

**Title:** “When Clouds Form”

**Text:** Ecclesiastes 11:3-5 EASY

**Proposition:** We can trust God in times of doubt

**Purpose:** Build faith and trust in God’s process of Kingdom building

**Event:** Pinecroft Baptist Church – Senior Pastor

**Date:** 5.4.2025

*3” When clouds are full of water,  
rain will fall on the earth.  
If a tree falls to the ground,  
it will stay there, in the same place.  
4 A farmer who waits for the right wind  
will never plant any seeds.  
If he is always looking at the clouds,  
he will never bring in his crops.  
5 We do not know the path that the wind blows along.  
Nor do we know how a baby's body grows  
inside a pregnant woman.  
So nobody can explain the things that God does.  
He is the one who has made everything.”*  
**Ecclesiastes 11:3-5 EASY ENGLISH BIBLE**

### **Preface: Why I Am Preaching This Sermon**

I believe the Lord has me speaking to this because we are in the midst of a major transition – away from a tradition-based model and into a glory-based model, where Jesus is the foundation for everything we do. We are stepping away from doing things because they’ve always been done and doing them for Jesus. Our motivation is no longer doing the right thing in our own eyes or perspective or opinion. The motive we are moving toward is to do what the Spirit of God is doing.

Last week, I spoke about how transitions bring adversaries, namely devils. And it feels like we’re in the midst of a storm. But I reminded you, God is with you. Just like Jesus was in the boat with the disciples, He is with us now. What we must do is make sure we are following His heart, instead of trusting our deceitful hearts that change with the wind. Jesus asked His fearful disciples, “Where is your faith?”

## **I. Introduction: The Water Cycle**

God is a master at systems. Throughout creation we see how the Lord initiated and instituted things to work in a certain way. One of those systems is the weather system. A phenomenon that plays our vital role within the weather system is the water cycle. We know water is a critical component of life. Without water, there is no life. This is why in scripture; water is often associated with the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, we don't have life.

If we consider water vital, then we can glean a certain amount of wisdom from examining the water cycle, the way the Lord chose to distribute water **(metaphorically: His Spirit)** in the earth realm **(metaphorically: the Spirit realm).**

## **II. Expect The Cloud**

First, we must trust the fact that the Holy Spirit has been promised. He will move. He will show up. He will come down. He will overtake us and overwhelm us in beautiful ways, if we submit to Him. At any given time, we can be in a phase of the Lord's "Spirit cycle" represented by the water cycle in the earth. We must trust the Lord that He meant what He said when He said:

*"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."*  
**Jeremiah 29:13 NKJV**

God will come down. He will visit us. But we must trust His process and submit to it. Anything the Lord wants in the earth, requires faith. So, if you want to have a visitation from the Lord, you must be willing to wait and trust God.

If we want to see the Lord move in this church, it will require faith. We have to trust that God is not weak, that He is not surprised. That we can't stop Him, if we just believe in Him with all our heart. We must embrace the fact, the Lord wants to help us. But He will resist the proud:

## Submit to God, Resist the Devil

*5 'Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for*

*"God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble."*

*6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time"*

**1 Peter 5:5-6 NKJV**

This year, we have declared is the year of the "Presence of God." I have taught about how the Lord prioritizes you knowing Him, like Adam knew Eve. The Lord is received. But He is only received when we avail ourselves to Him. **This is called "YIELDING."** We must allow the Lord to be in charge. He takes the lead. We must open ourselves up and allow Him on the inside. But He will not force Himself on us. If we just trust the Lord, He will send rain. We have set this as our pursuit for the year. We want to know Him. We want to receive Him. We want to abide in Him. We want Him to be poured out.

