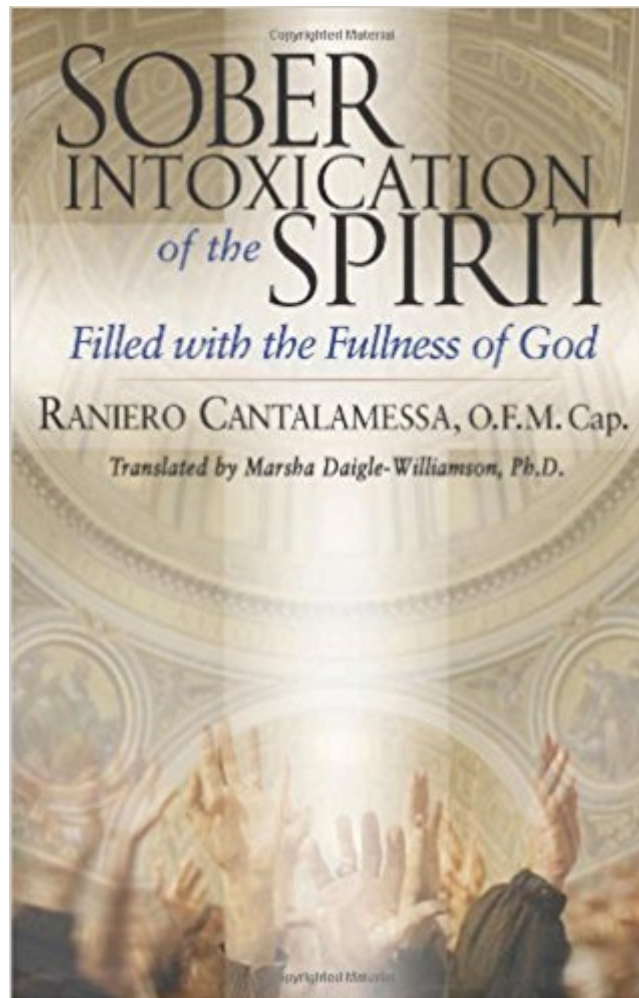




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# **Sober Intoxication Of The Spirit: Filled With The Fullness Of God**



## Synopsis

These are not drunk, as you suppose" (Acts 2:15). Peter preaching to the crowd after the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost We tend to overlook Peter's opening words to the crowd that first Pentecost morning, to our own peril. His denial of drunkenness in the wake of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit should stop us in our tracks. What was going on here? How did the apostles experience the Holy Spirit? What was he teaching them? How was he empowering them? What does this scene in the streets of Jerusalem mean for us today? Father Raniero Cantalamessa offers pastoral advice and leads the reader through passages of Scripture and the Fathers of the Church to remind us of the incalculable power of the Spirit available to us. This spiritual "intoxication" is an infilling through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and the action of God that purifies us of sin, renews the heart and enlightens the mind. As St. Augustine said of the Spirit, "He found you empty and he filled you; I like this kind of intoxication. The Spirit of God is both drink and light."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

FR. RANIERO CANTALAMESSA, O.F.M. Cap., has been the papal preacher to Pope John Paul II's pontifical household since 1980. He is a former professor of history of early Christianity, head of the department of religious studies at the Catholic University in Milan, member of the International Theological Commission and author of numerous books, including *Loving the Church* (Servant Books). He lives in Rome.

I never read anything like this. Fr. Cantalamessa helped me, an engineer, to gain confidence for ministry in Catholic renewal by his "top-down" vs. "bottom-up" depiction of how the Holy Spirit really works. The grace of the Sacraments comes reliably down from above...down through the hierarchy, where it's all tightly scripted and written into ritual books, The grace of charisms and their manifestations of the Spirit all come from below...up through individual believers and moving unpredictably and utterly unscripted. In fact the bottom-up stuff can seem even reckless--we can hardly anticipate a bit of it. Cantalamessa reveals and discusses why the contemporary Church is so impoverished by the astonishing sparsity of bottom-up grace. He writes it so clearly, I feel like I can actually SEE it. This man has a truly unique gift. No wonder he's been the non-stop preacher to the Pope and his household since the earliest days of John Paul II.

Fr. Cantalamessa has written a book about the Holy Spirit while in the Spirit. It is a wonderful book that instructs, inspires, illuminates, while always bringing the reader ever closer to the Holy Spirit.

Wife liked it..

When Catholics realize that since 1980 the preacher to the papal household, so far, of two great popes has been a Catholic charismatic, they must take a second look at the Charismatic Renewal which has for too long been viewed by most Catholics as something odd that the Church merely tolerates out of kindness. What Fr. Cantalamessa says in this book is that the Charismatic Renewal is for every Catholic--it is a renewal and unleashing of the graces received in sacramental Baptism and Confirmation and in the other sacraments. In nine chapters, he explains clearly and simply but with the precision and balance of the first-rate theologian that he is how the renewal relates to the sacramental system of the Church and to Christian life. He even critiques some of the excesses of some charismatics who become puffed up over their charisms (as the Corinthians did in the first century!) and those individuals who want to receive charisms but still remain in objective situations of mortal sin, especially in the area of sexual morality (again reminders of the Corinthians to whom Paul wrote in the first century). These critiques show the wisdom, prudence, and balance of Fr. Cantalamessa. Yet, none of the warts in any way suppresses the enthusiasm of Fr. Cantalamessa for the action of the Holy Spirit in the renewal and its promise for the Church. His book is prophetic and calls all Catholics to open up to the abundant, joyful, and full life of the Spirit. The title of the book is taken from a Latin quote from St. Ambrose that is translated: "Let us drink the

sober intoxication of the Spirit with joy!" Fr. Cantalamessa persuasively and soberly invites each of us to this new, joyful, and uplifting intoxication. If a non-charismatic Catholic wants an introduction to the Charismatic Renewal, I can think of none better or more authoritative for these times. We are fortunate to have these collected talks translated into English. You can find a fuller review at the above blog link (Oct. 24, 2005, post).

A very deep book on the Holy Spirit. Probably a book that should be read more than once.

This and Part two by the same author is truly an inspiration reading and provides great insight into how to understand and grow in Catholic Spirituality. Not only has Father Cantalamessa a very deep understanding of scriptures and Catholic teaching but he is an inspired teacher. Easy to see why three Popes think so highly of his preaching.

An incredible insight of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. A fresh biblical view of this gift.

Very inspiring and uplifting.

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