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MINISTRIES®

# STOPPED UP WELLS

## Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

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# Stopped- Up Wells

**Teaching by Joyce Meyer**

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# STOPPED-UP WELLS

## I. Let It Flow!

- A. **John 7:37-38** – Out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water.
1. What is flowing out of you?
  2. Is it living or dead?
- B. **Psalms 46:4-5** – *There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God . . . God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved . . .*
1. He is in the midst of the church and in us individually as believers.
  2. He should be flowing out of us; and when He does, we are made glad.
- C. **Revelation 22:1** – This river flows from the throne and of the Lamb – it should flow to us and through us to give life to all those we come in contact with.
- D. We should be more concerned about what is coming out of us than what is coming to us.
- E. We should have our mind on giving, not on getting.
1. Giving encouragement – not getting encouraged
  2. Giving blessings – not getting blessed
  3. Giving finances – not getting finances
  4. Giving praise – not getting praised

## II. Stopped-Up Wells

- A. **John 4:7-14** – The water that He gives shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.
- B. **Genesis 26:15** – The Philistines (enemy) had stopped up all the wells and filled them with earth (dirt).
  - 1. **Satan’s goal is to stop up your well.**
- C. Satan wants to fill us full of earth.
  - 1. The world’s ways of being and doing
- D. We are created of earth – in the center of our being is our spirit. When our spirit is filled with the Spirit of God, we are strong spiritually; and all the earth (dirt) stays on the outside of the well.
  - 1. If the walls of a well are not strong, they will cave in and the well will be filled with dirt.
  - 2. When we stay strong spiritually, we keep the world out of our lives. But spiritually weak people give in to peer pressure; they compromise and try to serve God and mammon.
- E. Satan is continually trying to throw dirt down our wells.
- F. Stopping up the wells meant sure defeat.
  - 1. **II Kings 3:24-25** – Even Israel tried to stop up the wells of their enemies because they knew that **A STOPPED-UP WELL MEANT DEFEAT.**

## III. Stones Of Disobedience

- A. **Isaiah 48:18** – The river won’t flow without obedience.
  - 1. Obedience brings rivers of peace and waves of righteousness.

- B. When we are obedient, God defeats our enemies for us.
1. **Exodus 23:22**
  2. **James 4:7**
- C. **Deuteronomy 11:26-28** – We are blessed if we obey and cursed if we do not.
1. A person can have money and things and still be cursed.
  2. Many rich people, many with worldly success, feel like stopped-up wells. They have no peace, no joy, and no righteousness. They are lonely and afraid. There is no river of life coming from them that waters anyone else.
- D. **Isaiah 1:19** – *If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land . . .*
1. The obedient get it all – both spiritual and natural blessings.
- E. Adam and Eve were flowing rivers one moment, and the next moment they were stopped-up wells. What happened?
1. They were disobedient.
  2. **Genesis 2:25** – Adam and Eve were free. They were enjoying the life God had provided, enjoying God, and enjoying each other. Creativity was flowing. Adam had just named all the animals and they were in authority.
  3. **Genesis 3:1-10** – The fall and the results
- F. **Jonah 1:1-4** – Jonah disobeys God.
1. Running from the call of God on your life is disobedience.
  2. **Jonah 2:1-10** – Jonah’s well definitely felt stopped up in the whale’s belly.

#### IV. Living In The Past Will Stop Up Your Well.

- A. **Genesis 19:17, 26** – Lot’s wife had her well concreted due to disobedience.
- B. The river only flows as we move forward in life. Any other direction than straightforward causes stagnation and death.
- C. **Joshua 1:1-7** – If you want to succeed in life, don’t look any direction except straightforward.
- D. Feeling guilty and condemned over past sins and failures stops up your well.
  - 1. Be repentant, receive forgiveness, and move on.
  - 2. Guilt hinders prayer, service to God, good health, joy, peace, righteousness, boldness, etc.

#### V. Hatred, Malice, Ill Will, Jealousy, And Envy Will Stop Up Your Well.

- A. **Genesis 37:23-24** – Joseph’s brothers cast him into an empty well that had no water in it.
  - 1. I imagine these brothers felt terrible inside when their father Jacob cried and mourned over Joseph.
  - 2. They probably had nightmares, guilt, fear of being caught, dread, regret, and many other negative emotions.
  - 3. Their act of throwing Joseph in a dry well turned them into dry wells.
- B. **Acts 7:9** – The brothers boiled over with jealousy, hatred, and envy and sold Joseph into slavery.
  - 1. They tried to make a slave out of Joseph, but their sin kept **them** enslaved.
- C. Anyone filled with this kind of dirt will be a stopped-up well.

## VI. Bitterness, Resentment, Unforgiveness, And Offense

- A. Forgiveness is a gift you give someone – a gift that is undeserved. Only generous and unselfish people are able to forgive.
  - 1. Only people with God’s nature can forgive.
- B. Unforgiveness is like spiritual filthiness or dirt on the inner man.
  - 1. Each offense not forgiven is another shovel full of dirt in your well.
  - 2. Some people have ought against many.
- C. Unforgiveness weakens you spiritually – your walls will cave in, and your well will be filled with earth.
- D. **Matthew 18:33-35** – Unforgiveness causes torture in your own life.
  - 1. Depression, lack of joy, and heaviness – you’re not happy and something just isn’t right – **YOUR WELL IS STOPPED UP!**
- E. **Matthew 5:23-24** – It hinders your worship. There is no free flow out of your spirit to God.
- F. **Mark 11:22-26** – It blocks your faith. Faith is a force that comes out of your spirit. If the well is stopped up, it won’t flow.
- G. **I Peter 4:8** – It stops your love walk.
  - 1. **Colossians 3:13-14**

## VII. Selfishness Stops Up Your Well.

- A. **Genesis 26:15** states that the enemies stopped up the Israelites’ wells with earth. The side note for reference material says to look up malice and selfishness.
  - 1. Selfishness will definitely stop up your well.

2. When we are turned in on ourselves, nothing can flow out to others. This causes something that is going to stop up our wells even more.
- B. Selfish people use other people to get what they want.
- C. **Luke 10:25-37** – The Good Samaritan
1. The world is filled with people who are very unhappy. They blame their unhappiness on everything imaginable, and they never realize it is rooted in selfishness.
  2. I feel certain the priest and Levite who ignored the man's need were unhappy men.

### **VIII. Your Well Can Be Unstopped.**

- A. **Genesis 26:18** – And Isaac dug again the wells of water which the Philistines had stopped up.
- B. Today is a day of unstopping wells.
- C. Have you been unhappy, irritable, miserable, frustrated, lacking peace, feeling condemned all the time, lonely, unable to sense the presence of God, getting nothing out of worship, desiring faith and being filled with doubt and unbelief?
- D. Is your well stopped up with self-pity, self-conceit, self-concern, self-importance, self-righteousness, self-reliance, or self-indulgence, etc.?
- E. Is your well stopped up with jealousy, envy, malice, ill-will, hatred, bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness, offense, hurt feelings, anger, or rage?
- F. Are you dry, thirsty, and empty?

**LET GOD UNSTOP YOUR WELL TODAY!**



