

Latter Rain

Summary:

1. What is Latter Rain
2. The purpose
3. Who will receive
4. How to Receive
5. When it's going to pour out
6. Result of Receiving

1. WHAT IS LATTER RAIN?

a. Outpouring of the Spirit of God

Near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This **outpouring of the Spirit** is likened to the falling of the latter rain. – Last Day Events 186

The **outpouring of the Spirit** in the days of the apostles was "the former rain," and glorious was the result. But the latter rain will be more abundant. – Last Day Events 185

b. Heavenly dew

c. Refreshing presence of the Lord

"Today you are to have your vessel purified that it may be ready for the **heavenly dew**, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement. It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of **refreshing from the presence of the Lord**--fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit." 1SM 190

d. Spiritual grace

The latter rain, ripening earth's harvest, **represents the spiritual grace** that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. Testimonies to Ministers 506

2. PURPOSE

a. To prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man

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b. To give power to the loud voice of the third angel

c. To prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out

d. To give shelter to the people of God in the time of trouble

At that time the "latter rain," or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, **to give power to the loud voice of the third angel**, and **prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out**. -- Last Day Events 186

I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of "refreshing" and the "latter rain" to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of **trouble without a shelter!** They had neglected the needful preparation;" Early Writings 71

"It is the latter rain, which **revives and strengthens the people of God** to pass through the time of Jacob's trouble referred to by the prophets. The glory of that light which attends the third angel will be reflected upon them. God will preserve his people through that time of peril." Signs of the Times , NOVEMBER 27, 1879

e. To ripen the grains and prepares it for the sickle

f. To carry forward from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth

The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, **ripens the grain and prepares it for the sickle**. The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the 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 grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ." Testimonies to Ministers 506

g. To produce Christlike character

At no point in our experience can we dispense with the assistance of that which enables us to make the first start. The blessings received under the former rain are needful to us to the end. . . . As we seek God for the Holy Spirit, it will work in us **meekness, humbleness of mind, a conscious dependence upon God for the perfecting latter rain.** -- Last Day Events 187

The Holy Spirit seeks to abide in each soul. If it is welcomed as an honored guest, those who receive it will be made complete in Christ. The good work begun will be finished; **the holy thoughts, heavenly affections, and Christlike actions will take the place of impure thoughts, perverse sentiments, and rebellious acts.** -- Last Day Events 187

We may have had a measure of the Spirit of God, but by prayer and faith we are continually to seek more of the Spirit. It will never do to cease our efforts. If we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in an attitude to receive both the former and the latter rain, we shall lose our souls, and the responsibility will lie at our own door. . . . Last Day Events 187

3. WHO WILL RECEIVE and HOW TO RECEIVE

a. Those who have prepared their hearts, emptied self and crucify the flesh

When **the way is prepared for the Spirit of God**, the blessing will come. Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing from descending upon God's people than he can close the windows of heaven that rain cannot come upon the earth. – Last Day Event 188

If we would receive the light of the glorious angel that shall lighten the earth with his glory, let us see to it that our hearts are **cleansed, emptied of self**, and turned toward heaven, that they may be ready for the latter rain. Signs of the Times., Now is the time for us to let **self die, to crucify the flesh**, with the affections and lusts, to deny the cravings of appetite and passion. AUGUST 1, 1892

b. Those who are begging for the bread of life to give to their neighbors

The Holy Spirit will come to all who are **begging for the bread of life to give to their neighbors.** -- Christ Services 252

c. Those whose hearts and in unity with Christ and live according to the light they receive

When we bring **our hearts into unity with Christ**, and our **lives into harmony with His work**, the Spirit that fell on the disciples on the day of Pentecost will fall on us. -- Christian Services 252

“Only those who are living up to the light they have, will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.” The Faith I Live By 333

d. Those whose lives are into harmony with His word

e. Those who appreciate the Spirit

If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not **appreciated** as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. – Christian Services 252

f. Those who put away dissensions and give themselves to God

Let Christians **put away all dissension, and give themselves to God** for the saving of the lost. Let them ask in faith for the promised blessing, and it will come. -- Christian Services 252

g. Those who are not worldly

If worldliness is allowed to come in, if we have no desire to pray, no desire to commune with Him who is the source of strength and wisdom, the Spirit will not abide with us.