*84 "How lovely is Your tabernacle,  
O Lord of hosts!  
2 My soul longs, yes, even faints  
For the courts of the Lord;  
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God."*  
**Psalms 84:1-2 NKJV**

## III. You Have A Thirst

Along the water cycle, we find a time where there seems to be a lack of rain. Things are dry. Life doesn't seem to be possible. There is a desert. This can be the condition of your soul and spirit. A person who doesn't have Jesus, will have a deserted spirit. A person who doesn't know Jesus will have a deserted soul. **The Lord wants you to both HAVE AND KNOW Him.**

We find the people of Israel in a desert, first, when they are in Egypt. This is where they don't have God. They have heard of Him, but they don't have faith in Him. It took His servant Moses for God to be introduced to His people. They didn't even know how to worship Him; despite the

fact the Lord calls them “My firstborn son.” You can be created by God and still be in a desert. You can have God’s heart chasing after you, but you can still be in bondage. The first step to answering the thirst in your spirit, is to come to Jesus and call on His name. You must accept His invitation to be one with Him. You must respect His invitation to salvation and forgiveness.

Later, when the Lord rescues His people and give them His presence. He takes them into a wilderness. He takes them into a dry and thirsty land:

**A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah.**

*63 O God, You are my God;  
Early will I seek You;  
My soul thirsts for You;  
My flesh longs for You  
In a dry and thirsty land  
Where there is no water.  
2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary,  
To see Your power and Your glory.*

*3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life,  
My lips shall praise You.*

**Psalm 63:1-3 NKJV**

Salvation is just the beginning. It doesn’t transport you out of the desert. You’re still there, but you can access the Lord, if you have a thirst for Him. We must develop a thirst for the Lord just as He sought to develop a thirst in Israel. We must make Him the center of our existence. When we wake up, when we lie down. When we are at work and when we are at home. We must allow the Lord’s presence and His glory be our pursuit and passion. As we pursue Him, we will find Him. And as we find Him, we will know Him. And as we know Him, we will be loved by Him. And as He loves us, we will fall deeper into love with Him.

**\*\*\*ILLUSTRATION HERE\*\*\***

In the desert, the Lord seeks to break you. He wants to make your heart malleable and transformable. He has to break you down and tear down the walls of division between your heart and His. He seeks to make you more appreciative of Him. He wants you to receive Him, but He first must break up what's standing in His way.

*12 "Sow for yourselves righteousness;  
Reap in mercy;  
Break up your fallow ground,  
For it is time to seek the Lord,  
Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.  
13 You have plowed wickedness;  
You have reaped iniquity.  
You have eaten the fruit of lies,  
Because you trusted in your own way,  
In the multitude of your mighty men"*  
**Hosea 10:12-13 NKJV**

The wilderness and the desert are synonymous with transition. **WE ARE IN A WILDERNESS.** We are facing sickness. We are under attack. We are facing questions and doubt. We're seeing God move, but we are tempted to focus on what God is not doing. And specifically, what He's not doing that we **THINK HE SHOULD BE DOING.** Many of us are in a dry season. Your soul feels dry. Some of you might even have a dry spirit. Are you sure you have Jesus in your life? The Lord seeks to move the mountain of your heart:

*21 "So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.  
22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."*  
**Matthew 21:21-22 NJKV**

God wants to immerse your heart in His Spirit! He wants your entire life to be submerged in Him. He wants you to be deeply invested and surrendered to Him. He wants you to let go of everything you hold dear, in order to have Him. In the desert, your thirst will only be satisfied by the Spirit that comes out of the Rock, Jesus Christ:

## Water from the Rock

*17 “Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink.*

*2 Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, “Give us water, that we may drink.” So Moses said to them, “Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the Lord?”*

*3 And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, “Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”*

*4 So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!”*

*5 And the Lord said to Moses, “Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go.*

*6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.”*

**Exodus 17:1-6 NKJV**

The water that will quench your thirst, your dissatisfaction, does not come from a man – a pastor, a spouse, a friend, no one. **The only water that will cure your thirst is the Holy Spirit.**

Much is happening in churches because people have taken the bait, they are looking for people to do what only the Holy Spirit can do. And they do not have a thirst for the Spirit and Presence of God, but rather, what man can do. So, we have churches full of manmade worship and manmade traditions, where God has been there the whole time seeking someone to actually acknowledge and consider Him.

