

# VISIONS AND DREAMS

A VIEW FROM  
THE FATHER'S VINEYARD

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# PREFACE

## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Before I begin I feel it is necessary to share my testimony of how I was saved and called into the prophetic ministry.

When I came to know Jesus as my saviour and Lord in 1989 I wanted to serve Him with all my heart. I had made an oath before God in 1985 saying, "I will follow You if You give me children." In my ignorance I did not understand the presumption and enormity of that oath and its' consequences.

God's hand had always been on my life, I was just not aware of it at the time. When I was twelve, at the time of my confirmation, I earnestly sought God.

I realise now that I had experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit at different times but the church I attended did not know or teach about the person of the Holy Spirit. I did not understand what was happening to me and never shared it with anyone at the time.

I drifted away from church as a teenager. I did not have a relationship with Jesus but my heart was toward Him. He wooed me for many years. He is ever faithful.

**Psalm 119:67** says it all. **"Before I was afflicted, I went astray. But now I keep Your word."** I was barren. We had been married since 1976. We had tried for some years but to no avail. We had been to doctors, had tests and surgery.

Our last resort was the I.V.F. program. I was booked for my first visit in July 1985. In the March I turned thirty, it was a turning point in my life. I cried out to the Lord for children.

I thank God for His long suffering, faithfulness, grace and mercy. He heard my cry and answered my prayer. July came and I had to ring the I.V.F. clinic to cancel. "I am very sorry I can not keep the appointment, I am pregnant." As you can imagine, they were delighted.

We have been blessed with two beautiful boys, one in 1986 and one in 1987. I then cried, "Enough Lord, thankyou!"

It was not until 1989 that I surrendered my life to Jesus. Then the Holy Spirit reminded me of the oath I had made. The Lord does not forget the promises we make.

My heart was grieved that I had not responded to God immediately after the miracle of my son's conception and birth. Oh how we forget the goodness of God and go our own way again.

I thought I had no preconceived ideas of how I wanted to serve the Lord. In hindsight I had preconceived ideas of how I did not want to serve Him! I said to the Lord "You know best what I am suited for, what You created me for, so I leave the ministry you have called me to, in Your hands."

I struggled with the Scripture "**Earnestly desire the best gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.**" (1 Corinthians 14:1) I earnestly desired to serve however with a background of inferiority, timidity and fear, out front visible ministry especially the prophetic was not on my list of gifts with which to serve the Lord or the Body! But I had said I was willing to do what the Lord wanted me to do.

I attended a school of prophecy course run by our local church about six months after I was saved. It was a good foundation for understanding the ways God speaks to His people and how to begin to operate in the prophetic gifts of the Holy Spirit.

At the first session, after a time of teaching, we had a practice session. The Lord knew my heart, it was saying, "How can you presume upon God like that, practicing, turning Him on like a tap!"

Well, the Lord was gracious. He met me where I was at, He knew my need. He began to reveal Himself. We sat around a dining room table waiting on the Lord to speak to us. Someone said they saw a river, another a belt and someone else had a word, all quite within the realm of biblical symbols and terminology.

What did I get? What I needed. I guess I was not really expecting Him to speak to me though. Very plainly and clearly I saw a name in white neon lighting in running writing 'Jill'. I was amazed. God had my attention.

When I spoke it out, one of the members of the class went quiet. She said she had a sister by that name. They had not seen each other for ten years. I asked the Lord that night what was the meaning of the vision. He showed me a picture of a person with her leg in a plaster cast in traction. I thought "Oh no, she has had an accident." Not so.

The Lord was doing a beautiful work of restoration of a broken relationship. The lady and her sister had a major fallout over something ten years ago and had not spoken to each other since that time. The lady rang her sister the next day after class. The Lord had gone before and prepared the way, hearts had been softened and reconciliation took place.

So began a wonderful walk with the Lord in the area of the prophetic, as He began to stretch me, stretch my understanding and teach me the language of His Spirit.

I had received dreams from God from the time of my conversion but it was soon after that first vision that I had a visitation in the night, in 1990.

In the middle of night I was awoken by something touching my lip. It felt like the tip of a burning cigarette. I did not see anything. I went back to sleep. Again I was

awoken with the same burning on my lip. I knew something strange but important had happened that night.

There had been doubt within my heart that God could use me in the prophetic. The Lord confronted me with "Now, will you let me use you?"

I have been blessed in the vineyard where God has planted me. My pastor Peter McArthur and good friend Colleen Milic have both been mentors to me, stretched me, strengthened me and stood with me over the years. My brothers and sisters have all helped nurture me in the prophetic. To each of you I am eternally grateful.

Over the years I have seen the Lord Speak mostly in visions and dreams. They have been vital in showing me how to pray. They have helped guide and direct my decisions.

They have been helpful in bringing insight into situations and in ministry. They have brought hope, reassurance and encouragement to press on.

Through them the Lord has strengthened me to stand these past years. My faith and trust in God has deepened. I am continually assured of the Lord's faithfulness. As Isaiah said I can now say, **"Here am I Lord, send me." (Isaiah 6:8)**

## INTRODUCTION

### UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE LORD IS SAYING THROUGH VISIONS AND DREAMS

God is Sovereign over all, both people and circumstances. He can reveal Himself, His plans, and so forth, to whomever He chooses, whether they are saved or not, baptised in the Holy Spirit or not.

It is by His grace, not by our faith, our works or our own righteousness, that He speaks to us. It is by His grace that He causes the gifts of the Holy Spirit to operate in peoples' lives.

However the Lord desires that we, as Christians, should stir up the gifts. Visions and dreams are in the category of prophetic revelatory gifts. **(1 Corinthians 12)**

It is important at this point to emphasise what Bob Mumford says. "There is no system of meditation or other learned practice that can conjure up a word from God. We hear because He chooses to speak. It is by His grace. It is His enabling. We are simply to make ourselves available for the Master's use."<sup>1</sup>

We are to make ourselves available. We are to be free of things that fetter us. We have a responsibility to divest our lives of things that cloud our thinking, hearing and seeing.

We can choose to be vessels of honour fit for The Lords' use.

**2 Timothy 2:20-21 - "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."**

I believe these principles will aid us in seeing more clearly in the Spirit and understanding what the Lord is saying to us. We need to apply these principles in our daily walk to guard against deception and flaky off track revelations and interpretations.

These have in the past, and still do, bring confusion or harm to the Body. Because of this, peoples' opinions have been adversely affected and the value of this vital gift has been undermined.

It is so necessary for the Body of Christ to move in His love, His power, His provision and His protection in these days by hearing and seeing clearly what the Lord is saying and doing. Jesus did only what he saw the Father doing.

Look at what **John 5:19** says. **"Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. "** We are to do the same, for Jesus is our pattern.

# PART ONE

## PRINCIPLES

### 1. THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Walking in the Fear of the Lord is the foundation of our very existence. The Word of God tells us it is the beginning of wisdom. We so need to walk in God's wisdom in relation to visions and dreams. **Proverbs 9:10 - "The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."**

The Lord reveals His heart and His secrets to those who fear Him. **Psalm 25:14 - "The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him."** Also look at **Amos 3:7 - "Surely the Lord does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets. "**

Living in the Fear of the Lord provides a place of security and safety. **Psalm 34:7 - "The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them."** It is reassuring to know it is a place of protection and deliverance, but it is also a place of provision. **Psalm 34:9 - "Oh fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him."**

We should tremble before the presence of Almighty God, in the knowledge that we are speaking something that we say is of God. We are accountable for every word we speak. We must desire earnestly to speak a pure word that is not tainted by our own thoughts, desires or interpretations.

### 2. WISDOM

The Word of God says Wisdom is the principal thing. **Proverbs 4:7 - "Wisdom is the principal thing. Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding."** How necessary it is for us to seek after, to cry out for wisdom from God. How important it is for us to know how to wisely minister in this gifting.

We are to seek the wisdom that is from above, the wisdom that is pure. We are not to rely on earthly wisdom. The book of James tells us to ask God if we lack wisdom and He will give it to us liberally. However we are not to doubt that we will receive it! **(James 1:5-7)**

When we read the accounts of Jesus we see that Jesus increased in wisdom. **(Luke 2:52)** We are to continually draw upon the wisdom of the Lord for He is our source. As we mature in the ways of the Spirit we will increase in His wisdom.

Consider this Scripture:

**Proverbs 22:17-21 - "Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to My knowledge; for it is a pleasant**



**thing if you keep them within you; Let them all be fixed upon your lips, So that your trust may be in the Lord; I have instructed you today, even you. Have I not written to you excellent things of counsels and knowledge, That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, That you may answer words of truth to those who send to you."**

The Lord counsels us regarding the vision or dream, whether it is to be shared, when and how it is to be shared and with whom it is to be shared. We should ask the Lord for His strategy. **Ecclesiastes 8:5b** says "**a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgement.**"

### **3. GROUNDED IN THE WORD OF GOD**

The Word of God must dwell in us richly for the Lord to draw upon as He speaks to us by His Spirit.