h. Those who claim the promise

The disciples did not ask for a blessing for themselves. They were weighted with the burden of souls. The gospel was to be carried to the ends of the earth, and **they claimed the endowment of power** that Christ had promised. Then it was that the Holy Spirit was poured out, and thousands were converted in a day. – Christian Services 252

i. Those who wait humbly upon God and watch for His guidance and grace

Only to those who **wait humbly upon God**, who **watch for His guidance and grace**, is the Spirit given. The power of God awaits their demand and reception. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul **according to the capacity to receive.**—Christian Services 253

j. Those who are laborers together with God

The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to **be laborers together with God**. When we have entire, **wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ**, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God.—Christian Services 253

So from the holy ones that stand in God's presence, His Spirit is imparted to human instrumentalities that are consecrated to His service. Testimonies to Ministers 509

k. Given according to the measure of capacity to receive it

The measure of the Holy Spirit we receive will be **proportioned to the measure of our desire and the faith** exercised for it, and the use we shall make of the light and knowledge that shall be given to us. – Last Day Events 188

l. Where there is personal labor for souls (Camp meetings, church assemblies/gatherings)

The convocations of the church, as in camp meetings, the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labor for souls, are God's appointed opportunities for giving the early and the latter rain. -- Last Day Events 188

But let none think that in attending these gatherings, their duty is done. A mere attendance upon all the meetings that are held will not in itself bring a blessing to the soul. It is not an immutable law that all who attend general gatherings or local meetings shall receive large supplies from heaven. TM 509

*****Attending the camp meetings and church gathering does not mean that we will receive the latter rain. We have to comply the conditions on receiving it. Even if we are always present in church gatherings and campmeetings but our hearts are not right with God, we will surely not receive the latter rain in that particular time or gathering.

m. Demand and reception

The Spirit awaits our **demand and reception**. -- Christian Services 252

n. Talk of it, pray for it and preach concerning it

Zechariah 10:1 Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; [so] the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we **not talk of it, pray for it, and preach** concerning it? -- Christian Services 252

For the daily baptism of the Spirit, every worker should offer his petition to God. Companies of Christian workers should gather to ask for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that they may know how to plan and execute wisely. Especially should they **pray** that God will baptize His chosen ambassadors in mission fields with a rich measure of His Spirit. – Christian Services 252

We should **pray** as earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the Day of Pentecost. **If they needed it at that time, we need it more today**. – Last Day Events 188

*** If the disciples needed to pray earnestly for the former rain then how much more we need it today.

We are not willing enough to trouble the Lord with our petitions, and to ask Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Lord wants us **to trouble Him in this matter**. He wants us to press our petitions to the throne. -- Last Day Events 188

4. WHEN IT'S GOING TO BE Poured OUT

a. Anytime, Now

The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future, but it is the privilege of the church to have it **now**. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it. – Last Day Events 188

It is the time of the latter rain, when the Lord will give largely of His Spirit. Be fervent in prayer, and watch in the Spirit. Testimonies to Ministers 511

“ I have **no specific time** of which to speak when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will take place--when the mighty angel will come down from heaven, and unite with the third angel in closing up the work for this world; my message is that our only safety is in being ready for the heavenly refreshing, having our lamps trimmed and burning.” 1 Selected Messages 192

*****Anytime means yesterday, today or tomorrow.

5. RESULT OF RECEIVING THE LATTER RAIN

a. Loud cry produced

I heard those clothed with the armor **speak forth the truth with great power**. It had **effect**. . . . I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, "It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel." -- Last Day Events 186

The Spirit of the Almighty is moving upon men's hearts, and those who respond to its influence become **witnesses for God and His truth**. In many places consecrated men and women may be seen **communicating to others the light** that has made plain to them the way of salvation through Christ. And as they continue to let their light shine, as did those who were baptized with the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, they receive more and still more of the Spirit's power. Acts of the Apostles 53

b. Harvest ripened

The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost. As the "former rain" was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the "latter rain" will be given at its close **for the ripening of the harvest**. – Last Day Events 186

Deuteronomy 11:14 That I will give [you] the **rain** of your land in his due season, the first **rain** and the **latter rain**, that thou mayest **gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil**.

c. Produced revival of primitive godliness (christlikeness)

Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a **revival of primitive godliness** as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. – Last Day Events 186