

Dreams and Visions

A close-up photograph of a woman's face, tilted upwards with her eyes closed. The lighting is soft and ethereal, with a gradient from deep blue on the left to warm orange and yellow on the right. The background is filled with out-of-focus light spots and bokeh, creating a dreamlike atmosphere. The woman's hair is reddish-brown and pulled back.

Ps. Kevin Howell

DREAMS AND VISIONS

WRITTEN BY PASTOR KEVIN HOWELL

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PART OF THE *GIVE ME A YEAR* BOOK SERIES

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ISBN: 978-0-9862062-6-9

CATEGORY: CHRISTIAN, FAITH, SPIRITUAL

WWW.CHRISTIANFINANCIALPUBLISHING.COM

WWW.GIVEMEAYEAR.NET

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INTRODUCTION

About 30 years ago I had a dream that I met Jesus in his office. When I awoke from the dream, there was no question in my mind that it was a dream from God, and that there was a message he wanted to convey to me, and that this dream was his chosen vessel to deliver it to me. I was touched and moved in a way that I had not experienced before.

We met in his office, which was a large room with lots of workstations (desks, chairs, etc.) There were a few people working there, but not many. We were in an area all by ourselves, and he was sitting on the edge of a desk and I was standing. He looked like a young man, mid-thirties, of Jewish descent, with dark hair and a beard and relatively dark skin. He was wearing jeans and a white polo shirt. On one side of the room was a window and I could see through the window that it was late

afternoon and the sun was setting. He was speaking to me but I have no idea what he said.

What stood out from the dream was the way he looked at me. His eyes were filled with love, love was exuding from his being through his eyes and I knew that he loved me and that whatever was happening in that place was motivated by love: not just love for me but love for others as well. I had the dream over 30 years ago but I remember it as if it was last night. I can still feel the love, I can still see the setting and everything about the dream is fresh in my consciousness.

As I go forward in this book, I will refer back to this dream to illustrate points about dreams and visions. While this was not the first dream that I ever had, it was the first one that I could say I knew it was from God. At the time I was born again and due to some life change things that were upon me, I was seeking direction and vision from God. This dream began a journey of

dreams and visions that continues to this day, comprising hundreds of dreams and visions over a very long period of time. I came to realize that Gods' desire for me and my life was to share the love of God with others through the mediums he assigned to me. The mediums were not as important as the fact that he loves his people and wants that love communicated and shared.

At the time of this dream I was in pursuit of God and I was happy to have this dream. Although I was born again, I was unschooled in the ways of God and was seeking direction. God was clearly speaking to me in this dream and I realized it was a medium he could use to communicate to me. Why did God speak to me (and continue to speak to me on a regular basis) in a dream when he doesn't speak to all men in dreams? This is an important question, because I frequently hear from people the following: God may speak to you in dreams but he does not speak to me that way. I have never had a dream from God.

First of all, I do not believe this is a true statement. Man was created for fellowship with God, which clearly involves God's communication with us. God desires to speak to every man, so problems in communication are not of God's origin, they are of mans'. In point of fact God wants to speak to all men, especially those with whom he is in covenant. (Note that I use the term "man" throughout this book to refer to mankind; it is not gender specific). God has many ways to speak to man and he is constantly looking to speak to each man in a way that the man will hear and receive from him. In my case dreams were an excellent choice, because my mind is always active and by speaking to me in a dream God can visit my spirit man, my receiver, in a time it is not engaged with other things and in fact is available to hear from him. Along the way I discovered what an extraordinary medium that a dream or vision is for communication.

The old adage that "a picture is worth a thousand words" certainly applies to dreams. You can receive communication in a picture in

a split second that would take thousands of words to describe. The creativity of God is astonishing. In a dream, everything means something. God does not waste words or pictures; he is exceedingly purposeful. By using a picture, God condenses what needs to be communicated to one or more frames of pictures and then it is seared into your spirit to be referred back to at later times. This point needs repeating. When you have a dream from God, it passes first through your spirit where an image is created. Because God is eternal and your spirit is eternal, any communication from God, word or picture, is seared into your spirit man for all time.