The Lord will use imagery from the word of God either in modern parallel or straight from the word to reveal something.

There will be confirmation through the Word. The visions and dreams of God do not contradict the Word of God or the ways of God.

The Word of God brings enlightenment. **Psalms 19:8** - "**The statutes of the Lord are right rejoicing the heart. The commandment of the Lord is pure enlightening the eyes.**" Within that Scripture is woven not only the work of the Holy Spirit upon our hearts but our obedience to the Word of God. **Psalms 119:30** - "**The entrance of Your word gives light, it gives understanding to the simple.**"

We must be obedient to the Word. When God's word is hidden in our hearts and we walk in His truths it brings enlightenment to our eyes and we begin to see more clearly in the Spirit.

The Word of God renews our minds and consequently our thoughts are brought into alignment with God's thoughts and ways. There is a cleansing that comes from the Word as well. **Ephesians 5:25-27** speaks of Jesus sanctifying us and washing us by the water of the Word so that we are without spot or wrinkle.

I agree with John Sandford when he says "there are sure girders for the tower of imagination. When man builds from his imagination Babel is the result. When God builds it will be within the absolutes of the principles of His Word."<sup>2</sup> The foundation of the Word of God within us must be strong, it is our plumbline. The Lord must be the builder or all we do is in vain.

### **4. CLEAN HEART**

God reveals His mysteries and secrets to those with a right heart attitude.

Our motives need to be examined. Why do we want to move in this gifting? It must be out of love that we want to serve the Body, to see her mature, to see God glorified and to see God's kingdom extended.

Our hearts must be purified. **Matthew 5:8 - "Only the pure in heart will see God."** The Lord will light those fires that will purify us but we must co-operate with Him. Look at **Psalms 119:9 - "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word."**

Our sin hardened hearts need to be circumcised. Hearts that are tender and sensitive to the Holy Spirit are also to be submissive and humble. **Proverbs 23:26 - "My son, give me your heart and let your eyes observe My ways."**

We are to have thankful hearts that are filled with gratitude for what the Lord is doing in our lives. Our hearts should be overflowing in praise for the one who is the great I AM.

Continually we must walk with hearts that are forgiving, hearts that do not hold aught against others that have offended us.

We need hearts that are repentant, hearts that have changed. As Mary Wales says, "Be willing to turn from our own thoughts, own ways and own prayers to seek the face of God."<sup>3</sup>

Our hearts must embrace truth. We are to love truth for the Spirit of Truth is Jesus. **Psalms 51:6 - "Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts. And in the hidden parts You will make me to know wisdom."**

Our hearts must be free of judgementalism and criticism. We are not to judge by what we see or hear with our natural eyes but by the Spirit. **Matthew 7:3-5** speaks of taking the plank out of our own eyes so that we can see clearly to remove the plank from another's eyes.

## 5. WORSHIP

Our focus and our love must be on Jesus our Lord. We are to lean on the Father's breast that we might hear His heartbeat. We must ask (with no preconditions in our hearts) the Father to speak to us as He chooses. Let us not limit God with our own agendas.

Before we can minister to God's people we need to minister to Him. Our first priority is to the Lord. Out of the sanctuary the place of worship, the place of loving God, the place of intimacy, the secret place comes relationship.

Out of that relationship the Anointed One gives us eyes to see Him, His people, His plans and purposes. It is His presence in us that meets the needs of His people.

The place of worship is where we are hidden under the shadow of His wings. It is a place of protection and deliverance. **Psalm 91:14 - "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high because he has known My name."**

We need to be aware that the enemy sets his sights particularly on the prophetic. Those who dwell in the secret place have the assurance of the Lords protective covering.

It is in the place of worship we see God as He is and we are reminded of our created purpose, to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

## 6. PRAYER

We are to pray at all times. It is a lifestyle being in constant communication with the Holy Spirit and with our Lord.

It is very important to pray much in tongues.

**Jude 20-21 - "But you Beloved, building yourself up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keeping yourself in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."**

We are being built up spiritually, growing in God. We are keeping ourselves in the love of God. We are looking unto Jesus, His mercy, His coming, His life in us.

When we pray in the Spirit, in tongues, we are bypassing the things of the mind. We are praying the perfect will of God.

It is essential that we bring our thought life into captivity. This would be the single most important thing I do daily, is to pray this Scripture over my life.

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5 - "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."**

Intercessory prayer would be the single most important focus for the visions and dreams that God gives us. We are to lay hold of the things that Christ has laid hold of for us. We are to contend for the promises of God and, through our spiritual warfare, see the schemes of the enemy brought to naught.

## 7. QUIET SPIRIT

We must cut out interference. These are the things that corrupt our reception and communication of the things of the Spirit because they have been tainted by various sources.

The soul life needs to be in order. **Psalm 62:5** - "**My soul, wait silently for God alone.**" Here we see the soul is not clamouring to be heard, but he is being instructed by his spirit to wait quietly upon God.

**Psalm 131:1-2** - "**Lord my heart is not haughty nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters. Nor with things too profound for me. Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul. Like a weaned child with his mother. Like a weaned child is my soul.**"

The things we do, see and read affect our eye gate which in turn affects our mind and thoughts and of course, our hearts.

We are to stay away from those activities that corrupt the soul. We may think they are harmless. The insidious seeds of compromise that begin with just a thought or just a look, if we continue to entertain those thoughts, will bear the fruit of sin. They do affect our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and our spiritual eyes and ears.

We need to cultivate a quiet trusting in God. We are not to fret or be anxious about the things the Lord might show us. We are to commit it to the Lord in prayer. In God's timing, the revelation and understanding will be made known.

The Word tells us a quiet gentle spirit is very precious in the eyes of God. **(1 Peter 3:4)** When we are at rest within ourselves, when our spirit, soul and body are in submission to God, quietly trusting and resting in Him, we are tuned into Him and we can more clearly hear and see what the Lord is saying.

**Ecclesiastes 9:17** speaks of wise words spoken should be heard. When we take the time to still ourselves before the presence of the Lord, to listen to what He has to say, wisdom will surely come forth and should be heard.

## 8. FASTING

When we fast for the right reasons, we are showing the Lord that we are seriously seeking Him. It indicates a willingness to pay the price to see God's purposes fulfilled in, not only our own lives, but our families, the Church, the community in which we live and the nations.

Fasting on its own achieves very little except maybe the loss of a few Kilograms. It needs to be coupled with Spirit inspired prayer.

As we fast, our spirit man is being exercised. We are bringing our soul and body into submission to our spirit. Divine order is being re established within us. Fasting brings a sensitivity in the spirit realm.

Not only is it a fast from food but from our own desires, goals, our own prayers, our own perceptions and preconceived ideas. Mary Wales received this prophetic word.

"And yet, know that the hardest thing of all for My people to do, is to cease from, even to fast from, their own ideas, their own thoughts, their own ways and wisdom, their own works, yea even their own prayers. And to allow the Spirit to pray through them, yea to speak through them and to work through them."<sup>3</sup>

Our fast, our food is to do the will of God. **(John 4:32, 34)**

Though we may fast, seeking God for revelation, He will answer in His perfect timing. However the revelation may not necessarily come during the fast, but it will come, just when we need it!

With fasting comes an increased anointing in the area of deliverance and increased spiritual authority over works of the enemy.

**Matthew 17:21 - "However, this kind (of demon) does not go out except by prayer and fasting."**

It is important to look closely at **Isaiah 58** but especially **verses 6-14**. May the Holy Spirit speak afresh to each of us as we reflect on this passage, and what the Word is saying specifically to each one.

**6. "Is this not the fast that I have chosen; To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke?"**

**7. "Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And do not hide yourself from your own flesh?"**

**8. "Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard."**

**9. "Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say "Here I AM." If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness."**

**10. "If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall be as the noonday."**

**11. "The Lord will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones: You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail."**

**12. "Those from among you shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Restorer of the Breach, The Restorer of the Streets to Dwell In."**

**13. "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the Lord honourable, And shall honour Him, not doing your own ways, not finding your own pleasure, not speaking your own words."**

**14. "Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord, And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, The mouth of the Lord has spoken."**

I believe these verses are vitally important in our Christian walk but especially so in relation to ministering in prophetic intercession in the area of visions and dreams.

## **PART TWO**

### **PRACTICE**

#### **1. BALANCE**

We are called to stir up the gifts within, but we are not to strive to the extent that we are anxious, tensely straining to hear or see what God is saying. Sometimes we try too hard in our zeal, in our desire to see or hear.

