

Celebration Services (August 9 & 10, 2008) John 7:37-39
"Rivers of Holy Spirit Vitality"

INTRO

Jn 7:37-39 ... Jesus offers a title (a Word Picture) that Frames His Anticipation of what the Ministry of the Holy Spirit will be like in the church.

"Rivers of Living Waters"

Jn 14:12, 15-16, 25-26

Jn 16:7, 13-14

Lk 24:45-49

What is Forming Our Theology of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit?

THE GREAT AWAKENING: In 1734-1736 and 1740-1742 in the American Colonies were periods of REVIVAL known as the Great Awakening.

- Men like **GEORGE WHITEFIELD** and **JONATHAN EDWARDS**
- Expressions of the Spirit accompanied these times of Revival
- Some QUESTIONED the revival because the experiences Didn't Match Their Expectations
"Chauncy was especially offended by what he perceived to be fanatical excess in the behavior of those who participated in the revival. True religion, Chauncy said, was primarily a matter of the mind, not the affections, and was characterized by self-control, cultural sophistication, and strict moral propriety. "The plain truth is that an enlightened mind, and not raised affections, ought always to be the guide of those who call themselves men; and this, in the affairs of religion, as well as other things." **Sam Storms**, "Signs of the Spirit", p. 31
- Jonathan Edwards analyzed, criticized portions, and Defended Portions of the Revival— He Wrote: **"The Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God"** &
- "Religious Affections"**
— His THESIS:
"The sort of religion or spirituality that pleases God is one that consists largely in "vigorous and lively actings of the inclination and will of the soul, or the fervent exercises of the heart." [J. Edwards] God is displeased with weak, dull, and lifeless inclinations. ... Nothing is so antithetical to true religion as lukewarmness. Consider those many biblical texts in which our relationship to God is compared to "running, wrestling or agonizing for a great prize or crown, and fighting with strong enemies that seek our lives, and warring as those that by violence take a city or kingdom.""**Sam Storms**, "Signs of the Spirit", p. 47

So... *What is Forming Our Theology of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit?*

“Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” The heathen err from this command by multiplying gods, and making this and that image to be the object of their adoration. Their excess runs to gross superstition and idolatry. I fear that sometimes we who “profess and call ourselves Christians” err in exactly the opposite direction. Instead of worshipping more than God I fear we worship less than God. This appears when we forget to pay due adoration to the Holy Spirit of God. The true God is triune, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and though there be but one God yet that one God has manifested himself to us in the trinity of his sacred persons. If, then, I worship the Father and the Son, but forget or neglect to adore the Holy Spirit, I worship less than God. While the poor heathen in his ignorance goes far beyond and transgresses, I must take care lest I fall short and fail too. What a grievous thing it will be if we do not pay that loving homage and reverence to the Holy Spirit which is so justly his due. May it not be the fact that we enjoy less of his power and see less of his working in the world because the church of God has not been sufficiently mindful of him? It is a blessed thing to preach the work of Jesus Christ, but it is an evil thing to omit the work of the Holy Ghost; for the work of the Lord Jesus itself is no blessing to that man who does not know the work of the Holy Spirit. There is the ransom price, but it is only through the Spirit that we know the redemption: there is the precious blood, but it is as though the fountain had never been filled unless the Spirit of God lead us with repenting faith to wash therein. ... Let us not therefore be found neglectful of the work of the divine Spirit, lest we incur guilt, and inflict upon ourselves serious damage.” **Charles Spurgeon**, “The Indwelling and Outflowing of the Holy Spirit”

CONSIDER: (The Various Ministries and Effects of the Spirit described in Scripture)

- **The New Birth** ... resulting in a New Nature & Identity
- **Conviction** ... the communication of our being out of agreement with God
- **Revelation** ... revealing and leading us into truth
- **Empowerment** ... divine enablement of abilities, skills, insights, ministry to others, etc.
- **Mortifying Sin** ... the reduction of the reign of sin in the flesh

The Backdrop of the Feast of Tabernacles:

- Jesus spoke this image against the backdrop of the Pouring Out of a SMALL PITCHER — It Was a Statement of ABUNDANCE THERE’S MORE!!

“Beloved brethren, notwithstanding all that the Spirit of God has already done in us, it is very possible that we have missed a large part of the blessing which he is willing to give, for he is able to “do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.” We have already come to Jesus, and we have drunk of the life-giving stream: our thirst is quenched, and we are made to live in him. Is this all? Now that we are living in him, and rejoicing to do so, have we come to the end of the matter? Assuredly not. We have reached as far as that first exhortation of the Master, “If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink”: but do you think that the generality of the church of God have ever advanced to the next, “He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water”? I think I am not going

beyond the grievous truth if I say that only here and there will you find men and women who have believed up to that point. Their thirst is quenched, as I have said, and they live, and because Jesus lives they shall live also, hot health and vigor they have not... they have life, but they have not life more abundantly. They have little life with which to act upon others: they have no energy welling up and overflowing to go streaming out of them like rivers. They have not thought it possible perhaps, or thinking it possible they have not imagined it possible to themselves; or believing it possible to themselves they have not aspired to it, but they have stopped short of the fullest blessing. Their wading in to the sacred river has contented them and they know nothing of "waters to swim in." Like the Israelites of old, they are slow to possess all the land of promise, but sit down when the war has hardly begun. Brothers, let us go in to get of God all that God will give us: let us set our heart upon this, that we mean to have by God's help all that the infinite goodness of God is ready to bestow. Let us not be satisfied with the sip that saves, but let us go on to the baptism which buries the flesh and raises us in the likeness of the risen Lord: even that baptism into the Holy Ghost and into fire which makes us spiritual and sets us all on flame with zeal for the glory of God and eagerness for usefulness by which that glory may be increased among the sons of men." **Charles Spurgeon**, "The Indwelling and Outflowing of the Holy Spirit"

Jn 7:37-39

"If any man thirsts"

- THIRST = a condition of inner craving, appetite, or longing; an inner disturbance that births movement
 - When Someone Senses This— to What Does He Move? Entertainment, fleshly indulgence, temporary pleasure?

Jer 2:12-13 Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, 13 for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

"Let him come and drink"

- COME = movement toward God and pursuit of God
- DRINK = a metaphor for "active receiving"
- COME and DRINK = Believe... Pursue... Receive