

ROM 216 - Under His influence - Pt 2 - Jn 7:37-39

We are still in our **ROMANS** study - we've **not** left it

Two msg's ago - in **ROM 8:1-13**

Paul **introduced** the **Power Source** for **Victory** in the Christian Life

His Name is ***The Holy Spirit***

& **He dwells** within every **True Believer** in Christ

Rom 8:9 says - If you **belong to Christ** today
you **HAVE** the Holy Spirit ***dwelling in you***

But Paul also **made it clear**

that for us to have **LIFE & PEACE** - ***we must***

CHOOSE to LIVE - **Under The Continual Influence** -
of the **Holy Spirit** Who **dwells** in us

In a very **clear contrast** - starting in **ROM 8:5**

We saw that those who **Live** according to **the Flesh**
set their minds on the things of the **Flesh**

which is **HOSTILITY** (***Opposition***) to God - & ends in **DEATH**

But those who **live** according to the **Spirit**
set their minds on the things of the **Spirit**

which ends in **LIFE & PEACE**

Then **Paul ended** that section by saying **WE ARE DEBTORS**
NOT to the **flesh** - which brings **death**

But **instead** we are **DEBTORS** to **live by the Spirit**
which **brings Life & Peace**

And **I pray** each of us would say - **AMEN** - *that's what I want*
to **Live by the Spirit** - to bring **LIFE & PEACE** into my life

& so then - **Last msg** we began to **"OPEN UP"** the subject of
Living UNDER The Influence of the Holy Spirit

& in **that Msg** - we said that **our job** in the Christian Life
is **simply to YEILD** - *wholly & completely*

to the **Person** & the **Power** of the **Holy Spirit**
Who **already dwells** in us

We **summarized** "OUR JOB" in the Christian Life
with a quote from **Lloyd Pulley**

who's book I said I'd like to make **Required Reading**
for Every Believer (*I titled these msg's after it - order one today*)

Lloyd Pulley;

***Living the Christian life therefore, is not our RESPONSIBILITY, as
much as it is our RESPONSE to HIS ABILITY***

Our Job - in Living the Christian Life - is to **Respond (Yield)**,
in an **Ever-Increasing Way**

to the **Power** & the **Ability** of the **Holy Spirit**
Who already *dwells in us*

& in **that** Last Msg - I tried to make **Only ONE POINT** - & here it is;

There must be an **EVER INCREASING YIELDING**

to the Holy Spirit in our lives
for us to ever Truly Live in Spiritual Abundance & Victory

So - If you haven't been here - I really encourage you
to get the LAST TWO MSG'S - to Catch Up

Because today - We're going to TRY
to Open the Door - on the HOW!

HOW do we surrender more & more of our lives
to the Influence, & the Power, of the Holy Spirit

HOW do we live under that EVER INCREASING INFLUENCE
of the Holy Spirit ?

While I certainly can't address
ALL that the Bible says on this subject here

if you'll PRAY with me - we'll at least - open the door

SO - HOW do we live - Under the EVER INCREASING INFLUENCE
of the Holy Spirit in our lives

Don't you wish I could just put up a simple 3-Step formula

you could write it on your hand - & just "punch in" the numbers
whenever you needed the power

Kinda like having a GENIE in a Lamp

Oh, I need some Holy Spirit POWER
I better rub the Lamp & punch in the formula

OH - Don't we **WISH** !

Because then **we** would be in control

we would just *call up the Power* whenever **we** needed it
& **we** could **GET** - just what **we** **WANT** ! (*ha-ha-ha-ha*)

But **AS LONG** as **we're** thinking **that** way

We will **NEVER** actually **LIVE**

Under the **True Influence** of the Holy Spirit

As long as we're saying **I** - **ME** - **MINE**

it's pretty much a **Guarantee**

that we have **NOT surrendered control**

of our lives *to the Holy Spirit* at all

SO - He's **NOT** a **GENIE** in a Lamp

There is **NO 3-STEP** *Power Formula*

But . . . there is a **HOW**

There is an answer to the question . . .

HOW do I come under an **EVER INCREASING INFLUENCE**

of *the Holy Spirit* in my life ?