Given this information, you can see why dreams and visions from God can be such an important means of communication. In my case I want God to speak to me anyway he can that I will receive but I appreciate the dreams and visions because I can always go back to a dream or vision and revisit what God said. I also revisit his presence when I revisit a dream, so it becomes a time of

fellowship with him when I review and revisit a dream. I think that God wants to speak to all men in dreams and visions, but some men are closed by declaration, some by unbelief, and some by failure to value the means of communication.

If a man makes a declaration that he never receives dreams from God, or that God does not speak to him in dreams and visions, or that he has dreams but does not know if they are from God or not or is unable to know what God is saying to him because he is unable to interpret the dream, then his words have dictated how God will deal with him in this area. **Job 22:28** Thou shall also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways. Also **Mt. 12:37** For by thy words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned. God has allowed you to set the terms of things by your words; most people have decreed or established the wrong things with regard to their dreams, so this applies to them. This can easily be remedied.

To remedy this situation and to invite dreams and visions, you first repent before God for wrong declarations. If you have said any of the above it is essential that you repent to open yourself back up to God's use of that vehicle to speak to you. Then you ask God to begin to give you dreams and visions from him, and that as he does you will be faithful to value them. You must activate the spiritual force of repentance over anything you want to change the spiritual direction for. Then **James 4:2,3** you have not because you ask not, you ask and receive not because you ask amiss, that you may consume it on your lusts.

Let me be as clear as I can be on this matter: **Repent for wrong words or attitudes towards the matter you desire, and then ask for what you want.** This is spiritual law and you must get spiritual law *working for you and not against you.*

Just looking back at the dream I had all those years ago, I did not ask for the dream but I did not have negative confessions that I needed to counteract in the atmosphere either so God could respond to my pursuit of him with a dream. **Gal 6:7** Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. **This is how you sow for what you are not yet getting: Repent for wrong words or attitudes toward the matter you are desiring, and then ask for what you want.**

WHY GOD USES DREAMS AND VISIONS

Dreams and visions have been used by God to speak to people since at least the time of Abraham. The first time the bible speaks of a dream is in **Gen 20:3-7** *But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, behold, thou are but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife. But Abimelech had not come near her: and he said, Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation? Said he not unto me, she is my sister? And she, even she herself said, he is my brother: in the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands have I done this. And God said unto him in a dream, yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: there for suffered I thee not to touch her. Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine. In*

this passage we see God speaking to someone about his covenant man and woman, giving him warning and direction regarding his covenant man. Clearly the relationship between God and Abimelech is a different relationship than that between God and Abraham, but God still speaks to him in a dream.

Look also at **Gen 28:12-15** *And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.*

In this passage we see a combination of images and words in the dream, to fully convey the meaning of the dream to Jacob. In other dreams there might be an image only, with no words that are spoken. Where God uses dreams to speak to his people, he can use whatever variety or combination of things he desires to convey the message.

In **Nu 12:6** *And God said, hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak to him in a dream.* It is clear from this passage that God intended to use dreams and visions to communicate to his people; in fact, it would appear from this passage to be his preferred way to speak.

As we see from the above, dreams can involve words, images or a combination of the two to convey thoughts, ideas, instructions or information. An image is defined as a picture in the mind, a reflection or a mirror of something to the mind, or a symbol or type

of thing reflected to the mind. Words can produce images, but it is faster and clearer if the images are pictures with words to explain or clarify. In any event, it is clear that God uses dreams and visions for the express purpose of speaking to his people.

Notice again the use of images and words. It seems almost a universal truth that God speaks through pictures and images that need interpretation. Since God has the captive attention of the one who has the dream, why do we dream in images and pictures that need interpretation? I am not completely sure of the answer here, but I think it revolves around the necessity to press in to God to make sure you have the dream and for the necessity to engage your faith.

