

life, is a sign, a symbol, portraying the totality of God's chosen and redeemed people who are filled with the divine life and who are the full expression of this life. Whenever a person drinks of the living water, the Triune God comes into him, springs up in him, and flows in him to make him more and more a part of the New Jerusalem, the totality of the divine life. This is the ultimate goal of the eternal life of the Triune God. Whoever drinks of this living water will not only be saved from thirst but also ushered into the ultimate intention of God, who desires to fill us with His life so that we may fully express Him.

Ask to Receive

Upon hearing the Lord's description of the living water, the woman made a simple request: "Sir, give me this water so that I will not thirst nor come here to draw" (John 4:15). With this request, she was forgiven of her sins in order to fully experience the Triune God. She drank and was satisfied. No material pleasure or earthly attainment will ever satisfy you like the Triune God. All you must do now is to ask. Please pray the following:

Lord Jesus, I am a thirsty sinner. I want You as living water. Forgive me of my sins, and give me Yourself as the water of life. I receive You right now and drink of You, Lord Jesus. Thank You for flowing into me to be my life and satisfaction.

For fellowship in your local area, you may contact the person(s) listed below.

GOD

THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

When we attempt to describe God, we usually impose our concepts upon God. These concepts, however, often hinder us from knowing God in reality. In order to know God, we must be willing to consider His own revelation of Himself in the Bible. There God reveals Himself through the use of symbols. For example, in chapter four of the Gospel of John, God reveals Himself as a fountain of living water.

Living Water

While journeying toward Galilee, Jesus passed through a region called Samaria and sat by a well to rest in the late afternoon. Being God, He knew that a thirsty woman would approach to draw water from the well. In fact, He knew everything about her. He knew of her five husbands and of the man with whom she was then living. Most importantly, He knew that her living was a result of an inner longing for satisfaction that could be quenched only by Himself as the living water.

When she arrived at the well, He initiated a conversation, saying, "Give Me something to drink." Rather than condemning her, He spoke of water and the satisfaction that it brings. The woman was surprised by the Lord's request and said, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, who am a Samaritan woman?" The Lord responded, saying, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." She thought that Jesus was referring to physical water

and responded, “Sir, You have no bucket, and the well is deep; where then do You get this living water?” The Lord, however, quickly indicated that He was not speaking of physical water, saying, “Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever.”

In His response the Lord spoke of water that fails to give lasting satisfaction and water that eternally quenches our thirst. Physical things always leave us dissatisfied and thirsty. The Samaritan woman had been married five times and was presently living with a man who was not her husband. As each husband failed to satisfy, she married yet again and again. Her life is a picture of our own quest for satisfaction. Although material wealth, worldly pleasures, and human attainments may grant some immediate gratification, the satisfaction is temporary at best. The Lord, however, unveiled the existence of a second kind of water—living water—saying, “Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life.” In one sentence the Lord revealed that the water that truly satisfies our thirst is nothing less than the Triune God.

The Bible reveals that God is triune: He is three-one. God, who is one in essence (Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:4), is also mysteriously revealed as Father, Son, and Spirit (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14). In His essence He is revealed as one, but in His operation to flow into man as living water, He is revealed as three. Apart from the flowing out of the Triune God, our thirst could never be satisfied. Therefore, Jesus spoke of God the Father as a fountain, God the Son as a spring, and God the Spirit as a river to flow living water into us.

God the Father Is a Fountain

God the Father is a fountain. Just as a fountain is the source of a stream or river, God the Father is the source and origin of the eternal life. As a fountain of life, He flows Himself out to us in order that we may enjoy Him as our satisfaction. Psalm 36:8-9 says, “They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, and You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures. For with You

is the fountain of life.” Whoever drinks of the living water will have the eternal life of God for his enjoyment and satisfaction.

God the Son Is a Spring

God the Son is a spring. Just as a spring is the emergence and expression of a fountain, God the Son is the emergence and expression of the eternal life. In Him was life (John 1:4), and He came that man “may have life and may have it abundantly” (10:10). Just as a spring embodies and expresses the fountain, Christ embodies and expresses the Father (Col. 2:9; John 1:18). The Son is a spring of eternal life welling up within those who believe. When Christ was crucified on the cross, blood and water flowed out of His side (19:34). Blood signifies redemption, and water signifies the life of God being made available to those who believe.

God the Spirit Is a River

God the Spirit is a river. Just as a river transmits the content of the spring, God the Spirit is the transmission of the eternal life of God in Christ to humanity. God was embodied in Christ, and Christ became the life-giving Spirit in resurrection to flow the eternal life into us. John 7:38-39 says, “He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.” In resurrection Christ became the life-giving Spirit to flow into us (1 Cor. 15:45b). When the Spirit comes, the eternal life which was embodied in Christ is made available to us. The Spirit is now a flowing river for us to drink (1 Cor. 12:13; Rev. 22:1). Whoever receives this water will enjoy a fountain of living water springing up within as a river flowing into eternal life.

Into Eternal Life

The Lord told the woman that the water He would give her would become a fountain of water springing up into eternal life. This means that our experience of the eternal life has a consummation. This consummation is the New Jerusalem revealed at the end of the Bible (Rev. 21:2; 22:1). The New Jerusalem, as a city of