

## The Flood

Millions of tons of water came flooding down from the mountains, destroying houses, ripping out trees, smashing people around and taking them to a watery death. On this tragic afternoon more than two thousand people lost their lives, when a nicely situated, peaceful valley was changed almost beyond recognition by one of the worst floods in the history of the USA.

It happened in the quiet town of Johnstown in Pennsylvania. The dam at Conemaugh Sea in the mountains burst on the 31st May, 1889, sealing this day forever, as a day of death and destruction.

After the police officers had gathered together all the facts of the tragedy, they concluded that the dam had burst due to the preceding rainstorms. The consequence of the high water level was that it ran over and split the dam, which then weakened, collapsed, and let 70 metre high walls of water stream out. Streets were washed away. Trees ripped through houses. The people screamed in panic and hopelessness. Trains were torn from their platforms. Nothing could stop the awful, black floods. The Johnstown Flood has gone down as one of the greatest tragedies in the history of our nation. Even today, communities and experts are working diligently to prevent another Johnstown tragedy from happening. They know that dams can still break and that floods are always destructive.

You can make a comparison with this. Our life is a fountain of desires, passions and emotions which are guarded by our will. In this fountain there is a steady flow of thoughts, which can rise to a point where the conscience gives in and the dam breaks under destructive power.

Our actions are our overflowing thought streams. God's Word says, *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."* (PROV 23:7). This is true in both a positive and negative way. When our thoughts are concentrated on Christ, and are pure, unselfish and holy, they will build up compassionate emotions which will lead to good deeds for mankind. These are emotions which are controlled carefully by the Holy Spirit and originate from our will. This is a wonderful Christ-controlled temperament used as a mighty power for good.

The Bible says much about our thoughts, because thoughts often lead to action. Paul says, *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."* (PHIL 4:8).

The most important factor in being fully led by the Lord is a healthy state of mind. If our mind is overflowing with negative, lustful, evil, bitter, and selfish thoughts, our walk will be the mirror-image of the same. But if we flood ourselves with holy, positive, righteous, cheerful, and orderly thoughts, then we will benefit from a good walk.

How important it is to examine what we take into our mind: what we read, what we see and what we hear. The mind is the centre of our problems. Our mind decides what we take in and what we don't take in.

*"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."*

PROV 4:23

Translated from the German: "Die Flut"

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