

And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams (Acts 2:17; Joel 2:28). Jesus announced that the *last days* commenced from that moment (Pentecost) and will be completed when Christ returns. Some of us today are like the Pharisees of Jesus' day. **We claim to have a relationship with Jesus, yet ignore his current ambassador, the Holy Spirit.** Just as they ignored Jesus, claiming to know the Father, we claim to know Jesus and ignore the Spirit! It is an amazing thing that we can believe for yesterday, and for tomorrow, yet we struggle with faith for today, and yet that is what faith is. *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen* (Heb.11:1). *The just shall live by faith* (Rom. 1:17). We have become like Gideon (Judg. 6:13), looking at past events of the Bible and somehow accepting what happened in those times, but that does not interfere with our reality today. We don't deny God did what He did in the Bible but struggle with what He is doing today. **We have forgotten that the promise of the Holy Spirit brings with it God's prophetic guidance through dreams and visions.**

God is still using parables today. Who in the Old Testament saw, but did not enter? Moses. Because he was disobedient or insensitive to the Spirit of God at the waters of Meribah (Num. 20:12). There is a generation who knows the Word of God, who are born again, and who see God's Kingdom on the pages of the Bible, but who fail to enter what God has for them because they only think naturally. They are in danger of dying in the spiritual training ground designed to teach them Kingdom dynamics (Deut. 8:2-3), unless they are prepared to be led by the Spirit of God into the Promised Land in the next phase of their journey.

A dream comes to us in the soulful faculties of our minds, to the "old self." Dreams relate what is happening in the spirit realm to the natural person. They can only be interpreted if the spiritual person is tuned in to the Spirit of God! Dreams come to everyone—Christian and non-Christian alike. How they are understood depends on whether the spirit person is "switched on." Visions, on the other hand, are only for believers hungering after God's will and applying His Word. The devil does not want the empowerment of God's people through this channel of communication. **If he can blind us to what God is speaking through dreams, he has effectively cut off one of the main channels of communication God has used for more than 4000 years to mobilize His troops.**

Dreams are part of God's ongoing word to us. They accompany and augment what God is saying to us through His written word and prayer. The majority of dreams are metaphors, parables, and riddles. When God seems to go quiet on you, you need to go back to your last revelation. In Joseph's life, the person seeking his own glory (the baker) is judged by God. While the person willing to lay down his life for the one he serves (the butler) is resurrected. Where there is unforgiveness there is an area of one's heart not yet yielded to God. Joseph comes to the third day (year), the day of resurrection, but before he can experience resurrection, he has to experience death. Joseph had

to bury his unforgiveness toward those who had abused him; otherwise the Spirit of God could not raise him from the pit. The butler and the baker are in all of us. Dreams have the power to divide between soul and spirit and disclose the thoughts and intents of the heart because they are a deposit of God's living Word to us! The Book of Acts is an open-ended book and still being written today. What God says today must be in line with what He has said in the past (Heb. 13:8). **Dreams and their correct interpretations bypass the heart's natural defense mechanisms and allow the Holy Spirit to bring conviction and correction.**

We need to be open to receive guidance from the Holy Spirit through dreams, because for every promise birthed, there is a scheme of the enemy to abort it! A common purpose of dreams is correction. Nothing strengthens faith like a prophetic word. It is wise to be selective to whom you reveal what God is promising you. Joseph is a picture of Jesus in more than 100 ways.

Primarily a nightmare is a signal, the cry of a heart carrying an unresolved issue and needing attention. Constant nightmares probably mean that there is an oppression operating in your life--harassment. We curse ourselves or others by labeling ourselves or others as "idiots" or something similar. When we align our speech with God's Word. We frustrate the enemy because God's Word cannot be broken. Though He was without sin, Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13). The fact that the devil was able to show Jesus all the kingdoms of the world "in a moment of time" suggests that this temptation came in the form of a vision. If we fail the test, it acts like a refining fire by bringing what is truly in our hearts to the surface so that we deal with it. It thus produces a humbler and holier disciple. When we have come through the temptation victoriously, we are aware that we have grown stronger in God and moved to another spiritual level. For Christ, graduation through His wilderness temptations meant that He was ready for ministry, Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee.

