

#11 THE DREAM AND A SPOKEN WORD.....

The following dream was given to me after prayer and intercession concerning a short prayer-mission to Israel. The purpose was to pray for certain Christian ministries beginning there at that time. My spiritual state was one of great conflict during this period.

I find myself standing on a snowy embankment near a body of water. I begin walking in the deep snow which covers the slope. I am carrying a heavy burden like a knapsack on my back. It is difficult walking with this burden and I fall down in the snow very tired and worn out. An angel dressed in white approaches and reaches down to help me back to my feet. He gently leads me to the sloping shoreline where I lie down on my chest and look out over the icy waters. Much of the surface of this body of water is frozen solid and thick with ice.

Suddenly, I notice a flock of birds hovering over the surface, flying together as if in one unit. I seem to know in this dream that the birds are waiting for the ice to melt so they can feed on the fish beneath. A voice speaks to me in the dream and says, "Wait and you shall be fed."

This dream was given to reveal that my present spiritual state and the problems I was experiencing would be solved in due time. The obstacles facing my Israeli trip were securing needed monies and travel documents and God's timing for departure. Often when the Lord gives us a mission or work to do we busy ourselves into a worried and hurried condition that puts more of a burden on us than He intends. The burdens of the Lord are light in the sense that He gives grace to carry them. Yes, we will have conflicts and problems, but His grace will strengthen and help us to do that which He calls us to do. Frequently, however, we or the devil add unnecessary burdens that will eventually wear us down.

The snow symbolizes the difficult paths which we must tread at times. The falling under the burden speaks of our natural strength not being enough to accomplish God's work. Yet, if we are headed in the right direction in His will and make mistakes and fail, He is faithful to lift us up and help us back to our spiritual feet. The angel's leading me to the slope reveals to us that we need to rest at times because of spiritual exhaustion; we need to be refreshed and encouraged before we can proceed. The birds' hovering and waiting for the ice to melt symbolizes Christians' needing to learn how to wait on and for the Lord.

The birds' unity and oneness is a sign of how God expects us as different members of His body, the church, to function together to build one another up instead of competing against one another. This waiting on the Lord is a waiting, not only for further insight into His purposes, but also a waiting on His timing and providential moving. God often reveals things to us that may not be for the immediate present but for weeks, months or even years ahead. To jump the gun or to lag behind can hinder the work which God intends to do in or through us. He will surely feed us with what we need at the right moment. We must learn to rest and feed when He gives us that time, for when He is ready to move we may not have time to prepare.

We love being active and busy, but if we are to move into the deeper things of God we must learn to wait before Him and give Him the time He requires. Waiting is often much harder than working. Much busyness, however, is no true sign of spirituality; much activity is often a sign of a restless self-seeking spirit. It may impress people and seem to accomplish much, but often it is merely wood, hay and stubble. Even good works and service for the Lord have no spiritual value if done for any reason outside God's leading. We must be led of the Holy Spirit and make no attempts to lead Him. He will

not anoint even good fleshly intentions, for they are still of the flesh and can never produce spiritual results. Let Him be lord and leader. God is not our servant; we are His.

Much that is done in the name of Christ is mere flesh trying to secure God's approval. God will provide for what God commands and initiates. He will not respond to our attempts to force His hand or hasten His timing for us. Some seem to think if they claim a thing and quote enough Scripture to God that He will be forced to honor the request. Far from the truth. The name of Jesus is not a magic charm to use as we please, nor is quoting the Bible to God a means of obtaining His response. If we walk in obedience and faith, then we will clearly see His will and be able to speak those words in the right spirit and for the right reason.

Often I have heard the statement: "Let your request be made known unto God." How true it is, but it does not say let your demands be made known unto God. Did you ever read in the Bible of a person who was in the Spirit who talked to God in a demanding, disrespectful manner? Boldness is not arrogance, nor is faith a shouting and commanding of God. No amount of confessing, quoting Scripture, claiming and much emotional hyperventilating will produce true faith, nor will it move God. We may confess and quote Scripture for our own benefit but not to force God's hand. Furthermore, if we do not walk in the light that He gives us and do not obey as He convicts us, we will not see His promises and words to us come true.

To use the name of Jesus implies we are submitting to Jesus and asking in accordance with His will and character. Much praying and claiming in Jesus' name is no more than a form of witchcraft. Witchcraft is an attempt to get someone to do for you that which is against their will. This is a control spirit with its root found in a selfish, self-seeking person. God will always resist this spirit in anyone, whether Christian or not. Much prayer of the believer can be wasted! Be careful for you may get what you seek, but its source may not be God. If we examine our hearts and are humble before Him, He will show us what to pray for and how to go about it in the right spirit.