

Introduction

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His Person

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His Works

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His Indwelling

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His Baptizing

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His Sealing

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His Filling

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His Gifting

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His Helping

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# The Holy Spirit—Our Helper

Bethany Bible Church, Adult Sunday School Class, August 14, 2011

## Our Endless Resource of Joy

*The indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit in every believer gives them a continual, all-sufficient, ever-satisfying source--promised by the Lord Jesus Himself--of blessedness and sustaining strength in every circumstance of life.*

This morning, we begin to consider the personal and practical aspects of the Spirit's ministry in the life of the believer. And we start this consideration with the wonderful truth of the Holy Spirit's indwelling. Over the next four studies, we'll talk about (1) the blessedness of His indwelling ministry; (2) the persons in whom He ministers this indwelling; (3) the permanency of His indwelling ministry; and (4) the hindrances to His indwelling work in our lives.

For the blessedness of His indwelling ministry, we turn to our Lord's teaching in two passages in John's Gospel . . .

### I. JESUS' PROMISE TO THE WOMAN AT THE WELL.

A. The offer of "living water" (John 4:10). At the noon hour, after a journey in the hot sun, our Lord was tired and thirsty. A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water; and breaking with the social norms of the day, He surprised her by her asking for a drink. As He drank it, He told her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."<sup>1</sup> Here, we learn that this "living water" is a gift from God that is greatly desirable, and that is available through Jesus.

B. The nature of "living water" (John 4:13-14). The idea of "living water" was fascinating to the woman. But she couldn't see how Jesus--who had just asked her for water--could draw anything from the well. This was because she was thinking only of natural water. But while probably holding a cup of natural water in His hand, Jesus went on to explain: "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." Here, we learn that, unlike natural water, the living water Jesus promises is eternal in its effect. It becomes in him a perpetually abundant source--not just a well, but a bubbling fountain!--that satisfies to the degree of giving eternal life.

### II. JESUS' INVITATION AT THE GREAT DAY OF THE FEAST.

A. The availability of this "living water" (John 7:37-38). We're told that Jesus stood up on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles--"the great day of the feasts". The tradition was that libations of water were made each of the seven days of the feast while Isaiah 12:3 was sung; but on the last day, the libations ceased<sup>2</sup>--making His words rather striking: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." What this adds to what we've already learned is that this is a promise that was contained in Scripture. The places where this may be eluded to--other than Isaiah 12:3--are Isaiah 43:20 and 55:1. Note that what was called a "fountain" in John 4 is called a "river" here!

B. The identity of this "living water" (John 7:39). John makes clear to us that "this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would

receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” Jesus was speaking of the Spirit’s indwelling ministry *before* that ministry occurred; because it would not occur in those believing in Jesus until Pentecost (see Acts 2). but the promise was clearly declared that it would be available to all who desired to receive it through a relationship by faith in Jesus.

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Truly, this is the “joy unspeakable” that Peter spoke of in 1 Peter 1:8! It’s worth carefully reading the words of R.A. Torrey (a great Bible teacher from a century ago) on the perpetual joy that comes from the Spirit’s indwelling:

*“It is a great thing to have a well that you can carry with you; to have a well that is within you; to have your source of satisfaction, not in the things outside yourself, but in a well within and that is always within, and that is always springing up in freshness and power; to have our well of satisfaction and joy within us. We are then independent of our environment. It matters little whether we have health or sickness, prosperity or adversity, our source of joy is within and is ever springing up. It matters comparatively little even whether we have our friends with us or are separated from them, separated even by what men call death, this fountain within is always gushing up and our souls are satisfied. Sometimes this fountain within gushes up with greatest power and fullness in the days of deepest bereavement. At such a time all earthly satisfactions fail. What satisfaction is there in money, or worldly pleasure, in the theatre or the opera or the dance, in fame or power or human learning, when some loved one is taken from us? But in the hours when those that we loved dearest upon earth are taken from us, then it is that the spring of joy of the indwelling Spirit of God bursts forth with fullest flow, sorrow and sighing flee away and our own spirits are filled with peace and ecstasy. We have beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness (Isa. 61:3). If the experience were not too sacred to put in print, I could tell of a moment of sudden and overwhelming bereavement and sorrow, when it seemed as if I would be crushed, when I cried aloud in an agony that seemed unendurable, when suddenly and instantly this fountain of the Holy Spirit within burst forth and I knew such a rest and joy as I had rarely known before, and my whole being was suffused with the oil of gladness.*

*“The one who has the Spirit of God dwelling within as a well springing up into everlasting life is independent of the world’s pleasures. He does not need to run after the theatre and the opera and the dance and the cards and the other pleasures without which life does not seem worth living to those who have not received the Holy Spirit. He gives these things up, not so much because he thinks they are wrong, as because he has something so much better. He loses all taste for them.”<sup>3</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup>All Scripture readings are taken from the Holy Bible, New King James Version; copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

<sup>2</sup>B.F. Westcott, cited in Charles C. Ryrie, *The Holy Spirit* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1997), p. 168.

<sup>3</sup>R.A. Torrey, *The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit* (Grand Rapids: Zonervan Publishing House, 1973), pp. 113-114.