

## Servants and Broken Cisterns

For the last several weeks we have been talking about revival and the latter day rain necessary to make the harvest ready for reaping.

Revival comes from the Holy Spirit by grace through the convicting power of the Word of God. He produces a brokenness in our hearts that is necessary for repentance. Jesus, speaking in reference to Himself, says ***Matt 21:44*** “***And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.***”KJV

**This brokenness spoken of by Jesus is what we need in God’s repentant grace.** The Holy Spirit, not men, initiate revivals. He usually begins by using the Word of God. ***John 16:7-12*** “***Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.***

***And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:***  
***NKJV***

The Holy Spirit will use the Word of God in our repentance, in our restoration and in our joy:

***Romans 10:17*** “***Now faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.***

James 1:22 “**But become doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**

There was a revival in Israel in the time of Ezra. It began with commitment to God’s Word, to do it.

**Ezra 7:10** “**For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.**”

**Ezra 10:1** *“While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself down before the house of God, a large crowd of Israelites—men, women and children—gathered around him. They too wept bitterly.”*

*NIV*

**1. The Mourning & the funeral:**

The sounds of a group of people convicted by The Holy Spirit for their sins will produce a weeping and wailing the likes of which you haven't even seen at a funeral.

**2 Cor 7:10** *“For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.”* *—NASB*

**2. The Marriage Feast & the Joy**

The good news is that, when you are through, you can worship and serve the Lord with unspeakable joy, more than you've ever seen at weddings.

Then the words of this Scripture will come alive:

**Rev 19:7** **“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.**

Sally spoke about the latter rain of revival. Revival is like the joy of a wedding. However before we go to the wedding, we must first go to the funeral, dying to ourselves.

**The Three-Fold Cord Ecclesiastes 4:12** **“... a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”**

The three-fold knot in revival is

- 1. The Holy Spirit's leading into repentance,**
2. the Word of God and
3. intercessory prayer. Out of this three-fold cord comes Christian service.

## Priority of Prayer & Christian Service

### *Isaiah 6: 1-9*

*6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:*

*"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."*

*4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.*

*5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."*

*6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."*

*8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"*

*And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

### *NIV*

Notice that in verse 2 the Seraphim use 4 wings for the praise and worship of God, while only two wings are used in service. This can help us in how we prioritize our prayer lives and our service in the Body of Christ.

In verse 5 there is repentance by Isaiah. Verse 6 shows how the Lord cleansed him to prepare him for effective ministry. Finally notice the willing heart of Isaiah in verse 8 when he says to the Lord, "Here am I. Send me!"

## A. Regarding Christian service:

*1Cor 3: 11-15 “For any other foundation can no one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

*And if anyone builds on this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble, each one's work shall be revealed. For the Day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try each one's work as to what kind it is.*

*If anyone's work which he built remains, he shall receive a reward.*

*If anyone's work shall be burned up, he shall suffer loss. But he shall be saved, yet so as by fire.*

In Jesus' words to the 7 Churches in Revelation, He stresses their works as a church (that word is used 12 times to 7 Churches from Rev 2:1 – Rev 3:22.

Matthew 23:11 “But he that is **greatest** among you shall be your **servant**.”

1. There are many seminars today on leadership, but I see none offered on servanthood.

Servant is used in the Bible 462 times, whereas the word “master” is used only 165 times.

**Minister** in Greek is diakoneo dee-ak-on-eh'-o

**a. to be a servant, attendant, domestic, to serve, wait upon**

**b. to wait at a table and offer food and drink to the guests,**

B. Within the Body of Christ each believer is given at least one gift.

*1 Cor 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:” NKJV*

Some are given more than one gift. These gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to us for only two reasons:

**a. to confirm God's Word in power(Mark 16:20)**

b. **to edify or build up the Body of Christ.** (1Cor 12:7, 1Cor 14:12)

**Each gift only works as we serve others.**

As a sign of maturity in a Christian: If you come into Church and say what may I do to serve in this Body of believers, that person is mature in the faith. If you regularly come into church and ask “what will I receive”, this is the mark of an immature Christian.