If we are experiencing nightmares, then the enemy has a legal right to enter. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to help us identify the grounds on which the enemy is getting in. The devil has been known to build a stronghold of lust around a 3-fold cord of jealousy, unforgiveness, and mental strongholds. The pornographic nightmare sufferer needs to come clean with heart issues through confession and repentance, giving the enemy no legal ground for entry. God indirectly allows enemy access to torment us (Matt. 18:34; Prov17:11) and gives nightmares, but always with a beneficial intention. With Job, even though he was initially considered righteous, the trials and tribulations brought on by the attack of the enemy exposed certain issues he held deep in his heart (Job 38:1-2; 42:3).

When God speaks to us in dreams He does it primarily through metaphors and symbols. *I will open My mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old* (Ps. 78:2). Jesus Christ is the best communicator the world has ever known because He relates to all people at their level and on their wavelength through everyday realities and experiences. God created our

minds to relate to and remember images and sounds more readily than written words. Metaphors are more easily heard than rational explanations because the symbolism is creative. It has the power to stimulate reflection and action. Our minds give priority to images and audio over-and-above mere written words. As we understand that God speaks to us this way, we hunger to know what He is saying. *It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter* (Prov. 25:2 KJV). God uses parables because they have an inherent ability to bypass the heart's natural defense mechanisms. They have greater potential to be anchored in our minds, just as Jesus' disciples remembered His teachings and later wrote the Gospels.

God will reveal the agendas on our hearts through our dreams. The power of the Holy Spirit was Jesus' herald, drawing crowds through signs and wonders.

While the true Church of God is a woman of high stature and moral reputation (Eph. 5:27), the enemy has painted the Church to look like a woman of low moral standing. The media takes great pleasure in exposing any loss of her virtue. God initiated our spirituality, not the devil. Operating in the image of God as spiritual beings moves us into God's original plan. Though Jesus was at the end of a 40-day fast, it was the devil who withdrew, needing respite after this encounter (Luke 4:13).

God is capable of engineering the events in people's lives with incredible precision. Following an object lesson, God commissions Elijah to anoint 2 kings and Elisha. Elijah did not personally anoint Hazael and Jehu, as he was commissioned by God to do, but Elisha, his understudy, did (2 Kings 8:13-15; 9:1-3). *The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me* (Luke 4:18-19). Jesus needed an anointing of the Holy Spirit to minister—an anointing birthed and renewed in prayer. We are like the disciples in the garden of Gethsemane; our spirits are willing, but the flesh is weak. We have seen the difference between a manifestation of God and God Himself. We have also explored how this revelation was a call to a deeper relationship with God.

The New Testament opens Old Testament truth that was previously hidden from human understanding. The Old Testament in its physical and positional "types" opens to us deeper understanding of our spiritual standing in the New Testament. Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt, but it was Joshua who led them into the Promised Land. *When the children of Israel grew strong they put the Canaanites to forced labor but did not utterly drive them out* (Joshua 17:12-13). *The children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem; so the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day* (Judges 1:21). The reason that Israel failed in their conquest was that they began to settle down and relax when the job was only half done. They paid dearly for their spiritual apathy.

Elijah passed on the mantle to Elisha, who received a double-portion of the Spirit that was upon his mentor. Elisha had someone who he was likewise preparing to pass on the baton to. His servant and understudy was Gehazi. But Gehazi went after Namaan to receive the reward his master had turned down (2 Kings 5:20-27). Gehazi had no idea where he stood in the

purposes of God. He had no appreciation of the anointing he would have received if only he had not sought material security.

John held a parallel spiritual role to that of Elijah. Jesus' baptism took place in the Jordan, the same place where Elijah passed the mantle on to Elisha. The name Joshua is the Old Testament equivalent of the name Jesus in the New Testament. Moses and Elijah are a type of John the Baptist. Joshua and Elisha were foreshadows of Jesus. God was forewarning us that the Church, like the children of Israel, would be prone to embrace the world and stop short of God's intended goal. *Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan* (Josh. 3:11). What did the ark represent? It had the 2 tablets of stone containing the Ten Commandments, Aaron's rod that budded, and a piece of the manna from the wilderness. The tablets represent the Word of God, Aaron's rod represents resurrection, and the manna represents the bread of the wilderness. Who is the Word of God, the Resurrection, and the Bread of Life? Jesus is all 3! So the ark here represents Jesus. The ark entering into the Jordan represents Jesus passing into death. *When the feet of the priests touched the water, the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away [all the way back to] Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan.* When Jesus entered into death (the Jordan), the flow of sin was rolled back to Adam. God had made a way and they had to clear the land as they were led by God (Josh. 5:14-15). But they chose rather to embrace the society they were sent to conquer. *He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father* (John 14:12). With these words he promises us a double-portion of His Spirit.

