

Messages From the Gates of Jerusalem
#18 - Fountain Gate - Part II - The Well & The River

Joshua's instructions before entering the Promised Land -(Abundant Life)

God's fulfilment of His Promise is dependent on your OBEDIENCE to His Command.

Truth: We are not earning God's blessing when we obey the command. Our obedience ensures that our hearts are ready for God's blessing.

When we were born again, God set us apart for His use. Unconfessed sin in our life must be dealt with. We now must claim I John 1:9 > If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. The ONLY WAY to be a clean, empty vessel for His use

Rom. 8:11 If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Spiritual preparation is the vital element. Our right relationship with God brings His power in our life. CONSECRATE yourself for God's use. Put away anything that is displeasing to the Lord; examine yourself. "Consecrate" is the Hebrew *qadash*. It is in the *hithpael* stem which is reflexive and means, "consecrate yourselves, set yourselves apart, prepare yourselves." This use points out personal responsibility. When there is a lack of consecration through confession for the defilement of sin along with a commitment to God's purpose for our lives in service or ministry, we hinder the power of God.

Remember: There was NO section of wall mentioned as being rebuilt between the Dung Gate and the Fountain Gate. We have immediate help! Obedience at the Dung Gate brings immediate help from the Holy Spirit.

The Fountain Gate, the first Power gate, speaks to us of the Living Waters of the Holy Spirit that cleanses our lives and empowers us for the Spirit-filled walk. The Holy Spirit has been given to every believer as a gift. I am commanded: "Quench not the Spirit." He is to make known to me and to make experiential to me > ALL that Christ is in me.

God's Command to the Believer: *Live a life of righteousness*

The command suggests the need of the ministry of the Holy Spirit and His control for consecrated living. *The Holy Spirit working in me can transform me from a carnal Christian to a Spirit-filled Christian.* It stresses the need of the filling of the Holy Spirit as God's enabling agent for dealing with the forces arrayed against us—the flesh, the devil, and the world

I Thess. 5:24 "Faithful is He that calls you, who also will do it."

Hallelujah! This is Divine genius! EVERYTHING He commands me, He will, by MY consent and yielding, fulfill the command through me. This saves me from the futility of self-effort. It relieves me of the burden of trying to pull myself by my own bootstraps. If it were not for this divine provision, the commands on me would be a source of utter frustration.

I would be a sorry spectacle of a sincere idealist, constantly thwarted by my own inadequacy.
Truth: The Holy Spirit will do the work in me and through me when I yield and humble myself.
Then I will receive rewards and crowns, but He does ALL the work.

Reminder: God, Himself, is the source of Life, represented by the Gihon Spring.

Psalm 46:4-5 *There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God (Jerusalem),
The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of her.*

1. *The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High* has direct reference to the Temple on Mt. Moriah.
2. The word rendered river in this psalm is the Hebrew word *Nahar*, which denotes a perennial spring, a constantly flowing source of clear, fresh, running water that the Hebrews called 'living waters' in contrast to the waters of a stagnant pool.

Is there a perennial, a constantly flowing spring of water connected with:

1. Ps. 48:2 the 'city of the great King' (Jerusalem)
2. The Temple on Mt. Moriah
3. The rejoicing of the city of Jerusalem

Consider: How is it that a Roman historian could describe Jerusalem, situated on an elevation, on mountains, as "Within, truly well watered; but without, altogether dry?" (Tacitus, Hist.v.12).

Point of Interest: In spite of its closeness to the arid Judean wilderness, on the East side of Jerusalem there is a single source of living water called the Gihon Spring or the Gihon Fountain. It was "vital to the existence of Jerusalem."

(*Digging Up Jerusalem*, K.M.Kenyon, 1975, p.76).

Water, or the lack thereof, always has a major impact upon man's ability to live in a particular area. The original city of David, surrounded on three sides by valleys, was easily defended. Nevertheless, despite strong fortifications, Jerusalem had no permanent water supply within her protective walls. The ancient city had only one reliable, perennial water source — the Gihon Spring, located in the Kidron Valley, outside and below the defensive walls. Rainfall in Israel was completely seasonal, a short rainy season followed by 7 months of virtually no rainfall. Any permanent settlement had to be within reach of a perennial water supply. Only one such spring exists in Jerusalem, the Gihon spring; it is truly water in a thirsty land.

