

you will overflow

I. Audience Song & Prayer

A. The Cleansing Wave - #332

**O now I see the crimson wave, The fountain deep and wide;
Jesus, my Lord, mighty to save, Point to His wounded side.**

**Chorus: The cleansing stream I see, I see, I plunge and O, it cleanseth me!
O praise the Lord! It cleanseth me, It cleanseth me, yes, cleanseth me.**

**I see the new creation rise, I hear the speaking blood;
It speaks—polluted nature dies, Sinks ‘neath the cleansing flood.**

B. Prayer – Lord Jesus, the crimson wave, the magnificent flow of your mercy and grace... may they sweep over us –when we come down to the river of living water. You are wooing us, drawing us by your Spirit. Teach us today how you value us, desire us, long for us and want us safe in your Kingdom and what it will take for us to receive the fulfillment of the promise—you *will* overflow. AMEN

II. Message

A. My backyard fountain

- ✓ The Holy Spirit will direct our lives, if we permit Him to
- ✓ I remember vividly the nice backyard in the second home Laura and I owned
- ✓ A manicured lawn, with shrubs, and trees...and positioned in the very center of our backyard
- ✓ Was a fountain—it looked much like this one you see in the picture (OS)
- ✓ It was lovely, calming, soothing with the water spouting through to the top
- ✓ And through each tier as it fills, flowing into the next—such is a description of your life and mine
- ✓ There are some important things I must tell you accompanies the owning of such a fountain—

A. Agreement—You have to agree to care for the fountain

B. Alignment—You have to keep the fountain aligned

C. Attachment—Your attachment to the proper function of the fountain must remain constant

- ✓ If any one of these three functions goes missing—here’s what will happen (OS)
- ✓ I know from first-hand experience

B. I have some very important news for you this morning— (OS)

A. Your agreement with the Holy Spirit is vital >OS

B. Your alignment with the Holy Spirit is fundamental >OS

C. Your attachment to the Holy Spirit is a matter of survival >OS

- ✓ You and I need look no further than to some very important lessons in the story of the early church
- ✓ **First, your agreement with the Holy Spirit**

C. **Ananias & Sapphira's Agreement – Acts 5 >OS**

- ✓ New believers in Jesus were making their commitments to the Holy Spirit
- ✓ Hearts were being changed and as the need for financial contributions became necessary
- ✓ People were making very generous pledges
- ✓ **TEXT: Acts 4:37 READ**
- ✓ There were those who saw this and wanted to follow Barnabas' example
- ✓ **TEXT: Acts 5:1,2 READ**
- ✓ Apparently Ananias and Sapphira had agreed to do as Barnabas—sell property and bring the amount to the Apostles
- ✓ But when the property was sold they looked at each other and agreed to hold back a portion
- ✓ They went “back” on their agreement and decided to withhold a portion
- ✓ And while giving the rest, Ananias decided to take the “net portion” and give it as if it was the entire amount
- ✓ You might say, “No harm, no foul...It's theirs to give.”
- ✓ Wait a minute though... the agreed promise for them before the Apostles, the assembled believers and the Holy Spirit was what they went back on, as Ananias came to offer up the gift
- ✓ What he and Sapphira agreed to *at first* they kept portraying as what they actually were doing
- ✓ You see—agreement with the Holy Spirit is not something you or I should take lightly
- ✓ If we do, then Peter's words will come calling...
- ✓ **TEXT: Acts 5:3 l.p.** “You weren't lying to us but to God.”
- ✓ You see, ever after that first water fountain we had—Laura and I agreed, we should not have something like this we were *not* prepared to keep up

Lesson One: If you will overflow with the Holy Spirit, you will need to stick with your agreement with Holy Spirit

- ✓ **Second, comes your alignment with the Holy Spirit >OS**

D. **Gentile Believers find alignment – Acts 15**

- ✓ Bringing Jews and Gentiles together as the first Christians in the early church was no small task
- ✓ But when the Jerusalem Council met over their differences they found alignment with the Holy Spirit
- ✓ They met, prayed, discussed and here's some of what they wrote down in a letter to go out—

“For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no great burden on you (Gentiles) than these few requirements... .” Acts 15:28

- ✓ Alignment with the Holy Spirit is fundamental

Lesson Two: If you will overflow with the Holy Spirit, alignment must exist with you and the Holy Spirit

