



Unity Church of Christianity
Living Waters
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I want to begin today in kind of a unique way and that is by asking you to affirm a statement with me. The statement I'd like you to affirm is *God's presence is activated in me here and now*. Can you do that?

God's presence is activated in me here and now.

Let's say it one more time. God's presence is activated in me here and now. The next one is *I open to the flow of God's infinite love and intelligence*.

I open to the flow of God's infinite love and intelligence. Now what I'd all like you to know is that you've all been changed just by stating that. To the degree that you leaned into that statement, molecularly, vibrationally, a whole new frequency is moving through you. Basically, it depends on your willingness to adhere to it, to lean on into it, to align with it, to identify with it, and to vibrate with it, really. Physically, mentally, emotionally you are changed. Even if you cannot measure it, it is happening.

You see, the power of the spoken word is a powerful thing. It is a universal spiritual principle. Science has shown us that not only the vibration of sound affects us, but there are many things that affect us in our consciousness—how we're going to show up—that affects the way we are, the way we're living, the way we're experienced and the way we experience life. So there are more things that we are learning all the time, more things that we are understanding all the time, that have to do with consciousness and the molding and the shaping of our own reality and how people experience us.

I was just, this week, a couple of days at Unity Village—Unity World Headquarters. It is incorporated. It's 1400+ acres. It's a beautiful place. If you've never been there you really ought to go there. I was there for—on Thursday it was World Day of Prayer. And also on that day it was the celebration of the reopening of the fountains that are there. They have unique and wonderful fountains. There's beautiful buildings that line this courtyard, and the fountains in this courtyard go on for literally 100 yards. It is like a football field long full of fountains. There's a bridge of faith on one end, and there's a beautiful rose garden on another end. It's something to behold. When you step into that space, it is really, really wonderful. Now they have had these fountains there—they were designed by Rikert Fillmore, who was the son of the co-founders of Unity, Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. And Rikert had designed them and had them built. They were completed in 1954, so they've been around a long time and they've kind of aged and deteriorated, so they stopped functioning about 7 years ago. And when you went back to Unity, it was still a beautiful place and wonderful place to go, but if you had known that courtyard when those fountains were working, you felt like it's not quite the same. There is something that's missing. There's some kind of something that is lacking here. So they began the fundraising of what is a \$3 million dollar project to renovate and restore the fountains.

And I was honored to be invited and go back and be the MC of this dedication. When the switch was thrown and the fountains came on—and there were hundreds of people that were there. There were hundreds more that would have been there except it was sort of threatening rain. But those who were there were very moved by it. And when it went on, it was like there was this—with the fountains going back on, and all of a sudden it happening, there were people in tears. It was like there was a surge of energy and a surge of life and a surge of power that had come back. There was just a sense of a statement being made, a message, if you would. I was sitting there and just wondering, "What is this?" All of the people were so moved by water—and beautiful water and making an expression of beauty, somehow conversing with us, sending us a message. And I got to thinking; there really is something about water. There's something about water that's very spiritual. It comes in various forms. It can come as an ice, a solid, a liquid, or a vapor. It is said that the earth is called the water planet, and that about 70 percent of the surface is covered with water. Of course, water moves all in and through the earth, as well. Then I thought about the fact that we—as a mature person, a body, a human being—70 percent of us is water, as well. Similar to the earth—that in a sense we are like the earth in that way. And then I got to thinking about all the scripture that has reference to water. There is endless—but even just to

begin the book of the bible, the first book, the first chapter. The Book of Genesis, within the first two verses you are hearing about water. It begins, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form and void and darkness was upon the face of the deep.” And then there’s this line, “And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” The spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

You see, what I want you to get is—and I want to propose—that we become more aware that we become responsible for cooperating with the activity of spirit in such a way that we allow spirit to move upon the face of our waters. Do you understand what I’m saying about that? In other words, the same way that the spirit moved upon the face of the waters on the planet and the earth, so we are a part of life. Everything is life. God is in everything and everywhere God is omnipresent. So God is in the water, God is in the cells, the atoms, the molecules of our being. God is in the heavens and in the earth and all that is in them. God is in the spirit, in the soul, in the body of all of us. God is all, and that allness is living in us as we open up to it.

