

#87 #88 THE DREAMS.....

First dream: I am sitting at a table writing down statements that I know are important to remember. Then it appears I am forgetting to remember that which I have just written. I say aloud to myself, "I can not remember what I just wrote---Satan has taken it from me!"

Then I awake and go back to sleep and dream again.

Second dream: I am running up a steep mountain, but find it easier than I had thought. I see the word "steadfast" printed in front of me.

The first dream deals with a problem we all find too often---our common infirmity of forgetting quickly our spiritual lessons. We need matters written down that we can ponder and muse over frequently. Moses, the prophets and the apostles wrote down what they heard and saw so that we can have their words to read, study and pray over. The human brain and mind can store much but can not remember many things on instant recall. Therefore we study and pray that these thoughts will become a part of our thinking patterns so we can draw on what we have acquired. Even the Holy Spirit will bring to remembrance that which we have learned. Unless we walk in the Spirit our natural minds and spiritual enemies seem to find it easy to cause us to forget truth and spiritual lessons. God would have us use our renewed minds---cleansed and empowered by His Spirit---to study, learn and retain His truths and words.

On the other hand Satan, the world and the flesh would rob and take away truth from our mind that is not rooted and grounded.

"When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the evil one, and snatcheth away that which hath been sown in his heart" (Matthew 13:19).

It appears from the same chapter of Matthew that most seeds of truth sown in the human mind are not properly received and understood. You see, my friends, it is not understood for it lies on the surface of the mind and is not taken seriously into our lives. Satan, the world's system of thinking and our fleshly reasoning seem to do their utmost to keep seeds of truth from being received and acted upon in the heart (spirit). Not only does Satan attempt to prevent the Word from being received, he also blinds the mind to the Word by many methods.

"And even if our gospel is veiled (hidden), it is veiled in them that (are perishing) perish: in whom the god (Satan) of this world hath blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn upon them" (II Corinthians 4:3-4).

Even believers who have received much of this truth will be robbed if they allow the enemy to do so. The written words of God as given by Moses were commanded to be read day and night---no less required of us under the law of Christ to often read the whole Bible. We must draw constantly from His Word until by faith and submission to His will and Word that Word becomes a life changing factor. Thus our minds are renewed and we begin to think and act according to God's truth. The apostle Peter speaks to us of remembrance in II Peter 1:12-15:

"Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, so ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet...to stir you up by putting you in remembrance...to have these things always in remembrance..." (KJV).

We do not eat one meal of bread and meat and then never eat bread or meat again. We do not say to someone, "I once ate a steak and potato dinner and loved it, but I will never eat steak and potatoes again because I know what they taste like." How absurd, we often eat again that which we find tasty and good for us. So with the Word of God---we eat it over and over again. The Word of God becomes a part of our very spiritual being as food becomes part of our living cells. Yes, our renewed minds will take those truths and make them (by the Holy Spirit) part of us. My friends, if we find more time for books, magazines and television, and yet can and will not find or make time for God's Word, we will surely remain stunted in our spiritual growth! If we do not make the study of God's Word and prayer our top priority, we will be robbed of much.

I dare say if the average professing born-again, Spirit-filled Christian spent even an hour a day in the serious reading and study of God's Word---with the intention of submitting to its teachings---that Christian would never be taken in by television, radio and pulpit charlatans. We must not only study the Word of God but apply it to our lives to bear fruit. If we do not find time for God's Word and yet find much time for self-entertainments and pleasures, then we had better heed the apostles' advice: to examine ourselves to see whether we are in the true faith. God and His Word must be our foundation above all other concerns.

Now the second dream of running up the mountain speaks to us of steadfastness. If we persevere and are determined, our spiritual walking and running become easier as we are faithful. Like physical exercise, it may seem hard and painful at first, but we soon learn it is easier to maintain as we persist in our discipline. Once the mind is set and moving in the right direction it is hard to stop.

All our victories and defeats are won or lost in the mind---the seat of the will where choices are made. Choices usually follow this course. First, temptation enters the mind as a thought or an idea. Second, that thought, if pondered and allowed to stay, will produce an outward action. Third, a habit is formed as we practice that action. Fourth, the habit becomes part of a lifestyle which reveals our character to others and ourselves. Lastly, that lifestyle is the fruit of that first thought and may well determine our destiny.

Good thoughts also follow this same general line. By submitting to them and letting the truth and Word of God take root we will allow them to grow and produce good fruit. Truly whatsoever we sow we shall one day reap! It is a true spiritual law that will work for our good or for our evil. We will often read in Scripture these words: "continue", "walk", "abide", "persevere" and many similar commands that signify a lifestyle and not a one-time act or profession. So much Scripture frequently repeats the same ideas and commands. We must read and reread and take in the truth until it becomes part of our practical living. Then we can truly say that God's Word will not return void but will perform its intended end. It is the grafted Word that brings forth fruit unto God.