

<b>Series:</b> Desire Overflow	<b>Reference:</b> Romans 15:13	<b>Title:</b> The Fountain	<b>Date:</b> 07.11.2021
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Website Writeup:</b></p> <p>Last week we saw an intimate private meeting with a woman at the well talking about being filled with Living Water. This week we see Jesus giving a corporate public proclamation of the same in Jerusalem. In Christ the fountain of the Holy Spirit's been turned on!!! Do we want to be filled to overflow to the others around us living in the power of God, the Holy Spirit?</p>			

### **COLOR CHANGES IN TEXT INDICATE SLIDE CHANGES**

We're talking of a desire to overflow - Romans 15:13, *May the God of hope fill you with all joy & peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

We've used the image of a glass of dirty water, turn a faucet on, start to fill it up & the running water pushes any impurities out of the glass. The water will run clean in the cup. The idea of being filled to overflowing by our God of hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. That we're filled with the Living Word & in process are sanctified - changed & transformed by the Holy Spirit.

We've borrowed the image of a 5 tiered fountain. The Holy Spirit at the top filling us up, overflowing first to family & friends, then to local community, then the nations of the world. Overflow, a natural process of being filled, not forced or awkward, just happens. What you're filled with overflows to others & we want to be filled with hope, peace & joy - to be filled with the Spirit.

Today we look at John 7 starting in verse 37...<sup>37</sup> *On the last & greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood & said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me & drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."*

We heard this last week in the story of the Samaritan woman at the well...John's being redundant for good reason - filling's important. So, let's ask ourselves a few questions in order to understand this...When did He say this? Where did He say it? To whom did He say it? What exactly is He saying? And why did He say it? With all these questions in mind let's think this through.

Whereas the meeting next to the well with a Samaritan woman was private & intimate, John 7 is public & corporate. When did this happen? It tells us in v37, Jesus is at a festival. He waits until the last & greatest day when most people have gathered & right before they go home in order to give them something to remember. And this is during the Feast of Tabernacles...why then?

Before we answer that let's remember, no one in Jerusalem would've cared what He'd told a Samaritan woman of dubious reputation in a private conversation. But here, Jesus is standing up in the Temple courts, probably on some high place pronouncing this in a loud voice - which was only done if someone was going to make a solemn proclamation

of Truth! Here He's in front of the Orthodox, not the half-bred Samaritan, making this bold statement. Here He's pronouncing to a large crowd of Jewish men - the faithful. This is a different scenario, full of bravado.

He didn't come to the festival until about half-way through since the Jewish leaders were out to kill Him - but here He stands in the middle of the crowd shouting, "Believe in ME!" That's a death sentence. Peter probably cringed & said the other disciples, "Get Him out of here before he gets Himself killed!" It was that bold of a move!

*Listen to His words, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to **ME** & drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in **ME**, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."*

If He'd said, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to GOD & drink. Whoever believes in GOD, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." That would've been fine, they would've nodded & said, "Good teaching, that guy's passionate for the Lord." But He said, "Come to ME & drink. Believe in ME. AS THE SCRIPTURE HAS SAID!" He's claiming divinity, claiming the Holy Scriptures speak of Himself! "I'm God, I'm the source of life, the Scriptures speak of Me!" If I said that this morning, you'd lump me in the category of David Koresh, Jim Jones & any other lunatic with a messiah complex. That's why it infuriated the Orthodox so much.

People were confused. Whispering begins to ripple through the crowd, "Is He Lord, liar, or lunatic?" He's dropped a theological bomb with positive & negative effects. *As a result, Jewish leadership send guards to arrest Him, but they don't, or won't arrest Him! And when they're asked why not, the guards say it's because no one speaks like this guy (vs46)! The guards sense His authority & divinity. The leaders get so angry, they ask the guards - has He deceived you too (VS47)!*

These leaders consider all the everyday folk to not know the Law & even to be cursed (vs48-49) *They may be well intentioned, but they've become guardians of Truth instead of followers of It. An easy thing to do in religious life. These guys took seriously their roles as experts of the Law, as they should have, but they'd become blind to the work of God around them. I'm sure they did route many an errant itinerant preacher who was twisting the Word of God to his own ends, so we cannot fully blame them. These days we have both the same problems in church. Some who've become cold & stale caring only to be 'right' theologically. And also those who consider themselves Spirit-led & play flippantly with the Word of God. Mature Christians stand in the middle allowing for us to fumble through but putting up bumper guards for us as we go through life together while still pursuing God's lead through His Spirit.*

We know He's in the Temple courts. We know when it is - the last & greatest day of the Feast of Tabernacles (the feast of Booths). We know to whom He's saying it - to the nation of Israel gathered together for remembrance & worship. We at least know in part what He's saying - that He's the source of life & they must come to Him for it - in

essence saying He's God. But why did He choose to say it at that time? And we'll find that it has everything to do with the reason they're gathered - the Feast of Tabernacles.

