

## Title: Latter Rains

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 8/13/23

The spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus. That is how it works when you testify of Him. He is not dull, He is not boring, and He comes alive. If He can do it for one, He can do it for all. They came to Him with various afflictions. They came to Him with various diseases. They came to Him with very various torments, and he healed, saved, and delivered them. Not one was turned away. Even the little children were welcomed to Him. He put His hands on them, and He spoke to them. He looked at them and they were healed, saved and transformed. He used His voice. He used His eyes. He used His hands. He used mud. He used whatever the Father told Him.

This is Jesus. He was a man actually born from a *mother*. He had flesh and bones like us. He felt temptations as we have felt them. He humbled Himself, knowing that His Father was the Holy Spirit. This Spirit baptized Him and empowered Him to be so humble, that He would not turn away from His Father's will. Because we had all been in sin, and we had all turned away from the Father, the One who had birthed us at the beginning of time. He is the Father of all spirits, it says in the Bible. Yet, when we were born on the Earth, we turned away from Him. Saying, "I would rather do my own thing." We have all fallen short of the glory of the Father.

Jesus said, "You are my brothers and my sisters. You are even more. I have *betrothed you*. No longer your Master, but your Husband I will be." It says in Hosea. He came and He paid a very severe bridal price. The price for His Bride was death on a cross, *being* hanged on a tree. Cursed by His own Father, so that the wrath of the Father would be on Him and not on you and me. So that the guilt of our sin would be on His own Son and not on you and me. The condemnation of sin would be on Him and not on you and me. That we would have life, life abundantly and forgiveness evermore. He is full of truth. He knows what is wrong and what is right. He knows what is just and what is unjust. He knows what is corrupt and pure. He is full of grace. This is Jesus.

### John 1:14 NKJV

This is the gospel of Jesus, and this is who we have been testifying of this morning. The signs miracles and wonders come to those who believe in this. The word, "Word," is capitalized because God spoke at the beginning and it was created. God is the Word all powerful, and He came in the flesh and dwelt among us. We beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, the "Son of God." He wasn't stern. He wasn't a taskmaster. He didn't give us any burdens. He didn't lord over us. He didn't strike us with a rod. He was full of grace and truth.

Religion will tell you that He is beating you, He is condemning you, and He is calling you always guilty. Religion will give you a bunch of loads. But, when you behold Jesus, the Word in the flesh, dwelling among you by His Holy Spirit. You realize that He reveals the Father perfectly, who is full of truth, grace and blessing to the thousandth generation, *to us*. It is who He is. This is our God, and we walk in the name of our God. This is why we are called, "believers." We walk in who He is. He is full of faith. He is full of zeal. He is driven. He is focused. He is patient. He is kind. He is on the move.

### Deuteronomy 11:14-15

Today is all about the latter rains. This morning is all about the latter rains. This scripture is the place where we first hear the phrase, "latter rains." You may have heard this. There is a

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physical principle and a spiritual principle of latter rains in the Bible. I want to give you the scriptures and let the Holy Spirit speak to us.

Jesus tells us at the very beginning, this is the first mention, that He will give us actual rain, the early rain and the latter rain. It is interesting because in Israel, the time of planting is actually in the Fall. So, their early rains are actually in the Fall, and the latter rain was in the Spring when they have their harvest. It is opposite of our North American plains farming season. But, either way, you have to have rain when you start and rain near the end. Now rain doesn't bring in the harvest.

The latter rain is what the ground is needing for the last harvest to be fruitful. For the seeds in your crop to be abundant, and that the fruit or crop that you have planted will have a good yield. If you understand that term, the corn kernels are not small, but are bursting full of life, because they soaked up through the rain the nutrients needed to produce a good yield of corn. Cotton is very similar, and the latter rains come for the crop to be good at the end. The latter rains come not as a refreshing, but as a promise that there is going to be a good harvest. With a lot of work involved, it will be worth that labor. The latter rains come, and you now know you are prepping for a big harvest.

We often think of latter rains as refreshing and an outpouring. Yes, that is part of it. But, as Brandy said last week, the latter rains are actually action preparing you for taking responsibility. Action is being ready for responsibility. Taking action is being ready for responsibility. So, when you see the latter rains, what the Lord is telling me, is it is actually to encourage you to take action by being ready for the responsibility of the harvest. Does that make sense? It is encouraging, because at the end of the harvest season, there is going to be much reward. That is the encouragement. But, the harvest does not come in by itself. The rains don't bring in the harvest, the rains make them abundant.

#### Hosea 6:3

This the spiritual side of the latter rains that we read in the Bible. There is a spiritual principle here. This is not a physical blessing that "God will bring you a spring rain and latter rain to those who seek His face and follow Him." We have testimonies of farmers being in a drought in this land, yet for some reason, the clouds spring up over their land and waters their fields, but not the surrounding ones. That is the physical blessing.

The spiritual blessing is that if I look to know and if I'm pursuing the knowledge of the Lord, as it states in Hosea 6:3, "His going forth is going to be established, 'as the rising of the sun.'" His coming to me will happen, as I know the sun will rise in the morning, when it is the middle of the night. "He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former of rain to the Earth. Do you understand that?"