Our imagination can run away with us. Desires that emanate from the soul and not from the heart of God indicate the visions are really 'wishions' as someone has said.

In our zeal we run ahead forgetting to ask for wisdom. When I first began to experience the things of the Spirit I was zealous for God but lacked wisdom. The Lord gave me the analogy of the puppy learning to bring the slippers to Father, but on the way they become chewed and sopping wet.

Life in Christ is exciting and joyful, it is no wonder new Christians are 'keen as mustard' when sharing. We need to ask for wisdom so we can know when and how much 'mustard' to use, otherwise it can be overpowering and quite unpalatable to the unsaved.

Our eyes are not open to the realm of the Spirit all the time. If that were the case, we would be on overload, reeling under the weight of revelation. For most of us, we are not yet ready to walk in that realm of anointing, without stumbling or causing others to stumble.

We are to be naturally supernatural. God opens our eyes to see the things we need to see. We are accountable for the way we operate in the giftings. We have no right to 'see' into peoples' lives without the Lord's permission.

This is a perversion of the gifts, and with wrong motives, is dangerous. But we are called to train all our spiritual senses. By reason of use, the gifts within grow and we increase in wisdom as we allow the Holy Spirit gifts to flow in the midst of the congregation and in the market place.

The Lord desires to use us more than we are prepared to allow Him. It means taking those steps of faith, getting out of the boat, out of the comfort zone, to where miracles take place.

#### **2. WRITE THE VISION**

It is important to write down the vision or dream when you first receive it. Write it exactly as you see it. The date, location, time of day, people, what they are doing, their emotional state, what was said and by whom.

Note particular scenery or furnishings, symbols or flags. Each detail may not seem relevant to you but could prove to be significant later and helpful in understanding the dream.

Do not write the interpretation in the midst of documenting the dream or vision. Keep it separate. Otherwise it will only cloud the picture and the message and bring confusion.

### 3. INTERPRETATION

Ask the Holy Spirit for the interpretation, for understanding. Do not presume that you know what it means. Wait on the Lord for revelation.

Because dreams and visions provoke us to seek further and to pray, the Holy Spirit may direct you to do some research. If the subjects are unfamiliar or there is another aspect He wants to show you, through your investigation the Holy Spirit will highlight the information that is relevant.

Gaining an understanding of the language of the Spirit through the Word of God is essential. Knowing the meaning of symbols, colours, types and shadows is beneficial, enriching the storehouse within that the Lord can draw upon when speaking to you.

The interpretation will come as we seek the Lord, as we set our hearts to understand, be assured God will reveal what we need to know and when we need to know.

The Lord may choose to send a messenger to bring understanding as He did with Daniel.

**Daniel 9:22-23 - "And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, 'O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision.'"**

Here we see that the angel Gabriel was sent to Daniel to impart skill to understand. But in chapter 8 verse 16 Gabriel was sent to make Daniel understand. There has been a progression from making him understand to giving him skill to understand.

In chapter 10 there is a description of the one bringing the understanding this time that is very similar to the book of Revelation.

Compare **Daniel 10:5-6** with **Revelation 1:13-15**. I believe the Lord Himself came to give Daniel understanding on this occasion.

There has been a further progression because of relationship and the seriousness of the situation.



**Daniel 10:11-12 - "and He said to me, 'O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have been sent to you.' While He was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. Then He said to me, 'Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.'"**

There are important points in the book of Daniel that detail Daniel's lifestyle and his relationship with God, which we would do well to remember, in relation to interpretation and understanding of visions and dreams.

In part five we will look more closely at dream interpretation and areas of our lives that can affect our understanding of what God is saying through the vision or dream.

## **4. CONFIRMATION**

The vision or dream will be confirmed through the Word. You may not get the confirmation straight away, but He will show you. It may come through another person.

It may come to pass. You may have received a true word that revealed a scheme of the enemy which, through intercession, has been thwarted.

In this case it does not come to pass. Praise God that His plans for us are good!

The Holy Spirit within will witness to its veracity. The vision or dream will also line up with the character and ways of God. They will not contradict the Scriptures.

All visions and dreams must be weighed and tested in accordance with the Word of God.

## **5. SAFEGUARDS**

Seek the wisdom and counsel of the elders. Share with your pastor or teacher as you grow in your gifting.

- Accountability to God and leadership in the Body.
- Personal integrity in our walk with God and man.
- Be clothed with humility. It is a protective covering for us.

It is important to record the vision, dream or prophetic word on tape or in written form. This is for your protection and for the Body's as well. There may be misapplication or wrong interpretation of the word given.

## BE AWARE OF THE STRATEGIES OF THE ENEMY

The spirit of Jezebel has as one of its primary targets, the prophetic ministry. The aim of the enemy is to stop the ministry from functioning effectively. The prophetic ministry is meant to bring encouragement, comfort and exhortation. It is meant to help build and to strengthen the Body of Christ. Jezebel desires to destroy the Body of Christ.

The first line of attack will be discouragement. It could come following a true word that is rejected.

I remember a situation where this was the case. A lack of wisdom in sharing, however was a contributing factor. The attack was vicious. Although the Lord had graciously forewarned me of the attack, it nevertheless sent me reeling.

I had not been confronted by the spirit of Jezebel before. It got to the stage of a thought of suicide coming into my mind. At that moment the enemy had gone too far, had exposed himself. Then I became aware of the source of the thoughts. The Lord had raised up two intercessors to pray for me and sing over me providing healing balm for my wounds. It was a valuable lesson.

Remember Elijah executing the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah who ate at Jezebel's table. Following that demonstration of God's power, what did Elijah do? He ran from Jezebel's threats and hid in a cave. He wanted the Lord to take his life. Read **1 Kings 18-19** for the full account.

The Lord visited Elijah where he was wallowing in self pity, feeling alone and deserted. The Lord made it clear to Elijah he was not the only one left, there were 7,000 that God had reserved that were faithful to Him. The Lord then simply gave Elijah a new assignment.

I remembered the Scripture **Hebrews 10:38** that God's soul takes no pleasure in those who turn back, when I was in the pit of despair, thinking I will just sit and be a 'pew polisher.'

That word jolted me into resolving to press on because the thought of the Lord not taking pleasure in me was devastating.

We are to move on, press on to do what we have been called to do knowing the Lord is with us. His word says "**For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.**" (Psalm 18:39)

## 6. BOUNDARIES

We must not go beyond the boundaries of the area of responsibility that God has set for us, and given us grace in which to minister.

The Holy Spirit reveals what we need to know and when we need to know. Generally, the dreams and visions relate to our own lives, our families, our workplace. These are the situations and circumstances that affect us.

The Lord will reveal other areas, as He wills. These areas include the church, the city and the nations. It is dependant on the ministry that God has called us to and also the degree of intimacy with the Lord and our maturity in the things of the Spirit.

## 7. MANIFESTATIONS

I physically sense what I call a prophetic unction when the anointing power of the Holy Spirit comes upon me. This type of unction comes specifically when the Lord wants me to share something that He has shown. It may be a dream or vision or word that was given during the week or it may have just been received.

This also will happen if someone in the Body has a prophetic word but has not yet delivered it. Usually they have been holding on to it. If they are just learning to flow in the gifting they may need encouragement to share it.

I needed much encouragement to get moving! Consider the young eaglet, the parent bird pushes the youngster out of the nest and the eaglet quickly learns to fly through necessity. By God's design the parent is close by to scoop up the little one and they try again.

God will at times stretch us in this way, especially the timid ones. It is important to develop your gifts within the safety of the local fellowship and under guidance of the elders of the church.

The manifestation comes as a burning fire within my chest. It is like a strong pressure within my heart as though it were going to explode. If the prophetic word is not acted upon, the sensation fades away. If the word is not delivered because of disobedience there is a real sense of knowing that the Holy Spirit has been grieved.

We need to be able to recognise the various manifestations that can present. The difference between the demonic, the soul expressing itself in the flesh and what is of the Spirit of God, needs to be identified.

## 8. TIMING

The Lord will provide the opportunity for the word to be shared, if the time is right and it has been cleared with the elders. **Proverbs 18:16 - "A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men."**

Timing is important. Though we do miss it at times, especially when we are learning to function in the gifting, God graciously gives us opportunity to share.

As we mature in the ways of the Spirit we become more sensitive to when the Holy Spirit wants us to speak, without the need for such obvious physical manifestations.

If we are not sure, the Lord makes His will known by increasing the unction, as though He were saying "Yes it is Me. I want you to share this vision now."

We must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. We need to be aware of how He is moving in the meeting, and the content of the prophetic flow.

