

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

2.21.2021

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of Gods word.

The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Joel 2: 28 – 29

Acts 2: 16 – 21

The book of Joel, prophesied that a day would come when the Holy Spirit would be a gift to all of Gods children. This prophesy speaks of two different distinct time periods. Luke who was inspired to write the book of Acts, reveals that the first occurred on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirits descent, initiated the beginning of the last days. Having endured the day of Gods wrath, on the cross, on behalf of all humanity, Christ ascended to heaven and sent back the Holy Spirit to the church, giving gifts to all believers. As Christians, we use these gifts to serve one another and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. The second time period is recorded in the book of Revelation and speaks concerning the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Gods people at the end of the tribulation period, when his chosen people will come forth out of the tribulation period and enter into the millennial reign of Christ. The Holy Spirit, which was taken out with the church, will once again be poured out upon the whole earth.

As believers, we receive the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit by faith when we place our trust in Christ through salvation. Therefore, no Christian should think that he is without the help of the Holy Spirit, or that he needs to do something more to enjoy the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Having received the spirit, then let us walk in the spirit, and listen to the spirit, through the word, and by using our gifts to serve others in the body of Christ.

Through salvation, we are joined to Christ by his resurrection, through faith, and therefore we are assured that we will share in this resurrection, which the Holy Spirit hath given unto us as a guarantee. The Holy Spirit, which is our public display of the first fruits of the gospel, upon whom the Holy Spirit rest, has become the dwelling place of God.

1 Corinthians 6: 19,....What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which we have of God, and ye are not your own....

The public outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was unique to the history of the church and therefore will not be repeated. It was the anointing, given to the church, so that the church, may become a bold witness, in this present and evil age. It is the work of the crucified, resurrected, savior, given to the body of Christ, to fulfill his commission, until his return. We have no need that the spirit be poured out again in this same fashion, but we do need to heed the leadership and guidance of the gospel of Christ, and trust in his power, to make the saving grace of Jesus Christ known throughout all our faithful witnessing.

Joel 2: 28 – 29,....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. And also, on my menservants and on my maidservants, I will pour out my spirit in those days....

Acts 2: 17 – 18,....But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my hand maidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy....

In this passage of scripture in Acts, we see that Peter, applying the message in Joel, chapter 2:28 to the events that was happening in that day, while he was preaching to the multitudes. The entire passage consists of his sermon, pleading with the Jews, to accept Christ as their Savior. Yet no one became a prophet of God that day. Instead, it appears from the scripture, that Peter was telling the people that the passage in Joel was now fulfilled, in that a multitude of people which were hearing himself, and the other apostles messages, in several different languages and, awakening to this new light, became destined to begin spreading this message to others. Notice that Peter's sermon was given on the very day that the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Apostles and the church.

The application of the pouring out of God's Spirit empowered the people to present the message of truth, in its fullest to all humanity. The sons and daughters prophesying, refers to their speaking forth that truth, and the dreams and visions that they speak of, apply to all, being provided with guidance from the Lord, guidance that shows unto us ways to spread those truths even greater than before. As a result of hearing those messages from a large number of individuals, who have accepted the call of God, to go out and share those special truths, both Joel and Peter tell us, that the result will be one that, it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, there shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call, it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved, not that a large number of people would become divinely inspired prophets, neither in Peter's time, or in our time today.

Joel said that the events, which he described, would occur afterward. Yet, they did not occur from the time of Joel onward to the end of the Old Testament. Only a few prophets arose in those years. But, just as Peter accurately predicted in that very day, the promise of Joel, did begin to be fulfilled in Peter's time. Only a few divinely inspired prophets arose in New Testament times, and none thereafter. Yet, beginning on the day that Peter spoke, and in the years, and centuries which followed, multitudes of thousands upon thousands, of divinely guided men and women spread the message, that obedience to God's word would bring forth salvation, through Christ, to the entire world.

It is so easy for someone to stand up and claim to be a prophet. All that is needed, is to say so, and hundreds of people will be eager to believe in them. Why, Because, those that hear, are not reading and meditating daily, by the Spirit, in the word of God, and as a result, they have empty lives, and they are anxious for some new excitement to fill the void. If, daily, they were studying God's word, they would be filled with happiness, instead of trying to fill a vacancy in the soul, and a craving for some exciting new thing. If we would spend more thoughtful studies, in the presence of the Holy Spirit, we would receive new wisdom and understanding every day, which would turn our heart, and gratitude, and praise, to God, for that which we are receiving, through the sacred gift, given unto us from heaven.

