

JOHN 7:37-39 - Jesus said, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them. By this He meant the Holy Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive."

There are many scriptural references to water, bodies of water, pools and fountains of water. We know that many miracles recorded in the Bible involved water. We know that God supernaturally parted the waters of the Red Sea so that the Israelites could pass through and escape from Pharaoh's army.

But just after this miracle, these same people found themselves in the Desert of Shur - without water. They came to a place called Marah but could not drink the water because it was bitter. In fact, that's what the name Marah means - bitter. The Israelites grumbled to poor Moses, "What are we to drink?" And Moses in turn cried out to God.

This time, God showed Moses a piece of wood and told him to throw it into the water - and the water became sweet and potable. Then God put His people to the test, saying, "If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in His eyes, if you pay attention to His commands and keep all His decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I Am the Lord who heals you."

They hadn't been asking or looking for healing - but God saw the thoughts and attitudes of their hearts that were just as bitter as the stagnant waters of Marah. He knew they needed more than a simple drink of fresh water. They needed to drink of the water from which they would never grow thirsty, the living water that comes from knowing, loving and obeying God.

The other day, a family member of a patient I was visiting said, "You know, the human body is largely made up of water. And Jesus lives in us. He is already stirring up the waters in us to bring healing in His name." I thought about that for a moment and agreed with him.

The tree of Calvary is the wood that is able to sweeten our bitter waters. God has already provided the perfect redemptive healing plan. Let Him stir the waters of your life today, washing away any unforgiveness, bitterness, disappointment, grief and pain. Drink deeply from His endless well of salvation that has already purchased your healing. Receive the fullness of His promise: "I Am the Lord who heals you."