

## **RIVERS OF LIVING WATER**

How Obtained - How Maintained

### **STUDIES SETTING FORTH THE BELIEVER'S POSSESSIONS IN CHRIST**

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#### **Chapter Seven -**

#### **THE PREREQUISITE TO FULLNESS: CLEANSING**

Infilling demands cleansing. The infilling of the HOLY SPIRIT demands cleansing. Two commands given to Christians reveal this fact very dearly.

**"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption"**  
(Ephesians 4:30).

Grieve is a love word. You cannot grieve one who does not love you. You can hurt him or anger him but you cannot grieve him. The HOLY SPIRIT is a loving, tender, sensitive Personality. To grieve Him means that we are causing pain to Someone who loves us. How can we know what grieves Him? By His names which indicate His nature.

He is the Spirit of truth (John 14:17), so anything false, deceitful, hypocritical, grieves Him. In a meeting I gave the opportunity for testimony. A woman confessed a lie that had been in her life for twelve years. She had coveted the skirt of a friend. Her mother was unwilling to give her the money to buy one like it. So she stole a piece of her mother's jewelry, sold it, bought a skirt and then lied to her mother. Is there a lie in your life? Then do not expect to be filled with the Spirit of truth until your heart is cleansed.

He is the Spirit of faith (II Corinthians 4:13), so doubt, unbelief, distrust, worry, anxiety, grieve Him. Do you doubt His Word? Is there unbelief regarding the fundamental truths of salvation? Do you worry over your business, your children, your health? If so, you are grieving the Spirit of faith and He cannot fill you.

He is the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29), so that which is hard, bitter, ungracious, unthankful, malicious, unforgiving, grieves Him. Is there anybody whom you will not forgive or to whom you will not speak? Is there someone with whom you have quarreled? Is there bitterness in your heart toward GOD? Do you spend your days, in murmuring against your circumstances? Then do not pray to be filled with the Spirit unless you are willing to be cleansed.

He is the Spirit of holiness (Romans 1:4), so anything unclean, defiling or degrading, grieves Him. Do you harbor unclean thoughts? Do you read unclean books? Do you have degrading

pictures hung in your home? Do you listen to unclean stories? If so, you are grieving the HOLY SPIRIT.

He is the Spirit of wisdom (Ephesians 1:17), so ignorance, conceit, arrogance, and folly, grieve Him. The HOLY SPIRIT stands ready to teach us and to reveal the deep things of the Word to us. Our ignorance of the Bible, our pride in our own knowledge and ability and our foolish ways, grieve Him.

He is the Spirit of power, love and discipline (a sound mind) (II Timothy 1:7), so our weakness, fruitlessness, disorderliness and lack of control, grieve Him. There are thousands of people all around you who are still unsaved and who do not know the gospel. Perhaps some of these are in your family. Why cannot CHRIST win them? Because the channels through which His power should flow are choked with sin. Are you embittered because you have been wronged and is your life poisoned by hatred? Do you give way constantly to your bodily appetites, your fleshly desires and your temperamental weaknesses? All this grieves the HOLY SPIRIT.

He is the Spirit of life (Romans 8:2), so anything that savors of indifference, lukewarmness, dullness or deadness grieves Him. Do you go for days without opening your Bible? Do you prefer the haunts of pleasure to the house of prayer? This grieves this wonderful Spirit of life.

He is the Spirit of glory (I Peter 4:14), so that which is worldly, earthly or fleshly, grieves Him. Are you carnally minded? Do you love the world? Is your heart set upon the things of earth? This grieves the HOLY SPIRIT.

He dwells within to enable us to "**grow up into Him (Christ) in all things**"; and to bring us daily into conformity to His image. So anything in us which hinders Him from carrying out this purpose grieves Him. Knowingly to permit anything which is contrary to what the HOLY SPIRIT Himself is, to remain in your life must mean that you love sin more than you love Him. Such unfaithfulness grieves Him.

Spirituality depends upon an harmonious relationship with the HOLY SPIRIT. To indulge known sin means that we are living with a grieved SPIRIT. To be filled one must be cleansed. "GOD does not require golden vessels, neither does He seek for silver ones, but He must have clean ones."

**"Quench not the Spirit"** (I Thessalonians 5:19).

We "**grieve**" the Spirit when we say "Yes" to Satan when he lures us into sin. We "**quench**" the Spirit when we say "No" to GOD when He woos us into sanctification and service. To bring the believer wholly into the will of GOD is, perhaps, the HOLY SPIRIT's hardest task. Self-will is latent in everyone of us and is always bursting out into rebellion. The only cure for it is a deliberate choice to do GOD's will in all things, at all times, and at all costs. It is to have one's heart firmly fixed upon the doing of GOD's will as the rule for daily life and to permit no exception to the rule.

