

#84 THE DREAM.....

I see a large dead snake floating at the top of a fish aquarium filled with water. Its fangs are sticking out and are covered with blood. Someone comes up and begins to put his hands in the tank with the dead snake. I speak to this person, "It can kill even though it is dead."

I did not think too much on this dream---perhaps I'd had too much pizza before going to bed! Yet the dream kept coming back to my mind, and so in prayer and meditation I asked for its meaning. This soon brought thoughts that reminded me of several matters. The snake symbolizes sin and its father, the devil, both legally judged at the cross of Christ's death. However, Satan and the flesh can still have power over us if we refuse to walk in that new life. Faith in the cross and the power of Christ must produce experiential results in our lives. When we refuse to walk in faith and obedience to Christ, that old man---the carnal side---will rise up to gain power over us. We are often told to put off the old man and put on the new who is made after Christ. Satan and sin can only have power over us as we consent to them and refuse to walk in the Spirit.

No one can pull us from our place of victory in Christ! Nevertheless, we can walk away from that victory and power by moving back into a worldly, carnal and fleshly lifestyle. The dead snake could not bite of its own power yet if one were to grab it by the fangs, they could still produce enough poison to kill. God will never remove our free choice in spiritual matters as this would not make us free, decision-making humans. You never need worry about Christ letting go of you---you had better be concerned with your walking away from Him by willful choice!

Continued rebellion and willful sin against God without true repentance will cause one to become captive to Satan and sin. To whom one yields becomes one's master---whether Christ and life, or sin and death. God will not save a soul against its will, neither will He keep one that desires to walk away and live in sin and death again. There is much teaching today that speaks of a gospel of greasy grace and a license to sin---hoping for a kind of fire insurance! This is a false gospel that will deceive and cause many to enter hell.

Salvation is not just a gift, it is the Person of Jesus Christ living in us. By their fruit we shall know true Christians, not by their profession. True security is in a Person and in a relationship with that Person! Faith and works, grace and fruit, profession and lifestyle will reveal who is really of God. Our daily living by faith and submitting to Christ is our real assurance of true security. I will say it again---though it will offend some---if we live in sin and do not follow Christ as Lord in our practical daily living, we either never knew Him in real salvation or we have lost it.

Christians not only can break fellowship with God but can lose their relationship by making shipwreck of their faith. They have crucified Christ afresh and are twice dead (Hebrews 6:6 and Jude 12). Satan and angels of light offer a false security to willful, sinning souls who have only a profession of Christianity and of being born again. Let us not allow the grace of God to be bestowed on us in vain.

“Know ye not, that to whom ye present yourselves as servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Romans 6:16).

“For godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation, a repentance which bringeth no regret: but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (II Corinthians 7:10).

Worldly sorrow produces only remorse or feelings of guilt. Many experience this type of sorrow yet do not repent of their sins---thus their confessions are dead and produce nothing. Yes, we can go out and look at an apple tree, yet if it never produces apples---like the fig tree in the Bible---we know its end!