

INSECURITY, AN ENEMY OF THE SOUL

Insecurity, a spirit that hinders and handicaps humankind, is often accepted as normal and in a sympathetic attitude, the world embraces it by providing ways for it to develop even further. When we utter the words, "I can't do it" we are declaring weakness of insecurity controlling every move we must make to be successful. It is in some way, fear of failure. It manifests itself in many ways unknown to most of us. Saul, the first king of Israel, is an example of it. Chosen to be king, Saul was "tall, dark and handsome," as we would describe him today. The Bible describes him as, A choice young man and handsome; among all the Israelites there was not a man more handsome than he. He was a head taller than any of the people (I Sam. 9:2). However, as they say, "Don't judge the book by its cover," Saul fits well in this situation. Saul came from the tribe of Benjamin from a well-to-do family. His father was "a mighty man of wealth and valor." But Saul had a problem following God's directions. As important as they were, he disregarded them to do what he thought best. He was forty years old when he began to reign. From the beginning, Saul showed his insecurity when he wouldn't wait for Samuel to do his job of a priest that of offering to the Lord the burnt offering. He took the liberty to do it himself. Samuel then told him, You have done foolishly! You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God which He commanded you; for the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever; but now your kingdom shall not continue; the Lord has sought out a man after His own heart and the Lord has commanded him to be prince and ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you (I Sam. 13). In another situation of war with the Amalekites when the Lord sent him on a mission to utterly destroy the Amalekites and fight against them until they were consumed (I Sam. 15). Saul again went his own way and did not do as the Lord commanded him. Insecurity prevailed in his life to the point of persecution of his servant David, the anointed of the Lord to be the future king of Israel, for his jealousy and envy of him. In his insecurity, he sought the counsel of a witch woman, a thing not permitted in Israel. Tormented by an evil spirit, Saul suffered tremendously to the point of seeking someone to ease his suffering, when someone recommended David, a young lad, who played the harp to calm the evil spirit. Saul's life was a wasted life because of his insecurity. His kingdom could have lasted forever, according to the words of the Lord to Samuel. But his disobedience and rebellion coupled with insecurity against the commandments of the Lord caused Him to remove Saul from such a position. His heir to the throne was taken away and given to a shepherd boy, who was after God's own heart.

Many of us are recipients of insecurity to the point of not achieving potential in our life time. Education and abilities are not able to conquer this spirit, for it is a spiritual matter. Not being able to recognize the spirit of insecurity in our life, we will live a life style of failure, destroying those who love us. When we do not perceive God's gifts given to each of us in different levels of abilities, we then become envious of others. This is seen in many cases in churches, where we have the opportunity to develop our gifts. The body of Christ -His church is made up of many members, just as our body is. The body does not consist of one limb or organ, but of many. God has placed and arranged the limbs and organs in the body, each of them just as He wished and

saw fit and with the best adaptation (I Cor. 12). So it is with the body of Christ. For as in one physical body, we have many parts and all of these parts do not have the same function or use, so we, numerous as we are, are one body in Christ and individually we are parts one of another, having gifts that differ according to the grace given us, let us use them (Rom. 12). God's intention is the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the knowledge of the Son of God... (Eph. 4).

There should not be insecurity in any of us who serve the Lord, for it does not mingle with the Holy Spirit, Who lives in us. On the contrary, it hinders the fulfillment of God's plan and His calling us to serve Him.. It also hinders our faith and confidence in God and in ourselves. God created us with perfect faculties, with ability to think and strength to accomplish what is before us to do. When Joshua took the responsibility to lead the nation of Israel God encouraged him saying, Have I not commanded you? Be strong, vigorous and very courageous. Be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9). Insecurity is cousin of fear. They work hand-in-hand to keep us from doing our best in the strength given us. Because He has commanded us to serve Him, the promise stands that He will be with us wherever we go, provided that we are walking with Him with enduring faith. I can do all things, because Christ strengthens me, said Paul to the letter to the Philippians 4:13. It is a matter of faith that one can step out of insecurity and fear, to face the reality of God's strength in us and experience God's promises fulfillment. Looking away from all that causes us insecurity, we must arise to the potential we were created for in this short life on earth. Insecurity is weakness. A soldier that goes to battle afraid and insecure, will not succeed or win the battle. Paul said, no soldier when in service gets entangled in the enterprises of life; his aim is to satisfy and please the one who enlisted him; and if anyone enters competitive games he is not crowned unless he competes lawfully (II Tim. 2:4-5). The spiritual life is not one for coward, neither insecure. It is one of war against the evil one. As Paul said, We are not wrestling with flesh and blood, but against the despotisms, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly sphere (Eph. 6:12). There is a host of the evil one's army in the heavenly sphere always ready to fight against us. Insecurity guided by fear of failure is not in the armor of God. It is instead, an enemy of our soul. It is attached to pride, trying to hide its true identity. The spirit of insecurity manifests itself by violence, jealousy, anger, rage, bitterness and much more. Relationships cannot last long for one who is insecure, for never believing the love of a friend and misunderstanding his or her motives.

Let's recognize our insecurity and fight to rise over its control. It is not by insecurity and fear that we will defeat Satan's army; it is however by confident faith in God and in the ability, He entrusted us as His soldiers in His army. The apostle Paul was a true soldier in the army of God. At the end of his life as a martyr for His Lord, He said, I have fought a good honorable, and noble fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me, and recompense me on that day- and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved and yearned for and welcomed His appearing (II Tim. 4:7-8).

Let's do likewise! **THINK ABOUT IT!**