

“Outpouring of the Holy Spirit - OT Judges, Warriors, and Prophets”

Scripture: Joel 2:28-29; Numbers 27:18; Judges 3:10, 6:34, 13:25, 14:6, 15:14; 1 Samuel 10:9-10, 16:1ff

Graphics: Holy Spirit, outpouring, water flowing

Big Truth: The Holy Spirit was not only poured out into the church at Pentecost, but has been poured out on the world since the beginning. The Holy Spirit brought new life from chaos at Creation. The Holy Spirit gives wisdom, courage, and vision to judges, warriors, and prophets. The Holy Spirit prepares the way for the Messiah, who saves. The Holy Spirit empowers and fills the church for mission. We will be ready to receive new life, wisdom and strength, preparation for the Messiah, and power and infilling when we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives.

Focus Phrase: The Holy Spirit outpouring gives supernatural wisdom, courage, and vision to us.

1. Introduction

- A. An **Outpouring of the Holy Spirit!**
- B. We heard last week that an outpouring is *the act of pouring out*. It's *something that streams out rapidly*.
- C. When the Holy Spirit RUSHED upon the disciples on the first Pentecost day, it was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- D. When the Spirit of God - the ruah elohim (in the Hebrew) - hovered over the dark and formless void, “In the beginning...” the Spirit created! And that same Holy Spirit created NEW LIFE in US when we follow Jesus for life! You can go back and hear that first message in the series on our website.
- E. But, what else happens when the Holy Spirit of God is poured out onto the people of God? We know that there's CREATION...but is there more?
- F. YES! Today, we'll take a look at the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament...specifically in the lives of the the Judges, Warriors, and Prophets of the Old Testament. Women and men who were faithful to God, who had a job to do, and who received an outpouring of the Holy Spirit ON THEM.
- G. And, just so that we know where we're heading this morning, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Judges, Warriors, and Prophets gave them supernatural wisdom, courage, and vision so that the work they did - the calling they fulfilled for God - was FILLED with the Spirit's power and presence.
- H. When asked to step up into a ministry role or opportunity to witness to someone, I sometimes hear people say, “I can't do that, Pastor.” I know we all have limits - time, experience, spiritual gifts, and desire - but when the people of God are being called by the Triune God to do something for the Kingdom of God, the Spirit of God will make a way when there is no way! I firmly believe that and I've seen it happen over and over in my 25 years of ministry.

- I. When the Spirit of God is poured out on the people of God, there's not only an increased desire to serve the Lord, but (listen now) there is a supernatural infilling to DO the HOLY work of God. It's not something that YOU can do on your own, but something God does through you and me when the Spirit is poured out on us.
- J. We'll take a look at some of the OT Jewish leaders to see what happened when they let the Spirit come upon them, fill them, and powerfully move them.
- K. What does God want to happen in YOUR life when the supernatural power of the Spirit comes upon YOU?
- L. Let's pray and then we can find out... **PRAY! (Jesus, You are Lord...)**
- M. To begin, open with me to the OT book written by the prophet Joel. We'll read chapter 2, verses 28-32. This will give us a foundation to build from today...

2. Scripture

A. READ Joel 2:28-29

- i. This prophetic scripture passage is very often used to indicate what will happen after Jesus returns. Yet, in context, this passage is about the people of Israel being called back to faithfulness in the Lord. The people had strayed and worshipped other God and forgotten about the God who created them and chose them to be His beloved people.
- ii. The prophet Joel told the people that God wanted them back...that He wanted their hearts.
- iii. And if they didn't turn from the evil ways, then God would allow them to suffer, and even send a plague of locusts to inflict them and cause them to turn ALL their attention to Him.
- iv. Yet, even THEN, God would not destroy them. But once He got their attention again, we get to the verses we read. After all that, God promised to pour out the Spirit of God - the ruah elohim - and people would prophesy and dream and see visions...they would be filled with the Spirit and see God's power...
- v. And (the whole point) comes in verse 32 (**let say this together as a congregation - on screen**), *"And everyone who calls on the Lord will be saved..."*
- vi. From Mount Zion and Jerusalem...there will be deliverance...salvation...a fresh calling to do God's holy work.
- vii. The work of the Holy Spirit in the Beginning was to create new life. The work of the Holy Spirit on the people of Israel - after the Fall - was for salvation and deliverance...to give them wisdom and courage and visions to see the Kingdom of God as THEIR kingdom.

viii. And that's EXACTLY what the Holy Spirit wants to do in your life and mine today... as a result of an outpouring of the Spirit on US!

