

John 7:37-39 ESV

A Pentecost Prophecy and the Power of the Holy Spirit

Services: Sunday, 6/4 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 6/5 at 7 PM

Church Year: The Day of Pentecost – 2017

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: God is three in one, *three Persons and yet one God!* We are familiar with **the Father** promising to send His Son; then, with **the Son**, living, dying, rising, and ascending; *but what about **the Holy Spirit?***

In today's gospel reading, from John 7, Jesus will tell us about **the coming of the Holy Spirit** and **the powerful work the Holy Spirit will do in and through the lives of believers!**

1. **Jesus' Great Announcement:** ³⁷ **On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink."** // Let's consider **the** what feast, **the** Jesus' difficult circumstances, and **the** Jesus' great announcement:
 - a. **What feast?** The Feast of Booths; it was a joy-filled eight-day feast (from Tishri 15-22), *which celebrated the fall harvest*. This particular feast was a difficult time for Jesus, since people in Judea – *the location of the feast* – were seeking to arrest Him and kill Him. But Jesus went and also taught – *not in secret, but in public*; some rejected Him *but many believed in Him!*
 - b. **What kind of thirst?** The Feast of Booths included a daily ritual of receiving water from the

Fountain of Siloam, then pouring it out at the altar; the ritual commemorated the water that gushed out of the rock at Meribah to quench the thirst of the people (Ex. 17). Those OT people were physically thirsty, *in desperate need*, so the LORD provided for them! Here, *in John 7*, Jesus wanted the people to see their sins, *to be aware of their great spiritual thirst! Let us do the same!*

- c. What does it mean to come and drink? *It means to come and believe in Jesus!* Since all unbelievers are spiritually dead, *Jesus' call to come and drink also includes the ability to come and drink!*

2. **The Spirit Works through Believers:** ³⁸ **“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”** // What does that mean? Lenski explained: **“He who comes to Jesus not only finds his own soul satisfied but also becomes a medium for conveying the same spiritual satisfaction to others – this, of course, when the work of Jesus shall be finished and the Holy Spirit given to believers [on and] after Pentecost”** (576).

- a. What does it mean to believe in Jesus? Believing is **more** than words, **more** than being in agreement with certain facts. Believing is God’s work in us, *work that is done by His Spirit through His Word!* **By God’s work through the law** we know we stand condemned; then, **by God’s work through the Gospel**, we know we have God’s gift of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus!

b. How does living water flow from believers?

Lenski gave us his answer above; also, *consider this statement that Jesus made to His disciples on the day He ascended into heaven: “...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8 NAS)*. Jesus used those words to point His disciples to *the coming and the power* of the Holy Spirit! Then, *beginning on **that day – Pentecost** and going forward*, living waters would begin to flow from believers; that means that the Spirit would work through believers to *quench the spiritual thirst of others!* *How is the Spirit doing such work through us to others?*

3. **The Day of Pentecost:** ³⁹ **Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.** // Those words were written to explain Jesus’ Pentecost prophecy!

- a. What changed when the Spirit was poured out?
Think back to the time of *Jesus’ arrest to the Day of Pentecost* – 50 days after Easter, the apostles were ✓fearful, ✓behind locked doors, and ✓afraid to speak about Jesus. Then, *beginning on the Day of Pentecost and going forward*, they were filled ◆with the Spirit, ◆with power, ◆with courage, and ◆with boldness!
- b. Do we have the same Spirit? **Yes!** Consider these passages about the Holy Spirit:

- i. ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 12:3** ...no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. // *He is the one who united us to Jesus!*
- ii. ^{ESV} **Romans 5:5** ...God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. // So God loved us through *Jesus and His saving work*; then the Holy Spirit *worked through baptism to give us those benefits!*
- iii. ^{ESV} **Ephesians 1:13-14** ...you also, when you... believed in [Christ], were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance... // God has promised us eternal life, **and the Holy Spirit is our guarantee!**
- iv. ^{ESV} **Romans 15:13** ...by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. // So it is the Holy Spirit who gives us faith to *know God’s promises are true!*
- v. ^{ESV} **Acts 4:31** ...[the believers] were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. // So may that same Holy Spirit fill us, grow us in the Word, and move us to speak it!

Conclusion: Let us pray: Dear LORD, forgive our weak lives in Christ; then ➡ fill us, ➡ change us, and ➡ work through us to be a blessing to others! In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen!