



Building Wholehearted Disciples of Jesus

Marks of the Last Days Church III

Joel 2:23-28

Sermon Teacher: Steve Holt

Sermon Series: Joel: The Last Days Church

Topic: Supernatural Restoration, Outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Gift of Prophecy

Description: In the last days, with the approaching Day of the Lord, God is raising up a Church that will be supernaturally empowered by the Spirit to bring restoration and the breaking of shame in people's lives. There will be an outpouring of the Spirit resulting in personal prophecy in the lives of His people.



Marks of the Last Days Church III

Joel 2:23-28

- The theme of Joel is the coming of The Day of the Lord in Joel, mentioned 19x in Joel.
- Joel is prophesying of the End Times, the Last Days Church!

Marks of the Last Days Church in past weeks:

- 1) Cultivating Wholehearted Intimacy with Jesus
- 2) Cultivating a Lifestyle of Prayer and Fasting, a Watchmen Church
- 3) Cultivating an Overcoming, Prayer Answering lifestyle

Tonight we are in Joel 2:23
*Be glad then, you children of Zion,
And rejoice in the Lord your God;
For He has given you the former rain faithfully,
And He will cause the rain to come down for you—
The former rain,
And the latter rain in the first month.
24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat,
And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.
25 “So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
The crawling locust,
The consuming locust,
And the chewing locust,
My great army which I sent among you.*

4) The 4th Mark of the Last Days Church will be Supernatural Restoration

- The former rains in the Middle East came October—December to prepare the seed-bed and assist germination, while the latter rains came in March—May to provide ample moisture for the grain and fruit crops to be rich and full.

- God is going to bless the Last Days, Anointed Church with economic and spiritual blessings.
- God will be pouring out His abundance of grace these days in the church.
- In other words, even as the economies of nations falter, God is going to take care of His Church, His people.
- Ex. As Jesus said, it will be not unlike the days of Noah, where destruction came to the earth, Noah and his family were saved because they were ready, preparing, and listening to God...
- **Vs. 23 *And the latter rain in the first month.***
- It will be blessings that are supernatural—the latter rains naturally come in March, in the spring, but during these latter days, blessing will come in January!

***Amos says, “On that day I will raise up
The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down,
And repair its damages;
I will raise up its ruins,
And rebuild it as in the days of old;
12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom,[d]
And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,”
Says the Lord who does this thing.
13 “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord,
“When the plowman shall overtake the reaper,
And the treader of grapes him who sows seed;
The mountains shall drip with sweet wine,
And all the hills shall flow with it.***

- There will be Supernatural Restoration—where the locusts have eaten and devoured your life—God is going to restore, heal, and empower you.

***“So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
The crawling locust,
The consuming locust,
And the chewing locust,***

- There is an available empowering supernatural grace so available to us! We have the mind of Christ and we can know His thoughts and ways by tapping into this Holy Spirit wisdom from God.

26 And My people shall never be put to shame.

27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel:

I am the Lord your God

And there is no other.

My people shall never be put to shame.

- God's empowering grace will bring a new vision and purpose to your life.
- God has given us a message for breaking the power of shame! Shame is being broken over us in new and vital ways.
- ***Romans 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.***
- The power comes from Christ and His Spirit, His empowering grace flowing through your life.
- God is giving the Body of Christ insights and understanding that we did not have just 5 years ago:
 - In spiritual warfare
 - In the power of the Holy Spirit
 - In being wholehearted worshippers and warriors
 - In parenting, in family life, in our jobs
 - In shame, power to rule over shame
- The purpose of this restoration will be that "you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the Lord your God, and there is no other."
- **God's supernatural restoration of the lives of Jesus disciples will be a testimony to the nations of the love, power and presence of God.**

Vs. 28

***“And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;***

5) In the Latter Days Church, there will be an Outpouring of the Spirit

“The Holy Spirit has long been the Cinderella of the Trinity. The other two sisters may have gone to the theological ball; the Holy Spirit got left behind every time.”
Alistair McGrath

A Spirit-empowered church is a dependent church. At its core, a Spirit empowered church is consciously aware of its dependence upon the Holy Spirit to work in the church and through the church.

Jesus even told his disciples not to move, not to plant, not to do ministry until they were filled and empowered with the Holy Spirit.

- We are living in the Age of the Church; Age of the Word and Spirit.
- Even as we observe the rise of Satanic power, “The Empowered Last Days Church” is being raised up for the final chapter in the Great Drama of the Ages.
- The Holy Spirit is being poured out on all flesh—not just prophets, priests, and kings.
- You can have all of the Spirit now! You can be as anointed and empowered with the Spirit as you desire! There are no limits to God’s power in your life.
- 1 Corinthians 12-14 and Romans 12 are given to guide us in spiritual gifts that are poured out on anyone and everyone who longs for more.
- The Road is a Word and Spirit Church: Word-rooted, Spirit-empowered, disciple-building, shame-breaking, wholehearted church!
- We believe in all the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Ex. Many churches want to be culturally relevant. I want to be biblically relevant. I want our lives to reflect the lifestyle of the book of Acts.

- The church in Acts changed the world because they:
 - o Out-prayed
 - o Out-lived
 - o Out-loved
 - o Out-worked

... The world systems. I don't care much about being culturally relevant. I want us to be Kingdom of God empowered.

- The early church never even thought about relevance, they sought in fasting and prayer for God's anointing from the Holy Spirit.

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

6) The 6th Mark of the Latter Days Church will be an Outpouring of the Spirit resulting in a Prophetic Lifestyle

- “sons and daughters shall prophesy”
- even children are going to be hearing from the Lord, new revelation and insights that go beyond their field of experience.

There is a lot of confusion on this topic and next week we will cover this in greater detail, but suffice to say ...

- There is a lot of confusion on this topic and next week we will cover this in greater detail.
 - o Cessationist View—the only prophetic words are those preached from the pulpit each week. The only way we can hear from God is through His Word. When the 66 books of the Canon were closed, finished, and finalized, all personal prophecy stopped.
 - o Continuists View—that's us! That's Acts 2 and Joel 2—the Latter Days Church! That's what we believe at The Road. We believe that the power, gifts, anointings of the New Testament are continuing today.
- Lets begin this discussion by realizing that Old Testament prophecy and New Testament prophecy are very different.

- OT Prophets spoke the very words of God, and their prophecies became Scripture. OT prophets spoke and wrote with authority straight from God—Isaiah, Jeremiah, Nehemiah, and Daniel were prophets who spoke and wrote the very words of God.
- NT apostles carried the authority of OT prophets and their words became our NT scripture. The words written by Peter, Paul, and John became Scripture.
- But, NT prophecy is not the same. We see a change in God's dispensation on prophecy:
 - o The NT Apostle, the Lamb's Twelve had the authority of the OT Prophet.
 - o Upon the death of the Apostles and the closing of the Canon of Scripture, we no longer have men with such authority.
 - o The NT is clear. God still uses the prophetic gift and prophecy. 1 Corinthians 12 and 14, and Romans 12 speak of the gift of prophecy. It is most clear in our passage today.
 - o We have the Word of God now and only the Bible is inerrant and infallible—All prophetic words are judged by the Scriptures. I don't use the word "prophet" but rather "prophetically-gifted people." Prophecy today doesn't carry the authority of the OT prophets, but there is a very practical nature to NT prophecy.
 - o But what is prophecy that Joel is speaking of? What does Peter mean here in verse 17? Why did he say this?
 - o NT prophecy, spoken of here, might be defined best by imminent theologian, Wayne Grudem, as "speaking human words to report something God brings to mind."