

PRAYER STUDY #62
"DREAMS"

(This study based in large part on Paul Cox, Dale Shannon, Linda Fimbres' excellent study, *Dream and Vision Interpretation in Generational Deliverance*.)

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions, and also, upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit.

Joel 2:28-29(repeated in Acts 2:17-21)

Most of the people who come to First Love Ministries believe that we live at the end of the age or in what is commonly called the Last Days. Other generations believe they would live to see Jesus come the 2nd time, but increasingly the signs of the time seem to point to that time in scripture often referred to as the Day of the Lord, a season commonly connected to the Last Days. Certainly the above scripture began to be fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost and is certainly applicable to our day as well.

Over 1/3 of the Bible relates to dreams and visions and this way of God's speaking did not die with the apostles or canonization of scripture. Dreams and visions are similar except generally dreams are delivered when a person is asleep and visions are delivered when a person is awake, although this is not always true. Furthermore, visions are considered to be literal, and therefore no interpretation is needed. Dreams are metaphorical and have to be interpreted. Dreams are defined as a succession of images or ideas presented in the mind during sleep. They are formed in the subconscious mind of a person based on images and symbols which are unique to that individual depending on his background, experience and current life circumstances. Dreams are messages either sent from God, from your own soul(mind, will, and emotions), or from demonic forces.

The illusion to young men and old men most probably is a reference to spiritual maturity rather than age. We consider having visions more spiritual and a higher revelatory gift than dreaming so why do "old men" dream instead of have visions. The answer lies in the fact that dreams must be interpreted. It takes a higher spiritual maturity to interpret a dream than to relay a vision because visions are literal whereas dreams are metaphorical and must be interpreted.

Some scriptures dealing with dreams:

1. *Indeed God speaks once, or twice, yet no one notices it. In a dream, a vision in the night, when sound sleep falls on men, while they slumber in their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction, that He may turn man aside from his conduct, and keep man from pride; He keeps back his soul from the pit, and his life from passing over into Sheol.*

Job 33:14-17

This is God preparing you, placing something in your spirit because you are going to move in the supernatural. He is planting seed in your spirit, but you don't remember. These dreams are sealed until an appointed time to protect you from becoming prideful and from heavy warfare from the enemy since they are concealed.

There is a clarity verses cost factor. The greater the clarity of the dream revelation, usually the greater resistance from the enemy and the more testing.

2. *Then they said to him, "We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell it to me please."*

Genesis 40:8

Spiritual dreams from God cannot be interpreted by the popular psychological methods of today. These methods are Jungian (which believe that things on the inside are working their way out instead of the Bible approach that things on the outside are working their way in and which tries to find what unconscious prejudices, attitudes, conflicts and desires are being revealed) and the Freudian which believes dreams come from memories which are stimulated by unconscious wishes, which have their origins in childhood and are full of sexual overtones.

3. *Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you I, the Lord, shall make myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream. Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all My household; with him, I speak mouth to mouth, even openly, and not in dark sayings, and he beholds the form of the Lord.* Numbers 12:6-8

The Lord speaks in visions, dreams, in riddles and dark sayings, and even in face to face communication.