

How the Spirit Leads Us - Part 4

by Zac Poonen

Zac Poonen emphasizes the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers under the New Covenant, highlighting the importance of faith and asking God for His promises.

Duration: 8:57

Scripture: Psalm 51:10, Isaiah 64:8, Ezekiel 36:25-26, Luke 11:13, Acts 1:8, Romans 8:9, Galatians 5:16, James 4:2

Topics: "Holy Spirit", "New Covenant"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of depending on God to fulfill His promises in the New Covenant, contrasting it with the limitations of the Old Covenant. It highlights the need to believe and receive all that God has promised, especially the transformation through the Holy Spirit's indwelling. The message underscores the power and necessity of the Holy Spirit in living a victorious Christian life and the importance of seeking, valuing, and walking in the Spirit to experience God's fullness and blessings.

Transcript

I depend on God to do it for me. Okay? I depend on God to do it for me. Or to say, God is more eager to do it for me than I am to do it myself.

Let me show you an Old Testament verse. Ezekiel and chapter 36. This is speaking about the new covenant.

It didn't happen in Ezekiel's day. Ezekiel was prophesying 500 years before the Day of Pentecost saying, a future day is coming when this will happen to God's people. We're living in that day.

We should be excited. It's like, you know, to use another illustration of Old Covenant and New Covenant, it's like a prisoner who's been so many years in prison and then the time of his imprisonment, he was put 15 years in prison, the 15 years running out, another week he's gonna be out. Can you imagine how excited he is? Hey, another week I'm gonna be out.

That's the difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. The Old Covenant was a prison because you stole, you killed people, you committed adultery, they put you in prison. In prison you don't steal.

You don't commit adultery. You don't murder anybody. That's law.

You know, lock you up in Ten Commandments like a ten-walled house. You can't escape. And you say, I don't do this, I don't do this, I don't do this.

Why? Because you're in a prison. Actually, you can't do all those things. But when you're released and you still don't do all those things, then you know you're coming to the New Covenant.

So this was like a prophecy. The day is coming when all you fellows will be released from the law. Law is like a prison.

You'll be released from that. And if you don't come under grace, you'll do things worse than the unbeliever. But if you do come under grace, your standard will be higher than even when you were in prison.

So he says here, the day is coming. Verse 25, Ezekiel 36, verse 25, I will sprinkle clean water on you. You'll be clean and cleanse you from your filthiness.

Notice this, this is so different from Old Testament. You know this is not Old Testament because he's speaking about an inward cleansing which was not promised in the Old Covenant. And he says, I will do this.

It's something similar to the Lord saying to the Egyptians, Israelites in Egypt, I will deliver you from the land of Egypt. They couldn't do it themselves. But that was external.

And he said, I will bring you into the land of Canaan. They couldn't do it themselves. But it didn't happen because they didn't even trust God for that.

And so just like when God said, I will bring you into Canaan and 600,000 people never got into Canaan because they didn't believe. God said, I'll do it. And they say, no, I'm not sure whether you can do it.

Two people believed and entered in. The same thing happens today. God can say, I will do this for you.

We read that in Hebrews 8. But it may not happen in your life. Or it may happen only partially. For example, the Lord says to you, I will deliver you from Satan's power out of Egypt.

I'll deliver you. I'll forgive you all your sins. You say, Lord, I believe that.

And you're forgiven. Then he says, I will bring you into Canaan. I'll bring you into a life of victory.

And you don't get that part. So that's what happened to those Israelites in the Old Testament. They believed one part.

They didn't believe the other part. The part they believed, they got the benefit of. The part they didn't believe, they didn't get it.

So when the Lord says, I will, please remember, it doesn't happen automatically. You have to take it by faith. It's like if somebody gives you a check.

It could be a check for 100,000 rupees. But you keep it inside your Bible and look at it every day. You're not going to be rich.

You've got to take it to a bank and cash it, credit it to your account. Then it becomes yours. The promises in Scripture are like that.

The multitudes of checks inside here, they lie there. You admire it. You've got to go and say, Lord, that's for me.

You said you'll do it. Do it. You said you will not remember my sins anymore.

I believe it. You don't remember it. Now, Lord, you also said in the same passage in Hebrews 8 that you will write your laws in my mind and heart.

You'll give me a desire to do God's will. You'll give me the ability to do God's will in every area of my life. Do it.

Okay, here it says, I will put a new heart. That's his job. I will put a new spirit within you.

That means he'll change my corrupt spirit. And then I will take away the heart of stone. It's all I will, I will, I will, I will.

That means it's new covenant prophecy. I will give you a heart of soft heart. And then on top of that, after giving me a new spirit, he says, I will put my Holy Spirit within you.

It never happened till the day of Pentecost. Till the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was upon people. Never came within.

That's why Samson had power on the outside to tear lions to pieces. But the lion of lust inside, he didn't have power. If the spirit came within him, he would have power to tear that lion too.

So the answer is the Holy Spirit. Remember this. The great word in the Old Testament was law.

The great word in the New Testament is the Holy Spirit. If you honor the Holy Spirit, if you value the Holy Spirit, if you seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit, baptize the Holy Spirit, immerse in the Holy Spirit, walk in the Spirit, live in the Spirit, you've got the answer. The whole secret of the Apostles, their life and their ministry was the Holy Spirit.

And I fear that many of us who have heard so much about the Holy Spirit still don't value the Holy Spirit sufficiently. And that is the reason why our life is so shallow. God did not intend any one of us to live without the power of the Holy Spirit.

But the thing is you can. I mean electricity is available, but you may not use electricity. You just light a lamp and live at home.

That's your choice. It's like that. The Holy Spirit's available, but you may not want.

See, I saw I accepted Christ. My sins are forgiven. And you accept the substandard, defeated life when God wants you to be an overcomer.

I will put my Spirit within you. And now listen to this wonderful phrase. I wonder if there's a phrase like this in the entire Bible.

What happens when the Spirit is put within us? I will make you walk in my statutes. And automatically you will be very careful to observe all my ordinances. And you will be my people.

And I will be your God. And I will save you from all your uncleanness. Verse 29.

And I will multiply your grain. And I multiply the fruit of the tree. Verse 13.

And what will you do? Verse 31. You'll remember your old evil ways. And you will loathe yourself when you think of your old ways, how you dishonored God.

It's a mark of a man, a wholehearted man. He loathes himself. Like Paul, he says, Oh wretched man that I am.

Like Isaiah, he says, Lord, I'm a man of unclean lips. And now listen to this. You listen to all these wonderful promises.

One more thing. Verse 37. I will let the house of Israel, that's the church today, ask me to do this for them.

I'm waiting for my people to ask me to do this for them. They don't ask me, they don't get it. Did you know that? You know there are a thousand things that God has for you that you won't get if you don't ask for it.

See what Jesus himself said in Luke chapter 11. In Luke chapter 11, Jesus said in verse 13, your heavenly father knows everything you need, but still he waits for you to ask for it. Luke 11 13.

If you being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly father give

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