

God
Still
Speaks
Through
DREAMS

MARK SLAY

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First Printing 2008

ISBN 978-1-934530-02-3

GOD IS YOUR LIFE PUBLICATIONS

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Printed in USA

Introduction

This book is one I have had on my heart to do for many years. I realized it was time to get it completed.

God uses dreams in the night to impart direction and counsel to our spirit while our outward man is resting. It is Scripturally a well-established method God uses to help His people in all different aspects of their life. God seeks to *direct* and *protect* His children, and this is one Scriptural method He uses to do it.

Especially now, as God is bringing to a close the Holy Spirit outpouring before Jesus' return, all Spirit-filled believers should be open and attentive to dreams as a mode of communication between them and their Heavenly Father. He will use them to help you.

Peter said dreams would be a Holy Spirit manifestation in the last days, along with visions, prophecy, and other Holy Spirit manifestations.

"In the last days, I will pour out My Spirit..."

Acts 2:17 says dreams are something that are *expected* to come when men and women receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, when they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

But dreams from God can come to anyone as God so wills, even people who aren't yet Christian. He loves all people with the same great love and seeks to bring them to Himself through His Son Jesus Christ and the work of the mighty Holy Spirit.

Mark Slay

CHAPTER ONE

Scriptural Basis For Dreams

If anyone's ideas or teaching have no Scriptural basis then it has no basis at all and is meaningless. Only when we find a Scriptural basis for our beliefs can they be considered valid, meaningful, and pleasing to God. God's *written Word* is *God speaking* to us.

We who have the Holy Spirit know God can and will speak to us by His Holy Spirit personally, and we may have many tremendous experiences; but if our experiences and supposed Holy Spirit guidance can not be based in Scripture, then it should not be taught as doctrine. I mean anything the Holy Spirit says to you *personally* will line up with what He has already said *Scripturally* in His *written Word*, which was and is inspired and authored by the Holy Spirit Himself thru His men.

So as usual, if you want to find the authenticity of any idea or belief as being rooted in God, no matter how "Godly" it appears, you must examine the Scriptures for a solid basis founded in the Word for what you are seeing or experiencing.

Dreams as a means of God communicating to His people is well-founded in the Holy Word and has never been eliminated in the plan of God as a method of communication.

CHAPTER TWO

The Purposes For God Speaking To Us In Dreams

Some may ask, "Why would God choose to use dreams to communicate to us?" First of all, it always makes me scratch my head when I hear people ask "why" God does anything the way He chooses to do it. What difference does it make why He does something one way or why He does it another way? Let's just be glad that *whatever* method of communication to us God uses, *He is still communicating with us and helping us!* I don't know about you, but if God wanted to speak to me thru a toad frog, I'd just be glad He was *still willing to help me and knew where* to find me personally. Some folks can never just rest and accept something from God (or anyone else) until it is in line with *their thinking*, and the way they think it should be done. I want God's way, not my own.

Some various purposes for dreams from God as outlined in Scripture are as follows:

- To demonstrate the operation of God's Holy Spirit
- To demonstrate His love for people
- To reveal one's future
- To reveal the calling of God on a person's life
- To reveal plots and plans of the enemy against us thru people or situations
- To give direction and advice for handling difficult situations
- To give direction for the next steps in God's plan for a person
- To reveal God's plan or judgment for a nation or individual
- To reveal who to marry or who *not* to marry

Let's begin to look at the use of dreams in Scripture, and you will clearly see that this is a very solid Scriptural means for God to speak to us.

By the time you finish reading this book, I trust you will see that God not only uses dreams at times, but that He will do it *for you*. Yes, you!

CHAPTER THREE

First Scriptural Occurrences

The first recorded instance in Scripture of God using a dream to speak a message to someone can be found in Genesis Chapter 20. This happened in the days of God's great covenant-man Abraham, so it dates back to prior to 2300 B.C. (you know God has been around *before* 2300 B.C. but is not old at all).

This is the account of Abimelech King of Gerar, how he found Sarah, Abraham's wife, and brought her to his harem. Because Abraham and Sarah knew the custom of some of those kings was to eliminate a rival husband, they agreed to disguise their relationship to protect Abraham's life. Well, Abimelech took Sarah without knowing this and moved her into his harem. But God intervened to keep the king from touching her, and he used a *dream* to do it.

2..."so Abimelech, king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. 3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married." 4 Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a nation, even though blameless? 5 "Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother'. In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this." 6 Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. 7 "Now therefore, restore the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours." 8 So Abimelech arose early in the morning and called all his servants and told all these things in their

hearing; and the men were greatly frightened.

Genesis 20:2-8 NASB

Notice verse 3...."*God came to Abimelech in a dream*". God uses dreams. God was so concerned that Abimelech would violate Sarah, Abraham's wife, and bring judgment on himself and shame (v.16) and sin on Sarah and Abraham, that He intervened to keep all parties involved out of trouble. Wow, what an amazingly caring and loving God we serve! He deserves every bit of praise man could ever offer to Him.

Some people have the erroneous idea that God is off running the universe somewhere and detached and disinterested in the details of man's life. As you can see from this one Scripture, He is intensely concerned about the well-being of people. Not just people as "the masses", but each individual within the masses. God wants to keep people from trouble and sin so He can bless them.

The next occurrence recorded in Scripture is in Genesis 28. Here is the account of God talking with His servant Jacob (Isaac's son, Abraham's grandson) as he was on his way to seek a Godly wife out from among the people that revered God and not from the heathen nations. God met Jacob and spoke to him thru a dream.

10 Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 He came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place. 12 He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. 14 "Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you

will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵ "Behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

Genesis 28:10-16 NASB

Notice in this dream God revealed His reality to Jacob *personally*. Jacob knew of God's dealings with his father (Isaac) and his grandfather (Abraham), but here God reveals Himself *personally to Jacob*. You see, God is interested in making His reality known to each person individually, for He loves each one of us with the same great love. *Whoever* you are, *wherever* you are, God wants to make Himself known to you! You mean that much to Him.

Notice v.15, "I am with *you* and will keep *you*"... Holy goodness! He loves you! Notice too that God knew right where to find Jacob, who was on his way to do something he knew would please God. Also notice God revealed to Jacob the plan He had for him and his descendants (v.14). He also told him that the whole earth would be blessed thru his descendants (v.14 i.e. the Christ would come thru the Jewish people).

Still wondering if God uses this vehicle to impart information and blessing to man? We've just begun. And I'll tell you another thing, before we're done you'll see He wants to do it *for you*.

God continued to deal with Jacob's life thru a dream recorded in Genesis 31. As we already saw, Jacob took off to find a Godly wife, and God spoke to him in a dream and gave him direction and guidance concerning God's plan for Jacob. Then in Chapter 31, it records another time where God spoke to Jacob again.

Laban, Jacob's father-in-law, had been cheating Jacob in his pay and prosperity. God saw it and intervened. Cheat one of God's real men or women and you'll smart for it *every time*. It *always* eventually comes back to roost. Jacob begins to relate what happened to his wives (he married two because Laban tricked him there too!).

6 "You know that I have served your father with all my strength. 7 "Yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times; however, God did not allow him to hurt me. 8 "If he spoke thus, 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then all the flock brought forth speckled; and if he spoke thus, 'The striped shall be your wages,' then all the flock brought forth striped. 9 "Thus God has taken away your father's livestock and given them to me. 10 "And it came about at the time when the flock were mating that I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the male goats which were mating were striped, speckled, and mottled. 11 "Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am.' 12 "He said, 'Lift up now your eyes and see that all the male goats which are mating are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. 13 'I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me; now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth.'"

