

May 15, 2024

Holy Crystal Springs

[John 7:37-39](#)

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As^[a] the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart^[b] shall flow rivers of living water.'

I live very near the top of a high mountain in West Virginia. Right across the road from our driveway, the mountainside is dabbled with water literally springing from the ground: 24/7, 365 days of the year.

The crystal water trickles into a ditch lined by fall's leaves or winter's snow and filled with smooth glistening rocks. Just down the road a bit, there is the culvert where it crosses the road and continues down the mountain. On the other side of the culvert the water is stagnant, leaves cover the water, and mud lines the ditch.

On our way home from walking our dog Daisy, we're careful to keep her out the ditch until we've passed the culvert. It doesn't matter how cold the day, once on the right side, she's immediately drawn to walk the rocks and lap-up the clean mountain water, satisfying her thirst and rejuvenating her old body before she heads home.

One of the three main rites of the seven-day festival of Feast of the Tabernacles was "the rejoicing of the place of water drawing." The priest would draw fresh water from the pool of Siloam and return to the temple through the Water Gate to pour the water on the altar as an offering.

For Christ to appear at the festival at all was startling. The Pharisees were ready to arrest him, but here he is, on the last day, proclaiming: "Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

We don't have to make a trip to a sacred pool or, like Daisy, get our feet wet to drink. Christ is our source of the Holy crystal springs, satiating our spiritual thirst and rejuvenating our souls.

Can I be filled with those life-giving springs, 24/7, 365 days a year? Or will I be stuck in the stagnant muddy waters beyond the culvert?

Prayer: Lord, thank you for your springs of rejuvenation. As Jesus pours the never-ending springs of the Holy Spirit on me, let me be a source of pouring the Holy Spirit to others, so they, also, may experience Christ's life-giving waters.

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