

# Living By The Holy Spirit

## The Path of the Cross

Last week we ended with Romans 5:10b, *...having been reconciled [through the death of His Son] we shall be saved by His life.* We were able to touch only briefly on what it means to be saved by the life of Christ. A. B. Simpson writes in *Christ in the Bible*, Chapter 5:3, **The secret of holiness is death and resurrection. Sanctification is not the improvement of our natural character, not even the cleansing of our spirit. It is to discover that we are wholly lost and utterly helpless, and to yield ourselves over to Him, to die to self as well as to sin, to our natural goodness as well as our natural sinfulness, and then receive a new life altogether from Him: Indeed, we are to receive Christ Himself, the risen One, as our new life, and then be as though we had been born out of heaven, and were not the same spirit that formerly lived in sin.** The matter I want to address today is the process by which we discover our utterly helpless state so that we learn to lean wholly upon Jesus for His resurrected life in us.

### I. Preliminary Considerations

- A. Abide in Me and I in you, for apart from Me you can do nothing. John 15:5
- B. Be holy for I am holy. 1 Peter 1:13-16
- C. Do not get drunk on wine . . . instead, be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:15-20

*The Spirit-filled life of holiness and power is not an option, it is a command for every follower of Jesus Christ.*

### II. Spiritual Facts (Realities) Which Make the Victorious Spirit-filled Life Possible

- A. We who have trusted Jesus for justification have also died to sin (Rom 6:2)
- B. We have been raised in Christ through His resurrection that we might walk in resurrected power (Rom 6:4)
- C. Our old self (human nature) was crucified with Him that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, so that we would be no longer slaves to sin; for the one who has died is freed from sin. (Rom6:7)

### III. How Does This Victorious Spirit-filled Life Become Our Personal, Daily Experience? (Romans 7:1—8:4)

- A. We must begin with a decision to place our all on the altar (Rom 6:12-14)
  - 1. Considering ourselves dead to sin and self
  - 2. Surrendering to the life and will of God for us
  - 3. This is a *once and for all* decision from the heart
- B. We must recognize that as long as we attempt to live by law keeping we remain under that covenant
  - 1. It is up to us to obey the law
  - 2. We have no help from the resurrected power of the life of Christ
  - 3. Whatever righteousness we manage to achieve is as filthy rags in the eyes of God
- C. Law-keeping as a means of pleasing God is so deeply ingrained in our mind, that learning to walk by the Holy Spirit, putting no confidence in the flesh, is a difficult path at first. (We must experience a renewing of our mind Rom 12:1-2).
  - 1. God will allow us to fail in the greater interest of depending on Him
  - 2. God will even orchestrate circumstances designed to test our dependence upon His power (or upon our own strength)
  - 3. We become surprised and exasperated at how weak and helpless we are
  - 4. Until at last we surrender, hopeless failures, in utter despair, and expect never to be able to live a life of victory—we confess to God that we don't have it in us at all.
- D. This brings us at last to Romans 8:1-4
  - 1. God gently woos us to come to Him for deliverance over the flesh
  - 2. In our helplessness we cast ourselves completely upon Him and discover, to our amazement, that, with my efforts out of the way, He is able to life His life in us in resurrected power.