

In the fall of 1983 Major Gennady Osipovich, a pilot with the Russian air force, was asked to give a talk on the subject of peace at the school his children attended. In order to get the time off in the day to do so, he volunteered for night duty. As a result, he found himself patrolling the skies over the eastern regions of the Soviet Union on September 1, 1983 – the night that Korean Air Lines Flight 007 strayed into Soviet air space. In the political atmosphere of the Cold War paranoia, the Russian air force scrambled three Soviet fighters who intercepted the then unidentified aircraft, illuminated by blinking navigation lights. The Soviets believed the plane to be a spy plane that belonged to the U.S. Navy, as it had similar radar signature to a commercial jet – and so the Soviet pilots thought they had sighted a brazen military intrusion from their politically and geographical arch enemy.

And so, as the Russian fighters attempted to make contact, their interception became chaotic. The mystery plane did not respond to their attempt at communicate with them – and communications broke down between the fighters themselves and also with their home base command. In the confusion, all three Russian jets found themselves badly positioned with each other – which caused the lead aircraft, piloted by Gennady Osipovich, to fire a burst of cannon fire to gain the mystery pilots' attention again. No response. Osipovich then watched the aircraft climb away. Interpreting this as evasion, he fired two air-to-air missiles at 3:26 a.m. In chilling tones that echoed around the world, Osipovich radioed that "the target is destroyed." Korean Airlines Flight 007 took 12 harrowing minutes to hit the water of the North Pacific Ocean. Of the 240 passengers and crew, there were no survivors. From the beginning, Major Osipovich got caught up in a series of misunderstandings, misinformation, political bravado - and his own personal swagger – and in the end, he followed the orders he was given, and he shot down the unidentified aircraft. The actions of this air force pilot, who was preparing to talk about peace, caused the death of 240 people and pushed the powers of this world to an international standoff.

What happened to Major Gennady Osipovich reflects what often happens to us in life. With the best of intentions, we make choices in life that we believe are the right things to do. Yet, there are always things happening around us and beyond us and in us - that we misinterpret or that we ignore or that we reject, that ultimately cause us to deliberately make fatal errors that ultimately have tragic consequences. Now most of us here will never choose to shoot down a Korean passenger jet over Russia. But all of us, at different times in life, choose to be angry with someone (which Jesus defines as “murder” in Matthew 5:22) or choose to lust after someone (which Jesus defines as “adultery” in Matthew 5:28) or choose to not forgive someone (which Jesus defines as God’s judgment against us in Matthew 6:15) – all of which causes us to make the fatal error that Jesus tells us could ultimately lead us to an eternity in hell.

Major Gennady Osipovich may have been planning on speaking on peace, but his actions revealed what was really going on deep down inside of his heart. Again, the same could be said for us also. The apostle Paul spoke of this in his own life in Romans 7:19-25: *“For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So, I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”* In these words, Paul is speaking to us about the common, collective human experience of what it means to be a fallen human being – who, though created by God in the image of God to live with God and live for God – rebelled against God and rejected God, which broke our relationship with God, which cut us off from the life-giving source of power we can only know from God, which will be our constant struggle until we die. But in these words, Paul is also telling us that because of God’s relentless love for us, He promised to send a Savior into the world - who would sacrificially pay the price for our sin, releasing us from our captivity to sin and delivering us from our bodies of death: *“Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”*

Last Sunday, as we gathered as God's people, as followers of Jesus Christ, we asked the questions: "What is God's will for those of us here at Arrowsmith Baptist Church in 2018? What are the promises of God that He seeks to fulfill through us as follows of Jesus in the months and years beyond that lay before us? In what ways is God calling us to live out our mission statement to "passionately proclaim the glory of God in Christ for the joy of all people"? What is God telling us to do next year?"

Last Sunday, as we gathered as God's people, as followers of Jesus Christ, we also asked the question: "Can we even hear God what God is saying to us today?" And we spent our morning together looking at how hard it is to hear God's voice today because we live in a society and culture that is so saturated with narcissism, entitlement, and self-interest - that we tend to confuse our opinion with God's opinion. And we also saw that throughout history God has chosen and sent out His prophets, His preachers, His pastors to speak on His behalf, so that God's people might know God's will and know God's power so they might know the fulfillment of God's promises in this life and in the life beyond.

