

## TELLING THE LORD'S SECRETS.

The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him" (Psa. 25:14).

There are some things that the Lord puts into our hearts that He considers secret, and just as sure as we give away his secret, that which was shown so clearly to us, does not come to pass.

Sometimes the Lord gives us an assurance about some matter, and, as we talk about it and tell it out, the assurance weakens and the circumstance does not come to pass; then we are humiliated and God is not glorified.

We find in Matt. 8:4; 9:30; Mark 5:43 almost the same words falling from the lips of Jesus, where he said to different persons, "See thou tell no man." There is a deep meaning in the words of Jesus.

True, the persons went off and told it contrary to the Master's instructions, just as many persons do today; we are just as human as they were. When the Lord shows us something, we feel so good over it, we have to tell it, but what has often been the consequence? We find that many things we have told do not come to pass.

The very meaning of the word "secret" is an understanding between two persons, and just as soon as you tell a third person, it is no longer a secret. Persons say to you, "I want to tell you a secret," and just as soon as it is told, it ceases to be a secret. The Lord has some things that He regards as secrets. In Romans 14:22 we read, "Hast thou faith, have it to thyself before God."

We turn to Judges 16:17-18 and find where Samuel gave away the secret of his power. The Word says, "He told her all his heart," and later on we read, "And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him." What caused the Lord to depart? Giving away that deep secret that neither his wife nor anyone else should have known. In Nehemiah 2:12 we read, "Neither told I any man what God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem." He didn't tell it out, and you know how successful he was. Nehemiah built the walls of Jerusalem, and carried out all the things which God had secretly put into his heart. In Daniel 7:28 we read, "But I kept the matter in my heart." He kept in his heart that which God revealed to him. In Luke 2:19 we read, "But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart;" also in the fifty-first verse, "But His mother kept all these sayings in her heart." These passages go to show that God has His secrets which He intrusts to His children.

Many persons have wondered why the things which they felt sure the Lord had revealed did not come to pass; some things, for example of the nature of prophecies.

This giving away the secret does not mean that we should not testify to the goodness of God after He has done some good things for us, but as nearly as I can understand it, it applies more especially to the assurances that our prayers are to be answered. When the Holy Spirit helps us to intercede at the throne of grace, and the Lord gives the assurance that there will be an answer to that prayer, and we tell that we have the assurance, it seldom comes to pass.

Of all the cases brought to my notice, especially in the last three years, I do not know of a single one where the assurance which had been given us was verified after it had been told.

Oh, how puzzling that has been to us; we believe in our hearts that the Lord certainly spoke to us in a way that we could not possibly doubt, and yet it did not come to pass. I remember the first time I lost out on that line. It was a matter of trusting the Lord for our temporal needs. We used to get into many tight places. That time in particular as I prayed, I received such a sweet assurance from the Lord that He was going to provide for us. My wife was worried because of our close condition, and I **thought I would encourage her**, so I said to her, "I have the assurance the Lord is going to answer my prayer and give us the needed money today," but the money didn't come, and I was almost afraid she would lose confidence in me.

Many times we think we shall encourage people by telling them what God tells us, but we fail, because we reveal His secret.

Some things we can explain away, but others we can not. When persons are not healed, but die instead, some explain the failure of their assurance by trying to spiritualize it, or try with their human wisdom to explain it away, but it is never satisfactorily done.

How this whole matter has puzzled me! Two or three times right along the line of money matters, I told of my assurance from the Lord and never received anything. His failure caused me to look into the difficulty. At first I thought as we told these things, the devil heard it and hindered; but soon I saw we failed God, and it seems the Lord does not hold Himself responsible to answer the prayer after we tell the secret which He has committed to us.

The assurance the Lord gives you is a kind of contract He enters into with you, and when you break your side of that contract, God is free, and evidently feels under no obligation to fulfil His part.

You may try to make yourself believe and try to force matters, but all to no effect. If that prayer is answered at all, you will have to pray through to victory again.

Many persons have said to me, "The Spirit whispered in my heart, 'Keep this to yourself,' but I didn't do it and I have lost all by telling it."

This instruction is so necessary to those who are used as intercessors; for those whom God has called to minister in prayer-life. Often there is lurking within us a conscious or unconscious pride in the fact that God has revealed these things to us and we take the glory that belongs to Him. We like to say, after a thing has come to pass, "I told you so," and, when we speak of the assurance which God has given, it is a satisfaction to us and feeds our spiritual pride. With many, this may be unconscious, but it is there nevertheless.

Oh, how many persons have lost their blessing because of this mistake and how the work has been hindered in many places! This is a very serious matter; one person's revealing the real secret of the Lord can stem the tide of power in a con-

vention. People spend days on their faces before God in prayer, and then through lack of wisdom or knowledge, by a few words, their efforts are lost. Sometimes it requires real self-control to keep still and a real dying out to self, but we get victory by overcoming this desire to tell, which telling in a great measure exalts ourselves instead of Jesus.

Some years ago we were holding meetings in the country and one day a man came in from the woods, his face just shining with the very glory of God, and he said: "I have the assurance in my heart that these people are going to get saved tonight." Not a soul was touched. It puzzled many when the assurance failed to come true and it shook the faith of others. When you tell things that do not come to pass, people feel you are not a safe person in whom to trust.

Just because we have not known these simple things, we have many times brought disaster and failure to God's work. God forgives us, that is true, but His work suffers.

I remember one time God showed me that a certain number of persons should be saved at a certain meeting. I thought I had better tell it because if I told it afterwards they wouldn't believe I had the assurance. I told it but it didn't come to pass. I tried to explain and said that maybe the results would follow afterwards. That was before understood backwards. That was before I understood this truth.

This teaching is so necessary concerning God's supplying our needs financially, the salvation of souls, healings and on every line, for we would get more answers to prayer if we didn't break our part of the contract.

One woman testifies that she with others prayed for her husband, right through to victory, and all three of them felt God had undertaken and given them the assurance that her husband was going to be saved. Time went on, a year or two went by and he wasn't saved. And she felt burdened again and called several more of her friends together. They prayed and laid before God the promise, and they said: "We are going to believe," and they were almost lifted out of themselves, they had such an assurance of victory, but he was not saved. After awhile circumstances were such that she prayed through herself and received the assurance. She had no occasion to tell anyone, and he became saved and has remained saved ever since.

When you tell the secrets God has put into your heart, you may try to force matters, but God doesn't answer. On the other hand there are some things the devil may do his utmost to hinder, but with God's secret hid in our hearts, we can go right on to victory. Be willing to pray without telling people about it; and, when you have faith for the answer, **"HAVE IT TO YOURSELF."**

Like Mary, ponder God's secret in your heart, and verily, they shall come to pass.—Selected.

Beware of everything new in religion for what is essentially new is essentially false. If anybody has an addition to offer it is a perversion. If anybody has a subtraction to offer it is a sacrilege.