

The Upper Room<sup>[1]</sup> devotional reflection for Saturday, January 9, 2021 comes to us from Mark A. Carter of Oregon

**John 4:7-15** **7** When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" **8** (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) **9** The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) **10** Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." **11** "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" **12** Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" **13** Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, **14** but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." **15** The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

**John 3:5 (NRSV)** Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit."

### "The Water of Life"

I was part of a construction crew that worked on new housing developments. Our job was to connect houses to the water system. The work was not always easy, but it was worth the effort. When we turned on the water, a once-quiet house suddenly seemed alive – we knew it was only a matter of time before that house would become a home. It amazed me that the house could transform so quickly just by someone turning on a valve.

There was a time in my life when I felt a lot like one of those empty houses. Growing up, I didn't have the Lord in my life. When I started going to church and spending time reading the Bible daily, I began to experience the living water of God's presence in my life. Like those houses, when I finally connected with God's word and began living God's ways, I felt my spirit filled with new life. I know that I won't be empty anymore. I have a relationship with God that I once thought I would never have with anyone. Like the empty houses, I have been transformed forever by God's living water.

-- Mark A. Carter

**Prayer Focus:** Construction Workers

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, help us to remember that you are the living water. Thank you for transforming our emptiness into abundant life. Amen.

**Thought for the Day:** God's love can always give me life.

Friends –

Water is essential for our very lives, just as God is essential for our spirits. Being without God is like walking through a desert of spiritual dryness. Beginning to build a relationship with God is like finding an oasis in the middle of that desert.

Building a relationship with God is a lot like the great feeling when we take that first sip of water after a strenuous work out, working outside the hot sun, or even winning a long soccer/basketball/baseball/football, etc. game: we can feel "Ahhh"

--Pastor bea

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.upperroom.org/>