



CLOUDS: A GIFT FROM GOD

July 2015

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

Psalm 19:1

When I first wrote this, the summer heat was becoming hard to take. Blue skies every day with sweltering hot temperatures. Lawns brown and bone dry. Clouds, so often thought badly of would be a gift from God.

Most of the time clouds get a bad rap. They're blamed for everything, from lack of sunshine to too much rain. We even talk about the "clouds" we experience when we're hit with unfortunate circumstances, sadness, or depression. You'd think clouds were all bad. But they're not.

What would we do without them? What would we do without the welcoming shade that clouds bring? What would we do without their gathering together, darkening the sky and bringing us rain? How boring a blue sky would be if it were not—at least some of the time—adorned by puffy, white-rimmed clouds!

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As photographers know, overcast skies are often best for photographing flowers, rainforests, and other things. I recall many times, praying for clouds to cover the sun so I could successfully photograph flowers with the softer light.

In his sermon *Black Clouds and Bright Blessings*, delivered by C.H. Spurgeon on September 15, 1910, he spoke about the clouds that come into our lives periodically.

“The clouds are very black, but may they not be black for the very same reason as the clouds above you—because they are full?...If the clouds were not black, you might not expect rain! If your afflictions were not grievous, they would not be profitable. If your adversities did not really pain and trouble you, they would not be blessed to you.”

He goes on to say, “[It is the very sharpness of the affliction], the very sharpness of it, the vinegar and gall, that is the medicine that produces the good effect. The blackness of the cloud proves its fullness—and its fullness brings the shower.”

Thank God for the clouds he brings! They can be a source of blessings. Have a look at the picture. See how beautiful they can be?

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