

**Ecclesiastes 11:3 - *“If clouds are full of water, they pour rain on the earth”***

Clouds for us are an afterthought. And when we do think of them, it's most likely to grab our phone to Instagram their beauty during a sunset.

But their function in the days this verse was written was simple: bring rain.  
No rain, no harvest. No harvest, we have a famine. And if it's a bad enough famine, we die.

There are clouds that never bring rain.  
Good to look at. But they benefit nobody. Good to look at. But not good for harvest.

We don't concern ourselves in our culture with agriculture and harvest.  
But there's a harvest scripture tells us to never neglect. It's those the Holy Spirit wants to reach.

And when we are full of the Holy Spirit, we should- like a cloud full of water - overflow with life-giving water and impact that Harvest.

**JOHN 7:37:**

*On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him...)*

There should be a steady flow of LIVING water out of those filled with the Holy Spirit.

In denominations of the Church we come up with litmus tests for whether we are filled with the Holy Spirit, yet Jesus makes it clear we should be operating where life-giving ministry flows from our lives.

When you leave a room, life was left behind.  
When you finish a conversation, life was deposited.  
When you are in a relationship, life is felt.

What are you raining on the earth?  
Or are you just a pretty cloud that farmers curse because it gives no rain at all?

***The Holy Spirit wants to help you not only behold the life of Jesus, but unwrap it and experience it for ourselves.***

It is possible to have a saved soul but a wasted life.  
The Holy Spirit helps us unlock LIFE. Don't just admire the life Jesus lived. Experience it.

Jesus said He is the way the truth and the life.  
Jesus also said that He came to give life and life abundant.

The life Jesus gives us and calls us to isn't stagnant.  
It's not just good to look at.  
We aren't just called to be good, we're called to be good for something.  
Not just a cloud to Instagram and behold. A cloud that brings rain and harvest.

***What does it look like, “living water flowing from us?”***

**NAMES** don't carry weighty meaning in our culture  
But in Hebrew culture names and their meanings carried immense significance.  
So when the Holy Spirit is given names, we'd best pay attention. They reveal to us about who the Holy Spirit is, in both His personality and His purpose.  
And it informs our identity and what our purpose is.

I want to look at 4 that will change the way we live and follow Christ.

**WITNESS** (Hebrews 10:15-17)

*But the Holy Spirit also **witnesses** to us; for after He had said before, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”*

**ACTS 1:8 -**

*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. **And you will**  
(what comes next will be important!!!!)*

***be my witnesses***

He calls us a **WITNESS**

What does Jesus say immediately after calling us witnesses? **TELLING PEOPLE about me**  
And where? **EVERYWHERE.**

**ISAIAH 61** - the Spirit of the sovereign Lord is upon me... to what? To **PROCLAIM!**

Who inspired all of the OT prophecies that point to Jesus Christ? The Holy Spirit.  
We may not point forward to his birth.  
But we point back to his life. We point forward to his return.

Typically, in the Bible little is known about Gods messengers.  
We only know the names of two angels.  
There is relatively little biographical info on the disciples, all things considered.  
But I think that's the point- **God and his message must be known, and his Spirit can use anyone as a witness, remarkable on our terms or not.**

In Exodus 35, the 1st person said to be filled with the Spirit in the Bible was not a prophet or priest or king, but a craftsman. We see from the early pages of the Bible, the Spirit's empowerment is for all of life. It isn't simply for prophets and priests, pastors or preachers. His empowerment is regardless of employment.

The Holy Spirit witnesses to us.  
And we are called to the work of being a witness.

**GUIDE** – (John 16:13)

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.*

**Isaiah 30:21** – “you will hear a voice behind you saying, *this is the way, walk in it.*”

**John 14** – “Counselor”

- High School counselor helps us think ahead to careers and employment.
- *He will tell you about the future* – We want THAT!

We want to know what our future holds. If we’re honest, it’s because many of us cling to a contract faith, we’re in it as long as we stand to benefit.

God wants us to care more about what He’s asking me to do right now than what we will be doing 5 years from now. After all, where we are 5 years from now will be shaped by how we respond to the Spirit’s prompting today.

We should ask “*What’s God’s will for my life?*” a lot less.

And start asking “*What’s the Holy Spirit leading me to do today?*” a lot more frequently!

*But I’ve never heard him speak...*

The Great Command.

The Great Commission.

**COMFORTER-** (Acts 9:31)

*And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied*

We like the sound of the Holy Spirit being our comforter. Because we love our comfort!

But ask yourself this: ***Do I need a comforter if I’m living life in my comfort zone?***

When do you need a comforter? By definition – when you’re uncomfortable.

***It’s possible a lack of intimacy with the Holy Spirit is a direct result of an unwillingness to step out of one’s comfort zone.***

Why? The comfortable don’t need a comforter.

We ought to remember: The Holy Spirit’s passion is the benefit and glory of the Lord Jesus, not ours. If we seek the Holy Spirit merely for our own benefit and ultimately our own comfort, relationship will be elusive.

Why do we all too often not step out and be a witness?

Why do we all too often not step out and share our hope?

**Fear.**

We think of how people will respond if we do.

What will this person think of me if I go there.

But do we ever think of how God will feel if we don’t.

We fear whether people will think we are strange.

We don’t pause to think what will God think when we avoid his commission.

**HELPER** - John 15:26

*But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.*

**“I’m doing the best I can”**

That’s not enough! Don’t take all the ground YOU can take.

**“If it had not been for the LORD who was on our side...”** - Psalm 124

Don’t live a life that’s explainable in human terms.

How? The Holy Spirit.

**Ephesians 3:20** – *[God] is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.*

**Acts 1:8** – *you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.*

Power to do what?

Be a witness. How?

Telling people about Jesus. Where?

Everywhere.

Not just another cloud that passes and is good to behold.

A cloud with rain.

A cloud that impacts the harvest.