**His Word**

***31****Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, “When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?”*

***32****The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him.****33****Jesus then said, “I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me.****34****You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come.”****35****The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks?****36****What does he mean by saying, ‘You will seek me and you will not find me,’ and, ‘Where I am you cannot come’?”*

***37****On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.****38****Whoever believes in me, as[*[*f*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+7&version=ESV#fen-ESV-26355f)*] the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”****39****Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:31-39, ESV)*

 The Word of the Lord leads us to a life full of the Holy Spirit when we believe.

 Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we take Jesus’ words as our subject today, from one of his famous arguments in John. Though it is magnificent to see Jesus’ words as he answered the unbelieving Jewish authorities, yet at the same time, it is also painful to watch their confused and spiritual blind attempts to attack Jesus. And the Lord, within that pressurized environment, where others were constantly trying to trap him, uttered one of His most beautiful sayings, which is today’s topic. He said, “Whoever believes in me, rivers of living (or life-giving) water will flow from their belly.” So, let us see what this statement means…

 A life that is devoted to Jesus lives in the flow of the Holy Spirit. It is important to realize the gravity of John the Evangelist’s statement here. He says that Jesus’ word was about the Holy Spirit. He reminds the hearers that the Holy Spirit was going to be given after Jesus’ glorification. So, let me ask, what is the nature of this Spirit? Jesus says that it is like “rivers of living water.” In other words, a life lead by the Spirit is one that flows – it is like a river. But it is not only a life that flows, but it is a flow of life-giving water. As we remember during the Creation account, ever since the very beginning, the Holy Spirit has been present and a means to the act of God’s creation of all things from nothing. It is this same Spirit that will live and flow out of Jesus-followers. Not only that, but Jesus gives the specific detail that this will come out of the bellies of believers. What?? Yes, this is because the belly area was considered the center of the human being and the source of strong emotions. In other words, the Holy Spirit was going to flow out of the deep places of man (not his shallow feelings/senses). What a deep and wondrous result of simply believing in Jesus!

 When the paralyzed man and the healing pool and the Master came together, there was health and hope. When the little boy and the few loaves and fishes and the Master came together, there was sufficiency and even abundance. A thirsty woman, an ancient well, and the Master, and there were streams of living water flowing into human hearts. A rugged fisherman, a broken net, and the Master, and there was discipleship, and a story to tell. Wherever a human need and a sincere faith and the Master meet, there is transformation and consecration. If we bring our lives, weak and insufficient, to the Master, He will remake us.

 What a big difference it is between arguing with the Lord and obeying His Word and seeing the results of that obedience. The one who loves debates tends to continue under the influence of that same wrong spirit. On the other hand, the one who obeys Jesus receives the Holy Spirit, and works for the propagation of God’s peace and love. Wherever the unbeliever goes, he or she only represents themselves; they work only for their own or their own family’s benefit, which is there today and gone tomorrow. On the other hand, a Jesus-follower, being a disciple of God’s love, brings life everywhere – not necessarily laughter all the time – but Truth, Peace, and man’s repentance and spiritual growth.

 Today, if you have believed in Jesus, examine your inner life as to how much the Holy Spirit flows out of your towards others? How much of Jesus’ character can be seen on you? Do you bring life everywhere you go, or heaviness? Do you remind the one who needs it of His Word? Can people say about you, “This is a Jesus-man or woman; this is a one of those Jesus crazies…”

 Why? Because a Jesus-follower flows out of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Their walk, their words, their priorities are all lead by God’s word and the Holy Spirit’s power. Such a person often waits for confirmation from both the Bible and the direct sign of the Holy Spirit before taking a significant step in their lives.

 It is my prayer that we all make an effort to flow with the Holy Spirit, rather than our own limited human convictions.

A life that is devoted to Jesus lives in the flow of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord increase that flow within our lives. Amen.