

## #97 A SPOKEN WORD.....

*These are the words I hear as I sleep, "Much prayer! Much waiting on God! Much, much intercession!"*

We know what the word much means. It simply means great in degree or quantity. The apostle Paul tells us we are to be given to prayer---it must have a greater place in our daily lives. We are all, if we are born again, part of the body of Christ with differing ministries and gifts. When we advance from drinking milk to eating meat we will understand more clearly our own callings and duties to the Lord. No matter what our place or calling in the body of Christ (the spiritual church) we must all learn about prayer. Prayer is communicating with God. It is talking, listening and learning!

The words prayer, waiting and intercession were given to me to stress their importance in my life. Since my calling deals more with the ministry of an intercessor, much more praying, waiting and intercession are required than for the normal Christian. Nevertheless, all Christians need to learn about prayer and listening to the Lord in order to fulfill their own particular ministries and callings. Reading and studying God's Word is of utmost importance to us, for the Word is the foundation on which all spiritual truths are built.

In the epistles, which deal much with the spiritual man or woman, Scriptures that encourage us to pray and be given to prayer far outnumber the verses on the study of the Word. God has not changed His methods and call to prayer to suit the American church. We live in a fast moving, rushed system, yet if we Christians do not make time and give prayer and study of God's Word top priority we will not grow to spiritual maturity. Many will say that their jobs, families and other responsibilities require too much time, and there is none left over. My friends, if you are bought with a price (the blood of Christ) you are not your own---you had better make time to place God first.

Let me say here, we often bring sickness and tragedy upon ourselves as we stray from putting God first in our lives and duties. The Lord permits affliction to bring us to the place where we do have time to seek Him. Much sickness and sorrow are simply reappings of a lifestyle of mental and bodily abuse, and others are sent by Satan (which we should reject and not receive). And yes, though most will not like it, some may be the result of some gross sin allowed in the believer's life. The apostle Paul implied saints became sick and died for not honoring the Lord's Supper in a proper way. Paul even turned others over to Satan to be struck with sickness for their sin.

The fact is if we were given to prayer and the Word of God, we would be able to discern these events, and at least come to peace of mind with God over our own particular case. Instead we have so many running hither and thither from meeting to meeting---claiming, naming and demanding health. If we obtained wisdom and the will of God for ourselves then we would know what to do in our situation. We need to hear from God personally to be able to accept our lot and deal with it properly, or know whether God wants our lot changed. Then we could seek for wisdom and faith to do so.

Now prayer is usually to be done much, and much in private. I have been to many a prayer meeting where some individuals pray so beautifully---you would think angels were praying! Then the wife or husband will say, "Boy, they never pray at home, just sit in front of the boob-tube all day." Yes, a person who prays much in public but not in private is a soul whose prayer is heard by people but not by God. Usually the ones who publicly pray the loudest and speak in tongues the longest are as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. Those who have the gift of tongues should be exercising it more privately, not only publicly.

Prayer and waiting on God requires time, much time. Waiting is just that. We can pray without always chattering every second. We can talk with the Lord, and then sit quietly pondering, meditating

and listening---He may have something for us. Praying and waiting often encounter warfare, so we must deal with the enemy in prayer when necessary. God speaks through his Word by His Spirit into our spirits. If our minds are not being renewed and conformed to His Word and ways we will not understand when He speaks to us.

In conclusion, remember that it matters not our station or calling in the body of Christ. If God's Word and prayer is not our foundation, all else will usually amount to wood, hay and stubble as far as our own spiritual profit.