

Deeper Christian Life Ministry
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Latter Rains in Latter Days
Joel 2:23-28; Acts 2:16-17, 38-39

I want you to talk to the Lord, now, and ask the Lord and say, "Lord, wash tradition away from my heart. Whatever would hinder the preaching of the Gospel, whatever would hinder the move of God today, whatever it is that would not allow us to be what You're raising us up to do... Oh Lord, take it away. Help us to allow the revelation that is coming, the word of God that is coming, let the latter rain fall... wash away whatever would hinder the move of God and the revival of the day." In Jesus' name we pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank You once again. We open up ourselves to Your revelation. We're not going to be like Peter that would say, "Not so, Lord." All we'd say is *Lord, lead us the way You want to lead us*. We are going to do what You want us to do. We're going to be the kind of people You want us to be. We'll lead the revival at this time to churches and places we never thought we could ever get to in Jesus' name. Bless Your people today. In Jesus' name we pray. And everybody said, "Amen."

We're looking at Joel, chapter 2, verse 23. ***"Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month."*** He'll cause to come down the former rain and the latter rain, and it says, "In the first month." When that latter rain comes, what's the implication? What's the spiritual outpouring that the Lord is talking about? Look at verse 28. ***"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh."*** That's the latter rain.

When he talks about the latter rain, it's talking about the outpouring of the Spirit of God. Then it says, ***"...and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My spirit."*** That pouring out, outpouring... that's the coming of the latter rain. As the rain falls down, the Spirit of God is poured down upon His saved, sanctified people.

We're looking at James chapter 5, verse 7. ***"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive..."*** What? ***"...the early and latter rain."*** That is, the Spirit of God coming upon the people of God to perfect and to mature the fruit of the harvest. We're talking about *The Latter Rain in Latter Days*. I'm dividing the message into three parts:

1. *The Promise of the Latter Rain*. The promise... He's giving us a promise and it's the promise of the latter rain. But understand, every time we're talking about the latter rain, we're talking about the Spirit of God, the outpouring of that Spirit to come upon the people of God

- refreshing us, renewing us, revitalizing us, and doing what the Spirit of God is sent to do in the individual believer, in the ministers of the Gospel, as well as in the membership of the church.

2. *Our Preparation for the Latter Rain.*

3. *The Purpose of the Latter Rain.*

1. *The Promise of the Latter Rain.* See the promise the Lord has given us concerning the outpouring of the Spirit. We're back to Joel again. In Joel, chapter 2, verse 23: ***"Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately."*** He said, "The Spirit of God had been poured out, but in a moderate way."

You look at the land of Israel before the Day of Pentecost. They had the Spirit, too. Moses had the Spirit of God. Joshua had the Spirit of God. Micah had the Spirit of God. Micaiah had the Spirit of God. David had the Spirit of God because when he was anointed, the Spirit of God came upon him. But they had the Spirit of God moderately. That was the former rain, but now it says in that verse...verse 23: ***"and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month."*** That means that whatever the people had gotten before, they were still to get more. We'll get more of the Spirit of God.

When that Spirit comes, look at what it will do. Verse 24: ***"And the floors shall be full of wheat."*** That means there'll be harvesting. The wheat...if you go forward to the parables of the Lord Jesus Christ...the tares are the children of the world, and the wheat...those are the children of God. When the Spirit of God is poured out, there will be multiplication of converts in Jesus' name.

It says in verse 25: ***"And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you."*** ... "I will restore." When the latter rain comes, that is when the outpouring of the Spirit comes upon us, there will be also the restoration of everything that we have lost. Think about whatever it is you had before that you have lost...your prayer life and the Spirit of God coming upon you...and everything that you have lost. It says, "If that Spirit will come again, if there'll be the outpouring of that rain once again, the latter rain, the Holy Spirit upon the people of God, there'll be restoration. I said, "There'll be restoration."

Then in verse 26: ***"And ye shall eat in plenty [there'll be provision, too], and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and My people shall never be ashamed."*** With the coming of the latter rain, with the coming of the Spirit of God being poured upon us, all the shame, all the reproach, everything will be taken away. ***"And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and My people shall never be ashamed."***

Then in verse 28: ***"And it shall come to pass..."*** That means it will so happen. ***"...afterward, that I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,***

your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions." It says the coming of the Holy Ghost, of the outpouring of the Spirit of God will bring something. It will bring dreams to the old and visions to the young. Do you know sometimes when people are called unto to do something, they say, "I'm too young; I don't think I can fit in. I don't think I have the experience. I don't think I have the learning. I don't think I have the authority to be able to do that. I'm too young"?

Then you call the other people and they say, "I'm too old at this time now." You know, the old...they give the excuse *I'm too old*, and the young, they give give excuse...*I'm too young*. Who then is going to do the work because you are either old or young, either young or old? When you give excuse...*I'm too young. I don't have the experience. I cannot do it...* What if David said, "I'm too young; I cannot confront Goliath," and then Saul said, "I'm too old; I cannot confront Goliath"? Who is going to do it?

