

Something to Pray About

November 2013 – Cindy Sears

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, your young men shall see visions. —Joel 2:28 NKJV

Let the Spirit Rise in Ebenezer

We prayed that line in my Sunday school class on October 27th. I pray that we meant it. If we did mean it, God has promise that He will answer “yes” to the request.

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” --Luke 11:13 NKJV

But when God pours out His Spirit, my life and all the other individuals’ lives and our church will be changed. When the Holy Spirit comes to a person or a group, change happens. New wine must be poured into a new bag to avoid damage to the bag and loss of the wine (see Matthew 9:17). Are we willing to be changed? That is the question.

The Lord has promised to give us His Spirit. The Lord has promised to be our strength. The Lord has promised to provide us with all we need to do His will. The Lord has promised us that we will be persecuted for His name’s sake; yet, He has also promised us great rewards in Heaven and on the New Earth. (Please don’t forget that there will be a new earth. We won’t be sitting on clouds in Heaven and playing harps.)

As Eric told us in a sermon several weeks ago, we already have all the faith, strength, courage, and physical resources we need to be God’s obedient servants. We have no excuse for not doing our duty, which is to serve God. This is our natural response to His great, unfathomable, un-repayable service to us—the Cross!

Tend to the faith that you already possess and you will have all you need to serve God and obey Him. Knowing this, we can concentrate on being good and faithful stewards of the money, time, relationships, jobs, and opportunities for witnessing about Christ, which He daily sets before us. Lack of faith or money or time is a faulty excuse to avoid service and obedience to God. We only need faith the size of a mustard seed! (See Matthew 17:20.) God is not our waiter; we are His servants. He sets opportunities and responsibilities before us, and we do them without worrying about thanks or rewards.

Since God created this world, this universe, and gave us life, He owns everything. When we give up something for His kingdom’s work, we are only giving back to Him what He already owns. We are stewards of all these gifts, and one day we will have to give an account to God of how we used the money, the jobs, the house, the cars, the family, the church position, the time, the skills, the talents, the ideas—this life—that He gave us.

God has chosen to work His wonders through willing and humble hearts. Let us pray, not only for the Spirit, but for the willingness to obey and serve.

Let the Spirit rise in Ebenezer!