

The Pouring Out of the Spirit

INTRODUCTION:

1. If you are in the auditorium class you know that the last two Wednesday classes have focused on the events of Acts 2 (and 10) and the *pouring out of the Spirit*, also known as *Holy Spirit Baptism*.
 - A. Though I had good intentions, I left the building feeling my efforts to present two sides of this subject had likely left everyone with more questions than answers, more confusion than clarity.
 - B. And, after some thought and discussion I realized the reason for this confusion was that my game plan was fatally flawed.
 - i. For, first, my titles for the two positions were poorly worded leading to confusion.
 - ii. And, more importantly, I realized I had presented many arguments and counterarguments concerning these positions without giving a clear understanding of what these two positions are. For this I am sorry!
2. In an attempt to rectify those mistakes, I want to talk about the pouring out of the Spirit, or as it is otherwise known, Holy Spirit Baptism, in hopes of bringing some clarity.
3. Doing this is important because understanding of this subject is very helpful in properly interpreting much of the rest of the book of Acts and many other passages within the New Testament.
4. To address this subject, I want to:
 - A. Consider the Old Testament prophecies behind the events of Acts 2 and 10.
 - B. Consider the events of Acts 2 (and 10) and how all “this” taking place was what was spoken of by Joel and other O.T. prophets, and how the two positions on the subject relate.

BODY:

I. Old Testament background for Acts 2 and the pouring out of the Spirit:

- A. **Isaiah 32:1-4, 11-18** – “Behold, a **king** will reign **righteously** and **princes** will **rule justly**.² Each will be like a **refuge** from the wind and a **shelter** from the storm, like **streams of water in a dry country**, like the **shade of a huge rock in a parched land**.³ Then the **eyes** of those who see **will not be blinded**, and the **ears** of those who hear **will listen**.⁴ The **mind** of the hasty **will discern the truth**, and the **tongue** of the stammerers will hasten to **speak clearly**.”...¹²
Tremble, you women who are at ease; be troubled, you complacent daughters; strip, undress and put sackcloth on your waist,¹² beat your breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine,¹³ for the land of my people in which **thorns and briars shall come up**; Yea, for all the joyful houses and for the jubilant city.¹⁴ Because the palace has been **abandoned**, the populated city **forsaken**. Hill and watch-tower have **become caves forever**, a delight for wild donkeys, a pasture for flocks;¹⁵ **Until the Spirit is poured out upon us** from on high, and **the wilderness becomes a fertile field**, and **the fertile field is considered as a forest**.¹⁶ Then **justice will dwell in the wilderness** and **righteousness will abide in the fertile field**.¹⁷ And the **work of righteousness will be peace**, and **the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever**.¹⁸ Then my people will **live in a peaceful habitation, and in secure dwellings and in undisturbed resting places**”).
 1. What does Isaiah 32 tell us concerning the pouring out of God’s Spirit?
 - a. First, after calling on the people to repent in light of the coming “day of the Lord” in chapter 31, there is the promise of the **Messianic king** who would reign in **righteousness** and **justice**, bringing **refuge** and **shelter** like **streams of water** and **shade** in a dry and parched land (32:1-4).
 - i. We miss the significance of this because we have water and shade, or air-conditioned houses, so readily available to us.
 - ii. They, however, because they lived in a desert area, saw abundant water and shelter to mean abundant life.
 - b. Second, he calls for the **women at ease in Israel** to take notice of the coming *emptiness* and *desolation* that will be Israel **until God pours out His Spirit** (32:12-15).
 - c. Third, when God pours out His Spirit (32:15-18)...
 - i. Abundant life will come as the **wilderness becomes a fruitful field**, and the **field a forest**.

