

JUDGMENT, SALVATION, AND HOPE

The Message of the Minor Prophets

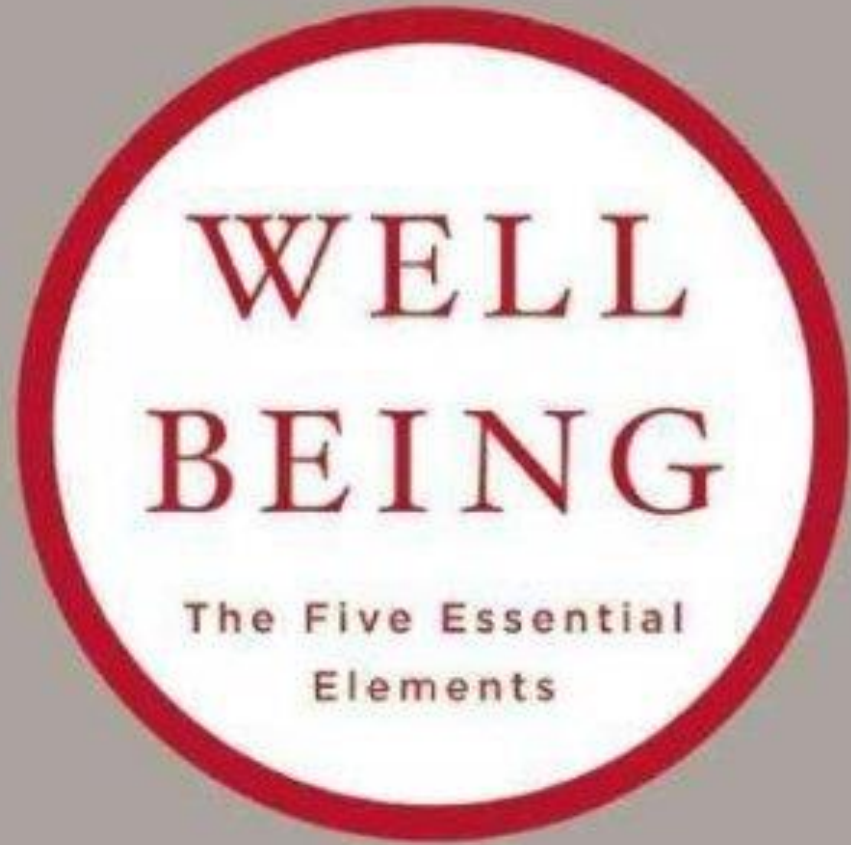
Joel: *“I Will Pour Out My Spirit”*

How would you describe “wellbeing”?

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AND HOPE

From the author of the #1 *Wall Street Journal* bestseller

StrengthsFinder 2.0



TOM RATH
JIM HARTER

Rath's 5 Essential Elements of Wellbeing:

1. Career wellbeing
2. Social wellbeing
3. Financial wellbeing
4. Physical wellbeing
5. Community wellbeing

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The Message of the Minor Prophets

Joel: *“I Will Pour Out My Spirit”*

Joel 2:28–32

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. ³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

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Joel 2:28–32

³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. ³² And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.

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Joel 3:16b-21

But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. ¹⁷ “Then you will know that I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill. Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her. ¹⁸ “In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water.

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Joel 3:16b-21

A fountain will flow out of the Lord's house and will water the valley of acacias. ¹⁹ But Egypt will be desolate, Edom a desert waste, because of violence done to the people of Judah, in whose land they shed innocent blood. ²⁰ Judah will be inhabited forever and Jerusalem through all generations. ²¹ Shall I leave their innocent blood unavenged? No, I will not." The Lord dwells in Zion!

