

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

*I find myself sitting on a grassy embankment that slopes steeply down to a body of water. I am gazing out over this water searching for something when a person walks over and sits down next to me. I am in a somewhat melancholic mood. I perceive that this person is of angelic origin. He is dressed in ordinary pants and shirt such as I would wear. Without looking directly into his face I quickly glance at him to acknowledge his presence. I then return my gaze to the waters and observe them to be very calm without so much as a ripple. The angel speaks this one word, "flow." The calm surface of the water now appears to be flowing very smoothly. I am aware that the angel knows of my sad, moody attitude, yet does not desire to directly confront me about it. He now speaks these words to me in a very soft and gentle voice, "This is a rough life. God can make it smooth for you."*

*I am still watching the waters when I notice out in their midst a flag attached to a pole. As I ponder and look at this flag I am made aware that it is a banner with great detail of color and design. There are four large bands of white running horizontally (I sense that the number four is important) divided by three thin blue stripes. On the second white band is an ensign of two small cardinals resting on a green leaf-covered branch, and on the third an imprint of a single large cardinal. While observing the details of this banner, I notice that the tide is rising slowly and smoothly and that the flag begins to spread out evenly over the surface of the rising waters---so smoothly it appears to be melting on the surface. When the third white stripe with the large cardinal imprint touches the surface, I perceive before fully waking that the colors of the seven stripes are the same as those of the state flag of Israel (white and blue).*

Before giving the meaning of this dream I will reveal my spiritual and mental condition to which this dream was a response. I was somewhat discontented with my present lot, and life seemed rough and hard. I understood it was the Lord's plan for me, yet I was not counting it all joy to be passing through fiery trials. My joy would come when they ceased! I was not pleased, either, when I learned that my lot would not be changed as I had certain lessons to learn.

My sitting and gazing out over the waters speaks of looking or waiting for something, yet looking in a wearied or unhappy state. The angel is not only a messenger, but one sent from an unexpected direction. I was searching the waters for an answer, yet it came from a presence beside me. We must look to God as our source and let Him determine the method of choice. My not gazing at the angel's face is a sign that we are to keep our eyes upon God and not be side-tracked by the methods God may use to answer our prayers. I was aware that the angel did not seek to distract my focus as I observed the waters. His not wearing white robes but ordinary attire reveals that the messenger was to communicate, yet not draw attention away from the ongoing event.

It also reveals that God can send messengers that appear ordinary, and answer prayers in down-to-earth ways. God may send an angel or messenger to reveal certain matters to us at different levels or stages of our walk. We must not elevate any method He uses beyond its place or He may change that method. We are not told in Scripture to seek for dreams, visions, prophetic words, angels or any particular method or revelation in answer to prayer. He is God and Lord; let Him be that in all things.

Those who are always looking for out-of-the-ordinary or supernatural experiences rarely find them. On the other hand, those who never expect such will usually not find them either. To limit the Holy Spirit in His methods is only to limit ourselves and further blessings. Some souls have much head knowledge of God's Word yet do not appear to have a living, personal, practical walk with the Lord. We should not be afraid of the supernatural, but should prove its source and take that which is good and ditch the rest!

The letter of the word, without some experience of the moving of the Holy Spirit, can be a dead, lifeless walk. One is not spiritual simply because he can quote the Bible well and possesses a fine mental grasp of its contents. Remember, even demons know the Bible and know it well. We need the foundation of God's written Word to be able to judge all spiritual concerns, yet we need the Holy Spirit to rightly reveal and unfold the Bible as not mere head knowledge but also living vital experiences.

It is not safe, either, to be always seeking thrills and wonderful and supernatural experiences. We do not live by these; we live by the Word of God and its principles. Those of this type are often led astray by false visions and revelations, for they place feelings and thrills above truth. Again, let God give to us as and when He pleases; then we can enjoy all things proven to be from Him.