Genesis 31:6-13 NASB

Notice God revealed to Jacob several things thru this dream as he spoke to him. First, He revealed that He saw all that Laban was doing to cheat Jacob *and* that He (God) had intervened to reverse the outcome (v.12). God was concerned about his well- being and prosperity.

So we see **clearly** that God is interested in prospering His children. God seeks for men to be righteous so He may reverse what the devil wants in their life, to bring blessing and joy instead.

Second, we can see that Jacob got direction on what to do in this ugly situation and what the plan of God was for him at this juncture in his life. God told him to go back to his homeland now (v.13). Notice it was *thru a dream*.

Notice this is not Jacob's idea to leave, but he was merely following specific directions *from the Lord* given *thru a dream* (v.11). Do you see what I'm saying? Jacob didn't just *decide on his own* what to do in this sticky situation, he was following Divine directions.

Here's a little side teaching. Many people, when a situation gets hard or times get tough, just decide on their own to remove themselves from a hard place. Jacob didn't do that. In fact, he stayed 20 years under the oppressions of Laban (v.38) and didn't leave until God made it clear to leave. Some folks, the first time their job presents a little trouble or pressure, are off to another city or company whether God said so or not. In some cases, they also *leave the will of God* too, for God wanted to develop them in some areas and they *pulled themselves* out of the classroom! Some people are so "out-of-the-loop" with God, they don't even know ***He wants*** to have a say-so in what city they live or where they work. As you can see from these Scriptures, He does; whether they ever think so or decide to listen to Him or not.

Well Jacob returned to his homeland and God even spoke to Laban, his father-in-law, to leave Jacob alone (v.24) and let him go, thus revealing that God saw what was happening and that *He* was involved in the decisions. All this came thru God-dreams.

CHAPTER FOUR

God Dreams Concerning The Life Of Joseph

One very important point to remember about dreams from the Lord is that they may very often be, and most of the time *are*, symbolic. That means that although the dream itself is a message to you from the Lord, it is many times presented using symbolic representations that you see in the dream.

This should not be surprising to children of a faith God who requires His sons and daughters to *walk by faith*.

7 For we walk by faith and not by sight.

II Corinthians 5:7 NASB

Jesus spent much of His teaching and preaching time using *parables*, talking of sheep, shepherds, grass, trees, seed, fishing, money and other *earthly* items to represent and explain *Heavenly* realities and principles.

If He told us everything *plainly* about *everything* concerning our future, you would not be walking by faith, and He wants us to walk and *live* by faith.

38 But my righteous one shall live by faith.

Hebrews 10:38 NASB

Symbolic representations are a way for God to get a message to us in the symbolism and still have us maintain a *faith walk*. Sometimes the representative items used in the dreams given by the Holy Spirit are *more symbolic*, sometimes they are *less* symbolic. That means some are harder to ascertain the meaning behind it, and

some are easier to ascertain the meaning of the symbolism. We will discuss this more in a later chapter. Simply put, just understand that sometimes the *meaning* of the dream is easier to get, sometimes it's harder to get because of the symbolism.

In the Biblical examples of dreams we've already discussed, there was a much lesser degree of symbolism used. In the dreams given by God to Abimelech, Jacob and Laban, it specifies *the Lord spoke to them in the dream*, not just *through the dream*. That made it easier to get the meaning. But in the case of Joseph, Israel's (Jacob's) son, God gave him two dreams about his future, but God did not speak to him in the dream, but spoke *to him through* the dream. The dreams Joseph was first given by God were entirely symbolic, but the message was *very clear and obvious*. In fact *the message*, though presented in a *symbolic* way, was *so* clear that even his brothers and father clearly understood the meaning, and his brothers resented him for it and revolted against him.

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. ⁴ His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms. ⁵ Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶ He said to them, "Please listen to this dream which I have had; ⁷ for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also stood erect; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf." ⁸ Then his brothers said to him, "Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. ⁹ Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰ He related it to his father and to his brothers; and

his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?" ¹¹ His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

Genesis 37:3-11 NASB

Understand something very important, though a dream is "a dream", it can still be *God* speaking to us, and though it is *symbolic*, it is no less God speaking, nor does it diminish its *value* or *message*. Some too easily dismiss these things as "Oh, that was just a crazy dream". Not necessarily!

Full Gospel people, people who have the fullness of the Holy Spirit and believe in and receive His gifts, ought to above all people believe in this Scriptural working of the Holy Spirit! Joseph's dreams were *not* "just dreams", they were God *speaking* to him (and his family) about God's call on Joseph's life.

First let's notice that the dream was indeed symbolic. In the dream, sheaves in the field were used to represent people, Joseph and his brothers (v.7). The "sheaves" came and gathered to Joseph's sheave and bowed before it. Wow, how accurately that came to pass years later as Joseph eventually became the second-in-charge in Egypt. But at the time of the dream, he wasn't in charge of anything but sheep.

That is a lesson all need to learn about God. When He calls you to something, nothing at the beginning gives you any indication of the end. In other words, how things "*look*" in the beginning will give you no indication at all that what He is saying could be true or will ever come to pass.

Notice the same was true with Abraham. When God told him he would be the father of *many nations*, he didn't even have **one** child and was old and getting *very old*. Do you see why it is so important

to go by what God said and not how things *look*?

Also notice another great lesson about God. He uses people no one at first glance would expect Him to use. Joseph's jealous brothers couldn't possibly conceive of the idea of God using *Joseph* (v.8). "Who is *he*?" they arrogantly thought. Oh brother, nothing has changed today 4,000 years later.

Joseph was a type of the Messiah to come; he would be rejected by his own people, yet highly favored and exalted by God. You will meet Christian people today, your own brothers in Christ, who will scoff at the notion of God using *you*. But He'll use you anyway, and they will miss out. In fact, they will hate you even more if you simply tell them what God said to you (v.8)! God love them. They think if God's not using *them*, then God's not using *anybody*, and certainly not *you*.

Joseph had a second dream regarding God's call and purpose for his life that gave even a little more detail. Again, the dream was *symbolic*, but his father and brothers all got the message. This time Joseph saw in a dream the sun and the moon and eleven stars bowing down to him.

The sun and moon represented his parents (sun Father, moon Mother) and eleven stars his brothers (he had exactly eleven brothers). Notice God once again is clearly telling Joseph and the *whole family* that one day God is going to highly exalt Joseph, and they will one day find themselves bowing before Joseph. Oh how that chaffed his family! But God never cares what others may feel about *His plans*, He just goes ahead and does them anyway! He does them without first consulting others about what they may think about them or how they feel about *who* He wants to use *in* His plans!

Well, these two dreams from God, which revealed the future plan for Joseph's life, sent his already jealous brothers over the edge. They concocted a plan to get rid of him. At first to kill him (a type of

Christ), and then, because of God's intervention, to sell him. And notice much of the motivation to rid him was Joseph's dreams (v.20).

Here's another lesson found in this real-life account. The brothers thought by their aggression and plot against Joseph, that they could stop his dreams from ever coming to pass (v.20). Mark it down, though many may fight or ignore what God has said to you, if He said it, it *will* come to pass if you'll stay faithful, obedient, and forgiving.

Please notice another thing that is very important. You can't give *yourself* a Holy Spirit dream, not if it's really from the Holy Spirit! You can't *call* yourself and you can't *anoint* yourself. Many have tried.

Notice Joseph didn't give himself the dreams. He was so excited and surprised that he told his family thinking *they* would be as excited as he was about God's plan. But they weren't, they became more jealous, and instead of wanting to help see it come to pass, they fought him hoping to keep it from ever happening (v.20). You too can expect that from your brothers in Christ, for you'll surely get it. It just goes with the territory.

