**SERIES SLIDE**

What comes to your mind when I say, “Technology”.?

A computer? A phone? A Robot? A Space Shuttle? Elon Musk?

Well, the classic definition is-

**Technology-** **the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes.**

Now, technology doesn’t only express itself with screens or artificial intelligence…or launching sports cars into space.

Technology is ANY tested knowledge that we use to harness some power for our advantage.

That MEANS that technology is MAINLY about CONTROL.

Technology is using our KNOWLEDGE to CONTROL.

**Back to SERIES SLIDE**

Let me give you an example of TECHNOLOGY that ISN’T about Screens or Robots…well… mostly.

In 2 different US Presidential Elections more than 100 years apart.

In 1858, Abraham Lincoln was running against Stephen Douglas. And in those days, where most people couldn’t access photographs and there was no television, most people didn’t really know what the candidates looked like.

The candidates’ ideas were published and circulated in newspapers and through the transcripts of seven debates they had throughout the state of Illinois.

In fact, most folks wouldn’t have recognized Lincoln or Douglas if they bumped into them on the street.

They weren’t known for their image or appearance…they were known for their ideas and arguments. Imagine that. People voting for a President by understanding their ideas. It mattered not whether you had deep voice, or a nice face, or if you rolled up your sleeves or kissed babies or much at all about the image you portrayed. People voted based on a President’s core ideas.

But things shifted in later years.

Fast forward out of the 1850s and into the 1960s.

Richard Nixon is running for president.

There’s a note that one of his speechwriters wrote that’s included in a book called “The Selling of a President” that said something like this:

**“Remember we have to be very clear on this point, the response of the electorate is to the image, not to the man.”- Nixon Speechwriter from *The Selling of the President***

In other words, to get our guy elected…its not who he REALLY is that matters, we just need people to perceive him in a certain kind of way. We need to project the image that the people want in order to get our guy elected. Its not about his political ideas…its about his image.

**Back to Series Slide**

Now lets bring that together with our technology idea.

* + In the 110 years between those 2 elections, we learned something people. We acquired knowledge about a shortcut to getting elected. We had 110 years of testing the human psyche in our democratic republic inside of our electoral system and we figured out that if your end game is just “getting into office” that there are better ways to CONTROL that outcome than spending time developing and clearly expressing ideas.
  + We learned in those 110 years, that in a debate, its better to LOOK GOOD than to clearly express ideas.
  + Getting elected, we learned, is more about advertising than it is ideas.
  + Its more about looking good on TV, than it is about having real solutions to problems.
  + Fast forward another 50 years or so to today.
  + After a while, we discovered that people figured out they were being marketed to…so we wanted “authenticity”.
  + We wanted a REAL experience with our candidates.
  + We wanted something WILD and out of CONTROL
  + So, it became en vogue to be down-to-earth.
  + Brutally honest.
  + Transparent.
  + The funny thing is, we even technologized “Authenticity”.
  + We figured out a way to project authenticity.
  + A set of words to say. Stories to share.
  + Lets not forget that those speeches are written by SPEECHWRITERS, not even the President himself. Which seems to implicitly betray some of that authenticity .
  + I digress.
  + Here’s the point.
* We live in the most TECHNOLOIGIZED Age in human history. Of course. We’ve had more time to “figure things out”. We can capitalize and learn from the mistakes of our ancestors.
* That means we have an obsession with CONTROL. We will technologize ANYTHING.

We’ll reduce ANYTHING down to a set of ideas, a simple “3 steps to better Cooking, or Preaching, or Parenting”

Ideas have been reduced from nuanced debates down to 15 second sound-bytes.

…and we’ll even do it with God.

**Title Slide- “God Control: How the Holy Spirit Brings Courage, Vulnerability and Perspective”- Eph 5:17-21**

Three steps to Salvation.

Four ways to Grow in Christ.

5 doctrines to know about God

The 6 most important verses of Scripture.

And there is nothing necessarily WRONG with that.

I’m not here to undo the entire Blogosphere with a sermon.

BUT, what I want us as a church to do over the next several weeks…

… is to realize something very profound about God.

Encountering God on the deepest level doesn’t end with us controlling Him, but with him controlling us…in the most beautiful and benevolent sense.

