



# *The River*



*"Living Waters"*

Liz Dickson



**Love UnVeiled**  
Transforming Women into God's Image of Beauty

## THE RIVER OF GOD IS FULL OF WATER

### Psalm 65:9

The Spirit and the bride say, “**Come.**” Let anyone who hears this say, “**Come.**” Let anyone who is thirsty **come.** Let anyone who desires, drink freely from the water of life. **Revelation 22:17 NLT**

What is the river of God?

*“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, **Come to the waters;** and you who have no money, **Come,** buy and eat. Yes, **come,** buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and **come to Me.** Hear, and your soul shall live...**Isaiah 55:1-3 NKJV***

*For I will pour water on him who is thirsty land, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your descendants **Isaiah 44:3 NKJV***

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled. **Matthew 5:6***

It comes from Above:

Jesus replied, “*Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.*” (Greek = from above) **John 3:3 NIV**

Jesus answered, “*Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*” **John 3:5-6 NIV**

John replied, “*No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven.*” **John 3:27 NLT**



*“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace...”* **Isaiah 55:10-12 NKJV**

Jesus answered, *“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”* **John 4:13-14 NIV**

*The hour is coming and now is, when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.* **John 4:23-24 NKJV**

*“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.”* **John 6:63 NIV**

On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, *“Anyone who is thirsty may come to Me! Anyone who believes in Me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’”* (When He said, “living water,” He was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in Him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into His glory.) **John 7:37-39 NLT**

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*“How do I get this living water?” “Give me this water...”*

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. **Proverbs 4:23 NIV**

*I remember you, the kindness of your youth, the love of your betrothal when you went after me in the wilderness...*

*My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn for themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water. **Jeremiah 2:2,13 NKJV***

*Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations. **Ezekiel 36:25-27 NLT***

*“If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him because he lives with you now and later will be in you. I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.”*

**John 14:15-18 NLT**

### Worship in Spirit & Truth

- Thirst - desire - desperate.
- Acknowledge - Confess with sincere heart, transparent.
- Come - Humble, empty self - transparent - sincere.
- Drink - Receive
- Believe - Faith - Trust

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## EVERYTHING LIVES WHEREVER THE RIVER GOES

### Ezekiel 47:9

#### Ezekiel 47:1-12, Revelation 22:1-2, Genesis 2:9

- River flows from the sanctuary - hidden, holy place of the heart hidden in Christ.
- Brings life wherever it goes.
- It gets deeper - there is more to enjoy.
- It brings healing.
- It is flowing, not stagnant.

#### Joshua 3:1:17. You have not passed this way before - v4

We are invited to come deeper into the river, by faith, to know God intimately and enjoy all God has for us in the abundant river life.

The thief does not come expect to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come that they might have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. **John 10:10**

**Ephesians 3:16-21** - Be strengthened by His Spirit, filled with His love and the fullness of God flowing in and through you, giving you power to do more than you can ask or imagine.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts our fear, because fear involves torment. But He who fears, has not been made perfect in love. **1 John 4:18**

**Know -> Love -> Trust -> Freedom -> Fruitfulness.**

- Trees along the river bring forth fruit every month because their roots are in the river.
- Their leaves bring healing to the nations.

What are the dead, stagnant places?



## Jeremiah 17:5-8

v 5 Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength and whose heart departs from the Lord.

- He will live in dry, barren salty places.

v 7 Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose hope is in the Lord.

- He will be like a fruitful tree planted in water, with roots in the river.
- He will not fear hard times, will always be full of life, will not be anxious when drought comes, will always be fruitful.

## Psalm 1:1-3 NLT

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.

- Don't - walk with the wicked, stand with sinners, sit with scoffers and mockers!
- Do - Delight in God's word. Meditate on it day and night. (**Joshua 1:7-9**)
- Result - a fruitful tree planted in water, full of life, whatever he does prospers. (Joseph **Genesis 39:2-3**)

## John 15:1-9

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." **John 15:5 NLT**

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## THERE IS A RIVER

### **Psalm 46:4**

*“The river of life often flows through sloughs of depression. Charles Spurgeon (“prince of preachers”) knew that well. He knew the God from whom life flows.”* David Powlison

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God**, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her; she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. **Psalm 46:1-5 NIV**

You quieted the raging oceans, with their pounding waves and silenced the shouting of the nations. **Psalm 65:7 NLT**

When the Red Sea saw you, O God, its waters looked and trembled! The sea quaked to its very depths. The clouds poured down rain; the thunder rumbled in the sky. Your arrows of lightning flashed. Your thunder roared from the whirlwind; the lightning lit up the world! The earth trembled and shook. Your road led through the sea, your pathway through the mighty waters - **a pathway no one knew was there!** You led your people along that road like a flock of sheep, with Moses, and Aaron as their shepherds. **Psalm 77:16-20 NLT**

The LORD is my shepherd...He leads me beside peaceful streams. **Psalm 23:1-2 NLT**

