

THE Best IS YET TO COME

The Best Is Yet to Come: Reverse the River *Sept 19*

Speaker: Dr. Mark Batterson

Scripture: Ezekiel 47:6-9

Series Overview

We live at the intersection of two theologies, two realities. The faithfulness of God is pursuing from the past—SO FAR SO GOD. And the sovereignty of God is setting us up for the future. We live forwards, but God is working backward. God is ordering our footsteps. God is preparing good works. We live in a fallen world, a broken world, but heaven is invading earth right here, right now. We don't believe in happily ever after. We believe in something so much bigger and better and longer—happily FOREVER after. THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

Series Discussion Questions:

- Where do I see God at work in my life?

Message Overview

The Best is Yet to Come is NOT wishing on a star, hoping your luck will change, or waiting to win the lottery. If you keep doing what you've done, you'll keep getting what you've always gotten. Your life is perfectly designed for the results you're getting! The good news? You are ONE DECISION away from a totally different life. God can deliver you in a day, but you have to back it up with daily habits.

Message-Specific Discussion Questions:

What areas of my life contain life-giving water? In what areas do I need to reverse the river?

Read Ezekiel 47:9:

We see an image of life-giving waters streaming from God's temple, making the most toxic places for life change. *"Everything flourishes"*

- **Read 1 Corinthians 3:16** – God looks at me as the place He “lives”. His temple!
- We are called to be a unique and life-giving influence in our homes, schools, workplaces...

Reflect on John 7:38 – LIFE will FLOW from those that walk in the Jesus Way.

- Who do you know that shifts the atmosphere around them for the better? Do you do the same?
- What comes out of us is an overflow of what we fill ourselves with. Is “the river” flowing in your life full of life? Which way does it flow?

If you feel like you are languishing, how do you reverse this “river”?

The only ceiling on your intimacy with God and your impact on the world is daily spiritual disciplines.

Four ways to reverse the river:

1. **Confessing sin** can be about correcting personal wrongs, and sometimes it is about community. Acting within “our 4 walls” to *be the change* that we see is needed. What is the root cause of the areas in your life that you’d like to change? What can you do about it? **(1 John 1:8-9)**
2. **Take your cues from scripture** – **(Psalm 119:11)** A daily Bible reading plan is a great way to keep these truths fresh in our hearts and minds. If you are not in the Word every day, what holds you back from doing so?
3. **Count your blessings** – Keep a gratitude journal to intentionally find the good things God is doing in your life. Check out [Upper Zoom](#) this week for a deeper dive into this topic!
4. **Prayer and fasting** – Sometimes you need to double down on your spiritual disciplines. What’s one distraction you can remove from your life this week, to be able to hear God’s still, small voice?

Find faith with your fingerprint on it. Let God be as original with others as He is with you.

*Is there a quiet stream underneath the fluctuating affirmations and rejections of your little world?
Is there a still point where your life is anchored and from which you can reach out
with **HOPE** and **COURAGE** and **CONFIDENCE**?*

Prayer: Lord help me refine my daily habits and disciplines this week, to be closer to YOU and where YOU are working! To FLOURISH!

Practical Application

- o Check out NCC Daily. A short 5-minute audio podcast through the [NCC mobile app](#). Review last week's thoughts and pick a habit to change. Remember that progress is more important than perfection.
- o Plug into a small group. ncc.re/groups. Find others that shift the atmosphere around them for the better.
- o Hack some good habits in a prayerful virtual gathering by joining the [Upper Zoom](#) each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:14am. **Register at ncc.re/UpperZoom**