And I know that our technological nature rebels against that, because we seek to CONTROL EVERYTHING…but I promise you… the last thing you want is a God you can control.

You are thirsty for something authentic. Something real. Something wild. Something beautifully untamed.

And You may have told yourself that church is the last place you’d go to find that. But haven’t we tried all the other things we’ve controlled. Sex. Money. Career. Family.

Maybe the God you thought you had put in a Technologically Theological box…maybe you’ve been ridiculously limiting him… or maybe that idea you put in a box really isn’t God at all, just some projection of him that gave you a sense of control.

Over the next several weeks, we are going to get to know God- the Holy Spirit, by looking at what he does in people

* + The 3rd person of the Trinity.
* …and my prayer is that you, and our church, will never be the same.
* **Eph 5:17-21**
* **So don’t be foolish, but understand**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf21)**what the Lord’s will**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf22)**is. 18 And don’t get drunk**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf23)**with wine,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf24)**which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit:**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf25)**19 speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music with your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of Christ.**
* TRANSITION- Today, I want to show you the Holy Spirit from the way Jesus describes him in that passage in John, from the way Paul describes him in that passage in Ephesians…and finally, from a story about what the Holy Spirit did in the life of one man.
* **1) The Holy Spirit is out of our control…and that’s exactly what we need.**
  + Jurassic Park is one of the greatest modern day parables about using technology to control something wild.