Now in the Bible, this is true. We read about physical principles. Every year we know that there is going to be rain, and when it is not as much, we pray for more in this land. Then there are some years where we get a lot of rain, and we talk about the floods of 1920 or 1958 through here where there were episodes of rain. But, every year there are seasons of latter and former rains.

In the Bible, there are episodes of super high importance. Moses on Mount Sinai, Abraham being called, Babylon, Jesus, Pentecost, the floods of importance in the Bible. But, in between, you find people who had an outpouring of a latter and a former rain where God came to them. Hannah, Samson, Daniel, Ezekiel, Hosea, and people that we read about. We are encouraged by Philip on the road, Lydia, Aquila, Apollos, Agabas, and other people in the Bible. We relate to them and we see ourselves in them. That might not have been the flood that is a doctrinal

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increase in theology that changes everything like King David, but there is a King Josiah who was eight years old when he sat on the throne and brought a revival to his people.

There are seasons, and we sang this morning about having a fresh outpouring. There are early rains and latter rains in the Bible where God moves. We see it over time, not just from 2000 years ago on the day of Pentecost when everything came down, and the baptism of Holy Spirit fell upon the early church. Ever since then, there are peaks in between and there are tremors where God has poured out His rain.

That is what we are believing for in this place. We want Him to continually make the peaks, but we will always receive every tremor of the latter and the former rains. These rains are what bring forth His movement. These rains are what bring forth His harvest. These rains are not the harvest. These rains are the outpouring for the laborers to be hurled into the harvest. That is what my sister was crying out for. That you aren't in your homes, but the people are in your homes. You need a fresh out pouring to open your doors. You need a fresh outpouring to believe in who you are called to be, as Brint was talking about. You have to believe in who you are to be, and you have to receive that rain. That (gasp) I am being filled with life! We can receive it, and we can go bring in the harvest.

Sometimes rain looks like a shaking. My sons know this very well. When they see the clouds coming, the first question is, "Is there going to be thunder?" You say, it is a rain storm, but I have to be very careful with the word "thunder" storm. I say it is a rain storm, and then they hear thunder which I know is probably about 20 miles away. They heard the one sound of thunder from 20 miles away. Sometimes latter rains look like a shaking. Sometimes the thunder shakes. We have been hearing of the shaking, but it comes with a harvest.

#### Joel 2:23-24

We are reading these verses kind of excluded from the context, but it is for a reason. It takes a lot of effort to make wine. It takes a lot of effort to make oil. It takes a lot of effort, but when you see these rains come and when you see these shakings come, it should encourage you. You should be encouraged and not bring a grumbling spirit due to it going to be a lot of work. It is going to take a lot of work, but the "joy of the Lord is our strength." The farmer does the work for the joy of his wife at home.

In the same way, we do it for the joy of our Father, in our heavenly home. We are ambassadors of Christ. We are not of this world. We are of the Kingdom of Heaven. These are spiritual principles we are talking about here. "That your vats would be filled with wine and new oil." Those are all synonyms in the spirit realm for the Holy Spirit. New wine, new oil, and new rain, and He has come like all of them. We want Him to continue to come in this place. We are believing for a great thing. We are believing for a flood, and we need you to believe.

#### Revelation 22:17

This is at the very end of the very last chapter of the Bible. The Holy Spirit and the Bride of Christ, say "Come! Lord Jesus, come!" He who has ears to hear, He says come. So, there is going to be a Bride. It says in Revelation that there will be a "Bride made ready." We have a choice. We can either believe it and do it, or not believe it. I have this gut feeling that somebody is going to believe for the impossible and do it. Why not me? If you don't want to, that is up to you. But, somebody is going to believe it and be the Bride, the glorious Church that looks like Jesus and does the work that Jesus did and greater works. Somebody will do that. A generation will do that, young to old and old to young.

What if I have that choice? I choose to say, "Yes, I am going to believe this." The impossible things of healing Lou Gehrig's disease. The impossible things of settling the crisis of autism in

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our country. The impossible things that offend the second heaven, because it has been dominating the airwaves. The second heaven is the dominion of the principalities, powers, rulers and hosts of wickedness and sin. They dominate the airwaves and say, "No, you cannot do that church. You cannot speak that church. You cannot believe that church."

The Holy Spirit within the church says, "I am going to believe. Somebody's has to believe to fix it. If Jesus can do it with a voice, how much more can I do it with fasting and prayer!" Jesus said with some demons you have to fast and pray. The disciples could not cast out the deaf and dumb spirit. They went to Jesus and asked, why couldn't we do it? He said, some of these take fasting and prayer, which is what Jesus had been doing for months on the mountain side, before *encountering* that one case.

