

#40 THE DREAM.....

I see this portion of Scripture from Psalm 126:4-6 laid out before me:

“Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him” (KJV).

The psalmist in verse four refers to the southern part of Israel or the desert area that depends totally on seasonal rains for life. Because of rebellion and disobedience the children of Israel were led into captivity under the yoke of hard taskmasters. Long-term rebellion always leads to harsh dealings from God’s rod, yet He is willing to lift that rod when we are ready to confess and forsake our sin. In this psalm are some great lessons for us. Whether our tears are from our own selfish reaping or from Godly suffering, He can refresh and bring joy and life from pain and sorrow.

There is often to the casual observer a fine line between suffering as a result of sin and rebellion, and suffering as a result of true persecution, tribulation and affliction (which are our lot at times for being faithful to God and His Word). We are promised reward and approval in Christ’s Kingdom for these latter sufferings. Frequently we must endure great sorrow and conflict before gaining our spiritual victories. Thorny crosses precede golden crowns. We do not always leave the battles without scars or pains.

Those who continually go forth speak of perseverance in the sowing of seeds. Seeds are intended to produce fruit and grain. Those who sow in tears are informed that there is a weeping at times in this spiritual pilgrimage. Tears speak of sorrow, pain and suffering. We will all experience these in this life, yet in our sorrows Christ will comfort and sustain us as we trust and cast our burdens on Him. As we move up into higher levels with the Lord we encounter tears and sorrows of a different sort than the ordinary believer. That soul will tread paths that the babe and novice will not understand. Children know little of labor pains or toil to provide food for them, but as they grow up they become aware that these are the lot of all. Novices and babes, let alone those who we consider worldly, carnal and lukewarm, have no deeper knowledge of what it really means to lay down their present lives for the Lord. Much of the suffering inflicted on mature believers is from such persons.

The path to deeper levels in Christ is often trod alone and in small groups. Why? Because it is a costly price to the flesh and the natural man. It costs that soul dearly to be brought down to a place of humility which is the only soil in which God can begin to reveal His deeper ways. Much of the deeper soul’s life is formed in darkness and hidden places, far from the eyes of gazing men. We may sow in tears but we also will reap from that labor. We labor not in vain in the Lord. Our very tears that reveal our sufferings for Him will be the waters that cause the seeds to sprout.

We will never see all the good we do in the name of the Lord in this life---much will be laid up for us in the next. The Lord, however, will let us see enough to confirm our labors here and encourage us to press on in our sowing with the sure knowledge that there will be a day of harvest. There is a time to sow and a time to reap, a time for tears and for sorrows, and a time for joy and for fruitfulness.