

## God The Holy Spirit Has Unlimited Power For You A Bible Study On John 7:37-39

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Step Lesson 1

Ever hear of “white knuckle sobriety?” That’s what happens when an addict approaches his recovery thinking, “I’m so scared my sobriety might just slip away from me, any second now something might come along and trigger a relapse, I just *gotta* hold onto my sobriety, I just *gotta* fight my cravings.” Sort of like driving a car on an icy road: you grip the steering wheel so tightly your knuckles turn white. As you can imagine, “white knuckle sobriety” doesn’t last too long: the person either finds a way to recover that doesn’t involve so much fear and pressure, or else he relapses.

A lot of people look at their relationship with Jesus that same way. They’re afraid that their faith is so fragile that it might disappear any time. They think that it’s up to them to keep their connection with God alive. And, just like the person with “white knuckle sobriety,” they often burn out after a while and quit reading the Bible and getting together with other believers, and even quit praying. The burden of responsibility for keeping their faith alive is too much to bear.

If you’ve been approaching your life with God with some of that kind of fear and pressure, the Bible has good news: God the Holy Spirit is the one who started your new life with God, and “he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” [Philippians 1:6]. God the Holy Spirit has unlimited power to keep your new life alive and growing and overflowing.

#### THOUGHT QUESTIONS:

- What happens to you when you’re under the kind of pressure that says, “It’s all up to you?” Does your performance get better? Does it last? Do you collapse?
- What does it take to “recharge your batteries?” How long before you need to be “recharged” again?

#### John 7:37-39

37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 39 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.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In verse 37 Jesus holds out a promise to anyone who is “thirsty,” that he will let them have something to “drink”--in other words, Jesus promises to meet the deepest needs of

anyone who comes to him and listens to his Word. Some of the ways Jesus meets those needs are:

- Providing forgiveness for all your guilt, through his dying in your place on the cross
- Promising to stay with you, no matter what
- Giving you a home in heaven
- Promising to listen and answer whenever you pray

Are there other ways you can think of that Jesus can meet your deepest needs?

2. The Bible makes it clear that “the Spirit” who comes to us through hearing God’s Word is not just a force or an influence from God. For instance:

- John 6:63 - The Holy Spirit **gives life** to those who listen to Jesus’ Word
- Romans 8:26 -The Holy Spirit **pleads** for us to the Father
- Ephesians 4:30 - The Holy Spirit **grieves** when believers act lovelessly
- I Corinthians 2:10 - The Holy Spirit **searches** everyone’s mind
- I Corinthians 12:11 - The Holy Spirit **decides** which particular gifts he’ll give to individual believers

And put all this together with what the apostle Peter told two church members who thought they could get away with a selfish lie:

“How is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit?... What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God” [Acts 5:3-4]

How might this change your attitude toward life, to know that **God himself** has come to live in you and be the power in your new life as a believer?

3. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit in believers “living water” in verse 38. “Living water” means running water, like a river or a spring-fed stream, as opposed to a pool or a tank of standing water. How might this change your attitude toward life, to know that the Holy Spirit’s power for your new life as a believer is *unlimited*?

What changes would you expect to start seeing in your life, with the Holy Spirit putting his unlimited power to work in you?

4. In verse 38 Jesus says that “streams of living water will flow from within” the person who listens to Jesus’ Word and believes it. In other words, the Holy Spirit’s power won’t just stay in you, it will flow out from you to other people who need it. How do you think the Holy Spirit might work through you to help other people?

CLOSING PRAYER: What would you like to ask God to put his power to work on in you?