Last Sunday, we learned how, in the midst of the demanding ambient noise of the world and selfish cry for privilege from within our own hearts, we can hear to true voice of God, so we can clearly know God's will, as we looked at the life of the prophet Elijah. A number of you have shared with me that you heard God speak to you in significant ways last Sunday – and I pray He would do the same also for all of us today, as today's message is the power source by which the will of God, which we have heard from God, becomes a reality for us as individual followers of Jesus and the whole of the people of God in the body of Christ. There is much more to being a born-again, follower Jesus than just hearing God's word and knowing God's will. James 1:22 tells us we are to "*be doers of the word, and not hearers only.*"

Last Sunday we asked and answered the question: "How can we hear the Word of God, so we might know the will of God?" This Sunday, we ask the follow up question: "Once we hear the voice of God concerning the will of God – "How is it we can live out the will of God?" In other words: "By what power can we live out the will of God?" This is a relevant question in our day in that many Christians profess a faith in Christ of which is the power of the resurrected Christ, but their *attitudes* and their *actions* reveal little power of God that is of the will of God or the Word of God. Our culture has convinced us that power is defined as success or wealth or relationships or position or personality - whereas God's Word speaks of power in terms of weakness, submission, surrender, and humility.

One morning Leslie Puckett of Glasgow, Kentucky went out to start his brand-new car so he could drive to work. After numerous failed attempts, he got out and lifted the hood to check on the problem - only to discover that someone had stolen his motor. What we look like on the outside has little to do with what kind of power lives within us. For many who profess faith in Jesus Christ, who diligently serve His church and kingdom, the true power of the risen Christ is still missing inside. True born-again followers of Jesus Christ know that the power of God comes from *within*. The apostle Paul speaks of this in Ephesians 3:20-21 "*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*" The outward cascade of water spilling over a dam does not generate power; it is from deep *within* that the turbines and generators transform the power of millions of tons and tons of water into electricity – hidden away, quietly, deeply and without any outward notice.

The Bible speaks of a man who knew the power of God *within* and lived God's will for his life with great power. That man was the prophet Ezekiel, a contemporary of the prophet Jeremiah. Ezekiel was born into a priestly family in Jerusalem 623 years before Jesus came into this world; his early years were ones of training towards becoming a priest in the temple, just as his father had been. All of that was interrupted in his mid twenties when the Babylonian army invaded Jerusalem and, while his life was spared, he was carried off into exile. Five years later, as he sat in a foreign land, far from home, God called him into kingdom service in ministry as a prophet to speak on God's behalf to God's people.

Ezekiel was called to do so in a very difficult time; he was preaching to a people who had drifted far away from God in both belief and in practice. Such was the reason God had allowed the Babylonians to overtake them; in giving them over to their sin; hopefully they would once again awaken to their sin and their desperate need for God. Their relationship with God had developed into the ritual and ceremony of religion. Affluence and prosperity had caused them to seek fulfillment in success and wealth instead of getting fulfillment in their relationship with God. Arrogantly they had assumed since they were God's chosen people they could live as they saw fit without consequences. The core issue at hand in Ezekiel's day was the people's failure to acknowledge and respond to God for who He is.

The comparison to our day cannot be ignored. In the midst of the constant demands of the busy-ness of life, it is hard to acknowledge God's involvement in the daily affairs. We are aware of the weather all around us which is explained by air pressure, winds, and humidity. Doctors keep us healthy and alive with drugs and modern technology. Politicians, diplomats and military leaders negotiate or go to war to influence international relationships. Economic conditions are controlled by market forces and government policies. Our cellphones, ipads and computers allows us to stay abreast of the news every moment of every day of what happens in every corner of the earth; and allows us to talk to and see anyone, anytime, anywhere on earth; and allows us to access to more knowledge than we need to know and more information we could ever imagine, almost immediately at the push of a button. It would seem that God has nothing left to offer us. No thank you God, we can pretty much handle things ourselves.