The answer to that question - is **very often pictured** in the Bible
With WATER - More specifically **With Living Water**

The Bible describes it as - *Torrents of Living Water*
Flowing OUT OF the life of a Believer

WATER IS LIFE

As the **Children of Israel** wandered for **40 yrs** in the desert -
THEY KNEW - *Water was Life*

& as **they wandered** - they **knew** that God
was their **miraculous source** - of that *Life Giving Water*

& **that** is **HOW** - God *set the stage*
for a **great picture** - of *the Holy Spirit* in our lives

In **Jn Ch 7** - there is an **incredible invitation**
given to each one of us - to **come to Jesus**

to Receive **LIFE** - **AND** - to have **TORRENTS of LIVING WATER**
GUSHING from our lives

The **setting** In **JN 7** - is the **Feast of Tabernacles**
which was the *Greatest Feast* of the year

It was a **Feast of Remembrance** - When *Israel* would
commemorate God's *Miraculous Provision* in the Wilderness

The people would build "**BOOTHES**" outdoors, & **live in them** for a week

& they would **tell stories** of how God Miraculously
preserved them & **provided** for them
during their time of *Wandering in the Wilderness*

& each day there were ceremonies carried out in the temple

One of which was a HUGE ceremony involving water
that was performed each morning

But this Particular yr at the Feast of Tabernacles
Jesus was attending

& He was about to reveal - the TRUE Significance
of this WATER ceremony

This ceremony was to remember the Life Giving Water
that flowed from the ROCK in the wilderness
that Moses struck with the Rod of Judgment - (EXO CH 17)

& we know from 1Cor 10:4
that Rock - was a "picture" of CHRIST

1Cor 10:4 - ESV

*4 . . . For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them,
and the Rock was Christ.*

& altho - the Jews didn't know that -
they DID KNOW - this ceremony was about Salvation
that God had promised to bring - thru the Messiah

Ea morning, the people would gather w/ the priest at the temple
& the Priest would hold out a golden pitcher

& the whole congregation would begin a Processional
from the Temple Courts to the "Pool of Siloam"
singing the Psalms of Salvation & Promise from God

& the **Pool of Siloam** is very significant here
because it's **fed by water**
that **comes** thru an amazing **tunnel** that **Hezekiah** built

& **this tunnel** actually caused the water
to flow from "**under the temple**"

& there are **many O.T. scriptures** - that **refer** to
the "**life giving water**" which flows **from the temple** of God

So - as the Priest Collected this "**life giving water**" (*in the Golden Pitcher*)
the people would **sing** a scripture from **Isa 12:3**

that says - (Isa 12:3):

3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation

Drawing "**Life Giving Water**" – from the "**Well of Salvation**" –
that flows from the "**Temple of God**"

That **sounds pretty good** so far, doesn't it?

So then the Priest – & **all the people**
would **parade back** to the temple

& **as they entered** - there'd be a **great blast** of the **trumpets**

signaling the entrance of the "**Life Giving Water**"
from the "**Well of Salvation**"

Then the Priest would **ascend the ramp**, to the **altar** platform
where **everyone** could see

He would hold the pitcher above his head

Then He would pour out the "Life Giving Water"
from the "Well of Salvation" onto the "Altar of Sacrifice"

& as the Priest poured out this water
the people would erupt into singing the great "Halel Psalms"

Now – the "Crescendo" of the Feast of Tabernacles -
came on the last day that the Priests performed this ceremony

On that day the crowd swelled to breaking point –
because it was the final celebration

& as this great procession
would make its way back into the temple

there would be great anticipation
as the Priest makes his way up the ramp - toward the ALTAR

& on that final day - as the Priest held the golden pitcher
high above his head

ready to pour out the "Life Giving Water" from the "Well of Salvation"

a hush of anticipation may have fallen over the temple courts
& it is likely - that it was at that moment

Jesus stood at some high point in the temple
& cried out the greatest truth this world will ever know

Jn 7:37 - ESV → →

Jn 7:37 - ESV

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.

At the **Crescendo Moment** of this Ceremony - **Jesus** cries out

"If anyone thirsts for the salvation you're celebrating here today, then come to ME & drink"

& the **IMPLICATION** in the Greek is - **If anyone STILL THIRSTS**

If after all your Religious Ceremony

if after **ALL** the **MOTIONS** you're going thru

If after **ALL THAT** - ***if you STILL Thirst***

Then **COME TO ME** - & **drink**

BUT THEN - *Not only* did Jesus say

He would **satisfy true thirst**

But then He said something **incredible**

about this **LIVING WATER**

Jn 7:38 - ESV

38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'

All the people – at that moment

are **focused** on the "**Life Giving Water from God**"

& **Jesus cries out** - - - **THAT** - is a picture of **ME** !

