

July 26

Deuteronomy 32:2 (NIV) ²Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. **Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV)** ¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

This is a follow-up to yesterday's devotion. I have mentioned this story before, but it fits here. On our last trip into the Grand Canyon, our hike into the Canyon took longer than we had anticipated. We ran out of water, lost the trail, and had to sleep on a plateau. We were out of water, and the temperature was hot. After finding the trail once again, we found our campsite and began purifying the water. We even dammed up the little creek to make a small pool in which we could sit to cool off. It was very hot when, suddenly, it began to rain. Instinctively, we ran under our tarp to get out of the rain. As we lay there, we looked at each other and started laughing. The rain was cool and refreshing; just what we needed. Yet, there we were, taking cover from it.

God's word is compared to rain, rain that waters the earth, replenishes streams, rivers, and lakes, and nourishes plants. Just as we ran to get away from that rain in the Canyon, we can run and hide from God's Word. His word will always accomplish His desire and purpose. Too often, we turn to His Word expecting it to accomplish our purposes or to vindicate our actions. His "rain" will wash away the dirt and expose what is underneath. That can cause some trepidation because the Word will expose us and reveal what is truly in our hearts. However, it never does so to diminish us or to condemn us. The rain of God's word will cleanse us according to God's purpose and renew us. After the realization of what we had done, Wayne and I emerged from that covering and, for a few minutes, enjoyed the rain. When it ended, we hoped for more. That is the power of God's Word.