“And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know His voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

- John 10:4-5; 27
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The service had ended; ministry time lasted long into the night when a middle-aged woman met us near the exit door of the church foyer. She approached sheepish and nervously and politely asked if she could steal away a few moments of our time before we left the service. Almost in a whisper, ashamed to have anyone else nearby overhear her confession, she quietly said, “I have been told for years to follow the voice and leading of the Holy Spirit. I try to do this, but I don’t know how to do that. Certainly, I can’t be expected to do something without knowing how or being given instructions or help to do it. I want to hear God speak to me. I even hear others talk about how they heard God speak to them, but I fear that I’ll never know what that is like.”

As we write this book Susie and I have over 30 years of full-time ministry experience under our belt. We’ve traveled from one end of our beautiful country to the other, from one continent to another; and we’ve witnessed firsthand a deficit in the Church of Jesus Christ. There are many things going great, yet sadly some areas remain sickly and in need of spiritual maturity – one of those areas is in the ability of every individual believer to personally hear the voice of God and commune with Him moment by precious moment.

We certainly understood this woman’s frustrations and her desire to hear God speak to her. In fact, early on in my devoted life with Jesus I struggled on how to hear the voice of the Master. If you were to conduct a survey of 1,000 born-again Christian believers around the world I am sure you’d be in shock to learn just how few believers will actually admit that they hear God personally speak to them frequently and clearly.

Over the years we’ve learned that we must be receivers of God’s voice. Just as a local radio station is broadcasting music 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so is the Holy Spirit communicating to us. Yet, what would happen if you adjusted your radio and found yourself unable to pick up the stations frequency? You may call the radio station and ask them why they stopped broadcasting. In that case the station manager would more than likely have to explain to you that the station never quit broadcasting, so therefore, there must be something wrong with your receiver. Perhaps it needs new batteries or maybe the power cord is connected to an outlet that isn’t providing power any longer. The simple truth is that God is speaking constantly, but not everyone is tuned in to His frequency.
Let the pages of the book bring a stirring and a hunger in your heart for new passion to hear from heaven the word of the Lord daily for you. For His words are LIFE to those that FIND them, and it will bring HEALTH and HEALING to your flesh.
CHAPTER EIGHT

10 WAYS THAT GOD SPEAKS
(PART 4)

DREAMS

And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. (Acts 2:17-18)

The Merriam Webster dictionary defines dreams as: a series of thoughts, visions, or feelings that happen during sleep. Throughout the bible dreams are often referred to as visions of the night.

In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth on men…

(Job 4:13)

And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night and said, “Jacob! Jacob!” “Here I am,” he replied. (Genesis 46:2)

Humans spend approximate one-third of their life asleep. When we sleep, our body and mind are quieted. The mind of every individual is made up of both our conscious and our subconscious. The conscious is the most dominant and it is what makes us aware of our surroundings. It is the part of our mind that is aware, mindful and gives us the logic of sensibility. Our subconscious mind is suppressed and it is not fully aware, yet it influences our actions and feelings. The subconscious is also referred to as the innermost, subliminal or unconscious. While we sleep our subconscious mind comes to the surface allowing the Holy Spirit within us to open our ears and seals His instructions.

For God may speak in one way, or in 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.

(Job 33:14-16)
Scientists, doctors and sleep experts have determined that we dream approximately 1-2 hours of an average eight-hour sleep routine. They also have determined that there are 3-5 stages or measures of sleep. These stages range from light sleep to deep relaxation sleep to REM, which stands for Rapid Eye Movement sleep. While your mind is capable of dreaming in any sleep stage the most prevalent stage where dreams occur is in the REM stage. If a person is woken during REM sleep he or she can remember the dreams. Most people experience three to five intervals of REM sleep each night.

God speaks and communicates with mankind through dreams. But, why does He wait until nighttime to speak? The reason is simple; we are spirit, soul and body. When we are awake, our body and our soul (which is our mind, will and emotions) are vibrant and alert, dictating our moments. When we sleep our mind and body become stilled leaving our spirit in charge, so to speak. Our spirit never sleeps. It is alert and still able to send and receive messages from the Spirit of God.

