

ARE YOU WAITING FOR RAIN?

Everywhere we go lately we are hearing a cry from God's people pleading for rain. They sing about it, pray for it, and talk about it. "Lord send the rain, we need the rain."

It seems that what is meant by this, at least by some is, to see more of the acts of God, more power, more miracles and more anointing. Many others do not know what they are groaning for. They just know that some things need to change, and there surely must be more than this, so "Lord send it, whatever it is."

God has always visited His people over the generations since the beginning. He walked and talked with Adam before the fall. God's desire has always been to have fellowship with man. Enoch, Noah, and Abraham had fellowship with God. God has always had a man in the earth that walked with Him, but He desires to have a body of people who walk and talk with Him.

God's word declares that He is building a people together for His permanent habitation; that is different than just a visitation. When I visit someone's home that means I will only be there for a short time, but my habitation is where I live. It is God's desire to dwell in us, not just visit us from time to time, for we are His dwelling place.

Generally speaking, in the natural, rain comes and goes. It rains more often in some places than others. In arid places we have learned to depend on other sources for water because the rain comes less often. When the rain finally comes it is a time of refreshing. Everything turns green and life springs up everywhere, for a short time, but before long, when the heat begins to rise and things dry up, the only plant life that survives is the ones that find a deeper source of water. We are likened unto trees in the scriptures. We are called "trees of righteousness, plantings of the Lord".

Isaiah prophesied of Jesus that He would be "as a tender plant, a root out of dry ground." When Jesus came on the scene, I believe it was truly the driest time, spiritually, that this world

has ever known. Over four hundred years had passed from the time of Malachi to when John the Baptist came out of the wilderness preaching, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Jesus had no brethren around to encourage Him in His calling. He had no anointed worship services or great-anointed sermons to keep Him focused and help Him walk in the Spirit. There weren't any great Holy Ghost meetings where the glory came down for refreshing. No, on the contrary, Jesus was met with resistance on every hand. Even those closest to Him did not understand, and yet as a "*tender plant*" He came forth. Usually the tough barked, knurled trees and shrubs are the only ones that survive the dry ground, not the tender plants.

How did Jesus keep so focused and so full of life without the rain from heaven? He drew from within Himself the only true source of living water, His Heavenly Father. Jesus said, "*Out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water.*"

If we would begin to draw from the river of living water from within us, instead of praying, "Lord, send the rain and revive us," we would not be dry when there's no Holy Ghost revival

around. We would understand that the very life that was in Jesus is the very same life that **dwells** within us. He dwells not in the church building where some great meeting was held. He does not dwell in the majestic cathedrals made of brick and stone or gold and silver. We, in fact, build those monuments for ourselves, not God. God is Spirit therefore invisible. He needs our physical body to live in so that He may become visible through us. (Our body belongs to the Lord anyway He created it for Himself.) The Almighty God of the universe dwells in you and me: what an awesome truth!

While there are millions today praying for rain (revival), I see God raising up a remnant in the earth who intimately know their God. They are not running to Pensacola, Toronto, across town, or any other place, to get under the spout where the glory comes out for they understand that they are the dwelling place of God. The same God whose presence may have graced a meeting in Toronto, or anywhere else is the same God who dwells in you. My intention is not to derogate that which God has done or is doing in that realm. However, I have seen many people who leave meetings like these on a 'spiritual' high

only to find themselves a few days later needing another 'upper' so they search out some other place where they may find another 'fix.' The church has raised up disciples unto themselves and taught them to be dependent upon the ministry and led them to believe that if they were not present at every available meeting they would not stand in Christ and would certainly fall back into the world. Oh, that men would come to understand where this living water is found. Friend, do not look for your dry thirsty soul to be watered from without.

Brethren may encourage us from time to time but it is not God's desire for us to become dependent on the encouragement we get from others. We must grow beyond this and allow our roots to go deep into the very source of our life, which is the river of God within each of us. It may be very dry all around you dear one. Perhaps it has been a long time since you have been in a very anointed meeting. You may long to be in a place where people are worshipping and the Holy spirit is moving in the midst, and perhaps you have not found such a place recently, but in the midst of very dry ground your tender plant shall spring up and bring forth the

blade the stalk and the full grown ear if you learn to draw from the springs of living water **within**. You can live in His presence, you can have a song in your heart in the night seasons of life you won't be up one day and down the next when you live out of those living waters within you. Until we finally understand that God **dwells within us**, we will always be looking for strength, encouragement and answers to come from out there somewhere. The scripture says that 'He has given us all things that pertain to life and Godliness. God has brought **you** into union with Christ Jesus and God has made Christ to be your wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. All you need is within you in the Christ and you have been brought into union (made one) with Him. This does not mean that we should go off in our own little corner and shut the rest of our brethren in Christ out of our lives. When we are young in the Lord many times we need the encouragement and wisdom that experience has worked in others, but God's desire is to bring each one to the place where he is sustained solely by the life of God within himself. I have witnessed more than a few times, people who seemed to need a leaning post for most of their Christian walk. God would graciously allow

it for-ever-so-long, yet there always came a time when—in no less mercy—He would somehow remove the leaning post. It may be a minister or a certain church or any number of things but God knows how to bring a breach, if necessary, to separate us from that which we lean on.

Let us press on to know our God and live from the river of His life within NOW for He came that we may have life and that more abundantly. Amen.

Betty Houk