

## “WHY WE NEED THE BAPTISM AND FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”

George O. Wood

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Scripture Reference: Joel 1-2

### Introduction:

- A. So we must pray on both occasions – when we feel we have need and when we don’t.
- B. Joel is a prophet of the Pentecost (Joel 2:28-9).
- C. Israel is dependent on the heavy rain of God (naturally and spiritually).
- D. Why do we need the Holy Spirit—the baptism and fullness?

### 1. We need the baptism and fullness of the Spirit when there is drought in our lives.

- A. *The fields are ruined, the ground is dried up; the grain is destroyed, the new wine is dried up, the oil fails* (Joel 1:10).
- B. See also Joel 1:16-18
- C. The drought needs to be broken by the early and latter rains.
- D. When the church is dry, the storehouse is in ruins, the flock suffers
- E. Rev 2-3: How fast a church can fall away from the Lord.
- F. Rev 3:20—Jesus standing at the door and knocking (my experience in Israel; Jesus locked out of His own church. Have we locked the Spirit out of our own lives?)
- G. God wants to send His Spirit to us. The word baptism can also be the word overwhelmed. They were all overwhelmed in the Spirit, and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them to speak.
- H. Jeremiah calls this green leaf in time of drought; are you dry? God wants to pour out His Spirit into your life.

### 2. We need the baptism and fullness of the Spirit when there are bugs in our lives.

- A. *What the locust swarm has left the great locusts have eaten; what the great locusts have left the young locusts have eaten; what the young locusts have left other locusts have eaten* (Joel 1:4).
- B. Bugs are whatever’s bugging you—whatever is taking your joy, your peace, your love.
- C. Clovis Chappell: Story of early days of aviation.
  - a. A pilot was making a flight around the world. After he had been gone for some two hours from his last landing field, he heard a noise in his plane, which he recognized as the gnawing of a rat.
  - b. For all he knew the rat could be gnawing through a vital cable or control of the plane. It was a very serious situation. He was both concerned and anxious. It was two hours back to the landing field from which he had taken off and more than two hours to the next field ahead.
  - c. Then he remembered that the rat is a rodent. It is not made for the heights; it is made to live on the ground and under the ground. Therefore, the pilot began to climb. He went up until he was more than twenty thousand feet up. The gnawing ceased. The rat was dead. He could not survive in the atmosphere of those heights.
  - d. More than two hours later the pilot brought the plane safely to the next landing field and found the dead rat.
  - e. Cares are a rodent cannot live in the secret place of the Most High. We need to ascend to the Lord through prayer and His Word. *He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself* (1 Cor. 14:4).
- D. What is eating at you? Cares? Worry? Anger? Unforgiveness? Pornography? Secret sin?
- E. *A nation has invaded my land, powerful and without number; it has the teeth of a lion, the fangs of a lioness. It has laid waste my vines and ruined my fig trees. It has stripped off their bark and thrown it away, leaving their branches white* (1:6,7).
  - a. Drugs, pornography, heterosexual immorality, abortion, homosexuality, alcoholism, divorce, suicide. These are the bugs that have come in and invaded.

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- F. G. Raymond Carlson, “I’ve never known a minister to have a moral failure who was a man or woman of prayer.”

### **3. We need the baptism and fullness of the Spirit when there is destructive fire in our lives.**

- A. *To you, O Lord, I call, for fire has devoured the open pastures and flames have burned up all the trees of the field. Even the wild animals pant for you; the streams of water have dried up, and the fire has destroyed the open pastures (Joel 1:19-20).*
- B. Fire speaks of the terrible times of trial and suffering in our lives.
- C. *A lady owned Pretty Pete:*
- a. *Pretty Pete was like a member of the family. She loved him greatly.*
  - b. *One day, however, she was vacuuming the floor of Pete's cage while the phone rang. As the lady reached for the phone, with her free hand, she absent-mindedly tipped the end of the vacuum cleaner hose upward in the cage.*
  - c. *Suddenly she heard this awful squawk and realized the Pretty Pete had been sucked into the vacuum cleaner. Throwing down the phone, she opened the vacuum cleaner as quickly as possible.*
  - d. *There lay Pretty Pete among all the dirt and lint in the vacuum cleaner, bruised and battered and bleeding.*
  - e. *The horrified woman picked him up, rushed him over to the sink, held him by his little legs under the faucet, and washed him off with cold water.*
  - f. *A few days later a friend who knew about this unfortunate occurrence asked her how Pretty Pete was doing. "Oh," said the lady, "he's doing all right, I guess. Except he doesn't sing much anymore. He just sits and stares off into space with a kind of glassy-eyed look on his face.*
- D. Rather than permitting the fire to destroy, we must ask the Lord to let it refine. (1 Peter 1:7).
- E. DESPOTES -- Acts 4:24
- F. Do you know what comes in the verses in Joel immediately before *I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh* (v. 28). How about this in place of drought and bugs and fire?
- a. *Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains for your vindication... (Joel 2: 23-27).*

### **4. We need the baptism and fullness of the Spirit if we want empowerment to reach this world for Jesus.**

- A. After the outpouring out of the Spirit:
- a. Sons and daughters prophesying, old men dreaming dreams, young men with visions, men and women servants being filled with the Spirit – he comes to the
  - b. “And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved, for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance!” (Joel 2:32).
- B. Glenn Horst – Pastor Goo story.
- a. Brown and orange sweater
  - b. 3 day horse ride. Raining. Chinese inn.
  - c. Can I come in? Sing a song about Jesus.
  - d. Bible in marketplace, “This will tell you how to get to heaven.
  - e. Believed: did we do the right thing?
  - f. Blind man: did we do the right thing?
  - g. Baptism in Spirit: did we do the right thing?
  - h. Vision of orange and brown sweater – Pastor Goo

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### Conclusion

- A. The same Spirit that hovered over the creation, that caused the Scriptures to be written, that indwelt and anointed Jesus, the Spirit that raised Him raised Him from the dead, that fell upon the early Church -- that same Spirit is here and available to fill us.
- B. He wants to end the dryness, the time of drought, bugs, and fire: *In the last days I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.*
- C. Pouring is the descent of water, a downpour.
- D. Joel 2:23: *He sends you abundant showers, both autumn [early] and spring [latter] rains.*
- E. The autumn rains of October and November were to soften the parched ground so that seed could be sown. Then came the heavy rains of winter in December, January, February. Finally, the latter rains of April -- the most highly prized because they ripened the harvest and stayed the drought of a long dry summer.
- F. The latter rain is directly related to the ripening of the harvest—both for the Church, and in our own lives personally.
- G. The person who is baptized in the Spirit is the one on whom the latter rains have come—refreshing, reviving, ending the drought, the bugs, the fire—being thoroughly soaked with the presence of God.