* + These scientists re-create dinosaurs from DNA and attempt to domesticate them and contain them in a theme park so humans can be entertained by them.
  + Bad idea. And it was still a bad idea in Jurassic Park the Lost World, Jurassic Park 3, Jurassic World, and the upcoming movie, officially titled “Jurassic World: When Will We Finally Learn Not to Domesticate Dinosaurs.”
  + Remember Jeff Goldblum’s quote from the first movie that’s made its way into the trailers for the new movie?
  + **“Life cannot be contained. Life breaks free. Life finds a way.”**
  + That parable is told OVER and OVER and OVER in modern day film and literature.
  + Nature is uncontrollable.
  + Despite our best efforts to use our scientific knowledge to control nature, it always breaks free. It always finds a sort of unpredictable way of busting up our attempts to domesticate it.
  + Interesting, the metaphors for the Holy Spirit used throughout Scripture are all tied to nature.
  + **John 3:5 & 8**
  + Jesus connects the Holy Spirit to the metaphors of wind and water.
  + And he specifically points out the Unpredictable and mysterious aspect of the Spirit.
  + The Spirit is like the wind.
  + You can’t see it, it blows where it wants to. It operates not according to man’s will, but HIS OWN WILL.
  + You can hear it. You can perceive its effects. Feel its power…but you can’t impose your will on it. It blows where it wishes.
  + In fact, the Greek and Hebrew word for Spirit used in both the New and Old testaments is the word for “Wind”
  + The Holy Spirit is also connected to Water and Fire all through Scripture.
  + We get pictures of God pouring out his Spirit on people like a waterfall that causes a desert land to spring to life.
  + Fire over the tops of the apostles heads at Pentecost and unpredictably they begin to proclaim the gospel in languages they never learned.
  + **Aren’t the qualities of wind, water and fire what so many of us feel like we’re missing?**
  + You’re bored with life.
  + Feel like a boat floating aimlessly in the ocean…you need a wind to blow, and fill your sails and take you somewhere.
  + Its been a long time since you really cared about anything deeply.
  + You’re apathetic.
  + You need a fire to ignite you.
  + Nothing you’ve tried is quenching your thirst for meaning and significance.
  + You need something to drink.
  + Just look from Old Testament to New the comparison of the Holy Spirit to water.
  + **Isaiah 44:3-4**
  + **For I will pour water on the thirsty land**
  + **and streams on the dry ground;**
  + **I will pour out my Spirit**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf3)**on your descendants**
  + **and my blessing on your offspring.**
  + **4 They will sprout among**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn2)**the grass**
  + **like poplars by flowing streams.**
  + God promises to Israel through Isaiah that he will pour out his Spirit like water…and through that he will multiply his people.
  + Remember, this promise is given to people in a Near Eastern desert culture. This is a picture of water hitting dried up and cracked desert ground and turning it into a fertile field with a stream running through it. It's a picture of life rising up out of death.
  + And that life is FUELED by the Holy Spirit.
  + Then in John’s gospel, he attributes Jesus to the fulfillment of this OT prophecy
  + **John 1:32-33**
  + He is retelling the story of Jesus’ baptism. He recalls the Holy Spirit descending like a dove onto Jesus and then he says its Jesus that will baptize with the Holy Spirit, like John baptized with water.
  + You know what baptize means? It means IMMERSE.
  + Its more water reference.
  + In whatever Jesus is going to do to his followers with this Holy Spirit, its going to be like being completely but under a flood.
  + Like a desert after a rainstorm has no more dry thirsty ground…but rather produces life.
  + So with the Spirit, we will be so immersed in him that we will have no more dry thirsty soul…and we will produce life.
  + Then later on in the gospel of John, Jesus is at the feasts of tabernacles. The festival is a reminder to Israel how their ancestors camped in the desert for 400 years.
  + Thirsty and wandering.
  + And on the last day of the feast, the priest would perform this elaborate ceremony where he would collect some water from a pool and carry it to the temple as people cheered and watched.
  + And look what Jesus says just at the moment the high priest walks into the room with the jar of water.
  + **John 7:37-39**
  + **On the last and most important day of the festival,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf47)**Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn5)[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf48)**and drink.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf49)**38 The one who believes in me,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf50)**as the Scripture**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf51)**has said, will have streams of living water**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf52)**flow**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf53)**from deep within him.” 39 He said this about the Spirit.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf54)**Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf55)**for the Spirit**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn6)**had not yet been given**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn7)**because Jesus had not yet been glorified.**
  + He says, you are all waiting for this drink. For God to quench your thirst.
  + Well, I’m here to give you a drink that won’t dry up.
  + In fact, it will perpetuate itself as a spring inside you.
  + And John just tells you … He was talking about the Holy Spirit.