There is no formula for interpreting dreams. It is more about cultivating a relationship with the Holy Spirit than applying a series of rules for interpreting. God the Holy Spirit is the author of dreams and the interpreter of dreams. Spiritual understanding is not a mental faculty; it is a dimension of the heart. Mark 4. The unproductive and productive soil-types hear the Word. The difference is in the understanding. Understanding comes when someone is "under-standing" (or under the authority of) the Word of God when we apply the Word of God to our lives.

Speaking in tongues is an avenue for growing in sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. In developing our inner selves through speaking in tongues (Jude 20), we open our hearts as receptors of Holy Spirit revelation, knowledge, prophecy, and doctrine. The vast majority of dreams are metaphors. Of the 20 dreams recorded in Scripture, 12 of them are symbolic in nature--60% are metaphors, compared with 40% that are literal. Literal dreams do not require interpretation because they do not consist of symbolic images. The percentage of parable-type dreams is higher today than that of Scripture. **God uses the images to which we have been freshly exposed to give us new perspectives on our spiritual walk.** Just as Jesus related to fishermen with net casting (Matt. 4:19), farmers with seed sowing (Matt. 13:1-9), and a strongly relational society with scenes of marriage (Matt. 22:37-39), so God uses the images to which we have been freshly exposed to give us new perspectives on our spiritual walk. The Western Church is being drawn into a flesh-comforting, entertainment-rich lifestyle. As a consequence, we

have become spectators expecting people to come to us instead of going out and carrying the message we have been given. Are we worshipping God or the riffs and melodies of the music we have created to do so? Without a prophetic edge, we continually revert to the systems of people to build the Church.

The majority of our dreams are metaphors, more likely to convey a spiritual parallel. A bush fire may indicate judgment, and a car accident a warning of a potential family, ministry, or business mishap. Jacob has to come to understand who he is. His name describes someone who is only out for himself. God asked him his name so that Jacob would make a confession and receive a revelation. Sin has its root in selfishness, so sins are the things we do without consideration of others (see Isa. 53:6). In saying his name, Jacob says, "I'm out only for myself!" Jacob represents the fleshly person in action, and Israel the spiritual person; Jacob (and its derivatives, James, Jamie, Jackie, Jake). Compared to Esau, Jacob is the spiritual person and Esau the fleshly person.

An element of a dream is dependent on its surroundings. When God repeats a matter, it is a sign of confirmation, importance, imminence, or urgency. *And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass* (Gen. 41:32). Anger, fear, confidence, or anxiety in a particular scene conveys just as much meaning as the visual images. You get a deposit of gold given to you in the night, make sure you write it down straightaway because, chances are, you will not remember it in the morning. Establish a dream log. Write and date the dream. Leave room for its interpretation. I keep a notepad (8" x 5") by my bed. This larger size allows me to write in the dark. I have a permanent record of what God has been speaking to me over a period of time.

The endowment of a double anointing was conditional on Elisha's ability to see in the spirit realm. Elijah doesn't confirm or deny the impartation of the gift upon Elisha but allows God to confirm its impartation (Heb. 5:14). Our spiritual senses develop as they are exercised. It is more about your relationship with God than a formula to be followed. At least 90% of dreams are about the dreamer. Dreams address the concerns of your heart. The emotions felt during a dream point to help identify the subject of the dream, a theme which will carry us to a purpose. The more prophetic the calling on your life, the more likely you are to receive dreams and visions about others. The greater the responsibility, the broader afield the prophet will dream.

It is very dangerous to come before God seeking an interpretation while holding a preconceived agenda in your heart. The Bible declares that God will give you what you want to hear. *The Lord will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols* (Ezekiel 14:4).

Dream dictionaries

101 Sample Dream and Vision Interpretations

The Metaphor Dictionary

The Name and Place Dictionary

Appendix B Getting Right with God

We claim to have a relationship with Jesus, yet ignore his current ambassador, the Holy Spirit. We have forgotten that the promise of the Holy Spirit brings with it God's prophetic guidance through dreams and visions. If the devil can blind us to what God is speaking through dreams, he has effectively cut off one of the main channels of communication God has used for more than 4000 years to mobilize His troops. Dreams and their correct interpretations bypass the heart's natural defense mechanisms and allow the Holy Spirit to bring conviction and correction.

Appendix A The Parallel of Joseph and Jesus