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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

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Greetings & Blessings;

"Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. ...We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those whom through faith and patience inherit what has been promised." (Hebrews 6: 7, 11, 12 NIV)

Opening our Bibles regularly and drinking in God's word for us is sure to bring blessings. Bowing our hearts before God in daily prayer opens a pathway for God to speak directly to us that we may know his will and his promises. I love the image of "drinking in, or soaking up" the blessings God gives through his word and by his will fulfilled in Jesus our Saviour. The very cells of our being, of our souls, absorb God's love and we are made new, softened and tenderized. As a result we become divinely useful to our fellow believers. Our faithfulness, our growth in godliness, brings hope and reassurance to those who see and hear our witness and our very lives. God makes use of you and me even as Jesus made use of 12 apostles. The fields are white unto harvest and our sharing brings others into God's family.

It is so easy to become discouraged as we see the events in the world around us. Not only the bigger things, the natural disasters, the shocking cruelty of man to man, the illnesses that too often shorten young lives, even the persons who destroy their own lives with sex, crime and drugs. Then we see some for whom we have prayed throwing away the possibility of life with God and instead putting in first place social success, money, and other goals limited to this world. I am reminded of the millionaire who arrived at the pearly gates with 12 suitcases filled with gold. St. Peter asked him what he had in the suitcases so he proudly opened one to show him. St. Peter's response? "Why would you bring suitcases filled with pavement?"

Patience is one of the gifts God's Spirit wants to give. But not just the kind of patience that sits on the sidelines waiting for something to happen. The Greek word translated as 'patience' could equally well be translated as 'perseverance'. We are not to become lazy in faithfulness but to show diligence in following Christ, in prayer and scripture study, and in doing good. This will 'make your hope sure' and bring blessing to those around it. Soak in God's love and be blessed.

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin