

DAY 8

"AS THE RAIN AND SNOW COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, AND DO NOT RETURN TO IT WITHOUT WATERING THE EARTH AND MAKING IT BUD AND FLOURISH, SO THAT IT YIELDS SEED FOR THE SOWER AND BREAD FOR THE EATER, SO IS MY WORD THAT GOES OUT FROM MY MOUTH: IT WILL NOT RETURN TO ME EMPTY BUT WILL ACCOMPLISH WHAT I DESIRE AND ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH I SENT IT. - ISAIAH 55:10-11

Isaiah uses the powerful metaphor comparing God's words to the water cycle. Precipitation forms in the sky and falls to earth. The rain lands on thirsty ground and creates an environment where plants grow and flourish. Food is produced, humans find meaningful work, and life persists. The rain and snow serve a vital purpose. Eventually the same H₂O molecules end up back in the sky before the cycle repeats. In the same way, God sends forth his "word" from the heavens, His self-revelation and message of redemption. When God speaks, things happen. He formed the world by speaking it into being. As the word of God falls to earth, it's purposeful and intentional, bringing true life, needed sustenance, and eternal flourishing. It becomes good bread for God's people.

Jesus picks up this theme in the New Testament. John tells us Jesus was the Word made flesh, God stepped down from heaven (**John 1:14**). Jesus offers living water to all who ask (**John 4:10**) and calls himself the bread of life (**John 6:35**). Even the devil couldn't stop him, though he tried (**Matthew 4:1-11**). Jesus refused counterfeit bread and rejected twisted words with truth. God's word will accomplish what He purposed, no matter what. On the cross, the love of God rained down like never before and brought forth eternal life and living hope through the resurrection. All who trust in Him find life now and forever. In Him, we can always eat what is good.

But we should ask ourselves: Are we like dry, dusty ground craving rain? Do we long to experience Jesus, the Word made flesh? Do we meditate daily on Scripture to find life? Will we allow God to accomplish His purposes through us?

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P.R.A.Y.

PAUSE

Take a few deep breaths and remember that each breath is a gift.

REJOICE

Praise God for the ways he spoke to you in the past. Did some verses in the Bible ever “come alive”? Celebrate the times you’ve encountered Jesus!

ASK

Ask God to speak to you. Ask that God would make you thirsty:
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled. (Matthew 5:6)

YIELD

Is there something that God wants to accomplish through you?

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PAGES FOR DAY 8 ARE AVAILABLE ON PAGES 34-35.

