Faith Christian Fellowship

Sunday, June 24, 2018

**Lord, Let it Rain!**

**TEXT:** Zechariah 10:1

In the natural, we just entered into a new season here in our region… Monsoon Season began June 15th. Here in Southern Arizona we get excited for the rain, because we know what it brings and how bad we’ve needed it. As we cry, “Lord, let it rain” in the natural, let’s cry out for the rain in the Spirit too.

Rain in the Bible represented:

* Although there are examples of negative things RAINING from the Sky… (brimstone, dust, horrible hail) RAIN itself is almost always a blessing, refreshing, cleansing, fruition.
  + Genesis 6 the 1st rain is usually seen as destructive, but it was also indicative of **Grace**/Favor (Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord), **Salvation, of Cleansing, & Re-Birth**.
  + **Favor** of natural Leaders. Pro 16:15 **Blessing, Kindness & Grace**. Matt 5:43-48 The **creative and sustaining power of God** [Psalm 147:8](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ps%20147.8)
  + **God’s Presence** brought rain even in the dry wasteland.   
    Psalm 68:8, Psalm 72:6; Hosea 6:3
  + Isaiah 44:3 rain representing **Blessing, Refreshing,** and a clear representation of the abundant influence and activity of the **Holy Spirit** in our LIVES! It reminds me of John 7:37-39 where Jesus implored all who were thirsty to come to Him and drink deeply.
* Different Types of Rain
  + **Early Rain or the former rain** – Soft, light rain that softens the dry parched ground, so it can receive a SEED. And prepares the ground for heavier rain.
    - In terms of God’s presence… these are those precious little blessings and reminders of God’s faithfulness… that cause us to take a deep breath and say, yes, God is here, He is Good, let’s plant some seed.
  + **Winter Rain** – Heavier rains where it doesn’t all just soak in but it will sit on the surface, pool, and runs over and runs off.
    - Times of incredible growth, goodness & blessing overflowing. Adverse circumstances are going on, yet nothing can get you down. Provision flows easily. Prayers are seemingly answered before you pray.
  + **Latter Rain** – The rain that comes and ripens the fruit and sustains the people and land through the dry season.
    - This rain will sustain you through any dry season that might come in life. When the world is drying out and parched… You are sustained! 1 Kings 17
    - The latter rain prepares the harvest. Pastor Virgil recently wrote in a blog post referencing Hosea 6:3 we read earlier, “The Lord is waiting for the harvest, the harvest is waiting for the rain of His Spirit.” Lord, Let it rain!

Preparing for Rain

* Natural – You better prepare for rain especially the monsoons.
  + Check your electrical systems, make sure doors/windows in home secure & change AC system filters change lots of dust. Inspect your roof. Prune and secure trees. Clean gutters and establish paths for runoff water. Stay out of the WASH and stay alert. Rain can come at any moment & water levels rise instantly.
* In the Spirit – We need to prepare too.
  + Prepare our expectation – 1 Cor 12:31, 1Cor 14:1, 1Cor 14:39
    - When the Spirit gets to movin’… we need to be sensitive and ready to step in.
  + How is your sensitivity? How wired to the Spirit of God are you? How much resistance have you allowed to build up? Jude20
  + Are there things that need pruned so they don’t break off and hurt others? Hebrews 12:1
  + How is the gutter of your heart? Matt12:34, 1Tim1:5

Lord, let it Rain! Zechariah 10:1

* Zechariah was a prophet. He was commissioned to encourage Judah to actually complete rebuilding the temple. He didn’t focus on their failures, but he gave them hope for what God had for them in the future.
  + Don’t beat yourself up for what you haven’t done yet. He has a glorious future for you and it starts TODAY! You can do it!
* We need more of God’s **Blessing, refreshing, restoring, cleansing, saving, sustaining, healing, PRESENCE in our lives…. And certainly in our Community!** 
  + We are given SIMPLE instructions here… Ask the Lord for Rain
    - What are you asking Him for? We are really good at asking God for stuff (jobs, money, protection, health) but what about asking HIM for MORE of HIM.
    - NO harvest can come to fruition without rain… The presence of God, the rain of the Spirit… Brings maturity, growth, fruition in every area of our lives, where His seed is planted.
      * **Could it be that in our attempts to gather SEEDs of faith by seeing WHAT the WORD says… We sometimes neglect WHO the WORD is?**
    - When we soak in God’s presence… you don’t have to ask for anything else… Matt 6:33 Let’s Ask HIM for RAIN!