

# LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Water from Rock, February 14, 2017, Tim Smith

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*“Live by the Spirit.”*  
Galatians 5:16a

The Lord Jesus said, *“apart from me you can do nothing”* (John 15:5b). But in that same context He repeatedly promised to send the Holy Spirit to live in us as the divine “Helper” (John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:13). So the Christian life is to be the Spirit-filled life. To “come” to Christ is to “drink” from the abundance of the Spirit flowing in us:

*“While Jesus was standing there, he cried out, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,<sup>38</sup> and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’<sup>39</sup> Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”* (John 7:37-39)

## INTRODUCTION

Last week we looked at Daniel in whom pagan Gentile rulers recognized the Spirit of God at work. We saw Daniel’s life as characterized by faithful, disciplined spirituality. Today we look at Simeon a man of the Spirit whose life was also characterized by faithful spirituality.

*<sup>25</sup>“Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,*

*<sup>29</sup> ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;*

*<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,*

*<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,*

*<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’*

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too' (Luke 2:25-35).

Note Luke's description of Simeon: "this man was righteous and devout".

- "righteous" (dikaios) --- towards others
- "devout" (eulabes) --- towards God
  - eulabes (eu = well + labano = to receive, to take hold; thus, "to receive well")
  - In first century Judias "devout" meant to be careful in one's duties towards the Torah, dealing reverently with Scripture.
- Being "righteous and devout", the Holy Spirit of "rested on him"; the Holy Spirit "revealed to him"; and the Holy Spirit "guided" him.

## THE RELATION BETWEEN THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures the Word of God and the Spirit-Ruach of God work together:

*"By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,  
and all their host by the breath of his mouth."*

Psalm 33:6

## EPHESIANS 5:18-6:9

<sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be **filled with the Spirit**, <sup>19</sup>as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>21</sup>Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>22</sup>*Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord...*

<sup>22</sup>*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church...*

<sup>6:1</sup>*Children, obey your parents in the Lord,*

<sup>4</sup>*And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger...*

<sup>5</sup>*Slaves, obey your earthly masters...*

<sup>9</sup>*And, masters, do the same to them.*

### **COLOSSIANS 3:16-4:1**

<sup>16</sup>*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

<sup>18</sup>*Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>*Husbands, love your wives...*

<sup>20</sup>*Children, obey your parents..*

<sup>21</sup>*Fathers, do not provoke your children...*

<sup>22</sup>*Slaves, obey your earthly masters...*

<sup>4:1</sup>*Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly...*

### **NOTES ON EPHESIANS 5:18**

*“Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit...”*

1. Paul is likely thinking of the accusation made against believers who were filled with the Spirit at Pentecost, that they were drunk with wine.
2. Just as a person who is filled with wine is under the control of the

wine, so a person filled with the Spirit is under the Spirit's control or direction.

3. It is best to understand being "filled" as being "controlled". Being "filled" is a Hebraism for being "controlled". See Acts 5:17 where the Sadducees are "filled with jealousy," i.e. controlled by jealousy. See also Luke 5:26, "filled with fear" and Acts 19:28, "filled with rage". The command to be filled with the Holy Spirit means that we are controlled, influenced by Him, set free by Him to live the life of God.
4. To "be filled" is in the present tense indicates a present, ongoing act, i.e. *"Be kept filled by the Spirit."*

#### NOTES ON COLOSSIANS 3:16

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..."*

1. "Dwell" (enoikeo from en = in + oikeo = dwell) means "to take up residence, make one's home in." The rabbis "pointed out, he who dwells in a house is the master of the house, not just a passing guest." (James Dunn, *The Epistle to the Colossians and to Philemon*) Compare *The Message* translation: *"have the run of the house."*
2. The apostle calls upon believers to let God's Word take up residence and be at home in their lives.

"The great need of the hour among persons spiritually hungry is twofold: First, to know the Scriptures, apart from which no saving truth will be vouchsafed by our Lord; the second, to be enlightened by the Spirit, apart from whom the Scriptures will not be understood."

A. W. Tozer, *The Root of the Righteous*

"The Scriptures, to be understood, must be read with the same Spirit that originally inspired them."

A. W. Tozer, *The Root of the Righteous*