It is wise to wait for another time if your word is contrary to the general flow of the Spirit at that point. Do not cut across what the Lord is saying just because you have something to share. It can lower the anointing and also bring confusion.

**1 Corinthians 14:29-33 - "Let two or three prophets speak and let the others judge. But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."**

**1 Corinthians 14:40: "Let all things be done decently and in order."**

We learn through experience to recognise the prompting of the Holy Spirit. When the timing, the circumstances or conditions are right, the Lord reminds us and prompts us to give His word.

Wait On The Lord: The dream or vision needs to be pondered in our hearts. As we meditate on it, the understanding will come, as we seek the Lord. Ask the Lord 'Is this to be shared and if so, when it is to be shared?'

**Isaiah 40:31** has meaning in this context in relation to revelation. When we wait on the Lord, we mount up with wings as eagles. It is in that place, in the heavens, the heavenly realm, that we can begin to see things from God's perspective.

## **9. OBEY THE VISION**

When the vision is verified through confirmation we are to obey the Lord. **Acts 26:19 - "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision."** We could be wrong, but God is merciful and forgiving.

He is mindful of our intention to obey and is well able to deliver us. **(Psalm 91:14-15)** He is able to bring good out of the mistakes we make. They are always valuable lessons. God is truly full of grace toward us.

## **10. SPEAKING FORTH THE VISION**

It is to declare the Lord's purpose and intentions.

When spoken, the creative word releases God's power to cause things to come to pass. God confirms and fulfils His word.

If the word spoken is unconditional, it will happen, for it is something that God has decreed and man's will is not involved in the equation. If the word spoken is conditional, there are requirements that must be met. It is the Lord's desire, but there must be a co-operation of our will and obedience for the vision to be fulfilled.

When we speak forth the vision or dream, there will be a witness of the Holy Spirit to the truth of what is spoken. There will be conviction and or affirmation. We are to speak the word of the Lord from a heart that is submissive and humble.

We are called to be watchmen not watch dogs that are on the attack! We are to speak God's word from a heart that is filled with His love for the welfare of His people.

## 11. REJECTION

There will be times when the vision or dream is not received and the word is rejected. It may be a true word but the person to whom we give the word may not accept that it is of God or that relates to them. They may at a later time accept that it was a word from the Lord about their situation.

It is part of the process of growing in the prophetic. Actually it is part of every Christian's walk, learning not to take offence when our message is rejected.

We are to walk continually in unconditional love.

It is part of the testing of the Lord's servants. We must learn to simply leave it with the Lord and trust Him to work it out. We have a responsibility to speak the word that is given to us.

Remember the warning given to Ezekiel.

**Ezekiel 3:17-19 - "Son of man I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, 'you shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I shall require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your soul."**

Some reasons for rejection of the word.

The person may be offended by the vessel bringing the word. Their particular mindset may preclude them from recognising Jesus within their brother or sister especially if they are given a word by young Christian.

The Lord is about to shatter some long entrenched mindsets regarding the vessels He will use in these days.

The manner in which the word is delivered is important for the word to be received.

The timing of delivery of the word is critical.

The person receiving the word may not want to recognise the truth because it hurts too much, it may be something the person has not wanted to face. They are in denial or they have blocked out the painful memories. The Lord desires that they be healed and set free.

The person may be in deception. We need to uphold them in prayer so the Holy Spirit can illuminate their darkness so that they will be able to recognise the truth so they can walk in liberty and light.

## 12. MISTAKES

We all undergo training in the school of the Spirit.

All of us will make mistakes. They certainly help to knock the wind of pride out of our sails.

Pride is one of the greatest sins common to man. Lucifer fell because of pride. It is deadly. The word of God tells us to humble ourselves. If we do not, God will.

When we set our hearts to stay humble, God graciously helps us. The mistakes we make serve to humble us as well as teach us wisdom. They are for our good.

We learn more through our mistakes than from other sources.

Through this process and others we mature in use of the gifts but more importantly, our character is being perfected. We are growing up in Christ. Someone has said "It is better to grow up in Christ than grow old in the Lord."

If we resist God's dealings in our lives that are sent to forge in us Christ-likeness, then the result is likely to be someone who for example, has been a Christian for thirty years but is spiritually child-like in his or her attitudes and actions.

It is a discipline of trial and error as well. I like what the Amplified Bible says about wisdom: 'Painful, costly experience.' God disciplines those He loves. It is the Lord's goal to develop our character as well as the issue at hand.

I am reassured by the comment John Sandford made: God is a mighty God. His grace and mercy are greater than our capacity to goof.<sup>2</sup> He is able to pick up the pieces and turn it for good. **Romans 8:28 - "All things work for good, to those who love the Lord, and are called according to His purposes."**

## 13. FULFILMENT OF THE VISION

The time between receiving the vision and its fulfilment can be long. It can often be a difficult journey. Often it may seem as if things are going exactly the opposite way to that which was prophesied.

If the Lord is showing a time to come of great provision often there can be some lean days before entering into promised land of plenty like Joseph. The word of the Lord tested Joseph in the time of waiting.

If the details are very clear and specific, it is likely to be a longer time before the promises of God are appropriated. The Lord knows we need the vision to hold fast to, that we might be strengthened in our resolve to wait.

It gives us courage to stand and faith to journey on. The word says that without a vision My people perish.

They can be times of hardship and also humiliation. They are for our preparation. The Lord is at work orchestrating circumstances and situations that His purposes are fulfilled in His perfect timing.

During this time we learn to trust in God's faithfulness.

We must actively possess promises of God. We are not to accept half measures. We must not beat the ground only three times.

**2 Kings 13:18-19 - "Then he said, 'Take the arrows': so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel. 'Strike the ground' so he struck the ground three times, and stopped. And the man of God was angry with him, and said, 'You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck Syria till you destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times.'"**

As we wait, we must seek the Lord for His strategies. We must not force His hand. We are not to pre-empt God's timing by opening doors ourselves. We could end up with an 'Ishmael' situation. We must patiently wait on the Lord to go before us and open the right doors.

Our job is to pray, contending for the promises in the prayer closet! We are to persevere, to hold fast to His word without doubting, and to prepare as the Lord directs.

## 14. OUR FOCUS - JESUS

We are not to set our hearts on the dream or vision that God may have given us, to the extent that we lose sight of the One we are to follow, Jesus. Our eyes must be fixed on Him. The word says that when our eye is single, then we will be full of light.

When our focus is Jesus, we are looking at the fountain of life. When His countenance shines on us, His light floods our being and we see light. **(Psalm 36:9)**

It is in His presence that the eyes of our hearts are progressively enlightened. As we behold Him we are changed from glory to glory by His Spirit. **(2 Corinthians 3:18)**  
**"God has shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus." (2 Corinthians 4:6)**

We will be people who will shine forth the glory of God in the darkness of the days ahead.

When we awake, we will be satisfied only when we can look in the mirror and see the reflection of Jesus.

**Psalm 17:15 - "As for me, I will see your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in your likeness."**



## **PRAYER**

**(Taken from Ephesians 1:17-19)**

**Father of glory, may You give us  
the Spirit of wisdom and revelation  
in the knowledge of Your Son, Jesus.  
May the eyes of our understanding  
be enlightened that we may know  
the hope of your calling,  
the riches of your glory,  
which is our inheritance.  
May we know the exceeding  
greatness of your power.**

**Amen**

**\*\*\*\*\***

# PART THREE

## THE RELEVANCE OF DREAMS AND VISIONS TODAY

### 1. WHY GOD CHOOSES TO SPEAK TO US THROUGH VISIONS AND DREAMS

God desires to fellowship with us. God's wonderful character has many dimensions. There are also many ways He chooses to speak to us. Dreams and visions are a personal and private form of communication. The Lord very rarely uses outright speech. It is an awesome and terrifying thing to hear. Because of His loving concern and mercy toward us, He communicates with us in other ways. It is a safeguard for us.

God revealing Himself and speaking to us through visions and dreams is a valid means of communication found in the Old Testament and in the New Testament.

**Job 33:14-16 - "For God may speak in one way or another, yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction."**

It draws us closer to Him. We are dependent upon Him for understanding. The Holy Spirit reveals matters, unveils things if we seek Him. **Jeremiah 33:3 - "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."**

It causes us to grow stronger in the spirit. It stimulates us to search and seek out a matter. **Proverbs 25:2 - "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter."**

I remember years ago in Kununurra when we had chicken eggs that were ready to hatch. The chickens seemed to be taking so long in breaking through. I thought I would help them along by cracking the shell a little. I succeeded in killing them instead. I interfered with the natural process.

