

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL PART II
(The Holy Spirit Within)
(John 4:14)

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:14

When Jesus talks about water in this passage he is talking about the Holy Spirit. And Jesus tells this Samaritan woman that when he gives the Holy Spirit it will be a well of water in the believer. You notice that the Holy Spirit will be in the one who drinks. So the picture is that you drink this water and it then is a well of water within you springing up into everlasting life.

This well of water in you is a spring of water. Now there are several concepts imbedded in this idea of a spring of water within you. First of all, Jesus is teaching that when the Holy Spirit is within you, it provides a never ending spiritual supply. Now if it was just a well containing water, eventually the well would run dry. You would use it up or it would evaporate of its own. But if the well is fed by a spring of water then the well is perpetually supplied.

Furthermore, it appears that the Holy Spirit within you is a powerful spring because it is a well of water springing up. In other words, it is not just a trickle of water that feeds the well, but we have hit a gusher.

Example: You might remember old Jed Clampett. They wrote a song about him.

**Come and listen to a story 'bout a man named Jed,
A poor mountaineer, barely kept his family fed,
Then one day he was shootin' at some food,
And up through the ground came a bubblin' crude.
Oil, that is, black gold, Texas tea.**

Old Jed tapped into a gusher. Now, when Jed shot into the ground, the oil came bubbling out. But when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit takes up residence inside of us and there is a spring springing up. It is not just bubbling, but it is spewing upward. And we have tapped into a gusher of spiritual wealth. So, if you have tapped into God's spiritual gusher, you might as well start packing. Now Jed moved to Beverly, Hills that is. But you are moving to a heavenly city – a city foursquare, streets of gold, twelve gates on each side, a pure river of life running through the middle of the city. And the Lord has prepared a mansion for you there, all because you tapped into the spiritual resources of the Holy Spirit by faith in Christ.

So, the Holy Spirit within you is a perpetual supply; you will never thirst again. And it is a powerful supply; it is a well of water springing up. You will notice also that it is a gift of God.

Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him . . .

Whatever we can say about the Holy Spirit, we can certainly say that He is God's gift to us. You can't climb to heaven and bring Him down, but Jesus sent Him down as a free gift to believers.

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:15-17

You will notice that Jesus said the Holy Spirit would be in you.

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:14

As we discussed last time, the Holy Spirit is in us in the sense that his influence works in us continually. The Holy Spirit is not a substance, but He is a mighty, spiritual force. And this force works inside the believer, that is, on his inner man. And He brings about great changes in that man.

Now we are going to take a look at some of the things that the Holy Spirit does in the heart of the believer. Most of us are aware that in some way the Holy Spirit dwells within us, but sometimes we are a little foggy on exactly what He is doing in there. And so, we consider the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

We saw last time that,

1. The Holy Spirit is our teacher guiding us into truth (See also John 16:13, I Cor. 2:10-11)

It is interesting that when Jesus was teaching the disciples during his earthly ministry, they had a hard time understanding what he was talking about. You might remember that on one occasion, the disciples overheard Jesus speaking to some Jews. And Jesus said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." And the disciples had no clue what he was talking about. But after the resurrection of Christ they remembered what he said and they believed.

Jesus often spoke in parables and the disciples would come to Jesus and ask, "What do these things mean?" And Jesus would interpret the parables for them. But they often still did not understand and they stored up these things in their hearts. And once Jesus died and rose again and then ascended into the heavens, Jesus sent someone to teach them. And that someone was the Holy Spirit.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 14:26

You remember the Scripture. The Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost and He descended on each believer in that room and it says He "sat" on them and they were "filled with the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:3) And remember, Jesus told his disciples, "He will teach you all things."

So, one of the great ministries of the Holy Spirit is the ministry of teaching. Now the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit is a very miraculous ministry. It is a supernatural ministry. And the Holy Spirit worked a great, miraculous work in the minds and hearts of the disciples. The Holy Spirit caused all of the words of Jesus to come to their remembrance. What a phenomenal thing! Jesus had spoken to them many things for three years and they didn't understand most of what he said.

Example: I had the same feeling in college one time when I sat through an Organic Chemistry class. I heard the words, but I had no idea what that professor was saying. And when it came exam time at the end of the semester, the professor didn't sit on my shoulder and call all things to remembrance.

But this is what the Holy Spirit did for the disciples. And the Holy Spirit miraculously taught the disciples the true meaning of the words of Jesus.

But the Holy Spirit's teaching ministry was not limited to the twelve disciples. He also has a teaching ministry with respect to believers in general. And one of his great ministries in the hearts of all believers is that of enlightenment. He opens the eyes of their understanding.

Now what we have to realize is that we come from a world of darkness. We come from a world of blindness. And we cannot see. It seems to me that God must first give us eyes to see. And then he must progressively open those eyes to see.

