

#119 THE DREAM.....

I see ladders extending from the ground to the sky. I am climbing one of these and notice another person climbing also. This person, who is almost level with me in elevation, begins to struggle as the steps of the ladder start to break loose. The person hangs on for awhile, then falls from a great height to the distant ground below. In panic and fear, I grab my ladder tightly, afraid of falling also. I soon regain my composure and continue climbing the ladder.

In our spiritual walk we move from one degree to another in advancement. In a sense we are climbing ever upward toward higher heavenly levels. This dream speaks to me of the fact that some will fall from their spiritual state to find themselves in defeat and failure. Each of us has a road, a hill or a ladder to climb. On this path are many pitfalls and dangers of which we must be aware. The way is narrow and rough at times, but with the Lord's guidance and help we are able to stay on the right path.

Many start out well on this journey but after awhile begin to fall away and are sidelined. Yes, I have known some of this type---real Christians (I believe)---who bear fruit and go deep with the Lord, but somewhere along the path are distracted and lured away. The apostle Paul tells us to take heed when we think we stand lest we fall. We must be ever watchful to stay close to the Lord and allow Him to lead us safely to port. It is not the beginners but the finishers of the pilgrimage who are called overcomers. We must always remember that as long as we are in human flesh that we are Christ's soldiers engaged in a spiritual war. No one climbs so high in heavenly places that he or she is beyond defeat and failure. Actually the higher one climbs in spiritual heights, the further his possible fall. Some fall to be recovered later; some fall and never recover from defeat.

Many a time God has given me this warning which I take seriously, "Better than you have fallen!" Better, yes, and I see those who are---better in yieldingness, better in knowledge of God's Bible, more perfect in love and kindness and service and works. If the wisest of men, Solomon, fell away from God in his latter years, who do we think we are? His wisdom and knowledge were not his problem. His problems were similar to ours at times. He had knowledge but did not heed or obey the knowledge he possessed. Remember, it is not the hearers of truth but the doers of truth that are fruitful and faithful.

God is very gracious and forgiving of those who fall into sin. When sin is confessed and forsaken, the Lord will restore and lead us onward. However, God can not and will not put sin aside if it has not been dealt with according to His Word. That once wise Solomon wrote these good words---we would do well to heed them:

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper (succeed): but whoso
confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy"
(Proverbs 28:13 KJV).

Yet this same Solomon continues to rebel against God in serving idols set up by his heathen wives. He is left in rebellion to the end of his days. I know some like to take a few of Solomon's statements to explain that he finally recovered. No, my friends, Solomon's wisdom remained with him to the end, yet no Scripture refers to his repentance in old age. Furthermore, he is fighting the one whom (because of his rebellion) God has chosen to take over ten of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Sin deceives all who court it. It is part of the mystery of iniquity. Sin practiced and permitted to thrive will pervert the mind's understanding of spiritual matters. It causes some to believe lies and be damned. When men refuse to submit to truth, they open themselves to lying spirits and teachings of devils. We must love the truth and allow it to reprove and instruct us into paths of righteousness. Christ

said that many will not come to the light to be reproved. We who are His should delight in His light and the light of His words, for it will cleanse and change us. We should be like moths, drawn to the light and fluttering in its presence. Let us not be like roaches who run from the light and flee to darkness!