

Pour out my Spirit

Joel 2:28 “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.”

Oh, wait a minute, isn't that in Acts 2? ““*In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.*” Many new age Christians desperately want to add the mystical to their faith. Somehow and somehow, there must be a role for me to play. To be a little God. Yet, there is so much more to getting a Spiritual power, gift, or ability. What we must do is go way back to the Old Testament. Back to the verses before Joel 2:28.

In verse 25 God says He will repay the Israelites for the years that the locusts have eaten. That is a very curious statement. Why must God repay for their punishment? The people had walked away from God. In-turn God sent pestilence to change their ways. Yet, God says He will repay? Then Joel goes on with this in verse 26 “*You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed.*” Finally in verse 27 God says I did this all so that (in the end) you will know that He is God and that He did it all. All? Yes, the blessings and the curses.

How to get the blessings of God 101? Expect them but do not demand them. I have heard the name and claim theology. The idea that God must jump (at our command) if we have enough faith. Yet, are we saying nobody in Joels time had faith? I do not see where the Israelites repented. I assume that someone did, yet, it says God will fix it. God will repay. Nowhere in these verses is there a name it and claim it verse. What we do see is God blessing those who do not deserve a blessing. The key to me is blessings.

Faith expects God to act. Faith knows we do not deserve it. Yet, we have hope in the God of blessings. God wants to bless. I bet when He sent Locust to Joel it was killing Him. It is His nature to bless not cause calamity. Yet, if (in His wisdom) the only way to bless is through calamity, He will do it. Let us not lose sight of two things. One is that God is love. The second is God is in control of that Love. He will find a way to be loving. With all that said, we should expect blessings. Equally we must give God a place in our lives to warrant blessings rather than curses. Do we have the faith that Gods actions are just?

There is such a fine line on this subject. Do we work for blessings? Do we have a right to them? In Jewish culture they love to kid that all answers are yes and no. In this case that is it exactly: yes and no. Yes, God is good so we should expect good things from Him. Yes, we need to ask. We need to be good people. Yet, God does bless those who do not deserve a blessing too. Paul says in Romans 6:2 in regards to receiving unwarranted blessings “*So, shall we then continue in sin that grace may abound?*” Paul replies with a resounding “*God forbid*” What is common in all these scenarios? God! He will decide if we get a blessing.

Romans 6:17 furthers the theme of the Bible “*But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.*” It is time we receive the Spirit in the right way. We do not claim it but receive it. To further that we must embrace the Spirit. I do not think I should ask for blessings through my good works. Instead, I should lead a Spirit filled life and God may bless me. Yet, we should live a life that deserves blessings. Warrants blessings. Only Sprit filled one can accomplish that.

I love a song that says over and over “*pour your Spirit on me.*” Do I live a life that says “*I desire your blessings in all I do?*” Are there things in our lives that say “*I don't need a pouring*

*today?*” Paul mentions walking in the Spirit. Jesus says we need to be baptized in the Spirit. Our lives should reflect a Spirit filled life. A life that experiences blessings more than curses. We tend to focus on Paul being shipwrecked and bitten by snakes. Yet, he was given so many blessings by God through the whole ordeal. I wonder if Paul’s thorn is that much of his life was spent spiritless. How many blessings did he not receive?

I feel the same way. My first 33 yrs. are full of blessings and curses. Yet, not once did I ask God for a blessing. Yet, I hated the curses. I equally said I hated the idea of God. We miraculously survived an accident early on in my Christian walk. A lady asked if I wanted prayer and I said no. Why? Why indeed? Was it blessing enough that we survived. That the insurance paid for it? That my Ex bailed us out? How about meeting my new wife a month later? I was sad about curses (car wreck) that were really a blessing. Did I ask the Spirit for a blessing during that whole event? It is time that we put pride aside and start asking the Spirit to intercede for us. To chase the blessings that we usually do not ask for. Why was I so sure that the blessings I had received were all God had to give?