

#59 THE DREAM.....

This dream is similar to the one above, but with a different emphasis.

I see a turtle walking up two or three steps. There is a door in front of those steps that begins to open of its own accord. As it opens a very bright light beams outward and reflects off the turtle. The turtle seems to stop and pause as this bright light bursts forth.

The door's opening of its own accord again speaks of God's opening doors at the right time and place. The two and three steps signify "in the mouth of two and three witnesses let every word be confirmed." The light coming forth speaks of God's enlightening our steps as we proceed toward the open door. The turtle, as you most likely have surmised, symbolizes slowness. God may appear slow but He is sure! In the story of the race between the rabbit and the turtle we learned the good lesson that speed may not win every race, but persistence will finish the course. Many start running well in this spiritual pursuit but often burn out quickly. The same is true in prayer and receiving answers. Some have genuine revelations and moving experiences with God, but somewhere along the way they give up and do not find the answers they seek.

This dream caused me to think of a Scripture found in Habakkuk 2:2-3:

"And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry" (KJV).

This is a word of truth that tells us the beginning and end of vision and faith. Vision and faith come by revelation from God. A vision is the revealing of a promise that produces faith in us to which we add our trust. Faith comes by the hearing of God's Word by whatever means He chooses. That chosen method, however given, will stand the test of the Bible's and Spirit's witness. Remember Satan used the written Word to attempt to seduce Christ at the end of his forty day fast. Many television and radio ministers today misuse Scripture to achieve their own ends. Just because one quotes from the Bible is no proof in itself that the message is from God.

God can speak to you in your language with all its faults and weaknesses. The Lord often condescends to communicate with us using our vocabulary. Do not be critical of a word or a prophecy that may come in the King James Version. Would you understand it better if it came in pure Hebrew of two thousand years ago? Language changes from generation to generation, and is often that which becomes acceptable. If you favor a certain biblical translation God may use that version to speak with you. We must not limit the Lord or we will find ourselves limited instead.

Now back to Habakkuk. The prophet was ordered to write down the vision. My book would not have been written if I had not done likewise for many years. We record God's words to us so that we will be able to recall them later for meditation and remembrance. We are forgetful creatures, are we not? Why, Eve's first sin was in this very area. When God asked her about eating the fruit, you know what she said, "The serpent caused me to forget." To forget a truth one must accept a lie instead, or have that truth stolen. We must study the written Word of God always to learn and remember so we will not forget it. We must do the same with the vision or promise that God gives us.

After writing down the vision, we are to run! This is the race of faith. Faith must run its course to the end to obtain its prize. Along the way hope, endurance and waiting join in. The runner in an

earthly race may know where the finish line is, but often does not in the spiritual race. It is our faith that tells us to press on toward the prize. We are told that the vision has an appointed time to be fulfilled, yet we are rarely told the exact timing. While Satan and the flesh will test us much in this race, God will mature and perfect us much. Often our greatest battle is with time. We want the request or answer now, but God has His own timetable.

The vision or promise is His means for refining and perfecting us. We are told as we wait that one day the vision or promise will surely come and there will be no more delay. Faith must be thus tried before it produces the reality. The turtle is not only slow, but is also known to live to a ripe old age. Usually the greater the promise of blessing or the greater the ministry and authority to be given, the longer the fruit requires for maturity. Moses endured forty years in the desert, Joseph suffered nearly fourteen years in bondage and perplexity, and the Son of God waited almost thirty years in obscure, mundane, day-to-day living before His final ministry came into fulfillment.

Do we think it will be much different today for those whom God has chosen for great works and ministry? The Lord may indeed do a quick work when the time comes to move, but He will never mature the human born-again spirit any faster than the ways He has always chosen. Man may run to and fro in busy activities but God still requires time---much time---to make present day Pauls and Peters and to mature useful saints. These souls are rarer and more costly to produce, and it costs them much to be made into these vessels of exception!