That's why the Lord said, "I'll bring the latter rain. I'll pour My Spirit upon all flesh. When I pour My Spirit upon all flesh, here is what will happen. The people that are old...they will have dreams to dream." When you think about it, what moves things forward is the people that dream, the people that see something we don't see. It's not "dream" in the night. They dream during the day. They said, "Because we're dreamers, we're unstoppable. We've got to do something." Then the young people also begin to see visions. "Where there's no vision, the people perish." You can tell - there are some people that don't have any vision at all. That's why we're not covering the land that we ought to cover.

That same promise of the latter rain...we're told now in the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2. We're looking at it from verse 16. *"But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel."* What did the prophet Joel speak about? He spoke about the latter rain. Now on the Day of Pentecost...when the Day of Pentecost was fully come, it says they were all sitting in one place and the Spirit of God came upon them, each of them, like cloven tongues of fire. The interpretation of Peter to all the people observing is that *"...this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days."* ...Latter rain for the last days...the outpouring of the Spirit of God in the last days.

" 'It shall come to pass in the last days,' saith God, 'I will pour out of My Spirit upon...' " Upon? Upon? Deeper Life? Upon the Pentecostals? *"...upon all flesh."* Do you know that not all Christians will be in our local church? Some of the Christians will be in other churches. Not all the Christians will be in the Methodist church. Not all of them will be in the Baptist church. Not all of them will be in the Catholic church either. God said, "I'll pour out My Spirit upon all flesh."

In the early days of this Pentecostal outpouring...1906 on Azusa Street. Then coming to 1937, coming to 1945...when David du Plessis...actually what had happened was that du Plessis was a white South African and Smith Wigglesworth went to South Africa. This early morning, Smith Wigglesworth just went into du Plessis' office, and without even saying, "Good morning." He just laid hands on him and stood him to the wall and then prophesied upon him that God would take him to different places and he would go to various churches and through him there would be this outpouring upon all flesh.

Now the church that David du Plessis belonged to...they were classical Pentecostal people. You know, people like Assemblies of God. Those are the people we refer to as classical Pentecostal. The Foursquare...those are the people referred to as classical Pentecostals. The Apostolic Faith [Church] that came out of John G. Lake in South Africa...Classical Pentecostal.

God was going to use David du Plessis. He was going to go to all these places and bring the experience of being baptized in the Holy Ghost. Eventually, when he started, his own church misunderstood. That's what I'm saying...that sometimes tradition can pull the string, and the revelation of God...we miss that out. But David du Plessis continued, and God took him to various places. He talked about salvation.

I've listened to him directly myself...a number of messages that David du Plessis preached. He talked about being filled with the Holy Ghost. Many people were being filled with the Holy Ghost. Eventually, before he died, the classical church that disagreed with him...they brought him back again. They said, "Now we understand." What if they had understood at the very beginning when God started using that man? Then all the pressure, the persecution, all the slander that came would not have come. But later they understood. I pray we will understand.

The plan of God is not to only take our little church here to heaven. I think... ***"In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you."*** If only Deeper Life would get to heaven, I think heaven will be so scanty, and the people you would see in heaven would be all the people you are familiar with. But thank God the people who are going to get heaven...I think they're larger than this. I said, "They are larger than this." Why don't you, then, open up yourself and release yourself to minister to the rest of the body because it says, "I will pour My Spirit upon all flesh"?

Then it says in verse 17: ***"And it shall come to pass in the last days,' saith God, 'I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall...' "*** Do what? ***"...see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy."*** That's the latter rain right there, and the Lord has given us the promise.

Look at verse 38 and verse 39. In verse 38: ***"Then Peter said unto them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children...' "*** Wait a minute, Peter. "The promise is unto you..." Those are Jews. "And to your children..." Who are those? Jews. "Unto you"...they're Jews. Then "to your children..." The children of the Jews will be Jews.

Then he said, "And to them..." Sometimes God reveals something through you. When that revelation comes through you and God says, "I used you to say that. I'm going to use you to fulfill that same thing." Then you say, "Not so, Lord" - that's what he said. ***"To them that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."*** Those "afar off" people are Gentiles. Those are not Jews, Peter. Already you prophesied it. You said it...that in this day of the Holy Ghost, He will use you to even fill those people that are afar off with the Holy Ghost.

When the Lord said, "Because I used you to prophesy that, now get up and do it." He said, "Not so, Lord." That's what...sometimes we need to even hear the messages we ourselves preach and see what the Lord has said through you. When the Lord has said it through you, and it's now time to fulfill it and carry it out, rise up and do it, and don't let tradition bind you or make you to stay behind. You'll do it in Jesus' name. That's the promise that the Lord has given, and we're going to receive that promise. He's going to pour His Spirit upon us in Jesus' name.

2. *Our Preparation for the Latter Rain.* We need to do some preparation. The Lord makes it very clear what kind of preparation we need to make. We're looking at Job chapter 29. We're looking at verse 23. ***"And they waited for Me as for the rain; and they opened their mouth wide as for the latter rain."*** ***"And they waited for Me as for the rain."*** That means, then, as we're expecting the latter rain...How many are expecting today? We're expecting.

It says, "We'll open our mouth wide for the latter rain...for the latter rain." That's our preparation. The promise is given, and we need to wait. You'll find that word there...verse 29 before we go to another verse...***"And they waited for Me... And they waited for Me."*** There is a waiting. That's the preparation for the Holy Ghost.

