

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

I am talking with a friend on the telephone and desire him to visit me. He states he wants to come, but then begins to give many reasons and excuses as to why he may not. I finish talking with him, hang up the phone and walk away. I ponder to myself how good it would be to have the fellowship, but become discouraged at the unlikeliness of his visit. A voice speaks to me and says, "Why don't you make God your close friend?" My heart somewhat convicts me, for after this word is spoken to me, my thoughts are these: "God's close friendship may be too exacting or costly---God will want the friendship on His terms---will He really be a close friend to me?"

The next day I receive a letter in the mail to call this friend of whom I have just dreamed. I call and, to the word, he repeats our phone conversation from the dream. Thus I knew my dream was prophetic, and walked away from the phone discouraged. I did not ponder the rest of the dream till several hours later, but knew there was a message for me. My heart had revealed my inner thoughts about a close friendship with God. When the question "Why don't you make God your close friend?" was asked, I knew the reason. So did God! God will often ask us questions (to which He very well knows the answers) to indirectly cause us to think and question ourselves.

Yes, God will deal directly when needed, and he will deal indirectly also. Now look at Adam and Eve after their fall. God's first question was, "Where are you?" God knew where they were---not only locally, but spiritually. He was giving them time to acknowledge their sin. If the Lord asks you a question you can be sure He knows the answer, but is desiring a response from you.

God called Abraham and Noah His friends. They were friends in a special way. All of us as children of God (if we are born again) through Christ are God's friends at some level. We are also His children and servants. Many of whom we call friends are no more than acquaintances. The term "friend" does not take on the closeness that it did so long ago. With close friends we can share our innermost feelings, desires, joys and sorrows. We know they are interested in us and can be trusted, and we are at ease with them. Because we know and are familiar with this type of friend, on occasion we can assume and impose on our friendship. We have the privilege of calling on them when needed without fear of rejection. Sad, but true, many live and die and never have such a good friend.

King David had such a friend in Jonathan. David in mourning over his friend's death states:

"I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women"
(II Samuel 1:26 KJV).

Their love was a deep friendship. David had a few wives at this time but we are not told if he had friendship with them. It is grievous that many married couples have not learned to become friends. Romantic love is no guarantee of friendship. Solomon makes an interesting statement:

"...Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found"
(Ecclesiastes 7:28 KJV).

Not surprising, Solomon seems to have sought only romantic and sexual love, yet none of his several hundred wives appears to have been a friend to him. He makes the statement that among men it is quite

rare also. His statement covers faithfulness which is a good descriptive word for a friend. He seems not to have been able to trust many---what a sad state.

Indeed, God desires us to become close friends with Him. Yes, at times it will be costly. The apostles (especially Paul) knew what it meant to pay a price for the intimacy they shared with the Lord, yet none appears to have complained. They found that intimacy to be well worth any cost on their part. Let us fervently desire and put forth every effort to allow God to become our closest Friend.