

#22 A SPOKEN WORD.....

The following word was spoken to me in a dream during a time of financial needs in carrying out the Lord's will.

As I sleep this Scripture from Proverbs 11:25 is spoken to me: "The soul of blessing shall be made fat; and he that waters shall be watered also himself!"

During the day following this dream I pondered my need for five hundred dollars to finance a trip I sensed the Lord was leading me to make. I had informed no one but prayed secretly for the funds. Much of my day was spent counselling and ministering to others (a form of watering), and late in the afternoon someone slipped a folded piece of paper in my pocket. To my delight I discovered it was a check for five hundred dollars!

We learn faith often by need, but we are to let our needs be known unto the Lord. So many of the television faith ministries know nothing of real faith. It does not take much faith to beg, hint and use gimmickry to see that our needs are met. Let us not call it faith if we have to resort to such methods to support our ministry. Appeals to people's sentimental natures and pressure letters constantly asking for money are not the ways of faith. Scripture says to let your needs be known to God; it does not say unto man. This does not imply that ministries can not reveal their needs if asked, but if these same ministries spent more time before the Lord, the Lord would move others to give.

Promises of blessing and personal gain from giving to the Lord's work is a subtle form of deceit and nothing more than human manipulation. We give in the right spirit not because we are promised blessings (though God keeps good accounts), but because the Spirit of God moves us to do so. Any other reason, even legitimate need, is not the spiritual way. Our faith is supposed to be in the Source who is God, not in the methods or persons He uses to meet our needs. He is the object of our faith. Now, I grant you that most so-called faith ministries would not last on the air- waves if they chose God's way.

God have mercy on those ministers and ministries that become fat off the monies of the people. Is it not interesting that most of these well-known television ministers have become very affluent from the offerings of their viewers? Something is very wrong in this. It is one thing to take large sums of money for a work initiated by God but, if the individuals who run these ministries are becoming personally wealthy from their donations, they are nothing more than covetous charlatans who are fleecing their people. Much of what we see presented as Christian ministry is of this sort, and the leaders of these ministries as well as their supporters are deceived.

We are to water because we are called to be blessings to the church and the world. Yes, God shall bless the work of our hands and water us as we are busy about His will and works. He makes our souls fat or full as we keep the waters flowing through us.