This is a critical point, because according to **Heb 11:6** ...without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. God wants you to come to him in faith: in point of fact it

is one of the critical components of receiving dreams and their interpretations. Your faith must be engaged in the process. Also, Jesus spoke in parables. In **Mark 4:11,12** Jesus said to his disciples *Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the Kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: that seeing they may see, and not perceive, and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.*

While we may not understand exactly why God chooses to communicate in the manner he does, we need to allow him to be God and make the choices he wants to make. Ours is not to tell him how to do what he does, but to modify our behavior, understanding and interpretation so we can communicate with him.

HEARING FROM GOD THROUGH DREAMS AND VISIONS

The word of God is absolutely full of examples of God speaking to his people in dreams and visions with words of wisdom, words of knowledge, directions, discerning of spirits, and all kinds of communication from the Spirit of God to men. Here are some examples of them:

Acts 2:17 *And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens, I will pour out in those days of my spirit; and they shall prophesy.* This passage is saying that as the Spirit of God is being poured out on his people, they will have dreams and

visions and will prophesy the things they see and hear as well as the word of the Lord into the earth.

Acts 10:1-6 *There was a certain man in Cesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian Band. A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. He saw in a vision evidently, about the ninth hour of the day, an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, what is it Lord? And he said unto him, thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for me Simon, whose surname is Peter; he lodgeth with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea side. He shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.* God speaks to Cornelius in a vision, then he speaks to Peter in a vision **Acts 10:9-20** *On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the house to pray about the sixth hour: and he became very*

hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance (like a vision), and saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: wherein were all manner of four footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, what God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven. Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, and called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there. While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, behold three men seek thee: Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent

them. These visions were to communicate God's plan and purpose to a man.

Acts 16:9-10 *And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; there stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the Gospel unto them.* This dream that Paul had was in the nature of an assignment: Paul believed that this was God speaking to them about where to go next.

Mt 1:20 *But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.* This is an example of direction from the Spirit of God through a dream. There is a word of knowledge involved here, then direction.

Mt 2:12-13 And being warned of God in a dream, that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, arise and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. Again direction from the Spirit of God, with words of knowledge, wisdom and discerning of a spirit (Herod).

Mt 2:19-20 But when Herod was dead, behold, and angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying arise and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. This is a word of knowledge, word of wisdom and word of direction.

Mt 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither:

notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee. This passage speaks of God warning him in a dream.

Once again, the word of God is full of examples of people being led by dreams and visions from God. It is a very common way for God to speak to his people. Notice in Peter's dream in **Acts 10:9-20** above, the images in the dream are not clear as to the meaning, and they need some interpretation for Peter to understand exactly what the meaning of the images are. This is the most common way that God speaks to people with dreams: there are images and words that need interpretation. This creates a place for faith; God supplies the dreams (images) and by faith and pursuit I will know the interpretation. It is God and man working together to get God's word and direction over to men so they can hear what God is trying to say to them.

Notice also **Daniel 9:2-3** *In the first year of his (Darius') reign, I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes. Daniel is a devout man who is studying the scriptures and gets revelation of the time on God's calendar. He is exercising his habits of study, prayer, consecration and dedication to God in order to hear from God. He realizes that it is an extraordinary time and he is going to fast and pray to hear from God. Daniel begins to pray, to confess his sin and the sins of his people before God, and to confess God's goodness and mercy, and he has a vision: Dan 9:20-27*

And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God; Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly,

touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. After threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the

war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Daniel 10:1 *In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision. In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel; then I lifted up mine eyes In other words, he had a vision on the twenty-fourth day after he began to fast. Notice again that he was fasting and*

preparing to hear from God, for twenty-one days, and then he has a vision from God three days later. An angel appears to him to communicate from God: **Dan 10:11-21** *And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. Then said he unto me, fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days. And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. And behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my*

sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? For as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there any breath left in me. Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, and said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me. Then said he, knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? And now I will return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come. But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.

