

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

I am following a person dressed in white whom I soon perceive to be the Lord Jesus. I follow Him for awhile, expecting a word of direction or guidance. It appears that He is purposefully avoiding speaking with me. Then, without so much as an audible word, He looks behind Himself directly at me and continues to walk on. As He gives me this backward glance, I hear words in my mind as His Spirit is speaking. He simply says to me, "Go and use My name."

We must learn that even in our desire to do His perfect will God does not dictate to us every moment what we are to do. We are to study the Bible to learn its commands and principles so that our renewed spiritual minds can practice its teachings. We live and move by the general principles of God's Word. He will give clarity and precise direction if and when needed. We have His Word and Spirit, and He gives us His name to use in carrying out His will and commands in ministry. We are not robots whose minds are regulated to act without rational thought or decision. We are free and moral beings who act out of choice and resolve. God gives man and angels delegated authority and power to carry out His purposes. The Spirit gives advice and helps us to fulfill the ministries that are entrusted to us. He will make known when He desires a clear prophetic word or message to be given. These are more the exception, however, and not the everyday method of God's communication with man.

As previously stated, the name of Jesus is not a magic word, but a powerful weapon for the Christian to use who is walking in the Spirit and obeying the commands and wishes of the Lord. To use the name of Jesus, whether in prayer or spiritual warfare, is to use delegated authority given to us as born-again believers. God expects us to be trained and disciplined in all our ways. He sets down no legal laws, but each is led by the Spirit as to timing in prayer and ministry. There are not only general daily times of each, but the Lord may call us to seasons of prolonged prayer or ministry. To spend time in private, secret prayer when active ministry is required is not God's best, nor is ministering when He requires our undivided attention.

Let us look at an example of authority and proper timing. Read the fourteenth chapter of Exodus. Moses, the great lawgiver, prophet and intercessor, is leading the children of Israel out of Egypt, and Pharaoh is fast pursuing to destroy them. The Israelites, boxed in between the sea and the approaching army, are in a state of panic. As usual, they murmur and complain against the Lord. Moses attempts to console the fearful Hebrews and begins to pray and intercede to the Lord over this desperate situation. Now, my friends, prayer and intercession are great, but often if we are not "prayed up", we will not have time to do so. The great intercessor is somewhat mildly reproved by the Lord with these words in Exodus 14:15-16:

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thy hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea" (KJV).

By the delegated word from God Moses was to divide the sea and lead the people across. It was not the time to have an all day prayer vigil! It was the time to act in accordance with His revealed word and will. The time to act is at the appointed time and, if we are not moving in the will of God, we will not be able to do so.

In conclusion, one other point comes to mind. When I was once a volunteer telephone counselor I received a call from a woman who asked that I join her in prayer and agreement that God would help

her pass a nursing exam. I first asked what I thought was a simple question, "Did you study for this exam?" She replied, "I studied for one-third of it." To my own amazement and surprise I responded, "Then you want God to cheat for you and give you the portion of that exam for which you did not study!" Her parting remark before slamming down the phone was, "Well, I thought that was what miracles were all about!"

Friends, God will help and deliver, but He never will do what is morally wrong or what is not in line with His Word or character. God will help us remember what we have studied, but He is not into giving passing grades to lazy, undisciplined students, or winning football games to appease carnal desires. It is sin to implore God's help for anything contrary to His character or nature.

Yes, miracles are for today, but what is a miracle? It is a happening that is not understood in the natural realm. It is a supernatural event that can not be explained yet is true. To God a miracle is simply moving from a lower law, whether spiritual or natural, to a higher law of which He has perfect understanding. He rarely seeks to explain to us, for our limited minds could not understand.

Gravity is a natural law that holds all down on planet earth. To leave this planet we must either do away with gravity or go to another law that would override gravity. So spaceships must use thrust to overcome the force of gravity. Gravity has not changed but a higher, more powerful law has superseded it. The virgin birth was a miracle as God allowed the spiritual realm to override the natural realm. God does not explain all the outworking of His laws to man, but expects us to walk by faith and trust---not blind faith and trust. Faith reacting with a word from God has a sure working foundation.