We're looking at Luke, chapter 24, verse 49. ***"And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye..."*** To tarry is to wait. ***"...tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."*** He wants to pour out the rain, the latter rain. He wants to pour out His Spirit. He says, "Wait. Tarry."

In Acts of the Apostles, chapter 1, verse 4. It tells us, ***"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait."*** That's the word...waiting for the latter rain, asking for the latter rain, praying for the latter rain, seeking the face of the Lord for the latter rain until He comes and He pours that rain upon us. ***"...but 'wait for the promise of the Father, which,' saith he,' ye have heard of Me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.' "***

In our preparation we're waiting. As we're waiting, what are we doing? Examining ourselves, we're making ourselves ready, suitable to have this outpouring, this rain coming from heaven.

In 2 Corinthians, chapter 7, verse 1: ***"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved..."*** Do you remember the promise we're talking about? The promise of the latter rain, the promise of the outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon the saved and sanctified believers, disciples waiting for this power that He had promised them – the enduement of power from on high. Now He says as we are waiting for the fulfillment of that promise, we need something to be done in our hearts, in our lives. We need to prepare ourselves for that outpouring. This is what He said: ***"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us..."*** Do what? ***"...cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh."***

That's the preparation we're making. If the Holy Ghost is going to come (and He's going to come), there must be a cleansing. There must be a purging. There must be a purifying. And it

says, *"...cleanse ourselves from all filthiness."* How many forms of filthiness? All. *"...and spirit, perfecting..."* What? *"...holiness in the fear of God."*

That means imperfect holiness will not do. You look at any lack in your personal life, any lack in your morals, any lack in your righteous living. You say, "Lord, perfect this righteousness and holiness. Let there be real purity...purity of heart and purity of thought and purity of lifestyle." That's the preparation He wants us to make...the cleansing, the cleansing.

Let's look at 1 John, chapter 1...the preparation we make for the coming of the latter rain...the preparation we make for the outpouring of the Spirit of God. 1 John, chapter 1, verse 7: *"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son..."* Does what? *"...cleanseth us from..."* What? *"...from all sin."* That's the preparation. We check up our lives. It doesn't take time. It's the blood of Jesus that does it. It's what sacrifice? The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross of Calvary that gets that done. Then it says, *"...the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."*

Ezekiel, chapter 36. The preparation we make for the outpouring of the Spirit for the coming of the latter rain. We're reading from verse 25. *"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean."* *"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean."* Then it says, *"...from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you."* That's the preparation we're making. He wants to pour out His Spirit. He wants to bring the latter rain upon every individual, all flesh, and the whole church. Then it says in verse 26: *"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the..."* What? *"...stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you..."* What? *"...an heart of flesh."*

See what God says He will do? In our preparation to receive the Spirit of God and to have the latter rain upon our lives, He says...number one, in verse 25: "I will cleanse you." He says, "I'll pour clean water upon you," and He says, "I'll take all filthiness away from you and all your idols." The things we idolize...He says that He'll take all that away so that He will be the King of kings and the Lord of lords in our lives, and we'll not idolize any man or any woman. Neither do we idolize ourselves. Neither do we idolize even the name of the church. We just know that this is God. He wants to do whatever He wants to do. We give Him the chance to do that. All idols are taken away.

Then He says, "A new heart I will give unto you, and a new spirit I will put with you." Then He says, "I will also remove the stony heart." Another word for that would be the stubborn heart. Another word for that would be the self-will. How many of us...no, don't raise up your hands...but how many of us know some people who are truly born again...truly born again? They believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and there is a change of life outwardly, but they are very strong-minded, and they are very strong-willed, self-willed - stubborn. It's like there is a stone inside there, and they say, "Once I say this is what I will do, that's what I will do." My brother, that's a stony heart.

The Lord says, "In preparation for the outpouring of the Spirit, in preparation for the outpouring of this latter rain, I will take away..." What? *"...the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will replace it with..."* What kind of heart? *"...a heart of flesh."*

See verse 27. After that preparation, after the cleansing, after the removal of the stony heart, He then says in verse 27: ***"And I will put My spirit within you."*** That's the latter rain right there. The coming of the Holy Ghost, the baptism in the Holy Ghost, putting the Holy Spirit, pouring the Holy Spirit upon us. Then it says in verse 27: ***"[I will] cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."***

Zechariah, chapter 10. I'm reading from verse 1. ***"Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain."*** Ask Him. Seek the Lord. Pray and say, "Lord, I need this. I need this Holy Ghost baptism. I need this latter rain." ***"Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field."*** ...To everyone. Everyone, you will receive.

Look at Luke...he's telling us the same thing in Luke. Here he is showing us the promise, the promise of God. This promise of God of the Holy Ghost is for everyone that will ask. We're looking at Luke chapter 11, verse 9: ***"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth..."*** How many people receive? Everyone that asketh. Then: ***"...he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."***

Now, He wants to illustrate this for us to show us that we can have confidence in the Lord, trust in the Lord, faith in God that when we ask for rain in the time of the latter rain, He will do what He has promised that He will do. You don't have to have any doubt in your heart. He saves you by the cleansing of the blood of the Lamb. He sanctifies you by the removal of the Adamic nature and the stony heart and the self-will and the stubbornness.

