

# You Can Make a Powerful Difference



Discover how you can make a powerful  
difference in the lives of others

Berni Dymet

**Life Application Booklet**

YOU CAN MAKE  
A POWERFUL  
DIFFERENCE

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**by Berni Dymet**

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LIFE APPLICATION BOOKLET

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available to others

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# CHAPTER 1

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## Taking Hold of the Supernatural

Sometimes it's the things that we can't see that can have the biggest impact on our wellbeing; our blood pressure, our insulin levels and, in the supernatural realm, our spiritual health. These are all things we ignore at our peril because all too often it's the things we can't see that end up ruining our lives.

There are no symptoms for high blood pressure or high insulin levels but if we have either of them ... well, they dramatically increase our chances of heart attack, stroke and diabetes. We can't see them, we can't feel them, but when they hit, the impact is devastating and all too often fatal.

There are no symptoms for glaucoma before people notice they've lost a fair chunk of their eyesight. There are no symptoms for bowel cancer or cervical cancer until it's too late. The hidden

things, the things we can't see, the things we ignore – they are often the ones that take people's lives.

We know that that's true physically, but it's also true spiritually. As much as we might try to ignore it, as much as we may deny that there is indeed a spiritual dimension to life – what we have going on in that spiritual dimension is often what robs us of the life that Jesus died and rose again to give us. It makes sense: God is Spirit and it's what happens in His spiritual dimension that impacts so powerfully on what's going on here in our physical realm.

I spent the greater part of my life trying to ignore the spiritual dimension. But if God is indeed God – think about this – there must be a spiritual dimension. The Apostle Paul has real insight about this. Now remember, Paul is as practical as practical can be. He's not some kind of airy-fairy spiritual fruitcake. He's down to earth – he wrote almost half the books of the New Testament and by and large, he dealt with really practical issues of life. But have a listen to what he says about the spiritual dimension.

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.*  
(Ephesians 6:10-13)

We can see the people around us. We can see and feel and experience the ebbs and flows of the weather – rain today, sunshine tomorrow. We can see the stock market go up and down ... but what Paul is saying here is that that's all well and good, but there is a very real, very powerful spiritual dimension that you and I can't perceive with the sense we use in the physical dimension.

And in that spiritual realm, the devil is alive and well. He's full of tricks and there is a battle going on in the heavenly places for your soul and mine.

And when that battle is over, God's plan for you and me is that we will still be standing. And the things that rob us of the abundant life that Jesus brings are not so much the things we can see – the flesh and blood, tangible, physical things here in this world – but rather the things that are happening in the spiritual dimension, the unseen world.

*For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

Now that's hard to come to grips with. I mean, in the wealthy western world almost 75 percent of us believe in God, yet less than a third believe in the existence of the devil. Whilst in parts of Africa or Asia the demonic is overt, alive and well, and idolatry, witchcraft and devil worship are all happening there, in the west we kid ourselves that this sort of thing doesn't happen. But let me tell you, you don't have to look too far to see the devil's fingerprints on all sorts of



things, albeit it's a whole lot more subtle.

*“Pro-choice”* is about the mass genocide of children. Our economic system robs people of their health as drug and food companies push profits over people. With more than enough food to feed everyone on the planet, children starve while we party. No, you don't have to look all that far to see the devil hard at work.

But not just on a macro scale – on a personal, individual scale as well. It's the hidden things in that supernatural dimension that can end up killing us. Jesus said that:

*The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy but I have come that you may have life in all its fullness and all its abundance.* (John 10:10)

What Jesus is saying here is that it's the things that happen in the supernatural dimension at the hands of the thief, the devil, that rob us of the life that the Lord our God has planned for us – a life in all its fullness and abundance.

Well, if that's the problem, what do we do about it? Because here's the bottom line, here's what this booklet is all about: God hasn't left the likes of thee and me on this earth to cruise towards a comfortable retirement (as attractive as that may seem). No, He's left us on this earth to make a powerful difference, to witness His majesty into the lives of the desperately needy souls who are hurtling towards a Christ-less eternity.

