

#83 THE DREAM.....

I see this word spelled out clearly: "unreserved."

This word basically means not to be constrained by a rigid standard or bound by a limit. When I awakened it seemed as if the Holy Spirit impressed my mind with these thoughts: "You must give me your all without any set conditions and must not hold back anything from Me if you would move deeper into Me." Often we Christians hold back much from the Lord when it comes to moving deeper and growing in the grace of our Lord Jesus. Here we are not talking about sin or rebellion but about becoming thirty, sixty or hundred-fold Christians in fruit and ministry.

We are afraid to fully trust Him---to put all our eggs in His basket! We know, if we have followed Him for awhile, that to move higher with Him into new spiritual planes will cost our flesh much. God will give all by His grace and mercy---He will give us more of Christ and His life in us. If we would have this deeper manifestation of Him, the flesh and natural man must pay the price of going to the cross. We think we are playing it safe by holding back some eggs for ourselves. If not in this life, however, then in the heavenly one we will look back and see that those eggs we refused to put in His basket have become rotten!

Many times in our spiritual walk we will come upon more eggs---things that are neither good nor evil in themselves. The Lord will always desire to sanctify these things so they are useful to Him and cause blessing for us. What we hold to and keep for ourselves will never produce any real spiritual blessings for our own life. Each time we face these new areas that God desires from us, we face another dying to self, but what is given to God in sacrifice by spiritual obedience is blessed by Him.

The Lord sowed the same seed of His Word to all, yet some brought forth thirty-fold, some sixty-fold and some a hundred-fold. It was not the seed that so much determined the amount of harvest, but the soil. We are His soil! The more we submit and give ourselves to the Word of God in practical faith and yieldingness the more fruit the Holy Spirit will be able to produce in us and our ministries.

Each new level in the Lord requires another cross and another graceful helping of the Lord. We find that our spirits are often willing yet our flesh fights and resists this death. Even our natural man can not seem to bring itself to the fact that it must give up its life to find His life. We seem to go up to the place of death, yet as the Lord stands there ready to cut and kill that thing, we desire to bargain first. We tell Him it is not really a big thing nor is it sinful, yet we know it must be put to death and released before He can produce life and good from it.

Many a Christian is called by the Lord to die---even to their ministries. Why? Because we easily take His gifts and graces as being our own and desire control of them. We forget that He is Lord over all and must always be Lord over all our life and ministries. This is why so much ministry is mixed with flesh and good intentions. Nevertheless, if not empowered and blessed by His Spirit, it can not produce spiritual results.

The manna fed to the children of Israel daily, if held beyond the appointed time, would breed worms. So any ministry or gift that God gives, if mixed with our flesh and our independence, will breed fleshly results for us if not for those to whom we are ministering. We are not our own, and all we are and have are not ours either! We are mere vessels and stewards of God. To become independent of God in any way is to rob Him of His glory and honor, and to reject light and court darkness.

Remember that Lucifer as the lightbearer was a channel of God's wonderful light. When he sought to keep this light and be the Light himself God removed Himself from Lucifer and he became the prince of darkness. Always allow God control, and then spiritual good and God's blessing will come on us and our ministries.