It takes what was declared during worship about being saturated in the Word and the Spirit, because you don't know what is coming. Three months ahead you are being prepared for authority. But, if you did not believe it today, why would He bring you somebody in the future? Now, you have to believe it. Now, we have to believe it. We have to look at these things. Sometimes, we have to see our desperation and see our frailty. That we cannot do it. So, we have to know the One who does do it in a greater measure, in a deeper measure, in a truer measure, because somebody is going to believe this Word and fulfill it! Why not me? Somebody is going to believe all of His words and do it! Why not me? Because, they have all done it.

#### Hebrews 11:13-14

People who just decided, "I am going to believe it!" Right. These all died in grumbling, complaining, doubt, unbelief... No, these all died *with faith*. These all passed on, full of faith, and never doubting. Declaring this is not of my home. When you come in faith over a sickness, when you come in faith over an impossibility, you are saying, "This is not from my home. This is not from my homeland. I am an ambassador of that homeland. Where I go, I am bringing my homeland, the Kingdom of Heaven. I declare it plainly."

#### Hebrews 11:15-16

They did not return to where they were from. That's your old man. That's your old flesh. That's your old ways.

#### Hebrews 11:30-40

I skipped the big, big rains here. I'm going for the little latter rains that come every year. These are the little ones here in verses 30-40. What is the promise that the writer of Hebrews is going after? The promise of the Holy Spirit in you! The world was not worthy of them. They were believing that the Holy Spirit could dwell in man and never leave us. That is what Jesus paid for. That is what the baptism of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost is all about. This promise, that so many had faith for, and now you are being asked having the Holy Spirit in you (we are a spirit filled church), for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as you have never seen before.

Then not only to behold it, but holding it, so that He could pour again. Then not having an old wineskin, but putting on the new wineskin and being able to hold it again. Then not getting in the old wineskin, but having a new wineskin, so that He could pour it out again and hold it again. Why, where is that in the Bible? I have faith, "for things I have not seen or heard." Nobody knew that you could be thrown into a den of lions and live until somebody believed *and did it*. Nobody knew that you could throw a dead man into the tomb of a prophet and it would *come alive*, till somebody did it. God just did it. There are a lot of things in here that had never been done until Jesus did it, until David did it, until Elijah did it. Somebody is going to do the greater works than Jesus did. Why not believe and do it with it Him? That's the call. That's the adventure. That's the lifestyle. That's surrender, and the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

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Haggai 2:6

This has been fulfilled in the physical in that this house that in Zechariah and Haggai's time the Second Temple was built and One came, the Desire of the Nations, and filled the temple. He stepped foot in that temple and brought peace by His own sacrifice of His body, Jesus Christ. The glory of Jesus surpassed the glory of Solomon's temple. It has been fulfilled in the physical, as prophesied.

But in the spiritual, we now know that we are as one Body, believers in Christ, the temple of the living God. In Corinthians, it says, "the Body is made for the Lord, and the Lord is made for the Body. It has always been that way. God wants to make the glory of His latter temple greater than the glory that He has ever had, in His form.

It should encourage you, but what does He do? He shakes all the nations and brings them to who, the Desire of all the Nations. He shakes all the nations, and ours is not to be an exception to the rule. The Lord brings them to the Desire of all the Nations, Jesus, Himself. He is the joy. He is the desire. He is the inheritance. He is our exceedingly great reward.

Whenever we talk about the latter rains, it is always that timing thing. When do they come? When is it going to happen? What day am I going to get this outpour? In the Bible, it is always, "in the right time," right? I will shake the nations. It will be a little bit. Right? It is always, that "if the vision tarries, wait for it."

James says, you have to keep persevering and believing, because those that perished in Hebrews chapter 11, had faith to believe they would never miss it. In the Spirit, they have gained it. They are a great cloud of witnesses and are partaking of the glory with Jesus, as one Body, in the Spirit. But, on the Earth, sometimes that faith of never going to miss it, takes an endurance that you have never had before.

James 5:7-9

Proverbs 16:15

We are in that season here. We can see in the United States that we are in a shaking time. The favor of the Lord is going to look like a cloud of the latter rains. It might shake and thunder and lightning for awhile. But, it is going to produce a harvest. It is going to produce people that have been shaken and driven to God. That will produce a waking up. As our children run to us in the night time, so will the lost run to the Church. We can be awakened in the middle of the night as parents and be grumbling and complaining that they woke us up, or we can be full of grace and truth and mercy and encourage, heal, save and deliver. The favor might look a little different than you thought, because it is going to bring work. The harvest will bring a great reward for King Jesus. That's what it's all about. We are just servants, saying, "What more can I do for you, Jesus?"

Let's stand and thank God, shall we? Just thank God. Just lift your hands, and just thank Him in the Spirit, as you speak in tongues. I just thank God for all that He has been doing today. Thank you, Jesus. Speak it out and say, "Thank you, God, for your healing." We thank you for your outpouring on our hearts. We thank you for awakening us today. We thank you, Jesus, for shining your face on us, and for giving us favor. We thank you that when we see your cloud of the latter rain, it encourages us. It spurs us on to be prepared and ready and saturated in your word and in the fundamentals of your Kingdom. We thank you for that faith from our homeland. In Jesus' name, amen.