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Outline

1. The Need for the Spirit
2. The Promise of the Spirit
3. The Age of the Spirit

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1. The Need for the Spirit

Joel 1:1 – 2:17

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1. The Need for the Spirit

Explanation

- The need for the Spirit is implied in the warnings of judgment and calls for repentance in Joel 1–2 and the promised future of Joel 3

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Summary of Joel 1–2

Judgment: The Plague
of Locusts (1:1-20)

Summons: Call a
Sacred Assembly
(1:13-14)

Judgment: The Day
of the Lord (2:1-17)

Summons: Call a
Sacred Assembly
(2:12-17)

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From the Authors of the Best-Selling *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*

How to Read the Bible Book by Book

A Guided Tour



Gordon D. Fee
Douglas Stuart

This final picture [Joel 3:16b-21] is overlaid with images of eschatological abundance: the lavish renewal of the land (v. 18a); a fountain flowing out of Jerusalem (v. 18b; cf. Ezek. 47:1-12; Rev. 22:1-5); Israel's traditional enemies finished forever (v. 19); an eternal habitation of Judah and Jerusalem (v. 20); and total removal of sin (v. 21). The ultimate basis for this is the return of God's presence to Zion (vv. 17, 21).

1. The Need for the Spirit

Explanation

- The need for the Spirit is implied in the warnings of judgment and calls for repentance in Joel 1–2 and the promised future of Joel 3
- In some ways, the entire history of Israel is about the need for the Spirit

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1. The Need for the Spirit

Application

- Our need for the Spirit is evident in the condition of the world (and our lives) whenever God is absent

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2. The Promise of the Spirit

Joel 2:27–32

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2. The Promise of the Spirit

a. The basis of the promise (2:12-13)

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Joel 2:12-13

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

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Exodus 34:5–6

Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. ⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness...”

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2. The Promise of the Spirit

- a. The basis of the promise (2:12-13)
- b. The heart of the promise (2:28-29)

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Joel 2:28–29

²⁸ “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

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AN EXEGETICAL
& EXPOSITORY
COMMENTARY

The MINOR PROPHETS

— Edited by —
Thomas Edward McComiskey

V o l u m e O n e

— HOSEA —
Thomas McComiskey

— JOEL —
Raymond Dillard

— AMOS —
Jeffrey Niehaus

It is important than the modern reader not miss the radical character of what Joel announces. In the world of ancient Israel, the free, older Jewish male stood at the top of the social structure; most of Israel's prophets had belonged to this group. Joel envisages a sociological overhaul: the distinctions between old and young ("your old men . . . your

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young men”), slave and free (“your slaves and slave girls”), and male and female (“your sons and daughters”...) are swept aside. This statement must have contrasted with the daybreak prayer of the Jewish male: “I thank you God that I was not born a Gentile, a slave, or a woman.”

Galatians 3:28-29

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

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2. The Promise of the Spirit

- a. The basis of the promise (2:12-13)
- b. The heart of the promise (2:28-29)
- c. The fulfillment of this promise (Acts 2:14-21)

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3. Life in the Spirit Today

Various Scriptures

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3. Life in the Spirit Today

a. Christ (John 7:37-39)

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John 7:37-39

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.

³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

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3. Life in the Spirit Today

- a. Christ (John 7:37-39)
- b. New Birth (Titus 3:4-7)

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Titus 3:4-7

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

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3. Life in the Spirit Today

- a. Christ (John 7:37-39)
- b. New Birth (Titus 3:4-7)
- c. The Church (Ephesians 2:19-22)

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Ephesians 2:19-22

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

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3. Life in the Spirit Today

- a. Christ (John 7:37-39)
- b. New Birth (Titus 3:4-7)
- c. The Church (Ephesians 2:19-22)
- d. Transformation (2 Corinthians 3:18)

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2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

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3. Life in the Spirit Today

- a. Christ (John 7:37-39)
- b. New Birth (Titus 3:4-7)
- c. The Church (Ephesians 2:19-22)
- d. Transformation (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- e. Fruit (Galatians 5:22-25)

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Galatians 5:22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

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3. Life in the Spirit Today

Application

- **Have you experienced the saving, life-giving work of the Spirit?**

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3. Life in the Spirit Today

Application

- Have you experienced the saving, life-giving work of the Spirit?
- **Are you committed and connected to the church, the “new temple” of the Spirit?**

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3. Life in the Spirit Today

Application

- Have you experienced the saving, life-giving work of the Spirit?
- Are you committed and connected to the church, the “new temple” of the Spirit?
- **Are you seeing gradual transformation in your life as you increasingly become like Jesus and bear the fruit of the Spirit?**

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Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

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Revelation 22:1-5

³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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