

## #127 THE DREAM.....

*In my dream I see a young cardinal which appears sick and weakly. I approach this bird and feed it well until it begins a transformation. As I watch, this cardinal changes into a beautiful butterfly. It seems I am standing in a large place that has many rooms. I sense that I am to help guide this butterfly from room to room. I do this by going ahead and switching on lights in each room as the butterfly enters and turning them off as it leaves. The light draws and guides the butterfly through these rooms.*

We allow at times the promises and words of God to become weak and sickly by our discouragement and unbelief. The words are not strong to us and we do not put a premium value on them. We must then feed these given promises and words by taking courage in Christ and reminding ourselves that His promises and words to us are true and sure. We must reread, meditate and ponder repeatedly His words and promises to us until they are again renewed and made alive in us.

The words of God being fed by these methods will, like the cardinal, take on new life and outlook. Butterflies speak of resurrection and transformation. The promises and words of God will one day take on new life and transformation that is the reality of that for which we have hoped. These promises will one day become real in our experience and we will hold them as such.

The rooms symbolize different levels of our walk and ministry through which we must pass. Guiding the butterfly by going ahead and lighting each room speaks of God's guidance of our realized promise by His light, which is His Word and the lordship of Jesus Christ. Once the promise has become reality in our lives, we are responsible and held accountable to Christ in how we use His gifts. We must be faithful stewards in these matters.

All good and perfect gifts are from our Father above and, though they are given to us, we are still accountable as to how we use or misuse them. God does not give any gift to be used selfishly or for mere self-gratification. We may use and enjoy them within the bounds of Christian love and duty. It is a great danger and mistake to ever assume that any blessing given by the Lord (whether spiritual or natural) can be used simply as we please. This is totally contrary to the life of self-denial and submission to the practical lordship of Christ.

All we have or are and all we ever will have or be is always under the lordship and ownership of Jesus Christ. This attitude of true practical lordship will keep us in a state dependent on and in Christ, and will cause us to hold very lightly to all things before God. He is to be in full and complete control! Any desire or hope of keeping anything solely for ourselves will reveal only a covetous and self-seeking attitude. Let us therefore take care, and always submit all God's blessings and gifts to the light of His Word and the guidance of His Holy Spirit.