

# The Gospels series: Faith That Flows

## Study Guide: “If Anyone Is Thirsty” (John 7:37-39)

- **Key Context**
  - **Feast of Tabernacles (Booths):** 8-day harvest festival remembering God’s faithfulness in the wilderness (Leviticus 23:33-43). People lived in temporary shelters.
  - Daily water-pouring ritual from the Pool of Siloam symbolized God’s provision and “the wells of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3). On the last day, the grand finale included circling the altar 7 times with trumpet blasts.
  - In this moment of silence and expectation, **Jesus interrupts** with a loud proclamation.
- **Core Scripture John 7:37-39 (NIV)** “On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.’ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”

### Supporting Verses:

- Nehemiah 8:1-18 (reading of the Law and immediate obedience in observing the Feast).
- Isaiah 12:3; John 4:13-14 (living water at the well); Ephesians 6:10-18 (standing strong in the Lord).
- **Main Points**
  - **Recognize Your Thirst:** Many go through religious motions but miss their deep spiritual thirst for God. Acknowledging thirst is the essential first step.
  - **Come to Jesus and Drink:** Not just observe or evaluate — fully trust, believe, and receive Him. This is wholehearted dependence, not casual acquaintance.
  - **Rivers of Living Water:** The Holy Spirit flows from within believers, bringing transformation, power, and overflow to bless others. Stagnant faith is lifeless; living water gives and refreshes life.
  - **Obedient Response:** Like the returned exiles in Nehemiah 8 who immediately obeyed God’s Word after hearing it, we are called to quick, joyful obedience.
- **Personal Application**
  - Jesus offers the “more” — deeper intimacy and Spirit-filled living.
  - We are a “house of miracles” because the Holy Spirit dwells in us.
  - True faith flows outward, impacting a thirsty world.

### Quotable Quotes

- “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.”

- “Acknowledging... that you’re thirsty is important because if you don’t know you’re thirsty, you don’t go looking to have that thirst quenched.”
- “Come to me and drink. Don’t just come to me and stare me in the face.”
- “Ain’t nobody want to be hanging out with stagnant water. It smells. It’s nasty... It will go through you on its way to life for another person.”
- “The joy of the Lord is your strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10)

### **Questions for Further Thought**

1. In what area of your life are you currently experiencing spiritual thirst? What might Jesus be inviting you to “come and drink” from Him right now?
2. How can you move from merely observing or evaluating Jesus to fully trusting and drinking deeply from Him?
3. How is the Holy Spirit’s living water meant to flow through you to others this week? Who around you might be thirsty and needing to see that overflow?