The Spirit Who Satisfies – Pastor Dave Peters – Nov 2, 2025

Have you ever tried to use your phone without any battery, it's just a paperweight.

Before I go to bed I plug in my phone

Expecting it to be fully charged in the morning.

I wake up and it was at 6% with no extra time to charge it

Turns out the charger wasn't properly connected

— it looked plugged in but wasn't.

I think sometimes this feels like our spiritual lives

We show up, we go through the motions, but somehow, we're still running on low.

It's not about being near the source — it's about actually being connected to it

We spend our days chasing things that promise to charge us:

success,

attention,

meaningful work,

comfort,

the next milestone,

even doing good things

But deep down, we still find ourselves asking

— why do I still feel like I'm on low battery?

We are in the **Gospel of John Edition of The Holy Spirit Series. In John's Gospel**, Jesus lifts the veil on the Holy Spirit's works.

The last few weeks both Steve and Jeremy have kicked us off with different perspectives of the Spirit's work.

Steve referenced the Holy Spirit as wind and Jeremy referenced him as water

In this passage the Holy Spirit is like a river and a priest.

Our focus will be on John 7:37-44 so open your Bible and follow along

This passage reveals the unique relationship between the Son and the Holy Spirit

At the same time, Jesus reveals himself as a source of life and the Spirit as a river of abundance.

The passage takes three parts where we will focus: **Festival, Fountain, and Friction (Make these appear one by one as I read them with description)**

The festival is the contextual historical setting in which Jesus reveals a deeper spiritual need

Which can only be satisfied by

The Fountain, Jesus is the source of life and with the Holy Spirit as an overwhelming River of abundance

The response from the people in v.40 though is **Friction**

Returning to the Festival.

7:37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, (NIV)

The festival of Tabernacles it is a pilgrim event.

A pilgrim is one who travels to arrive at a special destination, usually related to religious milestones.

Jesus throughout his 3-year ministry was strategic by using the context of the time to reach the most people

This festival is about water and abundance

Water in the desert is a good thing; it is a sacred thing.

It is a life thing because Israel is Hot.

That is not really mind blowing but it is important.

Many cultures hold certain items as deeply significant.

For example, in Ukrainian culture, bread carries great meaning because food was once scarce—especially during the famine created by the Soviet Union.

In many Asian cultures such as Chinese or Japanese, Koi fish are considered symbols of luck

Lanterns, Animals, Numbers, Musical Instruments, Water.

All sorts of cultures use symbols to speak of a deeper meaning.

This festival is doing the same.

Water is a symbol of spiritual blessing

It reminds Israel of their thirst in the wilderness and their prayer for rain in the harvest to come.

For six days the priests carry water from the river and pour it around an altar a single time to the sound of cheering crowds

On the last day

The priests would carry a jar of water and walk around the altar pouring for a total 7 times and on the 6th time.

A jar of wine would be carried by another priest; wine symbolizes abundance.

Life and Abundance being joined together.

For the festival this is the climactic moment because whether in times of blessing, abundance, suffering, or low battery type moments

It recognizes

“What God is faithful in the past He will be faithful in the future”

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For an Israelite, seeing the water and wine poured on the altar was a huge deal—like the excitement of a wedding or a new baby.

And in this moment

v.37 Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. (NIV)

I love what Jesus is doing

Water is life in Israel, and thirst is deadly.

Jesus is the master of context, and using all the backdrop and emotions of this festival, he boldly declares

Let Anyone who is thirsty, anyone who is tired

Anyone who is on low battery because you plugged into false expectations, shattered ideas, empty religion, miscommunications, conflicts, friends who turn their backs, and families who do not understand

Come to Jesus

No longer do you need the symbols of spiritual renewal, real spiritual renewal is now here in Jesus.

Jesus tells everyone that he is the true source of life

Jesus told everyone that He is God.

38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

Whoever is not an abstract obedience to a spiritual force.

Whoever is not a tired religious repetition or "act good"

Whoever is a personal and communal invitation to place our trust in Jesus

Jesus is referencing the Scriptures of the Old Testament that testify of life

He is not mentioning a single passage but many.

We won't dive into those today, but you can explore them later in our Sermon Discussion Guide on the website.

Jesus is pointing out that we must approach not with feet or even with words, but by faith

Faith is coming with nothing but our belief in Him

The long-awaited Messiah has come to Israel

There is a little interesting line here "from within them."