Example: When a newborn baby comes into the world, he has eyes, but they are not fully open to see.

And the same is true with all believers. God gives us eyes with our new birth, but real seeing comes as he opens our eyes to his truth.

Listen to Paul's prayer to the Ephesians:

I . . . cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power . . .

Ephesian 1:15-19

It is the business of the Holy Spirit to enlighten you. And like all the other works of God, the Holy Spirit does his work sovereignly, and in his own time, in his own way, and in whatever measure he deems fit.

Now enlightenment is a great divide between the lost and the saved. The lost are stumbling around in total darkness, with no understanding of spiritual things and with a natural aversion to them. The saved, on the other hand, have been enlightened to some extent and put the lost on one side of the room and the saved on the other and evaluate their lives and you will see that there is a great difference indeed between darkness and light.

So, lift up your hearts to God and thank him that he has sent down his Holy Spirit to dwell in your heart and to enlighten your mind and heart to the things of God.

We have seen that the Holy Spirit is our teacher guiding us into truth. Now we will look at other operations of the Holy Spirit which is in us. Jesus told this woman that the Holy Spirit would be a well of water springing up in us. So, what else does the Holy Spirit do for us?

2. The Holy Spirit gives us holy qualities.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

We can't see or feel the Holy Spirit in us, but we can see what he produces in us. And he produces love, joy, peace and the other holy qualities. This is the very nature of salvation. God changes you. And he changes you by the perpetual and continual working of his Spirit within you. The Spirit is a mighty worker that produces holiness. And he produces these qualities in all believers.

I. Love

It seems that love is the crown jewel of Christian qualities. It is the all in all. The whole law is summed up in one word - love. Love is the greatest distinction between the flesh and the Spirit. It is the most apparent difference between the man under the law and the man under grace. It is the glaring difference between the lost and the saved.

The lost man is motivated by self. He only thinks of how he may gain the advantage. He always asks the question, "What is in it for me." He has no particular interest in others except for what they can do for him. But the man who has the Spirit of God is a man who considers others. He loves his neighbor as himself. (v.14) And he thinks of others as better than himself. (Philippians 2:3) Jesus even encouraged the Christian man to love his enemies. (Matthew 5:44)

This type of love is self-sacrificing. This kind of love is not produced by the flesh. This kind of love is produced by the Spirit of God.

II. Joy

It seems that Paul emphasizes this characteristic by putting it high on the list – right after love. Joy is an essential characteristic. It is what the Spirit produces. "The fruit of the Spirit is . . . "joy."

How depressing it is to see Christians moping around, always disturbed about something, always down and out, oppressed, burdened under trials and circumstances. But what does this say? The fruit of the Spirit is joy! Joy should be springing up inside of you. Look what Christ has done. He has loved you. He chose you. He set his love upon you. The God who created everything has determined to love you. He has forgiven your sins. He has set you free by his matchless grace. He will not charge sin to your account. (Romans 4:8) He has given you a sure hope of heaven. Of all men we should shout for joy for we have hope for the future. We have joy because as David said,

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

Psalm 23:6

There is joy in everything in the Christian life. There is great joy in serving Him. In fact, I would suggest that the greatest joy you will ever have is in serving Him. Whatever your ministry is, it should bring you the greatest joy. When you lay your head down at night, and you have done some good deed in service to your God, then you should be filled with joy and satisfaction.

III. Peace

The Spirit also brings us peace. Peace is a sense of reconciliation with God. It is that calming sense that God is no longer angry with me. He has forgiven me. I am reconciled to him through Jesus Christ. Peace is a sense of family. It is the assurance that I belong to Him and nothing can ever change that.

It is the Holy Spirit that gives us peace. Peace is only mine when I know that God loves me in spite of my sin. God has overlooked a thousand sins. He has not cast me out even when I would have cast myself out. And the Holy Spirit convinces me that God loves me anyway. And this is the peace of the Holy Spirit.

IV. Longsuffering

The Lord has taught us by his Holy Spirit to be patient during trials and during afflictions. We don't flail away against our circumstances as those who have no hope. But we patiently endure and we wait for our deliverance. This is what the Holy Spirit works in us. This doesn't come by the flesh. It comes by God working it in us by His Spirit. When others hurt us, and say all manner of evil against us, we are longsuffering. Why is that? It is not because our flesh is naturally that way. It is because God has worked it in us. And we are willing to patiently endure by the power of the Spirit.

V. Gentleness

Gentleness is the same word that is translated in other places as kindness. (II Corinthians 6:6) Gentleness is a fine Christian quality that is produced by the Spirit of God in us. Perhaps it is the opposite of "hot tempered" and "rash". To be gentle is to have a certain calmness of spirit. To be gentle is to be a kind person with respect to the feelings of others. To be gentle in a physical sense is to handle something with extreme care.