## IV. Crying Out For Rain

When you know what you want, and you have to have it, you go after it. There is nothing worth going after more than the heart and presence of God. No everyone has that cry or complaint. Many find other things to complain about or put above the presence of God in their lives. And without question, this is not pleasing to God. He wants to be your pursuit. In a world with countless distractions, the Lord deserves our undivided allegiance and love. I will say it again: **HE**

**WANTS YOUR WHOLE HEART.**

When we thirst for Him, we praise Him, we sing to Him, we surrender to Him, we follow Him. We focus on Him. We listen for Him. We wait on Him. All of this is like the dew or the water on the earth's surface, rising into the clouds. What we release to Him, refreshes Him. And He is well pleased when we cry out for Him.

*25 "The generous soul will be made rich,  
And he who waters will also be watered himself."*

**Proverbs 11:25 NKJV**

*25 A generous person will prosper;  
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

**Proverbs 11:25 NIV**

The more we cry out, the more we thirst. The drier we can feel. The more we yearn for a response. And while it might seem like a long time, the Lord is responding before we even can realize it. Just like the clouds collect the evaporating water and we don't see rain clouds initially, it won't be long before the clouds build into a dark, deep, and reach abundance – ready to be released.

**The release of the rain is only a matter of time.** But until it arrives, we can feel parched and dry. We're being broken and humbled, but we still want Him more and more. But your cry will only be produced, if you believe that who you cry for will respond. You must believe just as much as you wait. And rest assured, you will wait, even when you believe. Only God can determine when He releases His Spirit, just like only God can determine when it rains. We have no say in the matter.

There is a way to artificially cause rain, by a process called "cloud seeding." But just like infecting worship with our mandates creates a pollution of worship, cloud seeding causes air pollution.

## **V. Conclusion: When Rain Comes**

When the rain finally falls, it can come in sprinkles, or it can come in a torrent. It's the same thing with the Spirit of God. You can count on dew in the morning, when there is a certain amount of moisture in the air. If you have a true relationship with God, you will discern His love at a certain

level and to a certain extent the moment you wake up. However, there is no substitute for an outpouring. When there is a drought in the land, a small rain won't do. You have to have sustained or repeated rainfall. What we need is a sustained rain and repeated rainfall. We need an outpouring of the Spirit of God. We need it again and again. Our hearts and our gatherings have been parched. Our souls have been hardened. Our hearts have grown to be stout against the Lord because we have not had His Spirit and His presence as our pursuit for decades. We have had His Word... but the Word of God without the Spirit is like getting knowledge without understanding. To read God's Words, but miss His heart, is not satisfactory. To read His Words and have no interest in His voice is unsatisfactory. To learn His Words, but miss His Spirit, His presence is like being married to someone you can only read about in a book. It's a far cry from God's best for you. It's not even close to ideal. **I am challenging you to have a higher expectation of God.** Do you want the God of the Bible? Do you want the God of Peter, James, and John? Or do you want the God of your parents and grandparents? The Bible is our guide. And this Bible says He will pour out His Spirit!

*17 "In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.  
18 Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.*  
**Acts 2:17:18 NIV**

We are commanded not to quench the Holy Spirit. Quench your thirst!!! It really boils down to a decision. Do you want God? Do you want all of God? Do you want the Promised Land?

### **Old Testament Examples**

*10 "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud,  
all passed through the sea,  
2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food,*



*4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.*

*5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.*

*6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.*

*7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."*

**1 Corinthians 10:1-7 NKJV**

I want you to be pleasing to God. But more than that, I want you to yield to the passionate heart of Jesus. I want you to dance in His rain. I want you to know His Holy Spirit personally. I want you to know His voice. I want you to surrender to His love. I want you to taste and see that the Lord is good. I want you to have an outpouring of the Spirit of God. But... I cannot give you a thirst for God. That has to come from within. How much do you want Him? **The best question is, what is keeping you from wanting Him more than anything else?** Is He worth it? Is He the most worthy?