

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

I appear to be high up on a mountain top. I am tired and lie down in my weariness. I am lying on my side about to fall asleep when a cardinal flies over and lands on my fingers. This cardinal is small and bright red and very active in his desire to get my attention. He flies in and out between my fingers. I grab this bird but let it go. I feel the flutterings of his wings and the nibblings of his beak on my fingers as he keeps returning to get my attention. Each time I appear ready to fall asleep, he again begins his fluttering and nibbling. Then, at the moment I am awaking, I hear this word, "staggered not in unbelief."

The mountain speaks of the lofty levels of faith we are to acquire in Christ. My lying down to sleep in weariness speaks of the temptation to fall asleep and cease watching with faith. The cardinal symbolizes God's keeping His words or promises to us. My grabbing the bird signifies our need not to sleep, but to hold to and not let go of the promises God has given us. The bird's constant returning and nibbling my fingers reveals God's words and promises are alive, and desire to draw and keep our attention. They are to keep us from falling asleep and giving up in our faith and expectancy. God is ever ready to stir and prick us with His words of faith and hope. We can be certain that God will do His part (and more) to insure we will obtain the promises.

The phrase "staggered not in unbelief" referred me to this Scripture:

"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded, that what he had promised, he was able also to perform" (Romans 4:20-21 KJV).

When we receive God's promises and good words on a matter we then begin our climb of faith. By faith with patience, hope, waiting and watchfulness we will come to the top or end of all we are able to do. We reach this stage by God's grace and Spirit united to our yieldingness.

As long as we are active and moving we feel that something is being done in the spiritual realm, but this is not always the case. Surely we must do all that we are given to do in trusting and obeying the Lord and in keeping the conditions of the promises. However, there will come a time when we have done all we can and we must then wait on God for deliverance. To do more is simply to move in mere human labor which will add nothing to spiritual concerns. This period is the most difficult time in faith's battles---to simply stand still and wait. Now time will test our faith to its utmost, even to the breaking point. We need not break or grow weary---we need grace to await God's timings.

This is the hour when Satan will come to attack with all types of lies and words. His goal is to cause us to weaken and give up in despair, and miss God's best. He attacks us with spiritual laziness and would lull us to sleep. This is not the time for slumber but the time to watch and wait with expectancy. We must hold and grasp the promises if we can hold to nothing else. We are to grasp tightly and not let go. If we have small failures and naps, God will be gracious to stir us with His word and promises if we permit Him. God desires us to grab and hold firmly to Him and faith in this time of seemingly endless nothingness. We are to throw out our anchors of hope, let the storm rock our ships of faith, and hang on until it passes.

Yes, in some matters it may take years to bring to ripeness the fruit of those promises. We may have failures and falls but we must rise up and not retreat. Surely we will be very disappointed if we think we can simply turn around and go back down that mountain believing that God will always snatch

us by the collar and drag us back up to victory. No, indeed! Though it will grieve God for us to miss out on what He desires to give, He will allow us to be defeated if we cease our fight of faith.

We must resist self-pity and willful refusal to regain lost ground, or we shall forego many good blessings. This is indeed a sad state of affairs if we abort now and miss what has cost us so much time and warfare. Even to start again after much wasted time in defeat is grievous for we will have suffered a lot of needless loss. We may forfeit altogether the intended promise, if God has set a definite time and place for it.

Let us, however, arise with faith and be willing to wait with and for the Lord. He then can bring about what we both desire. Let us be strong in faith and glorify God by allowing Him to do as He pleases in us.