On one side he's saying that when you believe in him, he fills you up

And second, "Rivers of Living waters will flow" meaning an abundance of life comes out

A Fountain, our second reference

"From within them" is not finding goodness from within but through you

Go back to the festival

They go to the source of water being the river, then the priest carries the jar to the altar, and the jar is poured out.

Jesus is the source of water for all who believe in Him

The priest acts like the person of the Holy Spirit who sustains us and carries the Jar.

The jar is believers those who are filled with the living waters of Jesus

Finally, the water is poured out at the altar, the Holy Spirit pours us out for the good of others.

The whole point as believers or jars, is to be poured out as those serve the community around us.

At no point was the jar filling itself up or did the Jar and the Priest switch places.

At no point did the Jar sit up and declare itself self-sufficient or all powerful, or worthy of carrying the water

The jar is reliant upon the source

Another image to think of it, the outlet is the source being Jesus, the electricity and cable is the Holy Spirit carrying the power, and we are the phones, relying on the source and electricity as its power.

At no point are we able to be our own salvation, fill ourselves up with our own powers from within,

We are completely reliant on both Jesus to be our life and the Holy Spirit to enable us

We do nothing, God does everything.

All we do is bring our low battery self

We end up in low battery places because we trust in events, milestones, or ideas to satisfy what they can't satisfy.

God built us to be people who look forward to things with purpose and meaning,

Buzz Aldrin, a famous NASA astronaut, spent his life working toward one mission—making it into outer space on Apollo 11.

Like a lot of people, he found his satisfaction, purpose, and meaning in his work.

Good work, world changing work, and a life-giving work.

For somebody like Buzz Aldrin who hits the pinnacle

This is a man who walked on the surface of the moon

He is way past mountaintops

What should charge up, doesn't.

Buzz Aldrin admitted he fell into a deep spiral of depression and mental health anxiety turning to pills and alcohol as a new purpose.

This isn't an attack on Buzz Aldrin, in fact I'm thankful he recognized his struggles and worked to overcome it through community and restoration

I believe what happened, which happens to me almost daily.

Instead of finding our satisfaction in Jesus and The Holy Spirit, we find it in other places.

We get filled up on our shows, and successes, and emotional highs, and Instagram, and Facebook, and Sports,

and even the good work of caring for our families, serving one another, and working for God.

Instead of Holy Spirit work Through Me, it becomes me being drained as I plug into the wrong source.

To be rightly connected the source, is to reorient where we become charged up.

V. 39 "By this he meant the Spirit"

The Holy Spirit comes upon us and fills us up, not to do a lot of activities but to be in the presence of Jesus and live in the way of Jesus

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This sermon series is about the Holy Spirit, but you'll notice we spent a lot of time talking about Jesus.

The reality of talking about any part of the Trinity, One God, Co-equal and Co-eternal in three persons, is that you talk about one you get the other.

It's not a category thing; it's the eternal dance of the Godhead

When we point to one, we find them pointing to each other as equally One.

When you say yes to Jesus truly, you're enabled to say that because the Holy Spirit.

When you ask the Holy Spirit, he enables you to see Jesus

This doesn't yet even recognize the Father, who always plays a role here.

Jesus is the source of Life, The Holy Spirit is the source of Abundance

We are utterly complete when we accept and believe in Jesus and are filled with the Spirit, we also need to be reminded day by day.

When we walk in the sun, S-U-N

We sometimes forget it is there

We go about our days, benefiting from the light of the sun without focusing or recognizing it

The Sun does not end up being less bright or less sustaining because of my inability to remember.

The sun remains, even when I can't see it.

Our life with Christ, the Holy Spirit's ability to satisfy, is not lessened by my inability to remember them.

But like walking around with my eyes closed is an impediment to my good health, closing and ignoring the Holy Spirit is an impediment to my walk with God.

Fill us up and lead us, day by day.

Continuing the verse.

39 whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. (NIV)

Two significant events have not happened yet:

Jesus is not yet fully glorified meaning he has not yet died, been buried, and rose to life

Secondly, the Holy Spirit has not been given on Pentecost in Acts 2 when the Spirit comes fully himself.

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit would descend upon servants of God but it was always temporary

We are on the other side as the Holy spirit has fully come and made himself known

The Spirit indwells within a believer to satisfy our need for God and provides us with regeneration,

As we are regenerated with Christ, we have a mission to be the people who are serving outward to our neighbours.

