



Empowering People to Change the World

Experience the Rivers of Living Water

Steve Holt

Experience the Rivers of Living Water

I ache for our nation; I ache for our state; I ache for our city; I ache for the Church in America. There is no strategy that can do it. There is no special worship that can do it. There must be a baptism of Fire upon the Church. Why not here? Why not now?

Turn in your Bibles to John 7:32-36

Jesus is preparing His disciples for death, resurrection, and departure from the earth, at the Feast of Tabernacles, in commemoration of the water that poured out from the rock in Exodus 17. The people are in the Wilderness of Sin and thirsty. Moses cries out to God, and he is instructed to strike the rock, and water gushes forth.

It was a joyous celebration observed in which the priests brought water to the Temple from the Pool of Siloam in a golden pitcher. The people recited Isaiah 12:3 in a procession.

**“Therefore with joy you will draw water
From the wells of salvation.”**

The water was poured out on the altar as an offering to God, while the people shouted and sang, Jesus shouts out the fulfillment of everything the ceremony typified.

Verses 37-39

Jesus is saying that the water gushing from the rock in the Wilderness of Sin is prophetic of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It's the spiritual rock with spiritual water (Hebrews).

Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit that will be, like the water being poured out at the Temple, like the water that gushed out of the rock with Moses. These are all *types* of the spiritual reality that is going to be poured out through the Holy Spirit—the baptism of the Spirit and fire (last week).

- This was for the believer in Christ, everyone who puts their trust in Christ, they would receive it.
- Jesus calls it “rivers of living water” flowing out of one’s heart.

- This outpouring of the Spirit would happen after Jesus had left the earth. It would first come at Pentecost and many more times throughout the life of the early church and throughout church history.
- One could argue that the main vehicle, the main way of God in His Kingdom Revolution, is the baptism and filling of the Holy Spirit in revival fire. Great movements throughout church history could be recounted that we don't have time for here, but God desires to do it again with this generation, at this time in Colorado, in America.
- The Spirit always comes in fresh power and baptism through his presence being released over a people, the church, who are thirsty for it.

How do we Experience the Rivers of “Living Water” flowing out of our heart?

How Do we Experience the Rivers of Living Water?

Verse 37a “If anyone thirsts”

To experience the Rivers of Living water, you must have:

1) Thirst and Desire

All of us are thirsty. All of us are thirsty for joy, peace, power, and purpose. It's not whether you are thirsty or not, but rather what are you doing to quench your thirst? We all have this desire to drink from a fountain that quenches our thirsty souls for joy, peace, power, and purpose.

Are you thirsty to fill your heart with the living water of the Holy Spirit? He is the only one who will fulfill and quench our thirst for joy, peace, meaning, and purpose; but we go after other things.

“For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water” (Jeremiah 2:13).

- God identifies himself as “the fountain of living waters.”
- He says that people commit two evils:

- 1) They forsake Me: Hebrew, “broken the bonds, set free, abandoned”. These are the ones who want nothing to do with God. They fall into that category of Psalm 2:3.

**“Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us” (Psalm 2:3).**

- But Jeremiah mentions another evil that separates us from “the fountain of Living waters.”
- We have “hewn cisterns—broken cisterns that hold no water”
 - Cisterns were tanks to hold water often used for irrigation. A cistern often had contaminated water if it wasn’t used rapidly because the water wasn’t living, active, or spring fed.
 - Cisterns were manmade for capturing water, usually through rainfall. They had cisterns because they didn’t have a river or creek.
 - Broken cisterns would be tanks often made of pottery that could be broken, that can’t hold any water.
- *Broken cisterns* are the ways we find a water that cannot satisfy. It is manmade to hold water that cannot quench our real thirst. It is the absence of the rivers of living waters.
 - Some quench their thirst through sex; others through drugs; other people quench their thirst through drink, through recreation, through relationships, through marriage and family.
 - For many their broken cistern is religion, denominationalism, the Law, and legalisms of *do not touch, do not eat, do not, do not, do not.*
- But there is a Fountain! There is a River! A river of living water!

Jesus is crying out for the thirsty. He says “If anyone thirsts”

- If anyone—it’s for anyone If they are thirsty.
- If anyone is thirsty, I will fill your heart with My Living Water.

