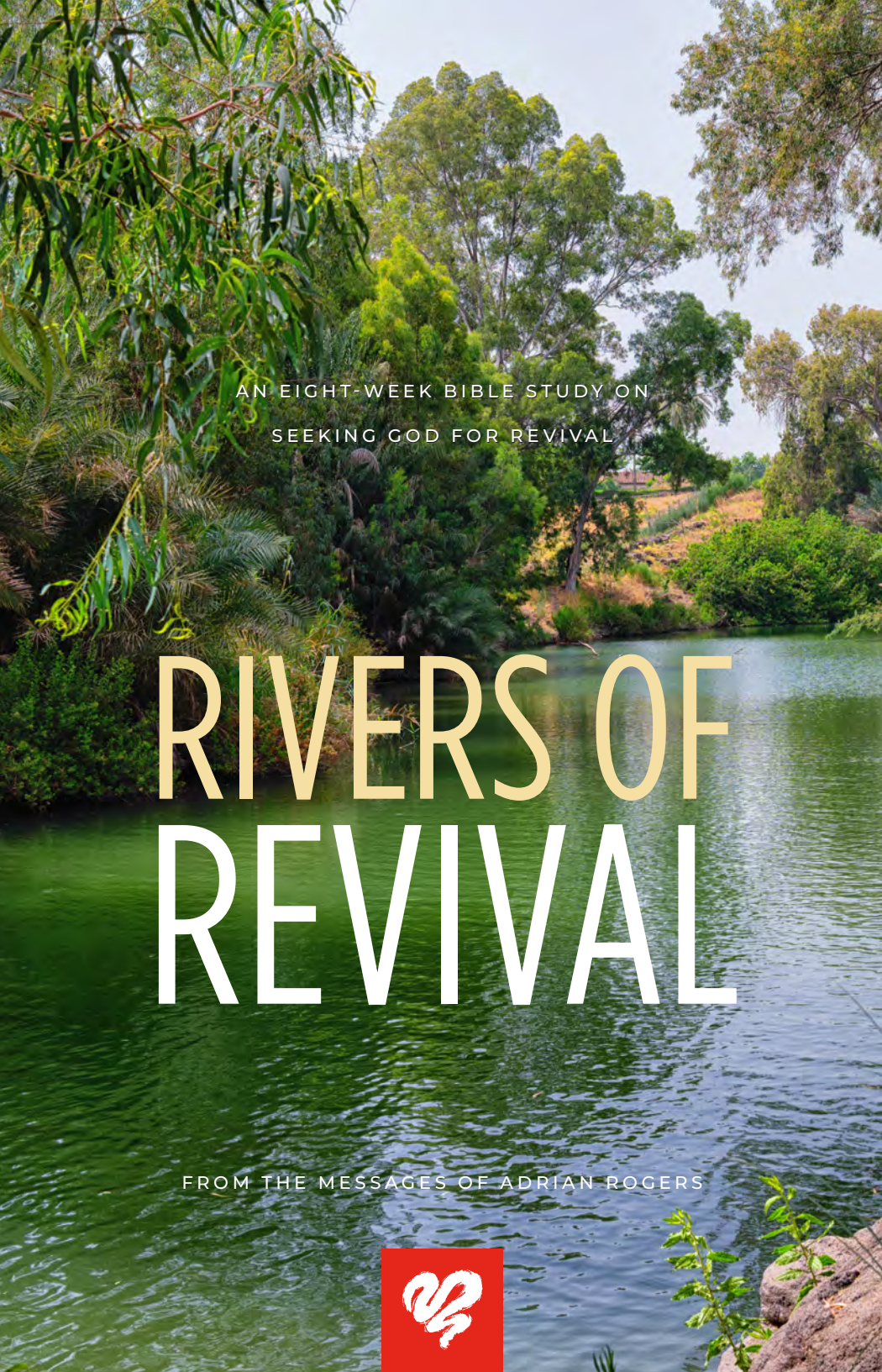
AN EIGHT-WEEK BIBLE STUDY ON
SEEKING GOD FOR REVIVAL
RIVERS OF
REVIVAL
FROM THE MESSAGES OF ADRIAN ROGERS

Guide to Studying Your Bible

FIVE SIMPLE STEPS FROM
PASTOR ADRIAN ROGERS

PRAY OVER IT

Begin with prayer. Ask for God's cleansing and the ability to receive what He wants to teach you.

