

**John 7:37-39**  
**June 14, 1987**  
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**Joh 7:37** In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**

**Joh 7:38** **He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

**Joh 7:39** (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

**Subject:** Jesus, the Water of Life

**Theme:** Salvation through belief and it's results.

**Proposition:** Have you accepted the provision and utilized the promises of Christ.

**St. Augustine Florida** claims to be the oldest city in the U.S. One reason for it's existence is that it was thought that there existed in that area a "**Fountain of Youth**". From this mythical fount men thought that they could receive renewed health and vigor. In the FOURTH CHAPTER OF JOHN HOWEVER, JOHN INTRODUCES US TO THE TRUE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE THAN NEVER RUNS DRY OR DISAPPOINTS THOSE WHO PARTAKE OF IT'S SIN CLEANSING PROPERTIES.

## **I. THE PROVISION BY THE SAVIOR**

## **II. THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

## **III. THE PROBLEM WITH MANY BELIEVERS**

### **I. THE PROVISION OF THE SAVIOR**

**37-38**

"The last day of the feast was the most solemn and climatic of them all. It was the eighth day, and a day of rest and holy assembly. During the 1st 7 days, those prefiguring their wilderness wandering, water was drawn from the pool of Siloam and then poured out, commemorating the water supplied Israel in the desert.. The eighth day signified the enjoyment of the springs of the land itself and no water was poured out. That was the memorial aspect. The prophetic aspect looked forward to the re-gathering of Israel in the last days after her worldwide dispersion and the fulfillment of I s a . **12 : 1 - 6** when the nation "WITH JOY" shall draw water out of the wells of salvation. Jesus stood and offered the spiritual reality to individuals but no national offer was made.

Jesus was at the Feast of the Tabernacles. As part of this feast, each day, a priest with a golden pitcher would be followed by a throng of people to the pool of Siloam. Filling the pitcher at the pool, he bore it down the streets amid the shouting and singing of the multitude and the sound of trumpets and cymbals. When he reached the temple, he poured out the water by the altar while all the people sang the words of **Isaiah 12:3** **Isaiah 12:3. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.**It was such a hilarious occasion that according to Lightfoot , it was said, ""**whosoever has not witnessed it has not seen rejoicing at all.**" (Havner, p. 97 The Secret of Christian Joy)

As Jesus witnessed this impressive ceremony and the accompanying jubilation - he knew that in spite of this, they would return home with their same heartaches and fears.

But he knew also that they had forsaken the fountain of living waters and had instead hewn out cisterns that can hold no water.

**Jer. 2:13.** For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. Jesus came and offered himself as the bread of Life, as the Water of life, as the way of salvation for all who would believe. "If ANY MAN thirst...."

"Water is absolutely essential to human life. Medical authorities tell us that it takes about 3 quarts a day to operate efficiently. You see, it helps break up and soften food. The blood, which is 90% H<sub>2</sub>O carries nutrients to the cells. As a cooling agent, water regulates our temperature through perspiration. And without it's lubricating properties our joints and muscles would grind and creak like unused parts of some rusty old machine. So that drink of cool water does more than quench your thirst. It provides your body with LIFE GIVING LIQUID EACH DAY." db 6-19-80.

The problem is, that in order for the water to do all that it is supposed to do, WE MUST DRINK IT - TOTALLY ASSIMILATE IT IN OUR BODIES.

Using water to wash our bodies is nice. But it does not replace our need for it in our total being. This is the problem with religions of the world and with a version of Christianity that some people espouse today. They want to use Christ as a external cleanser rather than an Internal Redeemer. This is no new problem.

**MATT. 23:25-27** CLEAN CUP - DIRTY INSIDE. WHITED SEPULCHERS. JESUS SAYS THAT THE OUTSIDE IS NOT THE PROBLEM - IT IS THE INSIDE. HE DIDN'T COME AS THE WATER OF LIFE SO THAT WE COULD CLEAN UP OUR OUTSIDE BY OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD AND WAYS BUT RATHER HE CAME AS THE LIVING WATER THAT WE MIGHT DRINK HIM IN AND BE THOROUGHLY PURGED!!!!!!

BUT, instead of drinking at the clear flowing crystal river of life, Many choose rather to try and slake their thirst at the stagnant, parasite infested cisterns of this world. And though the bleached bones of those who have sought life from the putrid slime that this world has to offer are everywhere in evidence, still they come and suck up the ways of death!

Jesus came and spoke to those who had the greatest need. **Jn. 4:10 and 13-14**

"Jesus answered and said unto her, if thou knewest the gift of God and who it is that saith unto thee, give me to drink, thou wouldest have asked of Him and he would have given thee LIVING WATER....,Whosoever drinketh of this water, shall thirst again; But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be a in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." "for when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." **Rm. 5:6**

In a life that is barren and thirsty, Christ promises that there will be ETERNAL LIFE springing up. Just as when Moses struck the rock in the wilderness. This is the "Life More Abundant" that Christ promised. And it is a life of service to others, for out of us are to flow rivers of living water. **THE BLESSING RECEIVED SHOULD BECOME THE BLESSING DISTRIBUTED!!** Ours should be an "overflow ministry".

Christ makes a PROVISION for us and a PROMISE to us.

## **II. THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

In the Bible the H.S. is symbolically portrayed as a Dove, as anointing oil, and as fire. He is also compared to a stream that is always in motion! Never stagnant, never standing still, always moving onward.

The Word declares that if we will but BELIEVE ON JESUS, out of our hearts shall flow rivers of living water. The Spirit of God belongs to all who will receive Christ Jesus.

**Romans 8:9** "But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, If so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His."

"For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one Body, whether we be Jews or Greeks, whether we be bond or free; and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."

