

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

I see written a scriptural verse and chapter: "Romans 8:26."

Just before waking I hear these words from another scriptural verse spoken to me, "...He will beautify the meek with victory" (Psalm 149:4).

From our standpoint meekness is reliance on God's abilities. It is total dependency on the Lord, without whom we can do nothing of any spiritual value. Romans 8:26 reads:

"And in like manner the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity: for we know not how to pray as we ought; but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered..."

Christ is our great intercessor, yet He uses His body---the true believers---to be vessels through whom He intercedes. He does this in the Person of the Holy Spirit who is our helper with intercession in many ways. He has all facts and wisdom in all matters, and all righteous means to accomplish His desired ends. We must learn meekness in depending on God for spiritual graces, yet we must allow the Holy Spirit to work the meekness of Christ in us as a fruit of the Spirit.

The written Word of God gives us the principles, laws and insights of the general will of God concerning spiritual growth, works and ministries. Because we each are different and are called to different ministries and lots in life, we need precise and particular directions and instructions. In prayer each case is different also. God knows all the facts about the need or desire; He knows what He wishes in the matter and His plan for its conclusion. For example, sometimes we are to witness, and other times we are to pray for unbelievers that God would convict them of their sin and their need of a Savior. Though one soul may respond to God's goodness and kindness and come to repentance and faith in Christ, yet another soul may not. Some souls can only be brought to a state of conviction and dealing with God by severity or judgment coming into their lives. If we are meek before the Lord in prayer and truly interested in praying effectively for a certain situation, He will guide us with His mind in the matter.

To pray the most useful prayers, the intercessor must be free from allowing human sentimentality to interfere. It may be in certain cases that God knows only judgment and suffering will cause these souls to stand before Him forced to confront their sinful and willful ways. High-minded and proud unbelievers often have to be broken before they will listen to God.

Yes, my friends, it is easier to pray nice, pleasant things for people, but to ask for hard and rough measures is quite another. An intercessor must be free before the Lord to be the Lord's intercessor, not his own intercessor. As one moves more into intercession he begins to understand that much of his or her interceding is directed by God and less of his own choosing. Higher intercession becomes more the Lord's informing us how to pray and for whom, than our informing Him of our agenda.

I am convinced more than ever that any will or desire of the Lord which affects Christians or matters on this planet will be prayed through by the Holy Spirit in and through believers. By this I mean that Christ is the Head of His church and He uses His body for all spiritual works on earth. Even evangelism is done by preachers, evangelists and believers who are the body of Christ. God could send an angel to each person to proclaim the gospel, but He in His wisdom prefers to use the saints. Even---and it is possible---if an angel did preach to a soul, I believe that angel would have been sent by God because of a believer's intercession. It appears that in everything God does on earth concerning man, that man to some degree is used.

As believers we are placed in a position of being channels for the Holy Spirit. Contrary to some beliefs, the angels and saints in heaven do not pray concerning affairs on earth---they are witnessing our progress. Christ and the Holy Spirit are moving in and through the saints on earth to carry out their plans here. Thus we find such statements as “the harvest is white but the laborers are few.” All of mankind has enough spiritual light through nature alone to bring them to God. Paul tells us in Romans they are without excuse. We as yielded believers can put ourselves at God’s disposal to give Him useful vessels to reveal more of His grace and light to the world.

Now let us look at the proclamation of the gospel. Whether the gospel is preached or not, the wicked will be judged according to their consciences and the light they have had. They will die in their sins, but not because we have not preached the gospel to “the poor sinner lost and going to hell.” God never called them poor sinners destined for hell. They are called wicked and deserving of such.

Many evangelists and funding-raising ministers in their misguided zeal attempt to make us feel as if thousands of souls are going to outer darkness simply because they have never heard the gospel. The fact is that each soul will be judged according to the light they have received. If those souls had followed and not seared their consciences they would have been found of God---even if an angel from heaven had to be sent. Our preaching of the gospel gives much more grace and knowledge to the unbeliever, and is the best means that God has found. Men will go to hell because they are willful sinners against God.

Furthermore, it is a reproach to God for preachers to tell us that all these poor lost sinners are headed for hell because we will not give our money and send missionaries out. Poor God---He is wringing His hands for He is helpless to do more! My friends, God may have limited His working through the body of Christ here on earth, but if there is one sinner in the deepest, darkest place on earth that cries out for truth and to know the true Most High God, you can be sure our Lord will wake up ten intercessors in the middle of the night to intercede for that soul. Then you may see a believer sent from half-way round the world to preach the gospel to that person---God may even send an angel to proclaim the good news. We all have read of these types of cases, though they seem to be the rare exceptions.

A word about God beautifying the meek with victory---to beautify means to adorn or decorate. This is what God will do for meek souls. With what will He adorn them? Some translations use the word “salvation”, but more clearly understood in this context is the word “victory.” Thus God gives strength and victory to the believer that submits to His power rather than his own.