



## Advent Truth Newsletter January 2014



At this time the church is having a special emphasis on prayer from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. One of the main themes is to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

This outpouring began at Pentecost and was given to the believers to help them with the gospel commission by imparting to them the ability to speak other languages (Acts 2). In his sermon, Peter specifically refers to the prophecy of Joel 2:28-32 regarding the outpouring of the Spirit.

In Palestine there is an early and latter rain. The first helps the harvest at sowing time and the latter rain ripens the crop for harvest. Joel refers to the early and latter rain (Joel 2:23). Thus at Pentecost the latter rain was given to help establish the church, but just before Jesus returns the latter rain will be poured out to help prepare the harvest.

The end time significance of Joel 2 can be seen in the reference to special signs in the heaven associated with the return of Christ (verses 30-31).

The good news is that those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved (verse 32). We can be saved by the grace of God in Christ Jesus and His righteousness will deliver those who trust in Him.

When we pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit we have to consider what its purpose is. Jesus prayed primarily for others and for their salvation and he often prayed for his disciples. In a similar way our prayers need to be focused on those around us and for the salvation of souls. The Holy Spirit is given to help us in the work of soul saving and completing the gospel commission.

Jesus is the great intercessor, we are told that he ever lives to intercede for us (Hebrews 7:25). Jesus prays for us in the heavenly sanctuary. On the basis of his shed blood he applies the merits of his perfect life and sacrifice to repentant sinners.

Let us take time to pray for others and their salvation and for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

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