PONDER IT

What did it mean **then**?
What does it mean **now**?
What does it mean **to me**?

PUT IT IN WRITING

Write down what **the Holy Spirit is revealing** to you.

PRACTICE IT

Find ways you can **incorporate the truths** you've just been shown into your own life.

PROCLAIM IT

Contemplate ways to **share the knowledge** God has given you.

6 QUESTIONS

TO ASK YOURSELF
WHILE READING SCRIPTURE

Is there a promise to claim?

Is there a lesson to learn?

Is there a blessing to enjoy?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a new thought to carry with me?

RIVERS OF REVIVAL

FROM THE MESSAGES OF ADRIAN ROGERS

Rivers of Revival (Bible Study)

Published by Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.
2941 Kate Bond Road
Memphis, TN 38133-4017
(800) 274-5683

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Printed in the United States of America

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INTRODUCTION

RIVERS OF REVIVAL

Imagine what the Church would look like if we were actually praying, planning, hoping, and looking for revival. Imagine how your community would change as people dedicated their lives to Christ and started serving Him. Imagine what would happen in our nation and even the world if people experienced the life transformation of a personal relationship with Jesus. Everyone says they want to see a revival, and many pray for it to happen. But true revival doesn't begin in a nation, in a specific location, or even in a church. Revival starts with you.

This study takes you through key passages in Scripture where God's power was released and people were transformed.

- We look at a vision of Ezekiel that illustrates how the Holy Spirit works in our lives to bring about revival. In order for revival to begin, we must first experience personal and family revival.
- We look at the story of Elijah to see how God used fire to bring judgment and rain to bring restoration.
- In the story of Jesus clearing the temple, we understand the work that God is doing in our own hearts and lives.
- Finally, we learn how to pray for revival as we study the prayers of Isaiah and Daniel on behalf of their nation as they asked God to step down from Heaven.

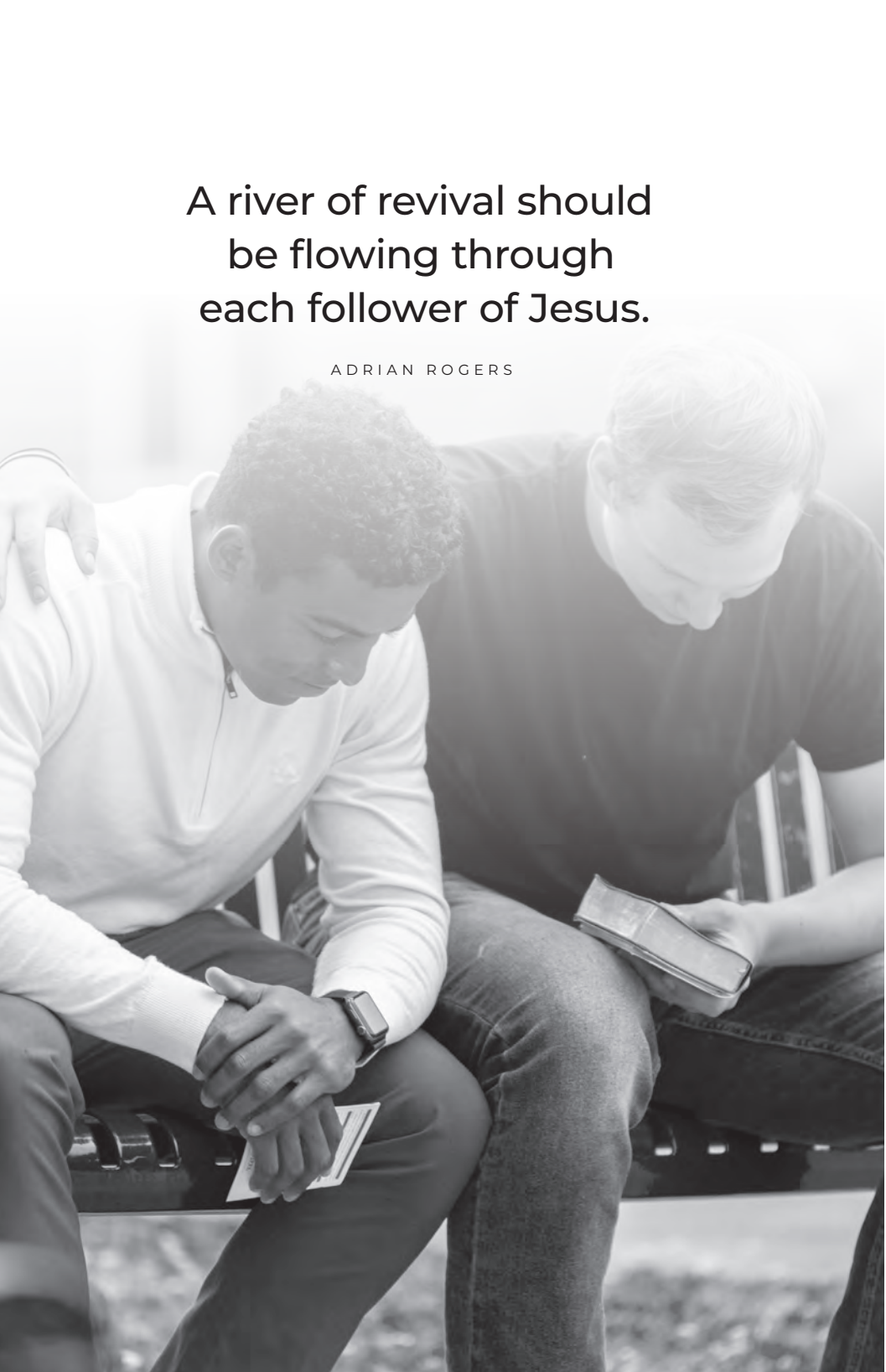
If your heart longs for revival, then your heart will find hope in this study. Revival starts with the faithful prayers of one person. You can be that person for your family, your church, your community, and your nation.

