

1. Euphrates: Up to Our Ankles

“And the fourth river is Euphrates” (Genesis 2:14 KJV)

In Ezekiel, they approached the house from the east. The forth river in Genesis was the Euphrates, and it means *river of the east*. The root means *to break forth, rushing*. This I believe is when we find ourselves to our ankles, in the Lord. We have accepted Jesus into our hearts, we have felt His Spirit, and we become born again. We have *broke forth* from living solely in this world and have stepped foot into the *rushing* waters of His Holy Spirit. For our horses this is the first time they submit to our will and gain confidence that we are not out to destroy them. They experience comfort and companionship in us and stop being driven by their self-preservation. Although they are far from “true unity” with us, they have taken the first step, an elementary level of trust.

This is where I spent the first 18 years of my life. I knew that I had a savior, and if anyone asked, I would say, “Yes, I am a Christian, I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.” I led the football team in prayer, before and after the games, and knelt down by the mat to pray before every wrestling match. I would also pray before I got on a saddle bronc horse and would pray with anyone who wanted me to.

I was not ashamed to testify for Him, but I was living my life following my own will instead of the will of the Father. Anyone that knew me knew I was a Christian and that I believed Jesus was the way to heaven. They also knew I would get into a heated debate with anyone who said otherwise. If I had a beer in my hand, this would cause me to be even more passionate about the matter.

I was living on milk during this time, hearing the word of God mainly from preachers at church. I would sometimes try to read my Bible, but I usually wouldn’t get a lot from it. What I read sounded good. I wanted to be more like the men of the Bible, but I never really had any life changing experiences through Scripture. I was the little seed that had been planted, but never received enough water to sprout and grow into the ground.