

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*

January 5th

THE NORMALCY OF THE REGENERATED HUMAN SPIRIT

[pt. 16 of 16]

A Spirit Of Rapture

"rapture" - ecstatic joy or delight;

**"and have tasted the good word of God, and [the] works of power of [the] age to come".... Hebrews 6:5 Darby Translation*

....*"You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever".... Psalm 16:11] NASB*

The spirit of rapture is that spirit which has tasted the powers of the age to come. Christians ought to have a spirit which is perpetually in-and-out-of this world and ascending-into-Heaven's state. When a believer's spirit is united to the Lord's and they become one spirit, they commence to live in the world, as a sojourner, experiencing the life of the Heavenly realm. Formerly their impetus was "go forward"! - now it becomes "ascend up"! Everything about them rises Heavenward.

The spirit of rapture is the gift of God. When in possession of this spirit the believer's inner being seems always to be in a state of rapture *[the fullness of joy]*. Just as Simeon, through the revelation of the Holy Spirit, trusted that he would not taste death before he had seen the Lord's Christ *[Luke 2:26]*, so believers should have the assurance in their spirit that they will be transported to the Lord before they die. Such faith is the faith of an Enoch. If we live in the time of rapture, how can we be lacking in such faith? Such belief will help us to understand more of what God is doing in this age as well as obtain Heavenly power for our work.

This spirit has its definite effect on life. Before one secures it their experience is bound to be changing constantly; after they receive the witness and assurance of "rapture" in their spirit, however, their life and labour will be sustained on a level worthy of this kind of spirit, thus preparing them for the Lord's return. Such preparation includes more than outward correction: it is making the spirit, the soul and the body of the believer wholly ready to meet the Lord.

Hence we should pray and petition the Holy Spirit to show us how to obtain this spirit of rapture and how to retain it. We should believe and then be willing to eliminate all obstacles to the realization of such a spirit. And once we have appropriated it we should habitually check our life and work against it. In case we lose this spirit we should determine at once how it was lost and how it can be restored. We must therefore ask the Holy Spirit to teach us the way to retain this spirit. Such prayer usually leads us to seek "the things that are above" [Colossians 3:2], and this is one of the requisites for preservation. The fact that God wishes a believer to look for rapture does not suggest that they should be concerned only with their rapture and forget the remainder of the work God has appointed them. In both their walk and work, Heavenly attraction should always be greater than earthly gravitation.

The child of God should learn to live for the Lord's service, but even more so for the Lord's receiving them. May our spirit be uplifted daily, looking for the return of the Lord. May the things of this world so lose their power over us that we do not in the slightest wish to be "worldly"; nay, we even delight in NOT remaining "in the world". May our spirit daily ascend, asking to be with the Lord earlier. May we so seek the things above that not even the best work on earth can distract our hearts. May we henceforth pray in spirit and with understanding, "Come Lord Jesus" [*Revelation 22:20*]!

...."Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart [spirit] be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer".... Psalm 19:14 NASB