WANT MORE?

The audio messages by Pastor Adrian Rogers from which this study is derived are linked using the QR code on page 114 at the end of this study.

A river of revival should be flowing through each follower of Jesus.

ADRIAN ROGERS



WEEK 1

RIVERS OF REVIVAL

INTRODUCTION

What would the Church look like if we were all praying, planning, hoping, and looking for revival? What if we were all expecting God to do something supernatural in our midst, not only corporately as a Church, but in our lives, in our homes, and in our communities?

Every church has three categories of people: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who don't even know anything is happening. Some ask for God to begin a mighty revival and to start with them. Some show up on Sunday mornings for appearances or because somebody invited them or simply out of habit, but they don't have a clue about revival. These Sunday morning spectators think they've done God a wild favor by going to church. But Sunday morning is not service; service is when you walk out the doors and begin to serve the Lord in your community.

This week, as we look at the Book of Ezekiel and study the ways that the river of life flows through us because of Jesus Christ, we'll be talking about rivers of revival. The goal is to motivate you to join that first category of people—those who make things happen because they're willing to be used by God, out front or behind the scenes. A river of revival should be flowing at all times through each follower of Jesus Christ.

PRAY OVER IT

Dear God, Make my life a river of revival. I want to be a river of refreshment to those who are around me. Through me, I ask You to touch the lives of everyone who comes into contact with me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 1

JESUS IS THE LIVING WATER

PONDER IT

Before digging into Ezekiel, we'll examine some background in John 7. The Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was the tenth feast in the Jewish year and was a feast of great joy. On the last day, the priest would fill a golden flask at the Pool of Siloam, carry it back to the temple, and pour out the water on the altar. The people would shout and praise God, and the trumpets would sound. The Talmud said, "He who has not seen the rejoicing at the pouring out of the water, or the drawing of the water, has never seen rejoicing."

They were exhilarated, and right in the middle of all of this was Jesus Christ. All of the Old Testament symbols and feasts were about Him. The Water of Life was standing in their midst, but they didn't recognize Him because they didn't know who He was.

> **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" (John 7:37).**

Jesus knew these people, full of exhilaration, religious fervor, and excitement, would go back to their same old fears, foibles, and failures. He knew that after the enthusiasm of the moment had died, they would go back to their old ways of life. Jesus understood that they didn't need to come to a service to get their cups filled. They needed to become a river of living water.

Some Christians go from Bible conference to Bible conference, trying to get their cups filled, but they wouldn't have to if they had rivers already inside them.