In this dream the angel first spoke the word "flow" to draw my attention to the rising and smooth, flowing waters. Then he spoke, "This life is rough. God can make it smooth for you." Our spiritual walk is not always a state of happy, easy and undisturbed tranquility. We have blessings of joy and we have trials of sorrow (I want to clarify here that happiness depends on outward circumstances while joy is a fruit of the Spirit, which can also dwell with sorrow). The apostle Paul spoke of periods in which he even despaired of life for he was under such warfare and attack from the devil, yet God does give grace and joy in our sorrow though we may not be happy in our circumstances. He graces us that we can endure affliction and hard times.

I was comforted by the angel's relevant message for me. Life was rough at that time. I was glad he did not say, "Be happy, it's not so bad!" God does know where we dwell bodily and spiritually and is well able to help in times of need. Christ knew of sorrow and affliction and therefore is a gracious High Priest able to help and have compassion for us. How wonderful to know that God will change matters when the time is right, and is able to make the rough ways smooth. Ponder the following verse:

"Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways shall be made smooth..." (Luke 3:5 KJV).

Yes, He will remove that grating grain of sand from your spiritual nerves, either by complete removal or by simply deciding to make a beautiful pearl instead. If He does not take us out of the furnace of fire, then He will surely be with us in the flames. If we must drink a bitter cup, we can be sure that He will cause some sweetness to come from it in the end.

Now the banner-flag in the dream symbolizes a standard to be carried into battle. Banners and flags were and are used in most earthly conflicts among peoples and nations. Christ is our banner to which all other banners must submit. As believers we may have banners to describe our ministry, position and rank in His army, or we may carry particular banners to remind us of certain lessons (such as a banner of faith or banner of love). The banner I beheld in my dream was to accompany me into spiritual battle.

The banner's colors of white and blue are the same as those of the Jewish prayer-shawl (the origin of the colors chosen for the flag of Israel). White speaks of grace and faith which we obtain and hold as Christ imparts them to us. Thus I knew prayer, grace and faith were to be part of the banner I would carry into conflict. The white stripes, being four in number, signify that which is of the earth---four in the Bible often speaks of earthly concerns. Thus we need grace and faith here below to carry on our spiritual walk and warfare. When we cross over into heaven we will need no battle-banners, for all will be peace. The three blue stripes also symbolize grace from heaven, and joined with the four white

stripes make a total of seven. In Scripture seven speaks of perfection and completion. Thus the Lord gives us perfect and complete provision to wage war here on earth and emerge victorious.

The ensign of the two small cardinals refers to God's keeping His words and promises in our day-to-day spiritual walk. He will give us our daily bread---His grace is sufficient. The small size of the birds confirm that nothing is too small for His concern and care. The emblem of the larger cardinal reveals that He will provide and keep His word to us in promises that are large or important---ministries, callings and promises that are of vital and major concern to ourselves and others. Some requests may have been prayed and believed for over a span of years and may appear impossible now. These are no harder for God to answer than His meeting our daily needs.

The rising tide, flowing so smoothly, and the banner-flag spreading out on its surface symbolize that promises carried in faith and by His grace, though roughly tried, will one day become reality and bring forth smoothness. Faith is a battle and a trying one at times, yet it will surely bring forth the desired end.

Let us march forth with the banner of Christ and all other lesser banners provided, knowing we are not fighting in vain but are fighting to win crowns, victories and great spoil. Each battle won will give us new insight into further battles and victories. Let us not fear the giants in the land; let us in faith look at these giants as mere food for battle. Let us take on the strong enemies and spoil their house, there to obtain treasures of darkness.

May God find in His army men and women who are willing and ready to become knights of valor against all spiritual enemies. He is looking for more than footmen; He is looking for spiritual captains, colonels and generals to take possession in His name. The King is waiting and searching for those who will say with faith and obedience, "There are giants in the land, but we are well able with our King's graces to defeat and make them our food!"