

Summary

This Pentecost Sunday sermon explores the metaphor of living water from Ezekiel 47 to illustrate how the Holy Spirit flows from God to fill and transform believers. Pastor Sam describes Ezekiel's vision of water flowing from the temple that grows deeper and wider as it moves away from its source, eventually bringing life to the Dead Sea. This represents God's promise of the Holy Spirit, fulfilled at Pentecost, which doesn't diminish as it spreads but grows stronger. The sermon emphasizes that just as people cannot live without physical water, believers cannot truly live without the Holy Spirit. The pastor challenges the congregation to thirst for God rather than worldly pursuits, noting how the Spirit empowers believers to be ambassadors of Christ in their daily spheres of influence - whether as salespeople, teachers, parents, or students.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather on this Pentecost Sunday to remember the outpouring of Your Holy Spirit, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us today. Just as You filled the early believers with Your Spirit, we pray that You would fill us afresh. Help us to set aside any distractions or preconceived notions, and make us receptive to Your voice. Holy Spirit, breathe into our group discussion and guide our conversation that we might grow closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's your favorite way to stay hydrated on a hot summer day, and why does that particular drink or method work best for you?

Key Verses

- Ezekiel 47:1-12
- Acts 2:17-18
- John 7:37-39
- John 4:13-14
- Isaiah 44:3

Questions

- How does the image of water growing deeper and wider as it flows away from its source challenge our typical understanding of how resources work?
- In what ways do you see people in our culture 'obeying their thirst' for things other than God? What are some of the most common substitutes?
- The pastor mentioned that the early church grew rapidly without buildings, organized programs, or modern resources. What do you think was the key factor in their growth, and how can we apply that today?
- What does it mean practically to be 'ambassadors of Christ' in your specific sphere of influence - your workplace, neighborhood, or family?
- How can we tell the difference between being filled with the Holy Spirit versus being driven by our own desires or cultural pressures?
- The sermon describes the Holy Spirit as bringing life to 'dead' places like the Dead Sea. What are some 'dead' areas in our community or world that need the life-giving power of the Spirit?
- What barriers or obstacles do you think prevent people from truly thirsting for God and His presence in their lives?
- How does understanding the Holy Spirit as 'living water' change the way you think about spiritual growth and sharing your faith with others?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific area of your life where you've been 'thirsting' for something other than God - whether it's approval, success, comfort, or control. Each day, consciously choose to bring that thirst to God in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to fill that need and guide you in that area. Also, look for one opportunity to be an 'ambassador of Christ' in your sphere of influence by showing love, kindness, or sharing hope with someone who needs it.

Key Takeaways

- The Holy Spirit is like living water that we cannot live without - just as our bodies need physical water, our souls need the Spirit's presence
- God's Spirit grows stronger and wider as it flows outward, not weaker - the more we share our faith, the more the Spirit works

- We are called to be ambassadors of Christ in our specific spheres of influence, representing heaven's interests wherever God has placed us
- True satisfaction comes only from thirsting for God, not from pursuing worldly substitutes that ultimately leave us empty
- The same Spirit that empowered the early church is available to us today to break barriers, bring healing, and transform communities

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit that flows like living water into our lives. As we leave this time of discussion, we pray that You would continue to fill us and overflow through us to others. Help us to be faithful ambassadors in the places You've called us to serve. May we thirst for You above all else and trust in Your Spirit to guide and empower us throughout this week. Draw us close to You and teach us to abide in Your presence. We commit our lives afresh to You, knowing that You are the well that never runs dry. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.