

## Filled to Overflow: No Water, No Guests

I want to share with you some pics of our little place in the Blue Ridge Mountains  
Something I've wanted my whole life.

- Worked very hard to get it to look and feel just like I want it...
  - Fully Renovated and Remodeled Inside and Out

We got there for our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary – to celebrate our marriage – and to celebrate in a place that I, with the help of some very dear friends, had finally made into what my heart desired...

### Day 1: We arrived – we had no water.

- I have all new plumbing (flex – the best and most reliable plumbing money can buy)
  - Won't freeze or bust...
  - A new pump, a new pressure kick...
- I've got a small lake behind my home that's filled with cold, clear, clean water – mirrors the fall foliage and mountains in the distance...beautiful to look at...fish out of...admire...
- I've got a deep spring that's been there for generations – limitless in fresh, satisfying water (feeds 2 small lakes).

### Day 2: We had guests coming – still no water.

- We were worried that maybe we needed to quickly find another place to rent...

**Day 3: – Turns out our spring house holding tank had a huge hole at the bottom...It couldn't hold water, so we were essentially disconnected from the source. (Replace/Prime/Unclog)**

- It doesn't matter how beautiful the view...
  - The fall colors...
  - Small lake and mountains in the distance...
  - The smell of Autumn in the woods...
- It doesn't matter how great looking the new paint job
  - Or the flooring
  - Shake shingle and stone on the exterior
  - New appliances and fixtures
  - New spray foam insulation, high efficiency windows/doors
  - The way the rain sounds when it hits the metal roof
  - The pride in accomplishment
- Without water...
  - You can't cook
  - You can't clean
  - You can't go to the bathroom
  - You're thirsty
- Without it, it effects everything...eventually you have to leave...you can't live

## John 7:37-38

<sup>37</sup>On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “**Anyone who is thirsty may come to me!** <sup>38</sup>**Anyone who believes in me may come and drink!** For the Scriptures declare, ‘**Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.**’” <sup>39</sup>(When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him...)

2 Cor. 13:5 **Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves.**

### Do You Trust Me as Your Shepherd?

- That means pushing you...Holding you accountable...It means you asking things of you that are uncomfortable or difficult...It means admonishing and rebuking you at times...
- But if I am a true shepherd, I will do it because I love you...
- **I Have Two Serious Concerns:**

## #1 You're Disconnected from the Source

- **You're Comfortable With Outward/Exterior Renovations**
  - Do You mistake social activity, successful church programs, busy good works, exciting momentum, enjoyable vibes, for REAL FILLED TO OVERFLOW Life?
  - You can have all of those things and a gaping hole in the bottom of your holding tank – unable to receive living water and the power of the Spirit in your life?
    - **What's Broken?**
      - Did We Ever Really Transfer Ownership of Our Lives
        - So focused on Work (Temporary Security)
        - So Much Comes Before Life Together
          - 11% Weekly – Average Once to Twice a Month
          - Sports, Work, Parties, Vacations, etc...
      - Too Exhausted to invest in Relationship

**Without the Holy Spirit – You are Helpless and You Are Useless to the Kingdom**

## John 15:1-8

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>**He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.** <sup>3</sup>You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, and I will remain in you. **For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.** <sup>5</sup>“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. **Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit.** For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>**Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.** <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup>**When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples.** This brings great glory to my Father.

## #2 You Have No Guests Coming & No Refreshment to Offer Them

- **The joy of a cabin in the woods or a lakeside cottage is sharing it with others**

Luke 19:10 **The son of Man came to seek and save the lost...**

Rom. 9:2-3 **My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed, cut off from Christ!—if that would save them.**

**1 Cor. 9:22** "To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some."

**Proverbs 11:30** The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls.

**James 5:20** Remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.