During the feast of Tabernacles there was a solemn procession each day for 7 days from the Temple to get water from the pool of Siloam where the priest would fill a gold pitcher with water from the pool, then return to the altar & pour out the water where the parts of the sacrifice were arranged while the choir sang Isaiah 12:3...<sup>3</sup> *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.* And also Isaiah 55:1, which says, "*Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters*". This ritual commemorated Moses striking the rock in the wilderness & water gushing from it (Num. 20:8-11; Ps. 78:15-16); which produced water which saved the nation of Israel & was a clear image of the coming Messiah (cf. Zech. 14:8, 16-19).

The 8th day was different, no singing, no shouting, no water being poured out, it was solemn & quiet. A day of repentance. Against the backdrop of this silence & symbolism of water Jesus stood & said these things in a loud voice. So, His offer to come to Me & drink, was an unmistakable offer of salvation tied to the image of that rock in the desert which foreshadowed the Messiah & saved the nation (cf. 4:14; 6:53-56). He was equating Himself with all this imagery.

Let's ask one more question. What does Living Water mean to me? Because we've said in the past, Jesus is the Living Water & the Scriptures are waters which refresh us. However, there's something John adds here which is also true. What more does this Living Water mean? John answers that question in the next verse, <sup>39</sup> *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.*

Some of us may be unchurched, this being our first experience of church & of hearing these ideas, which is great. Others have past church experience which may not have focused much on the Holy Spirit - it wasn't a part of your experience. But according to John, this is what Jesus meant by rivers of living water flowing from with us - being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Francis Chan in his book, *Forgotten God, Reversing our tragic neglect of the Holy Spirit*, says this, "*From my perspective the Holy Spirit is tragically neglected and, for all practical purposes, forgotten. While no evangelical would deny His existence, I'm willing to bet there are millions of churchgoers across America who cannot confidently say they have experienced His presence or action in their lives over the past year. And many of them do not believe they can. If you just read the Scriptures without any prior context, you would be convinced the Holy Spirit is as essential to a believer's existence as air is to staying alive. I believe that this missing something is actually a missing someone - namely the Holy Spirit. Without Him, people operate in their own strength & only accomplish human-size results.*"

Jesus acknowledged God the Father, claimed divinity for Himself & claimed the same for the Holy Spirit. But we mistakenly look at the Trinity as if there's a hierarchy of

power within it. To us the Trinity is, God the Father as head honcho, Jesus as subordinate son & when we write the Holy Spirit we have to use an eraser to remember to capitalize the H & S. The Spirit becomes subordinate to the other two, but that wouldn't be how Jesus viewed the relationship between the three.

Our own statement of faith clarifies for us the relationship of the Trinity: *We believe in One True & Living God, eternally existing in three persons, equal in power & glory; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

Equal in power & glory. One God, same substance. Yet, still some have so little knowledge & relationship with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit has become the Trinity's errand boy - but the Holy Spirit is equally God, poured out into our lives to reveal our need (John 16:8), for conviction (John 6:44), to baptize us into the family of God (1 Cor. 12:13), to seal us in Christ (Eph. 4:30), to fill & use us in Kingdom work (Eph. 5:18). When the Spirit of God lives in you (John 14:16), and lives through you (Gal. 5:16), you have strength to do all things (Phil. 4:13) through this Spirit.

The Spirit knows my need & brings it before the Father (Rom. 8:26-27). It's the Spirit of God who makes the Christian life possible (Gal. 4:6). The Spirit comes with the Christ (Rom. 8:9). Each & every work of God involves all three persons of the Trinity, yet the Spirit of God abides in us as a day to day help - the "water of life." Jesus referred to the special baptizing, sealing & indwelling work of the Spirit in the Church Age, which started on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:5, 8). Jesus promised He'd send the Spirit to His followers (John 15:26; 16:7).

