

Pray For The Latter Rain

Ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain. The Lord will make bright clouds and give them showers of rain, (Zac.10:1) And He will cause the rain to come down for you— The former rain, And the latter rain.(Joel 2:23) The phrase “former and latter rain” refers to the early and late rains. These passages refer to God’s provision and grace in meeting our needs. God takes care of those who follow Him and those who do not. He cares for the ungrateful and evil and those who are thankful.(Luke 6:35) Rain is equated with God’s blessing.(Isa.44:3) The former rain falls at the sowing time. The latter rain falling near close of the season. May the Lord rain down on you showers of blessing. The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent work of the Holy Spirit. As the dew and the rain are given first to cause seed to germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth. The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God's in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the image of God is to be perfected in character of men. We are to be transformed into likeness of Christ. *Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.* (Jam5:7,8) The Spirit's work is always focused on the harvest of souls!

The “latter rain” is a biblical symbol for the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit, by which the spiritual experience of God’s church will be brought to ripeness for the harvest. The latter rain will bring God’s work to completion; Church will be victorious over the world, satan and usher in Christ’s kingdom. The latter rain represents spiritual grace that prepares the church for coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. *You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.* Many have in a great measure receive the former rain the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Unless the former rain has done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection. When richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. Work that God has begun in human heart in giving His light must be continually going forward. Every believer must realize his own necessity. The heart must be cleansed of defilement. It was by repentance, confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer, consecration of themselves to God and for the indwelling of the Spirit.(Act 3:19) There must be constant development of Christian virtue, constant advancement in Christian experience. It is God who began work and he will finish his work making man perfect in Jesus Christ. The blessings of divine grace received under the former rain are needful to us to the end. We may have had a measure of the Spirit of God, we are continually to seek fullness of the Spirit is essential to our spiritual progress. Spiritual power comes thru obedience, He grants us power to do great works and spiritual exploits!

The continual communication of the Holy Spirit to the church is represented by the prophet Zechariah *These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.*(Zec.4:1-15) The mission of the two anointed ones is to communicate light and power to God's people. It is to receive blessing for us that they stand in God's presence. As the olive-trees empty themselves into the bowl of the candlestick, and thence into the golden lamps that gave light to the sanctuary. So, from the holy ones that stand in God's presence, his Spirit is imparted to men that are consecrated to his service. Thus it is that the holy lamps are fed and church becomes a light-bearer in world. Heavenly messengers seek to communicate all that they receive from God, as we receive blessing, we in our turn are to convey it to others.

The former and latter rains are a type of God’s Holy Spirit! As God’s church we need to ask the Lord to pour out His Spirit of the “latter rain” upon us, so we can do the works of Christ and complete work of God, which He has called us to do at this end-time upon the earth! We need praying to God to pour out, “showers of the Holy Spirit” upon His people! *He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.*(Hosea 6:3) We must pray that God will open fountain of the water of life. And we must ourselves receive of the living water. Let us, with contrite hearts, pray most earnestly that now, in the time of the latter rain, the showers of grace may fall upon us. At every meeting, we seek God for the Holy Spirit, it will work in us meekness, humbleness of mind, a conscious dependence upon God. If we pray for the blessing in faith, we shall receive it as God has promised. The prophet Joel declares in 2:23-24, *For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you,* Joel goes on, *“And it shall come to pass afterward (during this “end time” generation!), that I will pour out my Spirit (latter rain) on all flesh;(28-29)* When spirit of supplication showers upon you, you will find yourself praying for holiness, godliness, purity. And spirit of grace leading us power over sin, to enable us to live sober, holy lives.(Titus 2:11-13)

Jesus commands, "Pray without ceasing;" that is, keep the mind uplifted to God, source of all power and efficiency. The privilege in which we are now living is to be, to those that ask, the Holy Spirit. Ask for his blessing. It is time we were more intense in our devotion. What we need is quickening influence of Holy Spirit of God. We need abundant showers of latter rain as refreshing. Let God’s Spirit fall upon us and let us smite errors of false christs and prophets. To us is committed to proclaim gospel of the Kingdom, glorious work of revealing Christ to those who are in darkness. We are blessed if we ask Him, pray intensively for pouring out of His Spirit for latter rain upon the church, His work, His servants and each other so that we will be ready for the day Jesus to come. Ask the Lord to come quickly! Get your house in order. Get things right with God. Ask the Lord to make you humble. Revivals and awakenings are times of great outpouring of God’s Spirit. It’s the latter rain. As the Lord says: *“I will give you the latter rain..(Deu.11:13-14)*