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## LET DOWN YOUR NET

Does it seem like one of those dry times?

Does the Bible seem about as inspiring as Webster's Dictionary? Does your prayer life feel like an exercise in futility? Do your prayers seem like they never make more than a couple feet into the air? Would you be happy just to get them as high as your ceiling?

Are your Christian friends going on and on about all they are learning and how they are growing and what God is showing them and isn't the Lord wonderful? Do you feel little interest in spiritual things? Faking it you feel even guiltier.

The hardest part is that you can't trace the dry spell to anything specific. There are no besetting sins. No real great lapses in your prayer life or Bible study. There are no roots of bitterness. There are no breaks in your fellowship.

Yet your Spirit feels as arid as July in the desert. It is like those times when your smile loses its shine, your soul becomes dim, and your countenance tells you and everyone around you that something's not quite right.

Strange as it sounds, the closest Biblical analogy I can find for those dry days takes place in the middle of a lake. Let's pick up on the story in Luke 5:3-8:

***"And he (Jesus) entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him Master, we have toiled all night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had done this, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled their ships, so that they began to sink."***

That's a story for dry times—when you feel a little tired of trying...when you're a little weary of praying prayers that don't seem to get answered...when the pages of the Bible might as well be written in Egyptian words.

Simon, too, was weary. Tired of trying. His back was sore and his eyelids drooped. He'd been at it all night long without so much as a sardine to show for it. Yet, at the command of Jesus Christ, he let down his nets. One more time.

Perhaps your net is empty today. You've tried and tried but come up with nothing. You feel dry, or dull, and wonder if God has misplaced your file somewhere on His desk.

He hasn't! God has been listening to your prayers. As a matter of fact, it is often those petitions offered in dry times that please Him most.

Your heavy heart is no secret to God who loves you with an everlasting love. As David wrote in Psalms 38:9: "***All my longings lie open before you, O Lord; my sighing is not hidden from you.***"

The Lord is asking you today to let down your net. One more time. Even though you haven't seen amazing results in recent weeks. Even though your emotions say, "What's the use?" Even though running up an uphill marathon seems more appealing than seeking the Lord right now...nevertheless, obey the Word of the Lord and let down your net. Keep in the Word. Return to prayer. Confess your sins. Get accountable to a Christian Brother or Sister. Worship with God's people. Sooner or later, the Lord will surprise you just like He surprised Simon Peter. The Lord is going to bring you out of that long night—out of that dryness. You're going to experience His joy...more than you can handle!

Be faithful. Trust Him. Wait.

Jesus can still fill an empty net.