

The Rain is on the Way ©

By Pastor Asa S. Dockery

It is good to serve the Living God, isn't it? God is from eternity to eternity and He says I know the end from the beginning. Having an all seeing and an all knowing God, it is good when you are in covenant with Him because He can see beyond your mistakes, He can see beyond the diagnosis, He can see beyond the sentence, and He sees beyond everything that limits us in the natural.

God has a sense of humor, does He not? He told Ezekiel, who sees nothing but death and a bunch of dead dry bones in the valley, to speak life over the dry dead bones. You think, speak life, all I see is death! So there are different instances all throughout the Bible where it looks as though the men and women of God are up against impossible situations, where what they were hearing was not lining up with what they were seeing. Thank God they did not look at what they saw, they listened to what they were hearing, and when they listened to what they heard, they spoke what they heard and it became sight; it became reality.

The Holy Spirit has been dealing with my spirit all year long, and in particular today, He has been dealing with me about speaking what I am hearing and not what I am seeing. Have you ever had a knowing in your 'knower'? Whenever you speak by faith, when you have something in your 'knower'; it is like it is done. I don't see how it is going to get done. I don't know how it is going to come about, but I know in my spirit it is done! Have you noticed when you really stand up on top of a word that you know is sure, it is a sure word, the power of God starts coming out, it starts being released, and the anointing starts increasing and intensifying because now you are not speaking your word, you are speaking the word of God! And the word of God has life, it has power, it has anointing, and it will remove the burden, destroy the yoke and it will take that mountain that has been standing in your way and it will remove it as far as the east is from the west! God's word works!

I was in my study before this, and I picked up a magazine in which Bishop T. D. Jakes has a column in this month regarding hearing what the Spirit is saying. Bishop Jakes said he is hearing a word and he spoke about Jacob re-digging the wells of his fathers' which the Philistines had filled. And as he would re-dig these wells he would have to fight, and he moved from area to area re-digging what his fathers had dug originally. This speaks of our legacy. It speaks of how our fathers, our grandfathers, and our great-grandfathers in the faith have come and they have dug wells and the enemies have taken those wells of the blessings of God and they have stopped them up. They have stopped them up with hard hearts, with the flesh of man, with the dust of man and the sickness and diseases of man, and so God tells another generation in the future, I want you to re-dig those wells; I want you to tap into some things.

Bishop Jakes said I have a word for somebody. You have been digging in a dry and desolate place but you are fixing to hit water, but you cannot grow weary while you are doing this, because by the time you are ready to faint that is when you are going to hit water. And something exploded in my spirit and I said I hear a confirmation about what God is saying in the Spirit. So this is a prophetic word from the Lord, this is a thus

saith the Lord. He has said there is a refreshing coming. There is a refreshing coming to His people. In the natural you don't see it, it is just not there. All you are seeing is weariness, hardship, trouble, anxiety, fear and how are we going to come out of this storm we are in, but the Bible is saying to declare the those things that be not as though they are.

He confirmed that to me today through the Spirit, through His word, through Bishop Jakes' column, and through our intercessors, so I know that He has established it through more than two witnesses that this is the way for this teaching to go out. There is someone this is going to speak to and they have need of it. So having said that let's get into the word of God.

Proverbs 4:20-22 (NKJV): 20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; 22 For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.

Do not let them depart from your eyes; in other words, don't get your eyes on the world. Keep your eyes on the word, right? Keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are what? The words of God are life to those who find them and health to all their flesh.

Let me read that again. Keep them, the word of God, keep it in the midst of your heart for they are life to those who find them and they are health to all their flesh.

Proverbs 4:23-24 (NKJV): 23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life. 24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth,

Keep your heart with all diligence, why? For out of your heart spring the issues of life, therefore you need to guard it. He is talking to Christians here.

Proverbs 4:24-27 (NKJV): 24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you. 25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. 26 Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

Lately it is obvious that we are at the time of reaping and many are reaping a harvest of discouragement, bitterness, and heartache for allowing the word of God to slip from their hearts as His holy people. Would you not agree about that? This is exactly what people are doing. They are reaping a harvest of discouragement, disappointment, bitterness and heartache because we, the children of God, have allowed the word of God to slip from our hearts.

