

#13 #14 A VISION FOLLOWED BY A DREAM.....

I awake in the dark hours of the night and sit up. I look out a large window and can see the street lights and the star-filled sky. Then to my amazement someone or something walks past the window and covers it completely in darkness. Still awake, I look closely as the presence walks past and stands outside the front door. A voice calls my name and I assume a human person is at my door. Yet when I try to rise from my seated position a hand which feels very physical presses down gently on my shoulder to restrain me. Then I perceive that I am in a vision-state. As I lie back resting, I sense the presence at the door has entered the house. It stands in the dark and, though I see no form, I feel its evil presence. I am not the least fearful, and actually am more curious than usual. I am peaceful knowing the Lord has restrained me and that He is in control.

After awhile I fall asleep and immediately begin to dream. In my dream I find myself walking among large trees in a forest. The sun is coming up, and its light beams through the trees. Suddenly I hear and see a light falling swiftly from the sky. It is a strange presence indeed. As the light touches the ground I see an angelic-type person. To my surprise he speaks to me, "I am Lucifer, son of the morning." I respond quickly and inform him that he has fallen.

Now let me say that this being is not of the usual demonic sort. Demons can often be discerned by their unclean and evil presence, but here the devil comes in a form that really causes me to wonder. His being is attractive, alluring and almost irresistible. It would be easy to worship such a presence. Yet during all the temptation to do so, I knew him for who and what he was---still the devil, the arch-enemy of God and man. If he can not inspire fear in us then he may try the opposite tactic. Perceiving I want no part of him, he begins to walk parallel with me as I walk away from him. Almost with a tone of sarcasm, he speaks again to me, "Regardless of what Jesus Christ has said to you, you will have to fight alone." Just before I awake, I sense an evil presence of strife and confusion.

Often in our darkest hours and when we are in difficult straits our enemy will attack us. Yet I have learned it is usually a good sign that we are in God's will. Satan can reveal his hand too quickly. If he did nothing, at times we would give in more easily because of feeling we are accomplishing nothing. Now many Christians are not much of a threat to Satan's kingdom. Babies, novices and Christians who are out of God's will are no threat to the devil. He goes after the ones who will obey and follow the Lord at any cost. If the devil can't lie to you and cause you to fail, he may attempt to flatter and puff you up, knowing that God will have to bring you down. If these methods don't work, then he may try to bargain with you or, even in some cases, buy you outright. Many a saint started out on the right path, but along the way the devil found out his or her price and they bartered their birthrights away.

Look around, my friends, how many preachers and ministers do you know who have lost God's presence and anointing for fame, money and earthly power? Why, Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world to serve him. While Christ rejected his offer, one day a person called the antichrist will accept his offer and agree to his terms. Yet, sad to say, most Christians will never have the enemy really bargain with them for they will live and die entering the kingdom as if by fire. They will never have known what it means to move deeply with God and to take ground for Him. The deeper we go the more the devil will attempt to barter with us. Therefore we must be very careful to stay close to Christ and let Him rule in us, or someday we will find that Satan has discovered the price that will cause us to sell out to him.

The devil spoke to me of having to fight alone. That statement, like most of what he says, is a lie for he will quote truth out of context. We may stand alone at times in this mortal flesh, but if we walk with Christ He will always walk with us. He will not forsake us; we dare not forsake Him. Remember

the enemies of our souls do not always come as such! They may come in forms of friends, family members and even other Christians. These persons are usually not aware of being used by Satan to prevent us from walking closely and deeply with our God. Why, they do not want us to become fanatical and super spiritual, do they? Friends, let us press on and bear their reproaches and contemptuous labels for Christ's sake. Let us be hot for Christ, not cold or lukewarm! Better to be forsaken by friends and family, if need be, than to compromise our walk with the Lord!

As to my sensing strife and confusion before awakening read these verses:

"This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.
For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work"
(James 3:15-16 KJV).