

The Outpouring of God's Spirit

Isaiah 44

Introduction

Overview of the chapter:

God promises to pour out His Spirit upon Israel (vv.1-5)

Israel can be confident this will happen, because God has fulfilled every prophecy and promise He's ever made (vv.6-8)

But it's not because of Israel's righteousness that God will pour out His Spirit — Israel has sinned against God by making and worshiping idols (vv.9-20)

So how can a holy God pour His Spirit upon sinful Israel? By redeeming her and forgiving all her sins (vv.21-26).

So the main point of this chapter is that God will pour out His Spirit — vv.1-5.

What is the outpouring of the Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, whose most important job is making the Father and the Son real to us in our experience (John 16:6-7).

When God pours His Spirit upon us, from that point on we move from knowing about God, to knowing and experiencing God personally.

The results: quenched heart-thirst, complete surrender, heartfelt prayer, public witness (vv.3-5).

Every Israelite reading this would have wanted to know when God would do this.

When does God do this?

On the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). And — when anyone trusts Christ (Rom 5:1-4; also Acts 2:38; Gal 3:2; John 7:37-39; Eph 1:13; 2Cor 1:22; 2Cor 3:16-18).

This involves God pouring His love into our hearts.

This is not a one-time event; it recurs again and again.

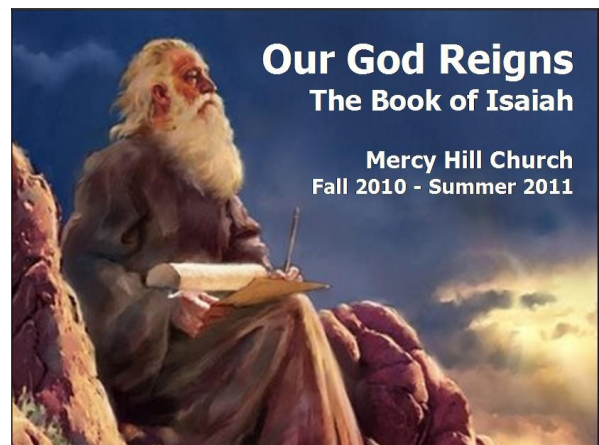
Paul assumes that every believer experiences this.

We seek this by repentance, humble reliance on the Cross, earnest prayer, and meditation on God's Word.

What does this mean for us?

If you are not yet trusting Christ — this is what God will do when you do.

If you are trusting Christ — how earnestly and expectantly have you been seeking God for the outpouring of the Spirit?



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

On a scale of 1 to 10, of 1 means no pursuit and 10 means passionate pursuit, how much have you been pursuing the work of the Spirit in your life?

Before Sunday's teaching, what would you have said the Holy Spirit's job was? What would you now say it was?

Does it make sense that the presence of the Spirit is even better than the presence of Jesus on earth (John 16:6-7)? Why or why not?

What keeps you from earnest and expectant seeking of fresh outpourings of the Spirit?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