God has left you and me on this earth to make a powerful difference for His glory. And we simply cannot do that if we are bound up in the spiritual dimension by the powers of darkness. We cannot

do that if the devil has sway over our lives.

So what is the answer? Paul goes on to tell us:

*Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.* (Ephesians 6:14-18)

The answer is to enter into that spiritual battle dressed in the supernatural spiritual armour that God provides to each one of His people. The answer is to live life as though we are indeed on a spiritual battle field (because we are) and to fight that battle in the power of God, in His truth, in His righteousness, proclaiming His Gospel, with our faith in Him, with His salvation protecting our mind, with His Word in our hands and hearts, and praying into that spiritual realm.

This is what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. This is what it means to be a servant of His on this earth. Sometimes I see spiritual attacks happening to me or the people around me. And so I pray to God about the battles happening in the spiritual dimension, not just the ones I see playing themselves out here in the physical realm.

When we claim that territory, that spiritual territory in Jesus' name, the devil and his demons have to flee. At the name of Jesus every knee must bow, every tongue must confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Amen?!

My experience is that every time I wake up in the morning and I put my feet on the deck and I step out in Jesus' name to live a good life or to tell other people about Him, the forces of spiritual darkness will come against me and it's in all sorts of different ways that that happens.

The first time I lectured at a Bible college, in just the first two hundred metres driving from my house to the traffic lights on my way to college, I almost had three cars run into me. People just came out of nowhere to try and crash into me.

Say when here in the ministry of Christianityworks, when we're close to some breakthrough in extending the reach of the Gospel – perhaps we're talking to a new radio or television network to broadcast our programs to reach countless more people in some far-off land for Christ – at those times I've almost come to expect that we're going to be attacked in some powerful way by the enemy. Perhaps one of our Board member's businesses all of a sudden, hits an unexpected crisis, or one of our key team members is hit by some illness, or ...

You name it – however the devil can disrupt God's goodness, he's going to try. Sometimes God's up to something good and Jacqui and I will start getting thoughts of doubt or fear that I need to pray through – it happens to all of us. If the devil can drive a wedge between my heart

and mind on the one hand and the powerful things that God is doing on the other, he knows he can stop countless souls from accepting Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

The devil will try to rob our peace, our joy and our abundant outlook on life and the mighty things that God wants to do through us because he knows that when we're flowing in God's plan, we're full of God's joy and the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Many years ago, when I was an officer in the army, we were training in war games. We would probe, attack and surprise the enemy and create fear and doubt – because these are weapons in warfare. And the devil does exactly the same thing. He sends his demons to disrupt and to rob us.

People sometimes look at me and say, “Why is he talking like this? What's the matter with him? Is he whacko or something?” The devil, my friend, is alive and well. You look right throughout God's Word, you look at Jesus, you look at Paul ... the spiritual forces of darkness are a powerful reality. There is a spiritual dimension and the battle in the heavenly places is as real as any physical battle that confronts us on this earth, even though we can't see it all.

Now, I'm a simple guy. I just believe Jesus and take Him at His word. His plan, very clearly, is to fill you and me to overflowing with His Spirit and when that plan is interrupted by the devil through heaviness, hatred, temptation, fear, doubt or attacks on the ministry or attacks on our family ... I don't know... I'm just a simple guy. I sit down and I pray something like this:

*Father God, I don't know exactly what's happening in the spiritual realm. But what I do know is that there's a battle going on. What I do know Lord Jesus is that You died and You rose again to give me victory so that I can have victory in that battle. I claim Your victory in my spiritual battle in the heavenly places, in the spiritual dimension. In the mighty name that is above all other names; in the name of Jesus!*

And time and time and time again, I have seen the devil come to try and attack me with a meat cleaver and yet because of this prayer, he has to flee when I pray in Jesus' name.

Jesus gave us victory on the cross. Jesus gave us a victory over death, over the devil in the empty tomb.

*Father, I ask You to give me this victory in Jesus' name.*

Now, does that sound whacko to you or is it just plain common sense?

I tell you what, it works! It's simple. We don't have to have long complicated incantations and prayers. I just have this simple little faith that says, "You know something, when I ask God for something in Jesus' name He may not do it right away or now or the next day and He may not do it quite the way I'd like Him to, but when I ask for good things in Jesus' name, my Father in heaven answers and there's one thing He doesn't want. He doesn't want me to fall into the temptations of the devil and He has already defeated the devil for me and for you through Jesus Christ. It's that simple."

