



BETWEEN 6:00 AM—9:00 AM: BAND OF BROTHERS.

Before the Covid locusts wiped out our on-campus ministries in the spring of 2020, a small group of believers and unbelievers met each Sunday night to explore the life and significance of Jesus. We called the class “Top Secret.” (Check out 1 Cor. 2:7.) Dan de Villiers provided thorough and compelling teaching that touched us. What also moved me was his brother John’s ministry. Before Dan opened the Scriptures, John led us in simple, humble worship that directed all the attention onto King Jesus. As he strummed and sang without extra hype or fanfare, we all felt the presence of God.



Let’s start with a song that welcomes God’s ever-present — but not always detectable — Holy Spirit. The song is called “**Holy Spirit.**” The lyrics are below. You can also Google it.

Verse 1
There's nothing worth more that will ever come close
No thing can compare You're our living hope
Your Presence

Verse 2
I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone
In Your Presence Lord

Chorus
Holy Spirit You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory God is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your Presence Lord

Interlude
Your Presence Lord

Interlude
Your Presence Lord
Your Presence
Oh God how we love Your Presence Lord

Bridge
Let us become more aware of Your Presence
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness (Lord)

BETWEEN 9:00 AM—12:00 PM: A DIFFERENT KIND OF DOWNPOUR.

After the inhabitants of the land in Joel’s day humble themselves and cry out for relief from the locusts, God’s heart is moved towards his people. So he promises to drive out the invaders (Joel 2:20). Then, in verse 28, he makes a remarkable promise about a future day when men and women would be driven from within to speak bold and true words for God:

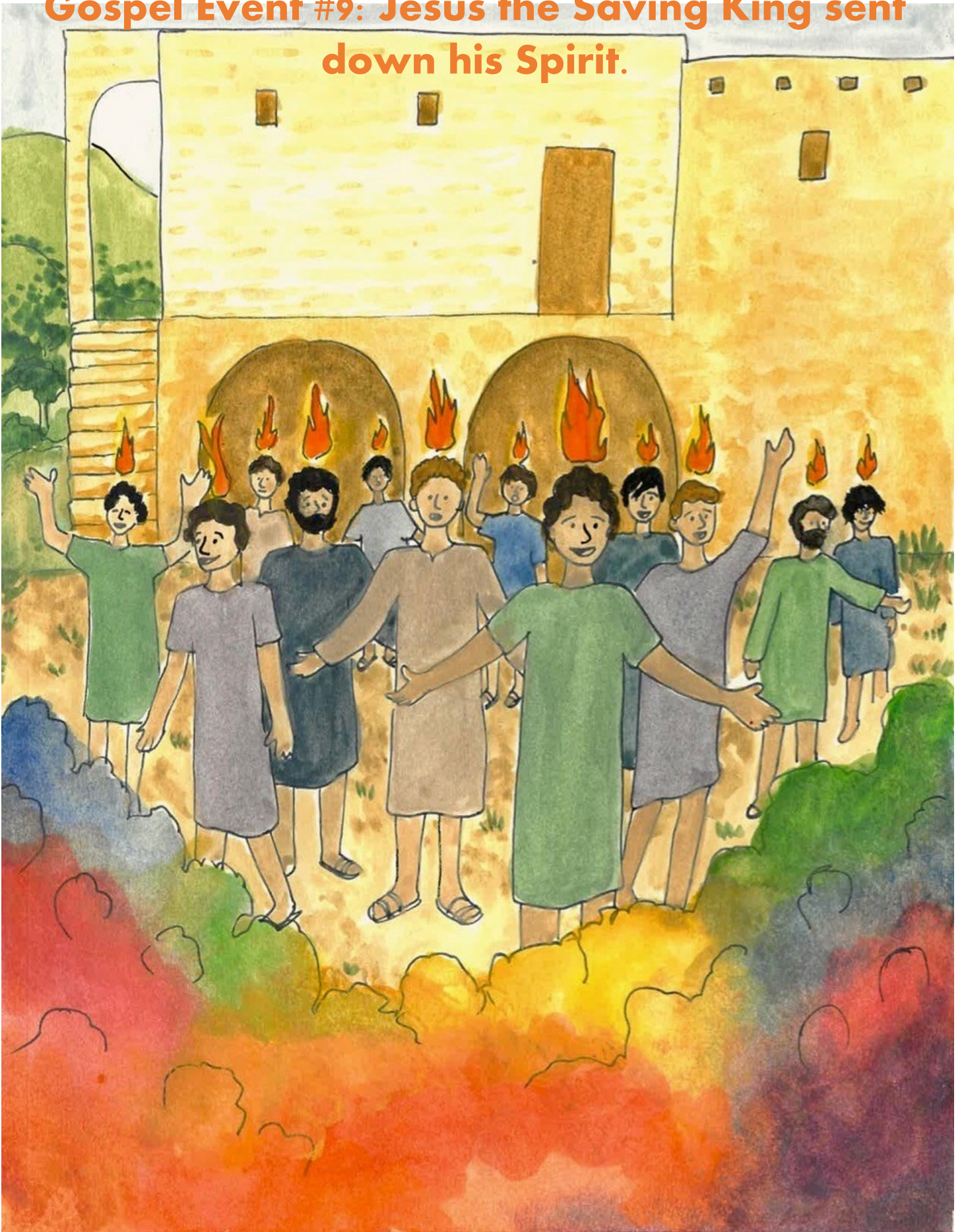


Joel 2:28 “*And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.*”

