*Wednesday, May 11, 2011*

**A Force To Be Reckoned With**

Hebrews 9:16-17 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. (17) For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. (KJV)

God sent mankind a perfect testator so that once He died on our behalf, then a new testament could be in force for mankind. What we are seeing throughout the Word is that, in order to be considered a force ourselves, one that is steadfast and continuing in the faith, our strength will come when we are dead as well.

Luke 9:20-23 He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God. (21) And he straitly charged them, and commanded them to tell no man that thing; (22) Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day. (23) And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. (KJV)

It is interesting to note that once one is enlightened to the things above by the revelation of Christ it opens a whole new avenue of what He has made available to His church. You also see illustrated that, to whom much is given much is required in return, and that would be our own lives as well. Do take note of verse 23, because it does show us how often our Lord asks us to take up our own spiritual cross.

1 Corinthians 15:31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. (KJV)

Paul makes an interesting statement concerning his own walk with the Lord. Given the fact that this man was used to write a good portion of the epistles to the Church it would do us good to take note of his writings. Basically Paul was saying that with this new found life in Christ he did not desire to waste another day living unto his own desires; rather he didn’t want to miss another day in hearing our Lord, and give an accurate and forceful account of salvation in Spirit and in truth.

Hebrews 3:12-14 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. (13) But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. (14) For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; (KJV)

Now that you have accepted the Lord into your life it is expected that you continue in the faith and follow the path of life to the end. Just like with the children of Israel in the beginning, many left Egypt, however only a handful made it to the promised land. By taking up your own cross daily and dying to any negative influence of the flesh you will be able to give testimony to what is needed to anyone that would ask of you this day concerning the hope of salvation. So are you building others up or pulling them down again because you are still hanging onto some dead things of the flesh?

Luke 11:2-3 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. (3) Give us day by day our daily bread. (KJV)

So how are you going to know what our Lord has for you today unless you make His kingdom your first priority? Our Lord is teaching and instructing His church on a daily basis, now the question is are you dying to hear it?