

## GenZ – Generation of the Spirit

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### Sermon Synopsis

In “*Generation Z: A Generation of The Spirit*,” Dr. Billy Wilson casts a prophetic vision for the largest generation in human history—those born after 1995—standing at the threshold of a worldwide spiritual awakening. Speaking from the campus of Oral Roberts University, he describes Generation Z not merely as a demographic but as a Spirit-empowered movement, poised to usher in one of the greatest revivals the world has ever seen. Despite living in a culture marked by confusion, upheaval, and secularism, this generation longs for authenticity and encounters with the Living God—a hunger that the Holy Spirit is prepared to ignite. Wilson’s urgent yet hope-filled message declares that this generation will rediscover the Spirit’s power, reclaim lost ground for Christ, and carry forward the unfinished task of world evangelization.

Grounding his vision in Scripture, Dr. Wilson draws a parallel to the Old Testament figures Zerubbabel and Zechariah—two “Z” leaders who inspired God’s people to rebuild the temple after years of exile. Facing fierce resistance and political opposition, their work stalled for sixteen years until the Spirit, through prophetic encouragement, renewed their strength. The timeless truth of Zechariah 4:6—“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord”—becomes the banner over Generation Z. Just as the Spirit enabled Zerubbabel to finish the work, so the Spirit empowers today’s generation to overcome intimidation, simplify overwhelming challenges, and transcend human limitations in order to fulfill the Great Commission.

Throughout the message, Wilson weaves in the authentic voices of ORU students who embody the complexity of Gen Z’s spiritual landscape. They reveal a generation wrestling with identity, navigating cultural tensions, and yearning for truth and integrity. These testimonies underscore both the obstacles and the opportunities that lie before them. Dr. Wilson also shares his own

story of encountering the Holy Spirit at sixteen, underscoring the life-altering power of such encounters and urging today's young believers to open their lives to the same Spirit-filled transformation.

The sermon crescendos into a clarion call: the Spirit is raising up leaders who will not bow to cultural pressure but will stand in purity, courage, and authenticity. This coming revival, Wilson proclaims, will eclipse all previous moves of God in scope and power. The world is on the brink of a Spirit-driven transformation led by Generation Z—God's chosen generation to finish His global mission.

## Sermon Highlights

- Generation Z is uniquely positioned to experience a powerful move of the Holy Spirit, initiating a revival that will impact the world for Jesus Christ like never before.
- Each generation must have its own personal encounter with God and the Holy Spirit; past spiritual experiences are not enough—this generation needs fresh empowerment from the Spirit.
- The story of Zerubbabel and Zechariah in the Bible illustrates how the Holy Spirit provides motivation, breaks intimidation, overcomes complications, and supersedes limitations to accomplish God's purposes.
- 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' declares the Lord Almighty—true spiritual victory comes only through reliance on the Holy Spirit, not human strength or resources.
- Though Generation Z faces strong opposition, confusion, and cultural challenges, many are hungry for an authentic and genuine relationship with Jesus, and they will be instrumental in finishing the task of world evangelization.

## Scripture Verses

### Exodus 3:5

Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

### Zechariah 4:6-7

So he said to me, 'This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty. 'What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of, "God bless it! God bless it!"'

### Ezra 5:1-2

Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak set to work to rebuild the house of God... And the prophets were with them, supporting them.

#### Psalm 20:6-8

Now this I know: The Lord gives victory to his anointed. He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of his right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.

#### 1 John 4:4

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

## Quotes

- "I am convinced that this generation, the new generation coming on, is gonna see a revival that shakes the world for Jesus Christ." - Billy Wilson
- "Every generation must have their own encounter with the Holy Spirit. It's not enough for my children or my grandchildren to know that Papa or their dad had an encounter with the Holy Spirit, they need an encounter with the Holy Spirit." - Billy Wilson
- "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty." - Billy Wilson
- "The Holy Spirit is like a fire inside of us, a fire inside of our bones, and will motivate us to do the will of God." - Billy Wilson
- "Greater is he that is in us, than he that is in the world." - Billy Wilson

# Bible Study

## Objectives

- Understand the unique spiritual condition and characteristics of Generation Z.
- Recognize Generation Z's potential as a generation empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Study the biblical examples of Zerubbabel and Zechariah as models of Spirit-empowered leadership and revival.
- Reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in motivating, empowering, and overcoming obstacles.
- Develop practical ways to encourage and support Generation Z in their spiritual journey.
- Commit to seeking a personal encounter with the Holy Spirit as a catalyst for revival.

