

OV devotions DAY SEVEN (Friday - 6/15/18)

In Acts 2:14-21, Peter addresses the bewildered crowd at Pentecost using the words of the Old Testament Prophet Joel. Verse 17:

"In the last days, God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.....21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord, will be saved.'"

"Y'all" is a great Southern word. It means **all of you**.

"Y'all" is a way of grouping people that does not elevate social status, age, gender, or race. Perhaps "y'all" is the great equalizing word missing from the dictionary. Yet this scripture passage does not include the word "y'all."

Instead these verses do include specific groups of people: sons and daughters, young and old, slaves, men, and women. Wouldn't verse 17's **all** cover it? Why does the scripture have to be so specific?

I think the scripture wants to make sure that we do not exclude any group from God's **all**. Humans tend to forget that our opinions are not God's, and neither are our divisions. So, God reminds us that "Y'all" means **ALL**. "All" is not reluctant acceptance in spite of our differences in identity, race, age, or social status; "all" names, embraces, and celebrates our particularities. With this in mind, perhaps verse 18 should read, "In those days, I will pour out my spirit and Y'all will prophesy."

God sees us as a beautiful tapestry. It is time for us to see as God sees and prophesy this truth about ourselves.

Who are people you may have excluded?

How could listening to people in these groups help you hear a word from God?

Prayer:

God, forgive me when I exclude people from your "Y'all." Give me ears to listen to people who are different from me and who are sharing Your message. Amen.

