

Spirit Poured Out

Joel 2:28-32

Intro

As we continue our study of Joel, will be focusing on the person and work of the Holy Spirit — so let's begin by turning to...

John 16:5-15 (NKJV) [night before Jesus' crucifixion...]

5 "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'

6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

This was God's plan — that the Lord Jesus would return to Heaven before the Helper — the Holy Spirit would begin a new work in the world...

- [ex. Being asked by my NT class why it had to happen this way...]

We simply do not know — God does not answer many of our “why” questions but He will answer “what” questions...

- “God what do you want me to know from this passage?”...
[expand]

Continuing on in John 16 we read...

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

- [expand — My story of being convicted of my sin by the Holy Spirit — the conviction that my life was wrong and that I was in need of forgiveness...]

APPLICATION — Pray to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to convict your unbelieving family members...[expand]

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth and He was going to guide the Apostles into all truth just as He will guide us into all truth...

But for us to be guided into truth — we must humble ourselves and be willing to follow the Holy Spirit's lead...

- [ex. Brandi and I going on Segway tours in different cities...]

14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”

The Holy Spirit will glorify the Lord Jesus — wherever the Holy Spirit is submitted to the Lord Jesus will be lifted up...[expand]

With this in mind, let's turn to our next passage...

Acts 1:4-8 (NKJV) [after resurrection / before ascension...]

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

The Apostles were to wait in Jerusalem until they received **the Promise of the Father — *the Holy Spirit*...**

- [expand — necessity of the person and work of the Holy Spirit for effective ministry...]

Now, this new relationship that they would have with the person of the Holy Spirit was referred to as being baptized with the Holy Spirit [expand]...

6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

We see here that the Apostles were questioning the Lord Jesus about the reestablishment of the Kingdom of Israel...

But the Lord Jesus refused to answer their questions — because He said it was not for them to know...

APPLICATION — Be careful about becoming fixated on times and season that are not under your authority...[expand]

Jesus continues in vs...

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Here we see that relationship with the Holy Spirit empowers a believer to be a witness wherever they might go...

And this is a very important point...

Because if we seeking to fulfill the great commission by making disciples wherever we go then we need the person and power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill that calling...[expand]

*With this truth in mind, let's now turn to **Joel 2**...*

And as we jump back into this short book, let's remind ourselves of the flow of the book so far...

- [locust judgment / more judgment threatened / people responded with remorse and repentance / restoration was promised...]

Now let's quickly read through the verses that we covered last week were we see the restoration that the Lord was going to bring...

Joel 2:18-27 (NKJV)

**18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land,
And pity His people.**

**19 The LORD will answer and say to His people,
"Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil,
And you will be satisfied by them;
I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.**

**20 "But I will remove far from you the northern army,
And will drive him away into a barren and desolate land,
With his face toward the eastern sea
And his back toward the western sea;
His stench will come up,
And his foul odor will rise,
Because he has done monstrous things."**

**21 Fear not, O land;
Be glad and rejoice,
For the LORD has done marvelous things!**

**22 Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field;
For the open pastures are springing up,
And the tree bears its fruit;
The fig tree and the vine yield their strength.**

**23 Be glad then, you children of Zion,
And rejoice in the LORD your God;
For He has given you the former rain faithfully,
And He will cause the rain to come down for you—**

The former rain,
And the latter rain in the first month.

24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat,
And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.

25 "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
The crawling locust,
The consuming locust,
And the chewing locust,
My great army which I sent among you.

26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
And praise the name of the LORD your God,
Who has dealt wondrously with you;
And My people shall never be put to shame.

27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel:
I am the LORD your God
And there is no other.
My people shall never be put to shame.

What beautiful promises!...

It is clear that the Lord God wanted to give the people of Judah a future and a hope...

- And He wants to give **us** a future and a hope as well — He wants the prodigals to come home and be restored...[expand]

Now, as we move on into the last section of **Joel 2** this morning, we see another prophecy of a future and a hope that God desired to bring upon His people...

If you would, please follow along as I read...

