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THE RIVER OF LIFE

“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.” John 7:37-38 NKJV

WHAT COMES to your mind when you think of a river? Mark Twain depicted the excitement of river adventures in his classic tales of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. Henry David Thoreau said, “[Rivers] are the constant lure, when they flow by our doors, to distant enterprise and adventure.” The river is often used as a metaphor for life, as we meander this way and that, collecting and releasing bits and pieces along the way, until we reach our ultimate destination.

Rivers accomplish much. Up in the mountains, snow melts and mountain streams travel downward, carving out valleys, creating waterfalls, and merging with other nearby streams. Eventually these combining streams get bigger and form a river.

In the life of the believer, the Living Water revitalizes and restores us as we experience the peaks and valleys everyone travels. It also washes out sediment as we repent and discard our sin along the way. It provides a constant source of refreshment for our souls and overflows from our lives into the lives of others.

Eventually, all rivers make their way toward a larger body of water, where the river splits into many channels, depositing silt and sediment, before pouring into the ocean. In the process, the river creates a habitat, a place for living communities.

As we have Jesus-the authentic Living Water-running through our hearts, we, too, can create places suitable for living communities (groups sharing common characteristics), places where others can come, experience love and acceptance, and get to know the Jesus who makes our lives possible. We can provide places of real refreshment for others....

What about You? Is your life a source of refreshment to those around you? Are you willing to pour yourself into others’ lives without needing to get credit and commendation for what you do? Or would others describe your water as stagnant and polluted?

As believers, Jesus said we should refresh and restore others. Ask Him to flood your heart with His own living water. AMEN.

~ Dr. Jack Graham

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