Joel 2:29 *Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.*

Read Acts 2:1-13. Then turn the page and take in Kierra’s picture of that day in Jerusalem 500 years later when God’s promise to Joel came true.

**Gospel Event #9: Jesus the Saving King sent
down his Spirit.**



BETWEEN 12:00 PM—3:00 PM: I ADMIT, SOMETIMES HE SEEMS POURED BACK IN.

The pouring out of the Spirit — which follows naturally from the ascension — is part of the gospel. It's Event #9 in our counting. Now that Jesus has his throne, his people get a gift: the King's own Spirit. Now his people can represent him in their spheres of life, revealing him to others in words and actions.

Acts 2:33 *Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.*

I have to admit, however, it seems sometimes that Pentecost has reversed course. The Spirit seems to be back in the heavenly pitcher — at least in our time and place. No rushing winds. No tongues of fire. Just a quiet cold. The people of God persevere, but our ranks aren't increasing. There are few professions of faith in Jesus. There are few baptisms and cries of "Jesus is Lord!" What's happening? Or better, why is it *not* happening? I don't know. I do know that we need fresh "pentecostical" experiences (if I can make up a word). Paul would agree. Let's take a look at Eph. 5:18-19.

Eph. 5:18 *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,*

Eph. 5:19 *addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart*

Let's break this down. Paul says, in effect, "Take responsibility for your own reheating." Notice that "*be filled*" has a command quality. OK, we got that. But how? Now, for an interpretive riddle. What's the connection between V.18 and V.19? Some scholars say the three "ing" words in V.19 are the *causes* of the filling. That is, we get filled with God's own power and joy *by* talking to each other with words taken from the middles of our Bibles — and hymnals. It's the *means*. So, let's assume that's correct for a minute. Please share a Psalm, song or hymn with someone near you; it's just as much for your benefit as for theirs. You can do so over the internet or text. I'm going to be sending out text messages with Psalms during this three-hour block.

Other scholars take a different view. They say that the three "ing" words ("*addressing...singing...making melody*") are not the *cause* of the fresh filling, but rather its *result* or byproduct. So, if we gather later today at Joel Moment and find ourselves encouraging each other and worshipping the Lord together in harmony, — surprise! — it's because we've *already been* filled with the Spirit. That's the evidence. Which view is right? I think we can interpret it both ways. So, please go back to the "Holy Spirit" song on page 1 (or pick a song that moves you) and sing it knowing you're collecting invisible and powerful resources to revitalize others whom you'll meet later in the day, whether at work, home or Joel Moment.

BETWEEN 3:00 PM—4:00 PM: Join the AFTERNOON Joel Moment Prayer Gathering. Go to Zoom.com and enter Meeting ID and Password.

BETWEEN 5:00 PM—7:00 PM: THE MAN WITH THE RED CUP.

Pastor Steve — often with a red cup of Diet Coke — poured out some fizzy words about the power of the Bible in a recent socially distanced staff devotional. His first seven words grabbed my attention: "The Word of God is not chained." Let's ask for this gospel to gain ground around us.

Acts 6:7 *And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.*



BETWEEN 7:00 PM—8:00 PM: Join the EVENING Joel Moment Prayer Gathering. Go to Zoom.com and enter Meeting ID and Password.



3:00 PM and 7:00 PM Prayer Gatherings

SUSAN PARDINI *[This Spirit-filled woman will share her story. Here are the boys (Jeffery and Sam) we've been praying for.]*

Rom. 8:15 *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"*

Rom. 8:16 *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

Rom. 8:23 *And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

Eph. 1:23 *which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

John 15:7 *If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

John 15:8 *By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

John 15:9 *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.*



GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (7 min.): Eph. 5:19 *addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,*

Grab your Bible or hymnal and pick verses from the Psalms or lines from a hymn or praise chorus to share with your group. This is a way for us to be filled with the Spirit once again.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (5 min.): Eph. 5:20 *giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

Let's give thanks for God's goodness and generosity. Let's also give thanks even for disappointments and pain. This is another way to leave Joel Moment at 4:00 PM with new zeal, boldness and the willingness to serve and submit to each other.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #4 (12 min.): Eph. 6:18 *praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,*

Be on fire. Be specific. Be urgent. Be direct. Pray for everyone, especially the "saints," that is, fellow Christians from all over the globe.