

Your Kingdom Come ...
Shining Light in the
Darkness ... Minding your
Language

TRAINING FOR GUYS

I want to be relevant and connect with my mates, so surely I can swear like they do?

Let's start with the picture of the Temple of God given in Ezekiel 47, and the river of God that flows from it. This water, which flowed from the altar, brought life wherever it went (47:7). When it reached the Jordan valley it flowed on into the Dead Sea, and made the water there fresh. The most salty, uninhabitable stretch of water on earth becomes fresh when the River of God flows into it (47: 8-10). The purpose of the River is to bring this life, as it flows out from the Temple and the place of sacrifice.

This river was invisible to the naked eye, however. Ezekiel saw it in a vision. It was a picture of the purpose of God, that where His people go as they leave the temple, so His Presence and power go with them.

Now, in the New Testament the physical Temple building is superseded. Jesus described His own body as the temple: *Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.'* They replied, *'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?'* But the temple he had spoken of was his body. (John 2:19-21)



Pistyll Rhoadr, Wales

More, we are told that now our own bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit: *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?* (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Is there a River of God that flows from us, like the one that Ezekiel saw flowing from the Temple in his vision?

Let's look at Jesus and see. Jesus, as He reveals Himself in His glory in Revelation chapter one. In Revelation 1:12-18 we see Him standing surrounded by the Holy Spirit ('among the seven lampstands'). As He is described note especially how His speech is described: v16 : out of His mouth came a sharp double edged sword. This is a reference back to Hebrews 4:12 where it says that *the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.* The words that Jesus speaks are sharp, to the point, and for the purpose of bringing people to God

But it is v15 I particularly want to draw your attention to, where it says that *his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.*

continues on page 3

**Podcast this week:
Colossians 3:15 - 17**

Let the peace of Christ dwell in you richly. Being at peace with God and with each other

www.tfgministries.org.uk/podcasts

Our Father, I dunno what this is all about, but...

Your Kingdom Come

We have worshipped God in the introduction, now we are taking on the role of Priests and Intercessors to seek to establish His Kingdom on earth.

This is not just some future reality we are praying for, when Jesus returns and the 'Millennium Reign' begins. It is about *now*.

We are praying that what happens on earth today lines up with that future Kingdom. But it isn't just about 'them' ...it's especially about 'us' and even 'me'.

When we gave our lives to Jesus we moved from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light (Colossians 1:12-14), so we are praying that we might live our lives in that kingdom. We are praying that we might line up with the ways and thinking of that kingdom.

Then we are praying for God's Church, the Body of Christ, that together we might reflect God's Kingdom in all we are and all we do. This starts with being a people committed to loving each other and spreading that love into the world, but it goes on to include seeing the life of Christ demonstrated fully through His Body. All the things Jesus did - and more - now, today (John 14:12).

Finally, we are praying too for more people to become part of the kingdom... for the spread of the kingdom. For laws on earth to be enacted that line up with the ways of the kingdom.

For love, and joy, and peace, and so forth - the things of the kingdom to be established on earth.

"Change the atmosphere, build Your Kingdom here, we pray" (Rend Collective)

TODAY'S FORECAST
GOD REIGNS
AND THE SON SHINES

I want to draw together two of the recent news items covered in these pages this time.

This photo of Neil Armstrong, which in edition 2 I pointed out does not show him but instead reflects the team effort that got him to the moon.



Then 2 weeks ago we reflected on the fall from grace of Jimmy Savile.

That story has not gone away, it has only deepened. We are learning that many people knew all about his behaviour and activities but did nothing. In other words, it also took a team to allow him to do the things he allegedly did.

In many ways we should not be surprised: the phrase '*sex and drugs and rock and roll*' did not come from nowhere. It was/is almost the expected norm for that industry. So no-one stopped it.

