

Contrasting Seasons of Faith – Drought and Flood

- I. Drought
 - A. Definition
 - a. Physical realm – prolonged time period of insufficient participation leaving the land desolate
 - b. Spiritual realm – time period of disconnect or silence from God whether actual or perceived
 - B. Causes of a Spiritual Drought
 - a. Sin
 - i. Breaks fellowship with God
 - 1. Once we become God’s child by grace through faith, we cannot stop being His child. The relationship is intact even though sin occurs. When sin occurs, the fellowship is broken but restored once confession is made.
 - 2. 1 John 1:5-10 – “**1:5** Now this is the gospel message we have heard from him and announce to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. **1:6** If we say we have fellowship with him and yet keep on walking in the darkness, we are lying and not practicing the truth. **1:7** But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. **1:8** If we say we do not bear the guilt of sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **1:9** But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous, forgiving us our sins and cleansing us from all unrighteousness. **1:10** If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.”
 - ii. Grieves Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:25-32) – “**4:25** Therefore, having laid aside falsehood, *each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor*, for we are members of one another. **4:26** *Be angry and do not sin*; do not let the sun go down on the cause of your anger. **4:27** Do not give the devil an opportunity. **4:28** The one who steals must steal no longer; rather he must labor, doing good with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with the one who has need. **4:29** You must let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but only what is beneficial for the building up of the one in need, that it may give grace to those who hear. **4:30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **4:31** You must put away every kind of bitterness, anger,

wrath, quarreling, and evil, slanderous talk. **4:32** Instead, be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.”

- iii. Quenches the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19) – “Do not extinguish the Spirit”
- b. Lack of Abiding resulting in lack of fruit (John 15:1-17) – “**15:1** “I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. **15:2** He takes away every branch that does not bear fruit in me. He prunes every branch that bears fruit so that it will bear more fruit. **15:3** You are clean already because of the word that I have spoken to you. **15:4** Remain in me, and I will remain in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. **15:5** “I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me – and I in him – bears much fruit, because apart from me you can accomplish nothing. **15:6** If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown out like a branch, and dries up; and such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, and are burned up. **15:7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want, and it will be done for you. **15:8** My Father is honored by this, that you bear much fruit and show that you are my disciples. **15:9** “Just as the Father has loved me, I have also loved you; remain in my love. **15:10** If you obey my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. **15:11** I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete. **15:12** My commandment is this – to love one another just as I have loved you. **15:13** No one has greater love than this – that one lays down his life for his friends. **15:14** You are my friends if you do what I command you. **15:15** I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I have revealed to you everything I heard from my Father. **15:16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that remains, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you. **15:17** This I command you – to love one another.”
- c. Lack of Fellowship with God – God communicates with us through
 - i. Prayer
 - ii. Bible
 - iii. Holy Spirit – consistent with the Bible
- d. Lack of Fellowship with Believers
 - i. Forsake coming together (Hebrews 10:24-25) – “**10:24** And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works, **10:25** not abandoning our own

meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day drawing near.”

- ii. God uses His people to minister in the lives of His people
 - 1. Godly counsel (Proverbs 15:22) - “Plans fail when there is no counsel, but with abundant advisors they are established.”
 - 2. Confirmation of His leading
 - a. Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:22) – “Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to send men chosen from among them, Judas called Barsabbas and Silas, leaders among the brothers, to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.”
 - 3. Spiritual gifting – serve the members of the church (1 Corinthians 12:1-7;) – “**12:1** With regard to spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. **12:2** You know that when you were pagans you were often led astray by speechless idols, however you were led. **12:3** So I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. **12:4** Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. **12:5** And there are different ministries, but the same Lord. **12:6** And there are different results, but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. **12:7** To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the benefit of all. ... **12:12** For just as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body – though many – are one body, so too is Christ. **12:13** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Whether Jews or Greeks or slaves or free, we were all made to drink of the one Spirit. **12:14** For in fact the body is not a single member, but many. **12:15** If the foot says, “Since I am not a hand, I am not part of the body,” it does not lose its membership in the body because of that. **12:16** And if the ear says, “Since I am not an eye, I am not part of the body,” it does not lose its membership in the body because of that. **12:17** If the whole body were an eye, what part would do the hearing? If the whole were an ear, what part would exercise the sense of smell? **12:18** But as a matter of fact, God has placed each of the

members in the body just as he decided. **12:19** If they were all the same member, where would the body be? **12:20** So now there are many members, but one body. **12:21** The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you,” nor in turn can the head say to the foot, “I do not need you.” **12:22** On the contrary, those members that seem to be weaker are essential, **12:23** and those members we consider less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our unrepresentable members are clothed with dignity, **12:24** but our representable members do not need this. Instead, God has blended together the body, giving greater honor to the lesser member, **12:25** so that there may be no division in the body, but the members may have mutual concern for one another. **12:26** If one member suffers, everyone suffers with it. If a member is honored, all rejoice with it.”