## Reading and Reflections

- Ezra 5:1 – The ministry of Haggai and Zechariah inspiring Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple.
- Zechariah 4:6-7 – 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty.'
- Psalm 20:6-8 – Trusting in the Lord's victorious power rather than human strength.
- Exodus 3:5 – The holiness of divine encounters symbolized by removing shoes.
- Joshua 5:13-15 – Joshua's encounter with the commander of the Lord's army emphasizing God's presence in revival.
- 2 Timothy 1:7 – God gives a spirit of power, love and self-discipline, not fear.
- John 14:16-17 – The Holy Spirit as our constant companion and guide.

## Key Observations

- Generation Z is facing a complex spiritual environment with confusion, social pressures, and the threat of 'cancel culture.'
- They are seekers of authenticity and spiritual depth but often struggle with consistency and steadfastness.
- Like Zerubbabel and Zechariah, Generation Z can become revival agents by relying on the Holy Spirit, not worldly power or resources.
- The Holy Spirit provides motivation, courage, and supernatural help against intimidating obstacles and opposition.
- Spiritual revival requires a personal encounter with God, just as each generation—including Gen Z—must claim their own experience.
- Despite the challenging landscape, this generation is poised to lead a world-shaking revival empowered by the Spirit.

## Personal Reflections

- Am I relying on my own strength or on the power of the Holy Spirit in my daily walk?
- Do I seek an authentic, Spirit-empowered relationship with Jesus, or do I settle for routine or tradition?
- How do I respond to opposition or discouragement — like Zerubbabel, by faith and courage or by fear and retreat?
- In what ways can I encourage younger believers or family members, especially Generation Z, to pursue revival and spiritual authenticity?
- Am I willing to be used by God to rebuild or restore what has been lost in our communities and churches?
- How can I be more sensitive and cooperative with the Holy Spirit's promptings towards revival and renewal?

## Lessons for Daily Life

- Revival and spiritual breakthroughs are not by human might or political influence but by God's Spirit alone.
- God's power motivates and sustains us amid delays, disappointments, and opposition.
- Boldness to speak truth in love and stand firm comes from the Holy Spirit, not from fear or human wisdom.
- True spiritual authenticity requires a daily decision of surrender and consistent commitment.
- We must reject 'cancel culture' and strive to emulate Jesus' compassion and respect towards those with differing views.
- Prayer and intercession are vital to support younger generations who are seeking God amidst complexity.

## Practical Applications

- Spend intentional time daily seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance and empowering presence.
- Mentor and come alongside Generation Z believers by sharing biblical truths and encouraging spiritual disciplines.
- Engage in community prayer focused on revival in your family, church, and generation.
- Respond to social and cultural challenges with boldness and grace, inspired by Jesus' example.
- Identify and confront 'mountains'—obstacles in your life or community—with faith, trusting the Spirit to bring breakthrough.
- Create spaces for authentic worship and spiritual expressions that resonate with today's generation.

## Challenges for the Week

- Reflect on one specific area where you tend to rely on your own power instead of the Spirit, and choose to surrender it to God.
- Identify a young person in your life (child, grandchild, student, neighbor) and commit to praying earnestly for their spiritual awakening.
- Practice sharing the gospel or a life-changing testimony with at least one person this week, trusting the Holy Spirit's boldness.
- Resist the urge to engage in 'cancel culture' online or offline; instead, respond with patience and grace.
- Begin reading the book of Zechariah or Ezra to understand the power of prophetic encouragement in revival.

## Further Study

- Read the entire book of Zechariah to explore prophetic encouragement and visions related to God's Spirit.
- Study the leadership and faith journey of Zerubbabel in Ezra 3-6 and Haggai 1-2.
- Examine the story of Joshua's encounter with God in Joshua 5:13-15 to understand holy ground and divine commissioning.
- Explore John 14-16 where Jesus teaches about the coming and role of the Holy Spirit.
- Read James Emery White's book, 'Meet Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World' for cultural context.
- Pray and journal daily about your personal encounters with the Holy Spirit.

## Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with gratitude for Your Spirit that empowers and renews. We ask for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on this generation and on each of us, that we might be motivated, courageous, and faithful in building Your kingdom. Help us to trust not in our own strength or might, but fully rely on Your Spirit's power. Guide us to show love and grace in a world that often lacks both. Father, raise up a mighty generation—Generation Z and beyond—who experience You deeply, who walk in Your Spirit boldly, and who carry Your revival fire to every corner of the earth. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. Amen.

# Daily Devotionals

## Day 1

### Scripture Verse

Zechariah 4:6-7 (NIV): "So he said to me, 'This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty. What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of, 'God bless it! God bless it!'"

