

## How to Drink From the Living Water

John 7:37-39

A bottle of water is about a \$1.25 at a convenience store. It gives you refreshment. A bottle of water is more valuable if you are in the desert, hot and dry, without liquid nourishment to be found. We are trying to quench our thirst with things that will leave us longing for more, longing for Jesus. Allow me to recap a little before we get into today's passage. Jesus was teaching at the Feast of Booths, the celebration established in Lev. 23 & Deut. 16 for the Jewish people to praise God for His provision in the wilderness as they exited Egypt. Jesus didn't go at first, because he knew that they were wanting to kill him, "it wasn't his time." So, he went later and teaches the crowds. The Pharisees show up and He tells them what their heart reveals. Listen to John 7:34 "You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come." He knows that they do not believe that He is the Messiah and of course this enrages them even more. Jesus gives us instructions on how to drink from the living water, but we must be obedient by faith.

**First: Boldly Recognize Jesus as the Living Water (John 7:37-38)** In these two verses, Jesus proclaims Himself to be the place where the living water is found. He is quoting Isaiah 55:1 fulfilling this prophecy. Throughout the New Testament, water has been a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit of God comes to sinners and shows us of our need for salvation, listen to John 16:8: "And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:". It is the Holy Spirit that applies the Word of God in conviction, John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day." If you have any affection for Christ, it's because the Holy Spirit has caused you to recognize your need for Jesus, the living water. It is the Spirit that baptizes the new believer into the body of Christ, according to 1 Cor. 12:13. It is the Spirit that seals that believer, according to Eph. 4:30. It is the Spirit of God that fills the believer and uses them for the glory of God, according to Eph. 5:18. Salvation involves every member of the Holy Trinity, but the Spirit of God is the One who abides in us and helps us day by day. He is the "water of life."

Jesus told them that if He didn't go away, the Spirit could not come into the world, according to John 16:7. Jesus died on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended back into Heaven. Then, He sent His Spirit into the world to function as the Living Water for all who come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Recognize Jesus as the Savior, the living water and recognize your need for Him!

### **Second: Behold The Rewards of the Living Water (John 7:38)**

**A. Salvation** - The primary benefit of coming to Jesus by faith is that of being eternally saved by the grace of God. Saved from what? Our sin and Hell! The sinner is condemned and doomed before the Lord, according to John 3:36; Psa. 9:17. However, when that same sinner comes to Jesus and receives Him by faith, that sinner is saved from Hell, delivered from death and protected from the wrath of God, Rom. 5:9; John 5:24; John 10:28.

**B. Satisfaction** - Notice that it is from the belly that these "rivers of living waters" flow. The belly is that part of man that is never satisfied. We feed it and soon thereafter, it cries out for more. Yet,

Jesus says that if we come to Him, He will give us satisfaction for our most pressing needs. This world, and those in it, seek after many things that can never truly satisfy. Ask the addict. "Sin will always take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay." The pursuit of these things leaves one empty and always looking for more. Jesus, on the other hand, abundantly satisfies the soul of man! Psa. 34:8 "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" and Psa. 107:9 "For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things."

**C. Strength** - This water is continually refreshing the life of the believer. This Living Water is that which gives us power, gives us joy and gives us hope in this world. Nobody, in their natural state, can live the Christian life. However, when the Spirit of God lives in you, John 14:16, and lives through you, Gal. 5:16, He makes all things possible, Phil. 4:13. The Spirit knows my needs and He makes intercession for me before the throne of God, Rom. 8:26-27.

**D. Service** - The Bible makes it clear that this water of life that is placed within us forms a mighty river that flows out from us and touches those around us. What the Lord is saying is that He will use us to reach others for His glory! Remember The Rock in the desert in Exodus 17:6? When the Rock was opened up, the water flowed forth into the desert and refreshed all who came into contact with it. So it is with us. When we are saved and willing through God, He will allow us to pour forth the Living Water into the dry desert of this world. Mark 1:17 "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

**Third: Become Rescued By The Living Water (John 7:39)** Receive the Rescuer

**A. Have an appetite to be rescued.** We must come to a place in which we have a thirst to be saved from our sin and a desire to follow the only Savior who can save us. Before a person can be saved, he/she must sense their need of salvation. This involves the conviction of the Holy Spirit, John 6:44. The sinner is dead in their sin according to Eph. 2:1. As long as the sinner is satisfied in their sin and content and has no thought for God, salvation will not come to that life! However, when the sinner sees themselves as lost and Jesus as the need of their soul, they can come to Christ and be saved by the grace of God.

**B. One must abide in the Rescuer.** Come to Christ. Jesus invites all the thirsty to come to Him. Notice several aspects of Christ's cry in this passage. Look back at verse 37, "come to me and drink." The invitation is presented. "Come" Jesus makes this same "come to me" invitation 5 times throughout the New Testament. In John 7:37 it states "Anyone." Listen to Rom. 10:13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." The way is open to Jesus, for all who call upon Him! He loves you more than you could ever know, Romans 5:8 "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still

Romans 10:9-10 "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."