

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

I am driving a car up to the entrance of a tunnel. It is getting dark and, as I attempt to drop my thirty cents in the toll basket, the coins fall to the ground. I leave my car quickly to retrieve the money, for I do not want to hold up traffic. Suddenly it is very dark and the tunnel entrance is blocked. All the vehicles are at a standstill, so I just sit in my car and wait. Then a word is spoken to me, "Do not be discouraged, for faith looks at things not seen."

This dream came to me as I was considering a move in location and ministry. Had I heeded the message more closely I could have saved myself needless worry! The tunnel symbolizes an opening into some other service. The toll fee of thirty cents speaks of "the appointed time"---the number thirty in Scripture sometimes implies this. We are given vision and direction but often do not know the exact timing. Until we do we are to prepare and wait. We must not move unless we have been given the go-ahead from God. We can not pick the fruit before it is ripe. Otherwise, it will be sour to us! Delays and waiting are often trying times for us, but we must learn their lessons.

Satan will frequently tempt us to rush God or to act prematurely. He will attack with doubt, discouragement and fear! God will show us many things, but much may be for the near or far future. Only as we stay before him in trust and obedience will we be able to discern His timings. Moses was called to deliver Israel but He did not know he would spend forty years in the wilderness in preparation. Christ knew He was to die on the cross but He did not hasten the timing. Between vision and fulfillment is often a great period of waiting and preparing that only the strong in spirit can endure. Faith comes with vision, the answer comes at the right time, and we must wait it out.

Much happens on the road between vision and faith and the final outcome. This is the trying of our faith, the waiting with expectation, steadfastness and perseverance. These trials are to mature and make us ready to receive what He is purposing for us. The enemy will attempt to hinder our answers and to cause disappointment, discouragement and despair. Yes, some saints have missed God's best for they were not able to endure the process of waiting out God's timing.

In the statement, "Do not be discouraged, faith looks at things not seen," to be discouraged means to faint or grow weary. In that condition we are more likely to throw all away and miss God's best. Our faith must hold to God's promises and word no matter what the natural world does or reveals to make the promise seem impossible. Faith deals with the unseen realm. If we saw in the natural we would need no faith. Faith is real. Faith comes from God, and trust is our reaction to that faith. His word and His promises are true, but we must fulfill their conditions to see what faith will do.