Friend, listen to me. God put you on this earth to make a powerful difference. And the moment you and I stand up in the name of Jesus to make that difference, the devil will attack. Make no mistake about it. He will.

That's why we need to enter into that battle dressed in the spiritual armour that God has provided. That's why we need to fight him not in our strength but in the power of God – because when we do that, victory is assured.

And it's in that victory that you and I can make a powerful difference in this world.  
Amen?!

*Jesus disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. (Colossians 2:15)*

That's the victory that you have in Jesus Christ. And that's the victory that you need to live in if you're going to make a powerful difference for Him on this earth!

# LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

## QUESTION 1

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To what extent do you live your life acknowledging or, conversely, ignoring the spiritual realm that God speaks so often about in His Word?

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## QUESTION 3

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When was the last time that you had something really good happening in your life, and all of a sudden something else in another part of your life seemed to come against you, or turn sour all of a sudden?

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## QUESTION 5

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How might you approach those battles differently as you deal with the enemies of flesh and blood, in the light of the knowledge of the forces of evil in the heavenly places?

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## CHAPTER 2

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### The Satisfaction of Being Full

Okay, so let's move on now to having a powerful impact for Christ in this world. Because that's what this booklet is all about.

It's easy to get the wrong idea about this whole “*having an impact*” thing. It's easy to start imagining that we need to get out there and start working hard at saving the world ... and the moment we do that we can find ourselves involved in “*dead works*” as the Bible calls them. (Hebrews 9:14)

I'm not sure who said this about the work of the Holy Spirit in their life, but time and time it rings true to me:

*I may not be able to hold much, but I can overflow lots!*

Have you ever been so thirsty that you think you're going to die? But then you have a deep

drink of fresh, cool, clear, living water and it's just awesome!

I remember when I was training to be an officer in the Australian Army, we used to go out on tactical exercises for weeks at a time – war games they were called – and we'd be fighting this imaginary army and learning, I guess, how to fight a war. Back in those days, the army was heavily into “*water rationing*”; two water bottles per man per day perhaps, and that was for shaving, washing, cleaning your teeth, cooking and drinking. The aim was to teach you “*water discipline*” in case, during a real war, water was hard to come by.

So during those hot summer months with all the physically heavy work that the battle entails, it was never enough. Many a time we'd finish an attack up a steep hill under the burning noonday sun, or be digging a trench in a defensive position, and all I wanted to do was to guzzle down a whole bottle of water at once.

Of course you couldn't do that, otherwise you'd run out, so I would close my eyes and imagine that I was swimming in a nice cool river with more than enough cool, living, life-giving, thirst-quenching water. When you're that thirsty what you really want is water in abundance. You want to be filled to overflowing.

So what does it mean to be filled by God to overflowing. Not just half full, not just three quarters full, not just full to the brim ... but filled so that we overflow all His goodness and all His blessings and His Spirit into the parched, dry, desperately thirsty lives of those around us?

It's interesting that when Jesus was talking about His plan for our lives, He used thirst and water to explain what He means. I think it's because it's something we can really relate to. He meets a woman, a Samaritan, at a well and He says to her:

*Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life... (John 4:13-14)*

I wonder whether the reason that so many of God's people aren't having a powerful impact in this world for Christ is that they aren't thirsty enough for Him. Oh, we're all thirsty ... we're all looking for that special something (or someone) that will fill us with contentment and satisfaction, joy and peace but as we saw in the last chapter, our tendency is to focus on the here and now, rather than the one, true living water.

And by focussing on the here and now, by chasing after the things of this world in an effort to be filled, we are selling ourselves short; we're missing out.

