

## *New Sermon Series: Encounters with THE Holy Spirit*

7/20/25 “For Living with God,” Ezekiel 11:19, MEV

### INTRODUCTION

God was disciplining His people; destruction & captivity from Him because of idolatry & generations of disobedience; even during disciplining, leaders continued to disobey (Ez. 8 last week)

**MAIN IDEA: We need God’s Spirit to live with Him.** How do we receive His Spirit? Here are two truths that can free us to receive His Spirit in abundance.

#### **I. First, circumstances don’t reflect relationship** *think of Job* (15)

**NOTE:** Temple central to Jewish religion & worship; 3 xs/yr. go to Jerusalem: Passover, Pentecost, Feast of Booths); *temple destroyed*

- A. those remaining in Jerusalem viewed themselves as near to God & those in captivity as far from Him (15)
  - 1. people often view their relationship with God based on circumstances...*success, wealth, happy*
  - 2. “Go far away”... *Hebrews indicates a command; but grammar leaves room for translation: “far away,” NLT... “distant” from temple/God*
  - 3. “the land is ours” (15)
- B. but God said He would shelter captives & make those in Jerusalem pay for their sins (16, 21)
  - 1. the captives would be gathered (17)
  - 2. and would be given land (17)...*end of 70 yrs., 1948, fully during latter part of Tribulation*
  - 3. but idolatrous with evil hearts, would suffer (8-9)
- C. sometimes those feeling most secure are in most trouble
  - 1. many view themselves as “good people”
  - 2. compare themselves with “bad” people

- 3. fail to view themselves in light of God’s holiness

#### D. God disciplines & purifies His children

**Hebrews 12:6, NLT:** The LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.

- 1. not fun
- 2. painful sometimes, at least uncomfortable

### ILLUSTRATION:

#### **II. Second, God *wants* to renew us (19)**

##### A. dependent on our response to Him (18)

- 1. willingness to humble ourselves & walk in His will

**EX:** go into captivity

- 2. willingness to repent & cast away idols

##### B. give us unity...*under Lordship of Christ by Holy Spirit in us as of salvation (John 20:22) & His body* (19)

##### C. giving us a new spirit...*Holy Spirit (partly fulfilled when Jesus arose, Day of Pentecost, available today; great Jewish incoming during Tribulation)*

- 1. greater intimacy with God
- 2. power to witness
- 3. helps us grow in holiness

##### D. changing our heart from hard to tender...*from rebellious & selfish to obedient & compassionate*

- 1. helping us obey Him, serve Him, love Him
- 2. moving us to quick repentance when we fail

### ILLUSTRATION:

**CONCLUSION:** sometimes we feel unworthy to be filled; sometimes we believe He doesn’t mean *us*. Let us look past our circumstances to Him. He wants to renew us & fill us

### **ALTAR:**