Joel 2:28-32 (NKJV)

**28 "And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions.**

**29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.**

**30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the
earth:
Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.**

**31 The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.**

**32 And it shall come to pass
That whoever calls on the name of the LORD
Shall be saved.
For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance,
As the LORD has said,
Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.**

I've divided this passage into 3 sections...

- 1) *The Pouring***
- 2) *The Power***
- 3) *The Promise***

Let's move into our first section...

1) The Pouring (vs 28-29)

28 "And it shall come to pass afterward

What God was now prophesying through the prophet Joel would come to pass ***after*** the time of Judah's restoration...[expand]

**And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;**

This was an incredible promise that would be fulfilled with the establishment of the New Covenant...[expand]

- And one of the things that made this promise so special is the fact that most believers under the Old Covenant did not have a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit...[expand]

And those who were filled with the Holy Spirit were not permanently indwelt by Him...

In other words, the Holy Spirit would come upon believers in the Old Testament for certain times and seasons to empower those believers to accomplish certain tasks...

- [ex. Joseph, Joshua, Gideon, Samson, Saul, David, etc...]

The Holy Spirit would come upon these individuals for specific tasks and then leave them again...

- [ex. Spirit leaving Samson and Saul...]

The reality that the Holy Spirit would come and go in the life of believers prompted David to write this in...

Psalm 51:11 (NKJV)

**Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.**

With these truths in mind, I would encourage us to study the OT with an eye toward understanding the role of the Holy Spirit in the Old Covenant...

- This sort of study will help us to see the great privilege that we have under the New Covenant...

That each and every person who has placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ has a permanent relationship with the indwelling Holy Spirit...

Romans 8:9 (NKJV)

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV)

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

With this in mind, please look again at the words...

That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;

Now, the idea here is not that each and every person on the planet would receive the Holy Spirit but that the Holy Spirit would be **available** to each and every person on the planet...

No longer would the Holy Spirit come upon a select few...

- Instead, anyone who would place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ would receive the Holy Spirit!...

You see, relationship with the Holy Spirit is **available** to every person but only becomes a **reality** when a person places their faith in the Lord Jesus for salvation...

And this is a vitally important truth...

We must understand that the death of the Lord Jesus was **sufficient** to forgive the sins of all mankind but it is only **efficient** for those who believe...[expand]

- Likewise, relationship with the Holy Spirit is **available** to all but only becomes a **reality** in the lives of those who trust in Christ for salvation...

This is a reminder that the individual is the limiter in their relationship with God...

God is omnibenevolent — He is all-loving — and He is willing to have relationship with **anyone** who would come to Him in faith...

- And because He is all-loving He wishes to give us the greatest gift He can give us — **the gift of Himself...**

And He has done this by choosing to dwell with us through the Person of the Holy Spirit — the third Person of the Trinity...[expand]

Continuing on in Joel 2:28 we read that as the Holy Spirit is poured out...

**Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions.**

prophesy — *to speak as a prophet; encouraging people to be faithful to the covenant that they have with God; the telling of future events to encourage obedience or warn against disobedience...*

dreams — *dreams with spiritual significance; often prophetic...*

visions — *a revelation of God that is similar to a dream but occurs while one is awake...*

**29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.**

I believe that the Lord is indicating at least two things here...

1) The Holy Spirit will be poured out on even on those who were the lowest on the socio-economic scale...[expand]

2) Those who receive the Holy Spirit are to consider themselves servants of God...[ex. bondservants...]

We don't enter into relationship with the Holy Spirit so that *we might have things done our way* but so that *we might participate in God's way of doing things...*

- [ex. 3 types of friendship — ***pleasure, utility*** and ***virtuous*** — we are to have a ***virtuous relationship with the Holy Spirit...***]

*Let's turn now to **Acts 2** so we can see how this prophecy was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost...*

Acts 2:1-39 (NKJV) [*disciples waiting in Jerusalem...*]

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

[expand — the Holy Spirit coming upon the 120 in the upper room — will be some sort of evidence when the Holy Spirit is at work...]

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"

8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

The pilgrims gathered for the feast of Pentecost are wondering what is going on...