AW Tozer, in his book "*The Pursuit of God*" puts it like this:

*I want deliberately to encourage this mighty longing after God. The lack of it has brought us to our present low estate. The stiff and wooden quality about our religious lives is a result of our lack of holy desire. Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth. Acute desire must be present or there will be no*



*manifestation of Christ to His people. He waits to be wanted. Too bad that with many of us He waits so long, so very long, in vain.*

May I ask you today, do you have a mighty longing after God in your heart? Or are you busy longing after the things of this world? Seriously, honestly, are you able to say to God, as the psalmist did:

*As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? (Psalm 42:1-2)*

Because in this mighty longing after God lies the secret to being filled to overflowing. And in the overflow lies the secret of impacting this world mightily for Christ.

It's true. But what is it that you thirst for? Because the one who wants to impact the world, yet doesn't long deep in his or her heart for Christ, is condemned to a life of dead works.

In Christ is the power. In Christ is the overflow of living water. The woman to whom he spoke those words said to Jesus:

*"Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water ..."* (John 4:15)

And in that very same chapter, we're told of how she brought many to Jesus. It's all about the overflow, do you see?!

*Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."*  
(John 4:39)

I wonder sometimes whether in life we don't make things just a bit too complicated. For me, faith is a simple thing. I read what Jesus says. I hear what God has to say to me and then I say to myself, "Well okay, if that's from God, then that's what I'm going to believe, even if my circumstances are screaming at me saying that's never going to be possible. You're never going to have a fountain of spring water gushing up in you."

And every time my feelings or the things that are going on around me scream at me, "God's a liar, God's a liar, God's a liar!" I'm just going to pick up that Book and go to that passage again and read what Jesus had to say again. I'm just going to believe in Him and not all these other things. This is what it means to lay hold of the promises of God. This is what it means to fight the battle in the spiritual dimension, not just in the physical realm.

Now you might say to me, "But Berni, that's unrealistic. I've been trying to have a life of peace and joy and abundance. It seems like forever and it's just not happening for me."

Look at His promise again, friend. Let's read it together:

*On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone (not just the "special people", but anyone and everyone) who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink (not just the super-spiritual people but "whoever believes in me"). As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said*

*this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

(John 7:37-39)

There are three parts to that promise. The first one is that anyone who is thirsty (anyone!) can come to Jesus to drink; when life is dry and parched and empty, if anyone is thirsty – you know what anyone means? – anyone means anyone. Come to Jesus and He will fill you full of His water – a living water – that when we drink, it will mean that you will never be thirsty again.

The second thing He says is, “and whoever believes in me” can come to Him to drink. You see, it’s a faith thing. When He says, “whoever believes in me” that word “in” means literally “into”. So it says that: “whoever believes into me”. What does that mean?

Well, I can look at a chair in the distance and believe that it will hold me and I’m believing in it ... from a distance. But if I want to believe *into* the chair, I walk over and I sit down in the chair and I say, “You see, the chair can hold me.” I’ve put my faith into the chair. And so Jesus says, “Whoever believes what I say, whoever reads what I said and says, “You know something, like a little child I’m going to believe and accept that from Jesus; I’m going to live my life as though that’s true. I am going to trust my life into His hands. I am going to believe Jesus with my life ...”

“Whoever believes into me, from their belly rivers of living water...” – not just a trickle, not just a stream, not just one river – rivers plural...

get it? An abundance, a floodtide of blessing of the Holy Spirit will overflow out of that person. Do you believe that or not?!

In the previous chapter, we looked at some of the things that can stop that from happening; the blockage, our own rejection of God, the compromises, the sin, the devil in the spiritual realm robbing us of what God wants us to have. And you might say, “Berni, I think you’re being unrealistic. I have problems and stresses and strains in my life.”

Absolutely, Jesus promises those too. Look at how He trained His disciples. He promised them all those things and He never promised them that He would somehow lift us out of those difficulties and trials and exempt us from suffering. To the contrary, He promised the absolute opposite. He said:

*I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution (tribulation, pressures that will squeeze the life out of you). But take courage; I have conquered the world! (John 16:33)*

But in the middle of all that, He also promised that He would fill us to overflowing in this thirsty, parched, dry place. He would let us experience the incredible satisfaction of a deep drink of His spiritual, living water. Now we might be spiritually or emotionally thirsty or parched or dry and Jesus says, “Come to me and I’ll give you the Spirit, the Holy Spirit. I’ll fill you with Him to overflowing.”

