



Churches Of God Outreach Ministries
People working together to proclaim the Gospel

"The Churches of God Outreach Ministries provides leadership, information, and biblical teaching in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20"

1-800-611-8080 / www.cgom.org
PO Box 54621, Tulsa, OK 74155-0621

Come to Me and Drink

"Drinking of the Firstfruit Spirit"

by Ian Hufton

Jesus (the Word), the Creator of the universe, says that He has some "living water" for us to drink. What is this water? How does it tie in with the plan of salvation?

The Father and Son have commanded us to eat and drink in specific ways during the Passover service and the days of Unleavened Bread. We eat a small piece of unleavened bread (His broken body) and we drink a small amount of wine (His shed blood) at the Passover service. Then for seven days we are commanded to eat unleavened bread while avoiding all leaven and leavened products. Then comes Pentecost (festival of weeks) (festival of firstfruits) (festival of harvest). Where is the drink? It is hidden. God has written a mystery so that eager learners can understand His teachings by drinking in of the Holy Spirit and practicing the commands of Jesus and the Father.

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body; whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free; and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Cor 12:13)

Little is said about Pentecost being a "drink" festival. It is clear from the above that followers of Christ will be involved in "drinking of the Spirit of God". Notice how interesting it is that at Jesus's last opportunity to teach the large crowds at the festival of Tabernacles (Jesus is dead in the tomb before the next Holy day arrives). He cries out for all to hear "come to Me and drink".

... that great day of the feast, Jesus... cried out,.. "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as... Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39)

Above, Jesus has said that we should come to Him and drink. John tells us that the Holy Spirit is what Jesus means when He says we will have rivers of living water flowing out of us. Below in John 4:7, Jesus tells us that whoever drinks of the living water (He has to give) will never thirst

again and His "living water" becomes a fountain springing up into eternal life. In other words the living water is the Holy Spirit that we drink and receive from our Lord Jesus the Christ.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." (John 4:7)

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? (John 4:10-11)

Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:13-14)

Pentecost or the festival of Firstfruits is the third festival, coming after the "eating and drinking" in remembrance of Christ's death (Passover) and the "eating" for seven (complete) days, of the living Bread of life (Christ) during Unleavened Bread. Based on the verses above. could it be that the seven full weeks of the firstfruit harvest (Pentecost) pictures the necessary **DRINKING** (of the Holy Spirit) for a complete period, ending in the 50th day which celebrates the completion of the ingathering of the firstfruits harvest?

...but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves,.. (Romans 8:23)

...He brought us forth by... word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. (James 1:18)

...These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. (Rev 14:4)

Come To Me And Drink

It is clear to most that the greatest day of Pentecost so far, was in Acts chapter 2, when the Holy spirit was poured out for general use by those *“in Christ”*. Thousands began to drink of the living waters from Christ Jesus. At His last earthly Passover, Jesus gave us the glorious news that He would be sending the Holy Spirit to us from the Father. That is part of His job and He loves to do it.

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

(John 14:26)

“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He [the Father’s Spirit] will testify of Me.”

(John 15:26)

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper [Comforter KJV] will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him [the Father’s Spirit] to you.” (John 16:7)

It appears that the Father and the Son are involved in sending the Holy Spirit but clearly it comes from the Father to Christ who gives us the Holy Spirit— living water of eternal life. Paul seems to have this *“eating—drinking”* symbolism in mind when he says:

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

(I Cor 10:1-4)

We see that *“eating and drinking”* or *“feeding”* on Christ is a major teaching about Christ which also fits with the first three Festivals of God spoken about in Leviticus chapter 23.

THE DRINKING IN AND FLOWING OUT

It could be that the first three festivals picture the nourishment a Christian needs to become a firstfruit, while the remaining four festivals picture what Christians should be doing while they are growing. When Jesus talks of living water He portrays it as that which we drink in **AND** that which flows out of us.

Jesus does not want *“hermit”* Christians. He wants them out making disciples of others in His harvest. So after we

memorialize His death (Passover) and picture feeding on Him (the sinless bread of life) during Unleavened Bread, we are to drink in of the Holy Spirit from Christ and the Father and then cause it to flow toward others in need. Is not this what Christ is saying when He talks of the sheep and the goats?

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, ...then He will sit on the throne of His glory.” (Matt 25:31)

“All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.” (Matt 25:32)

“Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ‘for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ‘I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’” (Matt 25:34-36)

“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ Then He will say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ‘for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ‘I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matt 25:40-46)

We all need to be drinking in of the Firstfruit (Pentecost) living water of eternal life (Christ, the Rock) to become the Firstfruits unto God. As we drink in the Holy Spirit we should use it to flow good deeds out to others who are in need of the blessings we share.

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? (1 John 3:16-17)

(All Scripture references are NKJV)

Published by:
The Churches of God Outreach Ministries
PO Box 54621
Tulsa, OK 74155-0621
©2006 The Churches of God Outreach Ministries
www.gom.org

This article may be freely copied and distributed as long as it is done in its entirety, including this notice, and is given away free, without any charge to the recipient.

Write us for a free catalog of other free articles we have to offer.