To such a culture, much like today, Ezekiel was called to preach. His response to hearing the call of God's will for his life, empowered Ezekiel to powerfully live out God's will for his life. How was Ezekiel able to live out God's will for his life with great power in the midst of such spiritual apathy toward God and blatant rebellion against the truth of God and rejection of the sovereign authority of God? How are we to live God's will for our lives with great power in the midst of such apathy, rebellion and rejection? Well, the truth of God's Word in our text for today reveal three things that Ezekiel did in response to hearing God's Word that empowered him to powerfully fulfill the will of God for his life - which shows us how we should respond to God's Word, which would also empower us to do God's will.

*"In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God."* Ezekiel 1:1

We first see that Ezekiel responded to hearing God's call for him to powerfully live out God's will by *acknowledging the reality and fullness of who God truly was*. Ezekiel opens his book while he is in exile in Babylon, standing before the River Chebar, which flows out of the Euphrates just outside the city of Nippur. In the first verses of book in chapter one, God gives Ezekiel a dramatic vision of the "likeness" of the Lord himself which makes Ezekiel keenly aware of God's sovereign presence and majestic power.

*Over the heads of the living creatures there was the likeness of an expanse, shining like awe-inspiring crystal, spread out above their heads. And under the expanse their wings were stretched out straight, one toward another. And each creature had two wings covering its body. And when they went, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of many waters, like the sound of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army. When they stood still, they let down their wings. And there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads. When they stood still, they let down their wings. And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.* Ezekiel 1:22-28

When Moses realized He stood before a holy God, he begged for mercy and went to his knees. Isaiah confessed the darkness of his heart and cried out for help in his lostness as he stood before God. When Peter recognized the divinity of God in Jesus, he asked for forgiveness and begged to be removed from the Lord's presence. When Ezekiel saw a dramatic vision of God as *"appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking."*

Brothers and sisters, in so many ways we have lost our holy fear, our reverence, our awe of Lord. The day we finally come to understand the holiness and power and majesty and awesome nature of God, we will then understand how powerless, how weak, how depraved, how sinful we truly are – and we will then fall on our faces before His throne of power and grace and holiness. And when we do – His power will become ours. In 2 Corinthians 12:9 Jesus told Paul *"my power is made perfect in weakness."* Paul then said, *"I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

Ezekiel was able to live for the purpose of God's will with great power because he acknowledged how desperate and dependent he was in view of how glorious and holy who God was – a God of both justice and grace, of discipline and love, majesty and intimacy. Ezekiel did not so much respond to all this just with his mouth but more so with all of his heart, mind, soul, and strength. For when the true power of God enters within us, it will be overpowering – driving us down to our knees and on our faces. The power of God at work within us is rooted in the great weakness of our humble, desperate need for God.

*And he said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you." And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.' And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them. And you, son of man, be not afraid of them, nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions. Be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. And you shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear, for they are a rebellious house.*

*"But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you." And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.*

*And he said to me, "Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. And he said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey. Ezekiel 2:1-3:3*

Secondly, we see that after Ezekiel responded to hearing God's calling for him to powerfully live out God's will, by first acknowledging the reality and fullness of who God truly was – *he then sacrificially surrendered and submitted his life to God's will.* *"He said to me, 'Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.' Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey."* The demand to eat the scroll immediately tested Ezekiel's commitment to God's will, which is in stark contrast with the rebelliousness of his fellow priests, prophets and people. In these words we see the progression of Ezekiel's obedience from command to compliance that moves through three moments of God's demanding and Ezekiel's response. We also see Ezekiel's sacrificial surrender to God's will in God's requesting Ezekiel to open his mouth and eat *"the scroll"* comes without any indication of what is inside of the scroll. We ultimately learn it is the Word of God, which will empower Ezekiel to fulfill God's will. Andrew Murray once said, "God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to Him." God will not bless disobedience; neither will he bless a lack of submission to His will!

