

Nothing Grows When it is Dry

THE GREEN LAWN has turned the color of straw, and the grass crackles underfoot, like treading on desiccated grasshoppers. The soil on which it struggles to survive is riven with splits and cracks, hard as a rock. Well-established, deeply rooted trees and bushes are curling up—or even prematurely shedding—their leaves to harbor precious moisture. Beyond our property, field corn shrivels, and the young ears on the plants lack the resources to mature.

We did not receive rain last week, we will not this week, and the week after that looks the same: hot, dry.

Parched.



What is the condition of someone who once called upon the Lord, but who now listens more to the counsel of this fallen world? What is the condition of the believer who has stopped listening to the voice of the Spirit?

Thus says the Lord, “Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind
And makes flesh his strength,
And whose heart turns away from the Lord.
For he will be like a bush in the desert
And will not see when prosperity comes,
But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness,
A land of salt without inhabitant.”

Jeremiah 17:5-6

It is a favorite tactic of the Father of Lies to convince us that listening to the voices of this world is not really a rejection of the Lord, but simply a broadening of scope—seeking the best from *many* sources. After all, what can be wrong with that?

But it is, of course, a lie.

In truth, the more we ingest of the world's wisdom, to the exclusion of the eternal truth of God, the more emaciated we become. Instead of maturing, we regress. Instead of gaining, we lose. Instead of flourishing, we wilt. Satan has fooled us into thinking we have feasted on prime rib and fresh vegetables, while in truth our diet has consisted of straw and tree bark. Imagining ourselves to be well-fed, we instead wither, reduced to an emaciated dried husk of what we once were.

So what is the condition of someone who still calls upon the Lord, rejecting what passes for wisdom in this fallen society? What is the condition of the believer who remains in his assigned seat in the classroom of the Spirit?

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord
And whose trust is the Lord.
For he will be like a tree planted by the water,
That extends its roots by a stream
And will not fear when the heat comes;



But its leaves will be green,
And it will not be anxious in a year of drought
Nor cease to yield fruit."

Jeremiah 17:7-8

It takes water for things to grow. This world is a parched desert compared to the luxuriant garden fed by the ever-flowing streams of God. The "wisdom" of this world is an arid dustbowl, gasping for just a drop of cool water. But the truth of Father God is a springtime of burgeoning growth, fed by the river flowing from His throne.



How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Psalms 1:1-3