



Times of Refreshment Found in His Presence

“...The times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”
(Acts 3:19)

Within the heart of every person is an unquenchable desire for the deep things of God. There is a void in the center of one’s spirit that can only be filled with His touch. I believe that in this very hour, the Lord is giving His Bride a divine discontentment for apathy and lukewarmness. The things that once satisfied no longer satisfy, and even yesterday’s encounters with Him have only made her hungrier for something fresh.

His beloved one clearly discerns the season she is living, and desires this “refreshment”, which is necessary to carry out her end-time holy mandate from the Lord Himself. Perceiving the times and seasons has awakened in her a spiritual hunger she has never experienced before.

She yearns for fresh oil, a fresh touch, fresh wine, and a fresh anointing. She desires that fresh move of God in her life.

In the spirit I see a thirsty Bride lifting her hands and once again asking for deep wells of refreshment. She feels dry and exhausted from the battles she has long endured. She fervently cries out, *"I need you Lord, I need you. Fill me afresh to overflowing!"* She urgently yearns for Him whom her soul loves endlessly. Her thirst compels her to pursue Him. She is eager for His arrival. She watches earnestly at His gate.

"Blessed is the man that hears Me, *watching daily at My gates, waiting at the posts of My doors.* For whoso finds Me finds life, and shall obtain favor of the Lord." (Proverbs 8:34-35)

I see the Heavenly Bridegroom walking.
He is drawing near to His Bride.
With anticipation our Lord Jesus approaches the gate.
She is already there waiting and watching.
He opens the door and
Refreshment Himself walks through that door!
He pulls her to His side
And warms her there with His fervent love.
In that moment, she vows to be
A dedicated lover of the Lord
Like Mary sitting enrapt at His feet
And hanging on every word He says
His Bride vows anew to be to Him
What He became to her
An everyday companion
Lover
Friend
Follower
For the precious Lord
Will ever be
Her Beloved!

In this special place, His Bride is revived and He satisfies every bit of her inner barrenness with Himself. Each step He takes toward her brings the encouragement she so desperately needs. Her heart is filled to overflowing, and her joy is full in His manifest presence as she reaches out to take His loving hand.

Now you've got my feet on the life path, all radiant from the shining of your face. Ever since you took my hand, I'm on the right way. (Psalms 16:11)

Her face is now radiant after gazing upon His beautiful countenance with Her own eyes. Hand in hand she walks with her beloved, knowing that He is altogether lovely. That type of fresh encounter in Her life brings about a satisfaction that only He can provide.

In this hour a thirsty portion of the church is indeed seeking God with all their hearts, minds, and souls. They feel dry and restless, but they don't stay there, so they wait on the Lord for refreshment patiently. They push aside all activity and quietly wait at His gate with an attitude of worship and love. They hear His footsteps because their ear has been tuned to His comings and goings. Joyful and expectant, they watch the door, anxious for His arrival. When He appears, they are transformed and renewed.

Do you need a fresh encounter with God? Are you thirsty for more than you had yesterday? Do you feel like you have been trapped in a desert place, unable to touch His face? If so, I want you to turn toward His gate where streams flow in that desert place and He has set a table where you can be refreshed and renewed. As you wait in His presence, you will see His arrival and feel the excitement that accompanies the touch of His very hand.

Let me leave you with this poem.

Streams in the Desert

Steve Porter

When my soul is parched and dry
When out of touch, He seems so far away
I groan, I plead for Him to pour afresh
His satisfying waters from on High.

Listening for His voice, I come away
And wait for Him "as deep calls unto deep"
And there my thirsting soul is filled
With rivers flowing from His very heart.

Begotten of the Father, Christ appears
In barren wilderness with healing oils
And mercy streaming from His Father's house
And crimson cloths to wipe away my tears.

Fellow pilgrim in that desert place
The Master has set a table there for you
And bids you come and dine, refreshing your soul
Come feast on the riches of His sovereign grace.

Though you feel you have no advocate
And you're traveling on this road in solitude
Unseen He walks beside you, His presence is sure
For nothing from His love shall separate from you.

God's promises are true and rest assured
That for the asking they may be obtained

Know this – He'll never leave you on your own
His love is everlasting like His Word!

Times of refreshment are coming for those who seek a fresh touch from the sweet
Master Jesus. Are you such an inquirer?

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Steve and his wife Diane founded *Refuge Ministries* and a presence-driven publishing company, *Deeper Life Press*. Steve is a regular contributor to many prophetic publications, including the *Elijah List*, *Spirit Fuel*, and the *Identity Network*. His writings have been read worldwide by hundreds of thousands of people. Steve's books, maturity pamphlets, articles, and videos have touched countless lives around the world. The Porters reside near Rochester, NY.