

1. “... shall be in him a fountain of living water” part 1

Hello folks, it's great to be able to contribute in some way...and knowing how The Lord feels about His church, it's such a blessing, I can't tell you how much it means, thank you.

In preparing this I've just been praying that The Lord would bless and anoint it because without that it's worthless eh?

So this is something that was on my heart that I thought would be good to share and it's all about The Holy Spirit within us, God's gift of life to all who believe on The Lord Jesus. And scripture tells us that He will be with us forever. The Lord said....,

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." That's in John 14: 16-17 NKJV.

There's Paul as well, who pointed this same thing out to the Corinthians, saying....,

"... do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19 NKJV)

And the heart of this little study is found in John 4 where The Lord was talking to the Samaritan woman beside Jacob's well in Samaria, which when you check the Greek text there, was a spring or fountain..., Greek word '*pege*'.

A deep well apparently but spring fed according to scripture.

It's where The Lord referred to The Holy Spirit as, "*the gift of God*"..and as '*living water*'.

We'll read the passage later but I'm sure you know it backwards anyway ... but He went on to say that The Spirit once received would then be "*a fountain*", within us, (same word, '*pege*'), "*a fountain of living water, springing up unto eternal life*". (John 4:14 NKJV)

And at that time of course, the promise of The Spirit was still something hidden, as Jesus hadn't died for our sins yet ... but it was all there, just wrapped up in other terms. Whereas now, we know He was talking about the promise of The Spirit through faith to everyone who would later come to believe on Him.

'*springing up*', is just one word, '*hallomai*', meaning to leap up, or gush..., further emphasising that The Holy Spirit within has this same characteristic of a natural spring, which is one of freshness. A constant free flowing supply .

It would be easy to think, "*mmm... that's not how it is with me*" but we're dealing with what's true, eh ?

And the truth is that The Holy Spirit is within..., it's like Paul said, "*don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God...?*"

Consequently the supply is constant too..., on our part it's just a matter of learning to draw water.

It reminds me of that old chorus from way back, taken from Isaiah..., "Behold God is my salvation" Do you remember that one?

"Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation. Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." (Isaiah 12:2-3 NKJV)

And if you check out the word 'wells' there, it's '*mayan*', which is one of 3 Hebrew words that equate exactly to The Greek word '*pege*', meaning a natural spring, or fountain.

I wasn't going to mention these yet... but thinking about it, if I quickly just point them out now, they'll mean something then when they appear here and there as we go along.

So in the Greek you have '*pege*', a fountain/spring, however you want to describe it but essentially one and the same thing.

And in Hebrew there are 3 words that equate exactly to this word, they're..., '*mayan*'..., '*maqor*'....and '*ayin*'.

So these 3 all mean the same thing, a fountain or spring.

'*mayan*' actually comes from the word '*ayin*' ... while '*maqor*' still means the same but is generally used in a metaphorical sense. So '*ayin*' could be seen as the principle one, the root if you like.

Whenever you come across these, it's referring to a natural spring and The Septuagint bible verifies this.

And just in case there's anyone who might not know, The Septuagint Bible was put together by the top people of the day about 200 years before Jesus was born, having been tasked with translating the Old Testament Hebrew Bible into Greek.

Which means that now we can take a Hebrew word and see it's Greek equivalent and vice versa.

2.

So the '*wells of salvation*' mentioned in that scripture aren't just any old kind of well, they're natural springs '*mayan*'... which speaks of The Holy Spirit, in you, in me... and in all the different ministries that The Lord has provided.

Paul makes mention of this...

"from whom..." (referring to The Lord, who is the fountain, the source)... *"the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."* (Ephesians 4:16 NKJV)

It's living water drawn from each other and the ministries that The Lord has provided, '*the wells of salvation*', that ministers life.

Translators will often use the blanket term of well, which is quite correct but the thing is, not all wells are springs and it makes a big difference to our understanding, in regards to what The Holy Spirit wants to show us.

There's some that simply tap into the water table and are replenished by water seeping into the shaft to the same level as the water table around it.

And a really good example of that was when I was digging a hole not so long back, to plant an apple tree in our garden. About 18" down, I thought "that's deep enough" and then I couldn't believe it as water started to collect in the bottom. It's a heavy soil anyway, courtesy of the builders ... but because of recent rain, the water table must have been quite high.

