

#48 THE DREAM.....

I see the word “pragmatic”, and then find myself carefully watering several young green plants. These plants are in different locations.

The word “pragmatic” simply means to concern oneself with that which is his own, or dealing with matters in a practical and realistic manner. This dream came at a time when I was counseling, responding to letters and just being a listening ear to several young Christians who lived in various locations. These were the young green plants I found myself watering in the dream.

Yes, we need to be careful in watering and helping younger Christians in their spiritual progress. We must water with the Word of God and teach them practical lessons from the Bible that will be useful in their present state and in preparing them for later growth. We must allow the Holy Spirit to direct us in these matters as no two persons are at the same level or have the same problems at any given moment. Pat answers are no help. We need God’s wisdom so we will not give meat to babes or milk to those who are more mature. We are to make disciples for the Lord by His help. We are not to be making disciples for ourselves. Disciples are born-again Christians in training.

Babes and novices are also to be taught about humility and about not being puffed up in false pride and self-worth. Many a young believer has been harmed greatly by supposedly mature leaders, who place them in positions of authority and leadership when they are unprepared. Sending babes to front line warfare is not wise, neither is entrusting them with leadership and authority simply because they are naturally gifted or talented. To feed the ego of the young nature is neither good nor wise. Now let us clarify something here. Even a person seventy years old is a babe if he has just come to the Lord, and must be treated accordingly. Yet a teenager may be mature if he has known the Lord and been grounded in the Word of God.

Let us consider another matter here. God may give unusual revelations to babes and novices at times to prepare them for future ministry, but these revelations are no sign of Christian maturity. We live by faith and the Spirit’s dwelling in us. Young Christians need to be taught that gifts and callings and powers and revelations are not necessarily daily experiences. They are usually given for exceptional times and needs. Let us prepare the young believer to live in the real natural world, but to live by the faith and grace of our spiritual Father. They must learn to live by daily faith in God--not by powers, gifts, dreams, visions or any other spiritual grace that may be given for ministry or special times.