



## *HOW TO INVITE THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO A NATIONAL RECKONING*

Pastor Mark Driscoll

Joel | August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Sermon Link:

<https://realfaith.com/sermons/how-to-invite-the-holy-spirit-into-a-national-reckoning/>

Who's ready for a sermon you guys ready to go let's do this hey if you're new my name is Mark one of the pastors here we're in an Old Testament book of the Bible called Joel and right here as I was we're in Chapter 2 if you want to find that place in the Book of Joel but as I was just standing here praying for you I I just had a thought to share and that is this is a day of unprecedented distraction I don't know about you all there's a lot of news but there's not a lot of good news um you can just wake up every day and be wondering where are we going economically where are we going socially where are we going politically what does the future hold for us as a people what does the election bear for us as a nation and there can be an overwhelming amount of information that causes profound anxiety i' I'd like to shift the focus and I'd like to just ask you a question to be honest about how are you doing and and how's your relationship with God how are you and God doing I don't know about you things between you and the economy may not be great things between you and interest rates may not be great uh things between you and your boss may not be great things between you and your political party may not be great things between you and the other political party are definitely not great but what I care about because I care about you and I'm a pastor is I want you to be good and I want you to be good with God and this is going to be one of those super practical sermons that wants to sort of remove everything for just a moment and just have you and God sort some things out and our relationship with God is like any relationship in every relationship at some point we've all blown it amen we've said or done something stupid we have broken the relationship we have broken trust we have blown it and damaged the relationship can we all just confess that we have done that okay and if you're single it's called marriage okay so we all do this now what happens in our human relationships when we sin when we break trust when we blow it there can be a lot of anxiety do I go admit this to the person do I confess it do I repent of it do I apologize for it and the anxiety is I'm not sure how they're going to respond we've all had these moments in life where we say I'm sorry here's exactly what I said or did and it's my fault and someone cuts us off and says then you're dead to me and the relationship is over we've had other times where people take that information that is private and they make it public and now they invite everyone in and now family and friends know and that only makes it worse some of us have been responded to with bitterness and Vengeance well I'm going to punish you you're going to pay me back I'm never going to let you forget this this is going to be between us going forward and you live under that burden of Vengeance and bitterness as well some people just determined that ultimately they're going to do what very few people do they're going to love you they're going to forgive you they're going to put Grace on it and they're going to give time to rebuild trust and they are not going to continually bring it up and they're not going to hold it against you and they're not going to make your worst day be the template for every future day that's what happens in relationships and and what I want you to know is today as we get into Joel 2 it's a case study about our relationship with God it's a group of people that have blown it they have sinned against God and their personal sinning has caused a national Reckoning it reached the point where not only were the unbelievers sinning against God rebelling defying disregarding disobeying then all of a sudden the people that are in the church that are supposed to be God's people they look look

like everybody else in the world their behavior is no better their sinning as well God is very patient he waits a long time just like he does with us and eventually says today we begin the consequences and that's called a reckoning and because of personal sinning there was National Reckoning I do believe in God's prophetic timeline that that is exactly where we find ourselves as a nation I believe that God has been incredibly patient and I believe that not only have people outside of the church been in Rebellion against God even those who would say they are believers in some Churches and some denominations and some pastors are just defying the word of God and they are disregarding the will of God and now there's a bit of a reckoning that has begun there's consequence in their day it was an invasion of locust we looked at in Joel chapter 1 this decimated their economy it ruined their food inventory it destroyed their political environment and it brought the nation to its knees now people outside of the church had no idea what to do just like today people outside of the church have no idea what to do the people in the church got together and they had a leader named Joel he's the guy who writes The Book of Joel and he calls a church meeting he calls it a sacred assembly and he tells the people hey we have a god-sized problem we can blame it on interest rates in the economy and we could elect a new leader but unless we repent and God blesses us nothing is going to change cuz this isn't going to be solved politically or economically this has to be resolved spiritually God has a problem with us because we've been rebellious against him so Joel calls the church to repentance and they repent they repent now what we're going to see is God's response and what's so encouraging is God is the same yesterday today and forever God doesn't change so how he responds to them would be exactly how he would respond to you and us if we would come to him owning recognizing repenting of apologizing for our own sin we don't have to guess what God will be like because God repeatedly reveals to us exactly what he's like you ready to go Joel chapter 2 beginning in verse 18 then the Lord became jealous for his land and he had what's the beautiful word pity on his people they're brokenhearted their economy is destroyed their nation is in Ruins the people are in anxiety and God says I have pity for you the Lord answered and said to his people behold I'm sending to you grain wine or if you're a Baptist grape juice and oil and be satisfied and I will no uh no more make you a reproach among the Nations I will remove the northerner from you and drive him into a parched and desolate land his Vanguard into the Eastern Sea and his rear guard into into the Western sea the stench and the foul smell of him will rise for he has done great things here's what God says all of your problems I'm removing them what an amazing day that would be yeah and God here is being very forgiving because they've repented couple of things I want you to know there is a lie that God does not forgive you need to know this outside of Christianity the god of other religions as a general rule is not a forgiving God if you do something wrong you need to suffer or work or give to pay God back he doesn't forgive you've got to earn it in addition many Eastern religions they have this concept of Karma for every bad thing you do you need to reincarnate come back in a future life and suffer to pay God back there's no forgiving in Christianity our God is a forgiving God he just is the other lie that is commonly told is the god forgives everyone everyone's forgiven you hear this all the time they died and went to a better place not everyone does well I'm sure it'll all work out in the end that's

