

#68 THE DREAM.....

I see a small bird flying around in circles in a darkened room. This room appears to be a prison or a place from which the bird seeks release. As the bird flies about I notice that it is very black, but its appearance begins to change as it circles higher. The higher it flies the greater the change. Finally I see this black bird transformed into a pure, bright white bird! As the room begins to darken even more, the white bird finds a door and flies out and up to complete freedom.

In pondering this dream I began to see myself and my spiritual walk as that bird. I see the darkening room as our earthly life here in the present world system. The black bird symbolizes our spiritual life at its beginning before we are found of Christ and before we find Him. Sin, self, earthly is our spiritual state. That black bird moves upward as if drawn by some unseen force, and flies on to meet that force. Though not clearly seen, the bird's appearance begins to change. Something happens in the innermost being of that black bird that causes it to change as it flies higher and higher.

So we in our being drawn to God and in our yielding to that drawing are born anew in our spirit--our innermost being. Thus true salvation is imparted to us by God. The life of Christ is formed in our spirits by the very presence of the Holy Spirit. We have confessed and repented of our outward grosser and more obvious sins. We have seen our lost and hopeless spiritual state and exchanged that life for His, yet there is still much mud, dirt and mire present in us.

Sanctification begins in our being born anew. Infirmities, flesh and self will be further dealt with in our practical spiritual walk. The work of God, if spiritual, will always be from the inside out--from spirit to soul to body. The Spirit of Christ lives in union with our renewed spirits. From there He works in and with us.

We will have periods when we experience a definite work of grace being wrought. This is where we use such terms as being sanctified and being filled or baptized with the Holy Spirit. We may differ in our doctrinal understandings of such, but to experience their practical, vital outcomes is of utmost importance.

“Now the Lord is the Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror (glass) the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit” (II Corinthians 3:17-18).

So, too, as we have His Spirit in us and are looking up to Christ--the face of God---we will be changed from natural to supernatural, from earthly to spiritual. The bird's gradual change of color from black to brightest white symbolizes this transformation.

As that changed bird found a door that led from darkness to light, so we are taken from the earthly to the higher spiritual planes. One day we will finally enter into the everlasting light of heaven and God's presence. This present world system is dark and will get darker as the end times approach.

“For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the peoples; but Jehovah will arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee” (Isaiah 60:2).

Even now darkness has covered and blinded the world's systems and masses. Much of professing Christianity is dark, but Christ has and will have a remnant of true spiritual believers who will be and are

being changed. Let us keep moving up in our spiritual flight and allow God to transform us in this present life. Let us move up in practical, experiential Christianity, which is the only true way to the overcoming Christian life.