

“Jesus: The Fountain of Living Water”

The Vine Series... John 15:5

SCRIPTURE

John 7: 37-39 (NIV)

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.

³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.

³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Subject Question: According to John’s gospel account, what three lessons does Jesus teach about role of the Holy Spirit in the life of His elect?

Compliment answer: The Holy Spirit is there for the Asking, The Holy Spirit is there for the Living, and The Holy Spirit is there for-Good.

Big Idea: According to John’s gospel account, the three lessons that Jesus teaches about the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of His Elect are: The Holy Spirit is there for the Asking, The Holy Spirit is there for the Living, and The Holy Spirit is there for-Good.

Homiletical Idea: “God is Filling”

Purpose: I want the congregation to consider their privilege of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Introduction: This is the sixth in a series that we will be exploring concerning the passage in John’s gospel where Jesus states, *I am the vine, you are the branches, He who abides in me and I in them, He it is who bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.* We will be looking at what it means to be “abide-ers” in this series. John has shown us Jesus’ roles as Son of God in Chapter one, Son of man in Chapter two, Divine-teacher in Chapter three, Soul-winner in Chapter four, and Great-Physician in Chapter five, and Bread of Life in chapter six. Chapter seven continues the ongoing conversation concerning God’s ability and desire to care for and sustain His people; now through the indwelling of God himself in the Person of the Holy Spirit. When we ended last week’s discussion on Jesus being the Bread of life our final verse was...³⁵ *Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and*

whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. John now picks up on the last part of Jesus' proclamation and teaches about Living water.

Groundwork: Question: "How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?"

Answer: An important verse in understanding the filling of the Holy Spirit is John 14:16, where Jesus promised the Spirit would indwell believers and that the indwelling would be permanent. It is important to distinguish the indwelling from the filling of the Spirit. The permanent indwelling of the Spirit is not for a select few believers, but for all believers. There are a number of references in Scripture that support this conclusion. First, the Holy Spirit is a gift given to all believers in Jesus without exception, and no conditions are placed upon this gift except faith in Christ (John 7:37-39). Second, the Holy Spirit is given at the moment of salvation (Ephesians 1:13). Galatians 3:2 emphasizes this same truth, saying that the sealing and indwelling of the Spirit took place at the time of believing. Third, the Holy Spirit indwells believers permanently. The Holy Spirit is given to believers as a down payment, or verification of their future glorification in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 4:30).

This is in contrast to the filling of the Spirit referred to in Ephesians 5:18. We should be so completely yielded to the Holy Spirit that He can possess us fully and, in that sense, fill us. Romans 8:9 and Ephesians 1:13-14 states that He dwells within every believer, but He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30), and His activity within us can be quenched (1 Thessalonians 5:19). When we allow this to happen, we do not experience the fullness of the Spirit's working and His power in and through us. To be filled with the Spirit implies freedom for Him to occupy every part of our lives, guiding and controlling us. Then His power can be exerted through us so that what we do is fruitful to God. The filling of the Spirit does not apply to outward acts alone; it also applies to the innermost thoughts and motives of our actions. Psalm 19:14 says, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."

Sin is what hinders the filling of the Holy Spirit, and obedience to God is how the filling of the Spirit is maintained. Ephesians 5:18 commands that we be filled with the Spirit; however, it is not praying for the filling of the Holy Spirit that accomplishes the filling. Only our obedience to God's commands allows the Spirit freedom to work within us. Because we are still infected with sin, it is impossible to be filled with the Spirit all of the time. When we sin, we should immediately confess it to God and renew our commitment to being Spirit-filled and Spirit-led.

Recommended Resources: The Wonderful Spirit-Filled Life by Charles Stanley and Logos Bible Software.

(Be filled, Be full)

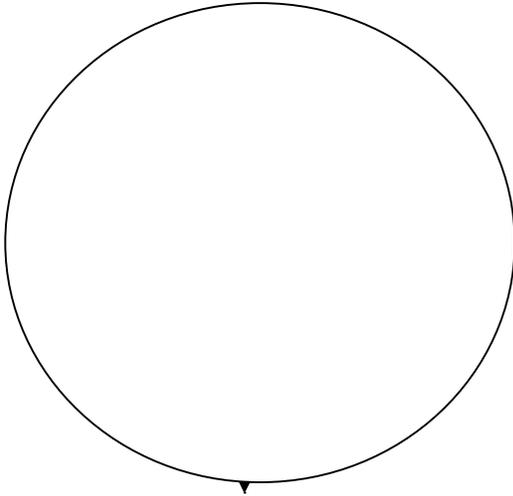
When we ended last week's discussion on Jesus being the Bread of life our final verse was...³⁵ *Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.* John now picks up on the last part of Jesus' proclamation and teaches about Living water.