  + And that those who believed in Jesus were going to receive Him after he resurrected.
* **Back to 1)**
  + We don’t need the Spirit to be a box of matches we can control.
  + That won’t change who we are.
  + We need a raging fire.
  + We don't need the Spirit to be an oscillating fan we plug in.
  + That won’t get us anywhere.
  + We need a fierce wind.
  + And we don’t need a flow of tap water from the sink that we can cut on and off.
  + That won’t be enough to bring up life from a desert.
  + We need baptism.
* So when the fire rages, and the wind blows fierce, and the rain won’t stop…what exactly is going to happen to us? What happens when the Spirit fills us? Well…when we finally stop trying to control him…he will control us….and…
* **2) When the Holy Spirit controls us, we’ll have unending courage, vulnerability, and perspective.**
  + Let’s go back to this verse from Ephesians 5
  + **Eph 5:17-18**
  + A lot of times people read verses like this that compare being filled with the Holy Spirit to being drunk and think that it must mean that when you are filled with the Spirit, you act the same way you do when you’re drunk.
  + And, indeed, just type in “filled with the spirit” in your youtube browser and you will no doubt see some people who look like they may have been heavily drinking.
  + But notice that acting a fool is NOT being filled with the Spirit has in common with being filled with Jack Daniels.
  + In fact, Paul writes DON’T be foolish.
  + He says foolishness is what comes from being drunk, but UNDERSTANDING the will of the LORD is what comes from being filled with the Spirit.
  + In other words, when alcohol controls you…you act like a fool.
  + When the Spirit controls you, you are in tune to God’s desires…his will…and you obey him.
  + **Eph 5:21**
  + **In fact, being filled with the Spirit, Paul writes, doesn’t even end at submitting to God…he says, you will find yourself submitting to others out of reverence for Christ.**
  + Being filled with the Spirit doesn’t mean you have a circus of drunk people running around the room in an uncontrolled fashion.
  + Instead, it means you have a church that understands what God wants and is paying attention more to our brothers and sisters needs than we are to are own.
  + **Eph 5:17-18**
  + This word for reckless living, is the word for “wasted”.
  + It's the same word that Jesus used in the story of the prodigal son.
  + Think about that kid that had everything…his Father loved him, he was set to get an inheritance…
  + But he demanded that his father give him all his inheritance now so he could spend it on partying.
  + He wasted his life.
  + You ever heard the term “getting wasted”?
  + This is where it comes from.
  + Which means SO MANY PEOPLE are quoting the Bible in times where they have ABSOLUTELY no intention of doing so!
  + Its this picture of an out of control life, filled with disorder and chaos.
  + But that’s not how the Spirit works.
  + Even though we can’t control the Spirit, it doesn’t mean he is chaotic… in fact he does the opposite.
  + **Gen 1:1-2**
  + At creation, the Holy Spirit was there in darkness, bringing light, and order. Separating water from land.
  + The Holy Spirit is very much about turning chaos into order…not vice versa.
  + **Eph 5:17-18**
  + This “reckless living” also means to be “spilt”.
  + Like you spill a cup of water.
  + It means to be EXHAUSTED.
  + Kind of like you feel in a hangover the morning after a night of binge drinking.
  + But see, the Spirit works in us the opposite way.
  + He energizes you. He doesn’t exhaust you.
  + He fuels you to do the will of God.
  + Listen, some of constantly are burning out.
  + You’re burnt out of being a husband or wife.
  + You’re burnt out of being a Dad or mom.
  + You’re burnt out of being single.
  + You’re burnt out of being a community group leader.
  + You’re burnt out of counseling people with the Scripture
  + You’re burnt out of relationships where people are too needy.
  + You’re burnt out at work.
  + You’re burnt out at home.
  + And you tell yourself, “I need a vacation.”
  + “I need to take some time off”
  + “I deserve a break today.”
  + “I need a divorce”
  + “I need out of this prison of my family.”
  + “I need a new job.”
  + But that’s not the problem.
  + The problem isn’t your spouse, or kids, or roommate.
  + Its not your singleness, or your responsibilities.
  + Its not the fault of that needy person or your boss.
  + The problem is you haven’t been doing any of those things under the influence.
  + …and I’m not talking about slipping the bottle out of drawer at work.
  + I’m talking about being under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
  + You aren’t relying on Him. You aren’t filled with him.
  + You don’t know his presence…and so you run out of steam.
  + **Do you know what directly follows this passage in Ephesians about being filled with the Spirit?**
  + **Instructions on marriage, and parenting, and work and church.**
  + All of the things we classically burn out on.
  + Being filled with the spirit means that you have a spring welling up inside you. You always are being refreshed and replenished. You always have something to give…because you are attached to unending source of God’s love and power.
* So What does that look like? Well, just think of why people get drunk.
* **Back to 2)**
  + One, you have problems and you want **courage** to face them.
  + You want the alcohol to give you boldness, to take away your inhibitions.
  + You want to be able to walk into that party and not be afraid of what people think.
  + You want to forget about the risk of an action…and JUST DO IT!
  + Alcohol is sometimes called “liquid courage” isn’t it?
  + Second, you drink for vulnerability.
  + You want to open up. You want to be honest. You want say what you really feel.