Dreams can be seen as an envelope, which carry messages from God to man. Perhaps because of the business of our day or the many distractions we did not hear God speak His message to us during the daytime, so He waits until we are asleep and it is as if the Spirit takes the message, places it in an envelope and then drops it into our mind in a dream. Dreams are usually allegorical, an analogy from the Spirit and we are to seek out the messages meaning and mystery.

Dreams, like visions, are given for many different reasons. Some dreams are given to warn, some are given to encourage us or reveal the destiny calling of our life. Here are some other types of dreams:

- Direction or instruction
- Reveal creative ideas, inventions and ways to make prosperity
- Edification
- To deliver words of wisdom (things to come)
- Impartation
- Exhortation
- To comfort
- To correct
- To cleanse

Our dreams are almost always about ourselves, our spiritual condition or what is taking place in our natural life, relationship, business, family, etc. However, our dreams can also speak to someone else as we share them with others. Our dreams talk, they preach and they are even powerful tools that can cause repentance, deliverance and righteousness to the hardest hearts. Remember Nebuchadnezzar?

“There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit of the holy God [or gods], and in the days of your father light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father—the king, I say, your father—appointed him master of the magicians, enchanters or soothsayers, Chaldeans, and astrologers, Because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, clarify riddles, and solve knotty problems were found in this same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.” (Daniel 5:11-12 Amplified)
The first mention of dreams in the Bible is found in the twentieth chapter of Genesis. This particular instance took place when God came to Abimelech in a dream warning him not to touch Sarah and revealing to him that she was Abraham’s wife.

And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar. Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."... And God said to him in a dream, “Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. (Genesis 20:1-3; 6)

The Bible talks a lot about Joseph and the many dreams that he had and the many dreams that he interpreted for others. Joseph's dreaming did not make him popular; in fact his elder brothers sarcastically referred to him as, “the Dreamer” as they plotted to kill him.

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan. Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming! Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!" (Genesis 37:17-20)

Many famous inventions have been discovered by and through dreams.

• ELIAS HOWE

Elias Howe had a dream one night in 1845 after having fallen asleep at his desk. In his dream he was in Africa being chased by cannibals. They caught him and put him into a huge stew-pot of water and built up a fire beneath him. He tried repeatedly to climb out of the pot, but each time the cannibals would push him back into the pot with their spears. He woke in terror. Meditating on the dream he realized that at the end of each warrior spear was a hole. Thus was born the modern sewing machine.

• ALBERT EINSTEIN

Einstein had 19 dreams in succession that eventually revealed to him that E=MC².

• GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

Handel had a dream that gave him the creative ability and desire to create Handel’s Messiah.

• THOMAS EDISON

Edison's light bulb discovery was eventually uncovered to him through his dreams.
WRITE IT DOWN – JOURNALING OUR DREAMS

“Dreams are written in our minds with disappearing ink.” – John Paul Jackson

Dreams are like flowers; they open for a moment and then close forever. The bible says that dreams are fleeting. How many times have you had a dream and think to yourself that you will remember that dream in the morning when you wake up, but morning comes and the dream is lost in your memory? This is why I encourage believers to keep a Journal next to their bed that is dedicated to logging night visions so that you remember them and may reflect upon them later.

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. (Daniel 7:1-2)

When I journal my dreams I have learned to make it a point to pen every detail that I can remember, the colors, the smells, my thoughts and emotions that I experienced in the dream. Daniel wrote his dream down telling the main facts, the details of the dream. Sleep experts have studied dreams and they have determined if a dreamer does not write the dream down immediately upon waking they will forget 90% of it by the morning.

You can begin now by confessing or declaring this aloud to yourself: “I am a person who has many dreams. God speaks to me through my dreams and when He does my heart is soft to hear His voice and my mind is quick to obey Him. God downloads inventions, solutions, words of knowledge, warnings, encouragement and correction to me in my dreams and when He does I will arise and write down my dreams. In Jesus name, Amen.”

DREAM INTERPRETATION

Understand that 80% of what you dream is about you - your inner-self, your current situation, your relationships, etc. If in your dream your work boss is screaming at the wall, more than likely that dream is still about you, not about your boss. Perhaps your boss represents your job, perhaps your screaming boss represents how you feel about your job. The best way to interpret most dreams is by asking yourself what each part (thing, emotion, person, place, etc.) of the dream represents to you. For example, in the dream was your boss, he was screaming and there was a wall. Each of these three variables of the dream represents something unique to you. That is why you are usually the best interpreter of your dreams.

