

“The Giving of the Holy Spirit” John 7:37-39

I. *See the great importance of the Spirit in the way and in the occasion on which our Lord chose to*

introduce Him – ³⁷ On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out,

1. *Consider Jesus as a sinless redeemer of time – Ephesians 5:15-17*

2. *Note, the pouring out of the water was known by the people to refer to the Holy Spirit – God had promised as much –*

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; ⁴ They will spring up among the grass Like willows by the watercourses.’ (Isaiah 44:3-6 NKJ) See also (Joel 2:28-29 NKJ) (Zechariah 12:10 NKJ)

II. *See Jesus presenting Himself as the Giver, the supplier of the Holy Spirit - saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.*

³⁹ 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. (John 7:37-39 NKJ)

1. Jesus is the Supplier or Giver of God’s Holy Spirit –

¹¹ "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Mat 3:11 NKJ)

A. *It was true in John the Baptist’s day and it is true today, Jesus is the ONE Who gives the Holy Spirit – He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Mat 3:11 NKJ)*

B. *Other men may be the silver funnels but ...*

¹⁸ **And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit." (Act 8:18-19 NKJ) John 15:5**

Jesus body was that Golden Pitcher which carried God’s Spirit until He was poured out – ³⁴ "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. (John 3:34 NKJ)

⁹ **For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; (Col 2:9 NKJ)**

See also (John 2:19-22 NKJ)

2. *Yet, what does this passage mean, saying the Spirit was not yet “given” was He not “given” in during the Old Testament times?*

³⁸ **And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God? (Gen 41:38 NKJ)**

² **"See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. ³ "And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, ... (Exo 31:2-3 NKJ) / (Exo 35:30-31 NKJ)**

¹⁶ **So the LORD said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, ... I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; ... (Num 11:16-17 NKJ)**

² **And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; and the Spirit of God came upon him. (Num 24:2 NKJ)**

¹⁸ **And the LORD said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; (Num 27:18 NKJ)**

²⁰ **You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, And gave them water for their thirst. (Neh 9:19-20 NKJ)**

¹⁸ **"This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, declare its interpretation, since all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation; but you are able, for the Spirit of the Holy God is in you." (Dan 4:18 NKJ)**

¹¹ **Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. (Psa 51:11 NKJ) see also (Luke 2:25-28 NKJ)**

These are just some of the many Old Testament (and before Christ’s death) passages that mention the Holy Spirit, some speak of the Spirit coming on men, some speak of Him “in” men, at least one verse says God specifically “gave” His “good Spirit” – Nehemiah 9:20 - to the Israelites in the wilderness.

We know too, no sinful human being can be saved without God's Spirit so He must have been doing that work during Old Testament times as well.

3. SO, In what way (or ways) is the Spirit GIVEN in the New Testament which He was not in the Old?

A. He is given to dwell in us as a bought, cleansed and Spiritual Temple –

¹⁶ **Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (1Co 3:16 NKJ)**

¹⁹ **Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? (1Co 6:19 NKJ)**

B. When John speaks of the Spirit being not yet “given” because Jesus was not yet “glorified” he is referring to Jesus’ death and resurrection –

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, (John 17:1 NKJ)

"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. (John 17:5 NKJ)

C. When Jesus died on the cross and washed us with His blood, He cleansed us as He had cleansed the Temple in Jerusalem, He made us fit for the indwelling Spirit –

¹⁵ **When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. ¹⁶ And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" ¹⁷ Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up." (John 2:13-17 NKJ)**

As much “ZEAL” as Jesus displayed in cleansing the Temple, He shows that and MORE in His giving His LIFE to cleanse us from our sins in His blood – ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Rev 1:5 NKJ)

D. Of course even those living before Christ’s death and resurrection, even in O. T. times only had the benefit of God’s

Spirit PENDING Christ’s death on the cross, they had the Spirit in whatever way they did --- because Christ would die and cleanse sin -

Even the Feast of Tabernacles, Booths looked forward to Christ’s death by the offering of animal sacrifices symbolic of what Christ would do -
³⁴ **"Speak to the children of Israel, saying: `The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD. ³⁵ `On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it. ³⁶ `For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. (Lev 23:34-36 NKJ)**

E. The Holy Spirit is also given in the New Testament, in a fuller, more dramatic, more obvious way than the old – Prophesied in the Old – Ezekiel 37; Joel 2:28-29 / fulfilled in the NEW – Acts 2

III. See our GREAT NEED for the Spirit as He is presented as Living Water for the thirsty –

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

1. *Without God's Spirit we are like wanderers in a wilderness, without water –*

A. *This is a desperate state –*

²² **So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. (Exo 15:22 NKJ) ^{NKJ} Exodus 17:1-7**

⁴ **and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (1Co 10:4 NKJ)**

2. *It is because of our GREAT NEED for God's Spirit, that Christ so promotes Him, offers Him and tells us to PRAY for Him ---*

"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. ¹⁰ "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ "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? ¹² "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ "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!" (Luke 11:9-13 NKJ)