B. But let's get a little more specific and look at a few on the judges, warriors, and prophets in the Old Testament to see how this really played out.

C. Who were the Judges?

- i. The book of Judges tells us all about these leaders for the nation of Israel after the Israelites made their way into the Promised Land, but before they demanded that God give them a king.
- ii. The term "Judges" isn't really about the judicial system, although the judges sometimes had to act in that way to settle disputes. The Judges like Deborah, Samson, Gideon, and others were actually leaders of the people.
- iii. Throughout the book of Judges, we read of the continuous cycle of God raising up a judge to lead the people, the people rebelling against God to do, "...what is right in their own eyes..." and then God raising up a new judge for the people. There were multiple judges, and some even led at the same time as other judges in various parts of Israel.
- iv. But there were a few judges, namely Othniel, Gideon, and Samson who the bible says had the Spirit of God poured out onto them.
 - a. In Judges 3:9-11 - we read this, "But when the Israelites cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for the Israelites who delivered them, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. **The spirit of the Lord came upon him**, and he judged Israel; he went out to war, and the Lord gave King Cushan-rishathaim of Aram into his hand, and his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. So the land had rest forty years. Then Othniel son of Kenaz died." Othniel had an anointed outpouring of the Holy Spirit who gave him wisdom as a judge and courage as a warrior.
 - b. In Judges 6:33-35, we read about Gideon: "Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the east [*enemies*] came together, and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. But **the spirit of the Lord took possession of Gideon**, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him. He sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, and they, too, were called out to follow him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they went up to meet them." Gideon and his army went on to discern God's will, defeat the enemy, and he ruled over the Israelites for many years, even though he had some moral failures along the way. The Spirit of God, "...took possession of Gideon..." Sometimes the Spirit comes upon people. Other times, like Gideon, the **Spirit took possession of him**. He, was literally, possessed by the Spirit of the Lord to do the leading and fighting God called him to do as judge and warrior.

- c. One more...Samson. In Judges 13-15, we read Samson's story. Again, this is all very real because the bible writers didn't sugar-coat Samson's life and only talk about the good stuff. But in Judges 14:5-6, we read this, "Then Samson went down with his father and mother to Timnah. When he came to the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion roared at him. The **spirit of the Lord rushed on him**, and he tore the lion apart barehanded as one might tear apart a kid." In Judges 15:14-15, "When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him, and the **spirit of the Lord rushed on him**, and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands. Then he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached down and took it, and with it he killed a thousand men." Samson had the Spirit RUSH ON HIM - a sudden outpouring of the Spirit - and he was filled with courage and strength to kill a lion and break strong ropes with his bare hands.
- d. When has God asked you to do something hard for Him, and the only way you could do it was to invite the supernatural wisdom and courage of God to do it?

D. What about the Warriors in the Old Testament?

- i. Certainly, the Judges often were called upon to be warriors, but there were people like David who, when he was a young boy, had the Spirit of the Lord anoint him to be the next King. In 1 Samuel 16:13, we read this, "Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and **the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David** from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah."
 - ii. Not long after that day, David, not yet king, went to the front lines of the Israelite battle with the Philistines. Because David had an outpouring of the Spirit of God, he defeated the 9-foot tall giant named Goliath with a sling and a stone. You probably know that story.
 - iii. God's spirit was on David. David was a warrior long before he was even a grown man. See, when the Spirit of God is poured out onto the people of God, supernatural things happen for God's purposes.
- E. By the time we get to the writings of the **Old Testament Prophets**, God's people were being scattered and divided. God desperately wanted them to repent and turn back to Him and His Law.
- i. We opened with the prophet Joel, who gave a vision of what would happen when the Spirit was poured out onto women and men, young and old.
 - ii. Probably the most famous Spirit-filled prophet was Ezekiel, and the valley of dry bones. God's spirit filled Ezekiel to prophesy about new life coming from those dead and dry bones. But it all started in Ezekiel 2:2, "He said to me: "O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you." And when

he spoke to me, a **spirit entered into me** and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, “Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day.” God’s vision of dry bones and God’s prophetic word came on Ezekiel because of the outpouring of the Spirit on Him.