- A. Jesus makes 3 claims in this passage concerning the Holy Spirit:
1. The Holy Spirit is there for the Asking. (Vs.37) *On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.*
 2. The Holy Spirit is there for the Living. (vs.38) ³⁸ *Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.*
 3. The Holy Spirit is there for—Good. (Vs. 39) ³⁹ *By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*
- B. He is your comforter, sent from the Father above, to bring remembrance all that Jesus has said, in order that we may be assured of not only God's calling and claim on our life, but the reality of walking in obedience and being shaped in to Christ's likeness in this life, until finally he will place our hand in the hand of Jesus and our time on earth will be past.
- C. The question is, how does this work? Paul understood this dilemma when he said in Philippians 5: ¹² *Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,* ¹³ *for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.* ¹⁴ *Do everything without grumbling or arguing,* ¹⁵ *so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation."*
- D. Salvation and being able to be filled with the HS are more about relinquishing than striving; allowing rather than doubting, faith than fear.

(Be filled, Be full)

Natural Person

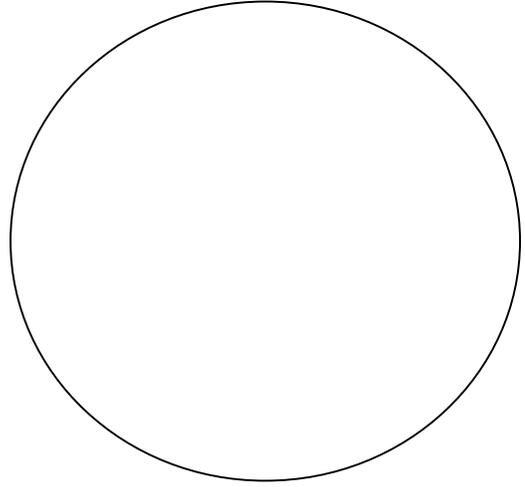
God



Satan

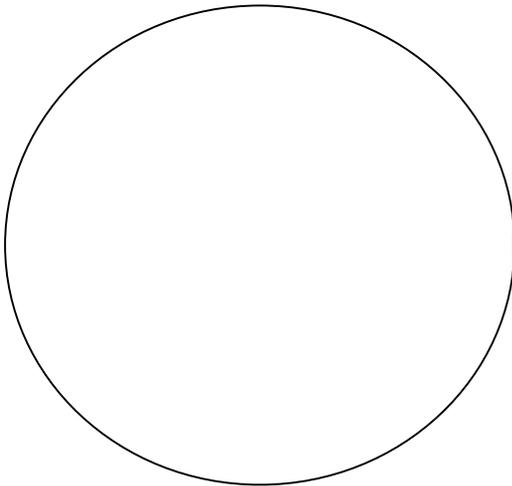
Fallen Person

God



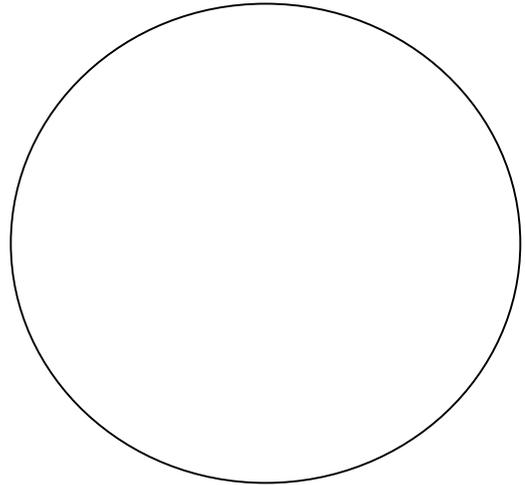
Satan

Saved Christian (Baby & Carnal)
God



Satan

Mature Christian
God



Satan