

“The Gift of the Spirit”

John 7:37-39

7/25/21

Discussion Guide

Read today’s passage slowly and meditatively. Perhaps have one person read it out loud while everyone else closes their eyes and focuses on the words. Put yourself in the crowd that day. You are watching the water being poured on the alter and then someone suddenly shouts...

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” 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. John 7:37-39

1. The topic for today’s discussion is “The Gift of the Spirit.” What is the gift of the Spirit? What have you been taught or have heard about the gift of the Spirit? Is it a topic the church speaks about too much or not enough?
2. Share a deeply moving moment with God that you still remember today that’s an anchor for your faith making it difficult to walk away from your faith.
3. It’s interesting that the people heard an inspiring message while at a week-long Jewish festival. They were camping and worshipping God for seven days and hearing various speakers when Jesus gave this impassioned message. What’s been your experience with Christian camping? What part has it playing in your spiritual formation?
4. The Pastor said: “The essence of Christianity is a direct, experiential, existential relationship with God.” Respond to that statement. What about doctrine? What about morals and ethics? What about justice and social issues? What about worship and discipleship? Missions? Evangelism? Etc.
5. Reflect on...*“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? I Corinthians 6:19* Think about that. What once to thundered on Mt. Sinai and rested in the Holy of Holies is in you. What are the implications for our lives?

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6. What do you think about the statement that the people who tend to come to Jesus are not those who think they are moral and religious but those who have lived far from God, the people Jesus lists in Revelation 22:15: *“Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”*
7. People have misunderstood the end of Revelation 22. It sounds like Jesus is bigoted, judgmental, exclusive, perhaps homophobic, even though he does not specifically call out homosexuality, it is included in scripture as a sexual sin.

Seeing it in context with verse 17, *“Come! Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life”* how does your impression of what Jesus was saying change? How are we to see and treat the people mentioned in verse 15?

8. Share a time when you were spiritually dry, the tank was empty and God refreshed you. When you are spiritually empty what refreshes you the best?
9. Share a time when the forgiveness of God washed over you and set you free from self-condemnation and guilt.
10. Interact with the statement: *“The true evidence that you have the gift of the Holy Spirit is not the existence of the gifts of the Spirit but a changed life.”*
11. Any final words, reflections or questions?