

## Expect Rain

When life hits a dry spot, what do you do? Typically, most of us keep our mind and thoughts focused on the problem. Here in the south, we've been experiencing a horrible drought. I believe that the drought in the land is symbolic of the drought in our lives. The thirst that is in our land, is also crying out in our hearts. God gave the solution for both problems to Solomon in the Old Testament.

In 2 Chronicles 7, Solomon has just finished dedicating the Temple to God. In response to Solomon's prayer, God gives Solomon some advice for the future. God says that in the day that the rain is withheld, IF MY PEOPLE, who are called by my name (that would be us) will humble themselves and pray and seek MY FACE and turn from THEIR WICKED WAYS, then I will hear them and heal their land. Then my EYES WILL BE OPEN and my ears will be attentive to them in that place. I believe that this is a key instruction not just for us to have rain in our land, but also rain in our lives.

God knew that there would come a time when the people would turn back from His ways and follow their own. We are no different. In times of drought, we pray for rain. But that's not all that God is after. He wants us to turn from OUR WAYS and follow His ways. For most of us we slide by that word WICKED, because we're not robbing banks, stealing cars, or doing drugs. But wicked and evil refers to anything that's not of God. God is looking and longing to bless us, but we must be in alignment with Him and His ways, and that means we must humble ourselves and turn back to Him and His ways. The result will be that God's eyes and ears will open to us. Do you know what the word eyes in this passage means? I was AMAZED when I saw that the word used here also means FOUNTAINS! God wants to open up the fountains of His blessings to us so that our lives and our land will be healed! Now I don't know about you, but I need some fountains of God's love, mercy and grace open in my life. When our land and our lives are healed we will be prosperous, productive and pleasing to God! Our part is to believe and expect the rain of God's goodness in our lives.

So I pray that today you will bow your head and your heart before the Lord and ask Him to show you where you may have veered from His ways. He is gracious and abounding in love for you and if you will turn and seek His face and His ways He will heal and restore you. He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Draw near to Him and He will draw near to you. Expect

to see the goodness of the Lord today and watch for the rain of His presence to fall upon your life.

In His Rain,

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If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain; if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven will forgive their sin and will heal their land. NOW MY EYES will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place (the place of humility, CL note). 2 Chronicles 7:13a;14-15