> **"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38).**

Jesus was speaking of the Holy Spirit. You are to be a river of revival and revival power should flow through you. We find an illustration of this in Ezekiel's account of a God-inspired vision.

> **Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar (Ezekiel 47:1).**

Believe it or not, this passage applies to you personally today. Jesus said if you thirst and come to Him, out of you will flow a river of living water.

Ezekiel used the temple of God, the Old Testament temple, as a supernatural symbol. He was not describing a literal temple, but it was a metaphor for a greater spiritual lesson. In the Old Testament, God had a temple for His people; in the New Testament, He has a people for His temple. The Old Testament temple was an illustration of the Christian. You are the temple of God. Paul wrote:

> **Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own (1 Corinthians 6:19)?**

PUT IT IN WRITING

- Where have you gone or what have you done to try to get your cup filled? What does it look like to go to Jesus to get your cup filled and receive living water?
- How does it feel to know that, as a Christian, you are the temple of the Holy Spirit? How does it change your perspective?

In the Old Testament, God had a temple for His people; in the New Testament, He has a people for His temple.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 2

THE LIVING WATER'S SOURCE

PONDER IT

In John, Jesus was talking about rivers of living water that will flow out of the innermost being, out of the temple. This week, we'll focus on three major ideas concerning this source of living water as pictured in Ezekiel's vision. **First, notice the mysterious source of this river.**

> **Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar (Ezekiel 47:1).**

Humble source—This river comes from under the threshold, which is about as low as you can get. This river has a humble source. You are the temple, and this water flows from under the threshold.

Revival never begins without God's people humbling themselves and falling on our faces before God. When we're honestly, truly broken and humbled before God, we don't strut into the presence of God or sit heady, high-minded, unbent, and unbroken. Sometimes God has to humble us, but it's better for us to humble ourselves before God.

> **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up (James 4:10).**

Holy source—The river in Ezekiel flows past the altar, the place where the blood was shed. The blood that was shed as a sacrifice in the Old Testament speaks of the blood of Jesus Christ.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

If you want to be a river of blessing, you've got to be humble and holy. Holy is a word that we don't like anymore, and it's often used in a derogatory way. But we are to be holy, and the only way to be holy

is to let your water flow past the altar where Jesus' blood was shed for cleansing.

Heated source—The waters flowed toward the east, where the sun would heat the morning chill. They also flowed from the south side of the altar, the sunny side of the altar.

As Christians, we need to ask God to give us warm hearts full of concern so that what flows out will come from a sunny side of our disposition. We should want people to come to church and feel the warmth of Jesus. We need to greet guests with the enthusiasm and love of Jesus Christ. Don't look down your long nose at those who are doing things you consider unholy. If your heart is not on fire for Jesus Christ, you're doing more to prevent revival than they are. If people can't see that you love Jesus, or can't sense it, it's a superficial enthusiasm. We should have a holy glow and a warm-hearted flow pouring out of us. You should want people to come back to your church and to be around you because you warm them and make them want the things of God.

This is the mysterious source of the river. It comes from under the threshold, goes past the altar, and comes from the sunny side. It is a wonderful and mysterious river.

PUT IT IN WRITING

- Why is humility an important part of revival? What would happen if we called others to repent without first repenting ourselves?
- How does a person become holy? How is your behavior different because of your relationship with Christ?
- Are you a warm person? How do you welcome others into your church?

When we're honestly, truly broken and humbled before God, we don't strut into the presence of God or sit heady, high-minded, unbent, and unbroken.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 3

THE LIVING WATER'S COURSE

PONDER IT

Second, notice the marked course of the river. This humble, holy, heated flow becomes an ever-deepening, ever-widening river. It's a supernatural river because there are no tributaries.

> **He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side. And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river (Ezekiel 47:2-6).**

The Mississippi River is a mighty river. Even though it starts with a trickle flowing out of Lake Itasca in Minnesota, many tributaries feed into it. By the time it reaches the Gulf of Mexico, it becomes the Mississippi Delta, 87 miles wide.

