

## #18 THE DREAM AND A SPOKEN AND AUDIBLE WORD.....

*I first hear these words, "Don't be as a mule or an ostrich which have no understanding."*

*Next I see a large metal ring turned on its side, a ring like a wedding band but very large. As I watch, I see the word "stubbornness" spelled out clearly and its letters seem to pass or march through the ring.*

*At the moment I awaken I hear spoken to me in a soft voice, "As many as I love I rebuke and chasten."*

The letters marching through the ring symbolize "stubbornness" being the ringleader of many downward leading sins that will cause us to cease walking in the Spirit. At this time in my life I was in a state of stubbornness and procrastination with the Lord. The references to the mule and the ostrich are mentioned in these two Scriptures:

"Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee" (Psalm 32:9 KJV).

"Because God hath deprived her (the ostrich) of wisdom, Neither hath he imparted to her understanding" (Job 39:17).

We are more enlightened than the beasts of the earth that do much by simple instinct. As the apostle Paul was goaded by the Lord so may we be goaded if we resist and fight against His plans for us. God has His ways of bringing us into submission, and the sooner we comply the less we will have to suffer needlessly. God has given us His Spirit and His Word so that we can know what He requires. To stubbornly resist His will is to invite trouble and to hinder greatly what God desires to do in us and for us. Stubbornness is a ringleader of many evil companions such as pride, bitterness, resentment and hardness of heart. These sins will surely lead us ever downward when we willfully refuse the known will of God or procrastinate in our obedience.

The second message given to me concerning rebuking and chastening is a scriptural verse found in Revelation 3:19. The Lord who comforts is the One who also rebukes, and when He chastens, He requires immediate repentance. God has no bastards. He will surely correct and discipline His children when needed. This is a proof that we are His and that He does love and care for us.

We must repent as well as confess our sins. Godly sorrow works repentance. Confession without repentance is empty and dead, the same as faith without works, grace without fruit, lordship without submission! A mere mouthing of something is no proof of it. Why, even demons believe in God but it is not saving faith, is it? Yes, some need to examine and prove themselves to see if they really are in the faith. Confession, church membership or even water baptism is in vain if there is no change of life. God's righteousness received in us must come out of us in practical holiness.