So Daniel is seeking God, fasting and praying. He is devout, a man of habits that are designed to please God and to hear from God, and who was trustworthy before God to receive the

heavenly vision. There is a measure of preparation and consecration before God to hear from God that distinguishes him from all other people of that time. Daniel went to great lengths to hear from God. Clearly there was more than just hearing from God involved, there was a love for God, for his people, for his purpose and a desire to be involved in what God was doing that drove him to desire to hear from God. Daniel was an old covenant man, but nothing about that process has changed. If you have a love for God, for his people, for his purpose and a desire to be involved in what God is doing and a desire for his presence, it will be easy for you to hear from God. When you are driven to his presence by a passion for him, hearing from him will be easy. Quite frankly, most people are unwilling to do what is necessary to demonstrate to God that you love him, that you want to hear from him, and that you can be trusted with what he tells you. As a result, most people do not get developed in hearing from God. However,

God desires that we hear from him accurately more than we desire it, because it is the foundation to relationship. Without being able to hear what God said, and understanding it, with enough knowledge to act on it, your relationship will always be superficial. Faith, love, trust and confidence are all developed in relationship and they are developed over time. You must spend the time with God, in his presence, that is necessary to develop relationship in order to ever have deep, abiding faith, love, trust and confidence in God.

INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS AND VISIONS

As can be clearly seen from many of the above passages, God speaks to his people through dreams and visions but the images can be vague and certainly the meanings not abundantly clear at first; as a result, the ability to interpret dreams and visions is required to know fully what God said through them. To have dreams is very common; to be able to quickly and accurately interpret the dreams is a much rarer skill indeed. If you are diligent to press in for the interpretation of any dreams that God gives you, he will begin to give you more. God's impartation of a dream to you is his seed to you for your instruction and direction; your interpretation of it is a seed to receiving more. God's gift of dreams and visions and your ability to interpret them is a gift of immeasurable value. If you are not currently getting dreams from God you must begin to ask for them as is otherwise set forth in the beginning of this book. If you are getting the dreams but not

being able to interpret them, you need to ask for the gift of the ability to interpret. This ability to interpret dreams and visions is a skill that you can develop as you practice it. The more you use it the better you get at it. More importantly, you will begin to develop a *dream vocabulary* that God will use again and again, and it will make interpretation easier as you work at it.

The first and most important issue in the interpretation of dreams is to determine if it is a dream from God or just a dream that is your subconscious working out issues of your daily life. You could ask God for confirmation and hear from him concerning a dream, but I found that the easiest way was to decree that any dream I remember is from God, any dream that I forget is not from God. You see, the Holy Ghost is the one who brings all things to your remembrance (***John 14:26*** *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto thee*) so he is well able to cause you to remember

what was from God and cause you not to remember what was not from him. By using the Holy Ghost in this manner, you are engaging the Spirit of God in one of the ways he intended to be used. Moreover, this method is simple and not subject to deception by demonic forces. I have found that if you decree this in faith, it will work 100% of the time to separate what is from God from what is not.

By quickly determining in this manner what is from God, you can spend your time and efforts on interpretation of what is actually from God instead of trying to figure out if it was God speaking to you or not.

This leads to the second most important issue of dream interpretation, which is using your faith to make the interpretation.

Heb 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.* ***Rom 14:23***

....*whatsoever is not of faith is sin*. You must plant your faith as a seed that you will have the interpretation of your dreams.

You should also decree that if you have a dream and you remember it (*meaning it is therefore from God*) you will have the interpretation and you will absolutely know what God intended to tell you in the dream. God is a very purposeful and he would not speak to you in a dream unless he wanted to say something important to you. If it was that important to God to speak it to you, it should be important enough to you that you will know what he said. As a pastor, I have had people tell me innumerable times that they know God is speaking to them in dreams, but they cannot figure out what he is saying. That is speaking incorrectly over your dreams: you should decree that you absolutely will have the interpretation, and that you are releasing your faith for the interpretation for the dream.