And as I watched the water dribbling in from the sides, my neighbour who was helping..., an African guy born and raised in The Gambia, whose got a great sense of humour, said....,

"Chris..., in Africa we call this a well".

(The initial disappointment turned to laughter and we planted it anyway, slightly raised ... but after 2 years and more it's really thriving.)

But these sometimes also tap into aquifers, natural underground chambers containing water, or permeable rock layers that holds water like a sponge and both these types of aquifers can be vast, covering hundreds, sometimes thousands of square miles.

It was Moses who said to the children of Israel shortly before they crossed over The river Jordan into the land...., *"For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains (ayin) and depths(tehom) that spring out of valleys and hills;* (Deuteronomy 8:7 KJV)

There's '*ayin*' that's mentioned there, while '*tehom*'/depths , is probably a reference to the large aquifers that are beneath the land of Israel.

But springs...., springs by comparison, can truly be seen as a gift, requiring no human effort generally, other than perhaps to put a well head on it for ease of use.

In fact we used to visit one occasionally on Kos, it was in a village called Pyli, up in the hills and we'd fill the boot of the car up with plastic bottles of pure spring water..., it just flowed constantly out of six spouts on the well head that had been built over it. And you just helped yourself from the spouts, no taps or anything. It was all very clean and cared for but being English we'd always give the spout a wipe over first.

I remember it was quite noisy... because the water just flowed out constantly into the grid drains at ground level. The water apparently is used lower down near the coast, to irrigate crops and what have you ... but obviously loads went to waste.

Afterwards though, there was always this strong urge you know, to..., you thought I was going to say, ' visit the loo' eh? No., you felt you should turn it off somehow, so as not to let it all go to waste but of course there's no valve or anything, it just keeps on giving, which is the nature of a spring.

But that abundance just seemed to go against the grain and with The Lord it's a similar thing, the riches of His grace which by definition is unearned, can be so hard for us to accept.

And it takes revelation from The Holy Spirit, a change of mind in order to grasp that it's not about us and our efforts but it's all about Him. He loves us, He saved us, He called us and He's bringing us to glory because it pleases Him.

And there's an abundance in everything he does.

And that's the characteristic quality of The Holy Spirit who is within us . And just like everything else in our Christian walk, it's a case of having to adopt a different mindset and to see things the way our Father says they are. *"...shall be in him a fountain of living water, springing up unto everlasting life"*

3.

At Pyli, it was so hard to get your head around the fact that this water has probably been flowing from this spot for thousands of years.

And there beside the spring, a sign saying, '*pege*'. (Greek letters of course).

The locals loved it and we also checked with the water board people first as to it's purity and it's good stuff.

But this unique quality of a fountain or spring, that just keeps on giving, typifies The Holy Spirit within us . We can take as much as we want..., the supply is there. Although The Lord did say to the disciples....,

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you." (John 16:12-15 NKJV)

And our walk with The Lord is from faith to faith isn't it ? The Holy Spirit enlightening the eyes of our heart concerning this so great salvation.

But you know, another chorus comes to mind that we used to sing, "*fill my cup Lord, I lift it up Lord...*", which in the light of this spring of living water within, is sooooo far from the truth...., in that the supply is one of abundance.

I think we need to have the mind set of David, who said "*my cup runs over...*".

Water to drink, water to wash in and according to Ezekiel's vision, water eventually to swim in.

And leading on from this, with The Holy Spirit now dwelling in our heart, it makes you think on what The Lord said...., that, "*a good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks*". (Luke 6:45 NKJV

So we see that there's this other aspect now of our words, that's linked to The Living Water within.

And in Proverbs it speaks of this, it says "*The mouth of the righteous is a well ('maqor') of life...*", (Proverbs 10:11 NKJV)

This is one of the 3 Hebrew words if you remember that equate to '*pege*'. It's the one often used metaphorically as it is here.

So this is exactly what we've been looking at regarding The Holy Spirit within us ... "*a fountain of life*" and now we see our words coming into play regarding the dispensing of that living water within.

And then again a little further on in Proverbs 18, it says,

"The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring ('maqor') of wisdom as a flowing brook".