- iii. Lack of evangelism and discipleship (Matthew 28:18-20) – “**28:18** Then Jesus came up and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **28:19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **28:20** teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.””

- e. Misplaced Priorities
 - i. Pursuing something off-limits
 - ii. Pursuing something good (blessing) rather than who is best (God)

C. Could there be a positive spiritual drought?

- a. Test / Trial
 - i. Job – spiritual battle between God and Satan
- b. Period of preparation
 - i. Abraham – waiting for a child and grand-child
 - ii. Joseph – leading Egypt and saving Israel
 - iii. Moses – leading Israel out of Egyptian bondage

II. Flood

A. Definition

- a. Physical realm – time period with overabundance of precipitation
- b. Spiritual realm – time period of rich fellowship with God

III. Current Spiritual Flood

- A. A current spiritual flood is possible
- B. We may have rich fellowship with God

IV. Future Spiritual Flood

A. Unending Presence of the Lord

- a. Philippians 1:21-23 – “**1:21** For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. **1:22** Now if I am to go on living in the body, this will mean productive work for me, yet I don’t know which I prefer: **1:23** I feel torn between the two, because I have a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far”
- b. 2 Corinthians 5:6-9 – “**5:6** Therefore we are always full of courage, and we know that as long as we are alive here on earth we are absent from the Lord – **5:7** for we live by faith, not by sight. **5:8** Thus we are full of courage and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. **5:9** So then whether we are alive or away, we make it our ambition to please him.”
- c. John 14:1-4 – “**14:1** “Do not let your hearts be distressed. You believe in God; believe also in me. **14:2** There are many dwelling places in my Father’s house. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going away to make ready a place for you. **14:3** And if I go and make ready a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that where I am you may be too. **14:4** And you know the way where I am going.””
- d. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - “**4:13** Now we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest who have no hope. **4:14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so also we believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep as Christians. **4:15** For we tell you this by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep. **4:16** For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **4:17** Then we who are alive, who are left, will be suddenly caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. **4:18** Therefore encourage one another with these words.”
- e. 2 Corinthians 4:14 - “We do so because we know that the one who raised up Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus and will bring us with you into his presence.”

B. Eternal Worship

- a. Revelation 7:9-10 – “**7:9** After these things I looked, and here was an enormous crowd that no one could count, made up of persons from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb dressed in long white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. **7:10** They were shouting out in a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God, to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!””

- b. Revelation 21:1-4 – “**21:1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and earth had ceased to exist, and the sea existed no more. **21:2** And I saw the holy city – the new Jerusalem – descending out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. **21:3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: “Look! The residence of God is among human beings. He will live among them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them. **21:4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will not exist any more – or mourning, or crying, or pain, for the former things have ceased to exist.””
- c. Revelation 22:1-5 – “**22:1** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life – water as clear as crystal – pouring out from the throne of God and of the Lamb, **22:2** flowing down the middle of the city’s main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life producing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month of the year. Its leaves are for the healing of the nations. **22:3** And there will no longer be any curse, and the throne of God and the Lamb will be in the city. His servants will worship him, **22:4** and they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **22:5** Night will be no more, and they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will shine on them, and they will reign forever and ever.”

V. From Spiritual Drought to Spiritual Flood

A. Identify cause of the drought and implement appropriate cure

- a. Sin – confess the sin (1 John 1:9)
- b. Lack of Abiding (John 15:1-17)
 - i. Rely upon God rather than self / others
 - ii. Walk in Spirit
- c. Lack of Fellowship with God
 - i. Spend time with God in prayer
 - ii. Spend time with God in Bible Study
- d. Lack of Fellowship with Believers
 - i. Spend time with believers
 - ii. Utilize spiritual gifting
 - iii. Engage in evangelism and discipleship
- e. Misplaced Priorities – realign priorities

B. Positive Drought

- a. Persevere
- b. Do not give up hope

C. Coming Spiritual Flood

- a. Be encouraged – the best is yet to come
- b. Who do you need to inform so that they may enjoy the present and coming spiritual flood?

VI. Conclusion

A. Individual Prayer

B. Corporate Prayer