

July 16, 2023



Center for  
Spiritual  
Development

# Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg, CSJ from the Abbey St. Hildegard in Elbingen, Germany

## "THE SEED THAT FALLS ON GOOD GROUND WILL YIELD A FRUITFUL HARVEST"

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

### From Today's First Reading

*Thus says the LORD: Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.*

**ISAIAH 55:10-11**

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### Reflection

At the beginning of Chapter 55, the prophet Isaiah urges the exiled Israelites to leave the lives they've grown accustomed to in Babylon and return to

Jerusalem, the heart of their homeland. There were benefits and certain prosperity in exile and now it is time to go back home, the place where they and their God formally reunite.

Isaiah reminds the people that just as all life on earth is dependent on the rains that come from the sky, their full restoration as the people of the covenant is dependent upon God. Their journey back home to Zion confirmed their connection with the God of Israel who brought them to that place where they can thrive as God's people and "yield a fruitful harvest," i.e., develop more fully into the people of God. This is the will of God for them.

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Sierra Nevada Mountains  
Photo by Alicia Rodriguez

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### For Pondering

- What/who are you dependent upon for your life to thrive?
- What images represent this flourishing of life? What do they tell you about your life?
- In what ways do you share your "fruitful harvest" with the rest of creation?
- What do you say to God about your covenanted life?

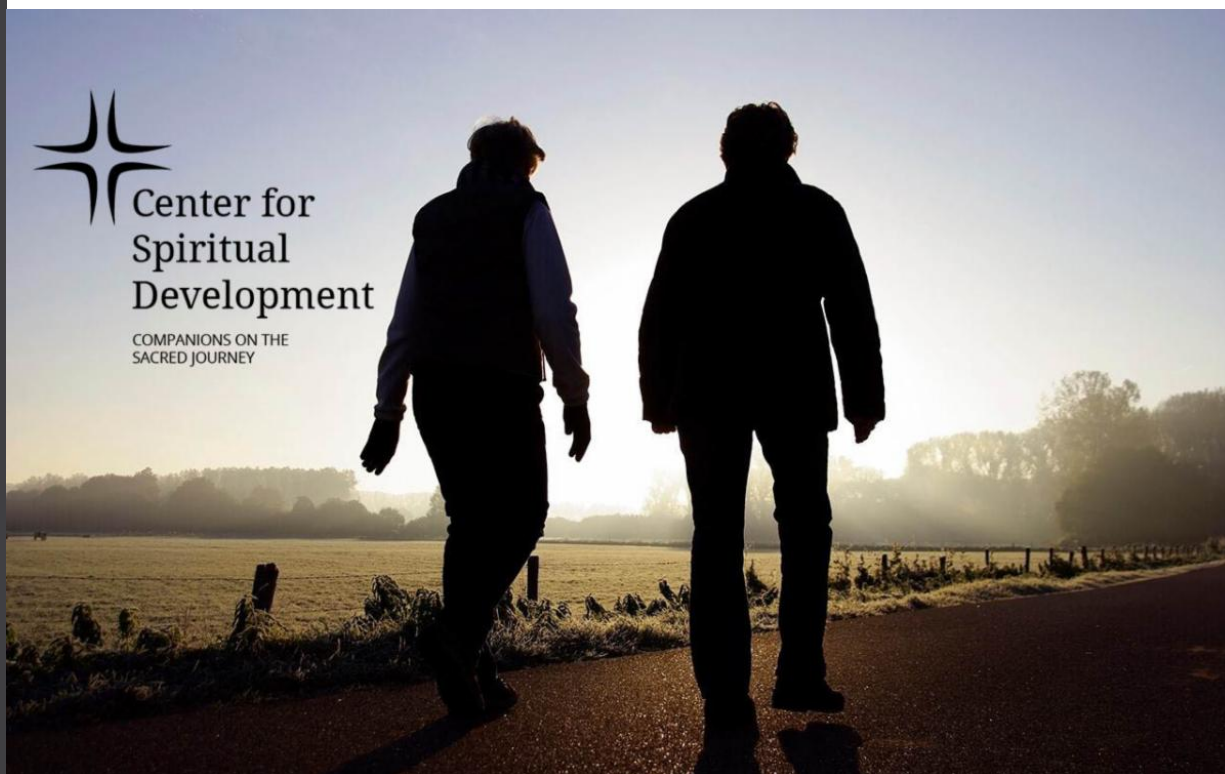
## For Prayer

*O Life of the World,  
grant me a fruitful life---  
a life which may be considered long  
because it has been filled with  
right living,  
and considered rich  
because it has been filled with  
holy acts.*

**REBBE NACHMAN OF BRESLOV**  
[adapted]

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