  + You want an intimate connection with someone. You want to stop hiding and expose your innermost thoughts.
  + You want to confess.
  + Third, you want perspective.
  + You have all these problems and you want to transcend them. You want to escape them and sort of…well forget them.
  + You want to have the perspective that your problems really aren’t that big a deal…
  + ..you want to cut loose and enjoy life IN SPITE of the problems.
  + BUT, the problem with all those is, the effects of the alchohol eventually wears off, and you find yourself back…in your problems…having said too much…having acted like a fool.
  + …and the alcohol has only compounded your problems. Its just made it worse.
  + **But see, the Spirit gives real courage**.
  + The Spirit is God with you.
  + He reminds you that you aren’t alone.
  + That there is nothing to fear, because whatever you face, you can know you face it WITH GOD….and knowing that creates an unstoppable boldness.
  + **And the Spirit gives you REAL vulnerability**.
  + Because he reminds you that Christ died for your sins.
  + He reminds you that you don’t have to be afraid of confession.
  + That you can really open up and talk about your sin, and you can let others in without defending yourself…because the Spirit will tell you over and over that your sin doesn’t define you…instead, you have the Righteousness of Jesus.
  + You aren’t defined by your sin…so you can bring it into the light and kill it.
  + **And the Spirit gives you RIGHT perspective.**
  + **Eph 5:19**
  + That’s why Paul says that when the church is Spirit-Filled…we will “speak” and “sing” to one another in psalms hymns and spiritual songs.
  + You not what songs are…psalms and hymns?
  + They are short, memorable theological summaries of the BIG PICTURE of what God is doing.
  + Like, you don’t walk through Target on Tuesday quoting the sermon, do you?
  + No.
  + Instead, you are humming a song we sang.
  + And as you hum that melody, words come to mind.
  + And those words are the big story.
  + *Glory, glory, we have no other king*  
    *But Jesus Lord of all*  
    *Raise the anthem, our loudest praises ring*  
    *We crown Him Lord of all*
  + Your kindly rule has shattered and broken the curse of sin’s tyranny  
    My life is hidden ‘neath Heaven’s shadow, Your crimson flood covers me
  + In all my sorrows, Jesus is better
  + In all my victories, Jesus is better
  + Than any comfort, Jesus is better
  + More than all riches, Jesus is better
  + Our souls declaring, Jesus is better
  + Our song eternal, Jesus is better
  + THAT’S WHY WE SING!
  + The Holy Spirit is speaking through you to someone else in here…the truth…the big picture.
  + That even though their life feels like its falling apart, GOD has not abandoned them.
  + That even though it feels like there is more comfort in alchohol, or money, or sex…or marriage. Or popularity…
  + JESUS IS BETTER.
  + See, when you get a HUGE perspective, that sin and death and evil and sorrow are NOT the Kings of this world…
  + Rather a God that loves you so much he died to save you from all that…
  + …and that nothing will be lost. Everything will be transformed.
  + That is the gospel story that gives you the perspective to carry on in the hardest, darkest, ugliest days.
  + You get outside of your problems. You don’t *run* from them to escape them…you just get a new perspective that shows you that those problems are not as big as they seem…because God is bigger and he is doing something about those problems.
* **Back to 2)**
  + I want to finish today with a picture of what a life looks like filled-with the Spirit.
  + I want to show you a person from the Scripture.
  + And its not where you think it might be.
  + Its not Jesus…though that would be a fine choice.
  + Its not even from the NT.
  + I already showed you the Holy Spirit was at work from creation.
  + So, we are going to go to the book of Genesis…but not the beginning, we’re going to go to the end.
  + To see what happened to a guy named Joseph...who sort of…became President.
  + But he didn’t do it with technology.
  + He didn’t do it by trying to control his public image, like Richard Nixon.
  + He did it, well, by relying on the Holy Spirit.
  + And what he did when he became President…of Egypt…is incredible…and its everything that Eph 5 says will happen when you are filled with the Spirit.
  + So lets end today with his story.
  + First of all, you need to realize that the book of Genesis from chapter 3 on is the story of a giant dysfunctional family.
  + Adam and Eve hide from each other.
  + Cain murders his brother Abel.
  + Lamech kills a kid and sings a pop song about it.
  + Violence so engulfs the world that God floods it to start over.
  + Then Noah gets off the boat, gets drunk, and gets naked…and his sons watch it happen.
  + Abraham sleeps with his servant girl (at his wife’s request)
  + Then runs her and his son off into the desert.
  + Lots daughters sleep with him to in order to get pregnant.
  + Jacob cheats his brother Esau and Esau chases him to murder him.
  + Jacob marries not ONE but 2 of his cousins after his uncle tricks him.
  + Then one of Jacob’s kids, Judah ends up sleeping with and getting his daughter-in-law pregnant when she poses as a prostitute.
  + Sounds like a pretty messed up family tree, right?
  + Brothers at odds. Siblings hurting and abusing one another.
  + Parents and children using one another.
  + And when you get to the end of Genesis, there is Joseph.
  + And it starts off pretty rough with Joseph.
  + More of the same.
  + His brothers hate him, so they try to kill him…but instead, they just sell him into slavery and tell their dad he was eaten by a wild animal.
  + But all along there is a kind of courage and perspective that Joseph has. He’s steady. He doesn’t freak out.
  + And in everything he does, he brings order out of chaos.