Jesus came as a servant of God and said: *Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”*

*The example: John 13:4 ”After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.” NIV*

*John 13:12-15 “So after He had washed their feet and had taken His garments and had reclined again, He said to them, Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me the Teacher, and Lord, and you say well, for I AM. If then I, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”*

Paul, writing to the Corinthians says “1 Corinthians 11:1 Be imitators of me, **even as I also am of Christ.** We are to *be imitators of Jesus* by way of pointing people to Jesus, not to any of us.

*Acts 11:26 “...And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.* They were so separate and different that they were called this name by unbelievers.

We need to ask ourselves “If the Christian faith was outlawed tomorrow, would anyone accuse me? Would there be enough evidence to convict me?”

*Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

God created these works consisting of people and situations before time began. We will walk in them. However if we aren't ready spiritually, we will walk right by, never even noticing what is really important to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christians, without the mind of Christ, who walk by God-ordained work, not able to see nor understand the importance of this work in God's eyes.

e.g. teen-agers 1.5 blocks from Brownsville Assembly of God.

### **Important Service to Jesus** noted at Brownsville Assembly of God.

- a. 4 young people who cleaned bathrooms 4 days a week round the clock.
- b. Ushers who would lock up the church at 2am and be required to go to work at 6am.
- c. There was a lack of emphasis on numbers at the beginning of the revival at Brownsville.** Each attendee is given a card on which to indicate that they were Christian and living the Word of God, they were Christian backsliders and the last category was for the unsaved who received Jesus and His salvation at the revival. Although some in Brownsville wanted to take the last two categories and add them up, Pastor Kilpatrick told the senior ushers to count exactly what the person designated on their cards. There were prox 200,000 saved and over 800,000 backsliders who were renewed in the Spirit of God.
- d.** Intercessory prayer people who would pray between 4 and 8 hours every Tuesday for the people that the Lord was bringing to the revival. These hours do not include the rest of the week when these people prayed without ceasing since there were enough to pray at different times of the day.

Regarding the importance of intercessory prayer, we have examples from revivals in which the Holy Spirit used Charles Finney. Although it is popular now to advertise a revival scheduled by a church (as if a church could schedule a revival much less date one). Finney did not use advance men who would begin advertising in local churches. Finney sent 4 or 5 men ahead to prepare with intercessory prayer. On one occasion, Finney arrived at the hotel where his prayer people had been staying for over a week. When he inquired about them asking

which rooms they were staying in, the head chambermaid came up to him. She said **“I am so thankful that relatives have arrived to look after these men. Ever since they checked in, they have refused to eat. Daily, we hear crying and weeping followed by prayer or some foreign language. I am so happy that someone has arrived who will take care of them.”**

There is some textbook used in divinity schools that tells future pastors that 20% of the people will be active while 80% will not be active. (That same textbook teaches all pastors to diligently read the church bulletin to the church members weekly.) I thought that at the Brownsville Revival, this percentage just one time would be wrong. I asked one of the members of Brownsville that we got to know, **how many members of the church are serving this revival, part-time & full time: – answer 300. How many people are members of Brownsville Assembly of God: answer 1500.**

## **The Latter Day Rain needs .**

### **1. Repentance by God’s people.**

**1John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all righteousness.” This is not repentance but rather the beginning of repentance where we will hate sin the way Jesus hates sin.**

*2 Chron 7:14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

*NIV*

**One good measure of our spiritual life is the Living Water that Jesus says of Himself.**

*John 4:10 “Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that says to you, Give Me to drink, you would have asked of Him, and He would have given you living water.”*

Rivers are waters that flow. Swamps are waters that are stagnant.

Generally our attitude toward God’s Word reflects our attitude toward Jesus, Himself.

*Jeremiah 2:13 “For My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me, the Fountain of living waters, to hew out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”*

Is living water running through you now or do you have broken cisterns?

