

Streams of Living Water 6

Saturating Prayer

THE QUIZ – How did you vote? (if 10 is very good and 1 is dead)

- I can't wait till it's prayer time
 - My prayer life is really effective (James 5:16)
 - When I sit down to pray, I know exactly what to pray for?
 - When Pastor announces midweek prayer meeting, my spirit leaps
- *What is your prayer life like right now, if you're honest? What would you like it to be like? Have you had a time when it was alive and flourishing? Describe that time.*
- *What works for you? What really doesn't work for you? Do you have a special place? Do you use lists? What time of day?*

A strong conviction: Our prayer lives can be ALIVE, FULFILLING & POWERFUL.

- * We all know prayer is IMPORTANT; the danger is that it comes from a RELIGIOUS SPIRIT rather than OVERFLOW (John 7:37-38).
 - * PREMISE: Prayer should be RIVERS OF LIVING WATER (Isaiah 44:1-4, 41:17-18).
 - * If the river is running DRY, we just WON'T DO IT.
 - * We need to balance the need for STRUCTURE, ORGANISATION & LISTS to keep us going, with the need for SPONTANEITY, QUICKENING & HOLY SPIRIT LEADING.
- *How is prayer like 'rivers of living water'? What might it look like if it was?*
- *What do those passages in Isaiah prophesy? How do they relate to prayer?*

3 KEYS FROM JOHN 7:37-39

1. When you're THIRSTY, pray (Isaiah 55:1-3).

- * Don't get tricked into phony, temporary, counterfeit SUBSTITUTES for INTIMACY, when God offers the privilege of PRAYER.
 - * THIRST is His CALLING CARD.
- *When you're 'thirsty,' do you tend to pray? If not, why not, and where do you turn instead? What does tend to cause you to turn to prayer?*
- *"Thirst is His calling card." Discuss!*

2. If you're a BELIEVER, you're invited to COME.

- * Prayer changes when you cease to think of it as RELIGIOUS DUTY and it

becomes a RESPONSE to an INVITATION to RELATIONSHIP.

- * Make your prayer life more RELATIONAL and less PROGRAMMATIC.
- * Your prayer life should be the OVERFLOW of VITAL RELATIONSHIP.
- * Not so much praying TO God, but WITH God.
- * Let Him SET THE AGENDA.

- *Is your current prayer life 'religious duty' or an 'overflow'? What are the dangers of 'religious duty'? What are the benefits of organisation and structure?*
- *How can you make your prayer life more relational and less programmatic?*
- *How do you have a 'Spirit-led' prayer life? How do you let Him 'set the agenda'?*

3. If you're hoping to pour out, first you have to DRINK.

- * PROPOSITION: As a guide, make your prayer time one-third WORSHIP, SPEAKING and LISTENING.
 - * Strong implication in Jesus' words and example (Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16), that His purpose in prayer was to SEEK HIS FATHER'S WILL.
 - * What's on His HEART? What's He SAYING? Where's He LEADING?
- *Is your prayer time 1/3 of each of those? What fractions is it actually?*
- *What can we learn from Jesus' prayer life / habits / teaching?*
- *"The danger is, if we're doing all the talking, there's no space for listening. Though our words do carry some power, it's what He says that'll change the world." Discuss!*

In the end, where are these Rivers of Living Water going to come from? It's going to be about us responding to that THIRST, RUNNING to Him and DRINKING all we can until we're full.

- *Where do 'rivers of living water' come from? Where do they definitely not come from?*
- * We'll pray for our UNSAVED NEIGHBOURS, because God has FILLED us up to the brim with His LOVE for them.
 - * We'll pray for our BROKEN WORLD because God has filled us with His MERCY and RIGHTEOUSNESS.
 - * We'll pray for REVIVAL, because He's captured us with His LIFE and PASSION.
- *Do you agree with those statements? How does it work?*

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE

- How much we need those rivers.
 - The life, blessing & power contained within the river of God.
 - His desire to fill you up to overflowing.
 - The power & potential of unleashing that river as you pray
- *When you're praying, are you aware of those things? How might your praying change if you became more aware?*