not what always happens our God is a forgiving God but not everyone gets forgiven by God because we sin against God and he forgives some of us you ask the question it's a good question how do you get God to forgive you and the answer is do what they did repent stand before a holy righteous and good God and say I'm the problem not the solution um I may be better than some people but I'm not the person you've created me to be here's my false flaws and failures here's the things that I have done to not only cause pain to myself others but also to you and I'm sorry okay and just own it and as soon as we repent then God responds with forgiveness it said previously in chap chap 2 of Joel um that God um was really frustrated with them and he brought upon consequences for them and there was there was punishment for them and there was chastisement for them for some of you you're feeling that right now there's something in your life that's painful it's hard it's arduous it's difficult and it may not be that God is punishing you but God is warning you that the direction you're going the life that you're living the beliefs and behaviors may be an offense to God and may be using a little bit of pain right now to get your attention and and let me say this when you're feeling pain in your life when you're feeling anxiety in your life when you're feeling loss in your life it's a good time to examine your life and it may not always be the case but to treat the word of God like a mirror and ask okay is there anything that I need to see that God is trying to get my attention and sometimes we're blind to our own blind spots sometimes it's really good to grab another person that loves the Lord and loves you and ask is there anything that I'm not seeing is there anything in my life that I'm not dealing with that I'm not owning before God is there anything that is causing the stress or struggle or Strife in my life that is created by my decisions and this is God's way of getting my attention not because he doesn't love me but because he does love me and he wants me to see what is between me and him and the response here is they see it they own it okay I I just feel inclined to the spirit down how many of you get really excited when someone who has a habitual sin or a blind spot sees it and owns it oh you're like finally okay that's you too okay yeah that's the nervous chuckle the person next to you was like I was hoping we were going there yeah cuz they gave me the eye and then I gave them the eye okay again it's called marriage so what happens is when someone sees it you're like okay finally now we can deal with it well they see it so now with God they can deal with it and what's God's response says he had pity it also can be translated compassion now we're going to get to it a little further in the story line of Joel but the God here that is more than 500 years before Jesus Christ entered into human history is also Jesus Christ and when Jesus arrives on the earth there are four books of the Bible telling us the Biographical story of his life Matthew Mark Luke and John they're called the gospels in those four the emotions of Jesus are mentioned around 60 times the number one most common most frequent emotion of Jesus pity or compassion in some translations it's called Uh compassion other times it says quote his heart went out you know what compassion is Jesus is like I have a heart for you my heart is going toward you my heart is going out for you his heart overflowed with compassion I just love that that English translation where it's like Jesus has so much compassion it just spills out it's just overflowing it's like the Holy Spirit pours so much compassion in him it just keeps flowing out to us in addition it says quote he felt sorry for them Jesus looks at us and he knows he is the god

