

THE DISCIPLINE OF DEJECTION

"But we trusted ... and beside all this, to-day is the third day ... " (Luke 24:21).

Every fact that the disciples stated was right; but the inferences and conclusions they drew from those facts were wrong. Anything that smacks of dejection is always wrong spiritually. If depression and oppression visit me, I am to blame; God is not, not Satan or anyone else.

Dejection springs from one of two sources - I have either satisfied a lust or I have not. Lust means - I must have "it" at once. Spiritual lust manifests itself such that I demand an answer from God, **instead of seeking God Himself** Who is the giver of the answer.

What have I been trusting God to do? And today - the immediate present - is the third day, and He has not done "it"; therefore I think I am justified in being dejected and in blaming God. After all, "God has let me down".

Whenever the insistence is on the particular that God answers prayer, we are completely off base. The very essence of prayer is - that we "get hold of God", that we come into His presence and behold Him for who He is and all that He has done ... not that we "get the answer".

It is nearly impossible for a Christian to be well physically and to be dejected. Dejection is a sign of sickness. The same is true in the spiritual realm. Dejection spiritually is wrong and we are always the one to blame for it. It is our fault, not circumstances or people.

We look for visions from heaven, for earthquakes and thunders of God's power (the fact that we are dejected proves that we do), and we fail to see and perceive that all the time God is in the commonplace things and people around us. If we will do the duty that lies nearest, we shall see Him - we shall come into His presence. It is in the commonplace things that the Deity and presence of Christ Jesus is realized.