

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. " (John 7:37-38).

Now the Word of God says that, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water".

In 1966 I asked the congregation, "who of you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ?" Everyone raised their hand. I repeated my question and asked them not take it lightly. Then I said to them that we have a problem, since God's Word says that if we believe on Him these rivers of Living water will flow from our innermost being. Yet none of them claimed to have rivers of Living water flowing from their innermost being, and neither could I see it in my life.

There is nothing that can stop rivers of flowing water. It will either break a wall or eventually flow over it.

So we had a problem. We were convinced that we believed in the Lord Jesus but the rivers of Living Water were missing.

Then the Lord revealed to us that it is not the one who believes any-old-how, but the one who believes as the Scripture says. Not the one who believes as the Methodists say, or the Roman Catholics say, or the Lutherans or the Reformed, but as the Scriptures say.

Yes we believed but in our way and as saw fit.

We searched the Scriptures to see what is written about the life of a Christian and how a Christian should believe.

Jesus stood up at the last day, the greatest day of the feast, and spoke these words.

Our Lord was in danger of death, not because of the heathen, but because of the religious leaders of that day. He departed from Judea and walked in Galilee among the Gentiles, because the Jews wanted to kill Him (John 7:1).

If you examine Christian history you find over and over again that the religious leaders of the day fought against God's working. History unfortunately repeats itself. That should shake us awake, that the religious leaders time and again resist God's work!

Even Jesus' brothers "mocked" Him to go into Judea and go up to the feast because they did not believe on Him (John 7:3, 4).

At first Jesus did not go up to the feast but after they had left He also went up in secret. At the climax of the feast He could not be hidden and cried out (in Greek it refers to a cry of grief and agony in a loud voice). May that cry reach your ears and heart even today.

On the last day they had the best program with the climax of the items. It was on this day that Jesus got up and cried this great cry. What He did didn't fit into the program. It upset the apple cart. Why? They believed, but not as the Scripture says.

What does the Scriptures say about a believer?

They had their magnificent religious program, but it broke His heart that they did it all but not according to the Scriptures. They didn't know what the crux of the matter was according to the Living God. They were doing their religious feast but God wasn't in it. He as the Son of man and Son of God couldn't stand it and cried out as He did whether they killed Him or not.

He had to tell them that their wonderful feast was not according to the Scriptures.

When I was still a young preacher an elder theologian came to me saying that I took the Bible too literally, for there are many mistakes that crept into the Bible over the ages.

However the truth is that the accuracy with which the copies were made were phenomenal. Scribes had the task to make the copies and if a single mistake was found the whole manuscript was destroyed.

So in those early days I started to doubt God's Word because of what theologians told me and what others said to me. I became the fool who picked from the Bible what was God's Word and what was not His Word.

But this scripture that we read haunted me. What if it was true? Then it will judge me on Judgement Day.

So we decided to take God's Word literally, not excusing ourselves. Then God met with us, with the outpouring of His Holy Spirit and granted us revival.

We said, "Lord we want to believe according to Your Word and not our own preconceived ideas".

The scribes and pharisees were busy with their religion but they didn't believe according to the Scriptures.

Today they also claim that to be a homosexual is natural. This is the garbage that's going around in the world, even the Christian world.

But Jesus said that His Word will judge us. Heaven and earth will pass away but His Word will never pass away.

Many believe according to their own notions, but we must believe according to the Scriptures, as the Bible says. Let's examine ourselves whether we believe the way the Bible says we ought to believe.

Maybe you desire revival, but you don't receive it; now you know why. Don't point the finger to others, but view yourself in the mirror of God's Holy Word.

In the Bible we read that God gave them their desire, but sent leanness in their soul (Ps 106:15). Spiritually they got weaker and weaker, because of their evil desires.

If you don't get stronger every day of your Christian life; if the Word doesn't go into fulfillment, "as your days so shall your strength be" (Deut 33:25), then there's something radically wrong with your spiritual life. Are you getting stronger spiritually day by day?

Imagine how the Gospel will reach the whole world if every one of us would believe as the Scriptures say.

It will be terrible if the Lord should show you on Judgement day His plan for your life, and what you lost, because you didn't believe as the Scripture says. May you realise it before your deathbed.

Cry to God that you may be a man of God, a preacher, as the Scripture says.

Remember king Belshazzer who was weighed in God's scales and found wanting. How will you be found when weighed in God's scale. If you're found wanting in God's scale then your future doesn't look good.