

#90 THE DREAM AND A SPOKEN WORD.....

While sleeping I hear a voice speak to me and say, "Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning."

Then someone opens a Bible in front of me and I am reading this portion of Scripture:

"I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD..." (Isaiah 45:2-3 KJV).

This dream and those words of encouragement lifted me up from my weariness and caused renewed faith and hope to rise in my spirit. Yet a moment before I awakened from this dream I had felt a strong attack in my spirit from the devil. This, however, also encouraged me---Satan often gives his hand away by attacking at the wrong time. My attitude toward this attack was one of faith. God had encouraged, and Satan had attempted to disrupt. Satan overplayed his hand at which I rejoiced. At the darkest hours the enemy attempts to cause defeat for he can sometimes see the light coming for us. We must hold on in faith and hope, knowing the darkness does not last forever.

Weeping may endure for the night (Psalm 30:5). Yes, we all will have days or weeks or months when things appear very dark. Our prayers seem to hit bronze heavens and iron doors. This is the hour of discovery! We learn then what type of faith and hope we really possess. This is the hour when feelings, chills and lovely experiences leave us and we are faced with naked faith and hope in God's word alone. This is the fight of faith. God leads us into darkness. Unseen and unfelt, God almost appears dead, but He is there!

Job understood these experiences and yet could say, "Though He slay me, yet I will trust (or wait for) Him." Our Lord knew the dark hour yet He drank the bitter cup that the Father had given Him. Therefore Christ can and does understand our dark hours and will comfort and see us through them. We may feel hopelessness as if we have been forsaken, but the trial of our faith must go beyond feelings and emotions to simple trust. This trying is meant to perfect our faith, not destroy it.

The second portion of Scripture given in the dream tells us that God goes before us. Our Lord has experienced all human levels and therefore is our perfect shepherd. He sees the light and dark as one. What appears as crooked and twisted He can and will make straight. Bronze and iron speak of bondage and hardness which He will break for us as we walk in simple faith and obedience. Oh, our enemy and our lot may seem to build walls and iron doors which we find impossible to move, but faith tested and proved to be real will act as a laser beam. That beam will cut and burn through metal walls and doors---they will melt before us.

When those walls and doors are destroyed and opened we will find great treasures of darkness. At some periods of time we must go down into darkness to find the most valuable and priceless gems. We not only find great spoil in maturing and growing in the Lord, but we also find ourselves being made into hidden gems. We are jewels to the Lord, each of us being fashioned into a beautiful object to fill His temple forever. In our darkest hours He is refining and making us purer vessels for His use. His fire will act like that laser and will burn that in us which is fleshly, natural or selfish. Gold, silver and precious jewels will only be purified more by that great light and heat.

Let us ask for grace to go deeper into those dark mines where much treasure is discovered and produced. Let us have courage to go deeper and not stay on the surface finding only semi-precious

stones. Some of our gold crowns that one day we will receive are being made now in our earthly walk. Once we cross over, that joyful everlasting day will appear and all our conflicts will cease.