  + Eventually, we are told why.
  + **Gen 39:2, 3, 21, 23** EDITED to quote “The LORD was WITH Joseph”
  + 4 times in 22 verses in Gen 39 we are told that Joseph was the way he was, that he prospered, and prospered those around him BECAUSE the LORD was with him.
  + And with that favor, Joseph rose in the ranks in Egypt.
  + But then, it fell apart. He was falsely accused of attempted rape and sent to the dungeon to rot.
  + But even there, he kept perspective.
  + He interpreted the dreams of some fellow prisoners and eventually, word got back to Pharoah…who “just so happened” to need someone to interpret his dream.
  + And Joseph did.
  + Not only that. Under the Spirit’s influence. He figured out a master plan of how to save Egypt from the chaos of a famine. He made an ordered plan that kept death away from Egypt.
  + And look what Pharaoh said.
  + **Gen 41:38-39**
  + Even Pharaoh, a king who stood against the God of Jospeh…recognized the Spirit at work.
  + So he made Joseph 2nd in command of all Egypt.
  + Now, think about Joseph’s life.
  + His brothers tried to kill him.
  + Then sold him into slavery.
  + Then, just when things were looking up…
  + …
  + He’s unjustly sent to die in Prison.
  + But then, he’s delivered. And rises to be in command of all of Egypt.
  + Then HE HAS some kids. And look what he names them.
  + **Gen 41:51-52**
  + The first one he names Manasseh, which means “God has made me forget all my hardship…all the things my family did to me”
    - You know what that means.
    - It means because God’s Spirit was with JOSEPH…he could forgive even the worst sin against him from the closest people.
    - That’s some kind of vulnerability right there.
  + He has forgotten his hardship.
  + Isn’t that why people get drunk?
  + But Joseph isn’t drunk…he is filled with God’s spirit…so he has the courage and perspective and vulnerability to forgive.
  + Then he names his second son Ephraim.
  + Which means he is fruitful in the land of his affliction.
  + Joseph is saying, that in the middle of all his suffering…God still worked in him by the Holy Spirit to produce life.
  + Like water being poured out in a desert…fruit came up.
  + And Joseph through his courage and perspective and vulnerability…that produced poise, and perserverance and perspective…he saved thousands and thousands of people.
  + Don’t you want that?
  + Don’t you want to be able to stop holding a grudge against people who have wronged you?
  + Don’t you want to give life to others even in the middle of the hardest seasons of your life?
  + That's what the Spirit does when he fills you.
  + But that’s not the end of the story.
  + Joseph’s brothers come to Egypt because they hear that people have food there in the middle of this great famine.
  + And they finally figure out, that Joseph…somehow, the one they betrayed is in charge of all the food distribution.
  + And…well….lets just read it.
  + **Gen 50:15-21**
  + **When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said to one another, “If Joseph is holding a grudge against us, he will certainly repay us for all the suffering we caused him.”**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf5)
  + **16 So they sent this message to Joseph, “Before he died your father gave a command: 17 ‘Say this to Joseph: Please forgive your brothers’ transgression and their sin ​— ​the suffering they caused you.’ Therefore, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf6)**when their message came to him. 18 His brothers also came to him, bowed down before him, and said, “We are your slaves! ”**
  + **19 But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God?**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf7)**20 You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result ​— ​the survival of many people.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf8)**21 Therefore don’t be afraid. I will take care of you and your children.”**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf9)**And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.**
  + Do you see the perspective?
  + Even though you planned to harm me…
  + Even though you meant evil against me.
  + God was in control.
  + I DID NOT CONTROL GOD…but he was controlling me.
  + And I forgive you.
  + Don’t be afraid.
  + I will take care of you…even the brothers that wronged me and tried to kill me
  + The book of Genesis after the garden of Eden, started with a brother killing a brother.
  + It ends, with a brother forgiving the brothers that tried to kill him.
  + That is the power of HOLY SPIRIT when he fills you.
  + You know why that’s possible.
  + Because the Holy Spirit is going to give you the perspective of the cross.
  + The Holy Spirit is going to point you to the truer, and better brother who forgave the sins of the brothers that not only TRIED to kill him but Did.
  + Yet, he resurrected and came to us and spoke kindly to us saying, by his SPIRIT, Don’t be afraid. I will take care of you because you are now children of my Father.
* **John 7:37-38**
* **On the last and most important day of the festival,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf47)**Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn5)[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf48)**and drink.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf49)**38 The one who believes in me,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf50)**as the Scripture**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf51)**has said, will have streams of living water**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf52)**flow**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf53)**from deep within him.”**

Do you want that?

Do you believe it?

Jesus is still standing up and crying out…if anyone is thirsty come to me and drink.