# The Fellowship in Winnipeg Topic: **Built to Last - Staying Fresh by the Ministry of the Flowing Waters** Speaker: Bro Rukky Atebefia

#### Revelation 1:14-15 KJVS

His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; [15] And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

The emphasis here is that His voice is like the sound of many waters, meaning His voice flows. Unlike stagnant water that is still and soundless, His voice is as audible as the rush of a mighty ocean wave. God is still speaking today. The flowing waters speaks of the word of God spoken NOW, TODAY. John had known his masters for several years. Yet, Jesus needed to reintroduce Himself afresh. The revelation of Christ is inexhaustible. When you see Him in his new form, eyes like fire, feet like brass, it is pointed to the fact that His revelation is progressive. It is very easy for a congregation to be stuck in a place where God has moved on from. Revelations 4:1, says "come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter" Abraham, Moses, Elijah, and David were examples of men who ascend to the throne of God and saw things reserved for future generations.

In Exodus, God told Moses to build according to the pattern shown in the heavens. It was constant in heaven. Moses built according to this pattern. However, when the true tabernacle came, the religious people at the time did not recognize Him. Throughout all the moves of the church, there has been the baptist, methodist, evangelical, etc. One interesting thing is that the previous always persecuted the current move of God. The point is that you cannot be stuck in the past. God's word flows.

## Effects of God's Words as the Sounds of Many Waters

### • It brings divine assessment.

### Revelation 2:13 KJVS

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Here Jesus came to the church and was giving a measurement of where things were at at the time. As a people progressing in the things pertaining to God, He gives you an assessment. God will reveal yourself to you to show you your current state. Your Job is to be partnering with Him to deal with issues within. He has already accepted you in the beloved, yet, His work with you is progressive towards the picture in the heavens.

• He cleanses or purges.

Ezekiel 36:25-27 KJVS

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. [26] A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Positionally speaking, this was fulfilled in the new birth experience. However, there is a place for consecration. You are God's workmanship in Christ Jesus, made for glorious things. Jesus sanctifies and purges us unto His image. This scripture says "I will take away your filthiness and all your idols" Ezekiel 36:25. Someone may say "I am not filthy, because I am in Christ". This is true. Yet, the word filthiness points to the "iniquity". This speaks of anything that is outside of the character of the Christ. Anything outside of Christ is called filthy. An example of this purging can be the kind of content that you watch. This may not necessarily be a sin, but it could be a hindrance to becoming like Jesus. Family traditions could be an example of filthiness. Gluttony, greed etc. An example of this was Balaam (Numbers 22). His issue was with greed. There are aspects of the human nature that God is dealing with.

Previously, I used to say "you must not throw away your humanity". This means not being overly spiritual. However, what God's goal is to swallow up your humanity. This is the mystery of godliness. How God can transform someone that has been so battered by the fall and shine through him. While the believer is holiness as a result of identifying with God, there is something the scripture refers to as "Holiness becometh the house of God" (Psalm 93:5). This is an aspect of becoming holiness. A practical example are things that pertain to the external, such as tattoos. You cannot really set up a doctrine regarding tattoos, because the same scripture speaks of not wearing "mixed clothing". However, a person who will change his mind about it will be based on his personal dealings with God. This is on a personal level. When God is dealing with a church, He speaks on a corporate level for the people to align.

### 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 KJVS

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: [8] Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

When we mention malice, it speaks of an intent to cause harm. This is not having good will towards anyone. The bible says in "Malice, be children and in understanding be men". When the bible speaks of a new lump, it speaks of a group of people who are void of malice and wickedness in the heart. This is showing the level of cleanliness in your heart. The work of grace can work in you to the point where, not necessarily doing a thing, even the intent can die.

#### Luke 12:1 KJVS

In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

When a church is walking towards oneness, God begins to deal with them corporately on this thing called hypocrisy. What God intended for the corporate house is deeper than a family. This is so that we can be a people who truly stand on the sea of glass.

Ezekiel 36:25 KJVS Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

An idol is something that takes the place of God in your life. It is something you worship. For every child of God, when the word of God comes as waters, it exposes idols. Genesis 31:34 shows that when Isaac was leaving the house of Laban, Rachel took the idols of her fathers house. Every person born of a woman has that part of him called an idol that he feeds. God is interested in dislodging you of all idols. It is a process because it is His work of sanctification in you. Do not be quick to spot an idol in another man, focus on yourself. This is in the individual level. On the corporate level, a key thing to note is mindset. The Pharisees had a mindset on what the visitation of God will look like. We need to be conscious of the Pharisee spirit. It is a critical spirit that prevents you from identifying what God is doing. For example, at some time in the body of Christ, the tv was called the devil's box. Anyone who started film production was persecuted. However, the case is different now. The media has become one of the major ways that God's word is being preached. The next move of God may not look like what you are used to. There is always a threat or a possibility of interacting with the new with the mindset of the old. Be slow to speak and watch in the spirit. May the Lord help us to be sensitive to know when the one who is like a flowing stream appears again.

### • He instructs and He strengthens.

### Revelation 3:7-9 KJVS

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; [8] I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. [9] Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

You can look at the brother and sister and despise the day of little beginning, however, God is determined to strengthen. God teaches you and strengthens the good part. He says that if you are doing well, continue to do it. He points out areas of improvement that his church is spotless. He that is faithful in little is faithful in much. God says, do not despise your little strength. Allow His flowing waters to do work in your life. Let His waters flow to purge every uncleanness and idols.