

#67 THE DREAM.....

I appear to be at a concession stand ordering some food. When the food and beverage arrive, I am displeased with the order and begin murmuring and complaining about it. Again food is brought to me and again is not what I ordered. Very disgusted with the service, I proceed to look about for some sandwiches to buy. The sandwiches all seem different in size, variety and appearance. I search in vain for the prices and names of the sandwiches. I continue my complaining, and am now very angry and emotionally upset as well. Then, as I turn, I see over on the side of the wall a sign with large printed letters that spell out: "Quail Sandwiches."

Previous to this dream my day had been full of complaining and murmuring. Several days had gone by in this state. It seemed as if nothing went right and all was set up to provoke and irritate me. Not only had my complaining been directed at people at work but soon was directed at God also. After all, He would not remove the causes of my present state, nor was He answering me in the way and manner I had expected.

Now most of us know the story in the Bible of the murmuring and complaining of the children of Israel against the Lord. For years He had fed them manna from heaven. He had given it to humble and discipline them, yet they tired of God's dealings and even wished they were back in bondage for their garlic, fish and onions. They forgot how poorly they had been treated and how they had cried to the Lord for deliverance. God gave them what they wanted---quail for a month or more. He said He would give it to them until it came out of their noses, or until they were sick of it! On top of this He sent a wasting disease among the people that killed many.

Thus God one day may give us things that are not in His will or He may allow the devil to do so. It is the sins of covetousness and selfishness that cause us to desire a thing whether it is in God's will or not. Many a soul has received what it wanted---to the great regret and sorrow of that soul.

Much that happens in our lives tries and tests us. To murmur and complain is to accuse God or find fault with Him. If He is God Almighty and I am His child, then why does He allow all these things to provoke me? It is really a simple answer that had we allowed Him to work more of the cross and self-denial in us, then all these provocations would have been cast upon Him and we would not have had to endure so much. A dead person can not complain! We are so alive in ourselves.

Christ is attempting to humble and subdue us by all the circumstances we find so annoying. The trying of our faith and lives produces endurance. Tribulations work steadfastness. Being humbled produces humility. Storms strengthen the character. Complaining and murmuring only add to our problems and drive us deeper into trouble in our spiritual walk. We must, though it appears hard during some seasons, accept our present lot in life. He will change it when He desires or when we have learned what we are to learn from it.

If we try to change our lot on our own without regard to the Lord's will, then He will have to arrange another furnace for us. This only prolongs our maturing and learning, and causes more needless suffering in which we reap the fleshly consequences of having caused delay. We may find ourselves very willful and stubborn at times in our reactions to God's dealings, but we will soon learn that He also can be willful in His determination to accomplish what He desires of us. There is no profitable winning in our fighting against God's methods, so let us submit and save ourselves needless wasted time.

When I awakened from this dream, I sat up in my bed in the middle of the night. I confessed my sins of murmuring and complaining to the Lord and asked for His grace to put them away. I was then able to return to sleep with peace of mind and soul. Circumstances did not change much, but I was better able to accept them without a bitter and resentful spirit.