John Sandford explains this in his book . "A chicken must break through the shell by itself. It needs the exercise to gain strength. If you interfere with the process the chicken will not survive. We must not thwart the process of discovery."<sup>2</sup>

Our Father takes great pleasure in watching us mature in the things of the spirit just as our earthly fathers delight in watching us grow in the natural. We learn the most from the things we discover ourselves. This is the way that lessons are learnt in Eastern cultures. The Holy Spirit is a very wise teacher!

The Lord is teaching us the language of His Spirit. This is what Rick Joyner says in *The Surpassing Greatness of His Power*. “There is a language of the Spirit that transcends human language. It is contrary and offensive to the natural mind of man. This is one reason the Lord has spoken through visions and dreams from the beginning. He is not trying to confuse us all, by the use of strange symbols and metaphors in dreams and visions. He is trying to teach us the language of His Spirit. The language of man comes from the mind and the language of the Spirit comes from the innermost being. It is a higher form of communication.”<sup>4</sup>

A picture really is worth a thousand words. Much can be conveyed with the minimum of words. God is a God of economy. He does not waste words. His words are measured. His words are powerful and creative.

The dream or vision is like a photograph that has a foreground, middle ground and a background. The dream or vision can have information which has more than one level of application or understanding. It can also contain relevant information for the present and also for a future time. It can reveal details of the past that have bearing on the present.

The Lord is able to speak to us with the minimum of conscious interference.

Dreams can be one of the most private ways, one of the kindest ways our Father can speak to us about issues of the heart.

Visions and dreams provoke us to pray.

- They give direction and counsel.
- They reveal the specific will of God in a situation.
- They can reveal the root of a problem and show potential problems.
- They can make known the Lord’s intention, re: healings, deliverance and miracles.
- They provide warnings of impending judgements.
- They foretell of blessings.
- They can reveal strategies and plans of God and of the enemy.
- They can bring encouragement, hope and comfort.
- They can bring correction.

The Lord chooses the form of communication with His people that best fulfils His purposes. In these last days the Lord has promised the outpouring of His Spirit on all flesh.

We will all know the language of His Spirit as He speaks to us through visions and dreams and prophetic utterances. **(Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17-18)** We must make preparation now by understanding the language of His Spirit for the days ahead. Before we look more closely at dreams and visions it is worth considering some of the Hebrew and Greek words and their meanings. They give a more comprehensive understanding of the scope and variety of the dreams and visions.

## **2. RELEVANT HEBREW WORDS <sup>5</sup>**

Raah: (#7200) From the root word To see, advise self, appear, approve, consider, discern, look upon another, to perceive, spy, take heed, view visions eg Jeremiah 1:11 - "...I see a rod of an almond tree."

Chalom: (#2472) A dream or a vision of the night. eg. Genesis 20:6 - "And God said to him in a dream..."

Chazown: (#2377) To mentally see a vision, a form of revelation. eg. Ezekiel 12:27 - "The vision he sees is for many days ahead."

Tsaphah: (#6822) Watchman, To lean forward, peer into the distance. eg. Isaiah 21:6 - "Set a watchman, Let him declare what he sees."

## **3. RELEVANT GREEK WORDS <sup>5</sup>**

Photizo: (#5461) To shed light, to shine light on, to illuminate, cause to see. eg. Ephesians 1:18 - "That the eyes of your understanding be enlightened."

Blepo: (#991) To look at, behold, beware, perceive, see, take heed. eg. "John 13:22 - The disciples looked on one another."

Eidio: (#1492) To know, to look on, perceive, be sure, understand. eg. "Romans 8:27 - Know what is the mind of Christ."

Luchnos: (#3088) Candle, portable lamp. eg. Matthew 6:22 - "The lamp of the body is the eye."

Enupnion: (#1798) Something seen in sleep, a vision in a dream. eg. Acts 2:17 - "Old men dream dreams."

## PART FOUR

### DREAMS: VISIONS OF THE NIGHT

These visions occur when we are asleep. It is a time when there is the least amount of conscious involvement or interference. We need to be aware that not all dreams are spiritual dreams. However not all spiritual dreams are from God.

#### 1. DREAM CATEGORIES

There are five different categories of dreams that are listed below. I will attempt to briefly describe these. However my focus and my prayer are that the Lord will progressively and experientially open the eyes of our understanding of the realm of dreams that He is revealing to us.

##### ORDINARY DREAMS

These come as a result of the activities of the day. Scientists have found we normally dream for about one hour each night .These are from the imagination, the subconscious mind working through things that have happened during the course of the day. They can be the result of things that are 'on our mind.'

**Ecclesiastes 5:3 - "For a dream comes through much activity, and a fool's voice is known by his many words."**

##### FALSE DREAMS

These come from a heart that speaks of itself, its own passions and desires, not from the heart of God.

**Jeremiah 23:32 - "'Behold I am against those who prophesy false dreams,' says the Lord, 'and tell them, and cause My People to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all,' says the Lord." (See also Zechariah 10:2)**

##### DRUG RELATED DREAMS

These can be the result of chemical imbalance in the body through infection or disease. Fevers and delirious states can thus precipitate strange dreams or visions.They can come also from the effect of drugs, both prescribed or illicit.

##### DEMONIC DREAMS

Nightmares can be included in this category. When the eye gate is open to the evils that are portrayed in films and literature, it affects the soul of man. Adults may not be aware of its deadly impact but nevertheless it still pollutes.

Children are very susceptible to 'scary' movies and stories, which can trigger nightmares. We have a responsibility as parents to monitor the programs our children watch. We are accountable before God for these little ones.

Demonic dreams are sent by Satan to disturb or cause fear. They bring deception. They can distract or sidetrack people from following or fulfilling the purposes of God. Demonic manifestation or visitation can occur during the dream state. The incubus or succubus are demonic spirits of a sexual nature. We must recognise that it is a demonic visitation. We must not accept or co-operate with this foul spirit, but command it to go in Jesus' name.

### **OCCULT DREAMS AND VISIONS**

These belong under the category of demonic dreams because of the source of the revelation. These dreams are received by psychics, mediums fortune tellers and so forth. Their 'gifting' is the counterfeit of God's gift to the Body of Christ. These ones are using divination and witchcraft, demonic power to see into the spirit realm. They are all an abomination in God's eyes. **(Deuteronomy 18:9-14)**

If there has been involvement in the occult prior to salvation we must deal with that through confession and thorough and absolute repentance. It can otherwise taint the vessel and the message.

### **DREAMS FROM THE LORD GOD**

God reveals information to His people sovereignly by His Holy Spirit. **Jeremiah 23:28 - "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell his dream. And he who has My word, let him speak my word faithfully."**

We are called and warned to test the spirits. The dreams of God must line up with the Scriptures and sound doctrine. See **1 John 4:1 - "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone into the world."** Discussion of the types of dreams God gives follows the section on visions.

## **2. VISIONS FROM GOD**

These are given while we are awake. It is the next level of involvement by man as God communicates with us.

Just as we have natural senses, eg. sight, we also have spiritual senses: our spirit sees.

There are three types of vision:

- Closed
- Open
- Trance

## CLOSED VISION

The Holy Spirit flashes a picture onto the inner screen of our mind. We are awake. We do not see the picture with our natural eyes, our eyes are not open. For example:

**Acts 9:10-16** - visions were given to Ananias and Saul of Tarsus with directions on what to do. **Acts 10:3-6** - In a vision an angel appeared to Cornelius with a message.

The Lord can risk more direct conscious involvement with his servants when the Holy Spirit dwells in them.

When we die more and more to self and when our hearts are purified, the eyes of our heart, our spiritual eyes are progressively enlightened to understand. As the spirit of wisdom and revelation is released more we begin to see more clearly. **(Ephesians 1:17-18)**

## OPEN VISION

Our natural eyes are open. We are alert, awake. Before our eyes the Holy Spirit will flash a picture in front of something we are looking at already.

## TRANCE

We can not choose or will ourselves or others to enter into a trance as is done by mediums or hypnotists.

God's presence and power overcomes the person in order to reveal vital information to them. For example Peter's commissioning in **Acts 11:5**. The Lord necessarily arrested Peter's attention to communicate His will regarding ministry to the Gentiles. Upon seeing the vision Peter was still able to speak with the Lord. He was still in control of his senses.

Look at the example of **Daniel 7:15**. He was overcome by the power and the presence of the Lord. God wanted to speak to Daniel "**He touched me and set me upright. He laid His right hand upon me saying 'Fear not'.**"

God prefers to speak with us when our faculties and senses are alert rather than in a trance. As John Sandford says, 'we would rather visit with our kids when they are awake rather than when they are comatose.'<sup>2</sup>

In the Old Testament most vital turning points in mans' history with God were marked by dreams. In the New Testament visions are more common, eg. Paul's conversion.<sup>2</sup>

## 3. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF DREAMS

### OLD TESTAMENT

Warning Dream given to Abimelech (**Genesis 20**). God revealed to him that Sarah was Abraham's wife.