- iii. Other prophets like Micah and Jeremiah were also filled with the Spirit of God and spoke boldly to the people of Israel.
- F. Throughout the Old Testament, on the Judges and Warriors and Prophets, a Holy Spirit outpouring gave supernatural wisdom, courage, and vision.
- G. Before we get some application today, I’d be remiss, on this Mothers Day, if I didn’t lift up three women, who at the very end of the Old Testament period, were CLEARLY moving in an outpouring of the Holy Spirit: Jesus’ mother Mary, her cousin Elizabeth (mother of John the Baptizer), and Anna, a temple servant who waited for Jesus to be born for a long time. These women had powerful outpourings of the Holy Spirit, along with the judges, and warriors, and prophets of the OT.
 - i. Luke 1:35 is about Mary, Jesus' mother, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you...” (Luke 1:35).
 - ii. Of Elizabeth, we read this, (Luke 1:41) “When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit .”
 - iii. The story of Anna (in Luke 2:36-38) is a little different. There is no specific mention of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on her, but she spent decades in the temple - she never left - and the moment she met the baby Jesus, she was filled with joy and began to praise God and tell everyone of the redemption that Jesus brings! There didn’t need to be specific mention of the Holy Spirit because you could SEE it and HEAR it!

3. Application

- A. Are you ready for - do you desire - THAT KIND of outpouring of the Holy Spirit on YOU to not only praise God and speak boldly of Him, but to receive supernatural wisdom, courage, and vision?
- B. One of the things that burdens my pastor’s heart is when the people of God, who love Jesus and are filled with the Holy Spirit, sell themselves so very short by thinking that God can’t do those things in their lives. They might say, “That’s OK for someone on the platform or others in leadership...not me.”
- C. Listen here for a moment: The Holy Spirit wants to give you supernatural wisdom, courage, and visions and, frankly, He doesn’t care what you think of yourself. Now, that’s not very pastoral, Steve? Maybe. But God sees you as

you really are and you and I so often only see our failures and fears and limitations, don't we?

- D. What would it look like if you and I allowed the Holy Spirit to once again be poured out onto and into our lives...
- i. ...so that you have supernatural wisdom to know what words to say to the broken people in your life...to have the wisdom to lead your family to live out the mission to make disciples and follow Jesus for life...the wisdom to prioritize and put Jesus first in all you do?
 - ii. ...so that you would have the supernatural courage to face your fears and not let them speak the lies of the devil into your heart and mind. What would it look like to let the Holy Spirit give you courage to decide where you'll go after high school or college...to make that move to a new job you feel God calling you to make. This Holy Spirit courage is what God wants to use to have you step up in leadership, love the lost, give to the church, and pray with others. This Holy Spirit courage is also what God uses to fight for the lonely, the lost, and the marginalized people around you. To fight against injustice everywhere you find it...to fight the schemes of the evil one. The Holy Spirit gives you and me supernatural courage.
 - iii. What would it look like when you and I allowed the Holy Spirit to once again be poured out into our lives to give us a **new vision** of where God is calling us to share the gospel and invite people to worship? ...a vision of how this community can continue to be impacted by the mission of the church (and not the other way around)? What does it look like to have the love of God for all people, and see the transformation that comes through the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- E. As I thought about this all week, I have to tell you, we can learn how to do so many of these things by simply looking at the example of our Mothers. Your experience with your mom may have been very different from mine, but...
- i. Our mothers often need to be the judge - not only to settle disputes among her children, but to lead when the kids are rebelling and wanting to do what is right in their own eyes. This takes Holy Spirit wisdom!
 - ii. Our mothers are always called on to have the courage of a warrior...ready to defend the family against the enemies in this world that seek to tear apart the very fabric of our families - people who say, "The family doesn't matter." ...and all voices that discount the roles of fathers and mothers... that faith doesn't matter. We need mothers with the courage of a warrior!
 - iii. And our mothers and women of the church are the visionaries for their children and the children of our church. They can see what they will become in Christ, so that the Holy Spirit potential can be realized! Praise God for our mothers and the Holy Spirit vision God gives them.

4. Conclusion

- A. A Holy Spirit outpouring gives supernatural wisdom, courage, and vision to us.
- B. When we say, “I can’t...” the Holy Spirit says, “You can, with my presence and power!”
- C. You and I are filled with the supernatural wisdom of a judge. You and I are filled with the supernatural godly courage of a warrior. And when the Holy Spirit is poured out on us, we are filled with the supernatural vision of a prophet.
- D. All for God’s kingdom and God’s glory!
- E. Are you ready for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Me too!
- F. Let’s pray for THAT!