You'll even see that from these poor souls fighting this final Holy Spirit outpouring. They fight speaking with tongues, they fight feeling the power of the Holy Spirit, they fight miraculous healings. God love 'em, they're modern day Joseph's brothers and Pharisees rolled up into one and have no idea what they're doing to themselves and the work of God.

Well to make a long story short, you can read the rest of what happened to Joseph in Genesis 39-46. Joseph wound up in Egypt, in prison, because of Potipher's wife lying about him. While in prison, he met two men who worked for the king of Egypt. What an amazing thing God did to overcome all the devil's plots against Joseph, and He'll do it for you too.

God's Plan For Bringing Joseph's Calling To Pass

Two of the men that were in prison with Joseph were at one time officers for Pharaoh King of Egypt. One was his chief cupbearer and the other the chief baker. The Bible tells us that they "offended" the king (Genesis 40:1), but it doesn't say how they did. We know though that he put them in confinement in prison (40:1-3).

...⁵ Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, had a dream, both of them, each man's dream in one night and each man's dream with its own interpretation.⁶ And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they were sad. ⁷ So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in the custody of his lord's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?" ⁸ And they said to him, "We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it." So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please." ⁹ Then the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "Behold, in my dream a vine was before me, ¹⁰ and in the vine were three branches; it was as though it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and its clusters brought forth ripe grapes. ¹¹ Then Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand." ¹² And Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days. ¹³ Now within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand according to the former manner, when you were his butler. ¹⁴ But remember me when it is well with

you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house. ¹⁵ For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon." ¹⁶ When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, "I also was in my dream, and there were three white baskets on my head. ¹⁷ In the uppermost basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head." ¹⁸ So Joseph answered and said, "This is the interpretation of it: The three baskets are three days. ¹⁹ Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from you."

Genesis 40:5-19 NKJV

Both of these men each had a *dream* the same night. When Joseph saw them in the morning, they were downcast and dejected. Evidently the cup bearer and the baker must have been so compelled by these dreams that they brought it up to one another in conversation, realizing that these dreams they had were significant to their lives, but neither knew what they meant. That's where Joseph's experience with God-dreams and his gift from the Holy Spirit came in.

Before we discuss these God-dreams given to the cupbearer and baker further, I need to explain some things that are of the utmost importance. *All* dreams are not necessarily from God, but Holy Spirit given dreams have a dimension of reality to them that causes them to stand out (you can see that with the baker and cupbearer). They have, to a lesser or greater degree, a dimension of reality and depth of perception to them that causes you to take notice.

Holy Spirit-given dreams may be long or they may be short flashes, but they have a dimension about them that causes them to get your attention. They are given to *your spirit* by the *Holy Spirit*. I will

talk more about this later when I discuss some dreams given to me or others that were of the Lord.

Back to the cupbearer's and baker's dreams. Notice that the dreams were again *symbolic* in nature but had a real and critical message. Notice that God was, thru these symbolic dreams, telling each man something that concerned their future.

Also notice that neither of these men were prophets or ministers. These two men were *laymen*, everyday people, but God still spoke to them thru dreams. I say that because some misguided folks seem to think that God only does these things thru prophets. No He doesn't, He does them thru and for mankind. This is one text that proves it. These men were what we call laymen.

Notice what Jesus said one purpose of God the Holy Spirit, the "Helper", is to work *in men who receive Him* (not merely prophets who receive Him).

13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

John 16:13 NASB

Under this New Testament dispensation, this is for everyone who will *receive* the Holy Spirit and *be filled* with Him (Eph 5:18).

Joseph seemed to have a real Holy Spirit gift to discern the parables or symbolic visuals and get the *correct* message concerning dreams. He got *what the Holy Spirit intended* behind the symbolism, not merely somebody's ideas about it.

I'll discuss some God-given dreams others and I have had later. But whether you are a minister with the calling of God upon your life to certain offices or not, God can and will give you Holy Spirit-dreams at night in your sleep.

Some have asked me the difference between a vision and a dream. Simply put, a vision is while you are awake, a dream is while you're asleep. You see, they are *both* given *by the Holy Spirit to your spirit*. The Holy Spirit is imparting to your spirit (not merely your head) whatever He wants you to see or hear. The only difference is one you're awake *physically*, the other you are asleep physically.

There are 3 types of visions described in the Scriptures, and they are all 3 manifested while you are awake, but dreams are not. They are manifested by the Holy Spirit in your sleep. Your spirit within your physical body is never asleep. It is only our *physical man*, the physical body that needs sleep to recuperate. The body will die one day, but the spirit of man never dies. It goes on living eternally in one place or the other (Heaven or Hell). For the spirit of man never dies.

When we say "die" here we mean it never "ceases to exist". The Scriptures make it clear that those without Christ "die" eternally, that is, they live away from God in an eternal state of death and pain. They never cease to exist.

The chief cupbearer and the chief baker each had dreams revealing each one's fate. God did not determine these men's fate, but He is simply *revealing* each man's fate. The cupbearer would be restored to his position, the baker would not be. Evidently the king found out who the real culprit was in the offense and he rendered sentence. God was merely preparing the men for the outcome.

Well, because Joseph interpreted the dreams correctly by the Holy Spirit, eventually 2 years later (Gen 41:1), after the cupbearer was restored and Pharaoh one night had some difficult dreams to interpret, the cupbearer mentioned to Pharaoh that he had met someone who could correctly interpret the king's dreams.

¹ Now it happened at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream, and behold, he was standing by the Nile. ²And lo, from the Nile there came up seven cows, sleek and fat; and they grazed in the marsh grass. ³ Then behold, seven other cows came up after them from the Nile, ugly and gaunt, and they stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. ⁴ The ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven sleek and fat cows. Then Pharaoh awoke. ⁵ He fell asleep and dreamed a second time; and behold, seven ears of grain came up on a single stalk, plump and good. ⁶ Then behold, seven ears, thin and scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them. ⁷ The thin ears swallowed up the seven plump and full ears. Then Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream. ⁸ Now in the morning his spirit was troubled, so he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all its wise men And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh. ⁹ Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, "I would make mention today of my own offenses. ¹⁰ "Pharaoh was furious with his servants, and he put me in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, both me and the chief baker. ¹¹ "We had a dream on the same night, he and I; each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his own dream. ¹² "Now a Hebrew youth was with us there, a servant of the captain of the bodyguard, and we related them to him, and he interpreted our dreams for us. To each one he interpreted according to his own dream. ¹³ "And it came about that just as he interpreted for us, so it happened; he restored me in my office, but he hanged him." ¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph, and they hurriedly brought him out of the dungeon; and when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came to Pharaoh.

I can never hardly read this account in Scripture without tears wanting to come to my eyes of how no matter how many people hate or are against you, if you'll stick with God and the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit, He will always work out His plan in your life.

Joseph was called to Pharaoh after God gave the king two dreams in the same night that the king *knew were significant*, but he could not explain or interpret them.

Once again, Holy Spirit dreams have a dimension of reality and a depth of perception that make them significant to you even if your understanding of them is not there, the reality of their impact is. Notice Pharaoh's "spirit was troubled" (v.8). Do you understand where these dreams originate and what they impact? They are given to and impact your *spirit* man. Your mind will see what is given thru your spirit.

15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it said about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." 16 Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer." 17 So Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, "In my dream, behold, I was standing on the bank of the Nile; 18 and behold, seven cows, fat and sleek came up out of the Nile, and they grazed in the marsh grass. 19 "Lo, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt, such as I had never seen for ugliness in all the land of Egypt; 20 and the lean and ugly cows ate up the first seven fat cows. 21 "Yet when they had devoured them, it could not be detected that they had devoured them, for they were just as ugly as before. Then I awoke. 22 "I saw also in my dream, and behold, seven ears, full and good, came up on a single stalk; 23 and lo, seven ears, withered, thin, and scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them; 24 and the thin ears swallowed the

seven good ears. Then I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me." ²⁵ Now Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh's dreams are one and the same; God has told to Pharaoh what He is about to do.

