

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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When Dreams Crumble

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Introduction

The last month has shown us how quickly dreams can crumble and fall apart. Major financial institutions are collapsing and the economy is being pulled down with them. Wall street is schizophrenic and flipping rapidly between buy and sell. The government has stepped in to try to prevent panic and to prop up the housing and banking industries and are attempting to reduce or even eliminate the consequences of an economy driven by greed. None of this should be surprising to us. If you sow to the wind you will reap the whirlwind.

We all have dreams, desires, goals that we pursue. Some of these are good, even godly. Many are from the world's lusts and are, at worst, evil or, at best, self serving distractions from the purpose of God. The question is which dreams will stand under the stress of the times?

This shaking of our economy is minor compared to things that are coming in the future. This shaking is to awaken the people of God, to jar us from our sleep. We need to prepare for what is coming. Judgment has begun at the House of the Lord.

Times of Stress

We cannot avoid times of stress. They are part of God's purifying process. Stress separates the real from the illusion. I heard a teacher say one time that if you have become 'disillusioned' it is because that you were living in an 'illusion' to begin with.

We don't know what is real in our life until it is put to the test. When Peter told Jesus that he would follow Him and die for Him, he thought what he had said was true—that it was real. However, just like us, Peter didn't know his own heart. But Jesus did. He told Peter that before the rooster would crow he would deny Him three times.¹ Peter didn't understand the trouble that was coming nor the pressure that was about to be applied to his convictions. Peter's beliefs and his dreams of the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel with Jesus as King were about to fail the stress test and crumble.

¹ John 13:37-38

This reveals that the foundation of our convictions and beliefs are the key to our dreams standing in the times of stress. Toward the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke clearly of this.

Matthew 7:24-27 NASB

- (24) "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.
- (25) "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.
- (26) "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.
- (27) "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall."

We need to look at what is the same and what is different in these two scenarios. The houses were the same and the storm was the same. Both houses experienced the rain, the floods, and the wind. They both went through the same times of stress. One house withstood the storm and the other house collapsed. The difference was where and how the houses were built—the foundation. One had a solid foundation and survived the storm. The other had a soft foundation that crumbled during the storm.

The other difference in these scenarios is the men—one wise and one foolish. The difference between wise and foolish is what they did with the words of Jesus. They both heard the word but only one acted on it and was able to stand.

Mentally assenting to the Truth is not adequate. We must put the Truth into action. Our dreams, goals, ambitions must all come from our acting on the words of Truth. When we do this we live in Truth—reality—and not in an illusion.

We can build a comfortable life in the world system. We can even assent to the truth of Jesus and go to Church every Sunday. But, in the day of testing, in the stress of the pressures of the world, our dreams will crumble.

Money, power and position are the things that unbelievers seek. They are the traps of the world system and are key elements of the kingdom of darkness—lusts of the flesh. However, they are not the primary elements of the Kingdom of God, which is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.¹

Any dreams, ambitions, or goals based on the world system and its values are predestined to crumble as the Scriptures tell us.

Hebrews 12:26-28 NASB

- (26) And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN."
- (27) This *expression*, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.
- (28) Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

¹ Romans 14:17

Only those things built on the Kingdom of God will not crumble when shaken.

So, our current economic situation is a warning to the people of God. We are entirely too tangled up with the world system and its values. John speaks of Babylon in Revelation and describes Babylon as very wealthy and prosperous. It is an economic and commercial center that influences the whole world. Its primary attributes are greed, luxury and pleasure. Then John says, *"I heard another voice from heaven, saying, 'Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;'"* ([Revelation 18:4 NASB](#))

Any ambition, goal or dream that is built on the foundation of worldly lust or uses worldly principles and strategies will crumble under the shaking of the Lord. If we have built on it, our dreams will crumble also.

Faulty Premises

As we have seen *faulty foundations* crack under the pressure of the circumstances when God applies the "stress test". [*For more about this process see ["The Place of Temptation"](#)*] We cannot mature in God with cracked foundations. Hebrews tells us in the first few verses of chapter six that we are to fully and correctly lay the foundation of Christ, which consists of six foundational stones, and then go on to maturity. Verse three then tells us "And this we will do, if God permits." The implication is that God will not permit us to move on in the more mature things of the Lord if the foundation is cracked and unable to stand under pressure.

