

## BFF378 Outpouring of the Spirit

**Scott Moore:** Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

**Steve:** I'm well. How are you?

**Scott:** I'm cheery and bright eyed and bushy tailed, man. I've been up already and did one podcast and now I'm ready for another.

**Steve:** Today, we're going to talk about something that we can all be expecting, praying for, hoping for, and which God sees is extremely necessary. How's that for an introduction?

**Scott:** I'm intrigued.

**Steve:** OK, let's pray. Father, as we look to Your word, I pray that You'll open our ears to hear what You're saying to us today. I pray that You'll encourage our faith. I pray that You'll help our faith to have feet and that You'll help us in our prayer life.

All these different things that we're going to be considering today are monumental. They're almost too big for us to take in. Help us to take in what we can. Help me to teach well. Help us to listen well. I pray for this event to come to pass.

I pray that as we consider it, we're not just reading, discussing and making more notes, but we're believing for all of these events that we're going to read about today to actually happen, and we'll mix faith with Your word today, in Jesus name. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** I'm going to start reading. I've only got four pages of scriptures.

**Scott:** All right.

**Steve:** "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, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days, I will pour out My Spirit.

"I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire, and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and terrible day of Jehovah comes. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, there shall be those who escape, as Jehovah has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom Jehovah calls." **Joel 2:28-32.**

This outpouring of the Spirit is on everybody, not just the important people, but the old men, the young men, your sons, your daughters, and even on your servants. He's going to pour out His Spirit on all flesh. This is going to happen. At the same time, it says He's going to be showing signs and the wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood, fire, columns of smoke. It's going to be a tough time.

Simultaneously these people will be calling on the name of God for salvation. They're going to be calling on Jehovah. They're going to be calling on Jesus. They're going to be asking to be saved. We're recording this August 30th as a hurricane is going up the coast. There has just been tremendous catastrophe in Hawaii a few weeks ago. There is a war in Ukraine. This is the world in which we live, and this is only a small part of what we know.

When the judgments of God are in the earth, the inhabitants learn righteousness. These are divine wake-up calls. At the same time that these things are happening, God is pouring out His Spirit and people are calling on Him and coming to salvation. God works all things for good.

Now, before I get to where this verse was quoted, I want to read a couple more passages from the Old Testament, the First Testament. One of my favorites, rarely spoken of, Proverbs 1:23, "If you turn at My reproof, behold, I will pour out My Spirit to you. I will make known My words to you."

I've had that experience. When I have turned at God's reproof. Let's say that I'm reading the scripture and I see something and I'm convicted and I apply it. I sense that God pours out His Spirit on me. I do. I've experienced this many times.

I can count several times when I would listen to God, maybe in a service, maybe in a sermon, maybe I heard something on the radio, when God quickened some truth to my heart, and if I accepted it and applied it and obeyed it and turned, then God says, "Wow, that's good. Now I'm going to pour out My Spirit on you. I'm going to make My words known to you. You're going to get more of Me now."

Turning is a really good thing to do because that's how we tap into God's Spirit. It's also helpful to be thirsty. Isaiah 44:3, "I will pour water on the thirsty ground and streams on the dry ground. I will pour My Spirit upon your offspring and My blessing on your descendants."

If we're hungering and thirsting, as it says in the Beatitudes in Matthew 5, if we're hungering and thirsting after righteousness, we will be satisfied. If we're hungry for more of God, He will pour out His Spirit upon us and our offspring.

Great promises. Here's a future promise, which I frequently pray. In fact, I pray this at least every two weeks. It is in my prayer notes.

Zechariah 12:10, "I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that when they look on me, on Him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child and weep bitterly over Him as one weeps over a firstborn."

People are going to have the Spirit of God poured out on them, the spirit of grace, and it's going to trigger them, and all of a sudden they're going to look on Him and they're going to go, "Oh, we killed God. We killed God's son." They're going to repent and they're going to mourn.

They're going to mourn as if their first-born, only child, had just died. There will be deep laments because they're going to realize, God is going to open their eyes and they're going to see, "Hey, that was Jesus, that was God's son. He's the propitiation for our sins. We killed Him and we are sorry."

This is part of the work of the Spirit. Before I go any further, let me just say why I'm looking forward to receiving more of the Spirit, because the Spirit works that way. He convicts us of sin. The Bible says he also teaches us all things. He's the one that's responsible for inspiring, or in-spiriting scripture.

