

Week 52

Joel 2 Lifestyle



*Keeping our
Hearts Burning*



**“Therefore
whoever
hears these
sayings of
Mine, and
does them, I
will liken him
to a wise man
who built his
house on the
rock: and the
rain
descended,
the floods
came, and the
winds blew
and beat on
that house;
and it did not
fall, for it was
founded on
the rock.”
Matt. 7:24 -25**


This is the final piece of our fifty two week series. But this is not the end - it is just the beginning of a life-long journey.

If we look at the prayers made by the Apostles in the Bible (there are around thirty such prayers), they are constantly praying for the believers to be able to walk worthy of the Lord, and to do so until the Day of Christ.

Likewise, this is the beginning of a life-long journey of walking out a lifestyle of knowing God, of fasting, prayer and wholeheartedness
– **the Joel 2 lifestyle.**

A lifestyle is a way of life that we cultivate, establish and hold on to.

We do so knowing that the Joel 2 lifestyle is one which God requires, and seeks to establish in His Church. God exhorts us to live out this lifestyle because *He knows we need it to sustain our wholehearted love for Him through all seasons and in the challenging times ahead.*



Cultivating this lifestyle is key to His Church growing deeper in intimacy, in wholehearted love towards Him and in the knowledge and understanding of His heart and His will.

It also empowers the

Church

to walk in the fullness of His authority, power and prophetic unction in the last days. It is the key to keeping our hearts vibrant and alive even in the coming storms. It is the key to cultivating wholehearted love and keeping a burning heart.



This is what David did all the days of his life, through every trial and every season. He said,

**“One thing
I have desired
of the Lord,**

**that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of
the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the
beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”**

(Psalm 27:4).

Cultivating this lifestyle of seeking the Lord brought about great confidence in the heart of David, so that he was able to keep his heart at rest in the day of trouble, even when enemies surrounded him.

At the end of the day, what is God looking for?

He is looking for a resting place (Isaiah 66:1 -2). He is looking for a Church who fully understands Him (Jer.9:23 -24) and is living in full agreement with Him. He is looking for a group of people whom He does not have to wrestle with. Cultivating a Joel 2 Lifestyle is key to becoming the very kind of people God is looking for.



Have you decided to walk out this lifestyle? Are you determined to walk it out whatever the difficulties and challenges? Ask the Lord to strengthen your resolve to live it out, as there will be circumstances or even people who will discourage you from doing so.

Have you started cultivating a fasted lifestyle? Start by fasting one or two meals a week. Then work towards fasting from solid food one or two days a week (one way is to do a liquid fast - see the articles on “The Fasted Lifestyle – normal Christian living” and “Practical Handles to cultivating a Fasted Lifestyle” under Resources). Find a group of like-minded people who will do it together and help spur one another on.

Are you regularly gathering with others in sacred assemblies to pray? This could be your church prayer meeting, or even city-wide gathering of believers such as houses of prayer.

Remember that the gatherings are sacred, meaning that this is God’s idea and priority. We got to make it a priority in our lives.

**There are prophetic voices
saying that the coming storms
will be so intense that only
those who are rooted and
established firmly in the Joel 2
lifestyle can stand, burn and
shine.**

Do we hear what the Lord is saying in this hour? May we take heed and be the ones who build our house on the rock (Matt. 7:24 -27).

May we have the grace to walk out the Joel 2 lifestyle. May we be the ones who stand, burn and shine in that Day!





Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 52

Take your time to read through Psalm 27, Isaiah 66:1–2, Jeremiah 9:23–24 and the book of Joel. What is God looking for in His church? What is David’s key to cultivating confidence in the Lord that sustains him through storms? What stabilises the heart of David?

Read Matthew 7:24–27. How do we build our house on the rock? Joel 2:11 tells us the Day of the LORD is great and very terrible. Who are the people who can endure?

Prayers for Week 52

Pray 2 Thess. 3:1 for the Word of the Lord to strike our hearts. Even as you take time to read through the articles in this series again, pray for the Word of the Lord to burn in your heart like a fire. Ask the Lord to mark your heart with His Word.

Using Col. 1:9–11, pray for the Lord to bring understanding and deep conviction regarding the necessity of walking out the Joel 2 lifestyle. Ask the Lord to strengthen your resolve. Pray for grace for yourself to walk this out until the end.