

Sept 24, 2017



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
The human spirit fails unless the Holy Spirit fills

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Lord, fill us with Thy Spirit's might That we may live as in Thy sight; On all Thy children lay Thy hand That they may live as Thou hast planned

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God

(2 Cor 3:5 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Nov 28, 1994)

Series: Covenants with God

UNIT: Called into Covenant with God

NEXT WEEK

God's Covenant with Abraham

(Genesis 15:1-6, 17-21)

Spirit Filled Heart Ezekiel 36:22-32

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews how to gain a clearer understanding of our future restoration through a **Spirit Filled Heart**. The study's aim is to recognize the spiritual work God will do in Israel as a nation. The study's application is to live daily according to the new nature under the control of the Holy Spirit.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

This text comes right in the middle of one of the most famous and powerful prophecies that we find in God's Word. This prophetic section first looks back over Israel's sinful and troubled history and then projects a season of great restoration and glory in the future. For us it displays the importance of regeneration (the new birth), which is also one of the signs of God's covenantal promise to us (cf. Ezek. 36:26). What are the implications of this new birth, this new Spirit-born heart that God grants to all His people by faith? The book of Ezekiel was written to address the circumstances of the exiles after the kingdom of Judah was taken captive by the Babylonians. Much sin, including idolatry, led to a season of great discipline. Ezekiel reviewed all that (cf. 36:16-20). But then came the promise of forgiveness and regeneration (vss. 25-26). By this we see that the gift of regeneration is based on God's forgiving mercies. At the time when we receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, our sins are forgiven and new life comes. The Holy Spirit has invaded our hearts. The implications of all this are very great. We see from Ezekiel's prophecy that for Israel, there would be a future. One day many of the Jewish people would enjoy the blessings of the new covenant described here. They would experience a resurrection from the dead (37:12-14), a regathering in the Land of Promise (vs. 21), and a restoration to God's favor (vss. 22-23). They would enjoy the blessings of a great, future messianic kingdom (vs. 24). Thus we see that the new birth is connected to all the covenantal promises of God. When we receive the Lord Jesus Christ, it is not just that we have new life with a Spirit-filled heart, as wonderful as that is. The new birth also guarantees our future inheritance. Our new "heart of flesh" is a sign and mark that one day God will restore all things in the new heavens and new earth. God is a covenant-keeping God. Every time we are able to sense the presence of the Holy Spirit and new life in Christ, we are reminded of God's great covenantal plan for us. The new birth is a wonderful sign of God's abundant grace. In Ezekiel's amazing picture of the dry bones of the nation of Israel coming to life (37:1-10), we glimpse the connection between regeneration and all the future promises of God. The gift of the Holy Spirit in regeneration truly is "the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession" (Eph. 1:14). So all of the covenant signs of the Bible (the rainbow, circumcision, the Sabbath, and a new Spirit-filled heart) speak of salvation in one way or another. Salvation is simple, yet it is somehow difficult to grasp. It is hard for us to comprehend grace. We always want to add something to God's grace, to do something to earn or gain our salvation. But these signs are the pictures of God's gift of salvation. It is all accomplished by God, from regeneration to resurrection to restoration.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Reason for Spirit Filled Heart (Ezek 36:22-23)

For God's Name sake (22)

So that God's power is known (Ps 106:8)

So that God will get the glory (Ps 115:1-2)

So that God's Name is acknowledged as great (Josh 7:6-9)

So that sins are forgiven (1 John 2:12)

Vindication of God's holiness (23)

God is majestic in holiness (Ex 15:11)

God declares Himself that He is holy (Lev 11:44)

God is holy because He is exalted above all (Ps 99:2-3)

God is holy in His calling (1 Peter 1:15)

God is holy in His righteousness (Isa 5:16)

So that Nations will know that God is Lord (23)

God is Lord because He is the only one who truly reveals mysteries (Dan 2:45-47)

God is Lord because only God has the power to make things happen (Ps 46:10)

God is Lord because He is the creator (Ps 100:3)

God is Lord because God is revealed by Jesus (Matt 11:27)

God is Lord because through knowing Jesus, we know God (John 8:19)

The Method of Spirit Filled Heart (Ezek 36:24-27)

God will gather His people (24)

God longs to gather His people (Matt 23:37)

God gathers His redeemed people (Ps 107:2-3)

God will gather His people one by one (Isa 27:12)

God will gather all groups and types of His people into one (Isa 56:8)

God sends His angels to gather (Matt 13:40-42)

God will gather to judge (Matt 25:32)

God gives His people a new heart and spirit (26)

A new heart that has been circumcised (Deut 30:6)

A new heart that is clean (Ps 51:10)

A new heart that is unified (Jer 32:39)

A new heart that has been written on by God (2 Cor 3:1-3)

A new heart that has been transformed (Rom 12:2)

A new heart that has been renewed (Eph 4:23-24)

God's Spirit indwells His people (27)

God's Spirit indwells to make known His words (Prov 1:23)

God's Spirit indwells as part of God's adoption (Rom 8:15)

God's Spirit indwells to make us His temple (1 Cor 3:16)

God's Spirit indwells to give spiritual life (Rom 8:11)

God's Spirit indwells as a treasure (2 Tim 1:14)

The Results of A Spirit Filled Heart (Ezek 36:28-32)

Restoration of fellowship (28)

A fellowship that is based on love and obedience (John 14:23)

A fellowship that make us complete (2 Cor 13:11)

A fellowship that calls for living righteously (1 John 1:6-7)

A fellowship that makes us sanctified (2 Cor 6:16-17)

Restoration of effectiveness and productiveness (30)

Effective through the knowledge of good things of God (Philem 6)

Effective through prayer (James 5:16)

Productive through good deeds (Titus 3:14)

Productive through the fruits of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:5-8)

Effective and productive through abiding in Jesus (John 15:5)

Repentance (31-32)

God declares that all people should repent (Acts 17:30)

God grants repentance that leads to knowledge of the truth (2 Tim 2:24-26)

Repentance through the indwelling Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)

Repentance so that sins will be forgiven (Acts 3:19)

Repentance that results in God's compassion (Prov 28:13)

Repentance to leads to the return to God (Isa 55:6-7)