Strategy Dream given to Jacob (**Genesis 28**). God said when to flee from Laban and when to return to Canaan.

Destiny Dreams given to Joseph (**Genesis 37**). God revealed His plan to raise Joseph to a position of power and authority.

### NEW TESTAMENT

Guidance Dream given to Joseph (**Matthew 1:20**). God's will was communicated that he was to keep Mary as his wife.

Warning Dream was also given to Joseph for them to flee to Egypt. (**Matthew 2:13**)

Warning Dream given to the wise men (**Matthew 2:12**), Not to return to Herod on the way home.

## 4. TYPES OF DREAMS

### INTRODUCTION

The dreams God gives are in balance.

It is not all 'doom and gloom'. **Romans 11:22** - "**Consider the goodness and severity of God.**" We are inclined to spit the pips out, when it comes to life's circumstances and even God's word and ways if they do not sit well on our palate!

There are dreams of warning, of impending judgements and of calls to repentance.

The Lord also gives dreams and visions that speak of His guidance, instruction, blessings, coming revivals, the glory of the end time church, Jesus' Bride and of the Lord's return for His People.

The dreams and visions God has given me have been in colour. They are vivid in detail. It is as though the Lord etches it in our spirit. They are clear, precise and memorable. The Holy Spirit brings it to remembrance when it is required.

In contrast I find usually, natural or ordinary dreams are a hazy, conglomeration of forgettable moments that are not confirmed in scripture.



There is a marked difference, in that the breath of God is upon the dreams He gives. In them is the capacity for a creative word to be released.

### **WATCHMAN DREAMS**

The word of God speaks of "**I saw a dream.**" These are the most common. You find yourself as the observer in the dream, watching it unfold.

Quite often I ask questions as I stand there. One nearby answers. Usually I do not see the one who replies to my questions. Most of the time something is spoken in the dream, whether it is by an angel responding to the questions or the Lord or someone in the dream.

### **PARTICIPATORY DREAMS**

These are when you see yourself in the dream doing something, going somewhere or saying something. It can be to reveal something about you.

I remember one the Lord showed me. I was sitting in a church. A Christian that I knew, was sitting in front of me. He turned around and said, "It is places you have been and people you have known."

I had to seek the Lord for understanding. He showed me that I had a shark spirit that came from living on Fanning Island in the early sixties. The people who lived there were Gilbert and Ellis Islanders.

The island had many sharks within and without the lagoon. The islanders made their artefacts with shark teeth and chicken feathers held in place by woven pandanus palm.

We had a number of these in our home for years. Some of them were swords. I had for many years a fear of being cut but never knew why. I needed prayer to be set free from this spirit. The Lord used the dream to reveal the root of the problem so that I could be released.

### **INTERACTIVE DREAMS**

These include an actual encounter or involvement in the spirit realm. It is here that we encounter visitations from angels sent of God, the Lord Himself or demons. The Lord may choose to take your spirit out of your body for a time to reveal something to you in another place. These are what some refer to as out of body experiences.

Regarding demonic encounters: I have found in these dreams that I have been battling a spiritual enemy. I wake up exhausted. There is a degree of fear or terror at the time but always when I call on the name of JESUS and His blood, the very presence of the Lord of Hosts, in the midst of the battle comes and stands at my side bringing victory in the situation.

Deliverance is won in the heavenly realm before it is realised in the natural.

There most certainly is a wrestling against the powers of darkness.

**Ephesians 6:12 - "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."**

These dreams can relate to what is happening, what is to happen over a city, a church or an individual. An example of this type of dream was given to me in August 1997. I shall relate it in the present tense as it was recorded in my journal.

My sons are attempting to help a young boy with a head wound that requires suturing. The boys are using oversized surgical instruments but the child runs off in fear. He is seen running down a hospital corridor. The voice of the Lord comes forth from the boy's mouth "I want you to pray for this boy's deliverance."

Then begins a battle in the spirit. A demon begins to speak out of the boy's mouth "I am the gatekeeper" then the spirit attacks me and tries to speak through me. A mighty struggle ensues. The Lord is fighting for me and declares the truth "I AM the gate keeper." I awoke declaring Jesus is the Gatekeeper.

This boy's deliverance has not been manifested in the natural yet. The Lord brought confirmation in His word. **Ecclesiastes 12:3 - "In the day when the keepers of the house tremble the strongmen bow down."**

### **VEILED DREAMS**

With some dreams the interpretation may not be given till after the event. The Holy Spirit brings it to remembrance afterward and the understanding comes. It "clicks." The understanding drops into our spirit.

I believe with veiled dreams there is a place in God when we press deeper those veils are removed.

God is reminding us He is in control, He knows all things. He presides over the affairs of all mankind, individuals and nations, every area of life, major and minor events. The Lord is sovereign over all.

In September 1992 the Lord showed Queen Elizabeth in her sitting room. She was given a box of French jellies. I could not see who gave them to her. I heard a voice say "Look, they have been cut, but with time they will soften and join together again."

Then I saw her looking sadly at magazines sitting on a round coffee table. Next the Lord showed her outside, walking across a stone courtyard toward another building. The understanding of the dream came only after Princess Diana's death. As I watched the news broadcast I recognised the courtyard, it was at St James palace where Diana's body lay until the funeral.

The veiled references to their divorce and its effects, France, the paparazzi and the contentious issue of Diana's body resting at St James for some time while the Queen remained at Balmoral, were all there in the dream years before the events took place.

From the dream come the hope of healing of relationships and the knowledge of the sovereignty of Almighty God in world affairs that His purposes will be accomplished.

### **HIDDEN OR SEALED DREAMS**

The Spirit of God speaks to us in the night season, instructing us through visions and dreams. **Psalm 16:7 - "I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel. My heart also instructs me in the night season."**

There have been times when I know the Lord has spoken to me in the night in a dream but has chosen to seal it for a season. It is not for us to know until God's appointed time to reveal it to us. **Daniel 12:9 - "Go your way Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed, till the time of the Lord."**

### **CONTACT DREAMS**

These result from an encounter with people you have met during the day or through ministry. The Lord is revealing specific problems or situations.

These particular problems may be totally foreign to your character but are shown in the dream. God is alerting you to that person's need for intercession or prayer as the Lord directs.

### **RECURRING DREAMS**

Some may have the same dream over and over again. This may indicate a specific area that needs healing in their life.

The Lord may be repeating the dream because of the importance of the message and the urgency of the hour. If the dream message is not heeded there could be adverse consequences.

It could be the Lord has repeated a particular dream a number of times because the fulfilment of the promise of God is along way off. It is given to bring encouragement that we do not lose heart and hope during the time of testing and waiting.

### **CONFIRMING DREAMS**

The Lord may say something through a particular dream and then confirm it with another dream or vision that has the same or similar meaning but in a different form.

God can give the same dream to two or more people at the same time. This brings to people a powerful witness that our God is a supernatural God who knows us

intimately and speaks to us personally. Some of the reasons God sends confirming dreams include:

- The initial dream has not been understood
- The dream message has not been acted upon
- The importance of the dream needs to be emphasised
- The dream is given as a witness

## **5. THE CHARACTER OF THE DREAMS**

### **THEY ARE REVELATORY**

The Lord can use dreams to reveal strongholds over a city, a church or a person for intercessory purposes, for spiritual warfare.

God can reveal the destiny of nations, cities, churches and people.

He reveals the state or condition of the heart of a nation or of a person.

It is the prerogative of the Lord to reveal these things to whom He wills, so that His plans and purposes are accomplished.

### **THEY WARN**

- Of situations that will arise so that we can make informed decisions and plan accordingly.
- Show the plans of the enemy so that they might be thwarted or destroyed.
- Of judgements to come so that we can pray, prepare and position ourselves.
- Of situations in the workplace, appointments and resignations.
- Of births and deaths to come.

### **THEY GUIDE AND DIRECT**

These dreams reveal God's will, His counsel and His strategies.

They can show pitfalls along the way if a certain path was chosen.

### **THEY REVEAL PLANS IN THE FATHER'S HEART**

They show the creative miracles that God has in His heart to perform.

They can reveal the healings and deliverance before they come to pass.

They can show salvation, those who are destined to come into His Kingdom. These ones need intercessory prayer.

God may show you ones who are not yet saved but God has placed a high calling upon their lives. These also need prayer that they and their ministries might be birthed.

### **THEY BRING COMFORT, HOPE AND REASSURANCE**

The Lord may give a dream to someone to assure them that He has heard their cry.

He may give you the dream about another's cry so that you might give them the message of God's love and understanding of their situation and that all things are in the palm of His hand.

