

## Are You a Sponge or a Fountain?

SPONGES are highly absorbent, but when they have reached their capacity they cease to be of any value. If they are left without squeezing they will become stagnant and produce a bad odor.

FOUNTAINS on the other hand, manifest an endless flow of water: for example, as I am writing this column I am reminded of a fountain we have in a small lake behind our home, it flows continuously 24/7.

I believe that we who make up the body of Christ are one or the other or a combination of both.

The Bible says in John 7:38 that "whoever believes in Me as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him". This represents God's best in us and flowing from us as a fountain to touch others.

We are also told in Acts 28:26 "Go to this people and say, you will be hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving".

Could this be you and I at times? We find ourselves taking in like a sponge, but not understanding or letting the river of God flow through us as a fountain. We tend to become spiritually stagnant, unfulfilled and exhibit a bad odor (testimony).

This represents the sponge mentality that we manifest at times. We can go to church every time the doors are open. We attend seminars, Bible studies and prayer meetings. We are constantly taking in, but never consistently giving out.

God is not glorified by you and I being satisfied to be sponges: always taking in but not giving out. So what does He do? Through our circumstances He squeezes us. Why? Because He loves us and is grieved and not glorified when we are satisfied to be sponges. He is pleased when we choose to be 24/7 fountains that touch many other lives for His glory.

He didn't save us to become museum pieces for His glory, but to serve Him, that He might be glorified through our lives and service.

In James 2:17 we are told that: "...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead"; like a sponge which is saturated and not squeezed becomes useless and dead. Some of us appear to just be waiting upon the return of Jesus with little concern for those who do not know Christ or those who need to be disciplined to maturity. Where are the works if we say we have faith?

Are we so self-focused that we are blinded concerning the needs of those around us?

Why is it after God has invested so much in each one of us through the sacrifice of His Son on our behalf that we prefer to be sponges rather than fountains for His glory?

I trust that our desire will be to become fountains and not sponges. God wants to motivate all of us to become ever flowing fountains, taking the message of Christ that God has implanted in us and sharing it with others as the Holy Spirit would direct us.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,...