Many of the dreams I have from God have clear, unmistakable meanings that I am able to get immediately. However, there are many that I need to work with the dream to get the interpretation. If I don't get an immediate interpretation, I first look for a key or a clue to the meaning of the dream. If I can somehow identify a situation, a person or other feature of the dream that gives me a key, then the rest of the interpretation follows from there. I begin to work on the dream interpretation as soon as possible after the dream; I find that this helps me to get interpretations if the dream is still very fresh in my mind. If my wife is available, I will usually tell her the dream as soon as I can. Since she has a fresh perspective on it, she frequently will have the key to the dream, and then the rest of the interpretation is easy. Moreover, telling the dream to someone or even speaking the dream to yourself is a great aid to interpretation. You will begin to speak out details that you had forgotten or that were unclear, but as you speak them they will become much clearer. Also, every detail of a dream is significant. You may be able to get the general interpretation of

a dream without having the meaning of every detail, but every detail means something important in a dream.

I have found that most of the dreams I have from God revolve around situations that I am currently involved in or people I am currently involved with. If I do not get the interpretation of a dream right away, I will go over situations I am currently involved in or people I am currently involved with to see if I can trigger a key to the interpretation of the dream. Most dreams seem to revolve around the revelation gifts of the Holy Spirit: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge and discerning of spirits (**see 1 Cor 12**).

Another help or aid in interpreting dreams is to pray in the Holy Ghost about a dream and release my faith for the interpretation. I am then praying in the language of the spirit, and since the dream is a spiritual impartation, it will help me to get revelation of the meaning of the dream.

That introduces another concept that, in my opinion, is critical to the interpretation of dreams; the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit are described in **1 Cor 12** and they are further elaborated on in **1 Cor 14**. Those gifts include the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge and discerning of spirits. These generally are the gifts used in dreams. After all, a dream from God is delivered to our spirit from his spirit, so certainly the gifts of the spirit are part and parcel of dreams and visions from God. We are told in **Acts 1:8** that we shall receive power when the Holy Ghost is come upon us. The outworking of that certainly can involve the use of the gifts of the Spirit, and tongues is the language of the spirit, so the baptism and speaking in tongues is very useful in the interpretation of dreams and visions.

Since I am a pastor, I will frequently have dreams about people in the church. Also, as a businessman, I frequently have dreams about employees or people that I work with or work for, and as a father I often have dreams about my children. Once again, these

dreams revolve around the revelation gifts of the Holy Spirit: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge and discerning of spirits. Many times the dream is just for me so that I will know what kind of spirit I am working with. Sometimes it is a word or knowledge or word of wisdom for someone else or about someone else. I need to know if I am to tell the dream to the other person or if it is just for my personal information. Most of the time it is just for my personal information, and I find that out by asking God. You can ruin relationships and cause offense by telling people dreams that were not supposed to be shared with them, so you want to be very, very careful to be sure it is God's intent that you share the dream with someone else. If you violate God's trust in this area, he will stop giving you the dreams. Additionally, because most people are not developed in the area of dreams and visions at all, they tend to discount or not place much credibility on dreams. On the other hand, since I have been developed by God in this area over many years, a dream from God to me has the same status as any word that I know came from him.