One night the Lord showed a woman who lives in another city. She is going through a very difficult time. There are continuing court appearances over custody and access of the woman and her estranged husband's child.

In the dream I saw the Lord operate on the woman and remove a miniature version of a full grown man from her liver. The problem was causing the woman much heartache. She was having trouble forgiving her husband for what had happened. She was bitter toward him.

The Lord was showing that there was hope for her future, that she will know deliverance from this battle and also know healing in her life.

I telephoned this woman and shared what God had shown me. She had been crying out to God for deliverance from the situation. She needed to know that God heard her cry and that He cared what was happening to her and her little daughter.

We can see that the supernatural workings of God through dreams also open doors to peoples' hearts and minds. This woman, who is a devout Catholic has since received ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit.

God is opening up new dimensions of the awesome power of the living Christ to this lady.

### **THEY REVEAL SIN AND BRING CORRECTION**

Our zeal (if not coupled with godly wisdom) and our own desires, can lead us astray. God, in His mercy and loving kindness, brings correction if we are willing to be shown.

We need a teachable spirit. We need to be open to what the Lord wants to say to us, that He might show us the error of our ways.

He reveals these things to us when we are ready and able to receive them.

**Habakkuk 2:1 - "I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected."**

On one occasion I had prayed during a prayer meeting. The prayer that started in the spirit ended up a soul prayer, born of zeal not of the Spirit of God. That night I asked the Lord to show me what I had done that was amiss.

He gave me a dream of correction. I had put a natural hair extension piece on to my own hair. I had added something that was not appropriate. Regarding the prayer: What I had added was not for that time even though the vision was of God. It is for a time to come.

Many of the lessons we learn relate to the right time to share and with whom to share the vision or dream.

### **THEY REVEAL THE NATURE OF GOD**

They show His mercy, faithfulness and His goodness.

They reveal His Holiness, righteousness and justice.

They show God's heart of love for His people and for those who do not yet know Him.

The Lord gives dreams of the prodigals and the backsliders coming home.

They reveal God's suffering, His grief, pain and sadness as He longs for His wayward children to come home and for the ones who have rejected His gift of love, His Son Jesus.

### **THEY ARE FORTHTELLING**

They reveal future events. They reveal the need to intercede because of what lies ahead. They reveal the need to make preparations that we might be ready.

In these last days, there are many dreams being given to the Body of Christ about judgements and revivals to come.

One was given in January 1996. In the dream the Holy Spirit phoned me regarding the Father's plan. "He is preparing the ground work, laying train tracks in hearts across this nation."

Then the Lord said, "I will use the children and the youth to complete the track. It will be done in simplicity."

I was shown a map of Australia with train tracks criss-crossing it. I stared at the map and said "Lord, it looks like sutures, like She has been sewn up."

The scripture immediately came to mind:

**Hosea 6:1-2 - "Come let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in his sight."**

Australia will know affliction in the days ahead but it is because we have strayed from God and His righteous ways and followed after our own idolatrous ways.

However our hope is in God's unfailing love and mercy, knowing as we humble ourselves, seek His face and repent, He will heal our land.

**2 Chronicles 7:14 - "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."**

## **6. WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE DREAM?**

They are not given to us for us simply to say "That is great," and promptly forget about it. We need to be like Samuel, not letting one word of the Lord fall to the ground.

Every word the Lord gives us is precious. **(1 Samuel 3:19)**

Dreams and visions from the Lord are not some charismatic party trick for us to dabble in when it suits us. There is an awesome responsibility that comes with them.

We are accountable for what God reveals to us. What are we doing with them?

Jesus said, **"I only do what I see the Father doing." (John 5:19)** The Father is showing us. We must take heed. We need to press in. Pray till we get the breakthrough that we might see the fulfilment of the Father's plans.

# PART FIVE

## DREAM INTERPRETATION

### 1. INTRODUCTION

God communicates with us in the dream Spirit to spirit. He chose the spirit of man to be the candle of the Lord. The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit. **Proverbs 20:27 - "The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart."**

The natural mind can not comprehend what God is saying. **1 Corinthians 2:11 - "For what man knows the things of man except the spirit of man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."**

Mary Wales says that the degree of our understanding is governed by the degree of our inner renewal. The mind of Christ is imparted to our understanding by the Spirit. <sup>3</sup>

We can only receive the interpretation and understanding of the dream by the Spirit of God as He imparts it to our spirit and then to our renewed minds.

We have a responsibility to continue to renew our minds by the washing of the water of the word, so that we be transformed and our thoughts are aligned with the will of God.

We need to look at certain areas that can affect the dream interpretation.

### 2. OUR PERCEPTIONS AND PRECONCEPTIONS

How we see things can affect the interpretation.

A wounded soul may affect the understanding of the dream. Unforgiveness and bitterness taint the vessel and the water it carries.

Expectations and desires of the soul can also taint the interpretation. **Ezekiel 14:4** says God will answer you after the idols in your heart.

Our mindsets can hinder us seeing objectively and clearly. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to expose wrong thought patterns, prejudices and mindsets. We must guard our hearts and minds against deception.

### 3. WE PROPHECY IN PART

**"We know in part and we prophesy in part." (1 Corinthians 13:9)** God gives us part of the picture. We are not to fill in the blanks. It only leads to error,



misconceptions and presumptions. We are given only part of the jigsaw. So often we try to make our piece fit to complete the picture, the way we see it, in our time frame.

The Father has formed us to be members of one body, the Body of Christ. So we collectively have the mind of Christ. We need to fit together properly so we can function effectively.

When we relate one to another, as the Lord intends, we will see the full counsel of God released within the Body.

## **4. PRESUMPTION**

We can not presume to know the full picture. Presumption means arrogance of opinion, taking liberties, going beyond, to assume, to suppose to be true without proof. This is dangerous.

One of the lessons I have learnt was in the area of presumption. It was a painful one that has been indelibly etched in my experiences.

I had been in a time of prayer, seeking the Lord for His word for a meeting one night when He showed me a vision of a woman that I did not know. He then showed her grandchild who was about two years old. the Lord said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for My glory."

That afternoon while at the supermarket I saw the woman. I was not sure how to proceed. I was praying, "What should I do Lord?" I spoke to her, as she was ahead of me at the checkout. I introduced myself and said, "I was praying this afternoon and God showed me a picture of you." I asked if she had any children or grandchildren. Her children are young adults but she does not have grandchildren yet. The word is for a time to come.

Then I said, "I believe that God wants you to know that He loves you and is watching over you and your family." I did not sense a liberty to share anything else at the time.

Later I found out that this lady and her teenage daughter had both given their hearts to the Lord some years before, but because of persecution had not made a stand or continued walking with God.

About six months after our meeting, the woman fell gravely ill and was rushed to hospital in the city. I was working at the school canteen the next day with someone who happened to be a close friend of the woman. The friend shared about the condition of her friend. She was very upset.

I began to share what had happened six months before. Because the Lord had shown me the grand daughter I presumed that the grandmother would be all right. How wrong I was. She died aged 42. I was devastated as was the friend!

I had spoken out of my soul, wanting to comfort the friend saying, "I am sure she will be okay." I had not inquired of the Lord regarding the situation.

I fell on my face before the Lord asking His forgiveness. I asked that God might intervene in the life of the friend to turn things about for good. She is not yet a Christian and I had caused her to stumble, giving her false hope. I telephoned the friend to apologise for what I had done and ask her forgiveness.

A few months later, at the same canteen, a conversation arose about how we change over the years. I had been very careful about what I said to this lady after the recent events. I had even avoided discussing my conversion although it was pivotal to our discussion. I simply said, "But that is another story." I think God was throwing a bait out!

Well, she pressed me, she really wanted to know why I had changed. So I was able to give my testimony. Since that time she has asked advice about family issues. The doors are open again.

The Lord has since shown that she is watching Christians very carefully. We certainly do have a responsibility to be living epistles read by all. **(2 Corinthians 3:2)** I have since heard she has enrolled her children in the Supa Club run by Christian teachers which operates at their local school once a week.

God is full of grace and mercy. He truly can make all things work for good, to those who love the Lord, and are called according to His purpose. **(Romans 8:28)**

## 5. PRIDE

We must guard against pride taking root in our lives for it will adversely affect us. If pride is not dealt with, it will also affect our interpretation of what God is saying because self will be seated on the throne instead of the Spirit of Truth. The word says that we should take heed when we stand, lest we fall. **(1 Corinthians 10:12)**

When we receive the vision or dream we must hold it loosely. By that I mean we could be wrong, but if it is of God, it will be confirmed, come to pass, God's word will not return void. However none of us are beyond the reach of deception. If we think we are, we already have a problem!