& **NOT ONLY** - Am I the **SOURCE** of life

But **I will also** cause - **RIVERS** of Living Water
to **Flow** from **YOUR LIFE**

Jesus says - **IF YOU THIRST**

& **if you want** - **RIVERS of Living Water flowing** from your life

Jesus says - **Come to Me - Drink - & Believe**

Guys - It is **coming to Christ** – **Drinking** of Him - **Consuming** Him
That is our source of **True Spiritual LIFE**

& what **HE said** on that *last day* of the Great Feast
He **STILL SAYS** - *to You & Me today*

He stands in OUR MIDST

as **WE** go thru our **Ceremonies**

as **WE** go thru our **Motions**

& He *cries out today* . . .

"If anyone [still] thirsts, let him come to me and drink"

We **DON'T need** more **RELIGION** today

we *don't need* a **Formula**, a **Process**, or a **Program**

We *don't need* more **Effort** – **Understanding** - or more **IDEAS**

WE NEED MORE OF JESUS !

& **He says** to you today - ***"If you still thirst - come to Him & drink"***

& **PLS notice** today - that **THE SAME TRUTH**
the **brings Salvation** into your life

is the **SAME TRUTH** that brings
the overflowing of the Holy Spirit into your life

Jesus is talking here about **BOTH**
Salvation - **AND** - **the overflowing of the Holy Spirit**

We know that we simply **come to Jesus** *by faith* - for Salvation

But somehow - **we've managed** to so **complicate**
being filled with the Holy Spirit

that **we think** there must be some **other process**
some **other formula** - some **additional requirement**

But Jesus says - **COME TO ME**

He says **COME TO ME** to Receive **Salvation**

He says **COME TO ME** to Receive the **Power of the Holy Spirit**

Jesus calls us to "**Come to Him - & Drink**"

& **IF** we will *Come to Him - Believing - & Drink*
then *out of our heart* will flow **RIVERS** of living water

& really - the word **RIVERS** here
doesn't quite do the original language **justice**

The English uses the **PLURAL** RIVER(S) - to convey the GK
where the word is **TORRENTS** - or - **FLOODS** of Living Water

TORRENTS of LIVING WATER

will **flow** (*GUSH*) out of your heart - (*your inner-most being*)

THAT'S what we need - to **Transform** our **lives**

THAT'S what we need - to see **God Transform** lives **around** us

Now - **How** do we know **Jesus** is talking **Specifically**
about the **Holy Spirit** here ??

Well - **God thought** you might have *that question* -
so **He had** the Apostle John - **clear it up** for you in the **next VS**

Jn 7:39 - ESV [show with v.38]

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.

I think that pretty much **clears up** what Jesus was talking about

Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive,

SO - if you & I wanted **RIVERS of LIVING WATER**

Flowing from our Lives - **WHAT** would Jesus say to us **TODAY ??**

COME TO ME & DRINK !

& I **really like** the way the **NLT** translates **V. 39**

Jn 7:39 - NLT → →

Jn 7:39 - NLT

39 (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him . . .)

The NLT translates the Original here as "BELIEVING"

not so much inferring *ONE single event* in the Past
but instead inferring a continual action of believing

Because that's really what we see, isn't it ?
both in Scripture & in our Lives with Christ

Those Rivers of Living Water - begin to FLOW out of our lives
from an EVER INCREASING YEILDING to Jesus Christ

There is an Initial - COMING TO JESUS for Salvation

But then there is an EVER INCREASING YEILDING
that releases the *Full Power*
of the Torrents of Living Water in our Lives

We need to COME TO JESUS

I know we want a FORMULA - I know we want a RECIPE

But I need to tell you - the Answer is COME TO JESUS

Surrendering to Him

Yielding to His Spirit

Drinking in that Living Water that He Provides

Next week - we'll take **1 more msg** to discuss
some **Practical Ways** that you & I can **COME to JESUS**
& **Continue** to **COME to HIM**
& **Continue** to **BE FILLED** - with the **Living Water** of the Holy Spirit