In John 2:7 we see the Marriage Feast of Cana. Jesus was invited. A courtesy invitation was extended to His disciples. Jesus had these disciples in only 3 days. (By the Wedding, He had five disciples.) We believe that the bride & groom were of modest means. It was a disgrace to run out of wine at a wedding feast.

Please take note of how Jesus addresses this situation:

1. He refers to Mary as “woman” then says regarding the absence of wine “what is that between thee and me?”
2. Jesus orders the servants to take 6 ugly earthen pots used to haul water and orders them filled with water. These earthen pots were probably kept out of the way, so that they were necessary but embarrassing to the family. Those earthen vessels carried water to the chief steward at which the water had been changed into wine.



3. We are imperfect earth vessels, however, Jesus wants to use us to carry the water in earthen vessels and to give out new wine (Matt 9:17, Luke 5:37) from the abundance that He puts in our hearts

**The Word of God is sometimes referred to as water.**

*Eph 5:25-26*

*“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,” KJV*

At the Feast of Tabernacles (commanded by God Lev 23:24, Duet 16:13, also called the Feast of Ingathering Exodus 34:22.), on the last day of the Feast, when the priests brought ceremonial water from the Pool of Siloam and poured out in a symbolic way telling God their thankfulness for a bountiful harvest. This occurred on the **last day** of the Seven Day Feast and called

*John 7:37-38 “On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”*

*NIV*

*Revival needs rain, and we need rivers of living water running through us.*

## **2. A foundation in God’s Word and in the Power of that**

**Word.** Do you want an example of the power of the Word of God? **Habakkuk 2:4** has a short clause in the verse which says “but the just shall live by his faith. This clause also appears in **Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11 and Hebrews 10:38**. This little clause convicted Martin Luther and sparked the Protestant Reformation. **1COR 4:20 “For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.”**

**3. Faithful Christians in committed service to those whom Jesus sends us.**

*a. John 4:35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.*

*b. Luke 10:2-3*

*He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves." NIV*

The Holy Spirit has assembled more gifted people at Stewart Road than I have ever seen in any church that I have ever attended either as a member or as a guest - even in comparison to Brownsville. I would like to see all of us serving in this Body of Christ so that we can send the pastor to Lee University to pull that textbook out and write in a footnote: This 20% / 80% rule should not apply to the Church of God, Stewart Road in Monroe.

4. Last, The Latter Day Rain needs: Intercessory prayer. A noted author on Revival was Leonard Ravenhill who wrote a Christian classic entitled Why Revival Tarries. For those of you who ardently want revival in our church and in our locality, this book would be an excellent resource. Ravenhill says “**surely revival delays because prayer decays.**” Another renowned Christian author, E.M. Bounds in his work, The Weapon of Prayer, says “it is better to let the work go by default than to let the praying go by neglect.”

**An example of intercessory prayer that showed the power of God and prepared the way for later revival:**

**"Since the late 1960's Pensacola has been promoted in homosexual publications. Local citizens can remember homosexual conventions at the San Carlos Hotel (razed in 1993). The City Council was asked to**

**declare Pensacola as "gay friendly" by homosexuals and several local businesses. Over the last few years, Pensacola was dubbed 'the gay riviera' in gay magazines such as the *Advocate*. A seven-mile stretch of beach East of Pensacola Beach had been increasingly used by homosexuals especially around the Memorial Day holiday. As many as 50,000 "gays" were reported to have attended Gay Pride activities here in 1994. God will not be mocked!**

***Galatians 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap."***

Some local area Christians anointed the beach area and prayed at that area after the activities of 1994 were completed. The writer (Vicky Conroy) was one of them. We prayed that God would repel the invasion from our city, and do whatever it took to bring those who went to the gay beach to repentance. **In 1995 the eyes of Hurricanes Erin and Opal crossed that seven- mile section of beach. Roads to the area were destroyed and for over a year the area was inaccessible even to the Army Corps of Engineers. The paths of the storms that hit just six weeks apart crossed the "gay" beach and marked an X of destruction.**" (quoted from a flyer by Mike & Vickey Conroy, Legal Action for Women, a pro-life ministry in Pensacola, FL)