

## What happens when the Holy Spirit falls on us?

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# Introduction

## Background Context

- Ezekiel is a 30 year old prophet/priest
- He is one of the exiles sent to Babylon in 597 BC
- He would have been a young boy when Josiah and Hilkiah found the book of the law in the temple and reformed the Temple worship.

## Passage:

### **Ezekiel 36:22–32** *ESV*

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.

And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land.

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you.

I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations.

Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations.

It is not for your sake that I will act, declares the Lord God;

let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel.

God must purify the people AND the land.

**Faithlife Study Bible Chapter 36**

36:22–38 Yahweh acts to ritually cleanse His people and His land. This passage uses the priestly concept of ritual purity to introduce Yahweh’s plan of redemption, just as Jeremiah uses political and legal imagery (see Jer 31–32). Yahweh’s direct role in providing the people with a new heart and new spirit holds theological significance (see Ezek 36:26–27). Only Yahweh’s action—not the people’s—can cleanse, purify, and prepare Israel for true relationship with Him.

**God exiles the people of Israel in order to re-establish holiness in their hearts and in their land.**

- This is why there is a need a “new heart”
- This is why there is a need for a “new spirit” that will transform what is old, corrupted, and lifeless.

## Sermon Notes:

Part of God’s nature is righteousness.  
God must uphold righteousness and his name.

Ezekiel 36:22 (ESV) “Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for **YOUR** sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the **sake of my holy name**, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.

- Through Israel’s sin, they have profaned or disgraced the name of God.
- They had become unclean and unholy.
- They had created a need to be restored or made clean.
- This was done through ritual purification and repentance in the Old Testament.

Ezekiel 36:23 (ESV) And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, **which has been profaned** among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, **when through you I vindicate my holiness** before their eyes.

Ezekiel 36:20 (ESV) But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, they profaned my holy name, in that people said of them, ‘**These are the people of the LORD, and yet they had to go out of his land.**’

- Israel’s reputation was damaged.
- Israel’s faithfulness was questioned .
- The nations doubted the power and truth of God.

## **This is why God promises to restore Israel.**

God promises to bring his people back to the the Land in order that after their time of repentance, judgement, and

restoration , they will return as a reformed people, ready to hear the words of Gods.

Ezekiel 36:24–25 (ESV) I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you **shall be clean** from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will **cleanse you**.

## **We have a choice to be made clean.**

To be part of the people of God is a choice one must walk into.

The people made a covenant with God.

Exodus 19:5–6 (ESV) Now therefore, if you will indeed **obey my voice and keep my covenant**, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of **priests** and a **holy nation**.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

Exodus 19:7–8 (ESV) So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. All the people answered together and said, “**All that the LORD has spoken we will do**.” And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

## **God WILL make us clean.**

Ezekiel 36:25 (ESV) I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

- God here shows what he will do for the people in this time, but also foreshadows what he will do for them when the Messiah comes.

**Hebrews 10:19–22 ESV**

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,

by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,

and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

**New Spirit and New Flesh**

Ezekiel 36:26 (ESV) And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:27 (ESV) And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

John 14:17 (ESV) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

**Did the world see or know that Jesus was the Messiah ?**

- Did they have the “new heart” or “new Spirit” yet?

- Israel could not have had the “new Spirit” because they did not yet have the Holy Spirit.

**Jesus says that the Father will send the Holy Spirit.**

John 14:26 (ESV) But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

**The message of Jesus is the full revelation of the message of Ezekiel 36.**

The plan of God in Ezekiel 36, was intended to be fulfilled through the life and ministry of Jesus, and subsequently the presence of the Holy Spirit was made available to all God’s people.

**Mark 1:9–12 ESV**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

**Romans 8:3–11 ESV**

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but

according to the Spirit.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

**The power of Jesus and the Holy Spirit reverse the effects of sin and death in our lives.**

*“When Jesus lays hands on people the effect is rather the opposite, however, for the profane is no longer elevated to the sacred, as in the OT, but rather by bestowing God’s holy and healing presence on ordinary, common, and even sinful people, Jesus brings the sacred to the profane.”* **James R. Edwards**

## **God will deliver his people from their uncleanness.**

- The Holy Spirit does not simply cover up or make right out uncleanness.
- When the presence of the Holy Spirit comes within us, our hearts and spirit are delivered— completely removed from the powers of sin and death.

## **Closing:**

### **What happens when the Holy Spirit falls on us?**

1. The old heart and spirit are removed.

#### **Ezekiel 36:26 ESV**

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

2. We obey the commands of Jesus.

#### **Ezekiel 36:27 ESV**

And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

3. We see dead things come to life.