

Series: **Come Holy Spirit!**(1) **Reveal – Revive – Restore.**Read both passages **Joel 2: 28-32 & Acts 1:1-8**

**Let us start in Prayer:** *Creator God, who formed humanity from dust, breathe in us again. Revive us and sanctify us by the power of your Spirit. Set our heart on fire with the good news of your Gospel*

God gives notice through the prophet Joel that **he will** pour out his Holy Spirit on all people who call on him (answering Moses' prayer wish – Numbers 11:29); and Jesus subsequently confirmed this would happen shortly after his resurrection.



Compare the two passages. *What is God's purpose in sending the Holy Spirit? What does each passage emphasise?*

Joel's first audience was Israel, a despondent nation needing to be **revived and restored**. *Sound familiar? Is this your view of the world today?* I am bringing (says God) light at the end of your tunnel (read some of the verses preceding our passage) and my Spirit will enable you, not only see my glory, but you will experience it. It is a thing of wonder. Have no fear; I want you to have 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

Discuss. *God wants us/invites us to be filled with his Spirit. Should we 'hold back' in any way? If I am 'filled to overflowing', will there be any negatives for me? What can Jesus mean by giving life in all its fullness?*

God, through Luke in Acts, adds to the Joel message by making the **revive and restore** not only personal but also adding a mission element. We have been given the Spirit, not only to gain the most generously fulfilled life he desires for us, but to **reveal** this to our neighbours who need to be **revived and restored** to their relationship with God. First to your home neighbourhood, then home nation, then the world.

Some Christians say that they understand from the Bible that having become a Christian they must now have the Spirit living within them, but notice only small differences; they don't really feel any different. *What would your recommendation be to that Christian? Is it God that needs to do more or have we ourselves to do something more? (read Matthew 7:7-11).*

The challenge is - *Do you need more of the Holy Spirit? Do you **really want** to be topped up?*

**Prayer:** *Creator God, who formed humanity from dust, breathe in us again. Revive us and sanctify us by the power of your Spirit. Set our heart on fire with the good news of your Gospel.*