

## PSALMS 15

### THE QUESTION

{15:1} LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?

At first glance it seems that David is asking the same question twice. In deed, he gives only one answer as to who may dwell (abide) in God sanctuary (tabernacle) and who my live (dwell) on God's holy hill. David used the word that is most often translated "sojourn" in the first question. This word communicates the idea of a temporary situation as when a person might visit another. In the second question the verb is most often translated "dwell" and means to "settle down" in a location. In the first case we have the idea of coming before God as we worship and seek His face in times of devotions or petition. The second case is the idea of going about the everyday experiences of life under the influence and direction of the Holy Spirit who is with us always.

To be in the sanctuary of the temple that was located on the hill of Zion was as close as David knew to being in the very presence of God. The longing of every child of God is to be in God's presence and since we cannot (in this life) go to Him, He comes to us in the person of the Holy Spirit and lives in us.

### THE ANSWER

{2} He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart {3} and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowman, {4} who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the LORD, who keeps his oath even when it hurts, {5} who lends his money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.

In contrast to the description of the workers of iniquity (Chapter 14) some have a lifestyle that looks to God and seeks His righteousness. While none are able to live a perfect and sinless life (except the life of Jesus), we are able to move in the direction of God (draw near to Him). Changing the direction of our lives is the essence of repentance and the beginning point of restoring the relationship with God that was lost in the Fall of man.

It is impossible to have a lifestyle that is blameless, to do what is righteous, and to speak the truth from our hearts apart from the work of the Holy Spirit. Apart from God, the very nature of man is to rebel against authority, to take actions that are motivated by selfish interests, and to twist (spin) the truth to our advantage. Therefore, the starting point for those who wish to be in the presence of God is to exchange the old Adamic nature for a new nature that results from a rebirth of our spirit that has the very life of God as its origin.