Now did He not just say to not let the word depart from your eyes, to keep the word in the midst of your heart, because the word is life to all who find it and health to all their flesh? If we let the word of God slip and we don't stand up for the word when we should, then guess what is going to happen; we are going to start reaping the benefits of this.

Even though we have forsaken the Lord and we have not held on to His word as we should have, God wants me to remind us that He has not forsaken us. This is shouting ground right there! Even though we have forsaken Him to a degree, He has not forsaken us! He has sworn it both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament! He says in both, I will never leave you nor will I forsake you! We are going to read a scripture here in a minute that will reveal why He has told us that.

His word is still true and He is still on the throne large and in charge and our enemies are still His enemies! Even though we have spiritually fornicated and committed spiritual adultery, God has remained faithful and is faithful to us; and He is still faithful to us even while we are faithless to Him. As a father corrects his son, so the Lord has chastised His people. We have been in a dry and desolate place but we are not forsaken in it.

We are going to 1 Kings, chapter 18. If you are not familiar with this story they have been in a drought for three and a half years in Israel, Jezebel, King Ahab's wife, has gone after false gods, she has brought in 400, false prophets, and there are now 450 false prophets of Baal preaching their propaganda to Israel, and Israel is torn between the Living God and the god of Baal. It has now come to a show down between God and Baal, and this is where we pick up the story in verse 37, with Elijah the prophet of God.

1 Kings 18:37-39 (NKJV): 37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You *are* the LORD God, and *that* You have turned their hearts back to You again." 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that *was* in the trench. 39 Now when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He *is* God! The LORD, He *is* God!"

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again. The people had repented. When the fire came down and burned up the offering, licked up the water, consumed it and the rocks, the wood and even the dust, and the children of Israel fell down on their faces and repented for their double-mindedness.

And Elijah is praying back to God and he says, Hear me that this people may know that You are the LORD God and that You, You have, not me, but You have turned them. It is the goodness of God that produces repentance, right? You have turned their hearts back to You again. God did that, He orchestrated that. They didn't do it. God set them up, God is setting you up. They were a harlot in God's sight. They had went a-whoring after false gods, isn't that what the word says? But God in His infinite wisdom and in His infinite love wooed them back to Himself. They found out that He was still the True and the Living God in their midst and He showed Himself strong on Mount Carmel; and when He showed Himself faithful to them, they fell on their faces and repented before Him but it was God who orchestrated it all.

Now you may be out doing your own thing and busting your move in the world, but while you are doing that God is still faithful to you and He says, all right you have had enough of that stuff, come back to me, and when you come back don't think it is you coming back, it is God drawing you back by His Spirit. So when you hear thus saith the Lord, God is dealing with your heart and saying repent, repent and I will restore you!

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They got a revelation didn't they? Yes, the LORD, He is God! He is the One who answered with fire.

1 Kings 18:40 (NKJV): 40 And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

When Elijah executed the enemies of God; when the double-mindedness, the anti-Christ spirit was out of the camp of Israel, I want you to look at what verse 41, says.

1 Kings 18:41 (NKJV): 41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for *there is* the sound of abundance of rain."

I hear the sound of the abundance of rain. I hear the sound of abundance, abundance of rain. You have to allow yourself to get a hold of this picture. There has been a drought for forty-two months, and there has now been a showdown on Mount Carmel and now the spirit of religion has been extricated, it has been evacuated from the hearts of the children of Israel, and now there is a vacuum that has to be filled and now in the next verse Elijah says, wait a minute, I hear something in the Spirit! I hear the sound of abundance of rain. When repentance came that is when the power of God showed up to restore the people of God from what idolatry had done to them.

Whenever we, the people of God, lose our way, God has to bring correction and after He brings correction He has to destroy His enemies which have seduced us; and then revival, then times of refreshing can come and restore the souls and the hearts of His children. That is how it works. They turn away; they lose their way; God brings correction; and He draws them back into covenant relationship with Him. He destroys the enemies that tried to destroy His people, and then He brings a revival and times of refreshing comes from the presence of the Lord and restores our souls and our hearts back to Him.

