

On All Flesh

Joel 2:12-32

On All Flesh Introduction

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- These week's message builds upon last week's, when we talked about **True Conversion**.
- Along with the supernatural nature of conversion, we need to address the ongoing need for the **Holy Spirit**.

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John 3:5-8 (ESV)

⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

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- Let's highlight this last part.

John 3:8 (ESV)

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- The Holy Spirit's **indwelling** is a guaranteed part of the Christian life.

Romans 8:9 (ESV)

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

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- But the Holy Spirit's **indwelling** should not be confused with the Holy Spirit's **empowering**.
- His indwelling guarantees his **presence**, but not his **disposition** toward us at any given time.

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- For example, we can grieve him.

Ephesians 4:30 (ESV)

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

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- And we can quench his desire or ability to work.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 (ESV) Do not quench the Spirit.

- The Amplified Bible expands this:

Do not quench [subdue, or be unresponsive to the working and guidance of] the [Holy] Spirit.

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- Today we will learn something of what it takes to see the Holy Spirit work in our lives.
- His operation today was foretold in Old Testament times.
- And that's where we will begin with the prophet Joel.

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1. Return 2:12-17
2. Restoration 2:18-27
3. God's Spirit 2:28-32

1. Return 2:12-17

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- Much of Joel talks about God's judgment.
- Some of that judgment already occurred in Old Testament times.
- Some of it is yet future.

1. Return 2:12-17

- But the primary message as we see here is one of repentance.
- The Lord is calling the people of Israel to return to him.
- In v.17, we see that he wants it to start with the priests, the spiritual leaders of the nation.

2. Restoration 2:18-27

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- In this passage God speaks of the blessings he intends to pour out upon his people.
- This extent of blessing has not happened to Israel yet.
- It is contingent upon the repentance mentioned earlier.

3. God's Spirit 2:28-32

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- But the Apostle Peter also connects it with Pentecost.
- Read **Acts 2:1-21, 37-41**

3. God's Spirit 2:28-32

- In the Old Testament specific people were filled with the Spirit at specific times.
- They were each given a specific ministry to fulfill.

3. God's Spirit 2:28-32

- Since Pentecost the Lord has allowed the church to experience the beginnings of the Holy Spirit being poured out on “all flesh” (v.28).
- God is now willing to share his Spirit with anyone.

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- God is not prejudiced or selective as to who can receive the Holy Spirit from him.
- But neither is the Holy Spirit random in his associations.

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- There do appear to be certain things that God likes to see before he sends his Spirit upon a person or group of people.
- We might call them **preconditions** to receiving the Spirit of God.

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- These are nowhere systematically laid out in Scripture.
- Their relationship with the Holy Spirit's empowering is definite, but not always clear.

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- In other words, these **preconditions** are not applied in a mechanical way.
- This reminds us that we are dealing with a personal God who is our Creator and Ruler.

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- God is neither an impersonal force that we can manipulate.
- Neither is he a genie that ultimately answers to us.
- We can trust him, but we cannot expect to control him.

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- God is consistent in his behavior, but not always predictable from our perspective.
- Therefore, these biblical **preconditions** can be considered reliable, but not any kind of formula for using God.

On All Flesh Conclusions

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3. Repent (and be baptized) **Acts 2:38**

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1. Return to the Lord your God **Joel 2:12-13**
2. Call upon the name of the Lord **Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21**
3. Repent (and be baptized) **Acts 2:38**
4. Ask for him **Luke 11:11-12**