It was Jesus that said, “We must be born of water and of the spirit if we are going to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” The Kingdom of Heaven, we’ve said, is available to state of consciousness. It’s oneness with God. It’s not that you have to die to experience that. Understand that—that that was a teaching of his. However, this idea where you have to be born of water and of the spirit has usually carried the connotation that you have to have physical birth followed by a spiritual birth. And certainly that is true. But I would like us to look at that—that there is actually a spiritual birth or evolution of the spirit that is experienced in the body energetically and vibrationally. That the light of God and the spirit of God moves across the waters of our physical body. That you actually have moments that you acknowledge spirit, affirm spirit, pray to God, and affirm thoughts and ideas. There are feelings that come across you and move across the waters of your being, and that’s what you’re feeling, in a sense, within you.

There is a guy that is named Lord Byron. His real name was George Gordon, and he wrote a number of things. He said, “Man is in part divine, a troubled stream from a pure source.” Essentially then, there is this pure source that is God, and we’re finding our way back. That’s the journey to the source, to the ocean of life, the fullness of which we are a part. We oftentimes are a troubled stream along the way. That’s understandable. We are growing and we are learning. But, nevertheless, we are a stream, and we are a branch of God. We are a part of God, and it can be felt.

It was Goethe—Johan Wolfgang von Goethe, the famous individual who said, “The soul of man resembleth water.” The soul of man resembleth water. He went on to say, “From heaven it cometh to heaven it soareth and then again to earth descendeth, changing ever.” Changing ever.

Think about all the demonstrations that involved Jesus that have to do with water. They are endless. You can go on and on. We’ll touch on just a few. Number one, he walked on water. And

so we know that in that experience he was walking on water, he called forth Peter out of the boat, Peter went out of the boat, walked a few steps, doubted, and began to sink. All of that has meaning, of course. In our understanding of these stories it has a literal level and it also has an internal level, a metaphysical level, if you will, a deeper meaning.

It was recently that science has discovered or tells us that the sun is basically a collection of energy waves that have their source from cosmic waters that permeate our universe—that basically the whole universe in some way or form has cosmic waters in it. It says that the sun could not ever have been created or even continued to live and go on without some element of these cosmic, universal waters that exist. This is what science is telling us.

We know that Jesus calmed the seas. Remember that story where he got in a boat with some disciples and he was going to cross a lake or a body of water. So he went and lay down and went to sleep. While he was sleeping there were some winds that rose up and it became violent and water was spilling in. They were in jeopardy, so his disciples go upset and woke Jesus up. Jesus rose and he rebuked the wind and the raging waters. They ceased, and calm was established. You know that story. The disciples said among themselves, “What manner of man is this? For he commandeth even the winds and the waters and they obey him.”

Jesus said, “These things that I do, you can do also. And even greater things than these.” So there are waters that we’re in conversation with, whether they’re around us or even within us in our physical body. There is a communication and a conversation going on in which we are in relationship and impacting. So there is a river that flows through all of us, and it is purifying itself. It is finding its way back to the source.

Continuing on with some of the demonstrations with water, we know that Jesus made water into wine—a pretty powerful thing literally or even metaphysically. We are told that Jesus was telling the disciples at one time after they had come in from fishing—he told them to cast on the other side of the boat or in some other area of the water and they would find the big catch, and they did. So much so that they couldn’t hold them all and couldn’t net them all. The fish represent ideas, divine ideas and inspiration. It’s the idea that, again, somewhere in the waters of life you are being directed. There’s a communication that goes on.

We are all drawn to water. We feel good around water. There are people that will travel miles to experience a waterfall, people that love to be on the ocean or on the lake, people who love to sail or swim or they love to fish—just simply being on the water. We know that that is the case. Diane and I love to be around water. We’re blessed to have a home that’s on a small, little lake out on the edges of Sugar Land. We love it. It speaks to us every day. We’re very grateful to be next to the water. It’s something that she wanted to have, too. We’ve been on many cruises. We have been blessed to take people from the church groups to see different parts of the world and various bodies of water and oceans that we’ve been on. We’ve been on the Yangtze River in

China. We've been to the Ganges River in India and to the Nile in Egypt and to the Sea of Galilee in the Holy Land. All of these places are bodies of water that somehow were communicating and conversing and sending a message. Whether it was things historically that you picked up the energy that was there, or simply the current day and the experience of what was happening in the moment, but there's a special energy somehow in water.

One vacation we took some years back now, we went on a white water river raft trip down through the Grand Canyon, the Colorado River, going through rapids and then also long periods of still water. Just experiencing that was a phenomenal experience to feel the power of that water.

