

What Kind of Vessel Are You? 2 Timothy 2:20

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.



A broken vessel can not contain the outpouring of the rain of revival that is beginning to be poured out upon the church for the final harvest. 2Timothy 2:21. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. Hope for Broken Vessels: Have you made a mess of your life? Do you wish you could have another chance or start over? Jerimiah 18:6 O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter? says the Lord. Look as the clay is

in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand. Pottery is one of the oldest arts in the world. It remains virtually the same to this present time. The potter would take a clump of clay, twist it, knead it, and pound it until all the impurities were out of it and it was soft and pliable. He would throw the lump of clay right in the middle of the wheel as it spun. Then the potter would caress with his fingers and smooth it. A unlikely clump of clay would be transformed into a marvelously beautiful vessel suitable for the masters use! We know that God is the potter and we are the clay. We know that we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph. 2:10 As with clay, there are two things that can keep your life from being what it ought to be. The clay might contain a hidden impurity, or a flaw beneath the surface. Down deep there's some secret sin that nobody knows, or perhaps the clay is not pliable enough. Maybe it is stiff and unyielding. Maybe He asked you to witness, but you don't, maybe you need to forgive but won't. It's not too late to mend. Jer.18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. God says you can continue in your sin until the clay sets and is hardened. God is the God of second chances, but there comes a time when a life is so hardened by sin that God gives that individual up. A hardened and broken vessel can't contain the outpouring of God's last day presence and anointing.

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Do you have a vision for the church? Do you have a vision for what God has equipped you to do in the church?



The Latter Rain ushering in a Great Revival in the church.

I have been saying with anticipation for a few years now, through a quickening from the Spirit, "I can hear the sound of rain". In one of our recent Sunday morning services there was a great anointing and outpouring of the Spirit as people went forward to the altar. I had a stunning vision of many beautiful vessels of different sizes and shapes at the altar. There was such a great outpouring of God's spirit in the form of a copious down pour of rain as vessels were filled to overflowing with God's presence to heal, make provision, answer prayers, deliver, build up, strengthen and give direction. I also saw others beginning to respond and reaching out with smaller vessels trying to catch the overflow. We are on the edge of revival in our church and community. Are we ready for the influx and growth coming to our body? Are our vessels filled? Are we ready to minister?

What is the Latter Rain and the Former Rain?

First understand that a seed needs water to germinate. Once germinated it grows. Just before harvest a healthy rain will make all the difference between a lukewarm, mediocre crop and a vibrant, healthy and mature crop swelled with goodness.

Now, think about what happens to the seeds in the ground who failed to germinate. Who can get the Latter Rain? It would be wasteful and useless on seeds that failed to germinate in the first place. Will the seed that did not germinate in the spring suddenly germinate in the fall -- what chance does that seed/plant have of making it through the winter? We need to prepare our hearts now, not later.

To understand the concept of the Latter Rain and the Former Rain, understand that the Old Testament addressed Jews who for the most part lived with agriculture, worked in the fields, and for the most part depended on an agrarian way of life. Israel had predictable weather patterns, including heavy rains in both the spring and the fall.

When a Jew planted their crops in the spring, the spring rain (Former Rain) was expected and necessary to germinate their seeds. Without this spring rain— they simply would have nothing. There would be no hope of harvesting a crop in the fall.

The former rain represents the grace, you as a believer in Jesus Christ first received to help your seed germinate and grow and duplicate the process through evangelism and discipleship. It can also be compared to the former rains that the apostles received in their time by knowing, loving and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the fall, the Jew could anticipate and usually received a great rain just prior to harvest. This is the Latter Rain. This fall rain would greatly enhance their crops just before harvest. So, it will be just before the harvest—those seeds (us) who have germinated—will receive a down pouring of grace through the Holy Spirit. This can be compared to the Latter Rain that the apostles received on Pentecost.

The prophet Hosea makes a prophecy which allows us to transfer this idea of the Latter and Former Rains to the Church, and what will come upon us in these end times.

Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come to us as the rain, the latter and former rain unto the earth. Hosea 6:3

Hosea 10:12

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till He come and rain righteousness upon you.

This idea also gets illustrated in Psalm 72:6—He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth.

In the New Testament, James tells us about these rains to come in James 5:7-8:

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and has long patience for it, until he receives the early and latter rain. Be also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draws close.

The Latter Rain is the rain that will surely come just before the Harvest. It is the enormous last day revival soon to come and the harvest of souls before the great and terrible Day of the Lord. It is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh promised to us in the last days and the restoration of apostolic and prophetic gifts. Do you know what your gifts are?