### Reflection

Consider Zerubbabel, a leader who faced immense opposition while rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem after the captivity. He encountered 'mighty mountains' — seemingly insurmountable barriers posed by political enemies, financial constraints, and societal resistance. Yet God's message to Zerubbabel was clear: victory and success will not come through human might or power, but by the Spirit of the Lord. How often do we face mountains in our lives that seem impossible to overcome? Perhaps it is a personal struggle, an emotional burden, or a daunting goal about which we feel powerless. Like Zerubbabel, it's tempting to rely on our own strength — our intellect, resources, or influence. But this scripture reminds us that God's empowering Spirit is the true source of our strength. In our times — especially with Generation Z navigating complex social and spiritual upheavals — the call remains personal: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit.' This is a bold declaration that God equips and emboldens us beyond what we might ever achieve alone. Imagine a young person today, stepping into the world feeling overwhelmed by confusion, hostility, or rejection. When they rely on the Holy Spirit, they receive motivation, courage, and divine wisdom to face their challenges. Zerubbabel represents a generation empowered by God's Spirit to rebuild what was broken and restore God's presence with His people. For you, the invitation is to step off your spiritual sidelines. What mountains are before you? What work has God called you to that feels too great for you? Remember to trust God's Spirit — the One who ignites passion, breaks intimidation, overcomes complications, and transcends limitations. Let your heart say: Father, empower me with Your Spirit, so that no obstacle can hinder Your work in and through me.

### Prayer

Holy Spirit, fill me anew today. When I am weak and overwhelmed, remind me that Your power within me is greater than any mountain I face. Empower me to do Your work by Your Spirit alone. Amen.

## Day 2

### Scripture Verse

Ezra 5:1 (NIV): "Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak set to work to rebuild the house of God... And the prophets were with them, supporting them."

### Reflection

Imagine the scene in Jerusalem: The people had returned from exile, their hearts burdened and their hands ready to rebuild the destroyed temple. Yet after laying the foundation, work stopped for 16 years due to opposition and discouragement. Into this silence stepped two prophets — Haggai and Zechariah— to prophetic encouragement and to support Zerubbabel and Joshua as they resumed the work. This partnership of leadership and prophetic encouragement speaks powerfully to us today. How often do we face seasons where progress feels stalled, where discouragement threatens to immobilize our faith journey or calling? In those moments, God's Spirit often ministers through others — His prophets and encouragers sent to remind us that God's work is still alive. Generation Z lives in a confusing world, hungry for authenticity amid social upheaval. Like Zerubbabel's generation, they face a daunting task to reclaim identity and rebuild spiritually. The encouragement given by prophets empowered Zerubbabel to break free from opposition. Today's believers, whether individual or generational, need that same prophetic voice and Spirit-empowered community to push past delay and discouragement. Reflect on your own journey: Have you allowed disappointment or opposition to silence the work God has called you to do? Are you open to hearing God's encouragement through His Word, through others, or through the Spirit's prompting? When we stand firm, supported by God's Spirit and community, we partake in a legacy of faith — a people who rebuild and restore even when the task seems impossible. Remember, like Zerubbabel, you are not alone. The prophets were with him; God's Spirit is with you. Let this truth motivate your next step, no matter how small, knowing that God's presence accompanies you.

### Prayer

Lord, in times when I feel delayed or discouraged, send Your Spirit's encouragement through Your Word and Your people. Remind me that You are with me and the work You have begun will be completed. Amen.



## Day 3

### Scripture Verse

Psalm 20:6-8 (NIV): "Now this I know: The Lord gives victory to his anointed. He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of his right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm."

### Reflection

In a world filled with uncertainty and opposition, it is easy to look to worldly power, technology, or resources as our deliverance. Yet the Psalmist reminds us that real victory belongs to the Lord's anointed. For Generation Z and every believer, the temptation is great to seek quick solutions or temporary fixes in a postmodern, constantly shifting culture. We see in Zerubbabel's story that despite immense challenges — political interference, lack of funding, opposition from neighbors — the work of rebuilding God's temple was accomplished not through human might or political savvy but by divine intervention through the Holy Spirit. This Psalm invites each of us to evaluate where our trust lies. Are we putting our hope in 'chariots and horses,' symbols of worldly protection and power? Or do we anchor our lives in the powerful name of the Lord? The lasting victories we celebrate as believers are those where God alone receives the glory. Consider how this truth influences your daily walk. When fear or uncertainty threatens to bring you to your knees, remember: God's strength empowers you to rise up and stand firm. This resilience is not natural but supernatural, a testimony to the Spirit's empowering presence. This is a call to faith-filled endurance — knowing that though the world will challenge you, the Holy Spirit living within you is greater than any opposition. As you face your personal and generational mountains, cling to God's promise of victory. Let this hope fuel your passion and commitment to build God's kingdom wherever you are, knowing that no obstacle is too great when the Spirit leads.

### Prayer

Almighty God, help me to place my full trust in Your name, not in my strength or in the things of this world. Strengthen me by Your Spirit to rise up and stand firm, assured of the victory You have won in my life. Amen.

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