(Proverbs 18:4 KJV)

It's not our wisdom is it? The wellspring of wisdom being The Holy Spirit within ...,

"The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned." (Isaiah 50:4 NKJV)

So now we begin to see that words convey living water.

And The Lord said this didn't He?

"It is the Spirit who gives life;" (so He's the source), "*the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*" (John 6:63 NKJV).

You know, in the same vicinity of Pyli, just a few miles further on in this hilly region of Kos, there's another spring, called the Vourina spring....and the volume of water from this one really is staggering. To give you some idea, up until 1980 it used to supply all of Kos towns water which is about 12 miles away, fed through clay pipes.

Kos town which is on the coast, is very much on a par I would say with the parish of St Peter Port for example regarding size, possibly even larger..... both with a harbour and both are the principle town.

But even today it still supplies 80% of Kos towns water, which when you factor in tourism that has mushroomed since the 80's..., therefore you've got lots of Hotels and Apartments, Restaurants..., shops hosing down their shop frontage, all the modern appliances like washing machines, showers, car washes and what have you... it's amazing.

This one spring alone, The Vourina spring, gushing out such a great volume of good water, every single day ... and then you think it's been pouring out water like this for thousands of years..., it's really quite staggering.

Archaeologists have found evidence of man at this site going back thousands of years.

4.

It was a water board official I think, who said to us that they reckoned the source of the wells were the mountains of Turkey. So although the coast of Turkey is only 5 miles from this little Greek island, the real mountainous regions are 100-200 miles inland.

Whether that's true I can't say but certainly, springs are the result of rain, snowmelt, streams and rivers that percolates into the ground and then under natural pressure, is forced through substrata and rock fissures...., in this case, even under the sea bed and has found an outlet in such volume in the hills of this sun baked, arid island, that has no rainfall for 6-8 months of the year.

So with The Lord saying that The Holy Spirit within us is like "*a fountain, springing up unto everlasting life*", it will never be the case that the supply will cease, He will be with us forever, a fountain of life.

On a personal level it certainly makes you look with faith and an increased expectancy and eagerness for God's living word in one's life. That His Word to us and the leading of the Spirit which might seem a million miles away at times, even a rarity is in truth always there, constant and limitless.

Anyway, it's really worth a look on Google..., The Vourina spring on Kos and also the one at Pyli.... If you zoom in on the sign, you'll see '*pege*'.

Pyli by the way, means 'gateway', as years ago the now ruined village of 'old Pyli' nearby, was once the capital of Kos and stood guard over the only pass that linked one end of the island with the other. JCB's and roads have changed all that but that's worth a look as well, the old fortress there. In the spring there would be loads of Tortoises wandering about.

But it makes me think of all the different ministries that The Lord provides, such as Joseph Prince for example and many others, who are like that Vourina Spring ... benefitting thousands... but equally, how our words too can be a blessing, in that The Holy Spirit is within each one of us. "*the wells of salvation*". Which if you remember is '*mayan*', springs.

Just a simple word of encouragement at the right time, that can alter the direction in someone's life.

When you look closer at the Hebrew text there, it says, "*you will draw water out of the springs(mayan) of Yeshuah(Jesus)*" I know 'salvation' is perfectly correct there but that doesn't change the fact that the name of Jesus really is in that phrase.

And for me, I see this as a reference to the many membered body of Christ, giving and receiving The Lord's encouragement and anointed Word that He ministers to us.

Anyway, perhaps we should finally get around to reading that passage in John 4 where The Lord spoke with The Samaritan woman beside Jacob's well, which as I say was a spring according to the Greek text, '*pege*'.

And just to avoid any confusion, like..., "*yeh, apparently Chris reckons the woman's name was Peggy*".

'*pege*' is the Greek word for a spring or fountain..... while the Greek word for well, or cistern, is '*phrear*' .

Although as far as I'm concerned she'll always be Peggy to me.

Translators have opted for the blanket term of well, which is quite correct in a sense but obviously not all wells are springs ... and here The Holy Spirit clearly wanted us to be aware that it was spring fed...and then The Lord makes the comparison between this natural spring and the spiritual spring that would be within us.

But only the Darby translation points this out ... and calls it a fountain.