Example: If someone hands you a newborn baby, you hold him softly and with great care. You move slowly and you lay him down easy. You make sure that nothing disturbs this little infant.

And this is the kind of gentleness that we should have for one another. We should be so careful that we don't cause some hurt to someone else. This is gentleness and kindness.

Now the flesh is not gentle. The flesh will hurt someone without taking one thought about it. But the Spirit of God is kind and gentle and he works gentleness in us.

VI. Goodness

It seems here that goodness is the disposition to do good to others. When the Spirit of God works in us, He causes us to be beneficent toward others. We are alert to ways to do good unto others. We enjoy doing good. This is the fruit of the Spirit in us.

VII. Faith

The sense here is that the Christian man is faithful in his dealings with other men. He is a man that can be trusted. His word is true. You can depend on him. Now the fleshly man will do half the job and if you pay him he will not come back to finish. But the Holy Spirit in a godly man will cause him to be faithful in his work and practice.

VIII. Meekness

Meekness is patience in the face of injuries. When someone slaps you - you may respond with fierce anger or you may turn the other cheek. And it depends on whether the Holy Spirit has worked meekness in you. Meekness is not weakness. Just consider how strong Christ was and yet he did not strike back when he was struck.

VIII. Temperance

We think of temperance in a very narrow sense. We think of temperance as being moderate in the consumption of alcohol. And this is one of its meanings. But this word has a broader meaning in the Scriptures. It means to be moderate in all things. The Christian man does not over indulge in anything. He

is a man of self-control. He is not controlled by his appetites but he lives moderately in all things. And this is the work of the Spirit in his life.

You may notice the great difference between your friends here at church and your acquaintances out there in the work place or other worldly places. Where you find hate out there, you find love here. Where there is great bitterness out there, there is joy here. Where there is constant fighting and warfare out there, there is peace here. Why is that? We all come from the same stock. We all came from Adam. The difference can only be explained by the working of the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your soul, he makes you different from those in the world. How does he do it? We don't know. It is a miracle. It is a miracle of great proportion. It is a miracle on par with the creation of the world. Who is so great as to change the human heart? Only God.

3. The Spirit gives us gifts for ministry.

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

I Corinthians 12:4-7

This well of water springing up inside of you, is the Holy Spirit working on your inner man. And this Holy Spirit gives you ministerial gifts. Now these ministerial gifts are spiritual gifts for the benefit of the whole church.

Now you might say, I don't know what gifts I have. I don't seem to have any particular value or ministry in the church. And I would say, Yes you do! Don't underestimate your gifts and don't underestimate your value in the church. Every believer is a body part in the church and every body part has a function.

Let me just say this. The very fact that you come to the church service is an encouragement to the church. We are a family, and it is important for families to be together. When we see a family member come through the doors into the sanctuary to worship, it encourages us all. And when someone is missing, we are a little discouraged, aren't we? And so you see how valuable each one is to the body.

Example: What if I got in my car to come to church and I left my right leg at home? Why, I would be uncomfortable all day long.

And when our church body meets together and you are not here, we miss you.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

I Corinthians 12:7

If the Spirit is working in you, then he has given you certain graces, certain qualities and certain endowments for the common good of the church. And I have seen each of you ministering to others in various ways. Sometimes just an encouraging word to someone is your ministry. A friendly gesture is a ministry. Many of you say prayers in the privacy of your closet and that is the gift that the Holy Spirit has given you.

Brother Coleman, I've noticed, seems to have a gift of public prayer. His public prayer can lift your soul right up to heaven to meet with God. And I have noticed that Bro. Whitten has a way of bringing joy and kindness into the church. God has just gifted him in that way. And I could count you all off one by one and show you how God has endowed you with gifts that are profitable to the church.

And this is just part of the work that the Holy Spirit does in you. So, we have seen that the Holy Spirit teaches us and enlightens us. We have seen that he produces in us holy qualities. And we have seen that he endows us with gifts with which to serve the church.

4. The Spirit gives us the power to live godly lives.

And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments and do them.

Ezekiel 36:27

That is a powerful statement; I will put my Spirit in you and cause you to keep my statutes.

This was the frustrating state of affairs in Israel. God gave them his Law, but they had no power to do it. God said, "Don't lie," but they could not stop lying. God said, "Don't commit adultery," and they could not stop committing adultery. God said, "Love the Lord thy God with all your mind and all your heart," and they couldn't do it. And then God said, "The day is coming when I will put my Spirit in you and cause you to keep my statutes.