Now you can come and say, "Lord, it's by grace I'm saved. It's by Your grace I'm sanctified. Now I need this outpouring of Your Spirit, and this latter rain, to come upon my life." And He says He will do it.

Look at the illustration the Lord gives us in verse 11. ***"If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone?"*** What's the answer? No. ***"...or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?"*** What's the answer? No. ***"...Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?"*** What's the answer? ***"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give..."*** Give what? ***"...the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"*** We'll ask and the Lord will give.

Let's look at an illustration concerning this in 1 Kings, chapter 18. I'm reading from verse 1. ***"And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, 'Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.'"*** Do you know the attitude of some people? "God said He will do it. Let Him do it. God said He wants to send rain now. We've had three and half years of drought and of famine. And, God - I didn't twist His arm. I didn't tell Him to say this. He said that Himself. It was of his own volition He said that. He said, 'I'm sending rain upon the earth.' " Some people feel that you don't need any preparation, any prayer, anything to do since God has said He's going to send the rain.

But look at verse 21. *"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, 'How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him.' And the people answered him not a word."* You see that. He came to the people and he said, "You need to stand, take a stand and say, 'Where are you? Are you on the Lord's side or are you on the side of Baal?'" But God has said He's going to send rain. Why did Elijah have to do that? Because we need to prepare.

This is the preparation for the coming of the latter rain. If God is showing you that He wants to use you, and He wants to do something great in your life and through you to other people, we need to prepare. I pray God will help us to prepare and we'll not just take it for granted – "God said He will do it. At His own time He will do it." Yes, when you prepare yourself.

We're looking at verse 30 now. *"And Elijah said unto all the people, 'Come near unto me.' And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down."* That's part of the preparation. He repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down. The Lord has said He'll send rain. So Elijah, why do you have to do all this? Because there is a preparation that precedes the outpouring of that latter rain.

Then it says in verse 31: *"And Elijah took twelve stones..."* Why 12? Why not 13? I said, "Why not 13? Why 12? Why not 11?" Twelve tribes of Israel. He wanted all the 12 tribes of Israel to be represented because He wanted the Spirit of God upon the whole nation, the revival upon the whole nation, and the rain to cover the whole land. The rain was not just going to fall in a few tribes. It was to fall in the 12 tribes.

Therefore, we're told that he took 12 stones *"...according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, 'Israel shall be thy name.' And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order..."* And he put the wood how? There is orderliness. We do everything decently and in order.

As we're preparing, the Spirit of God will come. Whatever is wrong in the heart and whatever needs to be properly placed...we do that. Then it says over there: *"Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. And he said, 'Do it the second time.' And they did it the second time. And he said, 'Do it the third time.' And they did it the third time."* Four barrels of water...once, twice, three times. Four times three...what's that? 12. Why? 12 tribes of Israel. Do you see that these people in Bible days...they didn't just do things haphazardly? They had reasons for doing them. When you have a biblical reason for doing something, the Lord will bless what you do.

"And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water. And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, 'LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things...' " How? *"...at thy word."* That's the preparation. When you prepare yourself for the coming of the latter rain and for the outpouring of the Spirit of God, you do all things according to His Word....at His Word.

*" 'Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.' Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice." Let's look at verse 42. "So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, And said to his servant, 'Go up now, look toward the sea.' And he went up, and looked, and said..." What? "...There is nothing." But God gave the promise *I'm sending rain upon the earth* back in verse 1. Now he began to pray, and He said, "My servant, go and see." He looked, and he saw nothing.*

You know some people...they just take everything for granted? God has said He will do it. If God has said He will do it, why pray? Why fast? Why wait upon the Lord? Why have prolonged time of praying? That's the attitude of some people. But that attitude is not right. As you look at our church...let's think about our church right now. I mean Deeper Life in particular. We have preaching, but we don't have praying. We have preaching. We have doctrine. We can spend one hour in preaching. I've spent more...I spend one hour and 15 minutes or one and a half hours.

When it comes to the time to pray...5 minutes...we're through. Hey, they didn't do that in Bible days. If they did that in Bible days, the miracles we have seen here we would not see. The exploits they did...we will never be able to see something like that. That's the reason why if you really have a good intention, a good heart, and you want revival in the house of God in this church...and what God wants to do...that He wants to take the message from here and take it across the globe, we have to be praying people. This attitude must change.

If I don't say it, nobody else will say it. Most people just accept whatever it is we are doing in the church. Even when we see that there are people there whenever we are praying...I said it last night...either they're waving their hands or they're making a sign that *Pastor, that's enough, that's enough. We need to go to the next program.* It's not the next program. It is *What has God done with that first program that we're rounding off?*

Sometimes you have people like that and sometimes you feel that it's almost a waste of time - because if we cannot pray, whatever we preach we don't have the grace to carry out, we don't have the strength to carry out; the power is not in us. Whatever it is we are hearing...we've heard something like this before. What is now lacking is the prayer; it's the waiting upon the Lord. If we finish the preaching and then we cannot pray, it's useless.