Genesis 41:15-25 NASB

Notice verses 15-16. When Pharaoh told Joseph he had heard Joseph could interpret dreams, Joseph explained in humility that it wasn't anything he inherently had in Joseph as a person, but it was God who was at work. Always remember that no matter how God uses you, it is *God* doing it. He may be doing it thru you, and thank God if He sees fit to use you at all, but it is *Him* doing it, not you. Not because you are so great, but because He is great.

Look at verse 25 also. Joseph said, "God has told Pharaoh what he is about to do." Notice God is revealing *the future* to a professional man, a king, *not a prophet*. Again, another proof text that these Holy Spirit manifestations are not exclusive to the prophet's office, but are available to all men. The prophet's office may experience *a more continued and frequent manifestation of this gift*, but it is not *exclusive* to the prophet's office.

Many times God manifests these on a "need to know" basis whenever it is necessary to bless certain ones and protect their interests. How many can see the king would have a need to know about a serious famine that is coming so he can prepare for it, to protect his people and kingdom's interests? Well God showed Pharaoh, Joseph was exalted to Pharaoh's side (v.39-40), Joseph's family was provided for and preserved, and the Messianic line was preserved alive.

CHAPTER SIX

Important Principles Concerning Dreams

We have already stated that these manifestations of the Holy Spirit are for all God's children, or anyone else God so chose to give one to.

As I said, prophets may have a steady stream and constant manifestations along this line, but it is not exclusive to them; and although it is not exclusive to the prophet, it can be seen thru the prophet very often. God said in Numbers 12:6 that these things *will* be seen in a prophet's ministry (but not exclusive to them).

6 Then He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream.

Numbers 12:6 NKJV

Notice visions *and dreams* are mentioned as possible manifestations in the prophet's office. I say that so those who *are* called to that office will especially expect them to be manifest thru them.

In the book of Job, God gives us some further insight regarding the subject of dreams. He tells us their purpose and who can receive a God-dream.

14 "Indeed God speaks once, or twice, yet no one notices it.

15 "In a dream, a vision of the night, when sound sleep falls on men, while they slumber in their beds, ¹⁶ then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction, ¹⁷ that He may turn man aside from his conduct, and keep man from pride; ¹⁸ He keeps back his soul from the pit, and his life from passing over into Sheol.

Job 33:14-18 NASB

Notice God says that He speaks thru dreams to a man when "sound sleep is upon him" (v.15). You see, the fact that you're asleep makes it no less God. This Scripture also refers to it as "a vision of the night". Remember I told you that the only difference between a dream and a vision is that one you are asleep, the other you are awake. Both are imparted *to your spirit* by the *Holy Spirit*. Both are *revelations imparted to the spirit of man by the Spirit of God*.

These verses also state that one of God's purposes in giving dreams of the Holy Spirit is to get a person's attention and keep them from harmful ways (v.16-18). Let me share with you one example of this in my own life.

Many years ago, a man I had been discipling got into difficulty and was killed. Actually, he went to work for an ungodly man, got away from God, got into adultery with the man's daughter and was shot and killed by that man. It was very hard on me. I had grown to love the man and had been bringing him back to his Christianity. He had been going back to church with me for about 6 weeks before he was killed. Thank God he made Heaven, but what a terrible loss, and it hurt me.

Not long after that, I met his murderer face to face. I didn't realize it at the time, but unforgiveness was starting to seep into my heart toward the man. Then one day I had a Holy Spirit-dream.

Just before I woke up one morning, I had a dream in which I saw some symbolic visions. They were so real, it was as if I was awake and seeing this all. At the end of the scene, the word of the Lord came to me very loud but sweet and said, "There is murder in *your* heart". I jumped awake startled and perplexed. My spirit within me was, as you can imagine, greatly troubled all morning while getting ready for work, but I never said a word.

When we got to work, I simply told some employees I was going

to pray and I drove to a nearby hotel parking lot and prayed sitting in my car.

I knew what I heard God say, but I didn't see it or understand it at first. I prayed one hour, then two, and after the second hour, the *revelation* of it came. The Holy Spirit gave me the revelation of the dream.

I had without realizing it, permitted ill will in my heart towards this man who had killed my friend. You see when Jesus said in Mark 11:25-26 to forgive if we have *anything* against *anybody*, He meant it wholly. He means anything and anybody.

The clincher for me and the answer for me came in I John 3:15: "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer". Do you see what the Lord was doing for me? He was warning me that ill will was trying to take hold in me and that would put me out of the will of God and into satan's territory where he could attack me. Just like He says concerning one purpose of dreams in Job 33:17 "to turn man aside from his conduct".

As soon as I saw what He was saying I prayed out loud, "Alright Lord, I forgive Mr. _____". And I thoroughly meant it. I also made certain that I never permitted any bad feeling or wrong thoughts to come to me regarding that man. God is my witness, from that day till this, I have done it and kept it.

Another extremely important thing to notice in these Scriptures in Job is that God says He speaks in dreams, and many times people "*do not notice it*" (v.14). That means God is many times trying to warn and *help* people *thru dreams* (or thru preachers), but people don't realize His means and methods. Look again at those verses.

14 "Indeed God speaks once, or twice, yet no one notices it.

15 "In a dream, a vision of the night, when sound sleep falls on men, while they slumber in their beds, 16 then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction, 17 that

He may turn man aside from his conduct, and keep man from pride; ¹⁸ He keeps back his soul from the pit, and his life from passing over into Sheol.

Job 33:14-18 NASB

I will say it again, dreams are a real and thoroughly scriptural means of communication God uses to speak to people, no matter who tells you otherwise. Don't let the dreams God gives you get by you without holding onto them. Wait before God in prayer until He shows you what He is saying to you. It will be a blessing to you and others as well.

Let me say this too, **if you *don't* immediately know the meaning of a dream that you believe God has given you, *don't* throw it away.** Sometimes you will, sometimes you won't immediately know. I have had many dreams that I knew were without a doubt God speaking, but I didn't know what they meant at first. I knew what *He said*, but I didn't know what he *meant by what He said*. I knew what he showed me, what I saw visually, but I didn't know what He *meant by what I saw*.

The dream was clear immediately, but the interpretation was not immediately clear always, but many times came later. You will see this can be true for both visions and dreams. A New Testament example of a vision where the person saw the vision but did not immediately know its meaning is in Acts 10. Peter didn't know what the vision he had just seen while praying on the housetop *meant*. He knew *what he saw*, but not *what it meant*.

I use that to illustrate that sometimes we don't immediately know all the meaning of what we see. Pharaoh didn't immediately know, neither did the cupbearer or the baker know immediately. The more closely you walk with God and the more experience you have, the better you will be at getting the revelation of the truth behind the dream.

Another vital thing to understand about God-dreams is that the only way you will know a symbolic dream's meaning is by a *revelation* to your human spirit by the Holy Spirit. If you are not a Christian, He is not *in* you like He is in the believer in Jesus, but He can still *assist you* even if He's not *in* you.

Many times people who aren't even saved get dreams from God to help them come to Jesus or to warn or protect them. I'm thinking of one case where one unsaved man told me of how he saw Jesus in a dream proclaiming, "I am the way".

But Christian or non-Christian, the Holy Spirit is the agency by which it comes and your human spirit, not your intellect, is the "operating room". The truths of God are revealed to man's spirit, not "figured out" in his head. That's why many so-called Christians are only "mental" Christians. They have no revelation of His reality in their spirit. That's why they many times will scoff at the supernatural.

