

## Hidden Treasures 209

*"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7*

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### WHAT ARE YOU AWAITING?

Many believers are living their lives, and at the same time they are waiting for something special. They know they are lukewarm and have no victory in their lives. No progress is taking place, and things are actually worse than twenty years ago when they were converted and baptised with the Holy Spirit.

They pray and wait for something to happen that should bring about a change. But nothing happens and everything remains the same as it always was. Oh, how sad that all is!

Likewise, many people recognise quite well that Satan is behind the separation of believers into so many different groups and sects. And when they think of their own assemblies - which in their own opinion is the true church - they must, unfortunately, admit that there they also meet up with fighting and sinning, and that they are not ready to meet Jesus in the clouds.

Many believers pray both at home and in prayer meetings, and are waiting for a "latter rain" which God, they think, has promised. This is supposed to enable the church to become like it was in the days right after Pentecost, and believers are to be united again, as Jesus promised in John 17.

However, many such people have died in their misery without having ever experienced what they had so sorely awaited. Which Bible verse do all these believers lean on while they keep on living and waiting? Before His ascension, when they were assembled for the last time, Jesus told His apostles that they were to wait for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4). They waited for ten days, and prayed. Then they experienced Pentecost; that which had been promised. But because the people did not understand what had happened, Peter spoke to them: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith the Lord, that I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh..." Acts 2:17.

Peter also said that the last days had come, and that that which they were experiencing was the latter rain, of which the prophets had spoken in the Old Testament. Aside from these scripture verses, there are no other ones that promise us another latter rain before His coming. No, just the opposite!! Jesus says, when thinking of His return: "...when the Son

of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8.

What Peter said is in accord with what Paul writes in Galatians 3:13; that Jesus became a curse for us, so that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. That took place on the day of Pentecost and there is no mention of having to wait for anything more. But now's the time for the admonition in Galatians 5:16: "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

All believers are suffering - but where does all this misery come from? Doesn't it come from the flesh? (Galatians 5:19 and James 4:1-3). Now the point is not that we are supposed to wait for something, nor that we are to await some special time when things are going to change, but rather it is written: "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." The time when things can take a turn for the better is right now, and the only thing you have to do is to get started immediately.

We cannot earn the Spirit by doing works of the law (Galatians 3:2). No, we must receive it by faith. Then the only thing to do is to be obedient to the Spirit. Everyone who obeys the Spirit will come to victory over sin. Such

people will become one, just as the Father and the Son are one. All of those who have lived in the obedience of the faith have experienced this, from Pentecost on up to the present day.

When Peter speaks of partaking of godly nature, he does not say that we are to wait for a time when that is going to be made possible. No, he says: ". . .as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. . ." (2 Peter 1:3).

That means that it has already been given to us. The new and living way into the Holy Place is already paved.

"So let us draw near" it says in Hebrews 10: from verse 19. It is not necessary to wait any longer. The last days began with the day of Pentecost and will continue up to the day of Jesus' return. And Paul even writes this, as well: "Now these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." 1 Corinthian 10:11 (RSV).

When Paul speaks of the future, he says nothing of there being a latter rain or that a better time would be coming. No, just the opposite: "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of de-

mons." 1 Timothy 4:1, or: "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come." 2 Timothy 3:1. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." 2 Timothy 4:3+4.

From this we see what prospect Paul presents when he speaks of the last days. All of this talk about something glorious which is supposed to take place, or about awaiting a better time is Satan's deceit, by which he wants to hinder people from believing and obeying. The parable of the ten virgins teaches us the same thing.

In this way Satan has deceived people throughout the ages into waiting; waiting for something. Satan tells those who are unconverted that they should wait to repent. He whispers in the ears of believers that they must wait if they are seeking victory over sin. And, it's just the same if they are suffering under all the disunity and party spirits. And yet, we are supposed to wait for something. We are to await a great glory which Paul writes about in Titus 2:11-13: ". . .the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly,

righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ...".

The grace for coming into this transformation into the image of Jesus, and the possibility of being made ready was revealed on the day of Pentecost after Jesus had finished His work. We don't have to wait for anything else.

The point is to walk in the Spirit, and by the obedience of the faith, to go forth to meet our heavenly Bridegroom.

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