This promise God was fulfilled by sending the Holy Spirit to indwell believers. This promise of God is fulfilled in you and me. God sent his Holy Spirit into our hearts at our conversion and he causes us to keep his statutes. Were it not for his Spirit, you and I would be in the same condition as Israel. We would have an outward religion but we would not have the inward reality.

. . . that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man.

Ephesians 3:16

So when God saves us he puts in us a well of water springing up into eternal life. And the Holy Spirit causes us to keep his statutes. Now it is not that he forces us to obey his statutes against our will. But he miraculously changes our will so that we want to keep his statutes. That is the only way to live a godly life. It is to want to live a godly life. You can force a child to go to church, but that doesn't mean he is going with a godly heart, does it? And so, The Spirit changes our heart and gives us power to live godly lives.

5. The Spirit helps us to pray.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit . . .

Ephesians 6:18

Most of us have experienced difficulty in praying. And there are quite a few reasons why we have difficulty.

First of all, we don't know what is really best for us. We know what we want. We know what we would like. We know where we hurt at time. But we don't know what is best. Only God knows the best plan. And therefore we need a helper in our prayers.

Secondly, when we pray we don't know what God might be willing to grant. We are almost afraid to ask of Him sometimes, aren't we? We are afraid we are being selfish. We are afraid that we are asking amiss. And so, we need a helper.

Thirdly, to a great extent we are ignorant of the character of God and the reason for his dealings. Our knowledge of spiritual things is very weak. And so, we need a helper.

Fourthly, many times when we need to pray most we are in deep distress and perplexity. When a crisis comes upon us our minds and our emotions are out of control and we can't think straight. If we were left alone during these times we would never know how to pray.

But we have a well of water springing up in us into eternal life. And the Spirit takes our feeble prayers and converts them into an eloquent and persuasive speech before the Father.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Romans 8:26

Example: It is much like a person who has lost everything in a legal dispute. And he wants to tell the Judge about it. But he doesn't know the law and he doesn't know the rules of Court. And if he tried to prosecute his own case, he knows he would utterly fail. And so, he knows that he must hire an attorney to speak for him in court.

And when we utter a prayer to our Father, it is filtered through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit rearranges our thoughts and our petitions to conform to the law of God and the will of God. And the Holy Spirit makes our petitions for us.

This would seem to be a wonderful benefit. You can feel very comfortable about your prayers because you have the Spirit who will help your infirmities. And he will make intercession for you. And your prayers will come to the Father in proper form and in full submission to his will and in power.

Conclusion

I doubt that this woman of Samaria fully appreciated the benefits of having a well of water springing up in her when Jesus first spoke with her. And neither do we fully appreciate all we have in Christ in the beginning. When we first come to know Him by faith we are not usually theological experts, are we? In fact, we may know almost nothing at all, compared to the vast knowledge that lays in wait for us in the Scriptures.

But one thing we do know in the beginning. We know that we are sinners in need of a Savior. Yes, there were vast and eternal blessings in store for this woman. But she wasn't ready for a seminary course in pneumatology as yet. That would come later. What she needed first was to perceive her own sinfulness.

And so Jesus told her,

Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband. For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

John 4:16-18

It seems to me that no one ever enjoys the eternal benefits of salvation without first coming to grips with his own sin. And even this is the business of the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit is dealing with you, then he deals with your sinfulness. He convicts you of sin. He brings your sins to mind and he causes you to see them in their utter filthiness.

Now this woman may have become comfortable in her sin. She was used to it by now. She had learned how to make her way through the social stigma. But Jesus took the time to make her uncomfortable. And this is the way it must be. If you are content in your sins, then the Holy Spirit is not moving in your soul. If you are content being a sinner, then you are void of the Spirit.

Many, many people claim they are going to heaven when they have had confrontation with their own sinfulness. But when God comes calling on you, he will bring you face to face with your sin. And this is what Jesus did with the Samaritan woman.

Let me just say that when God convicts you of sin and when by his power you see your utter sinfulness and your utter ruin, then you are a candidate for the eternal blessings of salvation.

You may say, I see my sin and I am sick of it. I am a sinner through and through and I need to be saved from my sins. And the question is, How do you appropriate these blessings.

Jesus told this woman, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that sayeth to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him and he would have given thee living water."

Did you know that having salvation is as simple as asking? We are nothing but helpless sinners. And asking is all that we can do. And Jesus told her, If you would ask, I would give.

A little later in the discourse Jesus told her, "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst." Now we know how to drink water, we put the cup to our lips and we drink. But the water that Jesus is talking about is the Holy Spirit. And you drink in the Holy Spirit by believing. Lord Jesus, I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God and I believe you died for me.

And when you ask him, He will give you living water. And this Holy Spirit will be a well of water springing up inside of you and performing all of the miraculous work of salvation in your soul.

Would you have Him? Then he will certainly have you.