



---Message Notes

The Best is Yet to Come: Reverse the River

Dr. Mark Batterson, September 18/19th

[Ellis Chesbrough](#)

You are ONE DECISION away from a totally different life. This can be a day when decades happen!

[Ezekiel 47:6-8](#)

[Ezekiel 47:9](#)

[Ezekiel 47:12](#)

Which way is the river flowing in your life?

- Are you being conformed to the world around you or are you being transformed by the Spirit of God within you?
- Are you reacting to the way other people treat you?
- Or are you proactively operating in the opposite spirit?
- Are you turning the other cheek and blessing those who curse you?
- Are you shifting the atmosphere with faith, hope and love?
- Are you sucking the life out of everyone else, or are you the life of the party because you bring an extra measure of grace? Because you speak the truth but you do it in love, because your words are life giving to people around you.

GIGO - Garbage In, Garbage Out

Most of us act like we're an exception to that rule.

Newsflash: you are not the ANOMALY!

Not unlike Ellis Chesbrough, you have to RAISE THE LEVEL OF YOUR PRAYER LIFE or THOUGHT LIFE or FAMILY LIFE. You have to build an INTAKE TUNNEL with daily spiritual disciplines. You have to REVERSE THE RIVER.

[1 Corinthians 3:16](#)

You are not only the IMAGE OF GOD. You are a TEMPLE of the Holy Spirit.

What we believe is NOT logical, but it's not illogical either. It's THEOLOGICAL. God doesn't fit within the four dimensions of space/time He created, let alone the logical constraints of our left brain.

According to Quantum Mechanics, **atoms are 99.99% empty space**. I think the Holy Spirit dwells in us at a subatomic level. There are roughly 125 trillion synapses in the cerebral cortex. Those synaptic gaps measure less than a thousandth of a millimeter, and I think that's where the Holy Spirit dwells.

[Acts 17:28](#) says, "In Him we live and move and have our being." The Greek word is *kineo*, which is where we get KINETIC, as in kinetic energy. Somehow, someway, the Holy Spirit animates us and energizes us and motivates us at a subatomic, at a synaptic level.

[John 7:38](#)

We need friends who say what needs to be said.

At some point, the pain of STAYING THE SAME is greater than the PAIN OF CHANGE.

Four Ways to Reverse the River

1. CONFESS Your Sin
2. Take your CUES from Scripture
3. COUNT Your Blessings
4. DOUBLE DOWN with PRAYER and FASTING

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

1. CONFESS Your Sin

RACISM, SEXISM, VIOLENCE. Biblically speaking, those are PRESENTING PROBLEMS. The root cause is something the Bible calls SIN. We have a SIN PROBLEM, and until we deal with the root cause, those presenting problems will continue to present themselves.

We need to stop POLITICIZING people and start THEOLOGIZING.

- THEOLOGY of DIGNITY
- THEOLOGY of EQUALITY
- THEOLOGY of SOLIDARITY

[1 John 1:8-9](#)

2. Take your CUES from Scripture

Are you more concerned about being POLITICALLY CORRECT or BIBLICALLY CORRECT?

At the end of the day, you have to figure out who you're going to offend? If you're afraid of offending God, you will offend some people along the way. You might even OFFEND SOME PHARISEES. If you're afraid of offending people, you will OFFEND GOD.

[Wesleyan Quadrilateral](#)

If you want to REVERSE THE RIVER, you need a DAILY DOSE of God's word. And the best way to do that is a [DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN](#). It'll help you swim upstream when that cultural current gets really strong.

3. COUNT Your Blessings

Will share in [Upper Zoom](#) on Tuesday September 21st.

One of the best ways to reverse the river is to count your blessings by keeping a gratitude journal.

4. DOUBLE DOWN with PRAYER and FASTING

[Matthew 17:21](#)

You have to participate in your healing.

Daniel 10 day fast

Esther 3 day fast

Nehemiah rebuilds the temple - catalyst days of prayer and fasting

Jesus fasted for 40 days

“I started to see how much I had fallen in love with my own COMPULSIONS and ILLUSIONS, and how much I needed to STEP BACK and WONDER.” - [Henri Nouwen](#)

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?

If you want to reverse the river, it starts by surrendering your life—your time, your talent, your treasure, your past, your present, your future—to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

[Romans 10:9-10](#)

[1 Corinthians 6:19](#)

A PRAYER to PRAY:

Our Father in Heaven help us to be the clear river that runs with you. Let our waters flow in the direction of love, hope, peace, and joy. Let us spread those blessings and emotions to those around us. Let us not be a garbage in garbage out type of person but a Holy Spirit in, Holy Spirit out type. Send us friends who will speak truth with love. Let us be those types of friends to people in our lives as well. Show us the moments in our day when we can focus on You, study Your word, meditate on Your truths. Give us the wisdom to know when it is time to fast and prayer for breakthrough and the ability to succeed in all these ways. Let our rivers flow in the direction that You desire over what the world tells us is right. All this we pray in Jesus' name Amen.