2 Biblical Incidents > Gihon Spring > Instances of Pride

1. Jebusites & King David: Jerusalem, chosen by God as His city as a symbol of eternal reality, (I Kings 14:21) is 5,000 years old. God chose it as a symbol of weakness to confound the wise. In human wisdom Jerusalem would never be chosen. It had no great attributes; no great river or minerals; not on a sea front or on a trade route. It barely had a water supply - the Gihon Spring.

Any fortification of The Gihon Spring in the valley would easily be overcome from higher grounds. To protect it, they (Jebusites) closed the entrance to the Spring and cut a vertical shaft (Warren's Shaft) to access the water. This shaft provided them secure access to a permanent water supply from behind their fortress walls.

The Jebusites (original inhabitants > Jebus, an old name for Jerusalem > Josh: 18:28) were in the land during the time of Joshua and controlled Jerusalem. Under Joshua, the Israelites were never able to drive out the Jebusites and inhabit Jerusalem.

400 years passed from the time of Joshua until King David who captured the city from the Jebusites 3,000 years ago and made it the capital of Israel

During the time of David, the Jebusites arrogantly boasted of their ability to defend Jerusalem, saying, "You shall not come in here, but the blind and lame will turn you away." (II Sam. 5:6). However, David either knew or discovered not only access to the Gihon Spring, but also the "water tunnel" (2 Sam.5:8) that led from the Spring into the city. He offered a reward of first in command to any of his men who would be first to scale the shaft and enter the city.

1 Chron. 11:6 And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, and became chief.

David's men entered the city of Jebus by stealth, climbing up through the aforementioned water tunnel (2 Sam. 5:6-10; 1 Chron. 11:4-9).

Joab's feat in climbing the 50-foot shaft must have been considerable.

An expedition in 1867 by Warren could not climb it without wooden scaffolding.

2. Jerusalem came under siege by King Sennacherib of Assyria who demanded tribute money and boasted he would capture Jerusalem. When King Hezekiah of Judah learned about the oncoming attack, the Bible says "he took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city, making it easy for the enemy to capture it and block Jerusalem's water supply. (2 Chron. 32:1-3).

Problem: How can they block the enemy's access to the fountain? How can they secure continual access to the fountain's water for the inhabitants of Jerusalem inside the walls? Hezekiah's first thought was to protect Judah's source of water—the fountain. He had his engineers redirect them, by carving a 1,750-foot water tunnel through solid rock. To cut this channel, workers began tunneling through the rock on either end, until they met—incredibly—not only in the middle, but also at a perfect gradient to facilitate the flow of water.

That night the angel of the Lord went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; When men rose early in the morning, behold, all of them were dead (2 Kings 19:35).

David's conquest of the Jebusite stronghold, and the deliverance Hezekiah experienced from the hands of Sennacherib share two points of reference: both illustrate the perils of pride,

Both are connected with the same pool of water — the waters which flowed from the Gihon Spring, a type of God, the source of life. In both cases, water served as a means to victory. Truth: The ONLY way we will have victory over the enemy and live the abundant life is via the power of the "Living Water," the Holy Spirit.

An underground tunnel, hewn out of solid rock, was constructed during Hezekiah's time to bring the water (vital life-giving) inside the walls of Jerusalem (God's city and dwelling place in the Temple) so the people would have water during times of attack by the enemy. The water from the Gihon Spring flowed into the Pool of Siloam inside the walls.

Spiritual application: 1. Now, All believers are the temple of God.

2. To give us the living water, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, (the Solid Rock).

3. The water from the Gihon Spring emptied into the Pool of Siloam inside the walls.

4. Pool of water represents the life-giving water that will spring up into a well inside of us.

5. The word Siloam means sent.

The Gihon Springs water was sent to the Pool of Siloam by cutting through solid rock.

God provided life-giving water to us by sending His Son Jesus Christ, the Solid Rock.

