

# RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT: John 7:37-39 | Pastor Mark Bofill | 6/24/2018

I. The Invitation (37-38)

II. The Revelation (39)

III. The Manifestation (Acts 1:8)

**Intro:** *A young student asked his spiritual teacher a question, "Master, how can I truly find God?" The teacher told the student to accompany him to the village river and invited him to go into the water. When they got to the middle of the stream, the teacher said, "Please immerse yourself in the water." The student did so, where upon the teacher put his hands on the young man's head and held him under the water. Suddenly the student began to struggle. The master held him under still. A moment passed, and the student violently thrashed the water beating it with his arms. Still, the master held him under the water. Finally, the student was released and **shot up from the water, lungs aching and gasping for air.** The teacher waited for a few moments and then said, "**When you desire God as truly as you desired to breathe the air you just breathed -- then you shall find God.**"*

**Do we desire the fullness of God with the same desperation?** – Do we pant for His presence as a deer pants for Water? Do we long for the revelation of Jesus Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit as mentioned in scripture? – Then WHY does it seem that the Church is so weak in these last days? Why are so many so-called Christians powerless in their life? – Perhaps, many Christians do not even know if there is such a power! - It was Aiden Wilson Tozer who said, "**This is the tragedy and woe of the hour--that we neglect the most important One who could possibly be in our midst--the Holy Spirit of God. Then, in order to make up for His absence, we have to do something to keep up our own spirits.**" [\*Announce SERMON TITLE\*]

So He gives us...

**I. THE INVITATION (37-38)** – "*On the last day, that great day of the feast...*" – John chapter 7 mentions "**The Feast of Tabernacles**" (7:2, 10, 14, 37). This feast was 1 of 3 annual celebrations required for Jews. – On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month the **Jews would dwell in booths for 7 days and tell their children about the miracles that God performed in the forty-year wilderness journey.** (*Pillar of Fire, Cloud by day, Manna from heaven, Water from a Rock*).

- To commemorate "**Water from the Rock**" miracle, the Priests would draw water from the **Pool of Siloam** (*lit. "Sent One"*) into large pots, and pour the water out in the temple courtyard each day of the celebration.
- **The Last Day** – The Priests would return with "**Empty Pots,**" which signified that the water was no longer needed once they entered the Promised Land. And they would quote (**Isaiah 44:3**) - *For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;* It was at this opportune time that the Messiah, the "Sent One," Jesus... **Now Read (John 7:37b-38)**

<sup>37</sup>...*stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."* (Imagine the scene! – **The Cry: "Is anyone Thirsty"** – Not speaking of "Physical Thirst" but a "Spiritual Thirst!")

**Application:** Jesus knew that these people were “drinking from the river of ritual.” He knew that His people had forgotten Him and had become “Empty Pots.” (Jer. 2:13) declares, My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken me the Fountain of Living Waters, and have hewn for themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold NO WATER.” He knew that after this day was over they would go back to the same old fears, the same old faults, the same old failures, the same old frustrations.

- **Likewise, with many souls today...** So many good people go through the motions of religiosity and find themselves absolutely exhausted! We try to serve God and we try to please him, but most, if not **all our efforts are in** “our own strength and understanding”.
- **Jesus does not want to see His people bound up in dead ceremony and ritual;** He does not want to see us drowning in dead works empty practices... **what Jesus wants for us is to “believe in Him,” so that we can receive the power of the Holy Spirit!** – He wants us to rest in Him and be refreshed by Him because of a genuine relationship with Him!

**CLOSING THOUGHT:** The invitation that Jesus gives here **is to all mankind.** It is free, and promises true refreshment for the parched soul... **spiritual refreshment to him who simply believes!** – So I ask, **ARE YOU THIRSTY?** – *“God knows what each one of us is dealing with... He knows our pressures... He knows our conflicts. And He has made a provision for each and every one of them! That provision is Himself in the person of the Holy Spirit, indwelling us and empowering us to respond rightly.”* – K. Arthur

John now goes on to clarify...

**II. THE REVELATION (39)** – As the apostle John was a **first-hand witness** to what Jesus was precisely referring to, he thought it necessary to insert his own commentary on the matter:

<sup>39</sup> But 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. (when a person comes to Jesus and believes in Him, metaphorically they are drinking from His fountain – & Satisfied!)

- A. John knew that Jesus’ invitation was an important REVELATION about the PRESENCE and POWER of the Holy Spirit;** and how every believer needs Him! – In fact, just after the resurrection John, along with the other disciples, **“Received the Holy Spirit.”** (John 20:19-22)
- B. John later recorded many teachings of Jesus revealing the Role and Nature of the Holy Spirit.** Here are just a few contained within the gospel of John:

1. **His ROLE:** (not exhaustive) – The Holy Spirit **regenerates us (John 3:5-8), dwells in us (John 14:17), testifies of Christ (John 15:26), guides us into all truth (John 16:13), reveals Christ to us (John 16:15).** He also **convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8)** – It is also a distinct role of the Holy Spirit to **convict the unsaved of their need of Christ,** as He regenerates, baptizes, indwells, and seals all those whom He brings to repentant faith. (His involvement is absolutely essential for us to “Truly Find God!”)

