

The "Umbrellas" That Block the Rain of God's Word in the Modern World 🌂

In Isaiah 55:10-11, **God's Word is like rain**, meant to **soak into our hearts** and bring forth spiritual growth. But what happens when we **carry umbrellas** that block this rain?

In today's world, there are many "umbrellas" that prevent us from **receiving, absorbing, and acting on God's Word**. Here are some of the most common ones:

1. The Umbrella of Distractions – "I'm Too Busy!"

We live in an age of **constant noise**—phones buzzing, Netflix autoplaying, emails flooding in. We say, "**I just don't have time for prayer or Scripture!**" But the truth is, we have time for what we prioritize.

Jesus warns: *"The cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful."* (Matthew 13:22)



Modern Example:

- We spend **hours** scrolling social media but say we "**don't have time**" to read the Bible.
- We **binge-watch** an entire TV series but struggle to sit through a **30-minute Mass**.

Solution:

Put down the phone and **pick up the Word of God**—even **5 minutes a day** can transform your soul!

2. The Umbrella of Skepticism – "Does God Really Speak?"

Some people reject Scripture because they think, "**It's outdated,**" or "**Science explains everything.**"

St. Augustine: *"I was slow to accept Scripture because I sought worldly wisdom, forgetting that divine wisdom surpasses all."* (Confessions, Book 6)



Modern Example:

- People trust **Google over the Gospel**.
- They **doubt Scripture** but **believe every random thing on the internet** (like conspiracy theories about aliens running the government).

Solution:

Faith doesn't require all the answers—it requires trust. Instead of **doubting everything**, ask, "What if God is actually speaking to me?"

3. The Umbrella of Comfort – "I Don't Want to Change!"

Some people **love hearing God's Word**—until it **asks them to do something difficult**.

Jesus says: *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily."* (Luke 9:23)



Modern Example:

- We like verses about **God's love** but ignore the ones about **repentance and sacrifice**.
- We want **grace without discipline** and **forgiveness without confession**.

Solution:

Close the umbrella of comfort and let **God's Word challenge you**—because growth happens **outside your comfort zone!**

4. The Umbrella of Sin – "I Want to Keep Doing What I Want"

One of the biggest blockers of God's Word is **unrepented sin**. When we cling to sin, we **don't want to hear God's voice** because it convicts us.

St. Jerome: *"If you do not pray, Scripture will seem dry; if you do not repent, it will seem harsh."*



Modern Example:

- Some avoid Mass because **they don't want to change their lifestyle**.
- Others reject Church teaching because **it challenges their desires**.

Solution:

Instead of **hiding from God like Adam and Eve**, **run to Him!** His Word convicts us **not to shame us**, but to **heal us**.

5. The Umbrella of Pride – "I Already Know Enough!"

Some people think **they don't need God's Word** because they **already know everything** (or at least pretend to).

Proverbs 3:7: *“Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil.”*

 **Modern Example:**

- People who **never open the Bible** but assume they already know what it says.
- Catholics who think **"I went to Sunday school 20 years ago, so I'm set!"**

Solution:

God's Word is living and active—there's **always something new** to learn. Stay humble, keep seeking!




Conclusion: Close the Umbrella & Let It R.A.I.N.!

God wants to **nourish your soul**, but **what's your umbrella?** Is it **distractions, skepticism, comfort, sin, or pride?**

This Lent, **make the choice to put it down**. Let the Word of God **soak into your heart**, and watch your faith grow!

Final Thought:

You can't expect to **grow spiritually** if you keep **blocking the rain**.

So... close the umbrella, step into God's grace, and **LET IT R.A.I.N.!**   

Amen! 