

#81 #82 THE DREAMS.....

These two dreams are similar in revelation so will be shared together.

First dream: I am walking through a deep dark forest, and find myself often stopping to rebuke spiritual enemies in the name of Jesus Christ.

Second dream: I am standing before a large fireplace, out of which roars a large, strange-looking fire. It is of a greenish-blue color and I discern an evil demonic presence in the flames. I approach this roaring flame unafraid and, while pointing to it, rebuke it in the name of Jesus Christ. This rebuking continues until I finally see this strange fire with the evil presence draw back into the inner parts of the fireplace and disappear.

These dreams both deal with rebuking our enemies and doing it steadfastly. Spirits do not give up easily and are persevering in their warring against us. We must act in the same manner toward them, and be consistent and not faint.

In the first dream the deep dark forest symbolizes the source of demonic attacks. They come from darkness and avoid light when possible. In our spiritual walk we must stop often to contend with these forces---they seek to block or stop our spiritual progress if possible. We must not only come against them with the whole armor of Christ (having put Christ on), but on occasion must speak against these spirits in rebuke using the name of Jesus. Demons recognize the power and authority of our Lord Jesus. They also recognize those who walk in the Spirit, and therefore they know God will back them in the use of His name. The true Christian who is not walking in the Spirit---and that includes practical obedience to the Lord---will find the name of Jesus of little use in his conflict against spirits.

The second dream not only deals with our steadfastly rebuking evil spirits, but concerns a certain type of spirit. The fire coming from the fireplace speaks to us of a strange or different fire. Its presence is evil as is its source. "Strange fire" is that fire which is different from the fire of the Lord. It is counterfeit fire or an "angel of light." As Christians we need to be able to discern strange fire and to rebuke, reprove and expose it---yet we must be grounded in the Word of God and walking in faith and obedience to do so.

We have many ministers who stand each week in pulpits across our nation proclaiming a gospel that is strange fire according to the teachings of the Bible. Usually the ministers themselves are deceived in what they are proclaiming and lead many astray with their teachings. When the blind lead the blind, both will fall. Angels of light from the pulpit often proclaim a mixed gospel. Many biblical truths will be taught but these will be taken out of context with the whole of Scripture. Herein we get so many strange, extreme doctrines. When truth is taken beyond its intrinsic nature it soon becomes a lie. A half truth is a lie and so is an adding to or subtracting from the truth.

Often these ministers give lip service to God and Christ, yet they deny Him by altering His words and principles. They will call Jesus Lord but they neither submit to Him as Lord nor do they proclaim what He teaches. They will preach of God's love and grace, yet they will not preach on His wrath and judgment against sin. They pick and choose what they like and leave out what they find offensive. Deceived false shepherds and teachers that compromise God's Word and truth for any reason both will find themselves in a terrible state when they stand before the Lord.

The hearers of these shepherds are deceived in that they are like their ministers in their desire to hear smooth and pleasant words that soothe their ears instead of that which enlightens the soul. Many faithfully come to church, tithe and do much service, yet their hearts are far from God. Their deception

is that they will serve and worship the Lord on their terms instead of His. Unless their souls submit to the righteousness of Christ and to His practical lordship all they do will count for nothing.

Deceived souls perform many good deeds to pacify their self-centered lifestyles hoping that one day their good may outweigh their bad and be pleasing to God. Because their heart is not bent on serving the Lord by His terms they are given over to lies and deceptions. They sit in the churches feeling content and fine as they measure themselves by one another and begin to think: "I am as good as they are. I give to the needy, I come faithfully to church and I pay my minister well."

They reveal their own wicked hearts in that they never really study the Bible with a desire to know the truth at any cost to themselves or to their own personal opinions about His Word. They think they must surely be all right since most people they know are in the same situation. Christ, however, tells us that the masses as a whole are deceived and on the broad way to hell. Few find the way that is narrow of which Christ speaks, the reason being most do not mean business with God and His Word--they do not seek and find nor do they desire to do so.

Now let me give you two main reasons why ministers become deceived and why their pew-warmers are deceived also. Number one: these people do not really want the truth in their hearts because it costs their self-life too much. Number two: they (including true believers) continue in willful known sin, refusing to confess and repent. This is a form of resisting the Spirit, and one day He will allow that soul to believe lies for truth has been rejected.

Even the Christian with a good sound knowledge of scriptural doctrine who plays with this sort of sin will one day be deceived. Sin or the "mystery of iniquity" is often of this type. Because the soul willfully rejects God's dealings and drawings it becomes hardened to that sin, or it must sear its conscience to do so. Let us desire the truth of God's Word no matter how much our human reasoning may not like its correction.

From a human standpoint I do not like the idea of an everlasting hell for anyone, yet if I am going to know the truth I must be ready to accept God's evaluation. Human reasoning does not fully understand God's nature and His holiness. We must have our minds renewed by the Spirit of God in order to have spiritual understanding in these matters. He desires to bring us to God's ways of thinking. Through the Holy Spirit the yielded soul will obtain the wisdom to see as God sees. We are to be partakers of God's nature. The fleshly soul or even the natural thinking, good moral person can not understand true spiritual concepts. Conform to God, do not try to conform Him to yourself.

"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7 KJV).

To lower God to a mere humanistic view is to alter truth and dishonor God. Even our feelings, human sentimentality and affections can not be the foundation of our understanding of God and His ways---only His Spirit and Word can be this foundation for us. Attempting to fit God into our mold is the basis of all false belief. God is not conforming to us and never will; we are to be conformed to Christ and thus will see as He sees.