But the river in Ezekiel has no tributaries; it is supernatural. Even without other rivers flowing into it, it grows in width and in depth. In the vision, Ezekiel travels with a man with a measuring line who measures the river. They are moving in about 500-yard increments through the water. At first, they can wade in it because it is ankle deep. For the Christian, this is like daily walking in the Spirit. Then the water gets deeper, up to the knees. This is like praying in the Spirit. In another 500 yards, the water becomes waist deep. This is like the strength in the

Spirit. In the Bible, the loins or thighs of the body are considered the center of your strength. In the final 500 yards, the river is so deep and the waters are so forceful that they couldn't pass through it—these are waters that you're swept up in, waters that you're carried along by. This is true enthusiasm that overtakes you, and you go where it takes you.

This passage illustrates a genuine Holy Spirit control of your life where you step into the water of revival, or the water of revival is flowing out of you. It is getting ever wider and ever deeper. What a mighty force this river is!

You can't stop a river that is flowing. If you dam it up, it will rise up and overflow the dam. The only place that you can stop a river is at its source. The only thing that can stop the river of revival in your life is you. Nobody can stop a river unless they stop it at the source. This is a supernatural river.

PUT IT IN WRITING

- How do you experience the Holy Spirit in your own life?
- What level of depth are you experiencing in your spiritual life today: ankle deep, knee deep, thigh deep, or completely carried away?

The only thing that can stop the river of revival in your life is you.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 4

THE LIVING WATER REACHES DEPRESSED, DRY, DEAD PLACES

PONDER IT

Yesterday we looked at the marked course of this river of revival. Today we'll **discover where it flows:**

> **When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. Then he said to me: "This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed" (Ezekiel 47:7-8).**

Into depressed places—The water starts at the temple, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. The Mount of Olives and temple mount in Israel are about 2,700 feet above sea level. But as you turn eastward, the topography changes and slopes down. Finally, you come to the lowest place on the face of the earth, the Dead Sea, which is about 1,400 feet below sea level.

We live in a land of depressed people, people who are struggling and don't know what to do. They have sick loved ones, are out of work, have family troubles, and are confused, unsatisfied, and fearful. We can't just tell them to try harder and do better. A supernatural river needs to flow out of you into those depressed places so that you can be a river of revival.

Into desert places—These waters go down to the Judean desert, the Arabah. Nothing much grows there—no real fruit, flowers, or succulents. Some people are living desert-parched lives. They don't know the joy that you know. They don't have the answers to life that you have. Instead, they have turned to other dead things like drugs or alcohol. All the hope they have is getting sicker and sicker.

Into dead places—The river flows into the Dead Sea. Organic life can't live in it. The Dead Sea receives water from the Jordan River, but it doesn't flow anywhere else because it's below sea level and is almost 1,000 feet deep. The waters that flow into it are mostly fresh. With the constant evaporation in that hot climate, the salt does not evaporate. It just gets more and more concentrated. The salt in the Dead Sea is ten percent saltier than the salt in the ocean, but nothing can live in it.

Not only are people around us depressed and dry, but they are also dying and going to Hell. They are not just in far-away countries, they are living next door to you and working with you.

> **The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself (Ezekiel 18:20).**

A river of life has to flow out of you so that people around you can have life. People are slipping out through the jaws of death into a Christ-less eternity, and many are dead while they live. This is the force of the river, and it flows into the depressed, desert-dry, and dead places.

PUT IT IN WRITING

- Do you care about the people around you who don't know Jesus? Is there something about your life that will change their lives?
- Where is God calling you to go to share the Gospel? How can you minister to those who are around you?

The world is not looking for a new definition of the Gospel; the world is looking for a new demonstration of the Gospel.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 5

THE LIVING WATER'S FORCE

PONDER IT

Third, notice the mighty force of the river. Let's think about the force of the river and what happens wherever it flows:

The trees will grow. It is dry and barren from Jericho to the Dead Sea. But Ezekiel saw green, succulent trees growing by the river that flowed from the temple.

> **When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other (Ezekiel 47:7).**

Symbolically, this represents healthy Christians who find strength and life by becoming trees that will not wither. A healthy saint is like a tree planted by water. (See Psalm 1:3.)

The fish will go. The deadly waters of the Dead Sea will be healed.

> **"And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes" (Ezekiel 47:9).**

Jesus tells us that we're to be fishers of men. (See Matthew 4:19.) But we don't catch very many fish because we're fishing in a stagnant pond. When the Church gets this right, we can have genuine revival, not evangelism. Evangelism is the fruit of revival. Revival is the river flowing.

