

Introduction:

- Acts 2; Joel 2.
- "God works from the midst of a Spirit filled people out upon the world. All who long for world wide revival must see to it that they hasten the day by personally entering the Spirit filled life." Jesse Penn Lewis, *The Awakening in Wales*.
- If the nation will repent and returns to the Lord, God will restore His relationship with her and bless her.
- How can we contend for this revival by personally entering the Spirit filled life?

I. One Thing Is Clear

- A. In scripture, God works through God anointed and God filled vessels. How anointed are you?
 1. We know the anointing is the Holy Spirit. Ie. Abraham, Moses, David, Gideon, Elijah etc.
 2. We know that where the Spirit is Lord there is Freedom! *"Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."* (2 Corinthians 3:17, NKJV)
 3. We know from scripture and through observation that where the Holy Spirit is present good things are happening. Acts 10:38 Jesus was anointed and went about doing good....
 4. It is clear in scripture that God works through anointed vessels. How anointed are you?
- B. The Anointing destroys yokes of bondage.
 1. Sin puts people in bondage.
 - a) Dt 28:15-25 results of not obeying or following God.
 - b) 'Dryness' occurs because people become complacent towards God. When the righteous rule the city rejoices. When they dont rule the city is oppressed.
 2. *"It shall come to pass in that day That his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, And his yoke from your neck, And the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil."* (Isaiah 10:27, NKJV)
 3. Do not be afraid of the Assyrians when they oppress you with the rod. Isaiah was dealing with the impending coming of Assyrians.
- C. There is a marked difference between John 20:22 Jesus breathed on them saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit." and Acts 2:1-ff. The first seems to be a bit of down payment on what was promised.
 1. In John 20 Jesus tells them to receive the Holy Spirit and in Acts 2 they RECEIVED the Holy Spirit.
 2. In John 20 they were still afraid and Thomas wasn't there when Jesus breathed on them. In Acts 2 all the disciples became apostles with authority and a willingness to die for what they believed.
 3. We want the Spirit filled life!
 - a) The Spirit filled life makes a difference in our sin ravaged world.
 - b) The evidence is clear in scripture and in the places where the Spirit is moving.

II. The Promise to Joel

- A. What we are familiar with?

1. The sounding of the alarm. 2:15 Why? There is impending danger. Is it from Assyria and Babylon or that God is lifting His hand from the nation? Which is scarier?
 - a) call the people together - elders, children, babies
 - b) call to the bridegroom and bride
 - c) call to the priests, minister in the Lord's presence
 - d) Joel is a book of Hope and Judgement.
 2. *"Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike."* (Joel 2:28-29, NLT)
 - a) I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.
 - b) They will prophesy, dream and visions.
 3. Acts 2
 - a) Peter declares this is what Joel spoke of. This is that!
 - b) The Holy Spirit poured out on all flesh. He has been poured out on all flesh.
 - c) The Holy Spirit is with us. Yet, we pray "God, pour out your Spirit, in Viera!"
- B. What we see:
1. The church for the most part doing 'business as usual.'
 2. The church, while doing business as usual, continues to be sidelined.
 - a) Our nation/nations threatened:
 - b) by wars and rumors of war.
 - (1) Unrest - China and India skirmishing.
 - (2) Russia - discontent with Putin
 - (3) N. Korea blows up South Korean meeting hall
 - (4) Middle East and Northern Africa
 - c) Economics - globally we have never been at this place.
 - (1) banks failing
 - (2) Globally a call for financial reset
 - (3) Europe pressing for digital currency
 - (4) Food shortages internationally. Due to freezes, droughts, insects
 - (5) High unemployment globally
 - d) Health -
 - (1) Fear of Covid.
 - (2) Fear of Vaccines
 - (3) More and more antibiotic-resistant diseases.
 3. God's army (locusts) seems to be on the march again. Locust - four types.
 4. All of this is meant to bring about a response from the people of God!
 - a) The atmosphere is ripe for revival in the church and awaking in the Land.
 - b) Jeremiah said it well in May, We need to be discerning what is going on.

III. The Promise In the Place of Prayer

- A. Here is what they did:

1. They prayed.
 - a) they tarried in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit. They obeyed Jesus. And Jerusalem knew nothing of this little band of believers that gathered to pray in the upper room.
 - b) We know from Pentecost celebrations that they would be in the Word. I am sure they would have been focused on what Jesus said regarding the promise of the Holy Spirit to them.
 - c) They would have been scouring the scriptures as well, in anticipation of receiving this promise.
2. They received.
 - a) Joel 2:28 I will pour out my Spirit is in the Hebrew tense expressing the continuance of action such as in ongoing, unfinished, and continuous out pouring.
 - (1) We gather around the watering hole of Acts 2 and fail to enter the Spirit filled life that gets poured out on the world!
 - (2) We get to tap into the life of living in the Spirit and of crying out for others to received the outpouring of the Spirit.
- B. God continues to bring His church back to Pentecost / life in the Spirit / nation changing life!
 1. Joel 2:23 we are promised the former and latter rains.
 - a) Former rain - rains that fall that cause the seed/kernel to fill out in the stalk
 - b) Latter rains - are the rains that fail in the critical time of planting and growing.
 2. God is saying, there is judgement on the horizon, sound the alarm! Will any hear and respond to the place of prayer.
 - a) Joel prophecy is a call for preparation of the people of God in seeking Him in prayer.
 - b) The 3 days before a jealous God was not to be an event but a launching into that place before God and this region.
 - c) They were being summoned to God through conscious awareness of their need to seek His face.
- C. Prayer Preceded Pentecost!
 1. Do you think it will be any different now.
 2. Prayer must precede a wider outpouring of God's Spirit.
 3. Prayer prepares people/channels of God's Spirit to flow through. IE. Peter Acts 2 preaching.