

Developing a Personal Link with God (Gen. 28:10-22)

Our God seeks a direct and personal link with us and does not desert us when we are in trouble even if we are the cause of the trouble. Jacob had just been sent to Paddan Aram as an aftermath of the deception plan of himself and Rebecca for Jacob to receive the blessings instead of Esau from Isaac. God spoke to him in a dream at a point of rest from activities.

In the dream Jacob saw a ladder or stairway leading to heaven from the earth. This is an indication that God desires a link with man and He has made a way for man to link up with Him. This link or way is Jesus Christ as the Bible stated that no one can come to the Father except by Christ and God is the one that draws us near unto Him. Establishing a personal link with God is by faith and must be done with an assurance that we will receive help in time of our troubles as we approach His throne of grace.

God affirmed that His promise made to Abraham and Isaac continues through and belonged to Jacob and his descendants. God promised that Jacob will be a source of blessing (he became one for Laban later on); have His presence to guide and protect him; return to his father's house and never be forsaken.

Jacob's response was worship of God by setting up an altar and a vow to turn the spot into God's house and give God a tithe. Jacob was very specific about his expectations of God based on the promise like God being with him, protecting him on the journey or life phase, providing him with food and clothes and returning him to his father's house. You will observe that Jacob was modest in his expectations for they were basic needs and not wants. Jacob also sought to ensure that his point of contact with God is not forgotten but improved upon. Jacob committed himself to give a tenth/ tithe of all his resources as he acknowledged that it is God that will give him the resources. Thus Jacob established a personal link with God by putting his future into God's hands. Jacob recognized that he has never gone this way before and he would need all the help he could get.

Jacob had and accepted a revelation of God's Will that he used as a guide for his life. Jacob achieved success because he could receive from God and obey Him. Revelation is the knowledge of the will of God. Revelation is the root of the spiritual life. He that knows the will of God and obeys it is assured of heaven, and the days of heaven upon the earth. Walking in the will of God fills us with the peace of God, gives us victory over the devil, and leads us into an all-round prosperity in life. A true Christian is one who lives in the experience of the perfect will of God. Knowing and walking in God's will does not come by accident. It is a deliberate effort of your whole being under the leadership of the Holy Spirit that can keep you consistently in the will of God. It is by personal diligence that whatever dims or blocks the knowledge of the will of God can be avoided. There are no new ways of knowing the will of God. There is hardly any other teaching needed so desperately today as the ability to know God's will and to do it.

God still speaks today in various ways using the Word (Bible), voices, dreams, gifts of the Holy Spirit, and circumstances. What are the ways that you know God uses in speaking to you?