APPLICATION — As the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives — as our lives declare the wonderful works of God — some people will wonder what it all means...[expand]

Unfortunately, not all will see it this way...

13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

[expand on the absurdity of this explanation...]

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

**17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.**

**18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;
And they shall prophesy.**

**19 I will show wonders in heaven above
And signs in the earth beneath:
Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.**

**20 The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.**

**21 And it shall come to pass
That whoever calls on the name of the LORD
Shall be saved.'**

*Peter quotes **Joel 2:28-32** as an explanation of what is taking place...*

So, the day of Pentecost was the beginning of the fulfillment of these verse — but not all of it was fulfilled that day — it was just the beginning...[expand]

- And as we continue, please notice that ***the Holy Spirit being poured out*** leads to ***Peter witnessing to the people about the Lord Jesus...***

This is exactly what the Lord Jesus said would happen in **Acts 1...**

REMINDER — The person and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives will enable us to share the truth of the Lord Jesus with others...[expand]

Continuing on in Acts 2 vs...

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—

23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

25 For David says concerning Him:

I foresaw the LORD always before my face,

For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.

26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.

27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades,

Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,

31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

34 "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself:

The LORD said to my Lord,

"Sit at My right hand,

35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

This was the beginning of the Church Age — the Age in which you and I live...

- And **Joel 2:28-32** is still being fulfilled — the Holy Spirit is still being poured out on anyone who places their faith in the Lord Jesus for salvation...

Let's turn back to Joel 2 as we move into our second section...

2) The Power (vs 30-31)

The Lord speaks through Joel with these words...

30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth:

Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

**31 The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.**

This section of the prophecy has not yet been fulfilled...

- These frightening prophecies will be fulfilled during the seven-year Tribulation Period as God pours out His wrath on a world that is ripe for judgment...

And the Tribulation Period will end as the Lord Jesus returns at His Second Coming and establishes His rule over the earth...

- [expand — I have taught through the Book of Revelation — you can listen to that series online...]

Now, the main thing I want to focus on in this section is the fact that God has ***the power*** to bring these judgments to pass...

- That the world belongs to Him and He will bring things to His desired end...

This is especially important to remember in the midst of the craziness of our world and the ungodliness of those in power...

For more on this subject, please turn to...

Psalm 2 (NKJV)

**1 Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?**

**2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,**

**3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us."**

**4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The Lord shall hold them in derision.**

**5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:**

**6 "Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion."**

**7 "I will declare the decree:
The LORD has said to Me,
You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.**

**8 Ask of Me, and I will give You
The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.**

**9 You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'"**

**10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.**

11 Serve the LORD with fear,

And rejoice with trembling.

**12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish in the way,
When His wrath is kindled but a little.
Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.**

Back now to Joel 2 as we quickly consider our final section...

3) The Promise (vs 32)

**32 And it shall come to pass
That whoever calls on the name of the LORD
Shall be saved.
For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance,
As the LORD has said,
Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.**

The key here is that deliverance and salvation belongs to the Lord...

- Every human being who has ever lived — apart from the Lord Jesus — has been in need of deliverance and salvation...

We are sinners and we need to be delivered from our sin and the judgment that those sins deserve...

- And anyone who calls on the name of the Lord — the name of the Lord Jesus — will be saved — this is ***the promise...***

This reality is that this promise remains true throughout the church age and it will remain true throughout the Tribulation Period as the Lord continually draws people to Himself so that they might be saved...

Conclusion

We will stop here for today and Lord-willing pick up in Joel 3 next week...

And as we close I would like to remind you that the role of the Holy Spirit is indispensable in the life of every believer...

- It is the Holy Spirit Himself who draws us to Christ so that we might be saved...

And it is the Holy Spirit Himself who gives us supernatural gifts, who empowers us to live the Christian life and who produces fruit through us...

- So, if you are lacking in this supernatural dynamic as a believer then please consider your relationship with the Holy Spirit...

Pray for the fulness of the Holy Spirit in your life so that you might increasingly become what God has called you to be — a blessing to Him and a blessing to others...

I will leave you with the words of...

John 7:37-39 (NKJV)

37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Let's pray...