Then think about it, brothers and sisters. In a normal church, a Bible-believing church, it is the person in the pulpit who ought to be under the authority of the Holy Spirit to control the trend of the meeting: how long the meeting lasts, how long the prayer lasts, how long everything we do lasts in that particular meeting. When the control is in the hands of members of the church, when the control is in the hands of somebody who doesn't love praying, who wants to control the time you pray and how you pray and what you pray for - that's not orderly. That's not scriptural.

In such a case, if the preachers yield to that...that's like the head becoming the tail. That's like the leader becoming the follower. That's like the leader becoming so intimidated and frightened and fearful that he says, "Hey. These people are going to chew you up and they're going to do

quite a lot of things. You better just round off everything and go your way." Then we cannot listen to the Holy Spirit. But here we'll listen to the Holy Spirit.

Do you know what? If you cannot pray here, you are not praying at home. If praying for 5 minutes or 10 minutes inconveniences you that you're raising your hand and waving your hand, "Pastor, stop. Pastor, stop. Pastor, stop."...It means that the temperature of the church spiritually will be the temperature of the prayerless people in the church, because it's those prayerless people that do not like to pray or do not know how to pray...they're the people that want you to stop everything right now. Stop it right now.

Our preachers...I think our preachers are yielding to that already. You already recognize the signals they give and the things they do. But by the grace of God...if I'm in a place, I'm there. If I don't want to come, I don't want to come. If I'm there, I'm there. Whatever the signal, we can stand that fire and that heat. But we don't need to work against one another. I'll take the time I will take in whatever we do and whatever we don't do. I'll still take the time I will take. Because I've noticed that since yesterday - and so, why try? Why do that? Then, God is not in support of that. Am I right? Give me a good *Yes!* Praise the Lord.

You know my name, now...I'm William. William means *the defender of the faith*. Whatever it is we stand for, we stand for that thing. We'll keep on standing in Jesus' name. Let's cooperate together. Don't hinder Elijah. If we're going to raise up other Elishas, it's going to take some real praying, and it's going to take some real preparation. All we are saying is let God be God and let us just stay in our places. Our members and workers, we're not supposed to control the pastor; the pastor is supposed to control the church, control us. I think that's the right thing. Is that right? Are we going to do it like that? Then we're going to have real fellowship and love and the outpouring of the Spirit will be upon us in Jesus' name.

So we see what Elijah did. He prayed. He did what the Lord directed him to do. Then it says, "The fire came." Look at verse 38 again. ***"Then the fire of the LORD fell."*** Then when he came to the time to pray for the rain, he prayed and said, "Go and see," and there was nothing. Then we're told in verse 44: ***"And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, 'Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand.' And He said, 'Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.' And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain."*** There will be a great rain. There will be a great outpouring in Jesus' name. The question is...*What's the purpose of the latter rain?*

3. The Purpose of the Latter Rain. Deuteronomy, chapter 11, I'm reading from verse 14. The Purpose of the Latter Rain. Why does God want to give us the latter rain? ...Why has He given us the promise of the latter rain? Why are we making preparation for the latter rain? ***"That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil."*** It's for fruitfulness in ministry. That's the reason why He's promising us the latter rain. It says, "When the latter rain comes, then there will be fruit."

Then let's look at verse 21: *"...That your days may be multiplied..."* The refreshing of the Holy Spirit, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the renewal of the Holy Spirit actually brings... You know, when you have rest in your mind and you have peace in your heart and there is no worry, there is no anxiety...there is this refreshing, there is this renewal...then you find that you're able to even live longer.

Those who study health will tell you that sometimes the pressure, the depression, the worry, the anxiety...they cut short our lives. But when the refreshing of the Holy Spirit comes and He says, "I'll give you this latter rain so that you'll be able to have rest of mind and peace of mind and refreshing."

In verse 21, He says, *"That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers to give them."* The latter part of verse 21...look at that. Read it out loud. Okay, check it up. Let's read...one, two, go. That's the consequence of the latter rain coming upon the people of God...that He says, "You will live the days of heaven on earth." You think about that. You think about heaven and think about the glory of God in heaven, the honor of God in heaven. You think about the provision in heaven and the victory, and the success in heaven. He says, "When I give you the latter rain, it will be that the ultimate goal or the ultimate result of that will be...you will live the days of heaven on earth. I pray it will be so.

We're coming back to Joel, chapter 2. The Purpose of the Latter Rain. In Joel chapter 2, verse 23 again: *"Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month."* Now when that latter rain comes, what's the purpose? What's the result? What's the consequence? What else will God do? Verse 25: *"And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten."*

In a practical way, what that is saying is...Look at this time now, this period now, and look back to five years ago or 10 years ago, 20 years ago...since you became a Christian. When you became a Christian...the picture God painted in your heart, the vision God revealed to you, the revelation He gave you – that this is what you'll do; this is what you'll do.

Now for the past 15 years you've been living a so-so Christian life. All those years...15 years...you're almost thinking, *"Are they not wasted? And the things the Lord revealed to me 10 years ago, 15 years ago...why is it they're not done yet?"* The Lord is saying, "All those years that appear wasted and lost...if you would have the Holy Ghost upon your life and there is the outpouring and there is the latter rain coming upon you"...He says all those years...He will restore everything.

