

# John 4:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewst the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

## Analysis

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Jesus shifts from physical water to 'living water,' a rabbinic term for running water but here meaning the Holy Spirit and eternal life. His statement 'If thou knewst the gift of God, and who it is' points to two connected truths: salvation as gift (not earned) and Christ's identity as giver. Reformed theology emphasizes that regeneration by the Spirit is prerequisite to recognizing Christ's person and benefits.

## Historical Context

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'Living water' in Judaism referred to spring water versus cistern water, used for ritual purification. Jesus transforms this physical metaphor into spiritual reality, as He does with many Jewish concepts throughout John's Gospel.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing salvation as 'gift' rather than wage transform our approach to God?
2. What must happen for us to truly 'know' who Jesus is, beyond intellectual acknowledgment?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτὸν Εἰ ἤδεις τὴν  
answered Jesus and said of him If thou knewst G3588  
G611 G2424 G2532 G2036 G846 G1487 G1492  
  
δωρεὰν τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ τίς ἐστιν ὁ λέγων σοι ἔδωκεν  
the gift of God and who it is that saith thee Give  
G1431 G3588 G2316 G2532 G5101 G2076 G3004 G4671 G1325  
  
μοι πιεῖν, σὺ ἀν ἤτησας αὐτὸν καὶ ἔδωκεν ἀν  
me to drink thou he would have asked of him and Give he would  
G3427 G4095 G4771 G302 G154 G846 G2532 G1325 G302  
  
σοι ὕδωρ ζῶν  
thee water living  
G4671 G5204 G2198

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 4:14** (Parallel theme): But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

**Revelation 7:17** (References God): For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

**Isaiah 44:3** (Parallel theme): For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

**Revelation 21:6** (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

**John 3:16** (References God): For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Jeremiah 2:13** (Parallel theme): For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

**Revelation 22:17** (Parallel theme): And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

**Zechariah 14:8** (Parallel theme): And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

**1 Corinthians 10:4** (Parallel theme): And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

**Romans 8:32** (Parallel theme): He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?