WEEK 9

UNFORCED INFLUENCE

POWER Power to cleanse a culture.

PROMISE

The Holy Spirit creates a life of unforced influence for good.

PRAYER Flow out of me.

JOHN 7:37-39 NIV

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

CONSIDER

One of the most amazing events in creation is the Great Migration on the Serengeti. Millions of animals migrate thousands of miles to find life. As drought hits different areas of East Africa, the animals are forced to move in search of water. If you watched the event from space, you would see East Africa go from brown to green almost overnight. What causes this explosion of life? Living water. When the rains come, life flourishes. The Holy Spirit functions the same way in our lives. In the dry seasons of our lives, the Holy Spirit washes over us with living water to help us grow and mature into who God has called us to be.

PRAY

Ask God to open your heart and pour the Spirit into every area of your life. Give him access to everything. No secret compartments. Now, free from your diminished desires and misguided ambitions, ask the Spirit to use you to shape the world around you - to benefit the lives of others in supernatural ways.

Spirit, wash over me and cleanse me from everything that stands in opposition to God's will for me. Pour your life-giving presence into my life and renew the dead places in my heart. Bless others through me. Use me to advance your kingdom as I serve my family, neighbors, co-workers, and even strangers. Amen.

DISCOVER

Read: Genesis 41:14-41

Where was Joseph when Pharaoh called for him? (verse14) How did Joseph reply to Pharaoh's request to interpret the dream? (verse 16)

Why did Pharaoh select Joseph to rule over Egypt? What set Joseph apart? (verse 38)

Have you ever seen or experienced an increased influence because of the Spirit's work in you?



DISCOVER

Read: Ezekiel 40:1-4, 47:1-12

In Ezekiel's vision, God showed him a river flowing from the temple. The river was majestic, bringing life everywhere it flowed. What serves as your source of life? What is the danger in allowing a job, relationship, or status to serve as your source of hope and truth?

God showed Ezekiel a river that became increasingly deeper. (verses 3-5) How has God shown you his desire for a deeper relationship? What are the obstacles keeping you from a deep relationship with God?

ACT

Visit a river or stream. Go for a walk along the bank and meditate on the imagery of the Holy Spirit as flowing water. Observe the power and life-giving vitality the water brings. Ask God where you need his living water to pour into your life and invite him to move powerfully through you.

PRAY

In Ezekiel's vision, God showed Ezekiel how the river produced life on the banks and sustained all life, from the water to the land. Pray this week for God to flood your thoughts with living water. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal how you can let him flow through you, reaching the banks of your life.

READ

YOUVERSION Days 57-63

Numbers 24:1-9 2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 42:1-11 Ezekiel 36:22-38 Joel 2:28-32 Acts 2:14-41 Mark 13:9-13 Luke 21:10-19 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 Galatians 6:7-10 Ephesians 3:14-21 1 John 5:1-12