And I should have pointed out earlier, that in this little study and the next one, as I won't fit it all in here, I've opted for the word spring..., simply that that's how I figured you and I would describe this natural feature of water that just flows out of the ground.

Translators favour the word fountain, so that's the word that will yield the best results from a concordance if you choose to check things out for yourself. But essentially, a spring or fountain being one and the same.

Also, when I was preparing this, I happened to come across something that said according to Orthodox tradition, the name that was given to this woman later on at her baptism, was 'photini', meaning 'enlightened' and that's why the present Greek Orthodox church that's built over the site of Jacob's well bears that name, St Photini.

Apparently she became quite a notable evangelist and I see no reason to doubt that.

(I do like that idea of giving someone a new name to mark their new birth.)

5.

And there's been several buildings built over the site prior to this one, that have all been destroyed in wars or natural disasters and consequently a lot of debris has entered the well over time, although it still functions as a well but it was a really nice touch when I happened to come across her new name ... because that's what I want to bring out in the study, that unique characteristic of The Holy Spirit, which is one of revelation.

Obviously not in the sense that we just end up knowing a lot because it's fruit isn't it that The Lord desires for us to bear? Fruit of The Spirit that glorifies our Father which is the product of life, of abiding in Him.

But it's revelation that The Holy Spirit gives through God's Word, of The Lord Jesus and His finished work, that inspires faith and imparts life when we embrace it.

Like Abraham who believed God's Word to him and it was counted to Him for righteousness.

And He leads us into all the truth, enlightening the eyes of our hearts to see and appreciate our inheritance in Christ and the things of God.

A ministration of Spirit, is how Paul described the New Covenant. Through God's Word, by The Holy Spirit.

John wrote this,

"Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life. These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you...," (this is The Holy Spirit), *"and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him."*

(1 John 2:24-27 NKJV)

So..., c'mon Chris, John chapter 4..., Jacob's well and Peggy .

Well the well was deep apparently, so I don't understand the dynamics but from the Greek text, The Holy Spirit clearly wanted us to be aware that it was spring fed.

You have 'pege', which is a spring and you have 'phrear' which is a well or cistern.

So starting at verse 5 ... and I'll just point out those words as we go through.

"So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well (pege) was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well(pege). It was about the sixth hour. (midday).

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?"

For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

*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(phrear) is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well(phrear), and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

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(pege) of water springing up into everlasting life."

And that was the verse that was on my heart to share..., verse 14, The Lord describing The Holy Spirit within us as a spring, a fountain of living water.

When The Lord spoke to her, the promised gift of The Holy Spirit was still something yet to be revealed at the right time, hence the parable ... but this was all about The Holy Spirit that would be given to everyone who would later believe on Him....and verse 10 holds the key,

v10 *"if you knew the gift of God..."* (referring to The Holy Spirit) *"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."*

So He's referring to the promise of The Spirit through faith in Himself, Jesus Christ our Saviour.

6.

So this woman who obviously was there to draw water at the hottest part of the day in order to avoid people, (which is apparent when you read the rest of the story)..., after this encounter with The Lord, all thoughts of water., people., it's all forgotten in her excitement and it says....,

"The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, 'Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?' Then they went out of the city, and came unto him. ..."

(John 4:28-30 KJV)

And just to point out here, that little phrase... *"and came to Him."* Which pops up so many times in regards to people being saved and being healed. To the Pharisees if you remember, he said, *"but you are not willing to come to me that you may have life"*. (John 5:40 NKJV)

"Come unto me all you that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28 NKJV)

"If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink" (John 7:37 NKJV)

So then in verse 40 ..,

"So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. And many more believed because of his own word; And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world."

"Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee."

(John 40-43 KJV)

Well I think that's a good place to stop for now and we'll finish off next time rather than try to squeeze in too much. It's having that different mindset regarding the Lord's presence within, so that rather than, *"fill my cup Lord, I lift it up Lord"*, to think in terms of abundance and constancy of supply, *"a fountain of living water within, springing up unto everlasting life"*.

On our part it's about learning to draw out of the abundance.

"with joy you shall draw water from the wells of salvation".

I'm looking forward to the next time and we'll see something really interesting concerning these things in the Old Testament.