We might get depressed about things like this, but I think instead we should rejoice when works of darkness are brought into the light. Isn't that what we are praying for when we pray 'Your Kingdom Come'? It's interesting these revelations came the week after the so-called 'National Day of Prayer' at Wembley. We were certainly praying *Your Kingdom Come* and asking for light to shine in dark places on that day.

The next step though is to pray about the reaction to the story. So far, whenever there is exposure of works of darkness, we get calls for recrimination. What is needed is not *recrimination* but *repentance*. We need to find ways for the Body of Christ to lead this without being judgmental.



The thing we should be praying for is to learn how to do that, and to be asking that light keeps exposing darkness and that this leads this nation - and the people in it - to repent.

The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked is snuffed out Proverbs 13:9

What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace.

— John Wesley Relevant comments seen on Facebook
Like · Comment · 8 hours Names covered, but you know who you are!
7 people like this.

It works the other way too. Wesley's generation worshipped in reverent awe during a move of God. These days I see young adults tweeting & chatting during worship. Let's not just tolerate worship times, let's embrace them.

continued from page 1

Jesus has already told us that His Body is the Temple. From that body we now see 'rushing waters' pouring out. Just like in Ezekiel's vision, though, there is not visible water. What pours out is alluded to as rushing water but of course is in fact words.

From the mouth of Jesus comes words – like a double-edged sword – and like the river of Ezekiel 47. Because this 'rushing water' comes from the Temple it will have the same effect as that that Ezekiel saw flowing in His vision (infact, it is probably the fulfillment of that vision). The words Jesus spoke when on earth have grown deeper as more have carried them to further and further afield, until it is a river so broad and deep you cannot see where it starts and ends. Across the whole earth those words are being spoken even today.

The effect of those words? To bring life wherever they go; wherever the river goes. Even the Dead Sea is brought to life where the words of Jesus are proclaimed in the dark places of human depravity.

Then we, whose bodies are also the Temple, need to emulate Jesus. Our words too should be words of life, emanating from the altar...the cross. So words that do not bring life should not be spoken. That is not just to say 'no swearing' but to include being careful not to say words that break down or destroy others. The things we say should bring life.

The spirit of swearing is destruction. To consider just one word that was a 'bad swear word' a generation or so ago: Damn. To say 'damn you' is to say 'may you be judged and sent to hell'. It is not a life bringing word. Other words used as swear words carry death with them as well in various ways, if only because of the spirit from which we speak them.

James wrote: *Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig-tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt*

spring produce fresh water. (James 3:10-12). He's making exactly the same point. We need to make sure that the spring we get our water from is the one in the centre of the Temple, under the Altar -at the Cross, where Jesus is, surrounded by the Holy Spirit. Our words need to flow from the 'well spring of our hearts' *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.* (Proverbs 4:23)

The words of the mouth are deep waters, but the fountain of wisdom is a rushing stream. (Proverbs 18:4)

Another verse to bear in mind is Colossians 3:8 which says *But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.* Although it's a different word in the Greek, it's worth bearing in mind that what we normally refer to as demons are usually called *unclean spirits* in the New Testament. I'm convinced that *filthy language* attracts *unclean spirits* and also that *unclean spirits* inhabit areas where they are made to feel comfortable by *filthy language*. For me, that means I won't go to watch films which have a rating above 12 as usually that means they are full of swearing these days....a far cry from *Gone With the Wind* which in 1939 offended the Hollywood watchdogs because it ended with just one banned word...*damn*.

We need to be men who declare God's praises loudly. Even when praying alone, speak out your prayers because you will be heard in the spiritual realm even if not in the physical one. We need to declare God's truths in speech and we need to bring life with our words wherever we go.

Swearing may be fashionable, and even considered 'manly' by many. But it does not come from the spring in the Temple from which the River of Life flows. I don't think it's even healthy to quote others and keep the swear words in.

If you have thoughts about this or anything else on these sheets or the podcasts, post them on the Training for Guys Facebook page

All scripture quotations from New International Version (UK)

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