

PART IV
OUR RESPONSE AT THIS PRESENT TIME
NOT TIME FOR A MECHANICAL RESPONSE TO THIS CRISIS
CHAPTER 14

These thoughts ran through my mind during the coronavirus shutdown of the world. This probably was the first time in history, since the Passover in Egypt, when the angel of death passed over the homes of the children of Israel that the world is forced to stay in their homes and take shelter! The blood of the lamb worked then and the **blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus worked for us now**. His blood is sufficient to protect you!

A week before the shutdown Holy Spirit spoke this clearly to my spirit. **“DRY RUN!”** As events have unfolded I see around the world, this as a precursor for the spirit of antichrist to be unleashed in the world. Just so you know this ain’t that time yet! Many believers have a catastrophic view of the end times. They think there will be a great falling away. They come to this conclusion by quoting 2 Thessalonians 2:3 out of context. It is talking about the antichrist’s appearance during the tribulation. *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away (Greek -departure, caught up) comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition. Departure or caught up could refer to a rapture!* By the way I do not plan to be around for the antichrist but do plan to be around for the largest harvest of souls this world has ever witnessed! Paul also says in 1 Timothy 4:1 *Now the Spirit expressly (Greek-explicitly) says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.* In this day and age there will not be a great falling away. In fact it says **‘some’ will depart from the faith**. That means a few! Nothing there about a great falling away! Right now we are getting ready for the greatest outpouring and awakening that will lead to the largest harvest of souls coming into the Kingdom just like the Bible talks about for the End Times. We are already under the first outpouring of Holy Spirit that occurred at Pentecost 2000 years ago, that is increasing in intensity in these days. We must focus on what heaven is doing, not what the world and hell are planning.

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed. And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit (Joel 2:23-29 KJV).

It is very important to understand this prophetic word from Joel because it refers to the time we live in. Peter quoted from the book of Joel on Pentecost (see Acts 2:14-21). In Acts 2:16 (Amp) he said *But [instead] this is [the beginning of] what was spoken through the prophet Joel...* That was the first outpouring, just the beginning of something becoming so much bigger in the end times. All of us are aware of what transpired on the Day of Pentecost 2000 years ago.

Peter said this is the beginning! Did you catch that? What happened after he said this? We read of it in the book of Acts! Things like helpless cripples healed, the dead raised, blind eyes opened, seeing eyes made blind, miracles, signs and wonders just like when Jesus walked the earth continued to happen throughout the book of Acts.

Before Jesus went to Calvary He talked about the purpose of and the outpouring of Holy Spirit. He said this *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father* (John 14:12). Jesus told the disciples the works He did they would also do, only one difference they would do **greater works than He did**. Greater works than Jesus!

Here is what I want you catch. That was just the beginning of the outpouring talked about in Joel 2. The book of Acts is unlike to any other book in the Bible. Acts never really ends. You read along what Holy Spirit is doing in Acts 28 and it just abruptly ends. Where is the rest of the story? You and I are writing the second half of Acts in this day. Let me explain how this is possible.

Verse 23 mentions the former and latter rain. It says the former rain came down **moderately! Moderately!** What does that mean? I can share from experience when I was in High School I got very 'moderate' grades. That means average, not very good, above failing at least, but nothing great! Unlike my wife and daughter who were always the top of their class. By the way my daughter Charisma just graduated from college **Magna Cum Laude**, meaning with great distinction. She did not get that from me. That came from her mother! Her mother and I are very proud of her accomplishments!

Joel 2:23 talks about two distinct outpourings of Holy Spirit. The first was in the upper room on Pentecost, was moderate rainfall that led to a powerful move of Holy Spirit, which transpired throughout the book of Acts, where it was stated *these men who have turned the world upside down have come here* (Acts 17:6). The second outpouring of Holy Spirit is mentioned in Joel 2:24 *And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil*. The floors refer to the nations of the world. The wheat refers to the huge harvest of souls! The vats are the vessels or containers that carry the wine and oil. Wine and oil always referred to anointing of Holy Spirit and prosperity.