of Joel he knows exactly why we're in the situation we're in you look at some people and say I feel sorry for them they've had a lot of trauma and that's caused them to make some bad decisions and we need to heal that so that they can be better God looks at some people and says they've got a lot of bitterness they've been wounded and hurt and they just need to forgive and heal up and until we deal with that root bitterness boy it's just not going to be good for them Jesus looks at some people and he's like this is generational they've been conditioned this way by their family for a very long time other people he looks at he says they've gotten really bad teaching they don't understand who I am and so they don't understand how to respond to me whatever the case I love it it says he he felt sorry for them he's like I I understand but I'm here to help what I love about the compassion of Jesus is that the compassion of Jesus meets us where we are but loves us too much to allow us to remain where we are yes the problem with compassion in our day it doesn't bring anyone to change or to self-awareness or to repentance or to Improvement and that's not loving someone if you really love someone you want them to get better and you want a better better inversion of them to exist you don't want them to settle for anything less than the fullness of a healed healthy maturing version of them so that they can enjoy God in their life and that the people in their life could also enjoy them for those of you who are here and you are hearing this God is forgiving of the repentant the question is are we are you repentant that's the question for those who are hurting Christians maybe right now you're in that season of Joel one and the beginning of Joel 2 where it feels dark and stressful and anxious and hard and difficult and maybe in addition to Global things and National things and local things there's very personal things you're hurting here's the question is there anything you've done to contribute to the situation you're in see what happens when we're suffering we're really good at blaming have you seen this the truth is usually the pains problems and perils in our life other people have a percentage of responsibility sometimes it's all us but often times it's some of us and some of them and we can get so fixated on them and what they've done that we don't look at us and what we've done and you just need to know that God has compassion for you God has pity for you God loves you Jesus Christ he is infinitely willing to walk with you and and the goal is this friend the goal is not Perfection but progress see as a Christian you need to know that between you and God there's always something Bible calls it sin when you deal with one thing guess what happens next the next thing on the list comes I've been walking with Jesus since I was 19 I have not completed the list it is much longer than I anticipated by the way at 19 I thought surely in 6 months we'll have this all cleared out now at 53 I'm like I can't even see the top of the list okay and God just shows us one thing at a time because he doesn't want to overwhelm and discourage us he's like okay here's the next thing let's deal with that here's the next thing let's deal with that and then suddenly what we find is the sin that separates us from God that list gets shorter and his presence it's very much nearer and our joy is very much stronger and some of you were raised in religious homes where you just you deny that you're a sinner you've got a problem or you've got a struggle or or you grew up in a victim home where you blamed everyone else the best thing you can do is be like you know what if my God is a god of compassion and pity who forgives and I'm a sinner I should just deal with what's next on on

the list cuz I know exactly how he's going to respond to me oh I love you I forgive you I I have compassion for you I will help you I'll never leave you I'll never forsake you I'm not going to attack you I'm not going to shame you I'm not going to betray you I'm going to help you well let's talk about what's next on the list then okay our God is a forgiving God to those who repent for those of you who are non-Christians you may ask well where do I start start with repentance you're a sinner you just are right you just are if you don't believe me ask anyone you know okay anyone do you think I'm perfect and after they hyperventilate from laughing they will say no you were not perfect okay all of our imperfections that's sin right the Bible says be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect so what what we have in our world is a bunch of people who who are trying to justify who they are or have pride for who they are rather than repenting of who they are so that God can change who they are and some of you here today here's the issue you just need to literally God knows your thoughts God knows your heart God knows your mind go God I'm not going to die deny it anymore you're good I'm bad I need help Jesus Saved Me In addition uh God is joyful with the repentant the sermon was getting dark so that we pick it up right here uh Joel 2:21 uh says and uh through 23 fear not Oh Land be glad and rejoice be happy for the Lord has done great things fear not second time he says it you Beasts of the field for the pastures of the Wilderness are green the tree Bears its fruit the Fig Tree and the vine give their full yield be glad oh children of Zion children of God rejoice in the Lord your God for he's given you early Reign for your Vindication he's poured down for you abundant rain the early and the latter rain as before so here's what he's saying for people who are repentant God is joyful with them God brings joy to them God enjoys them I just thought of this it's much easier to enjoy repentant people yeah is that true right if your spouse walks in they're like it was my fault I'm sorry I have no excuse you're like it's going to be a good day T night right going be a good day T night when people are repentant it's a lot easier to enjoy them okay when we repent it's a lot easier for God to enjoy us when you're repentant it's a lot easier for God to enjoy you and so what it tells us is that God is joyful with the repentant two lies again one some would teach that God is not a joyful God some presentations of God even from those who would profess to be Christians are like God is angry he's miserly he's he's judgmental he's wrathful he's he has no Joy about him when we get to heaven it's going to be like an eternal visit to the dentist you know you don't dare say anything cuz you heard there's a fire somewhere and so you know and and some people's view of God it's like he's cheerless and joyless and you can tell when you go into those churches cuz they're cheerless and joyless like every once a while people complain about me telling a joke in a sermon I'm like ah found you you know a cheerless Christian is a spiritless Christian because the fruit of the spirit is joy and so ultimately some will wrongly think that God is not a joyful God and these people will get very we need to be more serious more reverent what's up with the water slides in the Popsicles what's up with that right right here's a popsicle go down the water slide I don't care if you're in your 60s you need it you need it in a big way okay the other wrong-headed view of God or lie about God is that God has joy for everyone forever not everyone has Joy with God forever there's Heaven and Hell Heaven All Joy hell no joy so ultimately it comes down to if you repent you get to have joy with God forever if you don't repent you don't get any Joy with

