

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 7th

* In the early days of my ministry I wondered why the largest percentage of church members and those whom I had led to Christ myself were spiritual failures. I wondered if after all, Christianity was a bag of holes. I was very zealous. I had consecration services every week. I preached hard and worked hard, but my people failed to attend prayer meetings despite all that I could do. Years went by. One day I was preaching in a city near Boston. A Bible teacher whom I had noticed in the audience said to me, "I see you make a distinction between relationship and fellowship." I found that I had been preaching something that I had not analyzed carefully. I rushed to my room and began to look up the subject of fellowship. At last I arrived. I discovered that the word "backslide" did not occur in the New Testament. It was a word that dealt with servants. But the word "fellowship" concerned the sons and daughters of God - (1 Corinthians 1:9)"God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His son Jesus Christ, our Lord"....

We were called out of the discord, bitterness and unhappiness of spiritual death into fellowship with the great Father God of the universe. Then I saw that fellowship was the heart reason for Creation. God wanted fellowship with human beings, and so He created the universe. When man fell and that fellowship was broken, the reason for Redemption was the restoration of that lost fellowship. The heart secret of the New Creation is fellowship. God could not fellowship with the old creation that was ruled by the Adversary, so He recreated it, imparted to it His own nature so that there could be a perfect fellowship.

I found that the secret of prayer, really meeting the Father face to face, lies in the word fellowship. The secret of getting into the Word, knowing it, having it abide in us in power, lies in fellowship. The secret of preaching so that it will "awaken" men and women, cause them to turn to the Lord, lies in fellowship. The secret of joy, of vibrant rich spiritual life, is abiding fellowship with God and His Word. Broken fellowship in families spells misery and danger. If it is not remedied

it will cause divorce and a broken home. The same law works in the spiritual life. Every step out of love means broken fellowship and sooner or later, spiritual wreckage unless the fellowship is restored. The spiritual condition of our church today is a result of broken fellowship *[with the Father]*. It is the tragedy of the church!

.... "He who has My commandments [gained a revelation of the Father's Will] and keeps [remembers, exalts, honors, magnifies, does] them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him "If anyone loves Me, he will keep [remember, exalt, honor, magnify, do] My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode [having living communion] with him".... John 14:21, 23 NASB