...the water was up to my knees...After...it was up to my waist...Then...the river was too deep to cross without swimming."*

The Holy Spirit was sent to us to become our **life's influence**. God wants us to become more deeply influenced by the river of His presence. We must continually open our lives to His presence. With our minds we choose Spirit living or flesh living. Our soul is the gateway to God's presence.

Ezekiel 47:6-7 *"He told me to **keep in mind** what I had seen..."*

We must stay open in our soul realm to the mighty river that flows from our human spirits. Our imaginations are an amazing doorway to the Spirit.

Daniel 2:28 *"...there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets..."*

As God's secrets are revealed to us, we experience His Kingdom manifesting in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

If we fix our minds on things of God (**Phil. 4:8**) our hearts are open to His leading. To seek God I listen to worship music and welcome the Holy Spirit. I try to imagine His presence flowing around and through me like a river. A phrase from a song may catch my attention or a scripture may enter my mind. I may receive an impression or picture through my imagination. I may feel emotions of joy, peace, etc. This is the influence of the river of God.

Our personal times with God become more fluid as we exercise our souls towards sensing God's Spiritual flow. **We become dissolved in God's river with extended times of fellowship.** I use a pad and pencil to draw images and write down verses of scripture as God speaks to my thoughts.

I have watched over the years as I have continued to draw near to God in this way that the fruit has increased. I have seen a direct correlation with the time I have spent in the river of God and the fruit in my life and ministry.

Ezekiel 47:8-12 "...Every thing that touches the water of this river will live...All kinds of fruit trees will grow along both sides of the river...there will always be fruit on their branches... For they are watered by the river..."

One of my first experiences in God's river was a simple impression. As a bible college student, I loved to walk in the bush around my campus and pray. On one occasion I found a small bush chapel with stumps formed into pews. I lied down on the floor of the chapel with the sun shining through the leafy canopy above and began to worship God. After a few minutes I was filled with joy and a sense of His amazing love for me.

Ps. 46:4 "A river brings joy to the city of our God, the sacred home of the Most High."

After this experience I jumped up and ran to my college dorms to tell everyone about how much God loved them. To my surprise they didn't share my enthusiasm. I realized that I had the encounter and they needed time to allow my story to sink in.

Phil. 3:10 "...I can really know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead..."

Every healthy relationship takes time to cultivate. It takes effort to develop receptivity to God's Spirit. Sometimes we give up too early. God wants us to spend time with Him to develop a personal relationship. Our goal is to get to know Him personally, not merely to have an experience! Soaking in worship music and reading our bibles are wonderful ways of softening our souls in the river to grow closer to God personally.

John 15:1, 4 "I am the true vine...**Remain** in me, and I will remain in you...you cannot be fruitful apart from me."

My desire is that we would not dwell in God's river alone but that we would inspire others to jump in for themselves and experience the flow also. When we share our experiences of God amongst those around us, we inspire a hunger for God reality. I encourage you, jump into God's river and get a personal experience with Him today!

Daily Prayer: Heavenly Father, I welcome you to fill me right now with Your River! Holy Spirit flood me with Your presence. As I choose to dwell in Your river today, influence me, soak me, refresh me, speak into my imaginations. Flood my thoughts with revelation. Give me insight and direction. Dissolve me in Your will and power. Reveal Jesus to me in a fresh new way. Help me to remain close to You and follow your paths day by day. Thank You God! AMEN!

Conclusion

This e-book is only the beginning of your personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. It is now up to you to spend time daily with the Holy Spirit, learning how you may encounter Him in a very personal and special way.

Nothing can limit your life when you live a life overflowing in the Spirit.

Get ready to live at a new level as you push forward in “real” Christian living. This was the life you were meant to experience.

As you move forward in direction, refreshing, life and influence I would like to hear about your fresh new encounters with the Holy Spirit. Feel free to contact JCS Publishing at the following email address and leave a message for me.

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Thank you!

For more resources by Dr. Steven J. Lynne go to:

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