

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

April 15th

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

[part 5 of 8]

* Senses absolutely controlled man at the time of the First Covenant with Abraham.

Abraham was evidently the only one of his age who had any spiritual discernment; unless, as tradition tells us, Shem was still alive and was Abraham's teacher.

He believed God's Word in the face of the testimony of his senses. Abraham's faith is the true type of the faith of the believer today. When Jesus came, all men lived in the realm of senses. If you will read carefully the four Gospels you'll notice that they had only Sense Knowledge faith. They believed what they could see, hear, taste, and feel.

Their spirits had no place in their daily life. Until the believer recognizes the two kinds of faith, he'll never be able to enjoy his privileges in Christ. You remember Thomas is the outstanding exponent of Sense Knowledge faith. After the Resurrection before he had met Jesus he said to those who had seen the Risen One, "I will not believe until I can put my finger into the wounds of His hands and my hand into His side."

Jesus suddenly appeared to him and said:

"Thomas, reach hither thy fingers, and see my hands, and reach hither thy hand and put it into my side, and be not faithless but believing." Thomas fell at His feet and cried: "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said: "Because thou hast seen, hast thou believed? Blessed are they who have not seen, but have believed."

In this marginal rendering that I have given you there are tears mixed with reproof. Can't you hear the pathos in Jesus' voice when He said, "Having seen, Thomas, hast thou believed?" Oh, it is so hard for the Sense Knowledge folks to believe. Everywhere they are struggling and praying and crying for faith, but faith doesn't come that way.