

2026 Week of Prayer and Practice (Conclusion)

Acts 2:17-21; Joel 2:28-32

Divine Power activates Dreaming and Discernment

vs. 16, Peter is connecting the events of Pentecost with the words of Joel and calling them “last day” events.

Luke is documenting Peter’s explanation. He is also giving a Greek summary of a Jewish speech.

- The age of fulfillment has come.
- It has come through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- Jesus is exalted (ascended).
- The Holy Spirit is the sign of the churches power.
- The “last days” will conclude at the return of Jesus.
- God has provided a means for relationship in the giving of his son. Forgiveness is available for the repentant. The Holy Spirit is a powerful gift. And the promises of God are guaranteed.

Starting Line -> Pentecost (coming of the HS)

Finish Line -> Day of the Lord (era of righteousness)

Numbers 11:29 But Moses asked him, “Are you jealous on my account? If only all the Lord’s people were prophets and the Lord would place his Spirit on them!

Peter utilizes what was spoken to Joel and boldly declares, all God’s people are now to be empowered as end-time prophets for Christ.

vs. 17, I will pour out my Spirit

All inclusive concerning those who call on the name of the Lord.

- Men and women
- Old and young
- Every social and economic status

Prophecy -> declaring the acts of God. Spirit enabled insight, wisdom, & discernment concerning God’s direction and plan.

ALL of God’s people will have access to his power through the Holy Spirit. He will use ALL!

Image and reality -> the prophets of the OT were characterized by dreaming dreams and seeing visions. The book of Acts is full of examples of this type of activity.

Why?

Because this is what characterizes a people empowered by the Holy Spirit.

This is the activity of the church!

vs. 18, Don’t miss what Peter does in quoting (Joel 2:28-32)

- **vs. 29**, I will even pour out my Spirit on the male and female slaves in those days.

My servants -> A slight change given to Joel’s prophesy.

Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them over and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions act as tyrants over them. **26** It must not be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, **27** and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave; **28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

In God’s kingdom the values of power and privilege are turned upside down.

Why pray? Why engage in spiritual practices? Why create habits that make the things of this world less and less alluring and the things of heaven (the kingdom) more glorious?

The nations rage

Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now.

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons,

2 Timothy 3:1 But know this: Hard times will come in the last days.

2 Peter 3:3 Above all, be aware of this: Scoffers will come in the last days scoffing and following their own evil desires,

But God...

Hebrews 1:2 In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him.

Question: How are we participating in the communal activity of the church as end-time prophets?

Remember: Divine Power - what is accomplished by your words and actions that cannot possibly be explained by your efforts and talents (Dallas Willard).

Philippians 4:8 Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy—dwell on these things. **9** Do what you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Jesus centrality / Spirit Saturation / Godly Gaze (Psalm 27:4)

vs. 19-21, Salvation is needed. Judgement is coming.

The day of the Lord - the eschatological clock is ticking.

1 Corinthians 1:8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6, 10 I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. **10** so that you may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ,

Philippians 2:16 by holding firm to the word of life. Then I can boast in the day of Christ that I didn't run or labor for nothing.

1 Thessalonians 5:2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief; on that day the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, the elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and the works on it will be disclosed.

NO other name than the name of Jesus (Philippians 2:9-11). He alone is our salvation!

Acts 2:39 For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

God will transcend all cultural Barriers to reach all peoples. The Spirit of God will be poured out on everyone who will call on his name.

Question: Are you a trustworthy tool in the toolbox of the Spirit? Is humility and tenderness toward others your mode of operation? Does the kingdom have your heart more than your personal accomplishments, self absorption, and the desire for others to take notice?