



Are you thirsty for Him – Bible Study Notes

Objective

This bible study is geared towards dealing with our thirst! God has a prescription for our thirst. His prescription is the Holy Spirit. In this study, we want to get an understanding of the person and the work of the Holy Spirit. He is the evidence of the blessing of God in a person's life. To engage in and walk with Him is what living a blessed life really looks like.

Introduction

We have been studying the implications of rain in scripture, as we believe that this is our year for showers of rain. **(Read Deuteronomy 11:11-12)**

Rain in scripture is a type of the Word of God; it is type of the blessing of God. But the rain and indeed water in scripture also signifies God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit.

In John 7:37-39, Jesus speaks about the Holy Spirit, referring to Him as the water that truly satisfies our thirst.

John 7:37-39 (KJV)

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

So when the promise of God comes to us about showers of rain, He is speaking about His Word, he is speaking about the blessing, but He is also speaking about His Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity. He is fully God. **His job is to manifest the active presence of God in the World and especially in the church.**

Holy Spirit, THE blessing.

The word bless in Hebrew is the word "Barak" and it means to kneel. In bible times when you kneel you are pledging to give something to the one you are kneeling to. In other words, it is what you give to the one you're kneeling to that empowers them to prosper.

When God blessed man, He didn't promise a car, or a house, He didn't promise the things that we would generally refer to as the blessing. He promised Himself! He gave the gift of Himself. It is the presence of God that is the real blessing!

Hebrews 8:10 New King James Version (NKJV)



10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

If you look through scripture you will find that one of the most consistent promises of God to His people is, I will be your God, and you will be my people. The real blessing is the presence of God! The real blessing is God among men!

In the Holy Spirit, God fulfilled His promise of blessing us by being present in our hearts and in our lives through the person of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16 Amplified Bible (AMP)

16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another [a] Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counsellor, Strengthener, Standby), to be with you forever.

You are blessed because the Holy Spirit is with you! He is your comforter, advocate, intercessor, counsellor, strengthener & standby!

Isaiah 44:3 'for I will pour out water on him who is thirsty, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants;

4 And they will spring up among the grass like willows by the streams of water.'

In a dry land, in a place of unfruitfulness, it is the spirit of God that turns things around!

ISAIAH 11:2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him—The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and strength, The Spirit of knowledge and of the [reverential and obedient] fear of the Lord—

3 And He will delight in the fear of the Lord, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make decisions by what His ears hear;

When you count your blessings, do you count the Holy Spirit? You should!! He is THE blessing that births all blessings.

Are you thirsty for Him?

You will experience the spirit in response to your thirst. If you're not thirsty you won't experience him to the degree that God wants you to experience Him.

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In both scriptures, notice that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is preceded by thirst. I think that many of us don't experience the Holy Spirit to the degree that God wants us to because we are not thirsty for Him!

We are thirsty, but we have learnt to satisfy our thirst with so many other things.

Someone once said, **"The man who knocks on the door of the brothel is unconsciously looking for God"**. We all have a thirst for God that we often satisfy with work, shopping, sex, fame; social media...the list goes on. All these things are not bad in themselves, but they don't satisfy!

In **John 7:37**, the people were participating in an ancient religious ritual. It was one of the feasts that God asked them to observe in the Law of Moses. Some commentators believe that the particular portion of the feast that was interrupted by Jesus' loud cry had to do with water. They performed this ritual for the same reasons many people engage religious activity today, thirst for God!

Jesus recognised that they were thirsty, but satisfying their thirst with religious ritual and He was calling their attention to the person of the Holy Spirit!

I wonder what activity you are engaging in to satisfy your thirst. Think about it carefully. For instance, it is the job of the Holy Spirit to comfort you when you need comfort. Where do you go when you need to be comforted?

The person or the thing you consistently run to for comfort will eventually begin to exercise godlike power over you! If you keep satisfying your thirst for comfort with food, eventually food will begin to control you. What are you satisfying your thirst with? Replace food with anything else and you will find that statement to be true.

Here's another way to think about your thirst, would you want to be a slave to the things that is satisfying your thirst for love, for affection, for peace right now? Would you want to be a slave to the patterns of thinking that makes you feel a little bit better when you are worried or anxious? Is the pattern of behaviour you engage in when you are thirsty for affirmation healthy for you? Is it making a positive, lasting difference =? Or is it ensnaring you?

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom



Jesus is calling us to turn to the Holy Spirit when we are thirsty because every other thing we turn to in our thirst enslaves us. But when we turn to the Holy Spirit, in our moments of anxiety or fear, in our thirst for affirmation or wisdom, in our thirst for intimacy and love, He sets us free.

Look at what God says to us through the prophet Isaiah.

“Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink— even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk— it’s all free! Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food.” Isaiah 55:1-2 NLT

Conclusion

At some point you have to admit that your thirst is not being satisfied with by the things that you are attempting to quench your thirst with. Now is the time to reach out to the Holy Spirit. Just simply say, Holy Spirit, I need you to help me in this area. He will answer you.

Discuss

- What other ways do we satisfy our thirst
- What are the consequences of satisfying your thirst with other things apart from the Holy Spirit
- Discuss the difference that water in the natural has on our physical bodies. What difference does the water of the Holy Spirit make in our lives
- How do we thirst for the Holy Spirit?