Because dreams are parabolic in nature there are various ways of interpreting them. They are often a mystery and filled with riddles. For this reason, the person who dreamed the dream must give us keys to the interpretation of the dream.
Keys that can be important to dream interpretation:

- **Location.** Where did the dream take place, where were you in the dream?
- **Observing or Active.** Where you observing the dream or were you an active part of the dream?
- **Colors.** Colors of objects or people?
- **Time.** What time or season was it in your dream?
- **Who.** Who was in the dream? What did they look like? Did they have a face or did you just know that they were there with you in the dream?
- **Things.** What items or things were in the dream? (Cars, playground, food, animals)
- **Numbers.** How many of a certain thing.
- **Emotions.** What emotions did you or others have in the dream? (Fear, excitement, joy, anger)

**COMMON DREAMS**

- **Repeating**
  A repeating dream is a dream that repeats. Repeating dreams can happen in the same night or in different nights; not necessarily consecutive nights, but they can be also. When a person has a repeating dream it is usually because the hearer did not act upon the message the first time or he/she has not yet gained the meaning of the dream. Often times repeating dreams are warning dreams that are alerting us to we watchful in our current situation and to make wise decisions.

- **Falling**
  The most common dream that I hear from people is that of falling. Falling dreams usually mean that there is an area or many areas of the dreamer’s life are out of control and that they are falling downward fast.

- **Flying**
  Another very common dream are flying dreams. Usually the dreamer is flying without an airplane or on the back of a bird. He or she is the airplane or bird. A flying dream is typically a good dream and God is communicating that you are flying to new heights in the Spirit and that you are rising above your current station or situation.

- **Deceased Relatives**
  When a dreamer dreams about a deceased family member coming back to life or being alive again usually denotes something generational or that has been passed down from family member to family member. For example, personality traits, sin patterns, character or integrity issues, purpose in life. However, there also may be a warning connotation especially if that relative is warning you about something. I have found that these may also be comforting or encouragement dreams depending on what the relative represents in your life.
• **Naked or Undressed**
Believe it or not these dreams are common and almost always positive. When you dream of being naked or in some form of undress it usually points toward your transparency, honesty and your openness about things in your life both good and bad. It can also convey a feeling of vulnerability or sometimes a specific insecurity.

• **Swimming or Bathing**
These are dreams that deal with inner and outer cleansing from the effects of sin and the world around us. These dreams usually consist of bathroom dreams, taking a shower or a bath, or using the toilet privately or publically. These dreams are very good and they show us that we are being cleansed either from something inside of us or something that is on the outside of us.

• **Sensual**
Sensual dreams can be perplexing to people. I have seen sensual dreams bring great condemnation on a person simply because they lack the knowledge of how to properly interpret the dream. These dreams at times can reveal soulish desires and stemmed by demonic forces trying to torment a believer, but most of the time these dreams are given to flush thoughts or things you’ve witnessed out of the heart of the dreamer. Perhaps the dreamer works or goes to school with others who are struggling with sexual sin like lesbianism, gays, sexual addiction, etc. The Holy Spirit is using that dream to flush those thoughts out of the mind of the dreamer to set them free.

• **Teeth**
It may feel more like a nightmare, but dreaming about losing teeth, breaking or loose teeth or even having your teeth fall out is very, very common. The interpretation may depend on which tooth or teeth are falling out or breaking. For example, if you dream of your wisdom falling out that may mean that you are failing in wisdom in regard to some area of your life. If you dream of your front teeth breaking, chipping or falling out it may be referring to your self-image, embarrassment over what others think of you or it may mean that you are loosing your ability to bite into life or new adventures. And your eyeteeth are likely to be a suggestive of your spiritual eyesight.

• **Animals**
Animals can often times symbolize or represent specific emotions or events. For example a snake often times speaks of a tale or a lie that is being told to you or about you. A spider usually indicates a connection to negativity, nervousness or fear. Another very common animal found in dreams are dogs. Usually dogs or family pets can signify friendship or a strong bond of devotion. After all, a dog is man’s best friend.
CHAPTER EIGHT
SELF-THOUGHT AND ACTIVATION

1. What is the difference between a vision and a dream?


2. Site a time in the scripture when a dream was given as a warning.


3. Who is the best person to interpret your dreams and why?


PERSONAL REFLECTION


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