

## **Abide Part 4: The Holy Spirit is a Comforter (9-30-2018)**

**New Series:** Abide - Living in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit

**3 Parts:** Who is the Holy Spirit, Cultivating our relationship with Him, and then how He flows through us.

**Last Week:** The Holy Spirit is a Connector & Helper (Examples: Dove, Wind, Fire, Oil)

**Today:** The Holy Spirit is a Comforter (Examples: Water & Wine)

**Introduction:** Baseball story - Large gatherings of Joy!

### **1) The Holy Spirit is like Water**

#### **John 7:37-39 (ESV)**

(37) 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, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

#### **Notes:**

- Feast of Booths or Tabernacles (Tents basically) – each day they poured water over the altar from the pool of Siloam. When they poured it over the altar, they took a pitcher of water & a pitcher of wine and poured them together. Several historians record that on the last great day, the held up an empty pitcher, looking ahead to future restoration.
- Fausset’s Bible Dictionary - “Rest after wanderings, lasting habitations after the life of wanderers, is the prominent thought of joy in the feast”
- Jesus stands up in the midst of this and declares that he is the one who will give lasting water to any who are thirsty.
- John let’s us know that this is in reference to the Holy Spirit that will soon be given!

**Let’s take a look at 2 prominent OT references to God’s Spirit coming as water to bring refreshing and restoration . . .**

## Finding comfort, even after a season of loss & destruction . . .

### Joel 2:23-29

Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you— The former rain, and the latter rain in the first *month*. The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; and My people shall never be put to shame. Then you shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel: I *am* the LORD your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

### Notes:

- See the connection between the Lord's rain, restoration, and His Spirit.
- Notice what the Lord's Rain/Spirit produces: restoration, fullness, overflow, plenty, satisfaction, wonder, no shame, prophesying, dreaming, visions.

## Finding comfort in the midst of an uncertain future . . .

### Isaiah 44:3-5 (ESV)

(3) For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. (4) They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams. (5) This one will say, 'I am the LORD's,' another will call on the name of Jacob, and another will write on his hand, 'The LORD's,' and name himself by the name of Israel."

**Notes:** Blessing on your children (future) – like trees by flowing streams, taking on the name of the Lord. I can entrust my children to Him in the midst of an uncertain future.

## 2) The Holy Spirit is like Wine

### Acts 2:12-18 (ESV)

(12) And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" (13) But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." (14) But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. (15) For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. (16) But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: (17) "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; (18) even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

**Notes:**

- **Wine** - seems to speak of being drunk in the Spirit, intoxicated, rejoicing!
- Peter connects what just happened with the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit spoken of in Joel 2 that we just read! He is saying - this is that!
- Notice Joy & Boldness accompany the comfort promised by the Spirit!

**Matthew 9:14-17 (ESV)**

(14) Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" (15) And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. (16) No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. (17) Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

**Notes:**

- We can receive comfort & joy, if we keep a new wine-skin mentality. My Savior is present and alive, and I can live in and receive His joy.
- How do I stay fresh like a new wine skin, and live in festival joy?

**Ephesians 5:18-21 (ESV)**

(18) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, (19) addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, (20) giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (21) submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**Notes:**

- Don't try to find joy or comfort from the fruit of the vine, but rather the fruit of the Spirit! Fruit of the Spirit produces joy, so find joy in the Holy Spirit's filling! (Gal 5:22)
- Speak to one another in Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs - get into worshipful community!
- Sing and make melody in your heart to the Lord - private worship and devotion!
- Give thanks for all things - live a thankful, submitted life to God, even in tough times!
- Submit to one another - be in meaningful, spiritual, mutually life-giving relationships where encouragement and correction can happen!

**Communion:** At the Cross Jesus suffered so we could be comforted. His Blood & Water flowed, so we could receive water that revives & refreshes, and the wine of eternal joy & celebration with the Family of God!