- ii. And, the people will know **justice** and **righteousness** for it will **dwell** and **abide** in this **fertile field** resulting in **peace, quiet assurance, and rest.**
 - 2. So, here we begin to see that what God was going to do in pouring out His Spirit is epic with earth-changing ramifications.
- B. **Isaiah 44:1-5** – “But now listen, O Jacob, My servant, and Israel, whom I have chosen: ² Thus says the LORD who made you and formed you from the womb, who will help you, ‘Do not fear, O Jacob My servant; and you Jeshurun [upright one – rp] whom I have chosen. ³ ‘For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants; ⁴ and they will spring up among the grass like poplars by streams of water.’ ⁵ “This one will say, ‘I am the LORD’s’; and that one will call on the name of Jacob; and another will write on his hand, ‘Belonging to the LORD,’ and will name Israel’s name with honor.”).
- 1. What do we learn from Isaiah 44 about God’s pouring out of His Spirit?
 - a. Note how God, who will help Israel, calls for His chosen people **not to fear** (44:1-2).
 - b. Why, because God would (44:3):
 - i. Pour out **water on the thirsty land** and **streams on the dry ground** (source of life).
 - ii. Pour out His Spirit **on their offspring** and **His blessings on their descendants.**
 - c. God’s pouring out of His Spirit would bring the blessings of (44:3-5):
 - i. Abundant life like **poplars springing up in the grass by streams of water.**
 - ii. Cause the people to praise God because they are His possession, which is the very thing we are to do today (1 Pet. 2:9-10 – “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;** ¹⁰ **for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God;** you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”).
 - 2. So, again, we see that God’s pouring out of His Spirit is so much bigger than the box we often try to put it in within the context of Acts 2 and 10.
- C. **Zechariah 12:10-12; 13:1** – “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, **the Spirit** of grace and of supplication, *so that they will* look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. ¹¹ In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. ¹² The land will mourn, every family by itself; the family of the house of David by itself and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself and their wives by themselves;... ^{13:1} “In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.”
- 1. What do we learn from Zechariah 12 and 13 about the pouring out of His Spirit?
 - a. First, God is here said to pour out on the **house of David** and on the inhabitants of **Jerusalem** the **Spirit of grace** and of **supplication** [seeking favor for man from God].
 - b. Second, this would cause Israel to “**look on Me [God] whom they have pierced**” and **mourn** for **Him** as for an **only son**, or one’s **firstborn** (12:10ff.).
 - i. This piercing, of course, is a reference to the Jews crucifying Jesus, God’s only Son and the Firstborn.
 - ii. And, the great mourning refers to the sorrow that would ensue upon learning that they had crucified the Messiah, which is the conclusion to Peter’s sermon given them at Pentecost (Acts 2:36-37 – “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both **Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.**” ³⁷ Now **when they heard this**, they were **pierced to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”).
 - c. Third, **in that day** God would open a *fountain* for the **house of David** and the **inhabitants of Jerusalem** for *sin and impurity* (Zech. 13:1).

- i. I hope you see the astounding nature of God’s grace presented here, seeing that it would be **in the very day that Israel pierced God own Son** that the pouring out of the Spirit would cause a **fountain of forgiveness to flow** to those who pierced Him!
 - ii. This is exactly what the pouring out of the Spirit did at Pentecost for those who were mourning (Acts 2:38-41 – “Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized **in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**”³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “**Be saved from this perverse generation!**”⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were **baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.**”).
2. So, again, I hope you see that when God promised to pour out His Spirit it was so much more than we are often inclined to think, including the mournful realization that Jesus, whom they pierced, is the Christ, the very Son of God, who brought forgiveness and salvation.