Of course, we’re all different. We’re all close to God in different ways. Some people do it by singing – other people like me get up early in

the morning and pray, other people love to read, other people find Jesus most right out there in the middle of life. And there are combinations and permutations of all those things but the consistent message of God's word is this:

When we draw close to Jesus, He draws close to us (James 4:8). That's a special thing, and there is such an incredible satisfaction in being not just full of the Spirit but being filled to overflowing with His Holy Spirit. Jesus fills us in ways that nobody or nothing else can.

The problem is that so many of His people have been living so dry for so long that they've accepted that as being normal. It's not!

Whilst there may be some super-spiritual people out there who are filled to overflowing, we can't imagine how God could ever fill us with His Spirit – how He could ever make a fountain of living water bubble out of us, so that others may come and meet Jesus and drink from that fountain, as the Samaritans did because of that adulterous woman at the well (anyone ... whoever ... remember?!).

But that my friend is the normative Christian life.

We come to Him thirsty, we drink a deep draught of living water and because God is God, His Spirit flows out of our hearts in a floodtide of blessing into the parched, dry lives of the lost and hurting folk around us.

That's the way it's meant to work in my life and in yours.

Can I encourage you today? Don't accept second best. Don't accept a dry, parched life.

Don't accept anything else, don't settle for anything less than the fullness of God in your life – the very presence of Jesus through His Spirit in you.

Thirst ... then wait to be filled by Him and just don't accept anything less.

*As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? (Psalm 42:1-2)*

# LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

## QUESTION 1

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I want to circle back and ask you, how thirsty are you for Jesus? If the answer is not a lot, then let me encourage you to spend every day this week in Psalm 42. Let the Lord make you thirsty.

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## QUESTION 2

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Okay, let's go back to that festival with Jesus, (John 7:37-39). How much do you think He is talking to you here? Do you find yourself in the "anyone" and "whoever" or do you still believe that He is speaking to someone else?

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## QUESTION 3

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Let's join Jesus and the woman at the well. Look at her background (John 4:16-30). In the context of the day, how worthy was she of Jesus' favour and power?

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## QUESTION 5

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Why do you think Jesus chose her above everyone else? What does that choice say to you about His preparedness to fill you to overflowing? To use you powerfully in the lives of others?

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# CHAPTER 3

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## The Joy of the Overflow

There are so many good things out there in life, and it's great to get our fill. But what's even better is when we're so full of goodness that we overflow right into the lives of other people.

Just stop and think about that. Instead of feeling pressured or burdened by the responsibility to tell others about Jesus, you choose to hunger and thirst for Him and be overjoyed as He fills you to overflowing with God Himself; God the Holy Spirit.

I love to see other people doing what God made them to do, being who God made them to be. It's awesome when they excel at that: a brilliant musician or a sports person or someone who's great at caring for other people, or a great organiser or leader – whatever it is. And conversely, it seems such a terrible tragedy to me to watch someone who's gifted by God in one

way trying to be something else, trying to do something that they were never made to do.

It never ceases to amaze me how different we all are and how when someone discovers their unique gig in life – whatever that may be – what a wondrous thing that is to behold. For me, it leaves me in awe of God, of His grace to let us have gifts like that – His imagination, His plan to bless each one of us through the gifts and the abilities of other people.

*For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.*

(Romans 12:4-8)

Do you see what God is saying to us there through the Apostle Paul? *Whatever it is that I've gifted you to do, go and do that to the best of your ability!*

Sometimes we get all silly and we compare ourselves to other people and think to ourselves, “Oh well, I can't do that”. Of course we can't – it's not what God made you to do. He made you to be ... well, you – and me to be me; to be and to excel at whatever He's gifted us in our DNA to do. In fact, it's a real passion of mine to see other people living out who God made them to be in the plan that He has for their lives.

And when we're right in that sweet spot there's just nothing better. That's why I so enjoy doing what I'm doing right now. I'm custom-made for this gig. There are a whole bunch of other things that I can't do but I love, I absolutely love sharing the good news of Jesus with you.

