

The Gospel of John 7:37-39

LIFE'S CRY TO THE THIRSTY ONES

- I 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**). *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. The living water is the Holy Spirit who will flow out of the smitten rock. Although you may be enjoying many good days, there will eventually come the last day when all your enjoyment is over and you will feel thirsty.
- 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**). In 4:14 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. 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.
- III 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**) of the one unique "river of water of life" (**Rev. 22:1**), which is God's "Spirit of life" (**Rom. 8:2**). One river is the river as peace, and other rivers are joy, comfort, righteousness, life, holiness, love, patience, and humility. I do not know how many rivers there are. These rivers of living water flow out from the depths of our being. This is Christ as life.
- IV John explains that when the Lord spoke of the rivers of water of life, He was speaking of the Spirit Who was not yet. Why was the Spirit not yet? The Spirit of God was there from the beginning (**Gen. 1:1-2**), but at the time the Lord spoke this word, the Spirit as the Spirit of Christ (**Rom. 8:9**), the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:19), was not yet, because the Lord had not yet been glorified.
 - A. When the Lord spoke these words, the Holy Spirit was "not yet," because the Lord had not yet been smitten and had not yet been glorified (**7:39**). What does it mean for the Lord to be glorified? It simply means that He was to be resurrected (**Luke 24:26**). The Lord was transfigured from His frail body into a glorious Spirit by means of His death and resurrection. 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. Jesus was glorified when He was resurrected (**Luke 24:26**). After Jesus' resurrection, the Spirit of God became the Spirit of the incarnated, crucified, and resurrected Jesus Christ. That Spirit was breathed into the disciples by Christ in the evening of the day on which He was resurrected (**John 20:22**). The Spirit is now the "another Comforter," the Spirit of reality promised by Christ before His death (**14:16-17**).
 - C. When the Spirit was the Spirit of God, He had only the divine element. After He became the Spirit of Jesus Christ through Christ's incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection, the Spirit had both the divine element and the human element, with all the essence and reality of the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of Christ. Hence, the Spirit is not the all-inclusive Spirit of Jesus Christ as the living water for us to receive (**vv.38-39**).
 - D. There is medicine in the all-inclusive Spirit. This medicine is the killing death of Christ that is in the Holy Spirit today. The more you say, "O Lord Jesus," the more you receive the all-inclusive Spirit. After a few minutes, you may feel the Spirit killing your temper, pride, selfishness, and other negative things. Within the all-inclusive Spirit is the killing of the cross. The death mentioned in Romans 6 is now included in the Spirit as revealed in Romans 8. So, this all-inclusive Spirit constantly puts you on the cross as mentioned in Romans 8:13. The killing effect of the death of Christ is not merely on the cross, for, if it were, it would not be prevailing for us. That killing effect today is in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. As this Spirit moves within us, the killing effect of the cross penetrates into our being. He kills every negative element in our being. Furthermore, in this all-inclusive drink there is the nourishing ingredient. In this Spirit is all that we need