

## #25 THE DREAM.....

*I am in the midst of a battle with gun shots being fired at my head! The scene changes and I am now looking at a training bicycle. It is ordinary in appearance but has the ability to collapse and bounce back resuming its original shape.*

The first part of the dream concerns warfare. The shots fired at my head symbolize that as Christians we are in a state of war. Spiritual war is our lot until we cross over into heaven by way of death or the “up-gathering.” The real place of battle is the head which contains our spirit, mind, will and personality. This is the area which the enemy will primarily attack. Before willful sin is committed the will and the mind must consent to it; thus this is the great arena of temptation and the place of victory or defeat. We will be ruled by God, or we will choose our own paths which is equivalent to being ruled by Satan.

As Christians we are to be filled with the life and light of Jesus Christ today. The forces of light and darkness are now at war with one another, and often the Christian’s mind is the primary battlefield here on earth. Satan was once a high ranking archangel, perhaps the highest ranking. He was a light bearer and, as his name suggests, he channeled God’s light well. Lucifer’s major sins were the sins of independence and pride. He sought as a created being to be the Light instead of being a channel of that Light. Any teaching that makes a created being to be God is in error with Scripture. In this earthly life God seeks to channel Himself through His people. In a way we are to be light bulbs. Electricity is similar to God, real and powerful in our world but unseen to the naked eye. Electricity needs a channel to manifest its power, this channel being the copper wire and the bulb. The electricity and the wires in the bulb meet in union and produce natural light power. Thus we are called by Christ to be conductors of His light to the world.

We must use the helmet of the hope of our salvation as a defensive weapon against the enemy’s attacks on our mind. However the attacks come, we must resist. When we become Christians we enter school and begin training. Like the bike in the dream God has instruments to train and prepare us. As children we start off riding tricycles, advance to two-wheelers with training wheels, and then on to free riding without aid. During this process we may fall and get hurt, but we must rise up and try again until we learn how to ride. Many quit after the first fall in their spiritual walk and throw off God and His ways. They have no root in them and will not endure the training.

When we fall into willful sin and rebellion we need to confess and repent of sin and rise up and move on. If we fail to do so, we will begin a natural reaping of our sin that will add to the unpleasantness of this course. Punishment for our sins teaches us a simple lesson. Sin will not be worth the price we will have to pay for it! Sin can have its pleasures for a season, but the cost will be exacting for the Christian. Continued resistance against God’s dealings will produce a hardness in the rebel’s heart and have dire consequences.

God’s grace and mercy are great, but He has a limit as to how far He will go with the rebellious. Let us not lie to ourselves and think we can play with the grace of God and not reap from it. Grace bestowed has a corresponding punishment if not heeded. When much is given, much is required. The branch that continually resists the Lord’s pruning will find itself cut from the vine. That, my friends, is an unpleasant yet true fact!

All men have enough light of God to move toward Him. Some have much more light and grace given. The soul who does not yield and has had much extra grace bestowed in God’s mercy will come

into a greater judgment when God does call for an accounting. Chastening and correction from the Lord are proof that we are His. God has no bastards, and can not keep in His charge a willful, rebellious and stubborn child. One day a price will be paid by that soul.

Let us not play with the grace of God and assume we can get by with it. We will only deceive ourselves! Let us rather learn to submit to His dealings and be made like Him in holiness and character. The tree is known by its fruit; a persistent rebellious soul will reflect its master.