I have found that it can be a great blessing to others for God to speak to me in a dream about them, as long as I am able to interpret the dreams, and as long as I am careful to only reveal a dream to someone else if God says to do so. Again, you cannot violate God's trust in this area. As long as God can trust you with information about others, or about someone else, it creates for him a way to speak to people who may be immature in their ability to hear from him, or unwilling to hear from him, by using you. God loves people and desires to lead and guide them, but if they are immature in their ability to hear from him, or they do not spend any time seeking his direction, or their relationship with him has not developed yet to the depth that it is going to, sometimes he needs to speak to someone on their behalf who is developed in hearing from him. There is a good example of this in **Acts 27:9-11**

Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them, and said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this

*voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives. Nevertheless, the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul. Then a little later, **Acts 27:21-25** But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, *Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Cesar: and lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. And in fact from the rest of the story, it was exactly as was told him. God has spoken to me in dreams many times for other people, and it is a gift to be used of God to speak to them on his behalf. The ability to hear and interpret correctly, and the**

ability to be trusted by God in this area are the key issues to be developed here.

There is also an issue of how you value and measure the gift of the dreams. My wife and I both keep chronological journals of the dreams that God has given us, along with the interpretations of the dreams. If you want God to give you more dreams, then you are required to be faithful with what you have been given already.

We write them down and are careful to study them to be absolutely sure we have the interpretation of the dream. There are times that God will speak to us in multiple dreams about one subject over a period of time, and there are others where he will speak to us about related matters over a period of time. God sometimes speaks prophetically in dreams where he is speaking about future situations, and it is really helpful to be able to look back at the actual dream when the situation finally arises. In our current situation, there are things that are happening right now that we had dreams about over a year ago. We have found that if

we do not restrict God in his ability to use dreams and visions for us, he is creative and very active in the dream arena. The creativity of God is astonishing and nowhere is it more evident than in the area of dreams and visions.

Developing a *dream vocabulary* was previously mentioned. A *dream vocabulary* is where God uses the same illustration to mean the same thing in different dreams. For instance, in my dreams a car is an anointing from God that I got from God. If I am driving my car, I am executing my anointing in that area exactly as God intended. If I am riding a bicycle, it is part God and part me, and I am trying to help God to execute what he alone can execute. A car is a good thing, a bicycle is not. Anytime I see these items in a dream, I know immediately what they mean. The more God speaks in dreams to you, the more of a dream vocabulary you will develop. These vocabularies are specific to individual people; what something means to me may be entirely different to someone else. God wants to speak to every person

individually, so the vocabulary he uses will be very individualized and specific to that individual. For that reason you want to be careful not to adopt the vocabulary of other people as your own. That will create a lazy faith and you will miss the interpretations God has for you. The idea of dream communication is a personal thing and God wants you engaged in it, and if you are going to rely on other people for your interpretation, God will not give you as many dreams.

I encourage you to ask God to give you dreams and visions, or if you are already getting them you should ask for more. When you have a dream, be sure to value it properly and be diligent about working on the interpretation, writing it down, asking God to what end or purpose is the dream. As said before, it is a gift of immeasurable value. There is always a reason that God gives you dreams and visions, and you need to know what the reason is. Where God has a purpose in something, you want to do your part to help accomplish that purpose.

PARAMETERS OF DREAMS AND VISIONS

I have found that over hundreds of dreams I have had that there are some parameters that will help you in the interpretation of your dreams. Some of the big ones are:

Set the borders where you want them. For instance, I say that if it is a dream from the Lord I will remember it, if it is not from the Lord I will not remember it. I don't really want to focus on something not from God. I also say that if it is from God I will have the correct interpretation and I will know clearly what I am supposed to do with it.

Keep pad and paper with you or something to make a record of it when you wake up. I try to get my dreams written down as soon as I can, as it helps in the interpretation of them to get to writing it

down quickly. Moreover, I want God to see that I am ready for him to speak to me and I am going to respond when he does.

Who had the dream? Where either my wife or I have a dream that concerns our family or a common situation that concerns us, the question of who had the dream can be important.

Why did you have it? Dreams tend to revolve around situations you're currently involved in, people you are currently engaged with in interactions of life, or matters that are currently on your plate. God is not frivolous, he doesn't waste time or effort and does not do or say things just to say them. He is purposeful and always has a reason why he does or says what he does. You want to discover the reason. Why did you have that dream? That is an important question.