2. Elsewhere in scripture, we find **His NATURE:** (again, not an exhaustive list)

a. We must understand that the Holy Spirit is a **person**, not an “it.” He possesses all the attributes of **Personality and Deity**, including Intellect (1 Cor 2:10-13), Emotions (Eph 4:30), Will (1 Cor 12:11), Eternality (Heb. 9:14), Omnipresence (Psalm 139:7-10), Omniscience (Isa 40:13-14), Omnipotence (Romans 15:13), and Truthfulness (John 16:13).

b. The Holy Spirit is **the third Person of the Triune Godhead**. He is coequal, consubstantial, coeternal with God the Father and God the Son (Matt 28:19; John 14:16; Acts 5:3-4, 28:25-26).

3. **One of the great revelations of the Holy Spirit is to know that He is our Comforter!**

The Greek word translated “Comforter” or “Helper” (**John 14:16,26;15:26,16:7**) is **Parakletos**; which generally means “one called to the side of another.”

a. To have the Holy Spirit as our Paraclete is to have God Himself indwelling us as believers. – What a comfort to know that He is with us in the difficult times of life to give us His peace (John 14:27), His love (John 15:9–10), and His joy (John 15:11). He comforts our hearts and minds in a troubled world. (*How many of us need that right now?*)

b. The power of the **indwelling Paraclete** also gives us the **ability to live by the Spirit** And “not gratify the desires of the sinful flesh” (Gal 5:16). The Spirit can then produce His fruit in our lives (**Gal 5:22–23**) to the glory of God the Father. (*a Spirit-filled life*)

**CLOSING THOUGHT:** The revelation of the Nature and Role the Holy Spirit in our lives as our Paraclete—our Comforter, our Encourager, our Counselor, and our Advocate **is wonderful news indeed**. But in this modern-church era, [*individuals seemingly neglect*] Him and the need for Him in their lives; *“Because we have shut out the Holy Spirit in so many ways, we are stumbling along as though we are spiritually blindfolded.”* - Aiden Wilson Tozer

**[Church Leaders are just a s guilty!]** *“How little chance the Holy Ghost has nowadays. The churches and missionary societies have so bound Him in red tape that they practically ask Him to sit in a corner while they do the work themselves.”* - Charles Studd

- In (Zech 4:6b,) God said, *“Not by might nor by power, but by MY SPIRIT.”* Not our own feeble efforts! **When God’s Spirit is moving it will be obvious!** - Leonard Ravenhill  
*“You never have to advertise a fire. Everyone comes running when there’s a fire. Likewise, if your church is on fire, you will not have to advertise it. The community will already know it.”*
- **Church, if ever a time that we need the Holy Spirit it is NOW!**
- **George Whitefield** said: *“Judge ye then, whether it is not high time for the true ministers of Jesus, who have been made partakers of this heavenly gift, to lift up their voices like a trumpet; and...to declare...with all boldness, that the Holy Spirit is the common privilege and portion of all believers in all ages; and that we, as well as the first Christians, must receive the Holy Ghost, before we can be truly called the children of God.”*

This is why we need ...

**III. THE MANIFESTATION (tt. Acts 1:4,5,8; 2:1-4; 38)** – Just before His ascension, Jesus gave His disciples instruction to **WAIT** for and **RECEIVE** the promise of the Father: *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; <sup>5</sup> for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now...* – *<sup>8</sup> But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

- Ten days later, we see this manifested at Pentecost: **READ (Acts 2:1-4)**
- Peter then stands up and preached with boldness in the Power of the Holy Spirit, explaining how to RECEIVE the Gift of the HOLY SPIRIT! (Acts 2:38)

***These people were so thirsty that 3,000 people got saved and filled with the Holy Spirit!***  
They turned the world right-side up! And so, The main purpose for this overflowing power is power to minister.

I like what Pastor Chuck says about this, *“Our lives are not just a vessel containing the Spirit, but they become “channels” by which the Spirit flows forth to touch the world around us.”*

**Closing Thought:** The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is clearly distinct from conversion and indwelling! It does not matter what you call it, but if you’re a Christian, you better have it!

**Altar Call:** The Words of Jesus are simple... *“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.”* – **If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior** - If you are tired of living without a spiritual passion or zeal for God...if you are tired of just going through the motions in life...knowing deep down inside you are spiritually dying or dead, **the Lord invites you to come to Him** to be reborn today...RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT, by faith.

[Isa 12:3](#) - Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Don’t be an Empty Pot... **Drink of Him**, as he desires to wash away all of your sins, and write your name in the book of Life.

❖ **If you are a Christian I want to ask you...are you empty today? Have you run out of gas?**

**Are you thirsty for God?** Do you recognize that your life is without spiritual power?

Then you need to Speak to the Rock! *Ask, and it will be given unto you! (Luke 11:13)*

***Then He will fill you until you overflow and become a river of living water that will bless others as well. – May the Holy Spirit empower you today!***

- ❖ **[Altar Call/Worship/Invitation]** – I invite you to experience the greatest thing in the world: Believe in Christ, Repent of your sins and open yourself to the power of His Spirit! Today you can be baptized in His name, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Maybe you are a Christian but recognize that you are without power. **“A Christian without power is a Christian who needs a baptism in the Holy Spirit.”** [BY FAITH...COME!]

**In order to be filled with the Holy Spirit, you must Ask! (Luke 11:9-13)**

*“So I say to you, **ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> **For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.** <sup>11</sup> If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> **If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”***

❖ **BY FAITH...COME and RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

- **Lay Hands – (Acts 8:15)** *when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. – (Acts 8:17) Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*
- **Unsure believers in Ephesus – (Acts 19:2)** *he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”*
- **Healing – (Acts 9:17)** *And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”*
- **Water baptism later – (Acts 10:47)** *“Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized [in water] who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”*