



"How's Your Outflow?"



“God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God’s generosity can flow through you. Are you called to be a speaker? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Are you called to help others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then God will be given glory in

everything through Jesus Christ.”
The Apostle Peter | 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NLT)

A huge bug fell onto my patio spinning frantically – definitely no ballerina! After buzzing for over a minute it suddenly stopped. A good way to know that something is dead is when it stops moving, right? I poked it a couple of times... very dead... bizarre!

Why is the Dead Sea dead? Though living water flows in, there are no outlets. Lacking outflow, a salty brine has grown to such a concentration that it prevents life. Like the bug, the Dead Sea's death is confirmed by its lack of movement.

Peter informs us that we each are given gifts from God's great variety of spiritual gifts... we have an incoming flow of blessings! Yet lacking outflow, what happens?

Reflect: What spiritual gifts has God blessed me with?

When something in our life goes well, financial success for example, we are prone to say, "God has blessed me!" But is it truly a blessing if it doesn't flow through? Envision Scrooge from Dicken's A Christmas Carol. Though not quite dead yet, he'd become like the Dead Sea's salty brine. Not much life there!

Are your spiritual gifts prospering life? Are they glorifying God? Are blessings flowing through you?

Self-love fosters a scarcity mindset that leads us to confine our

spiritual gifts to selfish purposes. A deadly trap!

"It is possible to give freely and become more wealthy, but those who are stingy will lose everything." Proverbs 11:24

On the other hand, God is a multiplier. As we use our gifts for his glory, God generously pours his strength and energy through us. Like a single planted seed yields a bountiful basket of fruit, God multiplies life through us... a bountiful blessing for us and glory for him!

Consider: When I allow God's generosity to flow through me, life proliferates.

In a vision, a man shows the prophet Ezekiel a river flowing from the Temple out into the land. At first it's ankle deep. Further downstream it's up to his knees, then to his waist and ultimately, he had to swim across. Talk about multiplication!

"Then he led me back along the riverbank. When I returned, I was surprised by the sight of many trees growing on both sides of the river. Then he said to me, "This river flows east through the desert into the valley of the Dead Sea. The waters of this stream will make the salty waters of the Dead Sea fresh and pure. There will be swarms of living things wherever the water of this river flows. Fish will abound in the Dead Sea, for its waters will become fresh. Life will flourish wherever this water flows." The Prophet Ezekiel | Ezekiel 47:6-9

What kind of water can bring life, even to the Dead Sea?

"Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures

declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'"

Jesus Christ | John 7:38

Generous use of your spiritual gifts for God's glory opens you to be used as a conduit to carry the living water of salvation... a true blessing!

*Imagine: **Advancing my Mission opens a conduit for Jesus' living water.***

Advancing your Mission requires you to direct your spiritual gifts to serve others. As you do, life will flourish as Jesus' living water flows through you... fulfilling! In fact, you'll discover spiritual gifts you never imagined... stretching! Remember, God is a multiplier so he challenges you to be an open conduit, asking...

"How's Your Outflow?"

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- Take some time to consider: What are my spiritual gifts?
- On a scale of 1-10 (most), how's my outflow?
- What steps will I take to move myself up 1-2 notches on my self-rating over the next month?
- Who will I share these plans with? Share with them this week.

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Outflow Brings Blessings

“Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

Jesus Christ | Luke 6:38



Don't know your Life Mission?

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