

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Pray for the Rain June 13, 2017 Suzi Armstrong

We are beginning to push with all of creation for the mature sons of God to manifest. As we engage with Holy Spirit and go deeper with Him; Holy Spirit is forming us into a new wine skin to hold the new wine of heaven. As we gather and pray for the outpouring of Holy Spirit – pray for the rain. We are NOW praying for the former and later rain. We have not yet experienced the later rain of God – it is yet to come. God is forming us into new wine skins to contain that NEW rain – the former and later rain pouring out together. We are in the beginnings of the former and later rain being released in the earth, this part of the fullness of Christ. This is a FRESH outpouring of the Spirit of God. The former and later rain will usher in a move of God into the earth that we have never seen or experienced before. The hand of God is opening the floodgates of heaven over us, this outpouring has started. Let it rain.

Rain is symbolic of the provision and blessing of God upon the earth and His people on the earth. The provision of God comes down or is poured out from heaven. Without the rain of God the land would become dry, parched and break open. The lakes, rivers and streams would dry up without rain. Rain is the image of life and abundance provided by God. When Moses spoke to the Israelites about the Promised Land, he said it would be a land “watered by rain from the sky” Dt. 11.11. The outpouring of God would provide for the land and cause the land to thrive. Rain is more than a force of nature; it is the provision of God and it is necessary for life.

In the same way, we need the rain of God in our lives to keep us hydrated and filled with His life and abundance. God has specific types of rain with specific qualities that are for set times. The Bible talks about spring and autumn rains – these are rains that accomplish very specific tasks. There is a former rain and a later rain. We have not experienced the later rain – it is yet to come. The earth has been crying out for the later rain of God.

Hosea 6.2-3 NKJV

² After two days He will revive us;

On the third day He will raise us up,

That we may live in His sight.

³ **Let us know,**

Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD.

His going forth is established as the morning;

He will come to us like the rain,

Like the latter *and* former rain to the earth.

- This is a prophetic word through the prophet Hosea.
- God Himself will come to us like the rain. He will pour Himself out.



Acts 1.8-9, 12-14

⁸ but **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;** and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

⁹ And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered *the city*, **they went up to the upper room** where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas *the son* of James. ¹⁴ These all **with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer**, along with *the women*, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

- They ALL gave themselves to prayer. The whole of them – not part, but the WHOLE. Each one brought what they had to release in prayer. This formed the WHOLE of prayer.
- They were praying for the outpouring (the rain) of Holy Spirit.
- They continually devoted themselves to prayer. They gave their time, their attention, their energy, their earnest desire through attentiveness and focus. They were not distracted. This was not a half-hearted commitment.
- They were thanking God for what was to be released – even though they did not understand the fullness of what was coming. They were declaring who God was – that the earth was His and everything in it; that time was in His hands; that He was the beginning and the end. They wanted to see their city and the nations of the earth impacted and blessed by the outpouring of God.



Acts 2.1

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

- When the set day had come there was no stopping it. It was ordained and set by God Himself. Nothing could stop this day and the outpouring of Holy Spirit upon the earth in a way the earth had never experienced.
- The outpouring of Holy Spirit happened when the fullness of time came – the set time.
- All were rightly aligned and positioned for the rain of Holy Spirit. This was through obedience to the proceeding word of God.

Acts 2.17 NKJV

¹⁷ And **it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,**

That **I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;**

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

Your young men shall see visions,

Your old men shall dream dreams.

- The culmination of the last days is still to come – there are dimensions of Holy Spirit yet to be poured out.
- The later rain – or the later outpouring of Holy Spirit, will be even greater than the beginning of the outpouring of Holy Spirit on all flesh.
- The Father is calling His church into deeper intimacy with Holy Spirit. He is preparing us to receive and carry the later outpouring of His Spirit.
- Our capacity must expand – deeper and wider, greater than before.
- We must be properly aligned to Holy Spirit and we must be walking in Truth.

- Our passion and our desire turns into a groaning that combines with the groaning of the earth for the manifestation of the mature sons of God to arise – for the fullness of time to come so that the later rain can come in fullness. The full measure and the full power of the Spirit of God can be released.
- There must be expectation in our hearts at all times. Expecting the outpouring of God.

Before the later rain can be poured out God will bring an intense transformation in our lives aligning us to Truth. When the Israelites were ready to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land, their assignment was to establish God's Kingdom and remove anything not of God. The land was full of sin. Christ must be formed in us. We are live in the reality of Christ – being dead to sin and our lives hidden in Christ. We are to move in the power of God that is at work in us. Allowing the Sovereignty of God to rule and reign in our lives.

In Acts 1, they are all gathered in one place waiting for the outpouring, anticipating the promise of God, waiting for heaven to manifest. For 40 days Jesus spoke to them about the Kingdom. Jesus talked about the Kingdom. They were all waiting for what God was going to do.



We need to be united in corporate destiny, standing "AS ONE" in Christ. There must be unity in the Spirit. We are covenanted to each other. Corporate expectation of His outpouring must be firmly rooted in our hearts. We must see that we are part of the corporate body and part of what God is doing. We are connected to God and our common purpose is to establish His Kingdom. There is unity of the Spirit among His people when we are seeing and pursuing the same corporate destiny. As relationships strengthen in the body, God is forming and establishing an unusual unity. We can draw strength from the corporate unity. We can draw strength from the people that God has us connected to in His body.

It is time to pray for the later rain. Pray, declare and prophesy by the power of the Spirit of God. Pray with expectation.

We pray for the later rain to fall on Detroit and on our nation. We declare that the times and seasons of God will not be denied. There is a fullness of time that is NOW and we call on the rain of God, His outpouring. It could happen at any given moment. We must expect that. When we approach Him in times of prayer, we must be expectant that something will happen. Heaven could come down at any moment. God is opening the floodgates of heaven for an outpouring of His Spirit that the earth has never seen before.

Matthew 16.13-17

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Jesus took the disciples to a certain point and then wanted to know who they said He was. God is asking, who do *you* say that I am? God has opened the eyes of our heart to see Him. We can come boldly into His throne room to know Him intimately – to see His glory and sovereignty, for the fear of the Lord to rise in us. As we see Him for who He is we become rightly positioned to pray for, cry out for and receive His rain – the former and later rain of His Spirit.