But Today we need to hear just **One Thing**

the **Source** of that **Living Water** - is in **COMING TO JESUS**

& coming to Him in an **Ever-Increasing - Intimate**
Personal Relationship

in which your life is **increasingly YIELDED**
to the **Life of His Spirit** who *dwells in you*

TODAY - you may need to **come to Him** for the very **first time**
coming to Jesus - in Faith - **for Salvation**

Or you may need to **Come to Him**
to **YEILD** your life to *the Holy Spirit*

Or you may need to **Come to Him** for *the Umpteenth time*
for renewed **strength**, fresh **power**, more **peace**,

He knows your need - He's **waiting** for you to **COME to Him**
Casting off all Vices & Sins

Jesus said ***"If anyone THIRSTS, let him COME to Me, & Drink"***

& so I need to **challenge** you today - to **COME to Him**

to **receive from Him** - *Rivers of Living Water*
that will **flow** from your **heart**

Jesus says - COME - *Just as you are*
He wants you to **come to Him** - & **Drink**

But - **PLS Know This**

COMING to JESUS means - Coming **FULLY** to HIM
Not Partially - **Not** holding onto some sin, or something of this World

Jesus **will not allow** us to ADD HIM
to the things of this World - or **the things** of our Flesh

Coming to Jesus is about Abandoning **ALL ELSE**
& **Choosing Him alone** - to satisfy the THIRST in your life

Coming to Jesus
most often - means **LEAVING** something else

Being **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit
most often - means being **EMPTIED** of something else

No **True Work** of God comes without **REPENTANCE**
& without **RECONCILING** yourself to God

So **PLS Know** this - **when** you do **come to him**
to **receive** that fresh Filling of the Holy Spirit

There may be some things that
need to be **EMPTIED** from your life - **in order** for you to be **FILLED**

One thing we know

You **cannot** be truly *Under HIS Influence*
& be **FEEDING** *your Sin Nature* - AT THE SAME TIME

Our lives exist as a **battlefield** between the **Flesh & the Spirit**
& in **varying degrees** we are **always** in that battle

Paul says in Gal 5:16-17 - NLT

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature [flesh] craves.

17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other. . .

That's why I say - **Being Filled** with the *Holy Spirit*
means being **EMPTIED** of the things of *the Flesh*

& Coming to Jesus

means **LEAVING** the things of **the flesh** - & **the world**

In **Billy Graham's book** called "*The Holy Spirit*"
he **illustrates** this battle with a story of a **Eskimo Fisherman**

it would **not be Politically correct** today
but it is still a **great Illustration**

This Fisherman would bring
his two fighting dogs into town every Sat night

& the Fisherman would BET the other men
on which dog would win

One night the Black Dog would win
One night the White dog would win

But the Fisherman ALWAYS seemed win
cause he always seemed to know which dog was going to win

Finally someone cornered him - & asked how he always knew

& he said - EASY, every week I feed one Dog - & starve the other
- - The Dog I feed, always wins

THAT is why we must Continually Come to Jesus
for an Ever Increasing Filling of the Holy Spirit

We must FEED the Life of the Spirit
& STARVE the Life of the Flesh

& we must never stop Coming to Jesus
as our Only Source of Living Water

We are Parched Ground - We are Leaky Vessels

& we need to CONTINUALLY have HIS Living Water
POURED into our lives

I'm **going to ask** you in a minute - to **COME to JESUS**
to ask Him to **FILL you** with His **Holy Spirit**

He has **a life for you** that's **SO INCREDIBLE** - That it is
"Rivers of Living Water" - flowing out of your heart

& Jesus says

***"If anyone still thirsts, let him come to me and drink.
And . . . Believing in me . . . out of his heart will flow
Rivers of Living Water "***

Do you have that thirst today?

Have you tried to **drink in the World** to satisfy that thirst?
Have you tried to **drink in Religion** instead of Jesus?

Because **Religion** can be just as **dry** & **parched** as the **World**

Leave the **WORLD** - & Leave your **RELIGION**
& **come** to Jesus Christ - & **Drink**

& **Believing in Him** - **Rivers of Living Water**
begin to **flow** from your heart

Jesus is calling out to **each of us** today
He's **calling us** to **come to Him**, as **the source of life**

To **be Filled** to **Overflowing**
with the **Living Water** of the **Holy Spirit**

Let's Pray