God forever see this is where God tells us who he is and then we have to be honest about who we are am I repentant or unrepentant the truth is God does give joy to those who are repentant forever and ever in Chapter 2 a little bit earlier to this section I'll just give you a few phrases that Joel uses or I should say the Holy Spirit speaks through his servant Joel to those who are unrepentant tell me if this doesn't sound like Joy tremble darkness and Gloom Blackness fire people are in anguish faces grow pale the day of the Lord is great and very awesome who can endure it that sounds like 2 a.m. in downtown Detroit by yourself no one is joyful okay just just an observation um so that's the people before they repent there's no joy whatsoever again I just I'm kind of verbal processing do you know why our nation has so little Joy why cuz there's so little repentance so little repentance and and for those who do repent here they they call the sacred assembly of church and God we're sorry here's we did no excuse not blaming anyone we're just going to own it here's what he says uses the word green now everything's blossoming again and fruit now life is coming back abundant reain he says be glad rejoice in the Lord Lord your God it's the exact same people early on unrepentant no joy repentant Joy difference same people different heart the most cheerless joyless people are the most unrepentant people and sometimes they're the most religious they're like you need to you need to and you need to and you need to and you're like while we're at it we'd like to talk to you about a few things and what happens is when we repent when we own it here's what happens we stop taking ourselves too seriously and we start taking our god seriously yes usually we don't take god seriously but we take ourselves very seriously repent people are like I screwed up we know we know it's trending online we've all seen it yeah what happened in Vegas didn't stay in Vegas we're all aware of what happened okay but again you see what we're doing we're laughing we're laughing where there's no laughter there's been no repentance where there's no cheer there's been no repentance where there's no joy there's been no repentance now what I love about this he says two times fear not fear not you know why what they just went through was overwhelming how many of you like me we've all if you've been life for more than 15 minutes you've been through it I don't know what your it is but we've all got our it and when you've been through your year your biggest fear is it's going to happen again and it causes fear because pain from the past that is not healed causes fear of the future that the pain is coming again and the result is we become false prophets in our own life it's happening again I like no it's not but I can't I can't go through that again I say it's not coming again okay have you all live there I I've lived there you think well this feels familiar it doesn't mean it's the same thing happening it God says fear not fear not for those of you that have been with me for a while thank you for the honor of teaching you God's word the number one command of the Bible That's repeated more than any command of the Bible fear not fear not fear not fear not fear not fear not fear not fear not fear not you know why cuz we're afraid afraid afraid afraid afraid afraid afraid okay today we would call it anxiety people like I have anxiety what you have is a life on the earth okay and it comes with a free side of anxiety so you've got to figure out how to manage it but what is God doing here he is taking them from a reckoning to a restoration but here's what you need to know it's going to be a process over time some of you are in it right now you repent you come back to the Lord you apologize you tell them you're sorry

