

“The Spirit and The Kingdom”

The intention of my message this morning is for us to draw near to God with fresh desire to know, love and serve Him. To know Him is to love Him, and to love Him is to obey Him. Let's observe His generous nature: **Ezek. 36:26-27 NKJV** *“I will give you a **new heart** and put a **new spirit** within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”* God, in His graciousness, promises to give His precious Holy Spirit to a people wholly undeserving of such lovingkindness. **God's grace seen to Israel:**

In **Ezek. 36:16 NKJV** it says, *“Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 17. “Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own ways and deeds; to Me their way was like the uncleanness of a woman in her customary impurity. 18. Therefore I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols with which they had defiled it. 19. So I scattered them among the nations and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds.” 22. “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. 23. And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord,” says the Lord God, “when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. 24. For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. 25. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.”* Have we taken the Lord's Holy Spirit for granted? **By His blood** He took **us** from

among nations & **by His Spirit** He brought us into our own promised land in Christ Jesus! He gave us a **new heart** & a **new spirit** like His!! **SFLB note on vv. 26-27:** “This **new heart** will be pliable and teachable,

the opposite of a stone heart. **New spirit:** Transformation of the will and spirit is necessary as the second step in renewal. ...The human will and the whole inner life are involved in the renewal. A new will and a new attitude of spirit enable the individual to walk in God’s statutes and keep His judgments.” This time of fasting & prayer is for the pursuit of renewal in our walk with the Lord. Like ships at sea, we pick up soulish barnacles which slow our lives down, making us less efficient, self focused & lethargic. On top of that, life is daily presenting us with challenges & trials that necessitate a more intimate pursuit of the King of kings & Lord of lords. Let’s let **King David’s life** speak to us today:

Psalm 11 is King David’s “Song of the Steadfast” In **Psalm 11:1-3 TPT** David is lamenting the fact that he is surrounded by troubles with enemies and circumstances, and he would like to **flee!** *“Lord, don’t you hear what my well-meaning friends keep saying to me: “Run away while you can! Fly away like a bird to hide in the mountains for safety. For your enemies have prepared a trap for you! They plan to destroy you with their slander and deceitful lies. Can’t you see them hiding in their place of darkness and shadows? They’re set against you and all those who live upright lives.”*

David’s psalm applies to all of us who would live godly in Christ Jesus. **Dutch Sheets** on **“Give Him 15”** the other day posted a prayer for protection for our nation’s waterways, which may be attacked in order to disrupt commerce, or the Hoover Dam to disrupt energy supplies. **Facebook** didn’t like the tone of it & blocked his **Give Him 15** post. They didn’t like the fact that he was praying for safety for our nation, probably labeling it as fear-mongering!

Psa. 11:3 is very telling for the America we live in today. *What can the righteous accomplish when truth's pillars are destroyed and law and order collapse?*" Do you see the reason that lies are spread in media & government, & law & order are viciously under attack (southern border)? It's to prevent the righteous from accomplishing God's will for America! So what are we followers of Jesus Christ to do? **Read on & be encouraged.**

V. 4 This is reality! Notice the comparison between what is unshakeable (God's Kingdom) and what can be shaken: "Yet the Eternal One is never shaken – *He is still found in His temple of holiness, reigning as Lord and King over all. He is closely watching everything that happens. And with a glance, His eyes (Heb. "eyelids") examine every heart. For His heavenly rule will prevail over all. 5. He will test both the righteous and the wicked exposing each heart. God's very soul detests those who love to resort to violence.*" Be prepared in this new season, for you have either just gone through a testing year, as Jane Hamon says 2023 was for her, or you are about to be tested in 2024. Don't resort to self-indulgence when you've been wronged. Do as **Eph. 5:18-19 TPT** says, "*And don't get drunk with wine, which is rebellion; instead be filled with the fullness of the Holy Spirit (or "be inebriated in the Spirit's fullness").* 19a. And all your hearts will overflow with a joyful song to the Lord Jehovah."

Psa. 11:6-7 TPT "*He will rain down upon them [the wicked] judgment for their sins. A scorching wind will be their portion and lot in life. 7. But remember this: the Righteous Lord loves what is right and just, and every godly one will come into His presence and gaze upon His face.*" Though evil may seem to go unseen & unpunished, the Psalms teach that God does indeed see and eventually punish all evil. But will the righteous remain loyal & true to God's just ways when evil appears to triumph? Or when reward is delayed? This is the test of patience & faith of a righteous person.

From **The Voice of the Martyrs** book, Whom Shall I Fear, these words were penned by Richard Wurmbrand, who, while he “endured brutal treatment in prison, ... feared God and praised His glorious name. He wrote: “One great lesson arose from all the beatings, tortures, and butchery of the Communists: *that the spirit is master of the body. We felt the torture, but it often seemed as something distant and far removed from the spirit, which was lost in the glory of Christ and His presence with us.*” So let’s also speak of God to others with utmost reverence, not because we are afraid of Him, but because His glory inspires our awe of Him.

Fearless Faith

In dealing with fear this year, let’s remember Who God is to us! **Psa. 27:1-3 TPT** “*The Lord is my **revelation light** to guide me along the way; He’s the source of my **salvation** to defend me every day. I fear no one! I’ll never turn back and run from you, Lord; surround and protect me. 2. When evil ones come to destroy me, they will be the ones who turn back. 3. My heart will not be afraid even if an army rises to attack. I know that You are there for me, so I will not be shaken.*” Let’s declare these truths often, for God’s **strength, light & salvation** lessen our need for fear! “***I fear no one!***”

Let’s Hear the Heavenly Voice

Heb. 12:25-29 NKJV “*See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, 26. Whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake (will shake) not only the earth, but also heaven.” 27. Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28. Therefore, since we are receiving **a kingdom** which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 29. For our God is a consuming fire.”*

Remember Who the Lord is to us, worship Him, & freely serve Him!

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Luke 12:32 KJV *“Fear not little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”*