And that my friend is Jesus' ideal plan for our lives – a plan to use us as the entry point for His floodtide of blessing into this world, given the unique way in which He's made each one of us. In the previous chapter we looked at this passage, and I want to circle back to it again because it is so powerful. It's an absolute game-changer in our understanding of what it means to make a powerful difference in this world.

*On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone (not just the "special people", but anyone and everyone) who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink (not just the super-spiritual people but "whoever believes in me"). As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39)*

This picture for the "anyone" and the "whoever", for you and for me, is for God to fill us to overflowing. When we're thirsty, we go to Jesus and we drink and we believe and then rivers of living water, His Spiritual blessing, flow out of us. The Bible says literally:



*From our bellies into the world around us rivers,  
a floodtide of blessing.*

You know, near the delta of a river when there's a flood, all the wonderful silt goes out into the land and makes the land rich and fertile and things grow and they come to life. That's the picture. It's almost like we're a channel, an entry point for God's blessing, a vessel used in His service.

When I look around at the people I know, it never ceases to amaze me how different we all are. A friend of mine, Bob, who's a counsellor, he sits and listens to people and empathises and helps them think through and work through their problems. I couldn't do that. Another good friend of mine, Laurie, he's a gentle, pastoral man who has a special ministry travelling from church to church going through hurts; sometimes when they go through splits or they sack their pastor or whatever went on. His ministry is to go and to be their pastor for the next few months or even the next few years and bring reconciliation and forgiveness and healing into that place. It's a really special ministry. I couldn't do that.

Another friend of mine, James, he's the baby boomer social director at our Church. He's always organising for us to get together or to go away for weekends and he ushers in a sense of community. He loves doing that, he's passionate about it. That's not me either.

The other people I really admire are school teachers. I spoke recently at a gathering of three hundred high school teachers. Now those people, I reckon, deserve a medal. I mean, I definitely couldn't do what they do.

All these comparisons! By now I could be tearing my hair out. I could be feeling really insecure. Wow, I can't do any of those things that those other people can do. What good am I?

Me, I just sit in a radio or a television studio behind a microphone or in front of a camera, telling stories. How boring is that? What use is that? And yet, when I'm doing what God made me to do it's such an incredible joy.

There's a reason for that:

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. (Ephesians 2:9,10)*

We have not only been saved as a free gift of God (as though that weren't blessing enough) but we've been saved with a purpose. Right from the beginning, those same hands that built the chairs and tables in that Nazarene carpenter's shop, those same hands that flung a trillion, trillion stars into space, those same hands that were brutally nailed to that cross, fashioned you and me into precisely what God wanted us to be.

We are His workmanship – we are who we are by the sovereign choice of the living God – for one purpose and one purpose alone: to do the good works that He prepared beforehand for us to do!

It is your decision and mine to draw close to Jesus, to get to know Him and to be filled by His Spirit. And when we're thirsty enough to go

to Him for our spiritual infilling, that inflow, as awesome as it is, will overflow.

I was worshipping at church recently and it was such a delight to sing praises and to bow down my life before God but if that's all I did with my faith it would get boring. If you filled up and you filled up and you filled up with God but you never let any of Him flow out of you, I think you'd explode.

You know where there's as much – in a sense, an even greater – delight for me? In the overflow – when I see those rivers of living water flow out from me, from who He made me to be with all my gifts and my limitations, from my belly and my heart; rivers of living water in a floodtide of blessing into your life and into the lives of others; when I'm doing what He made me to do; when I'm writing books like this one; when I'm telling Jesus stories on air; when I'm preaching the Gospel at some church somewhere in the world. That's where there is such great joy – in letting the Holy Spirit overflow through the gifts that God wove into our DNA.

Now that doesn't mean that there aren't some days that are really, really hard or I'm tired or I'm sick. All of those things happen too.

They happen in my life and they happen in your life. We all have pressures and tensions and conflicts some days. But we need both to be filled and to be fulfilled. The Holy Spirit in and rivers of living water out.

On the one hand, faith without works is dead. That's the inflow without the outflow. If we were just to go and pray and to worship God and say,

“God, you’re a wonderful God,” but never live that out, that’s what you’d call a dead faith.

