

Daily Devotional, April 26, 2020

“Times of Refreshing”, (Acts 3:19, NKJV)

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

Who doesn't want to enjoy “times of refreshing?” We think of the coming of spring, hazy days of summer, and all manner of good memories and mental pictures when we hear that phrase. Spiritually, Peter, in our inspired text, tells us how to experience those times spiritually. There are pre-requisites, namely repentance toward God and genuine conversion to the Christian faith, which lead us to the place where we find our “sins” not only forgiven, but also “blotted out”, or removed, through the blood of Jesus Christ the Savior.

Now assuming that these pre-requisites have been met by you through faith, let us further consider how to best enjoy the promised “times of refreshing” in times that are not always so refreshing. Let us first observe from whence they come. They “come from the presence of the Lord.” This is a very personal experience, in which the Lord is called upon and prayed to, that He might make His presence well known to you continually. This is possible because God the Holy Spirit dwells with every believer, and offers every Christian continual fellowship with the Triune God (Cf. 1 Corinthians 3:16). Is anyone reading this, saying, “I do not feel refreshed. I feel stressed!” To you I say first that God neither desires you to be in such a sad spiritual state, and second that He has not put you in that spiritual place either. The promised “times of refreshing” can be attained in the spirit of all people who wish to live in the hope, peace, and joy apart from circumstances that the Lord promises in His Word, the Holy Bible. They will be limited or even quenched in those who wish to dwell on the world and live in fear instead of faith. May you enjoy “times of refreshing” that call to mind all the goodness that God has brought into your life. Another of you may be saying, “My life is nothing but a series of awful events, and I'm tired.” To you I say, know this. God is not done with you yet, and He has a purpose for you. When you seek it, you will find it, for God shall reveal it to you in due time, and “times of refreshing” shall come upon you like a flood. Dear friend, I beseech you, do not give up. Day by day, seek the good Lord, and “times of refreshing” shall be yours. Begin today, and see that this can be so, even by enjoying the divine presence.