

The Word Became Flesh

A Living River and a Deadly Mountain

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

John 4:7-15

I. Who is this River, this Living Water?

- A. What is the River Jesus refers to in vv. 13-14
 - 1. The River is the Holy Spirit - ***John 7:37-39***
 - 2. The giving of the Holy Spirit is core to Jesus' ministry - ***John 1:32-33***
 - 3. He's necessary for salvation - ***John 3:5***
 - 4. He's the gift of God to us Luke 11:11-13

- B. What is the Nature of His presence
 - 1. Flows from within
 - 2. Springs up out of us
 - 3. Never runs dry
 - 4. He's always here, living in us, unaffected by our situation!

- C. Who is He? - ***John 14:16-17***
 - 1. He is the Counselor
 - 2. He is also the Spirit of Truth
 - 3. He is the Manifest Presence of Jesus

- D. What Does He Do?- ***John 14:26-27***
 - 1. Teaches us
 - 2. Reminds us
 - 3. Gives us Peace

4. He Convicts the World through us - *John 16:7-8*
5. He will reveal what is to come - *John 16:12-13*
6. He Gives to us from Jesus' heart - *John 16:14-15*
7. He Glorifies Jesus in our Fulness

II. How Do We Get This River, the Holy Spirit?

A. Initially in Salvation

1. *Romans 8:9b*

.... if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

2. *Ephesians 1:13-14*

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-to the praise of his glory.

- a. He seals us,
- b. He secures our eternity
- c. He is our confidence of eternal life

B. We also experience the Holy Spirit **Fully in Surrender**

1. The Question simply asked is,...

If the Holy Spirit indwells us at salvation, isn't that sufficient?

2. 1st, we know that Paul commands us to be filled with the Holy Spirit - Look at *Ephesians 5:18*

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

- a. Why would Paul tell us to be filled,
- b.if we didn't need to be filled?
- c. And he's talking to Christians!

- 3. 2nd, we know that the disciples themselves were filled numerous times...
 - a. we see them filled in *Acts 2:4*

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

- b. we see the same persons filled again in *Acts 4:31*

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

- 4. In his book *The Green Letters* Miles Stanford notes that everyone God has used has been through a season where his will is broken:

The average of these men of God was 15 years after they entered their life work before they began to know the Lord Jesus as their Life...

- C. The by way of explanation, as your pastor....
 - 1. We receive the Holy Spirit at rebirth...
 - 2. But He is only as free as our will allows for Him to be Himself in us
 - a. He is IN us.....
 - b. But He's confined until we allow him to rule our

lives

3. At some point in our journey, we recognize there is “more”
 4. Maybe through crisis...
 - a. Maybe through the continual defeat of sin...
 - b. Maybe the longing hunger to know Jesus more...
 5. Whatever the reason, we cry out to God
 - a. And we find ourselves being broken...
 - b. Giving up our control to Christ...
 - c. Allowing Him now to fill us...
- D. So we need Him **Continually in Submission**
1. Again, Paul’s challenge in Ephesians 5, to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit
 2. ...daily taking up our cross and submitting to His permeation of our lives