Truth: Jesus Christ is the source of living water. He revealed this in:

1. John 4:10, 14 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst.

But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain (well) of water springing up into everlasting life."

2. John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spoke he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Truth: These two passages tell us about the relationship between salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Salvation and this baptism are ONE, not TWO experiences.

Some teach that you must first be saved; later you will experience a, "second blessing" called "the baptism of the Holy Spirit."

You don't receive Christ at salvation, and add the Holy Spirit later. Neither do you receive some of the Holy Spirit, but receive more of Him later. At salvation, you are COMPLETE IN CHRIST. However, you do need to grow, and come to manifest Him. The indwelling of Christ must come to overflow from you. All of this is accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

The MEANS by which Christ is in us and overflows us is through the Holy Spirit.

These above passages show: When we are saved, we receive a, "well of water," which Jesus said, is eternal life. This, "well of eternal life," must eventually turn into, "rivers of living water," which overflow us in power, and makes us witnesses unto Christ.

A Well: The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." He is the WATER. If you drink of HIM - receive Him into you - He will be in you as a well of water which is eternal life. Eternal life isn't a THING. Eternal life is Christ. God gives us Himself, through Christ. CHRIST IN US is eternal life. Jesus uses the well of natural water - which can only temporarily sustain us - to point out that there is an eternal source of life - an eternal water. It is HIM.

A River: In John 7, He used a metaphor of a RIVER of living water: He that believes on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. Notice the condition for having this river of living water: He that believes on Me. You will be saved, and also you will have the flow of the river of Living Water. Jesus said that whoever DRINKS of Him, will receive in them a WELL of eternal life. This is clearly salvation. In this passage, He also promises something that comes with salvation. He says, "He that believes on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." So the WELL is supposed to result in an overflow or RIVER.

Note that BOTH the well and the river are the result of salvation.

1. BOTH the well and the river are the result of CHRIST IN US.
2. We do not get the well at salvation, only to lack the river - until we receive a second blessing. Salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are ONE blessing.

Read again the passage from John 7. Jesus said, "He that believes on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spoke he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)"

Jesus said the SPIRIT was the river, but that the overflow He was promising was the result of what? - a second blessing? No. If we break these two things into two different experiences, we are essentially saying that we could have Christ in us, but no possibility of overflow - unless we get another blessing. The overflow was the result of, "he that believes on Me." In other words, ALL is in Christ, at salvation. The river IS the well -- overflowing.

The Key to Overflow He works through our WILLS, our conduct, our personality, and our faith. I must yield to the Lordship of Jesus Christ to turn on the flow through the power of the Holy Spirit. We do the yielding to Him, and He does the flowing.

The RIVER provides a great illustration. We receive the WELL OF LIFE at salvation. But even though the potential for the RIVER is there, there cannot be a RIVER flowing until -

what? Until all the hindrances to the flow are removed. Just like a RIVER cannot smoothly flow if rocks and barriers are in the way, neither can the Holy Spirit flow through us if our hearts are hard and our agendas are in the way. These must be removed; then the Holy Spirit can flow as a RIVER. Nothing needs to be ADDED for the flow. In fact, there needs to be a SUBTRACTION. I must decrease so that HE might increase.

The Purpose of the Spirit This is a big key: Purpose of the Holy Spirit IN US is to bring us, UNDER the Lordship of Jesus, and into conformity with Him. Then we are built up in Christ. We are being made mature in Christ - which Paul says is the purpose of all the gifts:

Eph. 4:11-16 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

The idea that the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to give us gifts to DISPLAY is nonsense. The purpose of the baptism is to build us up in Jesus Christ - and He uses the gifts in each other to do it. Once the focus becomes tongues, healing, signs and wonders, or miracles, we are off track. The focus is CHRIST IN US.

Any message that suggests that God's goal is to give us THINGS, and do great THINGS in our lives, and make us happy, is error. God's goal is CHRIST IN US.

As a believer begins to be built up in Christ - (the negative side of which is the tearing down of our flesh) -there will be a flowing forth of the Spirit, as rivers of living water.

The Christ who is in you as a WELL, will then flow through you as a RIVER.