

LIVING WATERS

A supply of good water is vitally essential to life -- we cannot exist without it. Some of us have connections with municipal supplies, others to private wells, and still others to natural springs -- all providing for our needs for drinking, bathing, cooking, and household chores.

My wife and I can clearly testify to hauling water in Africa for miles for the needs of ourselves and the students at the Bible Schools we helped to establish in various areas. There, the need for clean water was especially vital and hard to find when away from the larger communities and cities.

There is another water spoken of in the Bible -- that is the supply of the Life-giving Word for Salvation and Assurance of Life after death -- the Message of Victory over sin.

Jesus spoke to a woman of Samaria at Jacob's well. He had been on a journey with his disciples and was in need of refreshment. His request for a drink of water brought a rebuke from the woman, *"How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?"* (John 4:9). At that time the Jews and Samaritans avoided any contact with each other.

The woman came to the well to draw water for her household, a normal daily routine. Jesus' request was very simple -- He was thirsty and requested some water to drink. Up to this point the conversation was on physical water to quench a physical need. However, as the conversation continued, the subject moved from physical to Spiritual -- from satisfying His temporary physical need to satisfying her Eternal need.

Jesus explained to the woman -- *"Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give will never thirst -- but the water that I shall give will become a fountain of water springing up into Everlasting Life"* (John 4:13,14).

The woman's reply revealed that her thinking was still on the physical water to satisfy a physical need -- however, Jesus continued on the Spiritual need of every man and woman on earth -- the need of Spiritual healing of the soul.

Jesus proceeded to bring out her past failures and her need of Salvation to satisfy her Spiritual thirst. She continued to think on the physical -- but as Jesus continued to speak she realized her need of the Spiritual healing of her soul -- her Spiritual eyes were opened and she responded to the Words of Jesus.

This is a beautiful picture of what happens when a person comes to the realization of their need of forgiveness of the past, and a New Life of Victory -- a picture of immediately wanting to share their experience with others.

Jesus' reference to the *"fountain of water springing up"* was to the sharing of the Good News with others - which she immediately did in returning to her village and excitedly shouting, *"Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"* (John 4:29).

If the water from a reservoir is to flow into a house one thing is necessary -- the connection must be perfect -- then the water will pass through the pipe of its own accord -- so the connection between us and Christ must be uninterrupted.

The author of the Book of Acts puts it this way -- *"You shall receive Power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you -- and you shall be Witnesses of Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"* (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit who fills you at the moment of Salvation empowers you to share your experience with others and to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

This is the "fountain of water springing up" -- the heart-felt desire to share what you have found to be a reality -- the answer to your longings -- the answer to all your problems -- God's Perfect Plan of Salvation and Victory in Christ.

The woman at the well found it -- HAVE YOU?

REJOICE! -- REPENT! -- RECEIVE!

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for more information contact Pastor Bruce R. Burke --

OPEN BIBLE MINISTRIES

Lake Ariel, PA 18436 -- Phone 570-698-7890

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