Who are the characters in the dream? I have found that most commonly (for me) a person in a dream may not be the actual

person the dream is about. The person in a dream may have a personality trait or characteristic that God wants to highlight in another person or situation, and I need to figure out who he is speaking about.

What am I supposed to do with the information in the dream? As discussed earlier, just because someone is in a dream does not mean you are supposed to tell them about the dream. It may be more about you than about them. It may be about something that God wants you to do.

Remember to revisit your dreams and visions from time to time. I have found that by revisiting my dreams at a later date I sometimes have new perspective on them, or that I possess new information that either changes or elaborates on my interpretation of previous dreams. Sometimes elapsed time will make things clearer as well.

How do you know you got the correct interpretation? This is huge. Particularly if the dream is filled with symbols or things hard to interpret, how do you know you got the right interpretation? The answer has to be that peace is the umpire. You must be led by peace. I have had many dreams that I labored over the interpretation of until I just had peace that my interpretation was correct. There might be no other evidence of it, but the peace of God settling over a situation will allow you to know that you got it correct. Also, if you are wrestling with an interpretation and just can't seem to get it, sometimes just putting it aside and thinking about something else for a while, even overnight or a few days, will allow your subconscious (and your spirit man) to work on it to get the correct interpretation.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

Dreams and visions are just two of the ways that God uses to speak to his people. God is always looking to communicate with his people. He does not desire to be silent, his desire is to communicate. After all, man was created for fellowship, and what kind of fellowship is there if one of the parties does not speak to the other? In fact, God always is looking for the channel that you will receive his communication on. Think of it as a radio station broadcasting on many different channels because they do not know what channel people are listening on. When he finds the channel you will receive on, he then locks in and begins to use that channel.

In the case of dreams, you are asleep but your subconscious is awake and alert, ready to receive things to work on. It is open to suggestion, and not clouded with other things that get in the way.

I think that I personally do not have day visions primarily for two reasons: 1. My mind is always busy, always thinking about something and never idle so there is little room to have thoughts unrelated to what I am working on invade my subconscious, and 2. I have developed such a receptivity for dreams that I can get what God is saying to me in that manner easily and clearly, and I have established that I am faithful in that area to deal with what God gives me.

How can I get God to speak to me (or speak to me more) in dreams and visions?

James 4:2,3 ... You have not because you ask not. You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it on your lusts (carnality). If you do not now have dreams or visions that you remember, then ask God to give them to you. If you have dreams but do not remember them, then make the declarations in

this book about what to remember and what not to remember.

Finally, be sure you are faithful to appropriately respond when you do get one. That means to thank God for it, write it down, meditate it, ask God for the interpretation and resolve to act or change your behavior according to what has been revealed to you in the dream or vision.

As with most things, if you prepare for it properly you will be ready to receive when it comes, and you will be much further ahead in the process.

We know what the process is:

Ask God to speak to you in dreams and visions. ASK IN FAITH.

James 1:6.

Thank him in advance of receipt for doing what you ask him to do.

Thank him for speaking to you in dreams and visions.

Have a pen and paper ready at all times to write down the dream (or vision) and when you have a dream or vision, write it down as soon as you can. You must show yourself faithful with what he gives you since that is the seed to receive more (**Luke 16:10-12**).

Pray and believe for the interpretation, and thank him in advance of receipt for the interpretation.