II. Acts 2 and the pouring out of God’s Spirit.

A. The order of events:

1. First, we know without question that the apostles were filled with the Spirit resulting in them speaking in tongues (Acts 2:1-4 – “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.² And suddenly there came from heaven **a noise like a violent rushing wind**, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.³ And there **appeared to them tongues as of fire** distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.⁴ And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.**”).
2. Second, upon hearing the sound, the Jews who had come to Jerusalem for Pentecost came to where the apostles were and were **amazed and bewildered** because they heard these **Galileans speak in their various languages** (2:5-11).
3. Third, while most were amazed, a few mocked and accused the apostles of being drunk (2:12-13).
4. Fourth, Peter and the apostles respond to the crowd (2:14-16 – “But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.¹⁵ For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day;¹⁶ but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel”)
 - a. So, Peter says they are not drunk because it is only 9:00 a.m.
 - b. But more important is that Peter gives us the details of what is taking place saying, “**this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel**” (Acts 2:16).
5. Fifth, Peter does not leave us hanging but quotes Joel (Acts 2:17-21 – “And it shall be in the last days,’ God says, ‘that **I will pour forth of My spirit on all mankind**; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;¹⁸ even on my bondslaves, both men and women, I will **in those days pour forth of My Spirit** and they shall prophesy.¹⁹ ‘And I will grant wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke.²⁰ ‘the sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come.²¹ ‘and it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”).
 - a. So, God’s Spirit would be poured out on **all mankind**.
 - b. There would be prophesying, visions, and dreams.
 - c. There would be judgment from God of apocalyptic proportions.
 - d. And, upon the Spirit being poured out, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!
6. Sixth, Peter preaches the first gospel sermon detailing:
 - a. Jesus’ approval from God shown among the Jews by miracles.
 - b. How Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection were according to God’s plan and prophecy

- c. How Jesus received “the promise of the Spirit” upon His ascension to God’s right hand and His sitting on the throne of David in heaven
 - d. How as King he had “poured out” what they were seeing and hearing (including that gospel sermon)
 - e. How this crucified Jesus God had made “Lord and Christ.”
 - f. Finally, how forgiveness is offered to all people through baptism in the name of the Lord as well as the promise of the “gift of the Holy Spirit.”
7. Seventh, the events at Cornelius’ house where the Gentiles also received “the gift of the Holy Spirit” just as had happened at the beginning, or in Acts 2, and were commanded to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 10:44-48).
- B. What was “**this**” that Joel spoke of (Acts 2:16)?
1. “This” is all that was taking place on Pentecost.
 - a. So, whatever “this” is must be understood to be what Joel spoke of
 - b. We cannot distinguish HSB God “pouring out His Spirit.” If it is happening on Pentecost, it is “this.” It is all the same.
 2. With that in mind, the most common position concerning HSB, or the pouring out of God’s Spirit, is that it happened twice (Acts 2 and 10).
 - a. Therefore, it refers to **two events**, the first being when the **apostles** and the second being the **Gentiles at Cornelius’ house**.
 - i. Both were “filled with the Spirit.”
 - ii. The apostles had tongues of fire on their heads, and both spoke in tongues.
 - b. First, if **this** is **what** “the pouring out of the Spirit,” or “Holy Spirit Baptism,” is, then does this fit the prophets said concerning God’s great, world-changing actions?
 - i. For, they said it would produce streams of water, the very source of life, in parched land, with fertile fields springing up, and the establishment of God’s King in righteousness producing the great blessings of peace, security, and joy, and the flowing of the fountain to cleanse sin?
 - ii. Is all that was spoken of by the prophets summed up in “this,” or in a few speaking in tongues and the apostles receiving power through the Spirit to present the word?
 - c. Second, how did “tongues of fire” and “speaking in tongues” fulfill Joel’s words concerning HSB, or the “pouring out of God’s Spirit,” when Joel does not mention either of these things—not tongues of fire or speaking in tongues?
 - d. Third, why did Peter begin his sermon with Joel 2, but then never really talked about miracles, but instead he talked about Jesus’ resurrection, kingship, and power, the forgiveness of sins offered in Jesus’ name, and how all who are baptized receive the “promise” of “the gift of the Holy Spirit”?
 - i. For, those baptized into Christ have never received “tongues of fire” on their heads nor the immediate ability to “speak in tongues,” or to even prophesy, see heavenly visions, or dream special dreams.
 - ii. So, such a position on HSB, or the pouring out of the Spirit, seems to me to shortchange the O.T. prophecies concerning this subject.
 3. The second position, therefore, sees the pouring out of the Spirit, or HSB, as being offered by God to all the saved.
 - a. Remember, “this” that Joel spoke of is all that is taking place at Pentecost and what it represents!
 - b. HSB, or the pouring out of God’s Spirit, includes far more than the two events of Acts 2 and 10 where a limited number of people, the apostles and a few Gentiles, were filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues. This is because...
 - c. For first, “**this**” that Peter said the people at Pentecost were seeing and hearing **did not include prophesying, visions, or dreams** as Joel spoke of.
 - i. Yet, such things had been happening among the Jews **ever since Jesus came into the world**.