you're like everything's not better he's like we're getting there see what had happened in their day the Locust ate everything and it takes a little while for everything to grow back and what he says is I sent the rain things are green we're in the process repentant people need to also be people who accept and respect the process of restoration right if you break trust with your spouse and you repent you're going to have to rebuild some trust you make some bad financial decisions and crater your finances God will bless you but it's going to take a little while to build up your portfolio if you've not stewarded your health well and you've really broken your body and you've got yourself in a bad place you repent and you make changes you're not going to wake up the next day ready to run a triathlon but you're going to enter into a process and God wants us to all be okay with the process what I love here this is a worship song It originally Rhymes this may mean that Joel is a songwriting creative and not only is he calling a church service he calls it a solemn assembly he may be leading them not only in prayer and repentance but in singing and songwriting and I I just feel inclined in the spirit too I know I just got a lot of thoughts going on tonight that I didn't know I was going to share repentant people make the best songwriters they do our church needs the church the capital c church we need more creative Spirit-filled songwriters and Joel does it here because he's repentant he's like I repented the people repented and now not only do we have joy we have new songs to express that Joy that talk not just about the faithfulness of God in general but the faithfulness of God right now so all of a sudden now people are singing the songs and they're rejoicing and joy is multiplying and um I'll just close with one more thought so let me talk to you about Joy um our God the god of the Bible he's a joyful God if you're repentant if you repent you'll experience the presence of a joyful God I think it's Nehemiah 8:10 says the joy of the Lord is our strength you know why so many people are weak and broken they don't have the presence of our joyful God right and he strengthens them God is a joyful God this is going to be a a mind melt for some of you so think of it this way the Bible says that God made us in his image and likeness male and female and everything was good and everyone and everything here's the words of Genesis 1 and 2 was very good you know what that is joyful can you imagine right now if if people are like be 100% honest with me everything in your life how's it going you're like very good okay you laugh you're like yeah not had that day I was looking for it still having found it because what happens next in Genesis 3 Satan shows up sin enters the world everyone and everything gets broken and the joy goes away the joy goes away the joy goes away there was only joy until when friend till we sinned see when you choose sin you reject Joy most people don't know this see the Devil is a great marketer he's like no no if you choose sin you get joy no no no sin and Joy are antithetical if you choose sin you lose Joy so Humanity starting with our first mother father they sin against God there's no joy look at Adam and Eve they're scared hiding arguing blaming s like it's not joyful you don't look in Genesis 3 and be like wow that's when the party started no that's when the funeral started that's when the party ended when we repent we're returning to our joyful God and we get joy in his presence and we get to enjoy him this is why again I feel like this sermon is really prophetic because I'm thinking of all kinds of things that are not in my notes so when Jesus shows up he's he's the god of Jo does he seem a little joyful he's a man of sorrow acquainted with grief and



suffering Isaiah 63:10 uh the shortest scripture is that he wept but does Jesus generally seem to have this profound ability here's what I'm saying does he have this profound ability even though if he has a dark day to return to Joy he does he does says he rejoiced in the spirit in the Gospel of Luke do people come to Jesus lots of people you know why he's enjoyable that's a secret you see somebody or like everyone hangs out with them they're fun just let you know a secret which is not a secret people enjoyed Jesus so guess what they would do they would travel long distances to hang out with him in the middle of nowhere that's a really fun person like usually today we need a band and a stage and a few shots you know and call it Oldtown you know and then and then once we've sort of set up the environment then people can fake Joy Jesus is out in the middle of nowhere with thousands of people who have walked miles just to hang out with him he must be someone they enjoy hanging out with and the religious leaders show up they're like we don't know what's wrong with him nothing you guys are no fun right did Jesus does Jesus have kids run to him let me tell you this I'm a grandpa if you're if you're ever going to be a grandparent here's a little Pro tip be fun you're like I don't know why we don't get more quality time with the grandkids well it's because you're on your phone reading Lamentations listening to Fox News that is not a joyful environment right right that is not a joyful environment right kids are growing up like yeah for Christmas I got trauma okay yeah so you know make it fun okay the I should have prepared anyways people are drawn to Jesus kids run to Jesus you know why they enjoy him they like hanging out with them does Jesus ever get set yeah does do Jesus ever have stress yeah does Jesus ever shed a tear yes does Jesus return to Joy yes the key is this dear friend we're all going to experience sadness grief loss and anxiety but we got to return to Joy you got to return to Joy there's only one healthy version of you and me and that's the version in Joy now we don't need to fake joy and there are times that we will Wander from Joy but we need to return to Joy and he says it here rejoice in your God rejoice in the Lord be glad we're just right in the big idea of Joel 2 um I'll give you an example and and then I'll move to my next point maybe but um I was talking to a friend of mine recently um a man who's in the middle of a really brutal divorce with little kids um really sad horrific traumatic situation I won't overshare but he's got custody of the kids and he's got all these legal battles and emotional battles it's just really unfortunate and tragic and I was talking to him I was like be honest with me how you doing he said I've decided they can take my energy they can take my time and they can take my money but I will not give them my joy I will not give them my joy I said okay that sounds good how do you do that he said uh I start by keeping short accounts with God God where am I being tempted to sin where am I struggling where am I seeking bitterness Vengeance he's like I don't want any of what I'm dealing with with them to get between me and him so he's trying to repent and keep short accounts and every day he's like I'm looking for Joy I'm rejoicing when I see the presence and provision of God he said I'm just choosing every day that I'm going to enjoy the Lord I'm not going to lose my joy and when I come home they're going to have a joyful dad that they enjoy yes okay that's the Return To Joy our God is a forgiving God to those who are repentant our God is a joyful god with those who are repented and uh God is a generous God to those who repent he's generous Joel 2:24 uh it says the threshing