The next thing that causes our dreams to crumble is faulty premises; that is, incorrect understanding that results in incorrect application. The Twelve Disciples understood that Messiah was to restore the Kingdom of Israel and they expected Him to reveal Himself as King at any moment. It is even possible that Judas was impatiently anticipating this and thought he could force the issue by putting Jesus in a position where He would have to reveal Himself as the King of Israel. Of course, their incorrect, faulty premise prevented them from seeing the fullness of the purpose of God. It wasn't until the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost that they began to correct their faulty premises with Truth.

If the premise is wrong the results are wrong. It doesn't matter how good or how much we like the results, if they come from an incorrect premise or an untrue assumption then all results that are derived from that are also incorrect. Many times our dreams and goals are built from these faulty premises. When God shakes it, puts it to the test, it will crumble.

Many of our contemporary doctrinal teachings, both mainstream and non-mainstream, are based on faulty premises received through our traditions rather than the Word and revelation from the Holy Spirit. We need to examine our beliefs to see if they are truly what the Bible says or if they are inherited from our forefathers. We don't want our life to crumble in the day of testing.

Faulty Expectations

Incorrect foundations and incorrect premises result in faulty or incorrect expectations—expectations that are not in line with Scriptures. This is an area of great difficulty because false expectations are an illusion, which causes us to live in our own little dream world of imagination rather than the true reality. When we give place to incorrect expectations, it causes us to become complacent and unprepared for anything that is outside of our expectations. This will not only cause our dreams to crumble in the day of testing but it will also crush our hope for the future.

The Children of Israel leaving Egypt is a good example of faulty expectations. They knew where the caravan route to Canaan was and they knew that it would take about two weeks to travel from Egypt to Canaan along the caravan route. Their expectation was for a quick, uneventful trip to the Promised Land. They were unprepared for the wilderness. They were unprepared for the length of the journey. They were unprepared for changes that had to occur in them before reaching Canaan. They didn't realize that the very way that they thought, the way their minds worked, had to change—their mentality had to move from thinking like a slave to thinking like a warrior.

Their expectations were their downfall. They continually complained that Moses had led them into the wilderness to die. They longed to return to Egypt because their expectations had been wrong and their dream of a quick trip crumbled before them. Since they were unprepared for reality, the only option in their minds was a return to what was known even though it was slavery.

We operate in the same manner. When we move in the Lord with false expectations, our hope crumbles as the expectations are proven to be incorrect, unrealistic, or a fantasy. Our first response to this type of collapsing dream is to return to Egypt, that is, the world system, to be comforted there. However, there is no altar in Egypt—no comfort to be found there. [*The original request to Pharaoh was for the Israelites to be permitted to go three days journey into the wilderness for a feast and to sacrifice to the Lord. (Exodus 5:1-4)*]

When our expectations fail, we become disillusioned. Remember what we said at the beginning of this Teaching Letter—to be disillusioned we had to be living in an illusion. Failed expectations always result in loss of hope and a desire to turn back.

Today, there is much preaching and teaching from the pulpit and from the television that causes us to develop faulty foundations, premises, and expectations. The prosperity gospel, the self-esteem messages, the never-have-another-problem doctrines, and many others all produce belief systems that will crumble and fall when God shakes things. But, we have received a Kingdom which cannot be shaken. To become unshakable, we must lay a foundation of the Kingdom, operate in the principles of the Kingdom, and expect the results of Kingdom living and purpose.

This has direct application to our current political and economic situation here in the United States. God is putting America to “the stress test” in order to purify His Church. There are big problems and big changes ahead of us. Many of the people of God whose lives have been built on faulty foundations, faulty premises, and faulty expectations will crumble and fall. Let the Kingdom come and let His will be done. Let him who has eyes to see and ears to hear understand what the Lord is saying.

For more on this subject matter please read

[“Faulty Foundations and Fuzzy Patterns”](#)

available on the website.

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