Some of you are familiar with the book that was written by Masaru Emoto. Emoto wrote this book called *Messages of Water*. It's a profound book, if you haven't seen it or come across it. He was doing experiments with water and studies to discover and uncover the properties of water and the fact that it is alive and we are in communication with it. It communicates to us and we communicate to it. It is a reflection of our consciousness. He was reflecting on the idea that snow is water, obviously. And snowflakes—it's been said—there are no two snowflakes that are alike. He thought that for millions of years now the snow has been falling and there have not been two crystal snowflakes alike. They're all different. So he began to be led to take pictures of frozen crystals of water—water from all different places around the world—and they had a variation of how they looked based on their level of purity or impurity, their level of pollution or what have you. So he began this experiment in 1994 and he took water and formed them into frozen crystals from spring water, river water, rain water, lakes and swamps and marshes, tap water from all of the cities around the world to determine the quality of the water. By the way, Brazil has some of the finest water, if you want it. It's the purest. But anyway, he took some 10,000 pictures over 4½ years, and what he came to realize was that the water seemed to be expressing a message, wanting to say something. Though each picture that he had—and there's many, many pictures in the book that distinguish the differences of consciousness and purity and impurity and so forth that there are almost like faces to them. They are delivering a message by virtue of how they show up, however pure and crystal and clear or however dark or broken up or whatever they might be. The thing that they were trying to say was almost as if to shout, "Clear water! I want to be clear water!" And there's a part of us that says inside, really the true core of us, "I want to be clear. I want to be pure. I want to be a reflection of the source from which I have come and to which I am returning." There is that kind of similar shout.

There's life everywhere. There's God everywhere. There's spirit in all things, messages in consciousness coming and helping from everywhere. So he found that this pollution existed in various places. Anyway, he began to think about—you know—there have been studies done about plants and that depending on what you said to plants that they would react differently. They responded differently to music that was played to them. And he got to thinking that really plants and food are made up of water. So the communication may really be happening with the

water that is housed within, to some extent. So in looking at that and discovering that, yes, that is true. If you're nasty and negative to plants they feel it and there is a reaction. If you are joyous and praising there is a reaction. He went with that and determined that people can become joyous and encouraged just like the plants as they begin to listen to those kinds of praise and words coming at them, as they affirm, as they pray, as they align with that which is of truth.

There's a difference response, of course. So they found that music and words affect water, basically, more than any other element. They played Beethoven—one of his famous symphonies—and it created beautiful crystals. They played Mozart and classical and healing music and all kinds of music and, again, it reflected the music. There was some variation, but, again, if it was peaceful and loving and kind and soothing it was reflected in the crystal. Then they found that heavy metal music tended to cause the structure in the crystal to actually break up into pieces. The water really reacted very negatively to that. That's not to be harsh about heavy metal music if you love it, but it's not doing any good to your body is what it's telling you. That's the message.

Then they began to use words and studied with words. One of the experiments that they did was they had two jars of the same size of cooked rice. They had kids speaking every day for 30 days to the one jar praising it, being thankful for it, blessing it, just all good thoughts and words being said to that jar. Then the other jar—they had a group of kids that were just saying nasty things, naughty things. "You fool, you're bad." After 30 days, the one that had received all the nice stuff had this fermented, nice, mellow, malted rice aroma. It was clear. It was nice rice. The other jar that had received all of this other negative vibration of thought and spoken word had turned black and it had rotted. It had a very disgusting odor to it, as well.

They found that water is affected by the consciousness of the words that are spoken, thoughts, actions, all of that. A very, very powerful thing going on in terms of what is transmitted. They did all kinds of experiments, including use of prayer and the difference that it made.

One of the passages that we love is the Twenty-third psalm. One of the reasons is it states, "He leads me beside still waters and restores my soul." When you say those still waters it, again, sets a tone inside of you. It takes you to, perhaps, a visual place where there are still waters and where you know you have been a time or two before and you felt restored. So water has this somehow healing, nurturing, and purifying quality.