Notice once Ezekiel truly acknowledged who God was, he fell with his face to the ground, and we read in verse two of chapter two that *“the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet.”* Those who argue that the Holy Spirit is a New Testament concept had better take notice here. This is the same Holy Spirit that moved over the surface of the waters before creation in Genesis 1:2. It’s also the same Holy Spirit that showed up as flames of fire at Pentecost; and it is also the same Holy Spirit that dwells in the hearts of those who have surrendering their hearts, lives and souls into the crucified and risen Jesus Christ. D.L Moody once said, "I believe firmly that the moment our hearts are emptied of pride and selfishness and ambition and everything that is contrary to God's law, the Holy Spirit will fill every corner of our hearts. But if we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. We must be emptied before we can be filled."

*“The Spirit entered me and set me on my feet.”* These words remind us that way too often we stand up in our faith under our own power, instead of being set on our feet by the power of the Holy Spirit. God’s people today need to stop filling their hearts and lives with the all the stuff of this world and start *filling* their hearts and lives with the power of the Holy Spirit. When we surrender to the Holy Spirit and submit to God’s will, the power of the One who is called The Most High will fill us to overflowing – and everything that is dark with in us will be flooded out by the power of the light of the Holy Spirit.

Ezekiel submitted to God’s will; he did as he was told, *“Eat this!”* And he did. And it tasted good! As *“sweet as honey.”* How much better the food of God tastes than the junk food of this world. And even though the food of God can be hard to chew and swallow, we do need to move beyond spiritual milk. God doesn’t just call us to the justification of salvation; in Christ we are called to move beyond that into sanctification. We can, by the power of the Spirit. God loves us too much to leave us just where we are.

*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*

*Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God* Hebrews 5:12-6:1

*And he said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me: because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” Moreover, he said to me, “Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord God,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.” Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me the voice of a great earthquake: “Blessed be the glory of the Lord from its place!” Ezekiel 3:4-12*

It is here, in these words, thirdly and lastly, that we see that after Ezekiel responded to hearing God’s call for him to powerfully live out God’s will, by first acknowledging the reality and fullness of who God truly was, and then secondly, sacrificially surrendering and submitting his life to God’s will - *Ezekiel the opened his heart to the truth and power of the Word of God* – which empowered Him, by the Holy Spirit, to powerfully live out the will of God - which ultimately always glorifies God! *“Moreover, he said to me, ‘Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears’ . . . Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me the voice of a great earthquake: ‘Blessed be the glory of the Lord from its place!’”*

When we acknowledge the reality and fullness of who God truly was; and sacrificially surrender and submit our lives to God’s will; and then open our hearts to the truth and power of the Word of God –the Holy Spirit will

empower us to powerfully live out the will of God for the glory of God. Facing tough opposition, but empowered by the indwelling Spirit of God, Ezekiel moved on from this point to boldly live out God's will for the calling of his life. In acknowledging God for who He was and submitting to God's will, the glory of God was revealed in Ezekiel's life. God gave him a vision which transformed his heart and changed the remainder of his life. In the pages that follow Ezekiel shares of seeing God in all of His majesty, above and beyond the world of men, all-seeing, all-knowing – a great divine vision of God's fire and His glory. But against the brilliance of God's glory he also saw the rebellion of sin in all its blackness. He saw also the inevitability of judgment because of sin. He saw the grief of God's heart and the workings of His love through discipline and the grace of God's condemnation for unholiness and unrighteousness for our greater good and for the glory of God. He also saw the desire of God's heart to cleanse us and forgive us – His divine yearning to restore us back to Him and His glory.

Brothers and sisters, in our materialistic, man-centered world, we need Ezekiel's vision of our Almighty God. We need Ezekiel's heart and his passion to see that vision. We need to see sin as God sees it. We need to be reminded of our responsibility to God and to one another. We need to acknowledge that God is God; we need to do so before we learn it the hard way, like Israel did – through judgement. God is holy and just. He does not defend those who claim His name but who also profane His name through unholy attitudes and lives. God will not honor those who give Him only part of their lives. These are hard truths which are difficult to communicate in a culturally relevant manner. But these are the truths of the Word of God. There are some powerful questions before us today. Are you acknowledging God for who He truly is in your life? Are you submitting in total surrender to God's will? Have you opened your heart to the fullness of the truth of the Word of God?