floor shall be full of grain at this point they got no grain the vat shall overflow with wine and oil at this point they got nothing I will restore to you the years that the swarming Locust is Eden the hopper the Destroyer the cutter the great Army which I sent among you and you shall eat in plenty everyday's Thanksgiving and be satisfied and praise the name of the Lord your God who has dealt wondrously with you and my people shall never again be put to shame you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel and that I am the Lord your God and there is none else and my people shall never again be put to shame what he says is this if you repent rep to me I'll be generous with you I just feel inclined in the spirit to just say this to parents when your kids repent to you be generous to them be generous to them otherwise you're going to break their spirit and you're not treating them the way your God treats you sometimes parents are kids are like okay here's what I did they're like are you so yeah I'm sorry I no excuse I feel bad you know I was wrong please forgive me okay well then I'm going to punish you there's going to be some sort of painful no no be generous right pour Grace on repentance so that in the future they'll keep repenting again two lies one that God is Not generous God is Not generous some people their view of God is that he is miserly that he is lacking that he is a God who only takes and never gives that is not our God and the second error is somehow that God owes us this is what a lot of people think that God owes us us forgiveness God owes us salvation God owes us eternal life God owes us Heaven God owes us nothing again I'll just verbal process with you we had a statement the kids came up with it when they were little and the statement in our house was it's better than hell okay I'll explain the better than hell so every time the kids got something that they weren't that excited about one of their kids would be like it's better than hell uh so it's like what do we have for dinner mom spaghetti I don't want spaghetti spaghetti's better than hell it is spaghetti is far better than hell you got to go to bed early tonight you got to test tomorrow I don't want to go to bed early at least your bed's not on fire it's better than hell so this was the running joke in our house and we so the kids kind of we made a little fun out of it but it was an attitude of gratitude like if I got what I deserved I would get nothing but punishment and consequence that means everything that I get must be a gift okay so it's not that God isn't generous but also God doesn't owe anybody anything God owes us nothing and we should be grateful for everything that he has given us and what he's talking about here is they've just come out of a season and here's his language it's just so insightful he says they have quote been put to shame okay how many of you you've been in a season or you're in a season where you've been put to shame okay we've all we've all been there right you could tell those people like they can't they don't these are the people that don't make eye contact they just be like tell me what happened they're like I don't know it's complicated I don't know you you call text or email you're like they're not getting back to me I love you what's I know something's going on I don't want to talk about it it's just put to shame put to shame we've all been there right some of you there right now and I'm sorry for that but this will be God's prophetic word to you what God says is well come meet with me and repent of whatever your part and participation was I'm gonna take away that shame I'm G take it away and I'm not going to put you to shame God's Not Gonna it's not going to condemn you every day you did that you did that no that would be Satan the accuser of the children of God