Therefore, we could say if the Spirit's the water of life, Jesus is the fountain. That fountain was turned on when Jesus was glorified through the cross, resurrection, & ascension. We think it would be better if Jesus were here right now, *but listen to what He said...<sup>7</sup> But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate (Holy Spirit) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:6-7)*

We avoid the Spirit because we don't understand the Spirit. We have a small view of the Spirit, as if the fountain's been turned off. Our lack of power doesn't jive with the book of Acts. "Don't worry, I'm leaving, it will be better for you to have the Holy Spirit" - is that really better than having Jesus here? But Jesus said wait here, the Spirit's gonna come - don't try to change the world yourself, wait, you need the Spirit. They wait, the Spirit comes in a rushing wind & tongues of flame - *the fountain was turned on. And they go out to the nations gathered in Jerusalem & speak to the crowds in power & everyone hears them in their own language - the message had overflowed to them personally, out to those closest to them, into their local community & now to the people groups of the world. There was a difference in the Disciples after that event - they weren't the same - now they had power & they did the things Jesus was doing.*

Fast forward to now, isn't it so predictable? Go to church, sing, hear a message, go home. Go to community group, go to work, go home. God's definitely in the mundane of

life but, when we need it, where's the power? Maybe we've been imbalanced in our view, pursuit & experience of the Holy Spirit? We've not engaged the Spirit & God the Holy Spirit waits patiently for us to do so. Maybe we feel like Nicodemus - we can postulate our theology of Jesus & the Father, but we're uncomfortable with this Wind, this Spirit which we can't contain or control. **Don't ever fall into the trap that you've learned or experienced all there is to learn & experience about God. There's always more.**

It's as if God's a bodybuilder & we're scrawny weaklings. Church should be a family gathering waiting to see what the Father will do. He wants to be active in our lives, He wants to be invited, like riding a wave on a surfboard.

This is where what you believe to be true of God, makes a big difference. If you view God the Father as the angry cosmic kill joy, Jesus as fire insurance & the Holy Spirit as just a subordinate cork in the bottle of salvation, you'll not see the Spirit work to any great extent. But if we say, **God's a god of life, Jesus is our daily bread of Grace, the Holy Spirit's our power for living. One substance, three persons, equal in power & glory. If we believe the kingdom can break into our reality, then we'll see Him work more fully.**

*8"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast."* Ephesians 2:8-9, the evangelical rally cry. But we need to continue on to verse 10, *10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* More than 'personal salvation', a dynamic life in the Spirit & power for witness. Like Jesus said in John 14:12...*12"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, BECAUSE I am going to the Father."* The fountain has been turned on. But, that scares us to death since it means risk! **Faith is spelled R.I.S.K.**

John Wimber was reading the New Testament & thought, I should be doing this! He started praying for hundred's of people to be healed. Nothing happened. Discouraged in his newfound ministry, a woman asked him to pray. He thought, this isn't going to work, but he prayed...she was healed. From that point on, not everyone was healed whom John prayed over, but many were. Later in life John was speaking to a crowd about this kingdom ministry, healing & power evangelism. They wanted to know how to do it. He said, "You want me to just tell you how to do it. But I can't, because you don't want to do the hard work which brought me here today. Go out & pray for 200 people then come back & tell me Jesus doesn't have the power to move in people." There's much to unlearn, or to learn, but it takes risk & practice.

Do we want the fountain turned on? One church in Cincinnati decided to get a booth in a psychic fair which was being held in their city. He's not a pentecostal, just a pastor trying to live in the radical middle. They got a booth, and put up a sign which said 'Healing Prayer & Dream Interpretation'. He asked the girl who organized it for his church, "Do we know how to interpret dreams?" She said, "No, but God's gonna show us how!" And the end result was they prayed over hundreds of people & saw great things

happen. And the attendees were coming back & saying, “The spiritual power at this booth is the greatest, can you pray over me again?” **R.I.S.K**

**In Jesus the fountain's been turned on. The Spirit flows. Father, Son & Spirit, equal in power & glory, one God in three Persons. Do we want to live in that power? If we do, then we have to believe differently taking risks in faith. Here's a challenge...**

Wherever you are this week, ask God to reveal to you a person who needs prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to come, invite Him. Ask Him to clear your fears & doubts, and speak to you. Then talk to that person & tell them you feel God would like you to pray for them & ask, “Can I pray for you, RIGHT NOW?” The ‘right now’ is the kicker, it's polite to say, “Can I pray for you?” But to pray on the spot is powerful - and even if they're not healed, don't come to faith, you don't get anything, or nothing seems to happen, 99% of the time they will feel cared for & impressed you'd take the risk to pray for them. But if something does happen, give Christ the glory & share the gospel with them!

Then come back & tell me what the Holy Spirit did.