When it was time, God moved among His people who had lost their way and had been seduced by false prophets and the prophets of Baal. God had a true prophet who was not afraid to take on the enemies of God; nor was he afraid to declare the word of the Lord to a stiff necked generation. I think we are about there, don't you? The body of Christ is very quickly becoming a stiff necked generation. You have to be very careful of what you say now and how you say it. People of today will flip on you. This is being stiff necked when a people will not receive a word of correction, nor will they receive a word of warning and reproof. But this prophet was not afraid to take on the 850 prophets. He wasn't afraid to declare the truth to that lost generation. After the spiritual battle was won and after God's enemies were destroyed, God brought rain back to the land of Israel fulfilling His promises in 2 Chronicles 7:14.

There is an abundance which is about to break out! There is a refreshing that is coming!

Well, I don't see it, I don't feel it, and I don't hear it. Well, this is what the Spirit of God is telling me to declare. He wants to declare to His holy people that the abundance is coming! The supernatural outpouring of the Spirit of God is coming!

Isaiah 54:1 (NKJV): 1 "Sing, O barren, You *who* have not borne!

Now that sounds like forty-two months without water, doesn't it?

Isaiah 54:1 (NKJV): 1 "Sing, O barren, you *who* have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, you *who* have not labored with child! For more *are* the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman," says the LORD.

Do you see that? For more are the children, for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman, says the LORD.

Isaiah 54:2-3 (NKJV): 2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes. 3 For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited.

I feel the anointing of God on this word; just reading it from the word! I feel His anointing power! God is saying as surely as this word is coming out of my mouth God is watching over it to perform it! He says you have been in a barren place; you have been in a dry place; you have been a place where people rejected the truth; they rejected what you had to say; but God says I am bringing you into a place that is going to be so fruitful you are going to have more than those which had fruitfulness in their loins, those who were married; those who conceived; those who gave forth and gave birth to many children! The numbers of your children are going to far exceed them! This is what the Spirit of God is saying to those who are hearkening to His word and are not ashamed of Him! The enemy says nothing good comes from your area; nothing good comes from your region, but God says I go to the place where they have cursed it, to the place they have dug it up twice, rooted it up, and pulled it up; I go there and I declare thus saith the Lord God Almighty you shall live and not die! And you will bear much fruit!

Isaiah 54:4 (NKJV): 4 "Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed;

Yes, but you call me a father, yet I have no son, Abraham said. Why do you give me the title of father and yet not give me any children? It is a reproach. But God says, you don't know what I am about to do!

Isaiah 54:4 (NKJV): 4 "Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed;

Do you know why we won't be ashamed? Is it because we don't believe on superstar so-and-so or on superstar brother or sister so-and-so but we believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and we are standing on His word and that word will not return void! You will not be put to shame!

Isaiah 54:4 (NKJV): 4 "Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; 4 "Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; For you will forget the shame of your youth, And will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. 5 For your Maker is your husband,

I like that. My Maker is my Husband. He is my Provider.

Isaiah 54:5-6 (NKJV): 5 For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. 6 For the LORD has called you like a woman forsaken

Now we are getting right where we live. We had to get here and we've arrived.

Isaiah 54:6-7 (NKJV): 6 For the LORD has called you like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, Like a youthful wife when you were refused," Says your God. 7 "For a mere moment

Now He had already called her His wife, right? And now look at verse seven.

Isaiah 54:7 (NKJV): 7 "For a mere moment I have forsaken you,

He had gotten angry with Israel for her idolatrous ways and for a moment He was angry with them and He forsook them.

Isaiah 54:7 (NKJV): 7 "For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you. 8 With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," Says the LORD, your Redeemer.

In other words, you don't deserve what I am about to give you, but I am going to give it to you because of Who I am, not because of what you do. We are in covenant with a covenant keeping God! It is not about what we have done; nor is it about what we have done wrong! It is about us getting connected with God and coming into covenant with Him. He says I will fight your battles; your enemies are My enemies; your strongholds are Mine and nothing can keep Me from saving you when you repent and come to Me. That is what He is talking about.

