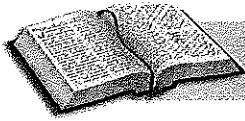


Day 10: Passionate Witness



Section 3: Applying Divine Counsel

Accepting the Promise

Is the reception of the latter rain a future event solely determined by God? Is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in end-time power something we are to idly wait for until the right time arrives? Is God waiting to pour out His Holy Spirit at a certain time in the future when prophetic events unfold?

In today's lesson we will study the divine counsel about the timing of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit!

1. What specific counsel regarding the latter rain do the Old Testament prophets Zechariah and Hosea give us? (See Zechariah 10:1; Hosea 10:12.) _____

2. When is the time of the latter rain? (See *Testimonies to Ministers*, pages 511, 512.)

A. "The dispensation of in which we are now living is to be, to those that ask,

Ask for His blessing. It is time we were more intense in our devotion."

B. "It is the _____

_____."

Many church members are looking forward to a future date for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, but God promises we can have it now.

3. What impression regarding the Holy Spirit is often given? (See *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 174.)

"Other blessings and privileges have been set before the people until a desire has been awakened in the church for the attainment of the blessing promised of God; but

_____."

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4. What is the result of the lack of fullness of the Holy Spirit's power? Read *Testimonies to Ministers*, pages 174 and 175, under the heading "All Other Blessings." Then list the blessings our Lord so freely offers in the latter rain.

A. "God's people seem to be incapable of _____

_____."

B. "The people of God have accustomed themselves to _____

_____."

C. "Their spiritual strength has been _____

_____."

D. "They are disqualified _____

_____."

E. "They are not able to _____

_____."

Look at each lack listed above and turn it into a positive. What will the outpouring of the Holy Spirit bring to our lives that is the exact opposite of items listed in "A to E" above?

A. _____ D. _____

B. _____ E. _____

C. _____

5. What promise does our Lord make to us about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit? (See *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 175.)

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“The power of God _____

_____”

All of Heaven longs to pour out the latter rain. As we seek God in humility, confessing our sins, humbling our hearts, surrendering our lives to His purposes, He will move powerfully. He will do for us what we could never do for ourselves. His love will be revealed to the world. His grace will change lives. Multitudes will rejoice in His truth. The work of God on earth will soon be finished, and Jesus will come.

Seeking a deeper experience

Do you long for a deeper experience with God? Do you sense the need for the mighty working of the Holy Spirit in your own life? Would you like to participate with Christ in the closing work of this earth's history? Do you desire to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain for the finishing of God's work on earth?

In the ten chapters of this workbook, we have studied how to prepare for the reception of the Holy Spirit in latter-rain power. The Holy Spirit has moved upon our hearts. We have sensed His presence. He has led us to a deeper surrender. Habits and attitudes that we were unaware of have surfaced. Long-cherished sins have been forsaken. We have knelt before our Lord, confessing and repenting for the times we have disappointed Him. In unity we have sought Him in prayer with fellow Christians, and we have come from these periods of intercession spiritually renewed.

You may be wondering, “How can I sustain this new experience? Are there some specific things I can now do to maintain this deeper relationship with God?” Fortunately there are. In the days ahead, you can do three specific things to keep growing in Jesus.

1. Set aside specific times each day for prayer. As you kneel before His throne, Jesus will impart His Spirit to you daily. Claim His promise in Luke 11:13, “If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will Your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” Choose a prayer partner or join a prayer group and set aside a time to meet weekly. These prayer sessions will become an anchor of your faith.
2. Commit to spend time each day in studying His Word. The Holy Spirit fills our lives as we fill our minds with the Word of God. We are changed, transformed, and renewed through the Word of God. The apostle Peter, who had experienced the life-changing power of Pentecost, reminded fellow Christians that they had been given “exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:4). You may desire to focus on the life of Jesus and meditate on His life as recorded in the Gospels. You will find yourself inspired by His love and led deeper in your Christian walk of faith. Personal, devotional Bible study is the basis for all genuine spiritual growth.

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3. Make witnessing a part of your daily life. Look for opportunities to share your faith daily. Witnessing Christians are growing Christians. Become involved in some area of service in your local church. Because "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35), as we share Jesus' love with others, we are the ones most blessed. Witnessing starves selfishness to death. It leads us to a deeper dependence on God. It drives us to our knees to seek His power, and it leads us back to the Bible to find answers to the questions others are asking. On Pentecost, the purpose of Jesus' promise was to empower the disciples to take the gospel to the first-century world. The purpose of the outpouring of the Spirit in the final generation is to empower His people to complete the task. It is to finish His work. It is to empower His church to witness.

Would you like to be part of something great for God? Would you like to join a growing number of fellow church members who are seeking Him in prayer, placing priority on studying His Word, and witnessing for His kingdom?

If this is your desire, will you bow your head right now and make this commitment? As you do, our Lord will answer from heaven and move in your life in powerful ways. I pray that the Holy Spirit will fill your life and that you will be God's ambassador for revival in your family, your local church, and your community.