It's the Spirit that helps us to say, "Jesus is Lord." No man can say Jesus Lord except by the Spirit, the Word of God says. The Spirit bears witness of Jesus, not only in his activity, but in scripture. Jesus said to them, "You search the scriptures because in them, you think you have eternal life, but it is they that bear witness of me."

The Spirit through the scripture and through his activity is continually pointing people to Jesus. God's love is shed abroad in our hearts by the Spirit. It's the Spirit that witnesses with our spirit that makes us know that we are children of God. This is all good stuff. That's why we want more of the Spirit, we do. I do. I pray regularly for more of the Spirit, because it says in Ephesians 5:18, "Be filled with the Spirit."

Even though I know I've received the Spirit, I want to continue to be filled. I want God to top off the tank, so to speak, every day. What else would these people that lived in the first covenant that lived before Christ, what else would they have known? Well, they lived in an agricultural society.

Deuteronomy 10, "If you will indeed obey My commandments that I command you today to love Jehovah your God and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your

soul, He will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil."

This is part of the warp and woof of their culture, rain. They needed rain. I've mentioned this briefly before, but Israel is a dependent land. It is not Egypt with the magnificent river Nile that brings refreshment all the time. Israel needs rain and it needs God. It's a dependent land, so they know they need to have the early rain, the later rain for their crops, for their water, for their land.

God shows them how to do it. "Obey My commandments. Turn at My reproof." Same principle we read in Proverbs 1. "Love Me with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and I'll give you rain."

**Joel 2:23** says, "Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in Jehovah your God, for He has given the early rain for your vindication. He has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the latter rain as before."

Now, let me move into the New Testament. Of course, I'm heading towards Pentecost, but I'm trying to lay a foundation here that perhaps will help us to appreciate more of Pentecost. In Luke 11, it starts off, "Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples.'

"He said to them, when you pray, say, 'Father, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us, and lead us not into temptation.'"

Jesus was praying, number one. Then one of his disciples says, "Could you teach us to pray?" Then he gave them an example. He said to them, "Which of you has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, friend, lend me three loaves for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him.

"He will answer from within, 'Do not bother me, the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence, he will rise and give him whatever he needs."

That's an exhortation to us, as plain as could be that we need to be impudent. We need to be persistent. We need to keep at it. We need to make our requests known. He's encouraging us to pray and not to give up, even when it seems tough.

Then He says, and it's interesting how Luke arranges these three things. I'm sure it's the Spirit of God showing Luke how to do this. He continues, "And I tell you, ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and it will be open to you. For everyone who asks, receives, and the one who seeks, finds, and to the one who knocks, it will be opened.

"What father among you if his son asks for a fish will instead of a fish, give him a serpent, or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

He continues to build on this theme, be impudent, be persistent, and then he says, "Ask," and if that doesn't work, "Seek," if that doesn't work, start banging on the door, because if you ask, you will receive.

His point is, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him? When we're going to be doing our asking, because I think that it's important that we don't just say, "Oh, this is going to be awesome when the Holy Spirit is poured out." No, He needs some people to mix that with faith and to ask Him.

We're still pre-Pentecost in John 3, a very familiar verse. Read it slowly. "Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you,'" and this was to Nicodemus, "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit."

Once again, He's pointing them to the importance of the Spirit and asking for the Spirit. Now here we're going to read a long passage, Acts 1. "Jesus appeared to them during 40 days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which he said, 'You heard from me. For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'"

"When they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons when the Father has fixed by His own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.'"

Now I have to say this, I know it's going to ruffle some theological presuppositions, but we've pointed out that in the end of John, the day that he rose from the dead in

the morning, Jesus appeared to them that evening and He breathed on them that same day, and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

By the time Pentecost came, these men had already received the Holy Spirit 40 to 50 days ago. They did, and then Jesus said to them, "But I still want you to stay in Jerusalem because you're going to be my witnesses there, but you're not going to be able to do it until you receive power, until you are baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Exact language here.

Then we're going to go to Pentecost 2. "When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

"Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, 'Are not all those who are speaking Galileans? How is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?

"Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians -- we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.'

"And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others mocking said, 'They are filled with new wine.' But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, 'Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give ear to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day, this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel.

"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even on My male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out My Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

"And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to

blood, before the day of Jehovah comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Whew. This is Acts 2.