Isaiah 54:9-10 (NKJV): 9 "For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. 10 For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

He says for a moment I was angry and I forsook you My people, however now I am telling you - and I am using Noah as a witness, and the promise I gave to him that I would never, ever again destroy the earth with water, - so am I telling you also Israel, I will never forsake you again. I am with you, lo, I am with you all the way, even unto the end!

This is why I personally have confidence; this is why I have hope. Though those that be against us appear to be more than those who are for us, but if God be on our side, then who can be against us? I have hope in my God! I just had to wait for the forty-two months to come to an end! God give me the grace to wait until the forty-two months were over, because when that forty second month kicks in, I am going to have a party like it is 1999. (That is an old American pop-song.)

Isaiah 54:10 (NKJV): 10 For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says the LORD, who has mercy on you. 11 "O you afflicted one, Tossed with tempest, and not comforted,

Are you there? Are you tossed with a lot of tempest on every side, ringing your hands; you are not comforted and you have nothing to bring you comfort?

Isaiah 54:11-13 (NKJV): Behold, I will lay your stones with colorful gems, And lay your foundations with sapphires. 12 I will make your pinnacles of rubies, Your gates of crystal, And all your walls of precious stones. 13 All your children shall be taught by the LORD, And great shall be the peace of your children.

Someone needs a revelation and to get a hold of this! He is promising us this! All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children!

Isaiah 54:14-17 (NKJV): 14 In righteousness you shall be established; You shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; And from terror, for it shall not come near you. 15 Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of Me. Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake. 16 "Behold, I have created the blacksmith Who blows the coals in the fire, Who brings forth an instrument for his work; And I have created the spoiler to destroy. 17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD.

They had some powerful promises at the beginning. You have been barren, you have been desolate, but I swear to you, you shall have more children than the woman who is married, and who has brought forth children and who has labored in pain to bring them forth. You are going to have more, but right now you are in a tempest and you are tossed, and you are afflicted. You are thinking, God how long? God says in that time, in that time I am speaking to you; in your greatest hour of anguish and hardship, I am telling you, push! Push, because I am faithful. I will not allow this thing that has come against you to overtake you.

Whenever God's people, I don't care what generation it was, whether they were Jew or Gentile, whenever the people of God decide they are going to forsake God, to allow His word to slip away from them so that they could go out and have a good time, there is a price that has to be paid. There is a price we will pay when we decide to let the god of our flesh rule us and we forsake the God of our salvation. God has to come and break us and then after He has broken us, as He is doing right now, He will then restore us as He did many times with the children of Israel.

Now like Israel we have been tossed by tempest, mountains and hills have been shaken, explosions have been going off, a lot of plagues have been turned loose by the enemy, but God's mercy and goodness have still been with us. Have you noticed in spite of all the things that have been going on you are still here? God is still with us. God has not removed Himself from us but our sins have separated us from His presence and we must endure until the correction has been completed and restoration can come to America. That is about America.

Now is not the time to lose heart and give up your faith. It is hard and there is a lot against you. As a matter of fact, the odds are stacked against you in the natural but God always likes a good battle. Eight-hundred and fifty to one, God says that's okay; that will work; that will show them it is not Elijah. It is easy to be light in the day time because there is no opposition or there is very little opposition. However God has called us to be salt and light in a dark and dying world that needs preservation and illumination. He says He wants us to be light in the night.

Now is the time for Christians to shine as never before. Really, against all this opposition; even against discouragement? Did you know hope deferred makes the heart grow sick? Christians are struggling against hopelessness. They have hoped for God to do stuff and He didn't do it. They have hoped for Him to save their house, yet they lost it; hoped for Him to save their business, yet they lost it; hoped for Him to save a loved one, yet they lost them; and hoped deferred makes the heart grow sick, but if a person can hold on to their faith when their heart fails them, they are the ones that will come out of it victorious. This was a word for someone reading this right now.

My faith is stronger than my hope. My heart is sick but my faith is strong. Do you know why? It is because I am looking to the God of my salvation and not the storm that is trying to drown me. So now is the time to have hope in our hearts because the One who has called us and the One who has promised us these promises, He has also told us I will never leave you nor forsake you, it is that God who is faithful and He will do, He will perform that which He has sworn to us, right? Either this is the truth or we are having a party for nothing.