On the Day of Pentecost, about 120 disciples began to pray, praise, and give glory to God and witnessed a mighty demonstration of the Holy Spirit. God's Word tells us that the multitude came together and were impacted by 120 people. (See Acts 1:15; 2:6.)

The unsaved will come when they see the reality of Jesus Christ reflected in the lives of Christians. The world is not looking for a new definition of the Gospel; the world is looking for a new demonstration

of the Gospel. When you get right with God, your life itself will be a testimony.

Think about what it must be like for a person coming to a cold, dead, dry, unrevived church. Think about people whose loved ones begged them to come to church. They finally come just one time. They sit there listening to the choir sing, but there's no enthusiasm. The preacher speaks but he isn't anointed by God and doesn't even use the Bible. Everybody is cold and clammy. Those visitors will leave and, most likely, won't come back.

If people come to your church and find that the Spirit of God is present—the river is flowing, the people are praising God, and revival is on the face of the choir—they'll have a different response. It's in the handshake of the usher and the way the congregation sings. They'll stop ticking things off the program with their pens, waiting for it to be over. They'll lift up their heads, look around, and decide that you all really believe. Before long, they'll be believing also.

PUT IT IN WRITING

- To which dead areas of your life has God brought new life? How has your life been transformed since you became a Christian?
- What do you think unsaved people experience at your church when they come to visit?

Evangelism is the fruit of revival.
Revival is the river flowing.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 6

THE LIVING WATER'S HEALING POWER

PRACTICE IT

Yesterday we learned that where the water flows, the trees will grow and the fish will go. Today we will see two more ways it brings healing.

The fruit will show.

> **"Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine" (Ezekiel 47:12).**

This is a story from Pastor Rogers about the fruit of the Spirit:

> Do you know what I want my life to be? I want my life to be an encouragement to you and to me so that people will see the fruit of the Spirit in us. You know what the test of my life is, the test of my ministry? It's not how many buildings we have. It's not the size of our Bible study. It's not how much money we receive. It's not how well we're organized. It's not even how wonderful the services are. The test of my ministry is this: are you becoming more like Jesus?

> **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law (Galatians 5:22–23).**

That is a description of the character of Jesus Christ. When a river is flowing out of you, out of your innermost being, you will be discipled and become fruitful.

The health will grow. We might refer to the Church as a mighty army, but often the body of Christ is sick, weak, and anemic. Going

to church is good, but don't ever think you've done God a favor by being there. Church is only to get you ready to do what you need to do. You're to have a healing force on this world. Everywhere you go, there is to be spiritual health because the river is flowing out of you and touching lives.

Jesus tells anyone who is thirsty to come to Him and drink. (See John 7:37.) It begins with a thirst. If you're thirsty and want more of God, you can have all you want. Then, if you want more, you can have it. Jesus said:

> **"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).**

A shallow thirst leads to a shallow satisfaction. A deep thirst leads to a deep satisfaction.

There will be those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who don't even know anything is happening. As you consider which of these you are, ask yourself how thirsty you are. It's not a one-time thing; it is a constant thing. You drink and keep on drinking. There are people where you live and work who need to be touched by a river of life, and you can be that river.

PROCLAIM IT

If you want to know more about what it means to be a Christian, we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to **lwf.org/discover-jesus**, scrolling down the page, and clicking on *I BELIEVE*.

Pray for revival and ask God to start with you. Ask God to give you someone with whom you can share the Gospel this week.

If you're thirsty and want more of God, you can have all you want.

ADRIAN ROGERS

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When you think about revival, perhaps you envision big tents with fiery sermons. Perhaps you remember days of sitting on a hard pew and going to church night after night. Perhaps you think of throngs of people filling football stadiums for a special event. This may be what revival looks like on the outside, but genuine revival is a deep work of God that causes repentance and unleashes God's power in our lives. It begins as an internal work that is so transformational it becomes external.

For the follower of Jesus, revival starts with you, right here and right now. You are God's holy temple, and you can have floods of victory in your life and experience transformation. This eight-week study shows you how to be a vessel that brings rivers of revival to those around you. Revival starts with you and spreads to your family, your church, your nation, and the world!

Pastor, teacher, and author **ADRIAN ROGERS** has introduced people all over the world to the love of Jesus Christ, and has impacted an untold number of lives by presenting profound truth, simply stated.

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