

## SPRING RAIN IN THE VALLEY OF DECISION

Are you ready for change? Are you ready for the Lord to open up the windows of heaven and pour out so much blessing we could not contain it all? I know I am!

Zechariah 10:1 (amp.) says, "Ask of the Lord rain in the time of the latter or spring rain. It is the Lord Who makes lightnings which usher in the rain and give men showers, and grass to everyone in the field."

Prayer/song.... Lord we ask... Spirit come... pour Your rain on everyone  
So Lord I ask... Spirit come... pour Your rain on everyone

We all need the showers and the freshness of life in "new grass".

Not only do we need the fresh, cleansing water of the latter/spring rain, we also need the power of the anointing and the anointing oil to usher in the healing and give men the ability to stand before the Lord of the whole earth (as His anointed instruments).

Because of Messiah/Jesus Who is the great Priest/King we now have the rights of the inheritance to be/become His anointed instruments.

Read Zech. 4: 1-14à the oil/anointing oil comes straight from the Throne of God. It is His Spirit not anything that we can lay claim to, although historically men have tried.

Let us not fall into the same trap but let us remember that it is not by our might, our power but by His Spirit that the anointing is released. Joel 2:28 speaks of the Spirit being poured out on everyone and then amazing things can happen! Are you ready?

So, we have oil and we have spring rain, the latter rain. Can oil and water mix? Oil and water are two distinct items each with their own properties and distinct uses. We are in need of both to walk a balanced life in Christ.

Zech. 10:1 speaks of lightnings that usher in the rain and give showers.

During a thunder and lightening and rain storm there is a lot of activity going on in the heavens above us. The thunder is booming and powerful and really gets our attention so that we notice the lightening all over the sky... it can be "sheet" or "forked" lightening. (corporate/individually specific)

The natural often speaks of the supernatural. During a thunder/lightening storm we can get a glimpse in the natural of what may really be going on in the higher heavens. There's warfare going on. We may not always see it, but it is there.

Ps. 18:13a, 14 says, "The Lord also thundered from the heavens, and the Most High uttered His voice..."

And He sent out His arrows and scattered them; and He flashed forth lightening and put them to rout."

2<sup>nd</sup> Sam.22:14, 15 says, "The Lord thundered from heaven and the Most High uttered His Voice He sent out arrows and scattered them; lightening confused and troubled them." (sends confusion & trouble into the enemy's camp.)

Once again we see that it is not by might, it is not by power but it is by HIS SPIRIT that things happens, that the ultimate battle is won.

Luke 10:17a-19 reminds us though that even though there's a battle Satan has fallen from the the heavens like lightening and the Lord has given you and I authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, (and physical and mental strength and ability over all the power that the enemy possesses) and nothing shall in any way harm us. Jesus acknowledges that the enemy has some power but we have more and of course the Lord has the most! We may get bitten, we may be pressed on every side but it will not kill us.

Just as lightening charges the air with power to effect change and bring about the rain, so too the light and power of the Holy Spirit at the utterance/thundering of the voice of the Lord desires to release His power and effect change in our lives.

Joel 3:14 mentions that there are multitudes in the valley of decision and that the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

Today is your day of decision. Will you allow the Lord to effect change in your life by sending His lightening arrows into the darkness in your life to rout out and to heal?

Then comes the rain and after the rainstorm is over, the air/atmosphere is changed and everything around us not only looks fresh but there is a smell of freshness as well. There is a cleansing, a refreshing, a freshness and new outlook in those "grassy" places in our lives.

Ps. 65:10 says," You water the field's furrows abundantly, You settle the ridges of it; You make the soil soft with showers, blessing the sprouting of it's vegetation."

The abundant water of the Holy Spirit applied to the furrows of the soil of your heart and mine, will soften and prepare our hearts to receive the blessing of newness of growth and to produce a harvest of righteousness, fruits of the Spirit at work in our lives and the lives of those around us.

The ridges/walls that have been erected either knowingly or unknowingly can now be flattened and watered by the Spirit of the Living God, ready to embrace and continually be filled with the oil, the water and the wine of the Spirit so that we would have the ability to stand before the Lord of the whole earth as His anointed instruments.

During the soil preparation time of a furrowed field there are instruments used to break up the lumps of the soil, to rip and turn up soil that has not been exposed to the light for a time. The ploughshare digs, pulls up weeds. The disker breaks up the larger

pieces into smaller ones and then the harrows make the soil much more refined. (It can be a "harrowing experience"!)

You can see the parallel to the soil of our lives/hearts no doubt!