On the other hand, works without faith ... well, they’re dead works, they’re hard work. We end up pedalling and pedalling and pedalling and doing all this stuff and getting dry and burnt out.

But when we’re receiving from God the very Spirit of God, the very fullness of God, the joy of seeing His face, of worshipping Him – when we’re getting that from Him and then we step out of that quiet room and we just see how God uses our gifts and our abilities and our joy and He overflows through us into the lives of other people, that is such a sweet delight. It is such a joy. It is so fulfilling. Amen?!

People often respond to our radio and television programs here at Christianityworks, telling us what an impact they’re having, what a difference they’re making in their lives. And my response is, it is such a great joy because I love doing what I do and then the Holy Spirit just takes that and fills you with Himself through what I do so that a floodtide of blessing, in turn, will go out from you to other people. Wow, for me, it doesn’t get any better than that!

And that ... that’s God’s economy. What you’re able to do are the things that I couldn’t possibly do. That’s why, to me, the things that you do are so incredibly special. They’re so unique to you; so much part of God’s plan for who He made you to be and what your life is going to be.

God’s plan is simple and straightforward – to fill you to overflowing so that you’re full and

satisfied, and then out of that abundance to have rivers of living water, the Spirit of God Himself, flowing out of you day after day.

There are going to be stresses and strains along the way. But as many hurts as there are, He will also bring healing as He changes you and He moulds you to be even more perfect for His plan. And through those hurts, He will knock the rough edges off you so that His Spirit pours in and pours out more and more through you.

And you know, when you're using His special gift that He gave you by His sovereign choice, for His glory, you will be having the most powerful impact in this world that you possibly can have.

You can make a powerful difference, amen?!

# A Closing Prayer

*Lord God,*

*Wow! When I let your Word wash over me, I realise how feeble my dead works truly are. I can't imagine how I can have this idea that it's all up to me.*

*Lord, make me thirsty ... make me so desperately thirsty for You that nothing else will ever fill me. As the deer longs for flowing streams, so may my soul long after You O God. Make my soul to thirst after the living God!*

*And then Lord, as I believe in Jesus, fill me to overflowing. Fill me so much, make me so satisfied in You, bless me so much with Your very Presence that I simply can't contain You. Overwhelm me completely Lord God, that your Spirit, God the Holy Spirit, would overflow through the gifts and abilities, even the scars that you've given me.*

*Lord, You once said that it is to Your glory that I should bear much fruit. That is the desire of my heart; to long for You, to know You, to be filled by You, to be used of You for Your glory in the lives of those around me who so desperately need to know you.*

*This is what I ask. In Jesus' mighty name  
Amen!*

# ABOUT CHRISTIANITYWORKS

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Here at Christianityworks our passion is seeing countless lives transformed one by one, as we share the good news of Jesus through the media around the globe.

It's something that we've been doing since 1957. Of course back then we were known as Back to the Bible, changing our name to Christianityworks in 2001.

Today, the radio and television broadcasts that we produce with the support of friends like you, reach a weekly audience that we conservatively estimate to be over 20 million people in 160 countries.

We believe that as we make innovative use of mass media – radio, television, digital + online and print – God works mightily by His Spirit and His Word, transforming lives.

In fact, its not something that we just believe, it's something that we know.

We receive so many testimonies each month from around the globe, of lives that have been saved, touched and transformed as God works through the ministry of Christianityworks.

Thank you for remembering that Christianityworks is a faith based ministry. We rely on the support of friends like you to reach the lost with the saving love of Jesus.

Your secure, online gift today, will make a powerful difference in the lives of so many.

To give, just visit: [christianityworks.com/donate](http://christianityworks.com/donate).

Thank you with all my heart.

Your friend in Jesus,



Berni Dymet



Berni Dymet

## You Can Make a Powerful Difference

Many, many people believe in Jesus Christ. However, somehow there's a gap between what they believe and how they live.

It seems that other people are out there doing things for God, and yet they feel as though there's something missing in their lives in that regard. That's because there is! The Lord means for us to be Ambassadors – Ambassadors of Christ. What does that mean? How does that work?

In this latest booklet, Berni Dymet opens God's Word to discover what it really means to live out a life that truly counts for something.