

From a Trickle to a Flood

Joel 2:28-32



Take for Granted

“to fail to properly notice or appreciate”

What are some incredibly valuable things that we can fail to appreciate?

The gift of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit

A person: “He” not “It”

Fully God, along with the Father and Son

All powerful, all knowing, holy, love, just, ...

To be filled with the Spirit of God is to be filled with the power, wisdom, and glory of Almighty God

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Intensity

“His breath [Spirit] is like a rushing torrent, rising up to the neck. He shakes the nations in the sieve of destruction; he places in the jaws of the peoples a bit that leads them astray.” Isaiah 30:28

Mystery

“When [Saul] and his servant arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came powerfully upon him, and he joined in their prophesying.” 1 Samuel 10:10

Power

“The Spirit of the Lord began to stir Samson” 1 Judges 13:25

Then he had incredible physical strength

The Spirit’s presence and power were easily lost: Samson, Saul

The Spirit was on very few people: Mainly on men in leadership roles



The Prophet Joel

Judgment and physical destruction were coming

“Rend [tear] your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.” 2:13

And God will be gracious and bring physical relief

“Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the Lord your God” 2:27

Joel 2:28-32

28-29:

Astounding abundance on all categories of people

30-31:

Connected with war and judgment

Metaphorical, and perhaps physical

Seemingly still some future elements

32:

Human side and God’s side ... together

Escape from judgment, and entry to love

Big Idea

Through Jesus the Almighty Holy Spirit is poured out on all who call Him

In the Old Covenant, the Spirit was powerful, but very few experienced Him

In the New Covenant, the Spirit is poured out abundantly!

What the Spirit Brings

Automatically for every believer

Salvation, and He lives in every believer



Different gifts for each person as Jesus chooses

Words: preaching, teaching, evangelism, discernment, insights, encouragement, ...

Serving: giving, mercy, helping, miracles, administration, generosity, faith, ...

Commands for every believer

Be filled by the Spirit

Walk in step with the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18-22

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,

singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. *Ephesians 5:18-22 (English Standard Version)*

The Spirit and the Christian

Each Christian has all of the Spirit

The command to be filled by the Spirit enables the Spirit to have all of the believer

We are commanded to be filled by the Spirit

Speaking praise-filled truth to each other

Praising God with joy

Always giving God thanks for everything

Submitting to each other in honor of Christ

Application: Be filled by the Spirit

Pray

"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:13

Live by & like the Spirit:

"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." *Galatians 5:25*

Not in step with brokenness *Galatians 5:16-17*

Confess and be forgiven when we stumble

Jesus' invitation

Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, **rivers of living water will flow from within them.**" By this he meant **the Spirit**, whom those who believed in him were later to receive." John 7:37-39

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

- In your own life story, what place has the Holy Spirit had? Is there a way in which He was ignored or taken for granted? Is there a way in which He was clearly active and powerful? Why might that be?
- What does it mean for us today to be "filled by the Spirit"? What actions might we take to obey that command? What actions will you take today and this week?
- What does it look like to "submit to one another out of reverence to Christ"? How does that relate to life in the church, in our homes, in our friends, and in our relationships in work or study or recreation?

Conversation Starter

Christianity speaks of the Holy Spirit as God, together with the Father and Jesus Christ. What comes to mind when you think of the Holy Spirit?