

#70 THE DREAM.....

I am playing a game of chess in which my opponent appears to be beating me. Each player starts with sixteen pieces or soldiers. The game's objective is to corner the chief man, the king, so he can not move and is thus "checkmated." My opponent has most of his playing pieces while I have only three left. To all outward appearances I have lost this game. Suddenly, to my great surprise, it seems in only two or three moves I checkmate his king and win the game. I tell my opponent, "You should have won this game."

Our spiritual battles often appear this way. We seem to be losing and not accomplishing anything. We begin to feel defeated and are ready to quit and give up. How often we must remind ourselves that our outward look and state is not always a good gauge of our spiritual progress. We must remember that our enemy will not only tempt us to give up inwardly, but may temporarily affect our outward circumstances as well. If our faith and trust is calculated by often changing outward appearances we will find ourselves on a real mood-swinging roller coaster ride.

Never mind if the enemy attacks. Did we expect differently? Satan and his host are often allowed directly or indirectly to test and challenge our spiritual walk and works. Outwardly Satan frequently seems to be winning when we look at our circumstances. Indeed, apart from the Spirit of Christ in us, we will be defeated by our spiritual enemies. Yes, he would have won over us, for human flesh is no match for this evil spiritual being. As Christians we would be deceived and led astray if not for the wisdom of God's Word and Spirit. Humans standing in their own strength and flesh are no match for these demonic beings, yet God delights to deliver His children out of seemingly impossible situations and sometimes seemingly at the last minute. This is to God's glory and honor, to our maturing in faith and trust, and to Satan's total anger and frustration.