

- In 2000, Ray Ortlund wrote, *When God Comes to Church*, in which he said, “The world does not perceive us as a potent spiritual force to be reckoned with but, at most, a block of votes, a demographic collective, a market niche to be manipulated. But it has not always been so” ... A Politico article on Friday, concerning Republican candidates vying for the votes of evangelicals, quoted a Calvin University prof saying, “What matters to evangelicals is they are looking for the best candidate to further their agenda” ... Ortlund further writes, “Until our Lord returns, we will serve by the Spirit’s power as His prophetic presence in this age ... The Christian’s ultimate aim, therefore, is not a normal life but an anointed life. We will have time enough in eternity for ease and security” ... In other words, the days will only get darker as the return of Jesus draws near, so what we truly need, in this moment, is not what can come from DC but what can only come from above, because there remains a task to be finished that can only be accomplished by the Holy Spirit working through His Church
- Days in which the prophet Joel lived were also growing dark as the coming judgment of the Lord drew near ... In 931BC, Kingdom of Israel had split – Israel in N and Judah in S ... Different kings led the nations in different ways ... In 722BC, the N was led into captivity by Assyrians, and in 606BC, Babylonians began taking into captivity the S
- Joel’s prophetic ministry and book comes about 100yrs after the kingdom splits ... Destruction is certainly coming; however, after this, the Lord will do a great work that has never been seen or experienced before – He will pour out His very Spirit upon all people ... And this anointed people will speak and have dreams and visions as only God can produce through them (an anointed ministry, declaring the truth and greatness of God, before an unbelieving world) ... And through this ministry, people from all over will begin to call on the Name of the Lord to be saved – the very ones that the Lord Himself has been pursuing and calling to Himself
- The majority of prophecy in Scripture is a “now and not yet” fulfillment – we see things fulfilled in the NT and yet we know that the greater fulfillment is yet to come ... Fast forward to 30AD – Christ has died upon the cross, taking upon Himself the full judgment and wrath of God for sin, and three days later, Christ rises from the grave victorious ... Thus, we see Christ, in part, fulfilling the day of the Lord, and yet there is coming a time of great judgment upon the world when Christ returns ... We have been living in the last days since that period ... After Jesus rises from the dead, He spends 40 days with disciples and teaching them, and on the day that He ascends into Heaven, He tells them – Acts 1:4,8 ... So, 10 days later, at Pentecost, the promised Holy Spirit falls upon all gathered (120!) ... Peter stands up, “What has happened is what the prophet Joel spoke about long ago, that in the last days, the Lord will pour out His Spirit on all people, and that the Lord will work mightily through His people. So that people will begin to call on the Name of the Lord to be saved.” ... Throughout the rest of Acts we see the Holy Spirit in action, as He brings people to new life, He fills them and empowers them ... We see the importance of having His presence in our lives, as Paul commands those in the church to keep being filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18)
 - Ortlund, “Until our Lord returns, we will serve by the Spirit’s power as His prophetic presence in this age ... The Christian’s ultimate aim, therefore, is not a normal life but an anointed life.” ... Pentecost unleashed the work of the Holy Spirit in and through the Church ... We are still in the days of Joel 2, with the coming of God’s judgment still on the horizon, that is arriving closer with each passing day ... So then, are we about our Father’s business ... Are we desiring of and living from the provision that our Father has for us – which is only received, cultivated, experienced through the Holy Spirit, who brings us to life and sustains us to live ... There’s much the Lord wants to do in and through us, that I know will benefit the people of Celina, our neighbors in unreached places, and ultimately God’s glory
- Who is the Holy Spirit (Gerig) ... Francis Chan in 2009 wrote a book about the Holy Spirit titled, *Forgotten God*, and this title certainly captures a common response from Christians about the Holy Spirit ... He is not a force; He is not merely power ... The Bible uses these descriptions of Him – wind, fire, water, oil, breath, a dove; but He is more than these descriptions ... The Holy Spirit is the 3rd Person of the Trinity; He is God ... He is not ours, rather we are His – we belong to Him, and so our lives are His ... Where He is present, all of the Godhead is fully present (Jo 14:23)

- **His Attributes** ... Holy (not just sinless, but unique and perfect in all ways) ... all powerful, all knowing, ever present, eternal
- **His Personality** ... He has a will to be followed, a presence to be pursued, a power to be manifested, a deity to be worshiped ... He speaks, bears witness, teaches, commands, prays for us, and fellowships with us ... He can be grieved, resisted, insulted, lied to, and profaned
- **In the OT**, the Holy Spirit is seen in creation, He is the breath of God that gives life to mankind ... We see the Spirit coming upon certain people for certain reasons at certain times – Moses ... Bezaleel in building material for the Tabernacle ... Joshua ... the judges of Israel ... King Saul, King David, other kings ... all of the Prophets ... The Spirit would descend upon them, and when the task was over, He would leave ... The Holy Spirit inspired Moses, David, Solomon, and the Prophets to write the OT Scriptures ([Ex34](#), [Deut31](#), [Acts4:25](#), [2Pet1:20-21](#))
- **The Holy Spirit predicted and prepared the arrival of Christ** ... He was the agent by which Mary conceived ... The Spirit set Jesus apart for ministry at His baptism ... The Spirit empowered Jesus to do ministry – casting out of the demons, healing people, performing miracles, raising the dead ... The Holy Spirit is seen in resurrecting Christ
- **In the NT**, the Holy Spirit is again seen inspiring all of the NT authors to write for the church to read, live out, and teach others the truth of Jesus, what He has done, and the life He calls us to live by faith in Him ... The Holy Spirit unites the Church together as a body (a family), and unites us to Christ ... The Holy Spirit brings us to life and faith in Jesus ... He indwells us permanently, and will not be taken from those who continue in the faith, no matter how many times we fall on our faces ... The Holy Spirit transforms us into the image of Christ ... The Spirit grows His fruit within us, which is the life of Christ being lived in us and through us ... The Spirit imparts gifts to us, and He empowers us to use these gifts, for the benefit of building up the Church (locally and globally) ...
- **Tozer**, “If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95% of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the NT church, 95% of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference.” ... The Holy Spirit is not a Person to be ignored nor thought lightly of, but rather He is a Person that no Christian, no church, no mission, can afford not knowing His presence and power