Any of us at any time could become puffed up, holding fast to our own vision or dream. The Lord does not guarantee that we will not make any mistakes. Each of us at some time will stumble on the journey however God graciously picks us up and dusts us off and sets us on our feet again.

We need to restore each other in love, giving each other freedom to learn and with that comes the freedom to miss the mark at times. None of us are infallible. Through these experiences comes the growth providing we do not dwell on our mistakes.

That is one reason Paul spoke of pressing on and forgetting the things behind and reaching forward to the things that are ahead.

Valuable lessons can be learnt from all our experiences. It has been said that 90% of our learning, comes from our mistakes, ouch!

We would do well to remember that we do not own the gifts of the Spirit. We are simply vessels for our Father's use. Just as we are called to be a living sacrifice dying daily to our own will and desires, we should daily surrender every gift including visions, dreams, knowledge and insight upon the altar.

Even in the area of interpretation God may impart an anointing to understand visions and dreams. It still is from God not of ourselves. As Joseph said in **Genesis 40:8b**, "**Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me please.**"

We need to forsake past and present preconceptions and judgements and open our hearts to hear the voice of the Lord regarding the interpretation. We are not to reason or figure it out with our natural mind! Says Mary Wales. <sup>3</sup>

## 6. PRACTICALITIES

When you receive the dream, write it down. Ask the Holy Spirit questions. Ask Him for the understanding.

Regarding a vision received in a meeting ask the Lord what He means.

Often as you pray aloud, the understanding unfolds to you and or to others present. This is helpful when you are first beginning to function in the gifting.

We are utterly dependent upon the Holy Spirit to interpret and reveal truth.

God can send angels to give the ability to understand and also to bring messages. **(Daniel 10:4)**

REMEMBER:

- God has given the dream or vision in order to provoke us to meditate and ponder the word given and for us to pray. It draws us closer to our Lord, as we seek Him for understanding.
- Revelation insight is essential for clear understanding that we might have the victory in spiritual warfare. We can not pray effectively without insight into how to pray as well as what to pray.
- Knowledge of the Word of God is vital. The Word must dwell in us richly so that the Holy Spirit can draw upon the word well to bring forth the interpretation.

- Seek the counsel and wisdom of the elders. Accountability to the Body is an important safeguard for all.

## 7. RECORD THE DREAM

Write down all details of the dream or vision accurately when you first receive it. Seemingly insignificant details to you at the time may be important later when the dream is recalled by the Holy Spirit.

Note specific details:

- Location
- Time and season
- Animals - nature and behaviour important keys
- Objects - normal function can provide insight
- Buildings - specific structures and style
- Colours and Clothing
- People - appearance and emotional state
- Words spoken and by whom

We need to train our spiritual senses to be observant and sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

## 8. APPLICATION

There can be a twofold application. Both an internal and external meaning can be revealed. Either or both of these, can be conveyed in the one dream.

- Internal - when the meaning relates to the person's character.
- External - when the meaning relates to the external situation or circumstance.

An example of this can be found in **Daniel 2:28**. The dream given to Nebuchadnezzar had both an internal and an external meaning. Daniel, in wisdom, gave only the external meaning to Nebuchadnezzar. He saw that the king may not receive the internal meaning, the word concerning his heart condition.

God gave Nebuchadnezzar another dream later. This time Daniel was released to share its meaning that spoke of the king's heart condition. (**Daniel 4:27**)

Most dreams given to people are concerning their heart condition and relationships to God and to man. The Lord desires that we be made whole, spirit, soul and body. Through the dream the truth can be revealed and the pathway to healing and wholeness can be made known.

As most dreams are symbolic in nature we need to be careful not to take them literally. This can lead us into error.

## 9. TYPES, SHADOWS AND SYMBOLS

Having an understanding of symbols, types and shadows is helpful in unravelling the mysteries of the picture language of dreams and visions.

The Lord will use many forms to speak to us. He often uses parables in dreams and visions.

He can use myths and fables to explain a point using them as an analogy. We bear in mind the Scripture that we are not taking heed of these fables and myths as doctrine. **(1 Timothy 1:4)**

God may prompt you to do some research not only in the word of God. For example, it may be necessary to find out the background of a particular culture to have an understanding of a word the Lord may have given.

Symbols often have double meanings. This keeps us from too easily assuming that we know what God means. We are forced to seek the Lord for the interpretation.

Common symbols and typology are helpful but we can not automatically 'think' that we know what the Lord is saying. Ask Him.

Provided we set our hearts to seek God for the understanding, He will reveal the meaning at the right time. The Lord will impart the correct interpretation.

God wants each of us to be responsible in seeking Him first, before we ask others.

## 10. CONFIRMATION

The confirmation of the vision or dream will come through the word. God can also confirm it through other people, often strangers who are not familiar with the situation.

Seldom is the confirmation through our closest friends because our own interests cloud our judgements. This is especially true when the word or vision runs counter to what the local body is doing or thinking. We are not usually dead enough yet, to let that happen.<sup>2</sup>

The Holy Spirit will witness to the truth of it. The Holy Spirit may bring conviction when the dream is related. Depending on the type of dream or vision, it comes to pass.

I remember a time the Lord showed a vision of two moles on a man's back. The Lord said they were melanomas that needed medical attention. I hardly knew the man. His son went to the same pre school as my son.

I asked the Lord for wisdom on what to do. I had previously prayed for confirmation, that the word was of God and not my imagination. The thought of market place ministry was a bit daunting for me.

I was to go to the wife and share with her though I had no idea of her faith. I called at her home and was invited in for a coffee.

I did not know whether she knew what a word of Knowledge was, so I began to explain. She threw up her hands and said, "You can come for a cuppa but do not start talking religion." I replied I have not come to do that. "So I gave the message, "I believe God has said your husband has two moles on his lower back that need to be checked by the doctor."

When I said that she began to stammer, "I have not been to church in a long time." She shared that she was Catholic. Then she said quietly, "When he works out in the sun his shirt always rides up. He is already had a couple of moles removed."

The first lesson I learnt was to just give the message. The second was to see the Holy Spirit at work bringing conviction when the word was given. I looked on amazed at God's grace and mercy.

## PART SIX

### IN THE LAST DAYS

**Acts 2:17 - "And it shall come to pass, in the last days,' says God, 'I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams."**

In these last days God is giving dreams and visions to the unsaved in greater measure, to Muslims, to orthodox Jews, to people of all creeds. With the outpouring of God's Spirit we see the release of the spirit of prophecy which is the testimony of Jesus. **(Revelation 19:10)** The Holy Spirit is not only giving dreams that reveal Jesus but also conviction of sin, righteousness and judgement.

This outpouring is for God's people too.

Why we might ask, is God doing this in the area of the prophetic particularly?

We can see the days are becoming increasingly evil, and that even the elect might be deceived.

Many destructive heresies and cults have had their origins in a 'prophetic word', vision or dream. Satan's assault continues and will increase.

Satan wants to wear out, confuse and continue to deceive and attempt to destroy the saints of God.

In the last days we will continue to see an increase in darkness over the face of the earth before the coming of the Lord. Are we ready? Look at what the Scriptures tell us.

**Romans 13:12-13 - "The night is far spent and the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk properly ..."**

We the church must examine ourselves. Have we been walking in the light and truth of revelation we have received or have we just talked about it? It is time to 'walk the talk.'

Because of God's great mercy He has not released the outpouring of His spirit yet. We await Him expectantly, knowing God has an appointed time. God is graciously giving us time to prepare our hearts for what is to come.

The Lord wants us to prepare now.

- God wants a people who communicate with Him on an intimate level, deep calling unto deep, so that we readily recognise our true Shepherd's voice.
- He wants people whose hearts are purified so that we can see God, know Him and His ways and not follow after our own ways.
- As we abide in the secret place we are protected by Him. He forewarns us of things ahead so we are prepared.
- In listening to Him, God shows us the way to go and the things He wants us to do in the days ahead.
- For God wants us ready to meet our bridegroom Jesus.

### **FINAL NOTE**

Each of us needs to know about visions and dreams. The Lord is calling us to stir up the Holy Spirit gifts and, by reason of use, mature in them.

God desires for us to understand the language of His Spirit. The Lord will share His secrets with those who are willing to sit at His feet.

The Lord is calling us to speak an accurate word, His word. So when the trumpet sounds it will be a clear sound.

Our God is raising up people who will recognise that sound, who will understand what He is saying, and know what to do.

The Lord is calling us to a deeper walk with Him, so that we might walk in the fullness of His love, discernment and wisdom in this hour as we have never done before. It will only be through the enabling grace of His Spirit.

He is calling us to walk in radical obedience to Him and His word...

**Then we will see Jesus in our midst and the world will know He lives.**



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