Revelation 12 who accuses them day and night God's not going to put you to shame because you already put your shame on Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit reminds me in Hebrews it says he endured the cross scorning its shame see Jesus doesn't just forgive our sin when we repent he also takes our shame when we repent so that we don't have to carry it okay and some of you have been put to shame I I don't know who this is for just like I'm supposed to say it some of you have been abused some of you have been cheated on some of you have been traumatized some of you have been sexually assaulted and you're like I have been put to shame not just by what you've done but by what someone else has done to you and I am so as your pastor I love you I'm devastated for that and and and right now I can just I can sense a a tightness in your chest that it's like don't don't talk about that I don't want to deal with that that is in the past I've moved on I'm okay it's I don't want to talk about that that's shameful that's embarrassing that that that's that's not what I want to think about right now here's what God is saying I'm here to I'm here to take that off you that that was on Jesus my son when he went to the Cross he carried your sin and your shame not only your sins but the sins that others committed against you and the shame that that brought on you and when he died he died to not only take your sin but also to put to death your shame and he he's never going to put you to shame your God will never put you to shame as long as you repent and that's being honest about whatever you've done and also being honest about whatever they did so that the Lord could heal you because he loves you because he cares about you because you're precious to him because he came to rescue you because he has great affection for you because he has compassion and and pity for you because his heart goes out to you because you need him and because he alone is the one who can take the shame man it whoever needed that just receive that see we're not here just to go to church but to go to God and what he says is uh he'll restore the years the the Locust have eaten again it's going to be a process their food isn't all going to grow back tomorrow but some of you need to know that God will take your sin and he'll take your shame and he wants to restore everything that has been taken from you for some of you this is years of your life or dollars in your account or joy joy in your days that he wants to restore that he wants to return that and and and all of a sudden you can just can you can you sense it in the room friend yes there's hope oh there is a God he's good and there is a hope yes yes for those who meet with this God um let me hit two things let me just I just feel like I need to pray there and then then then then deal with the next section uh Holy Spirit we invite you into this meeting we call this a sacred assembly in Jesus' name this is the house of the Lord Jesus Christ Christ these are his people this is his Pulpit this is his word Holy Spirit we invite you now for those who who need to come to Faith that they would repent of sin and receive you I pray that they would do so right now Lord and that the change process would begin right now in Jesus name God for those who are prodigals that have wandered off as the people in Joel did I pray that right now they would run back and return and repent and that they would be restored and refreshed and uh God for those that have been carrying ship and and this haunting line regarding people who have been quote put to shame that Holy Spirit we ask right now in the strong name of Jesus Christ because of the triumphant victory of Jesus Christ because of the Resurrection victory of Jesus Christ who went to the cross and scorned our shame we ask that

right now in Jesus' name you would lift that shame that you would unburden those people that you would heal their hurts that you would encourage their future and that when they leave here they would leave it here in Jesus' name amen um Joel continues when repentance goes up here's the good news the Holy Spirit comes down Joel 2 28-32 and it shall come to pass afterward someday in the future this is a prophecy I will pour out my spirit the Holy Spirit on All Flesh your sons and daughters shall prophesy your old men whoop whoop shall dream dreams and your young men shall see Visions young men we need you to have vision for your future and we need you to have a vision for your future with the Lord even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my spirit and I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth blood and fire and Columns of smoke the sun shall be turned to Darkness the moon to blood that's usually a lunar eclipse before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes the theme of Joel is the day of the Lord the day of Jesus Christ's second coming as king of kings and Lord of lords to empty Graves and to sentence everyone to Heaven or Hell forever and it shall come to pass that everyone everyone no one who calls on the name of the Lord will not be saved everyone who calls on the name of the Lord and that's the name of our Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who Escape as the Lord has said and among the survivors shall be Those whom the Lord calls this is prophecy and what he's saying is repentance has gone up and now grace and mercy and forgiveness and compassion and generosity is coming down but someday in the future there is coming another day where God will pour out the Holy Spirit on the church his sons and daughters to fill and appoint his people for a global mission to tell the Nations about the second coming of Jesus Christ before it is too late to turn from sin and trust in him because all who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved now over 500 years years later a Man shows up named Jesus Christ and he is the beginning of the Fulfillment of the prophetic word of spirit filled living He is conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit his name Jesus Christ Christ means anointed in the power of the Holy Spirit Luke's gospel I wrote a whole book on this called Spirit-filled Jesus that that he was filled with the spirit he was led by the spirit he rejoiced in the spirit he begins his public Ministry open Isaiah and he reads this section of that scroll the spirit of the Lord is upon me he fulfills it all of Jesus' life is what an anointed Supernatural Spirit-filled life looks like and Jesus lives without any sin by the power of the Holy Spirit he goes to the Cross he substitutes himself he suffers and dies in our place for our sins as our Savior by the power of the Holy Spirit he is murdered he is buried and and 3 days later the Bible says that he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus then proved himself to be alive and he ascended into heaven and his followers were wondering what now thank you for asking we pick up the story in Acts chapter 1 and 2 he Jesus presented himself alive to them after suffering by many proofs this is post-resurrection verification of his defeat of death appearing to them during 40 days and speaking about the kingdom of God while he was staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem but to wait for the promise you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit when the day of Pentecost arrived Jewish holiday the first believers they were all together in one place and suddenly there came from Heaven this is from God to us a sound like a mighty rushing wind and it filled the