So we must guard our hearts in the drought, during the famine, during the pestilence and the plagues, we have to guard our hearts. Isn't that what it said in Proverbs 4? Guard your heart with all diligence. From what do we guard it? We guard it from discouragement, apathy, rejection of men, lest we fall into temptation and lose our way while walking with God.

Joel 2:11 (NKJV): 11 The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is *the One* who executes His word.

For strong is the One, the Lord, who executes His word. The Lord is the one who is going to execute this, not man. It is not by might, it is not by strength of arm, it is not by power, it is by His Spirit. He is the One who is going to execute His word, but, He has to get someone who will speak it.

Joel 2:11-12 (NKJV): For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it? 12 "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart,

Do you see that? Once again like we said there in 1 Kings 18, like we said there in Isaiah 54, He is dealing with His people who have gone astray from Him, right? He is saying, turn to Me again, with all your heart.

Joel 2:12-14 (NKJV): 12 "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." 13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. 14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him--

Do you see this? He says if we will repent and if we will return to Him, not in a religious way, but with our whole heart: God it is me and my freckles, it is me and my warts, it's me and my sin, it's me and my lusts, right? When you turn to Him with your whole heart you give Him all of it! And when He sees you turn with your whole heart He says you know I was about to do evil on you but now I am going to do a blessing on you! I am going to forgive you of your sin! I am going to restore you to right relationship! I am going to clean you up! So He will leave a blessing behind Him!

Joel 2:14-16 (NKJV): 14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him-- A grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God? 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; 16 Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room. 17 Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, Weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, And do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them.

He is not going to give His heritage, His people to reproach that nations should rule over them. Are we not about there? Yes, we are; us and Israel both. The nations are trying to rule over us.

Joel 2:17-20 (NKJV): Let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, And do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' " 18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, And pity His people. 19 The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations. 20 "But I will remove far from you the northern army, And will drive him away into a barren and desolate land,

But I will remove far from you the northern army, that is battle; that is controversy! The place you have been, now the enemy is going to be driven there by God! And you are going to go into a fat land, right?

Joel 2:20-21 (NKJV): **20** "But I will remove far from you the northern *army*, And will drive him away into a barren and desolate land, With his face toward the eastern sea And his back toward the western sea; His stench will come up, And his foul odor will rise, Because he has done monstrous things." **21** Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice, For the LORD has done marvelous things!

God says when My people get their hearts right and they turn to Me with their whole heart, change will come, marvelous things will come from Me! I have shown you time and time again in the Old Covenant and you have seen every one of these references written here how He comes to them, He restores them, and then He brings increase into their lives, every time.

Romans 13:8-14 (NKJV): **Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9** For the commandments, "*You shall not commit adultery,*" "*You shall not murder,*" "*You shall not steal,*" "*You shall not bear false witness,*" "*You shall not covet,*" and if *there is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this saying, namely, "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" **10** Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law. **11** And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. **12** The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. **13** Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. **14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

He is speaking to Christians, fellow believers, here. It is time to repent and turn back to God. Let us repent of our wicked ways is what Paul is saying, and to remove anything that even has the appearance of evil far from us. This is what the Spirit of God is telling us. He says I want you to repent of your evil ways, I want you to remove anything that even has the appearance, it may not even have evil in it, but it has the appearance of evil to it. Get it out of your life. This isn't child's play. It isn't. This is the Spirit of God speaking to His body.

Let us armor ourselves with the armor of light, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. Everything that I am hearing and sensing in the Spirit tells me that an outpouring on the land is on the way but you and I can have one right now. An outpouring of the Spirit of God like no one has ever seen or experienced can happen to us right now but first there has to come a cleansing and a repenting and a turning away from the junk that is in our closets – our hearts. We do not have to live in sin or prolong our agony another day in a dry and desolate season. We can open our hearts to God and allow Him to fill us with His presence and fire and that is what He wants to do to those who are willing to obey His word. Do we want it?

If so let's turn to Acts chapter three. I need to give you scripture.

