



God's Revelation

All it takes is a month to go from too wet to too dry. Some places in southeast Iowa have had the wettest spring ever and by August the cracks in the ground are getting wider and wider. We had a plant out front of our house that is a perennial and one day it looked as though it grown too big and was starting to lay flat. I decided to put on a heavy dose of water and within three days the branches/stems were standing upright as they should. Amazing I didn't think of watering sooner.

It is also very common to have times of plenty and want in our lives. We can probably all think of times that the bank account would get us everything we wanted only to wondering how the bills will get paid a year or two later. We can wake up in a great mood only to be upset by the smallest inconvenience a few minutes later. We can sense God's presence and be very strong in our faith only to wonder if God knows we exist and our faith is shattered some time later. Amazing that we can be so emotionally fickle, financially challenged, and have our faith stretched that far.

Another type of plenty and want is sermon prep, writing articles or letters. For me there is still no consistent outcome for my sermon or writing ideas. Sometimes it seems the Spirit speaks early in the week and an outline appears before my very eyes and my spirit says, "Yes! This is it, thank you Lord!" Other times it can be Saturday afternoon, I've read and studied all I have available to read and study and my spirit says, "How will I communicate any of this in a sensible way, Lord help me!" Now, the funny thing is which times do I get the most affirmations of God's Word speaking to those listening. It is mixed and I praise God that God's Spirit and Word works beyond my efforts and ability and at other times in spite of my efforts and abilities.

I am mindful of Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dream that there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of drought. The solution that Joseph came up with was to set aside a portion of each year's crop for the Pharaoh's treasury during the years of plenty so it can be distributed and sold during the years of want. This was a wise move by Joseph and very beneficial to the Pharaoh for it created enough in the time of drought.

Spiritually speaking, if we do not anchor, remember, and treasure the times of God's rich love for us through Christ Jesus His Son and the filling of the Holy Spirit then, God can seem rather fickle in our times of plenty and want. It is easy in our age of quick fix, fast food, and wealth to think that God doesn't love us in times of stress, uncertainty, disappointment, and sorrow.

At a time in Israel's history when they rebuilt the city walls and later rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem there came a time when Nehemiah came to the city and they asked for the reading of the Law. While it was being read the people wept with sorrow. They remembered what Jerusalem was like in the days of strong faith and worship of Yahweh and now it was in shambles. Nehemiah said, Nehemiah 8:10 (NIV) 10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

One of the points Nehemiah is making is that God's glory is in how God's people live and breathe God's Word into their lives. The people of Israel were tired yet they were bringing about God's glory and that is something to celebrate.

So, here are some ideas to do in order to anchor, remember, and treasure God's love, the presence of Christ in our lives, and the filling of the Holy Spirit in our soul. One idea is to tie a celebration moment with your devotions. If you like what you are having for breakfast then make your breakfast a celebration of your devotional time. If you are meeting with someone you enjoy like family or a friend, tie that joyful moment with the reading of God's Word. If you have had an answer to prayer then plan a time of celebration and share God's work in your life with those around you. If you witnessed God working in your life or someone else's life dedicate your next offering of generosity to the testimony of God at work.

When we take a portion of our joy and happiness and anchor it to God at work or the reading of God's truth we are storing up a treasury. This will create a memory for the future when there are difficult times so that as you gather with friends or family or offer generosity you will remember your devotions and the times you have witnessed God at work or how your generosity has provided for someone in need and you will be comforted by the Holy Spirit as someone come to listen and comfort you.

It is all part of God's restorative work and our ability and wisdom stored up in times of plenty so we have resources in times of want. May God be glorified through the plenty of His salvation in the forgiveness of our want for sin. We have much to be thankful for and much to celebrate in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Make it a great day!

Pastor Jay

Notes From Past Bulletins:

60 years ago: 1953

Aug. 2 – The Young Peoples Institute will be held at IMS beginning Wed. evening and will close on Sun., evening, Aug. 9.

Aug. 23 – Sermon by A. Lloyd Swartzendruber “Out of the Danger Zone”.

During the past week the members of the MYF met to erect several road signs along the highway north of Kalona and here at the church to sort and repair songbooks.

Aug. 30 – The John J. Miller family will leave for Hesston, Kansas tomorrow.

50 years ago: 1963

Aug. 11 – the Iowa Nebraska Conference will be held at Sugar Creek Mennonite Church this coming week. First public meeting is Tuesday evening.

Aug. 18 – Evening service by Mrs. Stanley Weaver, missionary to the Navaho Indians.

On Tuesday, 11 ladies of the Love and Service SS class thoroughly cleaned our house. For all these kind deeds we are very grateful. May the Lord bless each one who had a part.

Aug. 25 – It is East Union’s turn to help clean at IMS this year which will be done Thursday beginning at 8 am.

40 years ago: 1973

Aug. 5 – Evening service by “The Sisters” from the WACO area.

Aug. 12 – We extend congratulations to Allen and Kathy Detweiler Schrock who were married yesterday at the St. Thomas Moore Church in Iowa City.

Aug. 19 – Gene and Louise Troyer will be leaving for another term of service in the Dominican Republic.

30 years ago: 1983

Aug. 7 – Church Council note: The idea of an interim pastor was suggested to a number of Council members. The Council discussed this idea at considerable length.

Aug. 28 – Tonight is our all church picnic at the Kalona Park at 4:00 p.m. Games for all ages. 5:30 p.m. bring finger foods and jug of drink.



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Mennonite Women will meet on Tuesday, August 6, 2013.

Naming the Hope

Amos 9: 11-15

Devotional leader: to be determined

Sack lunch

Project: School Kits for MCC. We will make this a church project and items can be brought all through the month of August.

4 spiral notebooks 70-80 pages

4 #2 unsharpened pencils

1 flexible plastic ruler (30cm & 12 inch markings)

1 large eraser (1/2 x 2 inches)

Place in 11x16 fabric double drawstring bag (bags are available)

Senior Citizen's Dinner at Kalona Mennonite--
Friday, August 2

Surrender Your Life to HIM and watch HIM work