



Joel

God's Spirit

# The Minor Prophets

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28. Hosea

29. Joel

30. Amos

31. Obadiah

32. Jonah

33. Micah

34. Nahum

35. Habakkuk

36. Zephaniah

37. Haggai

38. Zechariah

39. Malachi

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- We don't know much about the prophet Joel or his ministry.
- **Joel 1:1** says he is the **son of Pethuel**, but Pethuel is not mentioned anywhere else in Scripture.
- This may be the oldest of the Bible's prophetic books.

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- Amos starts his book (**Amos 1:2**) by quoting **Joel 3:16**.
- This would put Joel earlier, perhaps about the time of **Elijah or Elisha**.
- Joel's references to **Zion** and **the temple** put his location in Jerusalem and Judah.

# Joel    God's Spirit

- Joel begins with a locust plague and the resultant famine, calling the nation to repentance.
- He then jumps to future events, foretelling the disastrous judgments of the Day of Lord.
- He also foretells a future outpouring of God's Spirit.

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- Joel uses the phrase “the Day of the Lord” five times in this short book.
- That is the most times that exact phrase appears in any book of the Bible.
- Peter begins his sermon on the day of Pentecost by quoting the prophet Joel regarding the coming of the Holy Spirit.



# Joel    God's Spirit

- This earliest prophetic book is perhaps more relevant today than the day it was written.
- We live in a time **much closer to the Day of the Lord** than Joel, therefore repentance is that much more needed.
- Furthermore, we live in a time when **the Holy Spirit's power** is freely available to us.

# Joel Key Verses

1. 1:2-3 Telling Our Children
2. 1:13-14 Repentance
3. 2:12-14 Returning
4. 2:28-29 "I Will Pour Out My Spirit"
5. 2:32 Whoever ... Shall Be Saved
6. 3:1-3 Judgment in the Valley
7. 3:14-16 The Valley of Decision

# On the Holy Spirit

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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.

# On the Holy Spirit

- 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.

# On the Holy Spirit

- 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.

# On the Holy Spirit

- 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.

# On the Holy Spirit

- Let's read **Joel 2:28-32** once again.
- This speaks of a pouring out of the Spirit that will take place in the last days.
- But the **Apostle Peter** also connects it with **Pentecost**.
- See **Acts 2:1-21, 37-41**



# On the Holy Spirit

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

# On the Holy Spirit

- Since Pentecost things have changed.
- The church has experienced the beginnings of the Holy Spirit being poured out on “all flesh” (2:28).
- God is now willing to share his Spirit with anyone.

# On the Holy Spirit

- 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.

# On the Holy Spirit

- 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 experiencing the work of the Spirit of God.

# On the Holy Spirit

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

# On the Holy Spirit

- God is not a force that we can manipulate.
- He is not a genie that answers to us.
- We can trust him, but we cannot expect to control him.

# On the Holy Spirit

- In other words, these **preconditions** are not applied in a mechanical way.
- God is a **personal God** who is also our Creator and Ruler.

# On the Holy Spirit

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



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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 11:11-13**