



BECKY COMBEE MINISTRIES, INC.

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Let It Rain!

Recently, our neighborhood was deluged with rain that left our backyard a small lake and caused the canal that borders many houses in our area to overflow. Stacks of carpet dotting the usually green grass and the vehicles of professional cleaning crews provide witness of the destructive force that entered these homes.

As Wayne and I watched the water rise, I was reminded of the rain of the Holy Spirit. Certainly, our churches and our homes need God, the Holy Spirit, to orchestrate a great flood in our midst. Oh, what magnificent things are accomplished by a drenching rain of Holy Ghost power! Unlike the potentially destructive force of natural rain, the rain of God blesses us with signs and wonders. The miracle-working power of God undoes Satan's work and demonstrates the omnipotence of our God.

In The Scripture

In the book of Acts, an overflowing measure of God's great power is revealed as the disciples carried the gospel to their world. In Acts 5, we read, "By the hands of the apostles were MANY signs and wonders wrought among the people." These MANY signs and wonders prompted the multitudes to lay those who were sick by the side of the road so that the shadow of Peter might pass over them. The sick and demonized came from

Jerusalem and the surrounding cities and, "They were healed EVERY ONE." Because of this display of God's power, "Believers were the more added to the Lord, MULTITUDES both of men and women."¹

The book of Acts also notes the glory of signs and wonders in the ministry of Philip. In Acts 8, we read that those possessed by unclean spirits were set free and "many taken with palsies, and that were lame were healed." This miracle-working power of God caused the people of Samaria to listen carefully to Philip's message about Christ.

We need a flood of God's power - a display of heavenly lightning that causes every eye to behold Him.

The truth about the kingdom of God and the magnitude of signs and wonders brought great joy to the city.²

The ministry of the apostle Paul is also highlighted in the book of Acts. In Acts 14, Paul and Barnabas testified of God's grace to the city of Iconium and signs and wonders were given as they laid hands on the people. Later, they preached the gospel in Lystra, and a crippled man was raised up. The healing of the crippled man overwhelmingly declares God's love for every individual. What a wonderful Father! He sends His miraculous power

to cities, to multitudes, and to individuals.

In Acts 19, we again note signs and wonders in the ministry of the apostle Paul as “God wrought special miracles” by his hands. When handkerchiefs from his body were laid on the sick, diseases and evil spirits departed. These handkerchiefs carried the power of our risen Savior to the sick and oppressed.³

I have seen the truth about anointed handkerchiefs in my own life. In Moscow, we laid hands on a scarf so that it could be carried to a sick child. Instantly, there was such a marvelous display of God’s power that our interpreter and the boy’s parents were knocked off balance. It was like lightning suddenly filled the air around us and then entered into the scarf. The next night, the child was able to attend services with his family.

Lightning

A few days after the vast deluge of water in our neighborhood, there was a horrendous electrical storm. For some time, it seemed that the strikes of lightning became one continuous electrical discharge. We were asleep when suddenly our lights flashed on and off, followed by the blaring sound of our security system. After that, our security system, phones, televisions, and computer modem were no longer functioning. The next day, the air conditioner followed suit and also stopped working.

This thunderous, electrical display simply added to my longing for the supernatural power of God – for signs and wonders to be done in the name of the holy child Jesus.⁴ It is often the marvel and wonder of God’s supernatural power that draws men and women to the gospel message. When the rain of the Spirit falls in great torrents and the lightning of His power displays His loving care, the world bends their ear to salvation’s call.

There are many scriptural proofs that signs and wonders open the hearts of people to the gospel of salvation. We cannot rehearse all of them, but let me draw our attention to a few in the ministry of Jesus. In John 2, we read “Many believed in his name, when they SAW the miracles

which he did.”⁵ Later, “A great multitude followed him, because they SAW his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.”⁶ After Lazarus was raised from death, the Scripture declares, “Many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had SEEN the things which Jesus did, believed on him.”⁷ These Scriptures irrefutably prove that signs, wonders, and miracles are a paramount part of the declaration of the gospel.

Let’s Pray!

Today, we need God to move in our midst just as He did in the early days of the church. We need a flood of God’s power – a display of heavenly lightning that causes every eye to behold Him. But, how is this possible? What can we do?

The prophet Zechariah answers these questions. In Zechariah 10:1, he writes, “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.” From the Hebrew text, we note the terminology

*Learn from the farmer.
He waits for the good
fruit from the earth until
the early and late rains
come. (Jas 5:7b NLT)*

“bright clouds” mentioned in this verse is translated “lightning”, and isn’t that what we need – the rain and lightning of God?

Well, here is the simple key. ASK! Ask for the rain and lightning of God. This verse assures us that when we ask, God will send showers of rain to EVERY ONE. I like that! I really like that!

Therefore, let’s pray! Together, let’s ask! According to Matthew 7:8, everyone that asks receives. Every one! What good news!⁸

¹Act 5:12-16 ²Act 8:5-8 ³Act 19:11-12 ⁴Act 4:29-30 ⁵Jn 2:23 ⁶Jn 6:2 ⁷Jn 11:45 ⁸Capitalized words within Scripture quotes are at the author’s emphasis.