We help others to see and experience God by being a living fountain

It would be amazing to just leave this sermon here say Amen

Be satisfied in Jesus to be filled up by the Holy Spirit to his work as we pour out

But the story doesn't end there

In verse 40 we have this dialogue where the people start arguing

People who got the best spiritual context sermon they could possibly ever get

From the best spiritual teacher

But instead of living into Jesus, they decide to create Friction and conflict around Jesus

40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet."

41 Others said, "He is the Messiah." NIV

We got his cheerleaders,

The ones on his side

Jumping in to say he's a prophet

Others are saying yeah, he's the Messiah

But realize something,

Jesus the Son of God,

The Holy Spirit the Giver of life,

That should be enough

And the first thought of ppl

"We can help make it better"

Jesus' declarations weren't good enough, so I need to say it better

Instead of Jesus and the Holy Spirit through us, it's all about us and our powers.

Rather than let God be enough, we need to aid him.

We need to add to our works, or salvation, or the overwhelming power of God to satisfy

It's a deadly mistake to think that we can add to God.

On the other hand, some are decidedly not on Jesus' side

v.41…Still others asked, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee?

42 Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" (NIV)

The controversy is a conflict of opinions about Jesus' place of birth,

The argument is

"If he was born in Galilee region, he is disqualified from being a prophet and Messiah."

The Friction is created, but it's all empty

The claim is Gailee has no prophets.

This itself is a false argument since there is another prophet named Jonah, who famously has a run in with a large fish who is from Galilee.

The Scriptures in Samuel and Isaiah both affirm the Messiah is to be born to the line of David and the hometown of Bethlehem.

Jesus is from the David's family, and He was born in Bethlehem, but this is ignored.

And if these people wanted to hear sincerely about Christ all they had to do was check and they would find the truth

They could easily learn his origins and realize their mistake, but it didn't matter.

Regardless of what Jesus says or does, the religious authorities are bent on discrediting him even if it denies the truth.

43 Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. (NIV)

John the writer did not counter the false ideas he simply left the ideas here

Jesus' opponents created a false dilemma, a false dichotomy fallacy

What should've been a moment to receive the Spirit's satisfaction through faith in Christ turned into hostility, division, and dismissal of Jesus.

We should not be surprised when we are faced with controversial opinions and dismissive attitudes.

And when things really get overwhelming, it is easy to be overwhelmed.

But look at what v.44 says

Some wanted to seize him but no one laid a hand on him (NIV)

They could not lay a hand on him because the time had not yet come for Jesus to go to the cross.

This isn't a promise that suffering won't happen

It is a promise that God is Sovereign, and he takes care of his people

When we are facing overwhelming circumstances

Or the end of peace

Or we're in a time and a season of suffering and difficulty

Or when we feel like low batteries

It is allowed to be out of our control, it is not outside of God's control

Our focus should be on trusting Jesus as our source

Jesus is in a circumstance where they want to kill him

Rather than let their false idols and sin be killed by him.

Don't make the mistake of missing out on the Spirit's satisfaction because you've plugged into the wrong source.

When the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to us.

We are not left with a Neutral Jesus.

Jesus is not an addition or an enhancement of your life; Jesus is your life.

We are to recognize Jesus as source of life

To seek and ask the Holy Spirit to flow through us

To be rivers of overflowing water poured out to those around us

Transition to COMMUNION

I'll ask those who are offering the Communion elements to make their way forward.

As we gather around the table of the Lord, we are to be reminded of our thirst and hunger. To be a people who are filled with the Holy Spirit and have him work through us and to truly see Jesus.

In the Gospel of Mark 14:22

22 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”

23 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

24 “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,”

Jesus welcomes us, not because we are perfect, but because He is full of grace.

As we partake of the bread and the cup, let us remember His body broken for us, His blood shed for the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus is inviting us to draw near to Him, and after the service if you want to speak more about what it means to believe in Him, please speak with one of us.

At this time, we’re going to celebrate Communion.

- The ushers will release you row by row.
- Then receive the elements and take them back to your seat where you’ll partake there when you’re ready.
- If you have limited mobility, we’re happy to serve you where you’re seated. Simply raise your hand and a mobile server will bring you the elements.

All who wish to draw near to Jesus are welcome to partake.

Benediction

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.