

**CRUCIAL ASPECTS OF GOD'S ECONOMY
PORTRAYED IN EXODUS (2)—PROVISION**

Message Seven

Drinking and Flowing the Water of Life

Scripture Reading: Exo. 17:6; John 4:14, 23-24; 6:57; 7:37-39; Rev. 21:6; 22:17;
1 Cor. 12:3, 13; Eph. 5:18-20; Col. 3:16; Acts 2:21; Rom. 1:16

- I. God's intention in His economy is to be the fountain, the source, of living waters to satisfy His chosen people for their enjoyment, with the goal of producing the church as God's increase, God's enlargement, to be God's fullness for His expression—Jer. 2:13; John 4:14.**
- II. We have pointed out repeatedly that God's intention is to work Himself into us to be our life and our everything; but we still need to be impressed with the fact that the way God works Himself into us is through our eating and drinking of Him—v. 14; 6:57:**
- A. According to the Bible, drinking is more important than eating; if we do not know how to drink, we cannot be proper Christians; if we know the science of drinking, we shall be able to drink knowingly and purposely—Psa. 36:8; Rev. 22:17:
1. The first aspect of the science of drinking is that we have been positioned to drink; as long as we have been baptized into the Lord, we have the position to drink of the living water—1 Cor. 12:13.
 2. The second aspect of the science of drinking is the need of thirst; even though we have been positioned to drink, we shall not drink unless we are thirsty—Exo. 17:3a; John 7:37; Rev. 21:6; cf. Psa. 42:1.
 3. We also need to come to the Lord; even though we have been positioned to drink and are thirsty, we still need to come to the Lord again and again—John 7:37; Rev. 22:17.
 4. Another aspect of the science of drinking the living water is that we need to ask the Lord for this water—John 4:10; 7:37; Rev. 22:17.
 5. Although we have been positioned to drink and are thirsty, and although we may come to the Lord and ask of Him, we do not actually drink until we call on the name of the Lord—Acts 2:21; 1 Cor. 12:3, 13; John 7:39; Rev. 22:17.
- B. According to John 4, to worship God in our spirit is to drink of Him; when we drink of Him as the water of life, we worship Him in a genuine way—John 4:23-24.
- C. The Triune God works Himself into our being as we eat and drink of Him; as our food and water, He enters into us to be one with us organically; if we see that God's intention is to work Himself into us, we shall automatically eat and drink of Him.
- III. Without the flowing of the water of life, our drinking is in vain; if we do not flow, we shall not be able to continue drinking; the genuine drinking of the water of life depends on the flowing—John 7:37-39:**
- A. The lack of flowing may cause our thirst to disappear; if the flowing stops, our drinking will stop; and if our drinking stops, we shall lose our thirst—Rev. 21:6; 22:17; John 4:10; Isa. 55:1.

- B. Since we have already begun to drink of the Lord to quench our thirst, we need to pay attention to our particular need for the flowing of the water—John 7:38.
- C. What is helpful to bring about the inner flowing is speaking to the Lord, by the Lord, for the Lord, in the Lord, and with the Lord; the more we speak in this way, the more we shall flow—Eph. 5:18-20; Col. 3:16; cf. Isa. 12:3-6:
 - 1. We can flow out by confessing our sins—1 John 1:9; cf. John 4:15-18.
 - 2. We can flow out by praising the Lord—Phil. 4:4; Heb. 13:15; cf. Psa. 119:164.
 - 3. We can flow out by thanking the Lord—Eph. 5:18, 20.
 - 4. We can flow out by calling on the name of the Lord—Acts 2:21; 1 Cor. 1:2; Lam. 3:55-56.
 - 5. We can flow out by singing to the Lord—Eph. 5:18b-19; cf. 1 Chron. 6:31-32; 2 Chron. 20:21-22.
 - 6. We need to flow out by preaching the gospel, making known to others what Christ has accomplished—Rom. 1:16.
 - 7. We need to flow out by functioning in the church meetings—1 Cor. 14:4b, 26.

IV. I encourage you to pray about the flowing of the water of life and to put what you have heard in this message into practice; if we practice this flowing by speaking, we shall have not only one river, but the rivers of living water will flow out from our innermost being—John 7:38.

Focus:

In this message we want to impress the young people with the science of drinking the living water. There is a science to our normal Christian practice. If we know the science, we can practice it purposefully and effectively. We also need to see that in order for us to be normal, proper, and healthy Christians, we need to flow out the Lord. We need to see that our drinking is affected by our flowing and we will not drink if we are not flowing.