

.. ... like the light of morning at sunrise

⁴ *“he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings grass from the earth.”* 2 Samuel 23:4 (NIV)

We all know the glorious feeling of the sunshine after the rain and even the beauty of a sun christened rainbow. But rain can bring many elements and has many faces. While rain brings life, nourishment, and ability to grow crops, it can be dark, cold, gloomy and restrictive. Rain can also come in such a way as to overwhelm our landscape and cause floods, raging waters and even death.

One of the elements that aviators have to deal with is rain. When it comes from stratus clouds and is rather docile and light, it poses a small amount of threat. But torrential rain emanating from large and powerful cumulonimbus cloud, is another matter altogether.

On this flight I was in Tulsa and it was raining. Not a little bit of drizzle but in an incredible downpour and with the large rain droplets falling sideways. This condition posed all kinds of threats to our safe flight to Dallas, heavy winds, very wet slippery runways, severe turbulence, etc. so we made the announcement in the gatehouse that we were postponing boarding and the departure for a while until this event passed. A business man approached the pilot crew directly after making this announcement for the safety of the flight, pointing his finger and demanding we leave right then. It is always interesting when a decision has to be made for the sake of safety how some poo poo that whole idea. Well, as the demands got louder and the conversation more heated, I ushered the gentlemen to follow me to the gatehouse window and gaze through the downpour to the north. He complied. What we both saw was that just a few miles to the north on the airport's property was a funnel cloud. A tornado was at that very moment wreaking all kinds of havoc just a very short distance away and yet it was almost completely obscured by the heavy rain. Finally, the gentlemen saw it our way and became willing to submit as the rain, coupled with the tornado threat, was now even more ominous than before.

Rain can be a metaphor in life to a 'hurdle' because many times the rain restricts, redirect and changes our plans until it is done doing its thing. This day was certainly like that. Health issues, relationship problems, job difficulties, and money shortages can all seem like they are invading our life like a rainstorm. But like rain, many of life's difficulties bring a basket of elements into our life. Yes, there may be some threat, but often times that health issue can bring a new outlook on life and hidden blessings in another way. Maybe that relational problem can reveal something inside us that must change and when we do, brighter days lie ahead. Maybe the difficult time at work is building within us something we could never withstand or accomplish had that hurdle never come our way. Rain comes from the heavens, but what can fall from heaven is not only water. If you seek out God and His blessing He will rain 'righteousness' into your life. Listen to Isaiah 45:8 *“You heavens above, **rain** down my righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness flourish with it; I, the LORD, have created it.”*

When actual rain comes, realize that it always brings a benefit even though a threat can exist as well. And when life seems to be “raining” one problem after another, look to Him who can rain something into your life, like righteousness, that is life giving, renewing and holy. Pray a prayer to Him, Dear Father please let it rain!!!