

Outflowing Streams

by D.L. Moody

D.L. Moody emphasizes the necessity of being filled with the Holy Spirit to effectively testify for Christ and fulfill God's purpose in our lives.

Scripture: Matthew 5:16, Luke 6:38, John 7:38, John 15:5, Acts 1:8, Romans 15:13, 2 Corinthians 4:7, Ephesians 5:18, Philippians 2:13, 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Topics: "Holy Spirit", "Empowerment for Service"

Description

D.L. Moody emphasizes the necessity of being filled with the Holy Spirit to effectively share the Gospel and serve God. He illustrates that just as a thirsty person reaches for water, people are drawn to those who are filled with the living water of Christ. Moody warns against carrying 'empty buckets'--representing a lack of spiritual substance--stating that true power comes from being emptied of self and filled with God's Spirit. He encourages believers to seek this fullness, as it enables them to overcome sin and testify for Christ in a world that desperately needs His grace. Ultimately, he reminds us that our purpose is to glorify God, and we cannot do so without His empowering presence.

Transcript

I would like to see some one just full of living water; so full that they couldn't contain it; that they would have to go out and publish the Gospel of the grace of God. When a man gets so full that he can't hold any more, then he is just ready for God's service.

When preaching in Chicago, Dr. Gibson remarked in the inquiry meeting, "Now, how can we find out who is thirsty?" Said, he, "I was just thinking how we could find out. If a boy should come down the aisle, bringing a good pail full of clear water, and a dipper, we would soon find out who was thirsty; we would see thirsty men and women reach out for water; but if you should walk down the aisle with an empty bucket, you wouldn't find it out.

People would look in and see that there was no water, and say nothing." So said he, "I think that is the reason we are not more blessed in our ministry; we are carrying around empty buckets, and the people see that we have not anything in them, and they don't come forward." I think that there is a good deal of truth in that. People see that we are carrying around empty buckets, and they will not come to us until they are filled. They see we haven't any more than they have.

We must have the Spirit of God resting upon us, and then we will have something that gives the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; something that gives the victory over our tempers, over our conceits, and over every other evil, and when we can trample these sins under our feet, then people will come to us and say, "How did you get it? I need this power; you have something that I haven't got; I want it." O, may God show us this truth. Have we been toiling all night? let us throw the net on the right side; let us ask God to forgive our sins, and anoint us with power from on high.

But remember, He is not going to give this power to an impatient man; He is not going to give to a selfish man; He will never give it to an ambitious man whose aim is selfish, till first emptied of self; emptied of pride and of all worldly thoughts. Let it be God's glory and not our own that we seek, and when we get to that point, how speedily the Lord will bless us for good. Then will the measure of our blessing be full. Do you know what heaven's measure is? Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. If we get our heart filled with the Word of God, how is Satan going to get in? How is the world going to get in, for heaven's measure is good measure, full measure, running over. Have you this fullness?

If you have not, then seek it; say by the grace of God you will have it, for it is the Father's good pleasure to give us these things. He wants us to shine down in this world; He wants to lift us up for His work; He wants us to have the power to testify for His Son. He has left us in this world to testify for Him. What did He leave us for? Not to buy and sell and to get gain, but to glorify Christ. How are you going to do it without the Spirit? That is the question. How are you to do it without the power of God?

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