In Acts 10, the Spirit of God came upon Cornelius and all his friends, and then Peter had to go back to Jerusalem and give a report. I'm going to read part of the report in Acts 11. "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as on us at the beginning. I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

In the Old Testament, they are familiar with these passages about the Spirit coming upon those that are thirsty, coming upon all flesh. They tied it into the early rain and the later rain. This is something that they're familiar with.

Jesus, himself, taught the disciples, "You're not going to be born anew until the Spirit comes upon you. Born of the flesh is one thing, born of the Spirit, now you can enter into the Kingdom of God."

He encouraged them, "Be impudent, be persistent, ask, seek, knock that God will give you His Spirit." Then on resurrection evening, He breathes on them, and they receive the Spirit.

Then for 40 days, Jesus is teaching them about the Kingdom, about how things are going to operate, and these men have the same Spirit he has. They're listening, they're learning. Then, he says, "But I still want you to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes upon you in a special way," and they did.

Titus 3:4-6. Really powerful, a lot packed in this. "When the kindness of God, our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ, our Savior."

We were saved by grace, not on what we did, by our own righteousness. His mercy clears that up. In the first verse, "You've been saved by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit." Renewing is a participle. It's ongoing.

Again, I know I'm treading lightly here. James 5:7, "Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains."

Isn't that good? There it is. James referring to the same things way back in Deuteronomy. The farmer waits for the early rains and the late rains.

Zechariah 10:1, "Ask rain from Jehovah in the season of the spring rain from Jehovah who makes the storm clouds, and He will give them showers of rain to every one, the vegetation in the field."

My point in reading all these wonderful passages is to inspire our faith and to encourage us to ask, which I'm going to do in just a minute. We need to ask for God to give us His Spirit, to pour out His Spirit on all flesh, because that will be the greatest evangelistic crusade in the history of the world.

If we think Pentecost was amazing, wait until eight billion people have the Holy Spirit poured out on them, and they have their attention pointed to Jesus. They are convicted of their sin. They are sensing that God loves them.

Their spirits are witnessing with His Spirit, those who turn, those who respond, and they become children of God. They know they're children of God, and they begin to love God. Scripture begins to make sense to them. Everything that we are hoping for is dependent on the outpouring of the Spirit.

**Scott:** That was great. Did you read John 3? I think you did in there, but it went fast.

**Steve:** I did. John 3:5-6. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

**Scott:** If you keep going verse 8, it says...

**Steve:** Go ahead and read it

**Scott:** The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear it sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

There's a mystery to this whole thing. The Spirit is not going to be boxed in.

I think you mentioned a couple of times about treading lightly because, obviously, there's lots of opinions about what the Holy Spirit does or doesn't do and all that, and how we can be filled or not filled and whatever. That verse right there always convinced me that there is a mystery to this and God is not going to be defined easily by us.

**Steve:** Yep. He's going to do it.

**Steve:** We've established that in our studies of spiritual warfare is we take things as they are, we can make them bend to God's will. Daniel, when he saw what God said was going to happen, set himself to pray and fast that it would happen. I just want to



be one of those people that is thirsty, that is continually turning to God, and is continually asking and believing for the outpouring of the Spirit.

Let's pray. Father, thank You for these encouraging words. Thank You that I believe we received the early rain at the time of Pentecost, but I'm after the latter rain. I'm after a great harvest, and I know that You're after it. I should...This is what your big heart wants.

You want every knee to bow and every tongue to confess that Jesus is Lord, but that will not happen. It can't happen without the help of Your Spirit. Pour out Your Spirit from on high, be poured out, Holy Spirit. We're thirsty. We're hungry. We want You. We ask for the outpouring of the Spirit on all flesh. Point us to Jesus. Give us thirsty hearts. Give us soft hearts. Give us teachable spirits so that we will not fight the Spirit but we will open our hearts to the Spirit.

Help us to love the Holy Spirit just like you did, Jesus. Help us to welcome the Spirit, help us to honor the Spirit. We do it right now in our prayers, and I'm believing. I'm asking that You will fill up Your church with Your Spirit.

I pray that You will not only pour out Your Spirit on Your church, though, but on all flesh so that every knee bows, every tongue confesses that You're Lord, to the glory of God the Father, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. Email Steve [spdemme@gmail.com](mailto:spdemme@gmail.com).