

## INTRODUCTION

In this last few months, I have needed a hip replacement. During the period of convalescence, the Lord gave me a calling to meditate on the Book of Joel. The sheer amount of time made available to me, with few distractions, enabled this account to be sifted and refined. Sifted to bring to the fore what is the wheat of the Lord's Word, and to drop what is the chaff of my poor thinking. Refined like silver, so each time the reflection of the Master, Jesus, can be seen more and more in its reflection. Much verbose divergent thinking has been jettisoned to give what I pray is a succinct and clear account which will not take up too much of your time to read.

What I realised was that the greatest gift before our eyes in this time is the gift of the Holy Spirit prophesied on the Book of Joel. And the Book of Joel itself is a precious manual of guidance.

It is in following the Book of Joel that the Lord lays out how to make the coming of the Holy Spirit happen. The book tells us how to have a huge outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our organisations, fellowships, churches, communities and nation right now.

This movement does not displace. It sits above the liturgy, ministry and dogma of the denominations. No one is being asked to give up any of these. Instead, we are being encouraged to take part in prayer and service that is amenable to all to act in a spirit of oneness.

I have set out six 'sound or media' bites each taking no more than a minute of your precious time. Please scan these pages before you think, WHY, why bother with this, I'm doing OK.

After reading this account I pray you will think, WHY NOT, why not bring it on!

My role in this, is to be in humble submission to you all. I will just keep presenting the case for the 'Season of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on ALL'. I will be like an impecunious old man, impecunious, not physical poverty, more in the sense that I have no authority or power of my own, except to kindle and keep ablaze the dream of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, amongst you all, especially among our leaders.

The greatest barriers to the Season of the Holy Spirit are ignorance, inertia and pride. Ignorance and inertia are easily overcome for the gentle and humble of heart. Pride is in a league of its own.

The very first thing the Lord tells us to do in the Book of Joel is to turn to Him with ALL our heart, and this addresses our pride. What me, give up my 'cosy club' existence? This involves putting everything on the table and being prepared to leave it there, and it may be the very thing that you hold the dearest in your heart right now. The litmus test of pride is whether you will hesitate in forsaking all to follow Jesus.

But if you do this you will have rest, peace that really all is well, and a joy of knowing you are being 'delighted in' as you 'delight in' God.

You will be a light in our world that darkness cannot overcome.

You will be like salt that touches with love everything with which it comes into contact.

And that is just the start.

For if you have this in your day to day life you are truly blessed, and the beatitudes are not for you but about you.

God's blessings,

John