To grieve or to quench the Spirit is sin. He dwells within us to purify and cleanse us. In a darkened room there would be much of dirt which would pass unnoticed but, when the doors and

windows are opened and the sun shines in, even the dust is revealed. The HOLY SPIRIT brings out into the light the sin in our lives, and the more completely He fills us the more perfect will be the revelation and recognition of sin. The nearer GOD comes to us the more sensitive to sin are we made. Some things which a year ago or even a month ago you would not have called sin you now acknowledge to be sin.

### *The Means of Cleansing*

For sinner and saint alike nothing but the blood of JESUS suffices to cleanse from sin.

**"The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin"** (I John 1:7).

The Christian is in constant contact with sin and the very tense of the verb shows that he never gets beyond the need of the cleansing blood of CHRIST.

### *The Method of Cleansing*

The grieved HOLY SPIRIT will tell us what grieves Him, will point us to I John 1:9 and then our responsibility begins. GOD requires but one thing of us - A frank, full confession prompted by a true heart repentance.

**"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"** (I John 1:9).

GOD will accept no substitute for confession and He instantly detects a counterfeit. Have you ever thought that GOD would accept from you a larger gift of money, greater activity in service or a longer prayer in lieu of a confession of sin? Or are you self-deceived in thinking that regret because of suffering for the punishment of sin, or a forced acknowledgment of some offence with no heart sorrow for the sin itself is confession? Sometimes a supposed confession is a confession of the other fellow's sin and a justification of oneself. Oftentimes a confession is but a partial one. Some top sin is mentioned while the root sin is altogether unconfessed.

In a small meeting of Christian women I once gave the opportunity for confession of sin. A Bible woman quickly spoke, evidently to set a good example to others. She confessed to laziness. I knew that this was not the root sin that needed to be confessed, because she had enjoyed doing it altogether too much. I prayed that night that GOD would convict her of hypocrisy and lead her to make a true confession. The next day out of a truly contrite heart she confessed that she hated the pastor's wife and had not spoken to her for eight years.

Some sins need to be confessed only to GOD because against Him only have we sinned (Psalm 51:4). Other sins need to be confessed to individuals against whom we have sinned (James 5:16), and again a public confession of sin is sometimes necessary when the whole company of GOD's people have been wronged (Joshua 7:19-25).

### *The Measure of Cleansing*

The cleansing must be from all defilement of both flesh and spirit. Separation from every

defiling thing is GOD's requirement.

**"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God"** (II Corinthians 7:1).

GOD demands a cleansing that reaches from the innermost desire to the outermost deed; that goes from the core to the circumference of our lives. He asks us to take His conception of sin which regards a lustful look as truly sin as a lustful act; which sees a murderer in the one in whose heart there is hatred as truly as in the one in whose hand there is a bloodstained dagger.

Do you resemble the Pharisees of old who were like whited sepulchres, which appeared beautiful outwardly, but within were full of uncleanness? GOD commands us to cleanse both the inside and the outside. Is there a root sin in your life that has been there for years? Roots multiply and spread. There is then a trail of sin marking the path of your life since. You must go back over it, claiming cleansing for all sin.

GOD's withholding of His presence in power from His own children until sin is put away is very strikingly revealed in His dealings with the children of Israel over Achan's sin. GOD had told them that, when Jericho was taken, no one was to take any of the spoils for himself. But Achan, coveting gold, silver and a Babylonish garment, took them and hid them under his tent. No eye but that of the all-seeing GOD saw it done. Immediately afterward Israel met with overwhelming defeat at Ai. Joshua, falling upon his face in prayer, charged GOD with blame for such humiliation before their enemies. But GOD commanded Joshua to stop praying. He told him that He would not presence Himself with power in their midst so long as the accursed thing was there. The man who had coveted, stolen and lied must be found and confession of sin made.

Is there an Achan in your church who hinders the manifestation of GOD's power? Are you the man? Have you been praying fervently for the fullness of the HOLY SPIRIT while all the time there has been the continued indulgence of some known sin, the willful disobedience of some known command, or the deliberate resistance to GOD's clearly revealed will. If so, GOD is saying to you, **"Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?... [Thou hast] sinned... neither will I be with you any more except ye destroy the accursed from among you. Up... sanctify yourselves... thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you"** (Joshua 7:10-13).

So long as you are living with a grieved or a quenched Spirit you cannot be filled. To be filled one must be cleansed.

~ end of chapter 7 ~

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