At the time(s) our hearts are being tilled and prepared for the next move of the Spirit in our lives, there can be a lot of pain involved in the process. There may be sorrows, grief, suffering of many types and certainly there is exposure of those things in our hearts that have wanted to stay hidden in the darkness.

Those things that have so easily beset us are now being brought to the Light. It is time to allow the refining process of the soil of our heart to have it's way in preparation for the watering.

Luke 10:34a tells us of the Samaritan who was tending to the person who was beaten and then abandoned at the side of the road. Scripture says that he dressed his wounds, pouring on them oil and wine. (we need one another in those lonely and broken places, the Lord will use us to be a vessel of honor and an instrument of His anointing and healing in the time of need for a brother or sister)

There is an old chorus that holds true for today...

He poured on the oil and the wine  
The kind that restoreth my soul  
He saw me bleeding and dying on the Jericho road  
And He poured on the oil and the wine

The oil, the wine and the water all work together to effect healing in our lives. The water cleanses the wounds, the wine is the antiseptic(side bar—wine also numbs and can act as a pain killer. You may or may not have seen the manifest Presence of God in the form of joy/laughter/"drunkenness" in the Spirit/ "falling out in the power of the Spirit). At these times the pain from within may be dulled/anesthetized so that the Lord can go in and do the deeper work quickly (spiritual surgery if you will).

The oil seals it so no more "bugs" can get in. (Holy Spirit seals His work)  
Oil is not easily washed off with water but more seamlessly covers and fills areas where the debris has been removed first. It has a cosmetic property that brings about freshness, a glow and a shine and strengthens the heart of men. (Ps. 104:15)

There is hope in that place where you are feeling abandoned and left for dead on your Jericho road. The Lord is the glory and lifter of our heads. Look up for your redemption draws near!

Like grass on a lawn,maybe you have been trampled on or had other people's "garbage" thrown on you. Maybe you have been "burned" by the treatment of others toward you. Maybe you have bought into some lies from the enemy that has overshadowed the truth.

When we are in a place like this, we can be targeted by what power the enemy has or what we give him.

For e.g. It may be telling a little "white" lie for fear of... fear of what?

Man? Rejection? Loss of control? Defense mechanism?

Whatever the underlying reason may be, the fear is controlling your belief system and your actions.

The Spirit of the Lord is here for you today to rout out the fear and plant His love, His acceptance, His forgiveness for lying or for any other unconfessed sin... (That's right a white lie is a lie, plain and simple). Fear of man gives in to tell the "white lie". Fear of the Lord says, "NO".

He offers to take control of these areas if you will release it to Him, trusting Him. He is here to defend and protect you no matter what.

The Lord wants to care for you, to comfort you, to turn your mourning into joy, the ashes of what is dying in your life into beauty so that He will be glorified.

Will you relinquish what you think are your rights to hang onto the "stuff" and give it all to Him?

Whatever the cause of the pain may be in our lives, whether self inflicted or at the hand of the enemy or others it is pain nonetheless.

You may be standing in need of a miracle right now today. It may be physical healing, it may be emotional healing, it may be healing of the mind or it may be spiritual healing. Whatever it may be you are fully aware that it is beyond you and help is needed.

Good News! Help is on the way.

In fact it is here right now.

James 5:13-18 in the Message reads:

Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing.

Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master.

Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven--- healed inside and out.

Make this your common practice. Confess your sins to each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with."

It says that Elijah prayed for the rain to stop. It did for 3.5 yrs. and then he prayed for the rain and it did!

The showers came and everything started growing again.

As Michael W. Smith sings, we need the healing rain to fall on us.

Will you take a stand now? Has the dry season in your life seemed too long and you are ready to ask for the rain?

This is YOUR valley of decision.

(YOU) ask of the Lord rain in the time of the latter or spring rain. Ask Him for the lightnings in your life that will usher in the rain and give new showers, and grass to you and everyone in your field of influence and beyond.

We agree with Ezekiel 34:26 which says, " And I will make them and the places round about My hill a blessing, and I will cause the showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing ( of good insured by God's favor)."

So Lord we say... POUR IT ON! THE RAIN, THE HEALING RAIN. THE SHOWERS OF BLESSING TO WATER AND NURTURE OUR SOULS AND OUR SPIRITS. GIVE US THE MIND OF CHRIST.

Isaiah 1:6 says " From the sole of the foot even to the head there is no soundness or health in (the nation's body/body of Christ) --- but wounds and bruises and fresh and bleeding stripes; they have not been pressed out and closed up or bound up or softened with oil. (No one has troubled to seek a remedy)."

- Pastor Leslie Johnson
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