



**DRINKING FROM
THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS**

A STUDY OF THE PROCESSES, PROPERTIES & PERILS OF LIVING WATER

- Living water brings dead people to life.
- Living water flows out of the lives of those who are made alive.
- Living water removes the toxins of the old life.
- Living water must be taken as prescribed to be effective.
- Living water may be deadly if used to self-medicate.
- Living water if mixed with human elements brings shame and loss of perspective.

1. The one who drinks living water receives life from God and will never be thirsty again, John 4:10-14.

- (John 4:10–14 ESV) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, **and he would have given you living water.**” 11 The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” 13 Jesus said to her, **“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”**

A. The person who drinks living water has the ultimate thirst—the thirst for eternal life—quenched.

B. This person will never be thirsty again.

C. The person who continues to thirst has not tasted the living waters of eternal life.

2. The Spirit will flow like a river out of the heart of the one who drinks living water—this being the one who believes in Jesus, John 7:37-39a.

- (John 7:37–39 ESV) 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 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.**

A. This movement of the Spirit flowing like a river of living water out of our heart is the filling of the Spirit and confirms that our thirst for eternal life has been quenched to overflowing.

- (Ephesians 5:15–18 ESV) **Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.**

B. Being filled with the Spirit, we will walk by the Spirit and our God-given desire now is to please God and not ourselves.

- (Philippians 2:13 ESV) **For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**

C. Walking by the Spirit, we will not grieve the Spirit and the Spirit will purge our lives of the toxic elements of the old life such as bitterness, slander and all bad feeling.

- (Ephesians 4:30–31 ESV) **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.**

D. The obvious, necessary result then since we have drunk the living waters, have been made alive, have been filled by the Spirit and are now walking by the Spirit is that the fruit of the Spirit is now abounding in our lives.

- (Galatians 5:22–23 ESV) **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23**

gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

IF WE DO NOT OBSERVE THIS WORKING OF THE SPIRIT ...

If we take note that the fruit of the Spirit is not abounding in the life of someone, and if we then follow the previous sequence—*that the Spirit fills, we walk by the Spirit, the Spirit produces his fruit*—it seems reasonable then to deduce that the Spirit is not flowing out of this person's heart like a river.

What may have happened is that the person has succumbed to the shocking evil that was very common among the so-called people of God in Old Testament times when they stopped drinking solely from the Fountain of living waters, and began assimilating water from a variety of other sources (false gods, idols) to mix with the living water from the Fountain thus tainting it.

We will observe the tragic results next in our study as we observe the "people of God" digging cisterns instead of drinking straight from the Fountain to sustain their lives.

3. Those who forsake the Fountain of living waters commit two evils, Jeremiah 2:11-13.

- (Jeremiah 2:11–13 ESV) Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? **But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit.** 12 **Be appalled,** O heavens, at this; **be shocked, be utterly desolate,** declares the Lord, 13 **for my people have committed two evils:** they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, **broken cisterns that can hold no water.**

A. They forsake the only source that would quench their thirst for eternal life.

Forsake ... to reject by leaving; to refuse to accept or acknowledge something, conceived of as leaving it behind or abandoning it.

B. They attempt to establish their own righteousness.

- (Romans 10:3 ESV) For, **being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.**

C. They seek their own glory and not God's.

- (John 5:44 ESV) **How can you believe,** when you receive glory from one another **and do**

not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

D. This self-seeking glory does not profit them and ends in wrath and fury.

- (Romans 2:6–8 ESV) He will render to each one according to his works: 7 **to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory** and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; 8 **but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth,** but obey unrighteousness, **there will be wrath and fury.**

E. God's people who aren't really God's people will eventually change their gods.

- (1 John 2:19 ESV) **They went out from us, but they were not of us;** for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. **But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.**

F. We should be appalled, shocked and utterly desolate at these two mutually corresponding evils—forsaking God and digging your own cistern.

Literally ... A cistern was a hole that was dug or cut out of the ground with the purpose of collecting and storing water.

Figuratively ... they had abandoned the LORD and had set their minds and hearts to construct a religious system that allowed them to collect and store what they believed to be the religious truths that would best profit their lives.

Through Jeremiah God mocks them as those who attempt to build a cistern which was unable to even serve the purpose for which it was built ... **"broken cisterns that can hold no water."**

G. They had not learned what Peter had learned—there was no other source for the words of eternal life.

- (John 6:66–69 ESV) After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the twelve, **"Do you want to go away as well?"** 68 **Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,** 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

4. People who prefer their own water source will change gods and have their attention diverted to and focused on things on earth, Jeremiah 17:12-13.

- (Jeremiah 17:12–13 ESV) A glorious throne set on high from the beginning is

the place of our sanctuary. 13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, **all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living water.**

A. People who forsake God and draw from their own water source shall be put to shame.

B. They will miss the view God has for their lives from his glorious throne set on high.

C. They are only able to see what is below on earth.

D. They can neither seek the things above nor set their minds on them because earth, not heaven, is their life—they have not been raised with Christ.

- (Colossians 3:1–2 ESV) **If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.**

E. Their names are written in the earth not in heaven.

- (Jeremiah 17:13 ESV) O Lord, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; **those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living water.**

F. Their names are not written in the book of life.

- (Revelation 13:8 ESV) And all who dwell on earth will worship it, **everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life** of the Lamb who was slain.
- (Revelation 20:15 ESV) **And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**

G. Those who drink from the Fountain of living waters rejoice because their names are written in heaven.

- (Luke 10:20 ESV) Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, **but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**

5. People who drink water from their own broken cisterns develop bad eye disease which transforms light into great darkness—sometimes to the extent they completely lose the ability to retain light.

- (Matthew 6:22–23 ESV) The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 **but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!**
- (Luke 11:33–36 ESV) No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. 34 **Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. 35 Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. 36** If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.
- (2 Peter 1:9 ESV) **For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind,** having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.