Everything we have lost spiritually, all the grounds we should have gained, all the places we should have gone, and everything we should have accomplished for the kingdom of God...all those years the Lord will restore unto every one of us in Jesus' name. Look at the church now as the church...that is, Deeper Life here. You're thinking, *What if we had revival at this particular time?* You remember the year when it appeared there was a great outpouring of the Spirit, a real

breakthrough. People were coming to the church from this area, from that area, from this tribe and from that other nation. Then what happened that that kind of inflow into the church stopped?

Then you say, "If things had continued like they were five years ago, seven years ago, 10 years ago, 15 years ago, we shouldn't be where we are now." That's what the Lord is saying. That's why He says we need the outpouring of the Spirit and the coming of the latter rain upon us. He says when that happens, He's going to give us restoration.

Then it says in verse 26: ***"And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied."*** Have you ever thought about it, that it appears that the church that has the greatest doctrine has the least finance to carry out that doctrine and to spread the Word? Almost every church I go, I mean when I talk of Deeper Life, it's like they have this project and this project, but not enough finance to carry it out. Have you ever heard something like that before? I said, "Have you heard?"

You know this program at Abuja, many things that happened. One of the women that had been looking for an important government position came around and said, "I'm looking for this. I'm looking for this. They have now stricken my name away from there. Now that you are here, I even wanted to come to Lagos and see you." I said, "Don't worry about that. In the name of Jesus, go back to that office and get what belongs to you." She got there. When I got back in June, she said, "Pastor, I got that position." The pastor told me that one of the new converts...not even now an old, old convert...they are saying that they planted more than 86 churches with one program that we had...all over, all over FCT (Federal Capital Territory)...one church here, a church here, a church here. Then they wanted to build one of the new churches they planted. One of the new converts gave 10 million Naira just to get that done.

Think about that...that the Lord is saying, "When the Holy Spirit comes and this outpouring comes upon us, finance will not be a problem anymore because everything belongs to God." Whether it is a personal need or a family need or a church need, the Lord will supply everything. Then it says in verse 27: ***"And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel..."*** He'll be in the midst of this church. ***"...and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and My people shall never be ashamed."*** You'll never be ashamed.

We're looking at Mark, chapter 16. I'm reading from verse 15. ***"And He said unto them, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to..."*** How many? ***"...every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My name shall they cast out devils.' "***

When that outpouring comes and that Holy Ghost comes upon us, when this latter rain we're talking about, when God opens the heavens and He pours the latter rain upon the people of God...this is what it says...He says, ***"In My name they shall cast out devils."*** We'll cast out devils. I said, "We'll cast out devils." Whatever those devils are, when the power of the Holy Ghost comes upon the members of the church and the ministers in the church, they will not be riding over us. We'll be having the victory over them in Jesus' name.

And ***"They shall speak with new tongues."*** A change of mind...do you remember? A change of meditation...do you remember? ...A change of mouth. New tongues will now come. It says,

"They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick..." What will happen? *"...and they shall recover.'* So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, *He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God."* Then it says, *"And they went forth, and preached..."* Where? *"...every where, the Lord..."* Doing what? *"...working with them, and confirming the word with signs following."* What's the last word there? Amen.

Before I close, I'm going to show you one little thing and then you're going to reason with yourself and find out why this little thing... We're going to look at the end of Matthew. That is the very last chapter there. What's the last word? *Amen*. That means...Matthew, when he wrote, he came to a conclusion. He's written about the life of Jesus, and he's written about the ministry of Jesus. As he concluded everything, there is an *Amen*.

Look at the end of Mark...end of Mark. We just came from there. What's the last word there...end of Mark? *Amen*. Let's go to Luke...the end of Luke. We're looking at chapter 24, and we're looking at the last word there. There is an *Amen*. Now we're looking at John. As we look at John, we're looking at the last verse, and the last word. Again? Now Acts of the Apostles, the last chapter. Do you see that? I said, "Do you see that?" The *Amen*...is it there? Why not? It's the history of the church...the Acts of the Apostles...actually the acts of the Holy Ghost. And it continues. There's no conclusion. It's not ended yet.

That means that the church is still to write the next chapter. There's no conclusion. All the others...the life and ministry of Jesus Christ...there is an *Amen*. That finalizes it. He's not coming back physically to do anything...but now the church at work, the church moving on. When that Holy Ghost comes...and it is not sealed. It's not concluded. We are the people to bring the conclusion in these last days.

That's why you have that space there, and that *Amen* is not there, that conclusion is not there, because we can still move on. The things they did we can do, and we're going to do. If you'll allow the Spirit of God to come down from on high and be poured out upon you...and the power comes...we'll go to all places in this nation and beyond this nation. We'll preach the Word.

Let's rise up and talk to the Lord and really open our hearts before the Lord. You see, *The Promise of the Latter Rain, The Preparation for the Latter Rain...* now *The Purpose of the Latter Rain*. Let's talk to the Lord and say, "Lord, we're ready. We're ready. You did it for others. You can do it for us." We're going to spend quality time to pray, quality time to pray. There's no use in waving your hand and trying to stop the prayer. We're going to take time, and we're going to pray.