Matthew 7: 15- 20,....Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits....Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Matthew 24: 11 – 13,....Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many....But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved....

Matthew 24: 24 – 26,....For false Christs, and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders, to deceive....

2 Peter 2: 1 – 2,....But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in destructive heresies.....and many will follow their destructive ways....

Acts 20: 29 – 31,....after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also, of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch....

False prophets will arise to sow confusion among the people by turning them away from obeying the divine word of God, but God's judgments will be pronounced against them, for their grievous sins, and for bringing rebellion against Him. God will pronounce his divine judgment upon these false prophets, so that these evil workers will receive their full measure of punishment, for the Lord has not changed. Those, who prophesy these lies will encourage men to look upon sin as if it is just a small matter. The things that did take place were kept in the dark, or were treated as something mysterious, so not to be understood until later. It is very sad, to see how quickly some who have had that light and truth, will accept the deceptions of Satan, and be charmed with a false holiness. Men will turn away from the commandments which the Lord has established, so that they will not understand their position in Christ which is written forth in the word of God, then they will say that they know not wherein their salvation lies. Until the end of time, men will arise to create confusion and rebellion among those who claim to be representatives of the true God. Those who prophesy these lies will encourage men to look upon sin as a light thing. If they belittle the law of God, if they pay no heed to His will and the testimony of his Holy Spirit, they are deceivers. These, who have in any way been falsely misled, need to humble themselves before God, and sincerely repent, because they have so easily been led astray.

Luke 3: 21 – 22,....when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized, and while he prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven which said, you are my beloved Son, in you I am well pleased....

Christ who came to be baptized of John, done so, to fulfill the righteous requirements of the law, and also to provide a living example as how through the acceptance of salvation, and through repentance, that the Holy Spirit has come to indwell within us. Christ had no need for John to baptize him with the baptism of repentance, because Christ was sinless. Christ showed us that it was not water baptism, but prayer that opened the door of communication to the Father, who then allows the anointing of the Holy Spirit to take place in our life.

Romans 10: 9 – 12,....that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation....for whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved....

It is God alone, who knows the heart, only he knows when one believes in the heart that, Christ died for their sins and rose from the grave. Once that decision is made to trust in Christ for salvation, then through the immediate indwelling of the Holy Spirit are we able to confess that Jesus is Lord. It is not until we have the anointing of the Holy Spirit, that we are able to confess the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ showed unto us that instantly upon believing, we receive the Holy Spirit.

John 3: 5 – 7,....Jesus answered, most assuredly, I say unto you, unless one is born of the water and the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, that which is born of the spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, you must be born again....

Christ here shows us through his conversation with Nicodemus the value of both our physical life and spiritual life to God.

Genesis 1: 26,....then God said, let us make man in our image, according to our likeness....

Job 14: 5,....since his days are determined, the number of his months is with you, you have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass....

Being born of water is a predetermined gift of life, granted unto us through our natural birth, a temporary, mortal existence, into the world, created by God.

Ephesians 1: 4 – 6,....just as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons of Jesus Christ himself....

Being born of the spirit is a predestined gift of eternal life, made possible by Christ and the cross. It is a permanent, supernatural, birth, into the family of God, where we will live immortally, still within the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Titus 3: 4 – 8,....but when the kindness and the love of God our savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our savior....this is a faithful saying....

One of the most difficult things for a sinful man to accept is, that salvation is a free gift, provided unto us by the grace of God, to all who will simply believe upon the Son, and accept our new life in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our salvation is not because of the righteousness that we have done, but according to his mercy, we were washed clean in that moment that we were born again, and made into a new creation in Christ, by the means of the Holy Spirit, whom God has poured out upon us richly, through his Son.

1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 13,....for by our spirit we were all baptized into one body....and have all been made to drink into one spirit....

As believers, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is within us. Through much pray and supplication, study and meditation, and our obedience to God and his word, this outpouring will begin to shine forth from within us to without, this presentation of the Holy Spirit will bring forth the eternal life that mankind is searching for.

As Christians, often times, we find ourselves spending too much time chasing after those things in which we find difficult to understand. This allows us to miss out on the most important truth, and that is salvation, which is by grace, through faith in Christ, born of the spirit, into the family of God, becoming a new creation in Christ, granting unto us the ability to enter into the kingdom of God.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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