

<sup>37</sup> On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” <sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, 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.

**1. From John 7:2, which “festival or feast” is John talking about in verse 37 and what city (v25) and from what location in that city is Jesus speaking (v14)?**

*John is referring to Sukkot, the Feast of the Tabernacles (or Festival of the Booths) which commemorated the Hebrews living in booths or shelters for 40 years as they dwelt in the wilderness.*

*Some research on Sukkot or the Festival of Booths reveals that it is a weeklong fall harvest festival that includes the building of shelters where meals are eaten, and sometimes people sleep as well. There is also a water-libation ceremony where water is drawn from the Pool of Siloam and carried to the Temple where it is poured out on the altar. Offerings from the harvest are also given. It is one of three pilgrim festivals where people would travel to Jerusalem to make offerings at the Temple.*

*The Festival was held in Jerusalem, specifically in the Temple. Jesus is at the Temple, in the Courtyards where he is teaching.*

**2. What does Jesus mean when he says, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink”?**

*Jesus is offering salvation, as he did with the Samaritan woman and the well in John 3. The “living water” refers to the sustaining property of water for life used figuratively here to mean that our spiritual life is sustained by our faith in Jesus through whom we receive God’s grace and from whom we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**3. What does Jesus mean when he says, “Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them?”**

*As is noted in the following verse, Jesus is referring to the gift of God’s Spirit that will dwell in the hearts of the believers and bring forth the works of the kingdom (God’s will) through them. It is notable that Jesus would make this offer during this Festival of Booths which included the water libation, (pouring water on the altar), which celebrated the provision of water for Hebrew people in the wilderness. Jesus is declaring that he is the source of living water for those who believe in him. Later in John 14 Jesus would note that if we dwell with him as he dwells with the Father, then we have access through him to God’s resources to do God’s will in our lives, notably that if we ask anything in his name he will do it. Our connection with Christ bring us the gift of God’s Spirit within us so that the works of the Spirit will be done in and through Christ’s followers.*

**4. To whom does John refer when he says in verse 39, “those who believed in him?”**

*Initially his chosen disciples and those who were devoted followers many of whom were in the Upper Room in Jerusalem on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon them. Essentially then it refers to all those who believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord, into whose heart the Spirit enters as we receive the grace of salvation.*

**5. What is it that those who believed in Jesus would receive later?**

*The gift of the Holy Spirit dwelling within them. It was appropriate that Jesus would use the Festival of Booths to announce this because this festival celebrated God dwelling among the people of Israel as they wandered through the wilderness and the people looked forward to the time when God would again dwell with Israel (the Messiah would come). Jesus was already there, he intimated his messianic presence when he offered living water to those who believed in him as the Messiah. Now he was also announcing that God would continue to dwell as the Holy Spirit was sent into the world. It is significant to note that Sukkot or tabernacle as it is often translated, means “dwelling” So the feast celebrates God’s dwelling among us. Hear this with the John 1:14 in mind, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

**6. What is the condition that John said was necessary before the Spirit would be given?**

*John notes that the Spirit would not come until Jesus had been glorified. Jesus notes that as long as he was in this world, he was here to be God’s presence. That does not mean that the Holy Spirit had not ever been in the world, there were charismatic leaders of Israel through whom the Spirit brought about God’s works. The difference is sometimes noted that in the OT accounts, the Spirit came into and worked through people, but did not remain in the world at large as the Holy Spirit has done since the Pentecostal gift of the Spirit’s presence in the world since that day.*

**7. What does John mean by “glorified”?**

*Jesus was glorified by his suffering, death, and resurrection. In John, Jesus refers to this as “his hour” or “his time” (see John 7:6). The Holy Spirit would not be sent into the world until after Jesus’ glorification.*

*John’s gospel reads that the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples during his first resurrection appearance with the disciples gathered together on the day of his resurrection, (John 20:21-23.)*

*<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”*

***I encourage you to look up articles about the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) or Sukkot. Here are a couple I found informative.***

***SUKKOT the feast of Tabernacles*** (<https://jewsforjesus.org/jewish-resources/jewish-holidays/sukkot/>)

***What is the Feast of Tabernacles/Booths/Sukkot?*** (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Feast-of-Tabernacles.html>)