To understand the former and latter rain one needs to be cognizant with Israel's planting and harvest season. Israel plants their crops in the fall when the former rains come down. They plant in the fall because the summers are too hot there. They reap the harvest during spring. The latter rain falls in spring, just before the harvest. The former rain came down 'moderately' but the latter and former rain come down simultaneously and will overflow bringing an enormous harvest. Nations of the world will be ready for the greatest harvest of souls to be reaped yet! Summer could refer to the tribulation period when temperatures are quite high. I personally don't plan to be around then.

You and I have the privilege of living in the last days during the greatest outpouring of Holy Spirit yet. Currently more miracles, healings, signs and wonders are occurring, happening on planet earth than any other time in history. Like the old rock song says **'you ain't seen nothing yet!'** More people being raised from the dead right now than any other time in history. There is an exponential increase in blind eyes and deaf ears opening, cripples instantly healed, cancer disappearing, etc. now than any other time in history. Jesus and angels are frequently appearing to people and hanging out with them. More than any other time in history! All these wonders as we are just entering into even a greater outpouring in the days to come! Do not get sidetracked

with a western mentality that is only centered on what is happening in the natural, but rise up with authority and be sensitive to what Heaven is doing and Holy Spirit wants to do in this hour, right here and right now! This could very well be the time of the 3rd Great Awakening to hit the shores of America and spread to the world. Not a time to get engrossed in the negative things happening around us but it is a time to be focused on how BIG Jesus really is and who we are in Christ.

Another thought! The first Pentecost saw 3,000 men die. The Pentecost 2000 years ago saw 3,000 get saved after the 1st outpouring of Holy Spirit. Could it now be the beginning of the 2nd outpouring Peter talked about, where millions come into the Kingdom?

My wife Sharmila shares an encouraging testimony about what happened on our recent trip to India in February 2020. “In 2019, my mother Renuka Frank led her maid to the Lord. Her maid who is illiterate has a genuine love for the Lord. She quickly began to share her faith in Christ with her family and neighbors. Her son accepted Jesus too, but she faced tremendous opposition from her husband. Her family life was full of turmoil and sadness. One morning when Mark and I were in **Agra, India**, she told my mom that a man appeared to her in the middle of the night, with white hair, and wearing a white garment and told her not to worry. He also said He would take care of all her problems. She instantly knew the man was Jesus, even though she had never seen a picture of Him. She described Him as being extremely beautiful, with scars/holes in His wrists. She showed us the exact place of the nail print in Jesus wrists. Her countenance was completely changed from then.

A few days later she innocently told my mother, that Jesus sits on her bed and talks to her every night. My mom questioned her about this and she was surprised that Jesus did not sit on my mother’s bed and talk to her too. She thought that Jesus does this with all who are in Christ.

When the coronavirus pandemic broke out in India, she got fearful. My mother encouraged her with Scriptures and told her to trust in Jesus, that He would take care of her. A few days later curfew was imposed in India, and she could no longer come to work. However she stayed in touch with my mother on a daily basis. In one of her conversations she told my mother about a dream she had, where three men appeared to her, with a cup, with a red drink in it. They told her to drink from the cup, and that it would keep her safe from all sickness and disease. She identified one person as Jesus, she did not know who the other two were. During this time, her husband has accepted Christ too, because he witnessed the love of Christians for them.

In the midst of all this turmoil and uncertainty, such testimonies are so encouraging. He is always working!! What He has done for a simple maid, He can and will do for all of us. Keep your attention on Him and look upwards!’ There is great peace in this family now!

There has been a lot of talk these days about ‘social distancing.’ Please note Jesus, God the Creator does not believe in ‘social distancing.’ He is very near! The spiritual realm is invading the physical realm a lot these days.