



## LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

### “Outpouring: ”

**Ps James Lowe – September 14, 2014**

#### **WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)**

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What's one of the most undeserved benefits you have ever received (other than the Gospel)?
- What was a particularly good promise that your parent(s) made to you that was fulfilled?
- Give an example of some aspect of prosperity that you would like to grow in (relationships, health, work, possessions, giving, etc.).

#### **WORD (10-15 minutes)**

Sermons can be heard online at [bethelbrentwood.org/media](http://bethelbrentwood.org/media).

Three key terms for today's lesson on receiving God's outpouring:

- Promise - God speaks promises to us through Scripture and by his Spirit.
- Participation - We must then participate in the promise by living and walking according to it.
- Prosperity - God then blesses us and fulfills his promise, so that we prosper in some way. Our prosperity is always for the greater purpose of blessing our natural and spiritual posterity.

Numbers 23:19-20 (ESV) *God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? Behold, I received a command to bless: he has blessed, and I cannot revoke it.*

This great statement concerned Israel as a nation in its infancy when it was vulnerable to attack by others. But in Christ all the promises of God are "Yes." Because God never changes and because of the New Covenant, we know that God has also commanded his blessing upon all who belong to him through the Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone who has repented of their sin and believes in Jesus has a right to God's commanded blessing.

Genesis 26:1-5 (ESV) God speaks to Isaac during a time of famine.

Although common wisdom would have dictated a move to Egypt for Isaac, God wanted Isaac to remain in the tough place. The important issue is that Isaac had a word from God. Isaac needed to stay in difficult circumstances, but he could do it with a clear directive and promise from God. It is critical for us to hear from God, to be led by the Spirit of God.

Genesis 26:6-11 (ESV) Isaac settled in Gerar.

Isaac obeyed God. He did not go down to Egypt, but instead stayed in the land promised to his father and now to him. Yet he did fail to walk in complete integrity. He sinned in the same way as his father when he lied about his wife being his sister. But Isaac did follow through on God's promise by not only staying in the land, but also by sowing agricultural seed. Isaac demonstrated that he was committed to dwelling in

the Promised Land for the long term. It is critically important to act in accordance with God's directives and promises to us.

Genesis 26:12-22 (ESV) God blesses Isaac.

God blessed him and made him wealthy. Consequently, the Philistine inhabitants became envious of him. But Isaac repeatedly refrained from conflict with them even though he would have been justified to respond to their provocations. Furthermore, Isaac moved around in the Promised Land, which is what God desired him to do. When we hear God's word and walk in accordance to it, we can expect God's blessings. And as we are blessed, we should continue to walk in God's will.

Genesis 26:23-24 (ESV) God speaks to Isaac again.

Isaac eventually came to Beersheba, which was a place of historic significance to his father, Abraham. In honor of Abraham, God once again visited Isaac and spoke to him. This time God put Isaac's blessings in perspective. He promised Isaac that he would not only bless him, but also multiply his offspring. God's blessing was not just for Isaac's own enjoyment. It was especially intended for Isaac's descendants. God's blessings in our lives are not meant just for our own benefit, but for the benefit of our natural and spiritual children and their descendants.

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.**

- What promise did God give you that he has already fulfilled? How did you respond to his blessing?
- What promise has God given you that you are still waiting on for its fulfillment? What actions do you need to take in response to God's promise?
- Who is going to benefit, and how are they going to benefit from the fulfillment of your promise?

### **PRAYER (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- That God would either speak fresh words of promise to us, or remind us of past words of promise.
- That God would show us how to walk in accordance to his promises to us.
- That God would show us how to best bless our natural and spiritual children.