**39** - see **14:16** Another Comforter. Given after Christ left! Sole prerequisite for receiving the Spirit = 38 BELIEVING.

**BUT INSTEAD OF BEING LIKE RIVERS THAT FLOW CONTINUALLY, MANY OF US ARE LIKE TAPS THAT DRIP, DRIP DRIP... AND YOU KNOW HOW WONDERFUL A DRIP CAN BE TO BE AROUND.**

### **III. THE PROBLEM WITH SOME BELIEVERS**

**BUT THERE IS A PROBLEM; ALTHOUGH AS BELIEVERS, WE HAVE ALL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE HAVE NOT LET HIM HAVE ALL OF US! WE HAVE REFUSED TO BECOME CLEAR CHANNELS FOR HIS MIGHTY POWER. SIN AND SELFISHNESS HAVE DAMMED UP THE STREAM OF BLESSING THAT NORMALLY SHOULD OVERFLOW TO OTHERS.**

**MANY CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE A STREAM THAT DRIES UP IN SUMMER AND FREEZES OVER IN THE WINTER.**

**THE POTENTIAL IS THERE, BUT WE ARE SO OVERWHELMED BY OUR ENVIRONMENT THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO FLOW AS GOD WOULD HAVE US TO.**

Grieving H.S. - **Eph. 4:30** "And **grieve not the H.S.** of God, by whom ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

**Quenching: I Thes. 5:19** "to put out a fire." Present imperative "Stop doing something you are doing now!" ( Thessalonians were trying to stop the free exercise of prophesying in the church.)

WHEN GOD POURS OUT HIS HOLY SPIRIT INTO OUR LIVES, HE DOESN'T MERELY WANT TO FILL US TO THE BRIM SO THAT WE CAN CONTAIN THE HOLY SPIRIT, HE DESIRES FOR US TO BE FILLED TO OVERFLOWING! WITH A **JOY THAT CANNOT BE CONTAINED.**

"CHANNELS ONLY, BLESSED MASTER  
BUT WITH ALL THY WONDROUS POWER  
FLOWING THROUGH US, THOU CANST USE US  
EVERY DAY AND EVERY HOUR." *MAXWELL.*

To be the type of refreshing river that God desires for us to be, we must first willingly submit ourselves to the TOTAL CONTROL OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD. THIS IS WHAT EPH. 5:18 MEANS WHEN IT TALKS OF BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.

**Eph. 5:18** 4 tests to see if you are FILLED.

1. Speaking to ONE ANOTHER in psalms hymns and spiritual songs.
2. The inner expression of praise by "singing and making melody in your heart unto the Lord.
3. A thankful heart.
4. Submission to one another. Peace and harmony will reign between husbands and wives, parents and children, employees and employers, etc.

**GOD DESIRES FOR US TO BE LIVING WATERS BUT MANY OF HIS CHILDREN TODAY ARE LIKE THE DEAD SEA.** Although the a great volume of water pours into this sea every day, none of it flows back out! **There are no outlets and there is no organic life of any kind! The Jordon river from the north. the Arnon from the East and the Kidron river from the west, But nothing flows out!**

**MANY INLETS BUT NO OUTLETS MAKES FOR A DEAD SEA!**

We have people today who listen to Christian radio, attend Bible conferences, listen to great preachers on cassette tapes, study commentaries and periodicals daily, attend church etc. They have unlimited inlets from

the Word, but no outlets! To be vibrant members of the Body of Christ we must do more than TAKE IN, we must also "GIVE OUT" IN service to others.

The only way we can do this is to be totally controlled BY the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD WHO DWELLS WITHIN US.

**"Some hill people in India called the Kurkue have a strange religion that demands that they should be FILLED WITH DEMONS! When this supreme desire has been fulfilled, they believe that they will be immune to outward attacks from the devil! While they recognize that a "good spirit" has created the world and brought them into existence, they disregard him because they feel that He is too benevolent to harm them. A missionary who visited this tribe of 100,000 declared, "If the same number of God's people had as their ultimate aim in life the desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit, I believe such a surrender would cause a tremendous awakening. The evangelistic results would reach to ALL THE CORNERS OF THE GLOBE!" DB 3-6-84.**

ARE THERE RIVERS OF LIVING WATER THAT FLOW FROM YOUR HEART? IF NOT THERE ARE TWO POSSIBLE PROBLEMS!

1. YOU MAY BE A CHRISTIAN BUT YOU HAVE **DAMMED UP** THE RIVERS OF WATER BY SIN AND COMPLACENCY IN YOUR WALK WITH GOD.....

2. YOU MAY NOT HAVE TRULY ALLOWED JESUS TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE.

**"A little girl from a very poor family was in the hospital. The nurse brought her a glass filled to the brim with milk. This was the first time that the girl had had a whole glass of milk of her own because at home she always had to share with her brothers and sisters. When the nurse returned to her room, she found the glass still full. "why didn't you drink it," she asked. "Do you need some help?" "No ma'am," replied the little girl, "YOU DIDN'T TELL ME HOW DEEP I COULD DRINK." The nurse, knowing of her poverty, fought back the tears. "Drink all of it," she said tenderly, "I brought this whole glass just for you." db 2-10-83.**

JESUS CHRIST COMES IN ALL HIS FULLNESS AND OFFERS HIMSELF COMPLETELY TO ALL WHO WILL RECEIVE HIM! HE IS THERE, HE IS THERE FOR YOU!

**.Ps. 34:8** "taste and see that the Lord is Good."

**119:103** "how sweet are thy words to my taste..."

**I Peter 2:2-3** ...desire the sincere milk of the word...if so be that ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."

WE NEED A FRESH DRINK EVERY DAY...!