

## "FEAR OF DEATH"

When you CAN ALREADY hear the shuffling of Angel's Feet coming for to carry you home (Oh! Come Angel band, Come and around me stand, Oh bear me away on your snowy wings to my eternal home) AND when you CAN ALREADY feel the tugging magnetism of the one who saved you calling you home, (for to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord) AND when you know that you will soon be on the "TRAIN bound for glory," you learn some things you NEVER thought of before.

One thing that I have learned is that every creature into which God has put the breath of life (into which God has made to live) does NOT WANT to give up that life. This is to say, that every living, breathing creature does NOT WANT to die. Even an animal is afraid of death. You can see the fear in the eyes of a dying animal.

Now, when I hear someone say he, or she, is NOT AFRAID to die, I will not believe it. I find Biblical cause to think the way I now do. Jesus was afraid to die. (MAT. 26:38) "Then saith he unto them, my soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: Tarry ye here, and watch with me. (vs. 34) And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. (vs. 42) He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."

## Another New Thing that has occurred to me during my LAST DAYS.

I don't know if other ministers of the Gospel have come to recognize the same phenomenal occurrences which cause ministers to miss some of the joy which is in the Bible. I suppose other preachers have, because most all are absorbed with the business of their calling, and it is that business itself which takes time away from reading the Holy Word for the pure joy of it.

To begin with, the preacher sees before him a big awesome world trying to stare him down into failure. He must make a living for his household. Thank God for wives who help. Concerning wives, the preacher must be to his wife a good husband. That is a task equaled only by being a good father. Then there comes the care and crushing responsibility of the church, the prayers, the patience, the study, the surrender of personal time, the submission to liars who seek counsel. All these things are necessary to the man of God called to marry the young, visit the sick and bury the dead. All these things also, in seeming contradiction, hinder the preacher from reading the Bible for personal pleasure as he studies it for pulpit preparation.

Perhaps this explains the "phenomenal occurrences" of which I recognize as hindrances. The question arises, "What can be done about it?" I want to think we should take the advice that Jesus gave Martha, (Luke 10:41-42) "And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha; thou art careful and troubled about many things: <sup>(42)</sup> But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."