

WATERS TO SWIM IN

Ezek.47:3-5

The river of Ezek. 47 is a beautiful symbol of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the fullness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ. Ezekiel is speaking here of an increase of the Holy Spirit until the church enjoys the fullest revelation of Jesus that anyone has ever known.

Ankle-deep

"He led me through the water that was ankle-deep" (Ezek. 47:3). Water ankle-deep, signifies the beginning of person's faith. He knows he has been freely pardoned through faith. He has stepped into the water for the very first time. His life is now controlled (or led) by the river. Where the river goes, he goes. But his knowledge of the Word is only above the soles of his feet. As he advances in grace he learns more, and his knowledge of God deepens into a river up to the knees.

Knee-deep

"He.... led me through water that was knee-deep" (v4). Water knee-deep, means we are getting deeper down, as the water rises. The believer who is knee-deep, as passed from the preliminary stage of receiving Christ by faith, and is now experiencing a greater and deeper work of the Holy Spirit. And as he advances, his blessings also increase.

Waist-deep

"He.... led me through water that was up to the waist" (v4). When a man is waist deep, we see less of the man, and we know the waters are very deep. Christians at this stage know what it means to be girded with the mighty power of God. They are spiritually healthy and strong, because they are fully relying on God's strength.

Waters to swim in

"But now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross" (v5). The swimming Christian has got beyond his depth, and is now being lifted up by the river of God. When a person is swimming, all that can be seen of him is his head. The Holy Spirit desires that we be submerged in His will that all that can be seen is JESUS, our Head.

This last stage "Waters to swim in" represents the "Fullness of the Spirit." At this stage, self is lost in the fullness of the Spirit. Be filled with the Spirit! (Eph. 5:18).