Acts 3:1-13 (NKJV): **1** Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*. **2** And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; **3** who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. **4** And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." **5** So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. **6** Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." **7** And he took him by the right hand and lifted *him* up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. **8** So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God. **9** And all the people saw him walking and praising God. **10** Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

11 Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. **12** So when Peter saw *it*, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? **13** The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,

Where is Peter turning the focus of the people to? He is turning it to God. They were amazed at the miracle, but he quickly takes the glory off of himself and shines it on God.

Acts 3:13-19 (NKJV): **13** The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *Him* go. **14** But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, **15** and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. **16** And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. **17** Yet now, brethren, I know that you did *it* in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers. **18** But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. **19** Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out,

Look at it! Repent therefore and be converted, that means have a change of heart that your sins may be blotted out, why?

Acts 3:19 (NKJV): **19** Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Did you get that? He says when God's people repent and they are converted and they change their ways there will come times of refreshing from the presence of God! Did you know they had been going thousands of years looking for the Promise to come and Jesus told them right before He left the earth, tarry in Jerusalem because

the Promise of the Father is going to come not many days hence; and they tarried there in Jerusalem and they prayed in the Upper Room for ten days and then all that drought, all that famine, all that spiritual hardship came to an end because there came a sound, a sound. . . I hear a sound! I hear a sound!

God said if My people who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray I will release a sound that will break the enemy's stronghold off of their region and blessings will come down!

Refreshment, refreshing times come down from the Lord when true repentance fills the hearts of sinners and backsliders.

Acts 2:1-2 (NKJV): 1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

The whole house was filled. Their empty house was filled with the Presence and Power of God.

Acts 2:3-4 (NKJV): 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled

There it is again. They were all filled. Their empty house was filled.

Acts 2:3-6 (NKJV): 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

This was the outpouring of refreshing. The Lamb had been slain, the Price had been paid, and it was time for repentance and now the outpouring had come. This is what God wants. This was the outpouring from the Presence of God upon the earth and upon His people. God was restoring His children.

Do you need a fresh drink of the Living Water? Do you want a fresh drink of the Living Water? Are you tired of drinking the pollution the world has been giving you? Are you in need of a touch of the Master's hand? Have you become discouraged? Have you been let down because things you have believed for haven't happened? Guess what, faith comes by hearing and hearing comes by the Word of God. There is enough anointing upon His word to set you free from all that is oppressing you and trying to discourage you! I invite you to kneel right where you are; to believe you will receive and you shall have whatsoever you ask in faith. Repent and believe and He will be there to leave a blessing. Don't tarry. Don't put off His call to you.

We thank You Father for Your word. We thank You Father for hearing our prayer of repentance. You have declared Your word and we come to repent and to be converted. We are going to confess our faults and our sins and we ask to be healed by Your love. We ask that through the cleansing power of Jesus' blood to be washed totally and completely clean of every sin that has beset us and we surrender afresh our hearts to You.

Start confessing to Your Father. Start getting it out, releasing it and committing it unto God. Name what it is you want forgiveness of. You know ever secret; you know everything that is coming between you and God; you know everything the enemy has been using to seduce you away from the Father; and you know what is separating you from God and keeping you from the refreshing that is available to you.

If you are struggling with doubt, and you are in need of a touch from God, then begin looking at anything that may be adversely influencing you to believe something that goes against God's word as being truth. Once the Holy Spirit reveals the doubt, begin separating yourself from the cause of it through prayer. Now, you can stand on God's word as your final authority and see the salvation of the Lord. The One who called you is faithful to His word and He will hear and forgive and cleanse you. He will restore you and send you the time of refreshing.

If you have committed yourself to Him, please contact us at whcnorth.org or at World Harvest Church North, Post Office Box 968, Morganton, Georgia, 30560, and let us know. We will be glad to send you free material and a free CD to help you in your walk. We would love to join the Father in rejoicing in your return into the household of God.

If you have a prayer request and you would like us to join you in prayer, or if you have a testimony you would like to share, please connect with us at prayer@whcnorth.org. Our team of intercessors will join us in daily prayer for your need and we will continue until we receive a word from God on your behalf.

We would love to have you join us in service if possible. Our fiscal address is 135 Bud Franklin Drive, right off of Highway 515, at Liberty Hill exit, Blairsville, Georgia. Our telephone number is 706-374-6175, if you need specific directions.