

## #80 THE DREAM.....

*I am fleeing as I run around this city block. I can not clearly see, but I hear what sounds like some large evil creature chasing me (though I never really see this beast with my eyes). After running several laps I finally come upon a hiding place. I enter a spacious room, and close and lock the large metal door behind me. In this room I find other people who must also be hiding.*

*I am standing against a wall with my heart pounding hard as I hear the noise of the approaching creature. The screaming, loud groans and fierce cries of this beast are so overwhelming. Suddenly the creature sounds as if it is just outside the room. I begin to hear the battering of its arms and body against the door. After a great while of pounding I can see the large shape of the creature being imprinted in the metal of the door. The entrance is slowly giving way and being twisted loose as the beast keeps throwing itself against it with loud banging of its arms. As the door is loosening I see light coming from underneath it and what appears to be a large, shadowy, claw-like foot indenting and lifting the bottom of the door. With my heart still pounding I seem to know that something must be done soon for this beast is almost upon us.*

*I slowly lift my right arm and hand and point it toward the battered door as if to exert an unseen force against it. At the moment I do this, a little child in the room quietly walks over to the entrance. With perfect composure he appears ready to open the door, and I am thinking (as my heart beats louder), "This child will be eaten alive!" The child opens it quickly and I and the others in the room look in amazement at the small object lying in the doorway. The object is a black box which looks like a tape-recorder with a loudspeaker. The roaring cries of the fearsome creature are coming from this box! The child looks down in his simplicity and picks up the recorder and throws it aside as a discarded toy. I watch the recorder tumble out the doorway as the child walks on out the door into the street.*

The creature in this dream is fear. It is never usually seen in the light but uses darkness to mount its attack. We are tempted most to fear that which we can not see or understand. Darkness is fear's great helper! Evil spirits love to make Christians think that they are bigger and more powerful than they are. They do it so well that they keep using the same lies. They favor darkness as it is the unknown and the unseen which works well for the spirits of fear, hopelessness and discouragement. Fear is a strong man that often holds many Christians in his grip. When we master fear many of our spiritual battles with the devil are already won.

Satan roars like a lion--his loud voice alone being able to put fear in many. As with the lion on the plains the roar can be heard from great distances. All the animals begin to fear and attempt to flee long before the large cat has arrived. The lion is somewhat like Satan in that he, the male lion, is a ruler. He has a pride and subordinates who serve his purposes. The male lion prefers to let the females do the hunting and then takes the prey from them when hungry. They all are subdued by his size and roar.

Satan also prefers to let his helpers do his hunting, and sends forth fear, hopelessness and discouragement. They do a fine work and Satan takes credit for it. Many Christians enter into defeat through his use of these servants. Only if these fail will he be forced at times---or his higher-ranking spirits---to come out in the open to do battle with us. Yet, my friends, the same weapons of our spiritual warfare will work against him as well as any spirit under him!

The creature of fear in the dream makes his roar louder than usual and attempts to mask himself with all sorts of deception and to cause us to see matters out of proportion. Fear may hold us in its grasp by convincing us to see lies and distortions---as I beheld the creature with the claw-like foot making indentations in the door. This creature in reality is only a loud noise in the hidden shadows trying to convince us otherwise. We must stop running and hiding from these lies and attacks and meet them face

to face. The metal door speaks of our natural strength used to resist the evil spirit's attacks. This is useless as they are spirits and must be dealt with in the spiritual realm. It does no good to flee or hide, for the evil spirit can search us out. We must stand against the attack, or wrestle with our enemy until we are standing and he has retreated.

In the dream, as I lifted up my right arm and hand toward the direction of that door with the creature behind it, I was aware of exerting an unseen force against it. The unseen force was faith and courage given to us to use against our spiritual enemies. Just a little faith, just a little resistance will begin to work. The Word of God used with faith will put our enemies to flight. Once that faith is used God calls more help to our side.

The child symbolizes the weak, trusting and unafraid Christian! Though weak and small he proceeded to engage in fearless warfare. The weak but trusting soul will be graced by God to defeat the enemy. Surely then the lame shall take the prey. Instead of our becoming bread for our devouring enemies, we shall defeat and make them our bread for greater victories.

The enemy may appear large and powerful if he convinces us by fear or belief in that fear. These lies will work against us if we allow them, but only if we refuse to stand against them in the name and power of Christ Jesus. Most of mankind is under the control and power of Satan, the god of this age, yet most people never know him as the devil and are blinded in their minds from truth.

Yes, Satan's lies and deceits are his main weapons that will defeat the majority of people of this age. However, we as Spirit-led Christians need not be tricked by him into believing his lies. The truth will set us free and it will keep us free if we persevere in that truth. No spirit can stand against the pure light of God's Word that is quickened by the Holy Spirit. Let us use truth, faith and courage in our spiritual battles and thereby gain our victories.