- ii. Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, had a **dream** concerning the child in Mary's womb being of the Holy Spirit and God's Savior, or Emmanuel (Matt. 1:18-25).
- iii. The shepherds saw a **vision** of an angel telling them of the birth of the Savior and Lord which also included seeing a host of angels glorifying God (Lk. 2:8-14).
- iv. Zacharias, John the baptizers' father, was "filled with the Spirit" and "prophesied" of John's work as the forerunner of the Christ (Lk. 1:67-80).
- v. So, the fulfillment of that part of Joel had been going on since the time of Jesus' birth which, of course, began the fulfillment God's promise to establish His king of righteous and peace to judge the world.
- vi. And these events were very significant because, as the Jew knew well, for 400 years God had been silent! There had been no prophesying, no visions, and no dreams.
- d. Second, it is clearly seen that "**this**" the people were seeing and hearing fulfilled what was spoken by Joel and the prophets because Pentecost began the time of...
 - i. Mourning of the Jews because they had pierced, or crucified, God's Son, who has been made King and Savior (Zach. 12:10-12). For, they were "pierced to the heart," or mourning, upon this realization (Acts 2:37).
 - ii. The flowing forth of the fountain providing God's grace that washed away, or forgave, sin and iniquity (Zach. 13:1; Acts 2:38).
 - iii. Jew and Gentile entering the kingdom of righteousness and peace ruled by Jesus who was now sitting on God's throne (Isa. 32:1-4; Col. 1:13-14 – "For He [God] **rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,** ¹⁴ **in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**").
 - iv. Great blessings from God began flowing upon the saved through Jesus Christ (Isa. 44:1-5)
 - i) Acts 2:38-41 - "Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the **forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** ³⁹ For the **promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.**" ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "**Be saved from this perverse generation!**" ⁴¹ So then, those who had **received his word were baptized;** and that day there were **added about three thousand souls.**" So, forgiveness, promise of the gift of the Spirit, and being added to Christ's kingdom of righteousness and peace God had promised for the saved!
 - ii) Acts 3:17-26 – "And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. ¹⁸ But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Therefore repent and return, so that **your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;** ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, ²¹ whom heaven must receive **until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.** ²² Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed to everything He says to you. ²³ And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' ²⁴ And likewise, **all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days.** ²⁵ It is you who are the sons of the prophets and **of the covenant which God made with your fathers,** saying to Abraham, '**And in Your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**' ²⁶ For you first, **God raised up His Servant** and sent Him **to bless you** by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.").
 - iii) This sermon, like that of Acts 2, began with a miracle drawing the people to the apostles, which in this case was their healing a man lame from birth.

- iv) And, it covered, as was done in Acts 2, the many points related to the “pouring out of the Spirit” while never focusing on miracles, but instead on Jesus and the many “refreshing” blessings He would bring into the world!
- 4. Therefore, I believe it is a mistake to limit the pouring out of the Spirit, or HSB, spoken of by the prophets in such magnificent terms, to the two events and the small number of people who had tongues of fire on their heads and were speaking in tongues.
 - a. For, it is not about miracles or some literal indwelling of the Spirit in mankind.
 - b. It is about receiving all that God had promised by the prophets, including entering Christ’s kingdom of righteousness and peace, gaining abundant life in Christ consisting of righteousness by forgiveness, peace and security when we are saved through the blood of Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. So, I think we can all rejoice because God has poured out His Spirit and brought such great blessings to a world that is dry and parched because of sin and condemnation.
2. Will you receive those blessings in Jesus today by responding to Him in F-R-C-BP?