

Miraculous Water

^{NKJ} **John 7:37-39** On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

How much water does it take to make a fountain that will never run dry? What about rivers? How much water does it take to have a well, a spring, that is a source of several big rivers? That is some serious amount of water, millions of gallons per minute. Unless it is water from Jesus, about Jesus then, as our text says, it only takes one sip. Yes one sip can make rivers.

John emphasizes that our text took place on the last day, the great day of the feast. This was the feast of booths or tents which commemorated Israel's passage through the wilderness. They would stay in tents outside the wall of Jerusalem. On the last day of the feast, the priest would go to the fountain of Shiloh and fill a pitcher with water and

proceed to the altar and pour it out. This was a symbol of the water that poured out from the rock to quench their thirst in the desert. The congregation then burst out into singing Isaiah 12:3. *"Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation."*

It was probably at this very moment that Jesus cried out. What Jesus did was very noteworthy. This kind of activity was unlike rabbis, teachers of the day. They usually sat to teach and didn't cry out/ scream but Jesus, in connection with the activities of this great feast, stands up (perhaps on a stage or column) and shouts *"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink."*

What did Jesus mean by this? That the water that saved their lives and quenched their thirst in the desert, it was a picture of Him. He was and is the Rock from which the waters of eternal life flow. If they thirsted for the water of life, if they thirsted for righteousness, if they thirsted for peace with God, if they thirsted for forgiveness of their sins, if they

thirsted for everlasting life, let them come to Him and drink and their thirst would be quenched forever.

What miraculous water the Gospel is! When we are lead by the Holy Spirit to come and take one drink, that one drink of water becomes a fountain of water. One mouthful of water becomes a fountain? Impossible by the laws of physics. Yet this is the magic, the miracle of the water of life. While we can and do keep coming back for more and more of the Gospel, one sip is enough to get the fountain of eternal life flowing and keep it running in our hearts. Because it is the Word of God for salvation. Because it is Spirit and it is life. One gospel promise of God received by the work of the Holy Spirit, cherished by the believer (also the work of the Holy Spirit) is enough to grant you eternal life.- For God so loved the world that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Or - Jesus is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only but for the whole world. Those are two of hundred. These exceedingly

great and precious promises of God create a fountain within us bubbling with peace and comfort and receiving all the benefits of Christ's Work. Often we fail to turn to these exceedingly great and precious promises of the Gospel and so we are filled with doubt, fear, jealousy but as long as a grain of faith in Jesus remains, the fountain is there giving eternal life.

But the miracle of the water of life does not end there. It is not just a fountain of comfort and salvation within us, it causes rivers of living water to flow out of us. Jesus continues. ^{NKJ} **John 7:38** *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."* **John 7:39** *But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

Jesus continues proclaiming another amazing thing about the water that He had to offer. His Gospel wouldn't

just create a fountain within them but rivers coming out of them. How in the world can one sip of water become a fountain of water, become rivers of living water? This analogy is getting ridiculous. But here is the thing. It is true. We see it happen today on Pentecost. The Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples to make them bold to proclaim the Word of God. The Word of God, the Gospel which is living and active and the power of God for salvation is the water that flowed out from them and from Jerusalem. It spread like many mighty rivers in many directions as Jesus had promised. **Acts 1:8** *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

The whole book of Acts demonstrates the spreading of the Gospel throughout the world. And the Gospel that poured forth in rivers to east and west, north and south, was indeed living water. **Acts 2:41** *"Then those who gladly*

received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them". **Acts 11:18** *"When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."*

This was foretold by the prophet Joel. **Joel 2:28-29** *" And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.*

The great fulfillment of this came at Pentecost as Scripture testifies, but while the greatest and clearest fulfillment of this pouring forth of the Holy Spirit to cause rivers of waters to flow forth into all the earth (aka gifts of the Spirit imparted to believers to share the gospel, not just with Israel but with all peoples) was at Pentecost and since the book of Acts, it has not ceased. It has not ceased. The Holy

Spirit is still poured out “on all flesh” and they proclaim the good news and people are saved. Jesus didn’t ascend to heaven to clean his finger nails, but to take up His power and reign to make our souls clean by bringing us what He earned on the cross by the Holy Spirit and the Word which is the water of life.

One sip of the Gospel, just one of the exceedingly great and precious gospel promises, such as Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief, is enough to get the fountain of life flowing and keep it running in our hearts and filling us with joy. Because it is the Word of God for salvation. Because it is Spirit and it is life. One gospel promise of God received by the work of the Holy Spirit, cherished by the believer (also the work of the Holy Spirit) is enough to grant them eternal life. It is a fountain within us, bubbling with joy, peace, and comfort that can’t be contained and receiving all the benefits of Christ’s Work as we hear in the book of revelations. *He who overcomes I will*

grant to sit with me on my throne. Be faithful until death and I will grant you the crown of life.

But the miracle of the water of life does not end there. It is not just a fountain of comfort and salvation within us, it causes rivers of living water to flow out of us.

Joel prophesied that in the New Testament era God would pour out His Spirit and we would prophesy. We would proclaim what great things God had done. The fountain of living water the Holy Spirit put within us, so we would share that water that Gospel the bubbles within us with others. This is exactly what Jesus said that out of believers hearts would flow rivers of living water.

In truth, I do not feel like rivers of living water flow out of me. What about you? You feel like rivers of water? I feel like a wadi (desert rivers that are usually dry). I have often failed to share the Good News even at perfect opportunities. And when I have shared it, it has often been stumbling and disjointed. And yet in this I rejoice and am relieved. I am not

the river of water. You are not the river of water. The Gospel about Jesus, the Spirit in the Word, are the living water that bring life to me and others despite me, not because of me, despite you, not because of you. We marvel at the miracle of the water of life, the Gospel of Christ crucified for the world to forgive their sins and give eternal life. One sip, by God's power and the Holy Spirit, becomes a fountain of eternal life, within becomes rivers of living water flowing out to bring heaven and salvation to you, to your child, your friend your neighbor. *Isaiah 12:2 - 6 "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.' " Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation. And in that day you will say: "Praise the LORD, call upon His name; Declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, For He has done excellent things; This is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For*

great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"

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