As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him? Day and night I have only tears for food, while my enemies continually taunt me, saying, “Where is this God of yours?” ... I hear the tumult of the raging seas as your waves and surging tides sweep over me. But each day the LORD pours his unfailing love upon me, and through each night I sing his songs, praying to God who gives me life. **Psalm 42:1-3,7-8 NLT**

But now, this is what the LORD says, - He who created you, Jacob, He who formed you, Israel: *“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you...For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...Isaiah 43:1-3 NIV***

This is what the LORD says - He who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, who drew out the chariots and horses, the army, and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: *“**Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.** <sup>20</sup>The wild animals honor Me, the jackals and the owls, because **I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to My people, My chosen, the people I formed for Myself that they may proclaim My praise.** **Isaiah 43:16 NIV***

**Exodus 17:1-7, Numbers 20:8-13** - The rock provides water.

They all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

**1 Corinthians 10:4**

Jesus is the Rock. God needed to strike Him to release the water of life for us to drink. But He only needed to strike Jesus once. Jesus on the cross said - “IT IS FINISHED.”

Now He invites all who are thirsty, lonely, weak, dry, sad, depressed brokenhearted, sick, weary - to come and drink freely from the living water that flow from His Holy Spirit, who lives in all those who come to Jesus.

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## AN INVITATION

*And Jesus said "Come to the waters stand by my side,  
I know you are thirsty you won't be denied,  
I heard every tear drop when in darkness you cried,  
And I'm here to remind you that for those tears I died."*

*"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; Isaiah 55:1 NKJV*

*"Anyone who is thirsty may come to Me! Anyone who believes in Me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" John 7:37-38*

When we reach the end of our own strength and self-sufficiency, when we let go of control and stop relying on our own efforts, when we let go of all our earthly possessions and desires and choose to love God with all our heart, when we thirst to know Him more – then we step deeper into the river and meet Him there, and there experience the fullness of all He promises flowing from His living water.

- Life - Ezekiel 47:9, John 4:14, Revelation 21:17, Revelation 22:1
- Love - the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit Romans 5:5
- Peace - *Behold I will extend peace, to her like a river, Isaiah 66:12*
- Joy - With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation Isaiah 12:3
- Hope - Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13
- Power - 1 Peter 1:5, Ephesians 3:20
- Provision - Isaiah 43:20, 44:3, 2 Corinthians 9:8
- Protection - Isaiah 32:2, Isaiah 43:2, Psalm 46:1-5, Psalm 107:23-30
- Healing - Isaiah 61:1-3, Ezekiel 47:12, John 5:5-9
- Grace - My grace is sufficient for you for My strength is made perfect in weakness 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
- Fulfilment - Isaiah 58:11, Psalm 63:5, Psalm 87:7, Matthew 5:6
- His pleasure - You give them to drink from the rivers of your pleasure. For with You is the fountain of life. Psalm 36:8



## Living in the Overflowing Rivers of Living Water

Do not QUENCH the Spirit. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 NKJV**

Do not GRIEVE the Holy Spirit **Ephesians 4:25-30. NKJV**

Be filled (continually) with the Spirit **Ephesians 5:18 NKJV**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths. **Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV**

With joy you will drink deeply from the fountain of salvation!  
**Isaiah 12:3 NLT**

In Your Presence there is fullness of joy. **Psalms 16:11 NKJV**

The joy of the Lord is our strength. **Nehemiah 8:10 NKJV**

The LORD will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. **Isaiah 58:11 NLT**

As they make music they will sing, "all my fountains are in you."  
**Psalms 87:7 NIV**

REFRESH in the River (by Nancy Negron) -

REFOCUS on your redeemed, restored relationship with  
your  
ETERNAL heavenly Father,  
FIND freedom and  
REST in His  
EVERLASTING, loving arms,  
SEARCH and surrender your  
HEART to Holy Spirit promptings.

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## Reflection Questions

5. What things in my life need refreshing, healing, filled, restored?
6. What are you doing today to help yourself grow deeper roots?  
What would you like to do?
7. What stones lie hidden in the riverbed of your heart & mind,  
stopping the free flow of the Holy Spirit in your life?
8. *“When he has fifty different desires, a man’s heart resembles a mire  
of stagnant water...but when all his desires are brought into one  
channel, his heart becomes like a river of pure water, running swiftly  
to fertilize the fields”.*  
- What desires and distractions are causing stagnant, empty, lonely  
places in your heart?
9. Pointing to the river the man said to Ezekiel; *“have you seen this?”*  
When you look at your spiritual journey in the river -
  - a. Where are you now? Where do you desire to be? Are you up to  
your ankles? Up to your knees? Your waist? The Lord will take  
you as far down the river as you want to go. Jesus invites you  
to come further into an intimate relationship with Him.
  - b. Are you willing to step deeper into the river to be used by the  
Lord where your feet don’t touch the bottom, relying only on  
Him, trusting Him beyond your comfort zone?

Teaching videos to accompany this lesson are available on  
Love UnVeiled [YouTube Channel](#) at *Let’s Get Real* playlist.

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