Living water was from the foundation head, the spring. Jesus is the fountain head, the spring from which flows the living, fresh, vibrant, dynamic, oxygenated water that all

living things can come from: fish, plants, wildlife, trees, ferns—joy, peace, power, meaning, and purpose.

So, the first question this morning—Are you thirsty for the River of Living Water?

- This is spiritually pH quality guaranteed.
- This is spiritually purified water.
- This is spiritually enhanced with electrolytes!

verse 37b “...let him come to Me and drink.”

2) Come and Drink

Come to Jesus and drink of a relationship with Him through His Holy Spirit. Meaning that when we come to Him, He wants to fill you up to overflowing with His Spirit. This is what Jesus is saying to the woman at the well.

- It’s all about a relationship. Come to Him, drink from Him, know and love Him.

“Jesus said, ‘And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you’” (John 14:16-18).

- This is a relationship of love. The Spirit wants to abide in each of us, in truth. We are no longer orphans but sons and daughters of God!

Turn to John 4:1-14

She confuses the issue that Jesus is making through getting religious. She’s trying to argue about religion and ethics.

Jesus is saying *come and drink, come and drink* and IN HIM will become a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life!

- In us, will gush the living water.

Verse 14

Your thirst for living water will be quenched and it will become a fountain, a river flowing out of us to the world!

Verses 15-20

Again, Jesus is saying you are trying to fulfill this desire for joy, peace, power, and purpose through created outward things. You have tried to fulfill your thirst through men, through sex, through relationships and it's just not working for you!

Verses 21-26

To come and drink, we experience the rivers of living water that leads us into worshipping the Father with our spirit and truth!

On March 19, 2023, while in Florida, I had a dream I was walking out on my property in Black Forest, on the east side and I came across two streams, one flowing north to south, the other flowing west to east and they were intersecting. They were clear, living, clean streams, really flowing fast and strong. Then saw a cave to my right with bars on the entrance, like jailhouse doors. But I entered, it was dark and old inside. On the shelves of the cavern were old pictures, old relics of religion, crosses, and photos of families. It was families and churches in Eastern Europe under Communism. Then I look over and there was an exit out and it was a snowy hill, and I had skis on. I skied out. I awoke. Liz and I talked about it. The streams were the Word and Spirit coming together. I was led to this passage today. I read it. It was prophetic. The cave was religion, the old way—dark religious and confining. Like a jail. But then I skied out. I was no longer within the cavern of religion. God's way is now the Word and Spirit! True worship!

- **Worship pours out of a Spirit baptized heart!**
- **Love for truth erupts!**
- **People sometimes say to me that the Bible is boring. I say to them, you need to get baptized by the Holy Spirit.**
- **People sometimes say to me I don't like to worship God. I say to them, you need to get baptized by the Holy Spirit.**

Verse 38, "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

3) Believe and Trust

When we trust in Christ; when we believe and get baptized by the Holy Spirit amazing things happen. It's like rivers of living waters.

I think God was speaking to me at different times in my life. I was thirsty for the living waters while a freshman at UGA and God came down. I needed God for college and the gymnastics team. I talked about that last week.

While in Okinawa I was facing new challenges, new mountains and I needed a fresh new baptism of the Spirit and God came down and hundreds got saved, healed, and demons were cast out! I wanted more of God's power! Day and night I prayed.

When I was planting Mountain Springs Church I had new problems, new struggles. I got rebaptized by the Spirit for leadership! Let me tell you what happened, I was asking God for more and I was outside my house and suddenly the rain started coming, thunder, and lightning, and I heard this huge crash! Lightening hit a tree in our back woods! It was a Baptism of Thunder and Lightening!

I had Now Problems, Now Mountains, Now Struggles, and I needed Now Power for overcoming! What about you? Do you need a Thunder and Lightning Baptism?

To ask for the baptism of the Spirit in joy, peace, power, and purpose is for those new obstacles to joy, peace, power, and purpose. It was not an emotional prayer; it was a prayer for more. I wanted more—more peace, more joy, more power, more purpose!

- Do you want the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- Do you want to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior?
- Do you want to worship in Spirit and truth?
- Do you want the Scriptures to come alive?
- Come and experience the Rivers of Living Waters!
- Bottom line: Do you need more peace, more joy, more power, more purpose in your life? Come if you're thirsty.

Cry out to the Lord: "I want more of You Lord."