entire house where they were sitting and divided tongues of fire appeared on them and rested on each of them and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance let me just hit this briefly two things the spiritual Supernatural gift of tongues is either being able to speak an Earthly language that you don't know Jesus is like I love you I love them you know me they don't know me I'm going to speak through through you to them with a language that they know that you don't know the other version of tongues it's a Heavenly language Paul says in Corinthians that there is the the tongue which means language of angels just like America has a language and languages Heaven has a language it's the language of the angels and and Paul talks about praying and singing in the spirit that's where the spirit of God is connecting you to The Departed Saints and the Divine beings in God's presence and and this and and the first is public and the second is private the first is public for you to speak the boldness of Jesus to others the second is to blessing to build up you and your personal quiet time and intimacy with the Lord and they're experiencing all of this and the story continues but Peter here comes the sermon this is my favorite part I like the sermon but Peter because here's what happens things happen and then the preacher needs to explain what God is doing he that's my job but Peter standing with the 11 lifted up his voice and addressed them this what was uttered through the prophet Joel Joel is one of the least preached and read books in the whole Bible thankfully maybe that morning in his quiet time Peter's like I don't know why I just feel led to Joel later he's like that was handy right cuz now what Joel was promising is happening they've been waiting for more than 500 years and in the the last days the last days of the days between the first and second coming of Jesus Christ we're in the last days friends it shall be God declares that I will pour out my spirit on All Flesh on your sons and daughters shall prophesy your young men shall see Visions your old men shall dream dreams even on my male and female servants in those days I will pour out my spirit and they shall prophesy I believe that this is boldly proclaiming the word of God and God giving revelatory insight for the moment that agrees with his word and I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below blood and fire and Vapor of smoke the sun shall be turned to Darkness and the moon to blood before the day of the Lord comes the great and mag magificent day that's the theme of Joel the day of the Lord and it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved the promise of Joel is fulfilled in its first Inception at the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost to birth and launch the church and the Holy Spirit has been he has been at work on the earth now for more than 2,000 years since acts and more than 2 and a half thousand years since Joel and here we are today what are we doing here we're part of the flow of the Holy Spirit The Church of Jesus Christ is the biggest movement of any sort or kind in the history of the world Nations come and go leaders come and go and the Church of Jesus Christ Marches On from Nation to Nation from generation to generation what sustains Jesus is the same powerful presence of the anointing of the pouring out of the holy spirit of God we are here as evidence that this prophecy is true and we are part of its fulfillment let me just close with this some of you don't feel the the flow of the holy spirit in your life I don't feel it it doesn't speak to me nothing's changing I don't know I don't know what's happening can I can I share a a fun story since it got a

little intense I'm talk about my grandkids because that's what grandpas do so I'd like to live in the flow of the holy spirit said he'd be poured out that's an unending flow well let me bring the band up at this time I feel like we should sing so recently with my two grandsons one's one the other's almost one one they're so fun they're awesome I introduced them to the hose the hose they didn't they're like what are we doing Grandpa okay this is going to change your life okay because when they're little they're inter turning to mature into a pressure washer which if you're a man that's a life-changing moment the pressure washing is one of the most profound joys of an adult man's life it's so little effort for so much change I wish I could pressure wash everyone okay so what so so I've got the hose and and and with each of the boys separately I put the nozzle on I was like okay little buddy right pull the trigger every time they're like oh my gosh and with both boys this AC happened they started getting excited they Kink the hose they're looking at me like okay Grandpa what happened well you just got to get the kink out of the hose okay here here's Grandpa's little story I love you thanks for letting me be your grandpa some of you got a kink in your hose you got done to repent and sin you're like yeah I didn't apologize for that I did know him that he's talked to me about that 27 times you know I'm still dating them you know gotcha okay right yeah yeah here's my question right like it says he he says I will pour out my spirit you're like I don't see the flow repent of your sin and get rid of the Kink and the host would you do that I love you not here to shame you I'm here to help you I want you to live in the flow of the Holy Spirit I want I want your family to live the flow of the Holy Spirit I want our church to live in the flow of the Holy Spirit and according to what Joel's saying the the sin is what kicks up the host so that it can't flow but as soon as we repent the flow begins so let's just do that right now let's meet with him and let's repent to him everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved Lord thank you for that hallelujah thank you that everyone who comes to you right now and repents they're going to be saved from Death they're going to be saved from hell they're going to be saved from sin they're going to be saved from cheerless and joyless Christianity they're going to be saved from being the kind of person who never smiles and has others running to enjoy them they're going to be safe from misery they're going to be safe from Fear they're going to be safe from Doom because they're being saved by Jesus and holy spirit we invite you to pour out on them right now.