Anyone who is truly born again (John 3:3-5) has had their spirit man within regenerated by the Holy Spirit, born again from above. They do not merely have a mental confession of faith because they see some evidence of Christ's existence. The person who is truly born again has had a real genuine *revelation* of Christ's reality and eternal existence made to their spirit man within them.

Man is spirit, soul and body (I Thessalonians 5:23), and revelation of God's truths are made to your spirit, **not** your intellect (soulish nature), even though anything that flashes to your spirit your intellect will get in on to see.

10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

I Corinthians 2:10 NASB

So if we are ever going to know the truths behind the symbolism

in a dream or vision, the Holy Spirit will have to give it to us. If God can give you someone else to help you, fine. But it is best to get the revelation for yourself if you can.

You may be able to find out the meaning of a dream *after* it happens or unfolds in your life, but that is not best in certain cases. If God is warning you about some impending danger or harm, you don't want to have to experience it first. God wants to warn you so you can avoid harm from the enemy. Well, *after* the fact it's too late to be protected. We need the understanding of the warning *before* it happens. That's God's intent.

If you are a believer, and especially a Spirit-filled, speaking-in-other-tongues believer, God will give *you* the revelation of the meaning. You have the Spirit of God *within you*; you can get the answer for yourself. If He gave you the dream, He will want to give you the meaning as well. The only way He would give it thru someone else is if He had a purpose for giving the interpretation thru another. Otherwise, and most of the time, He wants to give **you** the meaning.

But you will have to depend on the Holy Spirit for the meaning, and you may have to spend extra time in prayer and fasting at times. Things of God are not always received without effort or cooperation on our part. The Bible teaches prayer, the Bible teaches fasting. Not *God* praying. Not *God* fasting. **Man** praying and **man** fasting for answers.

Let's look at Daniel and how he did it. We know Daniel was a "pray-er" and a "fast-er".

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Life Of Daniel

God used Daniel in a similar way as He did Joseph in regards to having and/or interpreting dreams. Daniel was a prophet of course, so his life had a greater manifestation of visions and dreams both. Although God wants to give every believer dreams at times, not all who have them are prophets.

Many times God will give a Christian some dreams, the dreams come to pass as God said, and they begin to think they are a prophet. No, you're not a prophet just because God gives you a dream from time to time. There is *way* more that goes into the prophet's office than occasional or even frequent dreams.

We can see God using this same mode of communication (symbolic dreams) in the life of Daniel. There are a number of incidents recorded in the book of Daniel regarding dreams and/or visions, but we will only look at two.

Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, had a dream from God that is recorded in Chapter 2. In it God was showing this king of Babylon the present (in his day), and the future, but he had no idea what it was because his dream *was symbolic*.

He was very troubled by this dream and he wanted the interpretation badly. He knew this symbolic dream was so significant that he wanted to be absolutely certain that he got the correct interpretation of it. Remember I told you that one outstanding characteristic of "God-dreams" is the dimension of reality and depth of perception they possess. Well this king *knew* that this was no ordinary dream.

This king wanted so much to know the meaning he got from others was correct, he refused to tell them the dream! He made it

mandatory that his wisemen not only tell him the interpretation, but the dream itself! You can see by this how much he knew this dream was extremely significant, and he was going to take no risk of getting a phony interpretation from a "con-man" in his group of court diviners or wisemen.

The power of God is so incredibly manifested thru Daniel in this account. God gave Daniel the king's dream and interpretation in a vision in the nighttime.

In the dream, God was showing Nebuchadnezzar, and thru the interpretation, all others as well, what *was* at that time and what *would be* in the future regarding the kingdoms of this earth. God showed him (and all of us) the various world empires that would exist throughout time up to and including the time where Christ would eventually rule all things.

³¹ "You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. ³² "The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴ "You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. ³⁵ "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. ³⁶ "This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king. ³⁷ "You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; ³⁸ and wherever the sons of men dwell, or

the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold. ³⁹ "After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰ "Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. ⁴¹ "In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. ⁴² "As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. ⁴³ "And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery. ⁴⁴ "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵ "Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy." ⁴⁶ Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense. ⁴⁷ The king answered Daniel and said, "Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery."

In the dream, God revealed all the major world empires that would exist, including Jesus Christ's empire (that will never end v.44). We know now, living at a time after all these earthly empires have come, what and who they are. *But God was showing Nebuchadnezzar before they ever started* how many there would be. He also was revealing to humanity that God's kingdom, ruled by "the King" He appoints, will endure forever after all these others run their course and eventually perish.

The "stone" that struck the statue is Christ (Matthew 21:42- 44). And "it became a great mountain and began to fill the whole earth" is Christ Himself and His people that would become "His people", His "body" (Ephesians 4:15-16), His "citizens", His "mountain" (Hebrews 12:22-24).

Daniel told the King his dream was God showing him "what will take place in the latter days" (v.28). Notice what great significance this "mere dream" had. God is in the business of using dreams to reveal what he wants to reveal.

Those empires He revealed (Babylonians, Medes-Persians, Greeks, Romans) have all come and gone. We are living now in the time where Jesus Christ's is going to remove the final empire at His coming, and maintain His own forever and ever. We get to see it, but God showed Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar in approximately 600 BC, *before* it ever happened!

God revealed His plan to judge the earth and to establish His own kingdom thru Christ in that dream to Nebuchadnezzar; but in another dream, He revealed something else that we all need to pay close attention to. In Chapter 4 of Daniel, we read how God revealed a warning of judgment on Nebuchadnezzar himself.

Before we look at that dream of warning to Nebuchadnezzar, let me say something else concerning dreams from God. He is out *to protect* us always, not hurt us. And if He is warning you or me or any of us thru a dream about some potential harm or judgment, He is

doing it *so we can change and not* be judged.

31 But if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

I Corinthians 11:31 NKJV

But if we won't listen, judgment will happen just as he says. And if it happens, it's to keep you away from the fate of the rest of the world.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

I Corinthians 11:32 NKJV

In Daniel Chapter 4, Nebuchadnezzar begins to relate a dream he had that he knew, once again, was significant, but did not know its meaning. God-dreams have a dimension about them that is unique. Nebuchadnezzar saw it, he knew something was wrong, for he said it made him fearful (Dan 4:5), but he didn't have all the details that God was endeavoring to show him.

10 'Now these were the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed: I was looking, and behold, there was a tree in the midst of the earth and its height was great. 11 'The tree grew large and became strong and its height reached to the sky, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. 12 'Its foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all the beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches, and all living creatures fed themselves from it. 13 'I was looking in the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed, and behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven. 14 'He shouted out and spoke as follows: "Chop down the tree and cut off its branches, strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit; let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from

its branches. ¹⁵ "Yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze around it in the new grass of the field; and let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him share with the beasts in the grass of the earth. ¹⁶ "Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let a beast's mind be given to him, and let seven periods of time pass over him. ¹⁷ "This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers and the decision is a command of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes and sets over it the lowliest of men." ¹⁸ "This is the dream which I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, tell me its interpretation, inasmuch as none of the wise men of my kingdom is able to make known to me the interpretation; but you are able, for a spirit of the holy gods is in you.'

Daniel 4:10-18 NASB

Nebuchadnezzar remembered Daniel's ability to interpret dreams, so he called for him. Daniel began to hear what the king saw and got frightened for the king (v.19), for he knew what God was saying. God was warning the king to *judge* and *humble* himself and *recognize* that God was the one allowing him to rule, and that it was not his own greatness apart from God's help.