Open yourself to the Lord and say, "Lord, here am I. Lord, here am I." He used people like you in days gone by. He used people like me in days gone by. And He can use you, He can use me yet more...more than ever before. Yes He will. Yes He will. Yes He will. See the promise He has given that He'll pour the Spirit upon us. See the promise He has given, that He'll send the latter rain. See the reason why, see the purpose why He has sent the latter rain...that He'll restore the years that the cankerworm has eaten. ...That you'll be able to do exploits for the Lord...reach places and go places we've never gone...have the power, have the anointing, have the unction of

the Holy Ghost upon our lives, and do things we've never done, go places we've never gone, say things we've never said, speak the tongues we've never spoken. That's His promise, and He has power to accomplish whatever He has promised.

Clean up the ground, let the hearts be cleansed...let the blood of Jesus cleanse from all unrighteousness, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. "Ask, it shall be given unto you; Seek and ye shall find; Knock...it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If ye then, being evil, know how to give things to your children: how much more, how much more, how much more, how much more, will your Father who is in heaven give the Holy Ghost to them that ask him?" They waited. They waited. They tarried in Jerusalem until the Day of Pentecost was fully come.

There was that rushing mighty wind, and cloven tongues like as of fire sat upon every one of them. The Holy Ghost came upon them. Then they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave utterance. In that one single day, 3,000 people were brought out of the world into the kingdom. A mighty harvest, a great harvest immediately when the latter rain came. It's to bring in the wheat. It's to bring in the converts. It's to remove the dryness and the weariness and the tiredness and the lukewarmness in the midst of the church, in the hearts of the people of God.

Give Him chance to do that in your life, in your heart. Let Him cleanse you. Let Him take away the stony heart, the stubborn heart, the self-will. Let Him give the heart of flesh. Then let Him pour out the Spirit upon you. Very simple...when in simple faith you call upon the Lord. You open your heart to receive. Just say, "Yes, Lord." ***"Whosoever is thirsty, let him come unto Me and drink."*** ***"As the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive."*** Now Christ is glorified. Now Christ is sitting on the right hand of majesty on high. Because of that, He pours out the Spirit. He gives the latter rain. He fulfills the promise, the promise of power from on high. Let Him do it. Let Him do it.

Prepare yourself. Receive...receive the outpouring. Do you know the reason why? So you'll be a soul winner, so you'll gather the fruit of the harvest, so you'll bring the souls out there in the field, and bring them into the kingdom. That's the reason why. That's the purpose. Stand on the promises; they'll never fail. God is a faithful God. He has said He will do it. Let Him do it. The outpouring of the Holy Ghost, the enduement of power from on high, the gifts of the Spirit coming upon the people of God, praying with faith, praying with expectation, praying to receive...

Let the power come upon your life. Let the power come upon your spirit. Let Him fill you, energize you, empower you, endue you, envelope you. That's what He said. That's what He said. That's what He said. He cannot fail. He will do as He has said. He'll perform what He has promised. He will give what He said He will give. He will do what He said He will do. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run; they'll not be weary. They'll walk and they will not faint." That's His promise. That's His promise. Let Him do it.

Don't be satisfied with where you are. Don't be satisfied with what you have got. There is more from where that came from. He filled them. He filled them. He filled them to overflowing. This is your day. This is your chance. This is your privilege. Let Him do it for you. He used other people in their generation. John G. Lake was there. He used him. Smith Wigglesworth was there. He used him. David du Plessis was there. He used Him. Many others, many others, many others, many others...He used them.

What will God accomplish through you in this generation? What'll you allow God to do through you in this generation? Are you willing to pay the price? Are you willing to wait on the Lord? Are you willing to tarry until the Holy Ghost will come upon your life? ...Filled, saturated, endued, empowered, anointed with the Holy Ghost. Ask in faith. Seek with perseverance. Knock with importunity.

Ask in faith. Seek with perseverance. Knock with importunity. Until it's done, until He pours out that latter rain, until that power of the Holy Ghost comes upon your life, until the anointing comes, until the unction comes, until He does what He has said He will do. And you'll know that power is there, you'll feel that power is there, you'll sense that power is there. ...Speaking in a new language, thinking new thoughts, and have the kind of revelation and insight you never had before.

He says, "When that Holy Ghost is come, the old men will dream dreams, and the young men will see visions. He said, "My servants and ministers will prophesy." These are the days, the latter days when the outpouring is made available to the people of God. There is a refreshing. There is a revival. There is a renewal. That resurrection power comes upon your life and moves through your life.

The Lord can do it. The Lord will do it. The Lord can do it. The Lord will do it. Jacob said, "I will not let You go except You bless me." He said, "I will not let You go except You bless me." He prevailed with God. It did not only affect his life, it did not only affect Esau, it did not only affect his family, it affected the whole tribe of the people of Israel...that opened the gateway for incredible, impossible things for the whole of Israel.

If one man will take hold of the horns of the altar and say, "Lord, here am I. Lord, here am I. Lord, here am I." Something will happen. Something will happen. Something will happen. Give God a chance to do it. Give God a chance to work. Give God a chance to pour that Spirit and that power upon your life. The latter rain. The latter rain. The latter rain in these last days. The latter rain in the last days. The Holy Ghost for the waiting believers. The outpouring of the Spirit of God for prepared purified vessels. The unction, the anointing, the power, the fire coming upon the purified prepared people.

