

Priming the Pump

“Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:14

In today’s world, most people here in these United States of America just turn on a faucet and water comes out. Gone are the days of wells accessed by bucket, cupping your hands in a stream or river, or even manual pumps with the long handle.

But we must not throw out the baby with the bathwater, so to speak. We must remember that we do not have all we need, and make sure to look to the One who has it.

God created the heavens and the earth, and the seas and water within it. He gave that water to us to enjoy and share with others. That water came from the earth many years ago, and returns to earth in a never ending cycle of rain, evaporation, and the flow of rivers and streams.

The following letter was found on a baking-powder can wired to the handle of an old pump that offered the only hope of drinking water on a very long and seldom-used trail across Nevada’s Armargosa Desert:

“This pump is all right as of June 1932. I put a new sucker washer into it and it ought to last five years. But the washer dries out and the pump has got to be primed. Under the white rock I buried a bottle of water, out of the sun and cork end up. There’s enough water in it to prime the pump, but not if you drink some first. Pour about one-fourth and let her soak to wet the leather. Then pour in the rest medium fast and pump like crazy. You’ll git water. The well has never run dry. Have faith. When you git watered up, fill the bottle and put it back like you found it for the next feller.

(signed) Desert Pete.

“P.S. Don’t go drinking the water first. Prime the pump with it and you’ll git all you can hold.”~Keith Miller and Bruce Larson, *The Edge of Adventure*

This story tells of water in the desert, and calls us to dig deeper, into the spiritual water of life, the water that is Jesus Christ, the eternal, living water which all people thirst for. It is found in two places.

One, we find the water of life in the Scriptures, the Holy Bible. Regular drinking of the words of the Bible will nurture and refresh us as we cross the deserts and climb the mountains. We can find certain things when we read and study and pray by ourselves, but there is much that God can offer through other people who drink of that water.

We can find watery insights from those we know and those who know us well. They can teach us what they have learned. They can introduce us to Jesus the living water. They can help us when we are down, and celebrate with us when things are going well.

My friends, and family,” says entertainer Kelly Clarkson,” are my support system. They tell me what I need to hear, not what I want to hear and they are there for me in the good and bad times. Without them I have no idea where I would be and I know that their love for me is what's keeping my head above the water.”

We must trust ourselves to the things God leads us through. We must not struggle against the lessons God teaches, or panic when the current doesn't go the way we want. We must swim, float, ride the spiritual boats God provides.

Alan Watts writes that “To have faith is to trust yourself to the water. When you swim you don't grab hold of the water, because if you do you will sink and drown. Instead you relax, and float.”

Good advice whether in the river, the ocean, or living life in the midst of pressures and choices. We trust ourselves to Jesus, the eternal water of life, and we find salvation. Not only that, we will overflow that water of life to others. It will fill us so much that we have more than enough for ourselves.

Jesus said to his disciples, and to us modern day disciples, “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.’”~ John 7:37-38

The best place to find that living water, to prime that spiritual water is in church. However we plan our lives, we are in the desert and thirsty until we make time for the real water which matters most. Church is where the pump is found. Christ in his people are the primers from which all blessings flow.