

John 7:37

Background: Every year at harvest time the Jews were required to travel to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Booths (tents). They were to live in tents during this festival to remember how God made their ancestors live in tents during the 40 years in the wilderness, after he brought them out of slavery from Egypt. This joyful festival lasted 8 days. The last day of the feast was a formal gathering when they would march around waving palm branches, blowing trumpets and singing praise to God. The priests would pour out water in the temple to remember how God made rivers of water flow out of the rock in the wilderness for their ancestors to drink.

(1)

Think about [John 7:37-39](#).

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. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

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.

- What two things does Jesus invite anyone who is thirsty to do?
 - How does one come to Jesus and drink?
 - How does Jesus satisfy the thirst of those who come to him and drink?
 - Those who come to Jesus and drink, what are they thirsty for?
 - What did Jesus mean, when he spoke of living water flowing from a believer's heart?
 - What had to happen before the spirit of God could be given to believers? [John 16:5-15](#)
(Jesus said to his disciples) "But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ... When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth"
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(2)

Jesus spoke about darkness. What is spiritual darkness? Here are a few thoughts:

- Only God is good. Darkness is all that is not good – against God.
[1John 1:5](#) ... *God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*
- Darkness is the realm of this world, ruled by Satan, where the wicked do evil deeds imagining their evil is hidden from God.
[John 3:19-20](#) ... *the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.*
- Darkness is existing without the knowledge of God, and suffering destruction as the wages of doing wrong. If light is the knowledge of God, then darkness is not knowing God.
[2Corinthians 4:6](#) *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*
[2Peter 2:12-13](#) *But these (the unrighteous), like irrational animals, ... will also be destroyed in their destruction, suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing.*
- Darkness is being under the control of Satan, without God, having no forgiveness of sin and no hope.
[Acts 26:18](#) *(Jesus said to Paul) ... "I am sending you to open their (the Gentiles) eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."*

(3)

Think about [John 8:12](#).

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- What must we do so that we do not walk in darkness?
- If we are children of light, what kind of fruit will the light of God's life, produce in us?
[Ephesians 5:8-9](#) *for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),*
- Jesus claimed to be the light of the world. In what way is that true now, and in the future?
[Revelation 21](#) and [22:5](#) *(10) And I (John) saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, ... (11) having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, ... (23) And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. (24) By its light will the nations walk, ... (22:5) And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light,*