Brothers and sisters, it is not God's desire for us to live in defeat; He yearns that we might possess the victory of His greatness and magnificence. We were created for that purpose – for the purpose of living out our lives so that everything we think, say and do reflects the glory of the greatness and magnificence of God's love and grace and mercy and joy and holiness and justice and forgiveness and goodness and redemption and healing and restoration. Sin fractured that glory but it was God's will that Jesus would be crucified and would rise from the dead - so that in His victory over sin and death those who receive Him as Lord and Savior would be once again restored to the glory we were created for.

This is where we also come to our text for today, in Ezekiel 43. God puts before Ezekiel a picture of what a return to God's glory would look like, would sound like, would feel like. He shares with us God's vision for the return of His glory to the temple that was destroyed by the Babylonians. This is also God's vision for the return of His glory to the temple of our hearts that was destroyed by sin.

*Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing east. And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory. And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and just like the vision that I had seen by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face. As the glory of the Lord entered the temple by the gate facing east, the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple. Ezekiel 43:1-5*

Oh, brothers and sisters, we are way too satisfied with the glories of this world. God desires that His glory live in us, that His glory would fill our hearts and lives, our friends and families, our homes and our church. When we fall before Him in awe, His Holy Spirit will lift us up and His glory will fill our souls. God's will is that we be filled with His Spirit - and by that filling, we be lifted up and empowered to do great things for God, for His glory. Amen?

The most powerful characteristic which stands out in Ezekiel's life is the deep individual responsibility he felt before God. He was an extraordinary man of God with great vision, who – though having been trained and educated in the most holy priesthood of service to God – still had a great passion and dedication for God and sought to be utterly obedient and submissive to God's will. Friends, I pray we would seek to do the same. May

we acknowledge who God is and submit to His will for the glory of His name. Ezekiel did so, by the power of the Spirit. By the power of that same Spirit, we can that also!

The great Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen was the first to discover the magnetic meridian of the North Pole and also the first to discover the South Pole. On one of his trips, Amundsen took a homing pigeon with him. When he had finally reached the top of the world, he opened the bird's cage and set it free. A few weeks later Amundsen's wife, who was back in Norway, opened the doorway of her home and there sat that same pigeon. Her reaction? She jumped for joy and cried out - "He's alive! My husband is still alive!" Jesus' disciples rejoiced over his resurrection from the dead. But then Jesus ascended to heaven. But what joy they must have known when the Holy Spirit descended on them like fire at Pentecost. That same Holy Spirit lives within us today. What is your response to that today? Romans 14:17 tells us: "*The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*" Jesus is alive! And, by the power of the Holy Spirit, He is alive in us!

*"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

*Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 3:17-4:6*

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

Romans 5:1-5

O Holy Spirit, as the sun is full of light, the ocean full of water, Heaven full of glory, so may my heart be full of thee. Vain are all divine purposes of love and the redemption wrought by Jesus except thou work within, regenerating by thy power, giving me eyes to see Jesus, showing me the realities of the unseen world. Give me thyself without measure, as an unimpaired fountain, as inexhaustible riches. I bewail my coldness, poverty, emptiness, imperfect vision, languid service, prayerless prayers, praiseless praises. Suffer me not to grieve or resist thee. Come as power, to expel every rebel lust, to reign supreme and keep me thine; Come as teacher, leading me into all truth, filling me with all understanding; Come as love, that I may adore the Father, and love him as my all; Come as joy, to dwell in me, move in me, animate me; Come as light, illuminating the Scripture, moulding me in its laws; Come as sanctifier, body, soul and spirit wholly thine; Come as helper, with strength to bless and keep, directing my every step; Come as beautifier, bringing order out of confusion, loveliness out of chaos. Magnify to me thy glory by being magnified in me, and make me redolent of thy fragrance.

Puritan Prayer - "*Spiritus Sanctus*"

2018-01-07

Pastor Leland Botzet

Arrowsmith Baptist Church