

SF770 Soul Care
Spring 2023
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Book Report #2 – River Dwellers: Living in the Fullness of the Spirit

How This Book Helped Form My Theology

This is a truly helpful book, Dr. Reimer gave wonderful tips about how God speaks to us besides through God's word. Dr. Reimer also provides ways how to always dwell in God's river. I especially find the real life examples intriguing, how true that things happen when Jesus shows up, nothing happens when we show up. I will make sure that I keep this 'motto' in my mind when I minister to people.

Main Ideas

There are many good points from this book, the three main ideas that stir my heart the most are as follows: 1) we want to be carried by the river instead of carrying the water; 2) don't speak more than what was given by the Holy Spirit; and 3) testing manifestation.

This is a quote Dr. Reimer used from D.L. Moody: "I was all the time tugging and carrying water, but now I have a river that carries me."¹ Dr. Reimer used the example where Moody saw much greater impact from the same sermons that he preached after he was filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The sermons were not any different but people felt the impact. I remember I had a similar experience after the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I went to a conference where I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, I received the

¹Reimer, Rob. *River Dwellers: Living in the Fullness of the Spirit*. Franklin, Tennessee: Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2015. 32.

gift of tongue and there was this urge in my throat to pray to God for the rest of day, the urge was so strong that I had to ask the Holy Spirit to let me rest for the night. I was so overwhelmed by God's love, I felt so loved and content. It felt like a holy union with God, that he is in me and I am in him, the most wonderful feeling of love I have ever felt in my entire life. And afterwards I saw much greater impact in my ministry. I was a worship leader, God would touch me so deeply through worshipping him and I was able to bring God's presence through my worship sessions. I felt the anointing and people felt it as well. And lately I just started to preach at my church, I felt that the Lord was guiding me through the process and I was the vessel. If I had not been baptized by the Holy Spirit, I would need to strive so hard and still wouldn't be able to achieve what the Lord has done. Instead of carrying the water, the river of the Holy Spirit is carrying me!

Dr. Reimer mentioned to not speak more than what was given by the Holy Spirit while ministering to others. I can't agree more with that. In my church, prayer ministers often speak too much, almost like they are trying to comfort the person or resolve the situation using human talk. Dr. Reimer also suggested us to ask the person being ministered to whether the message/word/image that we receive from God mean anything to him or her. Slowly, the Holy Spirit will guide us to where the root of the problem is. We would need to wait on the Lord. I like this approach a lot. When I first became a prayer minister, I was taught to listen to the Holy Spirit and then 'elaborate' on what I was given by God. We used a lot of human talk instead of just letting the Holy Spirit guide us. It is certainly more effective when we just deliver strictly what we receive from God. After all,

God is doing the work and we are just his vessel. I might be able to comfort the person being prayed for but nothing else happens when I am using my own might.

Lastly, we need to test manifestation. I like how Dr. Reimer whispered 'Jesus' to the people who were showing signs of manifestation. Such a powerful way to test it. I have watched on Youtube how a group of teenagers acted like they were drunk at the airport and claimed that they were filled by the Holy Spirit, some would laugh, cry, or roll on the floor, some even made noise like a chicken. I wonder how they would react if someone spoke the word 'Jesus' to them. We should not be quick to dismiss or acknowledge signs of manifestation but we should be quick to test. Such a smart and easy way to discern whether the manifestation comes from God.

Being guided by the Holy Spirit in our ministry is such freedom and joy, we are flowing in the river instead of carrying the water. I want to always stay in the river of God, I need to constantly surrender to his love.

Bibliography

Dr. Reimer, Rob. *River Dwellers: Living in the Fullness of the Spirit*. Franklin, Tennessee: Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2015.

With integrity, I have read this book:

Thoroughly and Entirely 100%
Quickly but Completely___%
Thoroughly but NOT Entirely ___%
Quickly and NOT Completely___%
Not at all___%