You've heard about Lourdes in France. I haven't been there, but it's interesting. Lourdes is a small town in the foothills of the Pyrenees. There's a castle there in the center in the town. They say back in 1858 there was a 14-year-old girl named Bernadette Soubirous. She claimed to have conversed with Mother Mary. That's how it all got started. Bernadette was out gathering firewood with her two sisters and she separated from them. She had an apparition of a lady that appeared dressed in white. It was said to be Mother Mary. She didn't know that at first. It

appeared one time then appeared a second time. Then the third time it spoke, this apparition. It basically asked her to come each day to this grotto alongside the river to see her. Each time she would be insisting that the priests that were in the town build a chapel in the grotto by the river and that Bernadette was to drink from the spring there. Well, there was no spring there, so Bernadette began to dig in the mud. And all of a sudden a spring bubbled up. They immediately gave curative powers to it. The local police and the local priest tried to talk Bernadette out of her imaginings even though the water had appeared. On the sixteenth visit of her with this apparition, the lady said who she was. She said that she was Mother Mary. Then the clergy did build a chapel by the grotto at the edge of the river. When the trains begin to find their way and tracks were made to Lourdes, people from all over the world—thousands of people—were coming to the waters there. There were thousands that left their crutches and their canes and thousands others that claimed to be healed. There are famous documented cases, actually. I'll just recite to you one, maybe two.

Back in 1947 or 1948 there was a lady name Rose Martin. She came weighing only 70 pounds because she was suffering from cancer of the uterus. She had already had several operations, and they had given up on her. She was dying. She went there, went into the baths and bathed three times, came out, and her appetite suddenly returned. The awful pain she had been in disappeared. And after a period of months she was examined by the medical bureau and was determined to be free of cancer. She had gained 35 pounds and became the picture of health. More than 20 leading French doctors and surgeons confirmed this unusual healing, having analyzed her.

Another account—I've just got to tell you about real fast—is about an American surgeon. He was a Nobel Prize winner in 1912 for physiology or medicine. His name was Alex Carrel. He and his colleagues went to Lourdes just to explore, just to observe. While they were there, there was a lady named Marie (Billy??), and she had been carried in a pain-filled way into the water. She was suffering and dying from tuberculosis. When she went into the water they saw her surge forward like a power had gone through her. The paleness that she had had turned to a rosy hue, and she had a protrusion of her abdomen that they saw return back to normal right in front of their eyes. It was after that that Lourdes medical bureau established criteria that had to be met in order to label a cure as being miraculous. They went to those steps. The Roman Catholic Church has acknowledged, officially, 67 miracle healings there.

What's that about people? What's that about? Certainly there's faith involved and there's a communication. There's a meaning, somehow, in water. The fact that we are brothers and sisters with water, that water flows through us and all of the earth, and that there are bodies that carry levels of purity and affect us even in consciousness. We to the water; the water to us in certain ways.

There's the bible story of Bethesda where the man was in the porches for 38 years wanting to be healed and every time an angel would stir the water, the first person that got out there got healed.

Well, my question is—and eventually Jesus healed him without having to make it into the waters—but my question is, he was there for 38 years, there must have been stirrings of water and people getting healed or he wouldn't have hung around for 38 years. It's interesting.

Jesus went to the woman at the well. It was a Samaritan woman, and Jews don't speak to Samaritans. It was supposed to be, but, of course, Jesus wasn't like that. He asked for a drink, and they got into a conversation about living water. You know the story. He said, "You drink this water and you'll thirst again. But if you'll drink the water that Christ or the divine or the presence of God shall give you, you shall never thirst. That water will become in you a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." That, essentially, there is a water within us that, as we purify it and as we align it with the Christ of our being with the divinity that is inherent in us, there is a bubbling up—a fountain of life and love and joy and peace that pours forth from us out of that connectedness. That is what he was talking about. He was talking about consciousness, really. And that you become, yourself, a fountain of good. So you and I have that capacity. You and I have been called to that.

When I was in India, I remember a (dasa?), who is a teacher, saying—it was one at the university. He said, "You can take a glass of water and you can hold that glass of water. You can love it and bless it and affirm God's presence in it and it having healing properties and the intention of what it can do through you. And you can drink that and you have the potential of drinking it and being taken into bliss." That, essentially, the water that you drink, the food that you eat, as you bless it, it's significant. You're changing and altering it. Not only that, but you're changing your receptivity to it.

There's really something to taking the time to bless that food which is made up predominantly of water, to bless the fluids that you're taking, to see it blessing your body. It is significant. You see, it's all in consciousness. The waters of your being are listening, people. And through your prayers, through your spoken word, what you think, your actions, all your activities really are either purifying or muddying the waters of your being and of your soul. You can be purifying or polluting in any area or aspect of your life. We are each a river. We are returning to our source. And it was Jesus that said, "He who believes in me, in my teachings, in my truth and lives them—out of his heart shall flow rivers of living waters." I want that. I hope you do to. God bless you.

(Applause)