He cannot fail. He cannot fail. We need the doctrine. We need more than doctrine. We need preaching. We need more than preaching. We need all these exhortations. We need more than exhortation. There must be a waiting upon the Lord. There must be a following of Elijah by Elisha until the mantle will fall...until you take up the mantle, then you go by river Jordan once again to say, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" And the Lord proves Himself. Then He'll take your hand, hold your hand, and take you to another level, another state, to the level you ought to

get to. Power from on high, unction from on high, latter rain from on high. The outpouring of the Spirit of God, the power of God coming upon the purified prepared children of God...so that you'll live the days of heaven on earth...days of heaven on earth...days of heaven on earth.

No more failure. No more defeat. No more lukewarmness. No more backsliding. No more discouragement. Let the Lord do it. Let the Lord do it. Pour out Your Spirit, Lord. Give Your power, Lord. Saturate Your people, Lord. We've heard what You have done in other lands. Do it in our midst. Do it in our lives. Do it in our hearts. Lord, we're waiting. Lord, we're tarrying. Lord, we're waiting. Lord, we're tarrying. We're believing You. Lord, we accept Your promise. You cannot fail. You cannot fail. You cannot fail. You're a faithful God. Lord, show Yourself, manifest Yourself. Do what You said You will do. Let that power bring fire, revival, refreshing, renewal in the lives of Your people. Do it, Lord. Do it, Lord. You cannot fail. Do it, Lord. You will not fail. Do it, Lord.

What we have heard in days gone by, what we have heard of Your acts, of your exploits, of Your outpouring in Bible days and Bible times...Lord, do it today. Baptize Your people. Fill Your people. Saturate Your people. Endow Your people with the Spirit and with spiritual gifts. Lord, we accept. Lord, we believe. We know You will not fail. We accept that outpouring. We accept the accomplishment. We accept the fulfillment of Your promise in our lives. Lord, we accept.

We pray from this very time, a new surge of power, a new kind of anointing, a new kind of unction, a new kind of vision, a new kind of dream, a new kind of revelation...running and not fainting, walking and not being weary...do it for us, Lord. Let Your fire, let Your fire, let Your fire come in every soul, in every heart, and in every life. Accomplish it, Lord. We're standing on the promises, and we know You will not fail. Accomplish it, Lord. We're standing and we know You will not fail. Accomplish it, Lord. Lord, do it. You cannot fail.

Father, we thank You for this time. We bless Your name. We know that You are a faithful God, and that You will not fail. Therefore, Lord, I pray You'll pour Your anointing, Your Spirit, Your power upon every waiting disciple right now in Jesus' name. Fire from heaven, power from heaven, anointing from heaven, unction from heaven...Oh Lord, we pray You'll pour upon Your people in Jesus' name.

I pray especially for our pastors and our ministers. We pray, Lord, for our leaders, for woman leaders, choir, and all the people that are serving You...security, choir, and all the ushers...everyone...and those who are teaching Search the Scriptures. Oh Lord, those who have anything to do in the house of God...to bring souls into the kingdom. I pray, Lord, the power of Elijah will come upon every Elisha right now in Jesus' name.

Lord, we pray that all the dryness will vanish away, all the weariness will vanish away, all the tiredness will vanish away. Refresh Your people. Renew Your people. Revive Your people in Jesus' name. Lord, we are praying that where there has been tiredness and lukewarmness, where there has been weariness and almost looking back as if we will not take the next step...Oh Lord, I pray a new zeal, a new power, a new enthusiasm; a new excitement will come in Jesus' name. Lord, we pray that You revive our prayer life and You also revive our ministerial lives in Jesus' name. I pray that such power, such revelation will come upon our ministers, upon our workers,

upon our members, that those who listen to them after this time...they will see there is a new insight. They'll see there is a new revelation. Lord, what You have done through those of us who have been moving around, doing this and that...we pray You'll transfer that same power, that same anointing upon Your people in Jesus' name.

We pray that this church in the United States will rise up like a great giant, there'll be a great army, a formidable unconquerable army...that Your Spirit will move as never before in Jesus' name. Souls will come into the kingdom. Disciples will multiply. Lord, You'll provide for all the needs of every individual, every family, and the whole church...that by the time we come back together again (if Jesus tarries), we'll say, "The Lord has done it." We've seen the evidence we have seen the revelation, and we know it's going to be like that...healing everywhere, deliverance everywhere, miracles everywhere, fruitfulness everywhere, soul winning everywhere...that Lord, this church will stand on its feet. We're going to be victorious in Jesus' name.

What You have done in other lands, do it in multiplied fold in this land. Lord, we pray that new vision will come, that new revelation will come. We'll not be as we were. We'll not speak as we did. We'll not preach as we used to do. We'll not pray as we used to do. Something new, something different...that Your people will go out and You will work with everyone. Lord, we'll hear of the multiple miracles You'll be doing everywhere. Confirm it, Lord, in every one and every ministry. Thank You because we know You have answered. In Jesus' name we pray.

And the believing people of God said...and those who have had the latter rain said...those who believe something new, something different, something great is going to happen...they said...