- ✓ I learned when trying to restore my backyard fountain—alignment of the different tiers of my fountain was very critical—otherwise the flow of water would be cut off and ultimately burn the pump out
- ✓ **Third, comes your attachment to the Holy Spirit**
- ✓ Paul and Silas, on the Second Missionary Journey in **Acts 16** have been “prevented from preaching the word any further in the province of Asia by the Holy Spirit
- ✓ Have you been redirected in your life these days and wondered why? I believe it’s the Holy Spirit at work
- ✓ Paul was, and had a vision, “A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!”
- ✓ It seemed that this was an “open door” by the Holy Spirit
- ✓ And so they decided to leave for Macedonia at once and remain attached to the Holy Spirit
- ✓ Very wise move...
- ✓ Soon they made landfall and they soon found themselves inland, in Philippi, a major city of that part of Macedonia
- ✓ **TEXT: Acts 16:13-15 READ**
- ✓ Imagine that, Lydia and her household, their lives were changed forever that Sabbath day
- ✓ The Philippi church had its beginning, because certain people listened, remained attached and followed the Holy Spirit
- ✓ What is the Holy Spirit preparing to do here in Menifee? Where is he at work? Are there visions that God is preparing to give to those leading in our midst?

Lesson Three: You will overflow with the Holy Spirit only as you remain attached to Him

- ✓ I can tell you, when I recall the successes I had with my fountain in my backyard—the most success came when I committed and remained attached and not detached from the care of that fountain
- ✓ Reminds me of a story— Application of Message
- E. Theresa and Donny’s Story**
- ✓ *Pitter pat...pitter pat...* Tiny drops of rain fell as Theresa’s dented Toyota idled roughly in the Taco Bell drive-through
- ✓ Theresa, a single mom, depended on welfare check to feed her 8-year old son and herself. It was 10 days till the next check would arrive and she was already broke
- ✓ Here’s how she described what happened next:
 - a. After looking under the sofa cushions, all the car seats and through the glove box
 - b. They came up with a grand total of \$4.58!
 - c. It had been a hard week and thinking was, says Theresa—“Hey, any way you look at it we aren’t going to have enough money to make it through to the next check. So let’s go out with style.”
 - d. So we headed to Taco Bell
- ✓ As we got to the drive thru window to pay, I was never so shocked in all my life

- ✓ The guy standing in the window had a big grin on his face and said, “This is your lucky day—people in front of you paid for your entire meal. They said to give you this card.”
- ✓ The card read, “We hope this *small act of service* shows you God’s love in a practical way.”
- ✓ I’ve got to tell you something, for me and my 8-year old son, Donny—this was no *small* act of love.
- ✓ It was HUGE
- ✓ We were in exactly the right place at exactly the right time to receive this touch from God when we needed it most
- ✓ The next day, Theresa and Donny attended church for the very first time
- ✓ Those tiny raindrops of generosity they experienced in God’s name made them hopeful—that perhaps God really did care about them and what they were facing

F. You—a promise of God fulfilled for someone

- ✓ Maybe like Theresa, you or someone you know has questions about God—Does God really exist?
- ✓ Does He really care about me? Are God and religion even relevant any longer?
- ✓ With all the technology, all this, all that flying at and past me—is an old-fashioned God even applicable any longer?
- ✓ No matter where we are on the faith spectrum—we all have questions
- ✓ But there are promises which answer our questions—Promises which when opened, boil down to this essential truth—

(OS) – Your life is meant to overflow with unimaginable joy and power

- ✓ Me? You might be asking—you mean me?
- ✓ Yes!
- ✓ The God of heaven promises this to you and me—
- ✓

“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

- ✓ Like that?
- ✓ Here’s another one

“Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.” John 4:13,14 NLT

- ✓ Now, if that doesn’t bring about second thoughts regarding your doubts
- ✓ Could you keep coming along with us on the journey?
- ✓ If so, you will overflow
- ✓ Let’s read this promise—

