

The Blessing of Rain

“Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it, and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God.” Hebrews 6:7

Rain! We often see a lot of it during the fall season in the Mid-Atlantic area. Many times we resent the rain, and it may even affect our moods. But this scripture gives us a picture of a cycle of blessing: the land receives the rain, drinks it in, produces growth; and the Lord sends more rain, repeating the cycle of growth and blessing.

Whenever we receive a heavy rainfall here at my home in Richmond, part of my backyard floods with standing water because there is not a good drainage system in place. If there is nowhere for the existing ground water to go, then flooding is the result when the rains come. Conversely, if we were in a severe drought and the ground was rock-hard and dry, the rain would just run off the surface. It would take a lengthy and heavy rain to penetrate the hardened ground. But land that receives rain on a regular basis, and has a place for the water to go, becomes a lush and productive environment. We see that the land described in this passage soaks up the rain and is useful to others; it has a purpose. The land itself is not arrogant, nor is it praised for receiving the rain and bearing the fruit. Rather, the work of the Creator is praised, and the land is highly valued by the Creator because it can be used in His great plan.

We see many parallels here with our humanity. The “rain” that comes into our lives in the form of trials or difficulties is often resented or feared. We may feel that God is angry with us, and wish for the rain to roll off our backs as quickly as possible, thus continuing the state of our hardened hearts. Or we may become so full of anger, bitterness, or pride over the rains of the past that we are unable to receive the rain that God sends for today. Only when we begin to rest in God’s sovereignty, to drink in and soak up the rain He sends, will He be able to use us to produce growth in others as well as ourselves.

I want to be a useful land, one that produces an explosion of color and growth for the glory of God and results in a harvest of joy; how about you?

“I am awed by what suffering can produce. You and I are nothing without the cross. I agonize and cry when the cross is working within me, but when it is over I look back in admiration for what God has accomplished. Of course I am then ashamed that I bore it so poorly.”

*--Francois Fenelon
“The Seeking Heart”*