

MEDITATIONS ON THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE

....*"This book of the law [the Word of God] shall not depart from [always be in] your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful [take heed] to do according to all that is written in it; for THEN you will make your way prosperous, and THEN you will have success".... Joshua 1:8 NASB*

February 10th

**"O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant, and that I have done all these things at Thy Word".... (1 Kings 18:36).*

There is no mention here of God explicitly speaking to the prophet about how to set up the "altar" and yet Elijah said to the Lord that he had done everything "at Thy Word". The structure that he stood before was not the fruit of human cleverness. This was a man so possessed of the Living God that the One to whom he was joined could lead him "step by step" in the establishing of that altar. The stage was set for the glory of God to be revealed and God's servant knew that the moment had arrived. Such moments shall come in each of our lives, moments of confrontation, moments of "eternal consequence. Our Lord does not consider it wasteful to spend a long time in the preparation of a man in order that in that "crucial moment", there shall be "answer".

Can you imagine the agony and impatience Elijah must have felt as he watched the systematic annihilation of all of God's prophets, and saw day by day, the disintegrating and degenerating of the moral condition of the people of Israel? He never once ventured to "come onto the stage" by his own volition. He never once said, "I cannot take it anymore! I have got to speak, I cannot be silent." In discipline he was hidden and obscure until the moment of "God's choosing", and then he perfectly performed the thing for which God had shaped his life. Are you willing to be dead, and hid with God in Christ until His glory shall be revealed? There is no "itch" stronger than the one that many have: they long to do, to be seen, to perform, to be rewarded, to be "acknowledged".

To each one who is impatient to be recognized God would counsel: "Wait! It is easy for you to distribute tracts; it is easy for you to knock on doors; it is easy for you to "witness"; but I have some other thing that has a much higher priority - My dealing with you in the depths of your inner man, where no one can see you,

perfecting your character, that I might bring you forth in the perfect moment, wholly tested and wholly mine."

.... "But He [the Lord] knows the way I take; When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot has held fast to His path; I have kept His way and not turned aside. I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food".... Job 23:10-12 NASB