²⁴ **this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:**
²⁵ **that you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.**
²⁶ **'And in that it was commanded to leave the stump with the roots of the tree, your kingdom will be assured to you**

**after you recognize that it is Heaven that rules.²⁷
'Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you:
break away now from your sins by doing righteousness
and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, in
case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.'**

Daniel 4:24-27 NASB

I believe there is no question that if Nebuchadnezzar had heeded God's warning and began to judge *himself*, he would have been spared the judgment process. He could have skipped the whole thing. But he didn't. God even gave him a whole year (v.29) after this vivid and direct warning to do something about his wrong attitude and wrong actions, but he didn't take God seriously enough. I cannot tell you how many people God has warned thru our ministry and other ministries to make certain changes, and they only scoffed or ignored it to their own hurt. There are some Christians in Heaven today that could still be here gaining additional rewards if they had just listened to us.

Well, thank God in Nebuchadnezzar's case, God gave him another chance and he made it thru the judgment. But I know God enough to know that he could have been spared the whole thing if he had just heeded the warning 12 months before and *judged himself* so God wouldn't have had to (I Corinthians 11:31-32).

We could discuss other God-dreams given under the Old Testament period thru Daniel, Gideon and Solomon, but this is sufficient to make our points clear.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Dreams For We Who Live In This New Testament Age

The New Testament begins by describing the birth of Jesus and what took place in the lives of those involved at that time. Joseph, who was to marry Mary who had Jesus as a virgin by supernatural conception, was directed and assisted by God thru some dreams.

18 "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. ²⁰ But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." ²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." ²⁴ And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, ²⁵ but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25 NASB

After finding out that Mary was with child *before* they came together in marriage and intimacy, Joseph was going to "put her

away secretly." (v.19). That means he was going to quietly and discreetly call off their engagement because he thought she had to be an unfaithful woman.

As a little side note, notice how "he being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her", he considered putting her away quietly. How different that is from how so many couples handle the wrong doing of their mate. They want to tell the whole world!

Don't get me wrong, sometimes you have to mention some things to certain ones quietly, but that is drastically different than going out to everybody you can meet to tell them how you were wronged and how bad that person is.

Well when Joseph considered quietly calling it off, an angel appeared to him *in a dream*. The angel explained how she got pregnant, the gender of the child, the name He should be called, what the child's purpose in life was, and that Joseph should have no reservations in taking Mary as his wife. In fact, after this dream he found out that God had given him one of the best women ever from God's viewpoint, and that he would be the caretaker of God's own son while growing up! All this through "a mere" dream. Ha! Dreams are one way God uses to assist and direct people in every area of their life.

In the second chapter of Matthew, the wise men that came looking for Jesus after His birth in Jerusalem did not return to Herod because God warned them *in a dream not to* (Matthew 2:12).

Then Joseph and his family again were protected (from Herod's jealousy over a potential rival to his throne) by God thru another dream.

13 Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the

Child to destroy Him." ¹⁴ So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.

Matthew 2:13-14 NASB

Thru this dream, God kept His Son, Jesus the Messiah, safe from Herod's evil plots. Later, when Herod had died and everything was safer, God once again sent an angel *thru a dream* to Joseph letting him know the next part of the plan of God for the life of Jesus, Joseph, Mary, and their family.

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, ²⁰ "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead." ²¹ So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, ²³ and came and lived in a city called Nazareth This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Matthew 2:19-23 NASB

Notice God kept using this mode of communication to direct Joseph for the family's protection, guidance and well being. He still does it today.

CHAPTER NINE

Personal Experiences With Dreams

I remember many times over the years God has been gracious to protect, direct, and guide us thru dreams. This should not be unusual to New Testament believers in Christ, *especially Spirit-filled* Christians, as we will see in another chapter.

Several years ago, a friend of mine had been getting some dreams from the Lord concerning a plot of the enemy to destroy me. It happened a number of times over several months. We did not know all the details of how, where, when and so forth, so we just kept going by faith with our hearts, eyes and ears open to the Lord.

Well we were down in Mexico preaching at the request of one minister. We had been there a few days preaching from Southern California into and around Northern and Western Mexico at various churches he had wanted to hear us. After a service one night at a particular church in Mexico, the Pastor of the host church took us to dinner.

As we were sitting around talking during and after dinner, we began talking about the next place we were to minister, this time at a resort city in Southern Mexico. The minister who was scheduling our itinerary at the various churches wanted to fly us at his own expense down to this resort city where we could preach and then rest a few days after ministering for so many days. We agreed, and he purchased the airline tickets for us to go.

But at dinner that night, as the Pastor of the host church and our minister escort were describing the area, my friend realized that they were describing *in detail* many aspects of the dreams they had been having about satan trying to kill me.

As they went on talking, my friend knew that this was for sure

the place that God was warning them of, where the devil would kill me. They knew it was the place God was showing them in those dreams based on their vivid descriptions. Not only that, but we knew I would be somewhere outside the United States when the devil would do it.

You say, "How did you know *that*?" Well, in one of the dreams they had of me dying, they said the coffin box was being shipped back and it was stamped on the sides "United States of America (USA)", so we knew it would have to be *somewhere* outside of the USA.

Well, we went back to the hotel room that night without saying one word to the other people we were with. I got up very early the next morning and prayed about it and the Lord told me very clearly that this was indeed the place He had been warning us about and **not** to go to that resort city to preach.

I called the minister that morning and told him we couldn't go and explained a little bit about why. He was a Spirit-filled, Full-Gospel minister himself, so he understood these kinds of things. He understood the Holy Spirit's intervention and operation. I paid him for the airfare costs he was out, we finished out our trip, and I came back to the USA *alive* instead of in a box. No one can tell me God is still not in the business of warning us thru dreams to avoid the evil attempts of the enemy. You might as well go talk to the wall.

We have had many such experiences of God warning thru dreams. He will also show you things that you could have no other way of knowing. For instance, there was one minister I had met many years ago. He had prophesied to me very accurately of some things God had said to me regarding my own ministry 5 years before. He could have only gotten it from the Lord. He was used in the Word of Knowledge frequently by the Holy Spirit.

I had heard a few years later that he was being charged with molesting little boys. He was sending his ministry newsletters out stating that the charges were false and that he was innocent. Well it

turned out that the FBI had arrested him. When I had heard of it, I went to God in prayer. I said with great emphasis to the Lord, "***Lord, what is going on here?***"

I fell on my face in my living room and the Spirit of God began to speak to me. The Holy Spirit said to me "Yes, he's guilty alright, and he will spend eternity in Hell if he doesn't repent and change". He pointed out several Scriptures to me about backsliding and unholy prophets, and what God had stated regarding them. Then, I must have dozed off briefly and had a night vision dream.

I saw this minister in the dream be introduced to another young man I also knew, and I saw the minister and this man making homosexual advances with each other. This other young man I recognized in the dream as someone I hadn't seen in years. We went to the same high school, but he was a year behind me.

When I came out of that night vision dream, I realized right away (this dream was one that was *not* symbolic) that the Lord was revealing supernaturally to me where those two people were.

I saw that the minister was indeed guilty of molesting little boys, just like the Holy Spirit had said to me. But what I was shocked about *also* was that the other young man I had seen in this dream *must be* a homosexual. I did not know it until that moment, for he had never said or done anything that would lead you to think so.

Well I had my answer from the Lord, I had *the truth*. I never said anything to anyone, however I did tell one person that I trusted who also knew the young man, that they should pray for the young man, for he was a homosexual and would eventually die and go to Hell if something didn't change.

About two years later, I was at my desk and I got a call from my insurance agent. He also went to school with the young man I had seen in the dream. He talked about some business then blurted out, "Do you know so-and-so (and he mentioned the name of the young

man in the dream) is a homosexual?" I said, "Yes, I know it, but how do *you* know it?" He replied, "He's telling people now." Well God had shown me *in a dream* two years earlier. How sad. Satan has blinded so many. My insurance agent asked me, "Well how do you know it?". So, I told him. When others will lie to you, God will not.