Here is a recap of the important points on dreams and visions:

- *Most dreams are night visions, and most visions are day dreams: there is no real difference between the two*

- *Dreams and visions are a very common way that God speaks to his people*
- *Dreams may consist of only words, or only images, or both words and images*
- *God desires to speak to all people through dreams and visions*
- *Godly habits increase the ability to hear from God through dreams and visions*
- *Hearing from God through dreams and visions is a skill that develops over time, as you become developed in hearing from God and in the interpretation of them*
- *The most important issue in dream interpretation is to determine whether or not the dream is from God*
- *You should decree that if a dream is from God you will remember it, if it is not from God you will forget it immediately upon awakening*
- *You must use your faith in dream interpretation*

- *You should decree that you will have the interpretation of any dream you have that comes from God*
- *You should work on dream interpretation as soon as possible after the dream*
- *You should speak the dream out loud, either by telling your spouse or just speaking it*
- *Every detail of a dream or vision means something*
- *Most dreams revolve around current situations*
- *Most dreams revolve around the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, or the discerning of spirits*
- *Most dreams are not to be shared with others; God will tell you if they are*
- *Dreams from God have the same status as any other word from God*
- *If he can trust you with dreams for other people, God will give them to you*
- *You should keep a record of your dreams and interpretations*
- *You should learn your dream vocabulary*

APPENDIX I

As previously stated in this book, dreams and visions almost always are exercises of the spiritual gifts of the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge or the discerning of spirits. I have enclosed herein some sample dream subjects that I have had dreams about.

DREAMS OF WARNING / PROTECTION

I had a dream once about a prospective employee we were going to hire to help us with our children. The person we were going to hire was highly recommended by our friends who were also in the ministry. My wife and I specifically prayed that God would speak to us if the person was not the right person for the job, and that very night I had a dream that we were about to allow an evil

presence in through our front door. Needless to say we did not hire her.

I had a dream about one of our employees who was taking flying lessons. In the dream the plane crashed with the student and the instructor inside. I told my friend / employee about the dream and he confessed that his wife was very uncomfortable with the idea of him learning to fly. He never flew again.

I had a dream about an employee who had a bad temper, and in the dream he let it get away from him to his considerable detriment. He lost it anyway, got into a fight where he was badly beaten up and lost most of the sight of one eye.

DREAMS CONCERNING THE MINISTRY

God has always been very zealous over our ministry and has spoken to my wife and I numerous times about ministry situations. He has spoken to us frequently about our ministry assignments in dreams: what we were supposed to do, where we were to go and who we were to associate with. God has also spoken to us about avoiding some people / ministries that were not all they appeared to be. God has spoken to us in dreams about ministers / ministries involved in pornography, alcoholism and extra marital affairs and told us to stay away from them. We were completely unaware of the information until God told us about them and would have had no way of knowing the situations ministries were involved in before we got involved with them. The dreams helped us to avoid entering into situations that would have impacted our spirits.

It is worth noting that you can contaminate your faith and your spirit by what you are around, what you look at, what you talk about and what you do. You may not even notice any difference

at first, but do not be deceived, God is not mocked: whatsoever a man sows, that will he reap (*Gal 6:7*). Also paraphrasing **Haggai 2:12,13** (*Amp.*) Holiness is not infectious. Unholiness is infectious. Being around unholiness will contaminate and ultimately destroy your anointing.

DREAMS CONCERNING OUR BUSINESS

We are in the real estate business and have been most of my adult life. God has told us what properties to buy, what properties not to buy, how quickly to move and what is prosperous and what is not. God has also spoken to us in dreams about changes in the business, changes in location and areas of operation and new business assignments.

Dreams and Visions

Dreams and Visions deals with God speaking to his people in supernatural manifestations of dreams and visions. The Bible has so many examples of God using these tools to lead his people that it clearly is one of God's preferred methods of communication, yet most people do not know how to receive them from God nor how to interpret them. This book deals with how to do both and to make them a preferred tool for God to use to lead, guide and communicate with you. *These are gifts from God that you must have! You will be amazed at the power available to you when you know how to receive and interpret them!*
God bless you as you study this important subject.

About the Author

Kevin Howell is a businessman, minister, and author. As a businessman, he has owned and operated many businesses and knows by experience how to receive God's direction through dreams and visions. As a minister and author, he is committed to teaching the people of God about God's exceeding great and precious promises, that we would be partakers of his divine nature.

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