

Digging Your Wells Before You Are Thirsty

INTRODUCTION

1. As the pilgrims and settlers moved across this country, there were several important concerns they had to address.
 - A. One of the most urgent, one that could not be ignored for any length of time, was where they could get water.
 - i. Of course, there were streams that would provide what was needed at times and places.
 - ii. But, the most reliable source was a **well** that was dug deep to reach the underlying water table that would not be affected by drought, or contaminated by floods, livestock, etc.
 - B. They couldn't wait until they were thirsty to begin digging a well
 - i. If they did, it would be too late—they would succumb to dehydration and perish.
 - ii. Digging their wells early while they had a supply of water was vital to their survival.
2. As Christians we are like settlers in this life, making a temporary stop here on this earth as we travel to our eternal home.
 - A. Like the early settlers, we should know that times of *spiritual thirst* coming which will try us and force us to look deep to find the godly strength and purpose we need to continue in Christ.
 - B. If we wait until such times to *dig our wells*, to look for spiritual water, we may be too late.
3. So, as we begin a new year, I want to talk about how we need to be digging our wells now, how we need to prepare now for the difficult times that will come to help assure 2020 and the years that follow will be the best year we have faced in our spiritual journey!

BODY:

I. Dig your wells...

- A. Because the **Day of Judgment** is coming:
 1. That day is coming, though we do not know when, when **everyone** will be **judged** by God.
 - a. I do not mean to harp on this, but this truth needs to be firmly inserted into the forefront of our minds as we face this life.
 - b. For, God has already appointed the day (Acts 17:30-31 – “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but **now commands all men everywhere to repent**,³¹ because He has **appointed a day** on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”).
 - c. On that day we will be judged according to **all** we have done in life (2 Cor. 5:10 – “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the **things done in the body, according to what he has done**, whether good or bad.”)
 - d. There will be no blaming of others or entering on the coattails of another (Rom. 14:12 – “So then **each of us shall give account of himself to God**.”).
 2. If you and I are not diligent to dig our wells now, we may come to face the Judgment as a very “thirsty” souls—souls lacking the spiritual water needed to survive!
 - a. How sad it would be to procrastinate only to find that there was no time left, like the rich man who wanted to build bigger barns? (Lk. 12:19-21 – “And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’”²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’²¹ “**So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God**.”).
 - b. Do I have spiritual wells dug deep enough to keep sustain my faith till the Judgment?
- B. Because **times of temptation** are coming:
 1. We should know that the Christian life is full of temptation.
 - a. The main reason is that “Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Pe. 5:8).
 - b. The other reason is your own fleshly desires (Jas. 1:14 – “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.”).

2. If we take temptations lightly and fail to dig our wells now...
 - a. You and I will be like the rocky soil and not have roots deep enough in Christ to withstand the heat and will fall away (Lk. 8:13 – “But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and **these have no root**, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.”).
 - b. Lack of wells dug deep in the word will cause us to fall victim to the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3:12-13 – “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”).
3. Do we have our wells dug deep enough to quench the spiritual thirst we will face when tempted?

C. Because times of **trial and tribulation** are coming:

1. Christians must face trials and tribulation.
 - a. Following Christ means peace in Him, but tribulation in the world (Jn. 16:33 – “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”).
 - b. Consider Paul’s words concerning his life and the life of those who will faithfully follow Jesus (2 Tim. 3:10-12 – “But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹ **persecutions, afflictions**, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what **persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.** ¹² Yes, and **all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**”).
2. These trials or tribulations may be diverse and many (2 Cor. 6:4-5 – “But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, ⁵ in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings”).
3. Since God has never promised that the saved would be excused from suffering, but promised the opposite, have you dug your spiritual wells deep to survive such times?