If there is ever a prayer you can get answered it is "Lord protect me by revealing the truth to me" (John 16:13), so you can always be certain He will tell you the truth.

Many times a faithful marriage partner is concerned about whether or not their mate is messing around in adultery based on certain inconclusive evidence that may be seen, but they're not sure. Well, if you're not afraid of the truth, the *Spirit of Truth* will reveal it to you. These things are given by the Holy Spirit on a need-to-know basis, and he will do it if you ask Him and aren't afraid of the answer.

CHAPTER TEN

Be Open To Any Of God's Methods For Communicating To You

You must understand fully that no one can *make* God speak to them thru a dream. He might or He might not, it's not up to you to tell God *how* He is going to do something. All these benefits from God are given *by grace*, not our good works. God doesn't have to pay us something, yet He is so overly willing to *give* us countless blessings!

¹¹ ...No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Psalm 84:11 NASB

It seems many times God will use a certain method of communication to speak to us, and then the *next time* we get into a need for help or direction from Him, we want it *that way* again. Well it may not *be* that way again.

For instance, back just after the turn into this new millennium, I had a dream from the Lord. At the end of the dream the Holy Spirit said to me very loudly, "Oil would be a good thing to get into now", speaking about my investments.

I woke up and during the course of the day, I called a friend of mine who was a former professional football player (we had grown up together as close friends) and told him, "This might just be a result of too much to eat last night, but I had a dream from the Lord and He said...", and I told him what the Lord said. I knew he had a broker friend that I had used in times past, so I asked him to call him and give me several different options if someone were to invest in oil. He did and called me back later that day with six different

options or vehicles for investing in oil.

I wrote those different vehicles down on a piece of paper and kept them, then that night late, before I went to bed, among other things, I began praying about them, which ones to go with. When near the end of my prayers, I heard the Holy Spirit mention one of the oil companies on my list as I was staring at it. I contemplated it for a moment, when suddenly I heard Him say on the inside of me again the name of that oil company. So I contemplated it again for a moment, and then the *third* time just as I was getting up out of my chair, I heard the Holy Spirit speak on the inside of me again the name of that company.

So I called my friend back the next day and told him I wanted to go with that particular company, and he called his broker friend. His broker friend said, "Why _____ (naming the company)?" Well what do you tell them? I just said, "I felt like that's the one I should go with".

So my football friend and I both invested in that company. Well, to make a long story longer, a matter of 6 weeks or so later, the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) had approved another larger oil company's buyout of that smaller one (I invested in) that took place about a year prior, the stock rose sharply, and I got out. Now days I wish I hadn't got out, but I did.

Thank God for His method of using dreams! But it isn't His only method of speaking to us. Notice in that case I *still* had to be in a position to *hear the Holy Spirit* direct me to which one. He didn't say *which* one in the dream. I only got a general direction from the Lord in the dream, but I still had to get the specific directions from the Holy Spirit speaking to my spirit in prayer. And many times, in fact most of the time, you won't even hear Him speak that way. Most of the time, it will just be an inward perception or guidance in your spirit and not some voice speaking up on the inside of you.

Well the next time I was looking for an investment guess what I

wanted? *I* wanted another dream like that one, but I didn't get it. God isn't obligated to use a dream. He never promised me specifically that He would always use a dream as a method of communication with me. He has various ways of guiding His people, dreams are just *one* of those ways.

I have had God speak to me in every way he mentions in His Word, and they have been varied with no specific pattern of *when* He uses *which*. He may use one method *more frequently* with one individual and another method more frequently with some one else. As I said, I have *never* seen *anyone anywhere* used more frequently and *accurately* in dreams than my friend. It is astounding on a weekly and sometimes *daily* basis; but, God wants to give dreams to any of His people if they will believe it and be open to it. For it is one of His ways in these last days Holy Spirit outpouring.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Dreams In These Last Days Holy Spirit Outpouring

It has always amazed me, since I first was born again, how so many so-called Christians can ignore the Word of God for their own desires and thoughts. I was born again reading Isaiah Chapters 52 and 53 with *no one* teaching me *ever* about the new birth. I was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke with tongues a little later as a result of *further* reading the Scriptures and the help of some Spirit-filled youth ministers. The gifts (manifestations) of the Holy Spirit began to operate in my life because I saw them in the Word of God, believed in them, and *was open to them*.

So when I talk about God using dreams to communicate with His people, it should be welcomed by anyone who *knows the Word*. But sometimes folks don't know the Word but *want to*, and others *think* they know the Word and *don't* know it.

Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was first poured out and made freely available to mankind, preached a message about the Holy Spirit. In this message is great revelation for us who live in this day. In it he referred to "the last days" in which you and I live. You see, we have only a few years left before the return of Jesus to the earth.

When Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues, the people around wanted to know what this is and what it *meant*. So Peter started explaining that this was a manifestation (or gift, either is correct) of the Holy Spirit in operation, one way that the Holy Spirit exhibits His reality.

In the course of his explanations, he quotes Scripture that earlier *foretold* that a time *would come* when the Holy Spirit would be given

to willing men and women; and as a result, certain things will happen thru those Spirit-filled men and women.

16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: 17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS' God says, "THAT I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; 18 EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY".

Acts 2:16-18 NASB

You see in these verses that the "last days" (v.17) is mentioned and the Holy Spirit being "poured out on mankind" (v.17) is mentioned. The last days *started* in Peter's time. There was a loss over many years of what was given then, and right before the return of Christ, there would be a restoration of Holy Spirit outpouring in a great measure. We have seen that in our day and it will continue until Christ comes in just a few years.

But notice "prophecy", "visions", and "dreams" are mentioned (v.17) in relation to the Holy Spirit being poured out. In other words, these are things that can and will be expected as manifestations or evidences of the Holy Spirit's presence in the life of one who receives Him.

Notice these things are not something the Holy Spirit does apart and away from men and women, but *thru men and women*. Notice "your" *sons and daughters* will prophesy, "your" *young men* will see visions, and "your" *old men* shall dream dreams.

Also, did you notice that *dreams* are mentioned as being just as much evidence of the Holy Spirit's work as "prophesying" and

"visions" are? God help these poor folks who do not believe in the supernatural, in the Holy Spirit's work in these areas.

And for those poor stupes who still think God won't use men and women, look at those verses carefully. The Holy Spirit is said to be working thru "sons and *daughters* (v.17)" and upon God's servants "both men *and* women" in these last days. Expect God to use women, because He is. He *said* He would.

Dreams are mentioned as Holy Spirit activity and evidence just as much as prophesying or seeing a vision (you see a vision while praying or awake). And also, did you notice that Peter was quoting this prophecy from Joel as an explanation for *the operation of speaking in other tongues*, yet Joel doesn't even *mention* tongues in his prophecy; yet Peter said it was ***included*** in that Old Testament Scripture reference, even though it is *not specifically mentioned*, because other tongues is *also* Holy Spirit activity and operation.

So you see, though Joel's list as mentioned in Acts 2;16-18 is a *representative* list of Holy Spirit activity, it is *not an all inclusive or exhaustive list* of Holy Spirit activity. Tongues are included though not specifically mentioned; Peter ***said*** it was, for he said "this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel". Well, Joel never said a word about tongues but Peter said it was referring to it.

Joel and Peter were saying that as God begins to pour out the Holy Spirit on mankind, *any* bonafide and scriptural method of Holy Spirit manifestation or evidence is possible and should be expected.

The nine gifts or manifestations of the Holy Spirit as listed in I Corinthians 12:7-11 are manifested thru men and women, but can come thru various ways and means.

⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit⁹ to another faith

by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,¹⁰ and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

I Corinthians 12:7-11 NASB

The word of wisdom, which is a supernatural revealing by the Holy Spirit of something regarding *the future, could be* brought thru a *vision* or it could be brought thru a dream, or it could be brought thru the *prophesying* of another believer.

You see, the various *ways* the Holy Spirit *manifests* His reality are listed there in v.8-10, but the *vehicle* He brings it thru can be different at times, depending on *His* will (v.11).

If I wanted to send you a message, and it was a very, very important message that you needed to hear, would you care if I sent it by email, or by phone, or by text, or by another person? If it was important, you wouldn't care what *method* I used to get it to you, just *that* I got it to you.

It's the same with dreams, they are just *one* scriptural method or way the Holy Spirit can get you a message. And thank God, He does.

I remember back after 9/11 when all this talk was going around as to whether America would go to war with Iraq. So much opposition to war was presented by the United Nations, other nations around the World, and even some in America.

But on Thursday, October 10, 2002, the Lord gave me a very vivid dream and told me America would for sure go to war with Iraq. The dream was extremely real, very awesome in power. I came

out that next Sunday and told my congregation to pray, because America *would* indeed go to war, which we eventually did that following March. The Lord had told me in advance.

The same thing happened again just before the 2006 mid-term elections here in the USA. He showed me what the American people would do and *why* they would do it. It turned out just the way He said. He also showed several very important things regarding America and its future.

The same thing happened in the 2008 Presidential Elections. On Tuesday August 19th, 2008, I saw myself standing in the White House next to the President's desk. A man brought in a paper to another man standing in front of the desk. The man read the results. I heard the outcome and I heard the Holy Spirit say something about the outcome. Thanks to the Holy Spirit, I have a little insight into the years that lie ahead.

The Lord hasn't limited His dreams with me to national importance or major things. He has shown me seemingly small things to help me. He cares about the small things in your life. You can believe this or not believe it, but He has even warned me of impending danger to my pets.

One morning, just before I woke up, I had a dream where I saw a hawk come down after one of my small pets. I have two "puppy people" or "furry kids". They are small enough to be carried off by a hawk because Prince Marcos is only 3.1 lbs and Princess is only 6.5 lbs.

My friend mentioned to me that morning that they were going to walk the "babies" and instantly that dream came up before me again. I told them about the dream.

They went out to walk the "babies". They said they had walked them and was sitting on the deck with them on their lap as they were

taking a phone call. They said because I had warned them earlier that day, they were on special alert and caught out of the corner of their eye a hawk coming towards them. They said they quickly jumped up shielding and covering the "babies" with their body and ran in thru the sliding door. Just when they got inside, they saw the hawk fly right above the deck and go by, circling the area wondering what went wrong. He cares, He cares, He cares. God is Love, what matters to you, matters to Him.

I recently had a dream with a man in it I hadn't seen or really thought about for over 30 years. I saw in the dream he was going thru a difficult time and I knew from the dream I should call him. I had no idea how to find him, so I called a friend of whom I thought might be able to locate where the man in my dream could now be found.

I was able to track him down, and I called him at his work. I told him I had a dream about him and that I believed I should call him. He asked, "What did you see in the dream?" I told him. He replied, "Your prophecy is correct", and went on to describe a little bit more in detail. I gave him my number after we talked and offered my help for the future. God was right again, of course. Notice how much He cared for the man.

Perhaps one of the most astounding dreams my friend has had was back in 1986. They told me of a very significant dream from God. They knew it was a God-dream.

In the dream the Lord told them four things that would be prevalent just prior to His return to earth, and that we would see them come to pass in the years after that dream. They are four works of satan that would gain ground in those last years. Remember now, this dream was given to them in 1986 not 2006.

First, they saw that homosexuality, and particularly lesbianism, would grow. What stood out to them in the dream in 1986 was that lesbianism would grow thru satan's demon spirits. In 1986 homosexuality was not that prevalent yet, but lesbianism was really not seen openly yet. Today, satan has masterfully affected both men and women with that spirit that perverts God's sexual intentions for mankind. They sure don't see it as *the devil's* influence, but that's what it is, and that's what my friend saw.

Satan has the ability to affect the likes and desires of people, if they will let him do it, even if they don't understand the process. Deception doesn't have to be *conscious*, it can be *unconscious* and the results and consequences are still there.

Did you ever think back in 1986 that states would one day *have to vote* to ban gay/lesbian marriages? Now they do in 2008.

The second thing they saw in that 1986 dream was that inappropriate apparel and dress would be growing in prevalence. Now 22 years after that dream, I am absolutely appalled at how some women dress in public, even young girls. What is even worse is how some *Christian* women dress.

Not that Christians are dressing in worse clothes, but that a Christian woman would dress inappropriately at all is worse, since they're supposed to *know better*.

They wear low cut outfits or inappropriate lengths of dresses and think nothing at all about it. Most, if not all, of the women doing this are extremely insecure with who they are, or are desperate to find a man. Holiness is the attribute of our God.

I've been told of women preachers who either dress inappropriately themselves, or have guests on who do. I don't see them much because I got rid of my television and I haven't had

one in my house since 1986; but I hear of how foolishly they dress. Hear me please ministers on television or otherwise, dress appropriately and quit being like the world...you look just like them. Those ministers are on some trip.

The third thing the Lord showed my friend in this dream in 1986 was that gambling would multiply. They said, "I saw the streets of what used to be normal cities now looking like Las Vegas."

Before 1986, only a few cities in the USA allowed casinos, like Las Vegas, Atlantic City, Reno, etc. But later, laws were passed all over allowing gambling. I have personally lived long enough to see that prophecy given to my friend come to pass.

Here in St. Louis or in Missouri, there were no casinos prior to 1993. Then in November of 1992, the Missouri voters approved river boat casinos. The *very next year*, May through September of 1993, the Midwest and St. Louis had the worst floods they had perhaps ever seen. One writer, Lee W. Larson, Chief at the Hydrologic Research Laboratory at the National Weather Service in Silver Spring, Maryland, wrote in 1996 that it ranked as one of the greatest natural disasters ever to hit the United States. If you don't believe it, do your research!

Interesting how casinos were voted in on the rivers, and the rivers in Missouri just a few months later came out of their banks and deposited frogs, snakes, fish, bacteria, germs of various kinds in *the houses* of the people. What an amazing coincidence! Voted in November 1992, frogs by June 1993, just 7 months later. They'll never connect the dots.

The fourth thing the Lord showed my friend in that 1986 dream is still coming. I don't want to make it public yet, but it has to do with our highway systems here in America. It too will happen before the Lord comes.

There are many things that could still be covered in this writing, but these are sufficient to help you see God's plan regarding the use of dreams in these last days before He comes. Ample evidence, both from Scripture and personal experience, has been given that if you wish to believe it, you can; and if you *don't* want to believe it, *no* amount of evidence would satisfy you and cause you to believe.

I have taught these things to many others and they are seeing the results of it in their own lives. You will be no exception. God loves **you** as much as any of us.

Don't be a *doubter* of God's Word, but be a *believer*. One thing that makes Him happy, is when we take His Word as true and put it into use. Notice this verse.

14...and He reproached them for their *unbelief* and hardness of heart, because they had not *believed* those who had seen Him after He had risen.

Mark 16:14 NASB

Believe the Word and enjoy the fruit of it in your own life and the lives of your loved ones.

About the Author



Rev. Mark Slay is founder of Mark Slay Ministries, and founding pastor of [Miracle Revival Center](#) in St. Louis, MO. Since receiving the call to full-time ministry from the Lord, he has sought to do what the Lord said when He spoke to him..."Go". Now more than 15 years later, the ministry continues to bring the Good News through books and audio teachings.



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