

Slide 1-- Dreams and Visions: The Language of the Spirit

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New Covenant “of the Spirit”—Ezekiel 36: 26-27—“Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new Spirit within you...and I will put My Spirit within you...”

Acts 2:17-18—“And it shall be in the last days,’ God says, “that I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. Even upon my bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit, and they shall prophesy.”

Results of Spirit’s outpouring:

- prophecy--words/thoughts from God—a very primary way the Spirit speaks to us—“flow of thoughts
- dreams and visions

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Dreams and Visions—God’s communication by the Spirit of messages He wants us to hear from the Lord –

“He (the Spirit) will take what He hears and “disclose” it to us – John 6:13-14

“one has a ‘revelation’ –an unveiling of “hidden” spiritual truth (1 Co. 14:26)

--receiving dreams/visions is a function of the soul’s “sanctified imagination” – the ability to imagine righteously (“imagine” NT means “devise, create, to make up” —to bring forth “images” (pictures) – a

human ability created in us by God-- to “envision” or to “see” are biblical words similar in meaning to imagine.

Eph. 3:20, Phil 4:7—good uses of our imagination--sanctified artistry

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How the sanctified imagination (soul) works: The HS in our human spirits “projects” images onto the “screen” of our (sanctified) souls—our sanctified imaginations.

A dream is simply a vision received while sleeping—a “night vision” biblically—“a vision of the night” Job 33:14-16—“Indeed God speaks once, or twice, yet no one notices it. In a dream, a vision of the night, when sound sleep falls on men, when they slumber in their beds, then He opens the ears of men and seals their instruction.”

Habakkuk 2:2—“I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and I will keep watch **to see what He will speak to me**...Then the Lord answered me and said, ‘Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run.’”

Acts 16:9-11—“And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a certain man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ And when he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

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Types of Visions and Dreams—Daniel 1:17—“Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams.”

Types of Visions--

- **Glimpses in the Spirit**
- **Stills**
- **Moving stills**
- **Open visions**
- **Physical appearances of heavenly beings** – God, angels
- **Warning visions**—to be instantly negated in Jesus name –

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Types of Dreams—

From self (your soul) –

- **Natural Dreams (Ordinary Processing Dreams)** – perform a cleansing function for the soul – a re-processing of daily events – probably most dreams are of this kind –GIGA Dreams; Pizza dreams, do not require interpretation
- **Soul-Healing Dreams** – certain buried emotions, memories, or beliefs are brought to the surface in dreams—purpose: soul is engaged in self-cleansing-- presenting this information for cleansing/healing; can come in the form of the same dream that recurs over and over.

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From demons—

- **Tormenting Dreams** (nightmares)— occasional dreams injected by demons into the imagination of the soul to torment the person – marked by violence, destruction, blood, threat, fear, confusion, etc.-- to be rejected when awake in the name of Jesus; **repeated nightmares** could be a sign of an open doors (examples: trauma,

occult, curses, inherited oppression, etc.) of demonic oppression that need to be closed off—get help

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From God but concerning demons--

- **Spiritual Warfare Dreams**—from God but concerning demons: dreams of seeing spiritual warfare scenarios, or of having encounters with demonic enemies—gives insight into nature of warfare we are facing or will soon face, and motivates us to do battles according to our assignment
- **God-given Warning dreams** – dreams that contain content as to what the enemy is planning to do in certain situations – to be received and prayed against/cancelled in the Spirit in Jesus name – NOT received as God’s prophetic dream concerning what He is going to do. Not a revelation of God’s will but a revelation of Satan’s will—given so that human intercessors will stand against it and negate in Jesus name

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From God—

- **God-Inspired Prophetic Dreams**— dreams that contain content that is God’s message to us about ourselves or others that will bring guidance (warning included) or a revelation of God’s intention
 - Characteristics: clear, “sits well” with us (no turmoil or torment), remembered in detail, feels like from God as soon as awakening happens –
 - Functions as a prophecy but comes in dream form—dreams that symbolically or literally picture future events to come to confirm they are from God as His will –

- Purposes:
 - Reveals personal destiny/God's call – Joseph in Gen. 37:5-10;
 - Provide a strategy for God's will to be done—Gen. 31:10 Jacob;
 - Provide a sign of God's presence and confirmation- Gen. 28:12;
 - Provide divine guidance and direction – Paul, Acts 19:9; Joseph (husband of Mary)—Matt. 1:21; 2:13, 19— three times an angel appeared in a dream and gave instruction to Joseph regarding protecting Jesus

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Essential To Properly Interpret and Confirm God Dreams and Visions—especially ones containing direction—

“From the mouths of two or three witnesses every fact is confirmed.”
“In many counselors there is safety (victory)”

Note Paul's companions and Paul “confirmed” the Macedonian vision in Acts 16:9 -- plural witnesses to the vision's truth and accuracy of interpretation

Some believers are gifted by the Spirit in “interpretation” of visions and dreams – proper response to a suspected God dream—“What does this mean, Lord?”

When you have a dream or a guidance-oriented vision, seek the Lord and seek confirmation from trusted spiritual mentors/advisors.