

CHRIST QUENCHES OUR THIRST WITH RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

- I It was the feast of tabernacles in Jerusalem. A feast is a time of joy.
- A. While the people were being dismissed on the last day of the feast, the Lord stood up and cried, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink” (7:37). The Lord knew that despite their week long celebration filled with feasting and drinking, deep down inside people were thirsty. Although people may be enjoying many good days, there will eventually come the last day when all their enjoyment will be over and they will feel thirsty.
 - B. **Last day** here signifies that all the enjoyment of any success in the human life will end. There is a “last day” to every kind of material thing in the physical life. Consequently, the people were not satisfied. The things that they were enjoying during the past seven days had failed to quench their thirst. If they would come and drink of Christ, they would have rivers of living water flowing out from within their innermost being.
- II The Lord Jesus said, “He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water” (7:38). Where would this living water come from? The living water is the Holy Spirit who will flow out of the smitten rock. (Ex.17:6, ICor.10:4)
- A. Before the cross, the Lord was the rock, but He was not yet smitten or crucified on the cross. When He was crucified and resurrected, the living water flowed out of Him and into us in order to quench our thirst. (Ex.17:6; John 19:34)
 - B. The Lord’s life giving water came out of His broken body through the death on the cross, just like the living water which came out of the smitten rock. As soon as the Lord was glorified (Luke 24:26) after His death and resurrection, His life-giving water flowed out, that is, He descended as the Spirit. (John 19:34, 20:22, ICor.15:45b) The Lord’s life-giving water is in the Holy Spirit. It flowed out through the Holy Spirit. Today if you are moved by the Holy Spirit, the living water has flowed unto you. If you receive it, this water will then be flowing inside of you.
- III The Lord Jesus said, “He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water” (7:38).
- A. Earlier in John’s gospel, the Lord said that whoever drinks of the water that He gives us will have in him a spring of water welling up into eternal life. (4:14) In chapter seven the Lord goes somewhat further, saying that anyone who drinks of Him will have the flow of the rivers of water of life.
 - B. The Lord did not speak of just one flow but of rivers. The unique river of living water is the Holy Spirit. Out of this unique river, many rivers will flow out. These “rivers of living water” are the many flows of the different aspects of life (cf. Rom. 15:30; 1Thes. 1:6; 2Thes. 2:13; Gal. 5:22-23, Phil.1:19) of the one unique “river of water of life” (Rev. 22:1), which is God’s “Spirit of life” (Rom. 8:2).
 - C. One river is the river as peace, and other rivers are joy, comfort, righteousness, life, holiness, love, patience, and humility. These rivers of living water flow out from the depths of our being. This is Christ as life to us.
 - D. How do we get the rivers into us? We must believe! To believe is to receive Him. (John 1:12)