II. Now is the time to dig your wells:

A. Dig them now to prepare for the **Day of Judgment**

1. Digging wells to enter eternal life isn’t easily accomplished (Matt. 7:14 – “Because **narrow** is the gate and **difficult is the way which leads to life**, and there are few who find it.”).
 - a. Yet, I see Christians, sometimes even myself, seemingly cruising through life.
 - b. We forget that being a Christian means being a *soldier* called to do *battle* against evil and anything that stands against the *knowledge of God in this world* (2 Cor. 10:3-6 – “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not **war** according to the flesh. ⁴ For the **weapons of our warfare** are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”)!
2. These wells are dug by...
 - a. Deeds of **mercy** and **compassion** (Matt. 25:33-36 – “And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.”).
 - b. **Seeking the things of God** and **putting sin out of our life** (Col. 3:1-7 – “If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.** ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. ⁵ Therefore put to death your members

which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.”).

c. We must get focused on where we are going to assure we get there!

B. To prepare for **temptation**:

1. Dig your well with *confidence* because *God* is on your side!

a. God has provided the needed answers to overcome sin! (1 Jn. 2:1-2 – “My little children, these things I **write** to you, **so that you may not sin**. And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is the **propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”). God covered both sides of our sin problem!

i. He has provided the strength and motivation needed to overcome sin through the gospel of Christ.

ii. And, in Christ there is hope for those who in weakness fall victim to temptation!

b. God has promised to protect you and always provide a path of escape (1 Cor. 10:13 – “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”).

2. Dig your well against temptation with the tools God has provided:

a. We can overcome the sinful works of the flesh through God’s Spirit (Rom. 8:13 – “For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if **by the Spirit** you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”).

i. The Spirit works in our lives come through the gospel of Christ, seeing that “the **sword** of the **Spirit**,...is the **word** of God” (Eph. 6:17).

ii. And, the formula is the same for us as it was for David (Psa. 119:9, 11 – “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word...¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”).

b. Use the support of God’s family found in worship and Bible study (Heb. 10:23-25 – “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. ²⁴ **And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,** ²⁵ **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,** as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”).

i. Determine that this year is the year you will begin to delve deeper into God’s word, reading God’s word to know Him.

ii. And, determine to put more effort in preparation for our class studies that you might add a word of encouragement or insight to help your brethren and obey His will.

c. Use the line of communication provided by the Lord in prayer.

i. Jesus’ example prayer for His disciples included the request that God “not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” (Matt. 6:13).

ii. We need to come with confidence before God in our time of need (Heb. 4:14-16 – “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”).

d. When we do sin, we need to repent of that sin and confess it...

i. To God (1 Jn. 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”).

ii. To your brethren (Jas. 5:16 – “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”). **We just don’t do this...and we wonder why we fail!**

3. Are you digging your wells in the word, in fellowship with the family of God, in prayer, and in repentance and confession of sin? Now is the time to start!

C. To prepare for **trials** and **tribulation**:

1. Dig the well of **rejoicing** in our salvation God has so richly provided (1 Pet. 1:3-6 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living **hope** through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an **inheritance incorruptible** and undefiled and that **does not fade away, reserved in heaven** for you, ⁵ who are **kept by the power of God** through faith **for salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you **greatly rejoice**, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials”).
2. Dig your well of **prayer** for the peace and strength God offers (Phil. 4:6-7 – “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”).
3. Dig the well of **knowledge** concerning...
 - a. The *purpose* of trials (Jas. 1:2-3 – “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the **testing of your faith produces steadfastness**”).
 - b. Why they come upon Christians—which is because we are different (1 Pet. 4:3-5 – “For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. ⁴ In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, **speaking evil of you**. ⁵ They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”).
4. Dig the well of **comfort** received from your brethren (2 Cor. 1:3-4 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”)
5. Have you dug the wells you need to face the trials and tribulation that will come?

CONCLUSION

1. If you will dig the wells, God will provide the needed water through Christ (Jn. 4:14 – “but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”).
2. If you are thirsty for salvation, you can drink of Christ’s saving water by H-F-R-C-B.
3. Or, maybe you need to re-dig the *wells of salvation* God has so graciously provided, seeing you may have allowed them to become stopped up through your own spiritual neglect?
4. Will you come to Jesus today?