“Taste and see that the Lord is good.” Psalm 34:8 NLT

G. Lynne Tastes the Overflowing Joy

- ✓ Let me have Lynne share how tasting the joy of this overflowing life in the Holy Spirit can look
- ✓ Lynne says, “I met Gail at our husband’s office Christmas party.”
- ✓ They finished the small-talk and realized they were both stay-at-home moms with young children
- ✓ Lynne tried not to cringe with Gail wearily described her life...taking care of her three children—all of them less than 3 years old
- ✓ Lynne observed, “I am stressed-out sometimes just taking care of my 4-year old.”
- ✓ I couldn’t imagine how hard it would be to care for *three* little ones without the help and support of local friends and family
- ✓ Lynne was getting worn out just thinking about it...which might explain why she stopped thinking about it—doing so until a few days later
- ✓ Lynne says, “About this time in my life I was getting serious about Jesus in my life—so I was new at this whole prayer thing.”
- ✓ She had asked God to bless her and her family and a few friends—when Gail came to mind
- ✓ So she says, “I asked God to please send her someone to give her a day off from her parenting duties.”
- ✓ When she finished, she was feeling pretty good about what a sensitive Christian she was becoming
- ✓ But, God wasn’t quite done—as she stood and went about her business of the day, she says—“I got the sense that God wanted me to be part of his answer to my prayer for Gail.”
- ✓ She says, “I needed a little prompting—then I got her number and gave her a call.”
- ✓ “Gail,” I said, “You may not remember me but we met at the Christmas party last week. Yes, I enjoyed meeting you, too. Today I’m calling because I’m convinced your heavenly Father loves you so much he wants to give you a full day off.”
- ✓ Well, as you might have guessed—Gail wasn’t exactly sure how to respond to that
- ✓ After her silence stretched for several long seconds, Lynne jumped in—“I’m serious. You pick a day and I’ll come over and take care of your kids from 9:00 in the morning till you’re ready to come home that evening. You can go anywhere you want and do whatever you want.”
- ✓ After another pause, Gail said it was nice of me to offer and she would think about it
- ✓ Sensing that she wasn’t quite sure—Lynne pressed on, “Just pick a day and I’ll come over. And if you don’t pick a day, I’m going to show up anyway.”
- ✓ And you know what? In the end that’s just what happened
- ✓ Lynne showed up at her house one morning—after Gail knew she wasn’t crazy or a criminal
- ✓ She gave in and agreed to let me watch her children
- ✓ That when Lynne told her she had reserved a hotel room in her name if she wanted to have nice place to take a nap—and Lynne wouldn’t be upset if she didn’t use it
- ✓ Gail left the house and didn’t return again until 9:30 that evening—when she walked in
 - a. The children were all tucked in bed

- b. Her husband was watching TV
- c. Lynne had dinner waiting for her
- ✓ Speechless for a few moments—Gail finally asked with a smile on her face, “Why did you say you were doing this?”
- ✓ Lynne responded—“Because our heavenly Father wants you to know he loves you.”
- ✓ Something changed in Gail that day
 - a. The long hours away from her house and her children had enabled her to realize she had been suffocating emotionally
 - b. All the while never asking her husband or someone for help
 - c. After that day, she had the courage to ask—when she did ask, she was amazed how her husband and others were willing to lighten her load
- ✓ Lynne thought all this was a great answer to her prayer, but God wasn’t done yet
- ✓ Something even more exciting was coming
- ✓ A couple of weeks later, Gail called Lynne and asked again, “Tell me again, why did you decide to help me?”
- ✓ For the third time I repeated—“Because your heavenly Father wants you to know he loves you.”
- ✓ I could hear her quietly crying, says Lynne—when finally she broke through the tears and said, “I want to know him.”
- ✓ Gail talked to Jesus for the first time that day—she agreed to align herself to a Savior and began a friendship with him
- ✓ Again, you might think that’s the end of the story, but the Holy Spirit and Gail became attached and Lynne received a phone call a few months later and Gail shared how she had begun a ministry in her church—a ministry to give practical help to mothers of young children

III. Close

- ✓ Hard as it may be to believe, God promises to fill our flawed and imperfect lives with His Holy Spirit

(OS) “Anyone who believes in me...rivers of living water will flow from *their* heart.” John 7:38 NLT

- ✓ It’s a life overflowing...how about it? God promises—you will overflow...

IV. Prayer – In Jesus’ name I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill *us* completely with joy and peace, because we trust in him. Then you (and I) will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13 NLT) Remember, we have this treasure, irresistible light seen in the face of Jesus Christ, in these jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” (2 Corinthians 4:6,7 NIV) AMEN