

16th June 2019

Hearing God part 3

Opening Text: Job 33:14-16

14 For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it. 15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, 16 Then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction.

Introduction:

From this text it is clear that...

- God speaks – in different ways, at different times – whether we perceive it or not.
- God doesn't want us ignorant about His will. His plan is perfect, His thoughts are to give us a future and a hope
- One of the ways God seals His instruction is through **dreams**.

God communicates through dreams, both literal dreams and those dreams that we carry in our hearts in the form of aspirations, deep desires, hopes, pictures.

Acts 2:17b - '*... your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.*

Pastor Yonggi Cho wrote that "dreams and visions are the language of the Holy Spirit".

I

3 Facts About Dreams

1. Dreams have to do with our imagination

When God communicates a dream into our hearts, He does it to touch our imagination

a) That is what He did with Joseph:

Genesis 37:9 - *Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."*

Dreams are often symbolic, and God uses them to expand our imagination. God replaces old paradigms with new ones. Often, our ability to receive is limited by our ability to conceive.

b) The example of Abram

Abram was not able to receive the promise God made, until God touched his imagination to expand it. God brought him out of the tent and painted a powerful picture of fruitfulness:

Genesis 15:5 - *Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."*

Genesis 22:17 - *17 blessing I will bless you and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.*

2. Dreams not only determine what we receive from God, but dreams and visions produce action and momentum.

Habakkuk 2:2 - *Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.*

Dreams can be a powerful motivating force in one's life. A dream from God will make you run.

3. God has a great purpose for our dreams

Although dreams may be given to us personally, they normally have a reach that goes beyond just ourselves. Joseph received a dream, but the impact of what God was saying extended to his family and the whole of Israel, for generations.

II

How can we receive and walk in God-inspired, God-given dreams?

1. Let your imagination be shaped by the Word of God

Psalms 1:2 TPT - *His pleasure and passion is remaining true to the Word of "I Am," meditating day and night in the true revelation of light.*

Romans 12:2 tells us that our minds need to be renewed. The thoughts of God, His word, must renew our minds.

Jude 8 speaks of counterfeit dreamers.

Jeremiah 23:25-29 - *25 "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' 26 How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, 27 who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbour, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. 28 "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?" says the Lord. 29 "Is not My word like a fire?" says the Lord, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"*

So, what is the safeguard against false dreams? – God's word.

Hebrews 4:12 - *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

2. Let your imagination be consecrated and controlled by the Holy Spirit

If dreams and visions are the language of the Holy Spirit, then we need to be people of the Spirit. We need to walk in the Spirit.

- a) The Holy Spirit will always lead you into truth (**John 16:13** - *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth*)
- b) The Holy Spirit will never lead you to do something contrary to God's word and what is true.

1 Samuel 13:12-13 - *then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.' And Samuel said to Saul, 'You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God [the Word] which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.*

3. Let your delight be in the Lord

Proverbs 21:21 TPT - *The lovers of God who chase after righteousness will find all their dreams come true: an abundant life drenched with favour and a fountain that overflows with satisfaction.*

Psalms 37:4 - *Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

Psalms 40:8 - *I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart."*

Colossians 3:2 - *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Use your imagination for more than the things of the earth: use it for more than cars and houses and money. Discover the greater purpose for your dreams... and God will take good care of you!

Ephesians 3:20 AMPC - *Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to carry out His purpose and do superabundantly, far over and above all that we dare ask or think infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or **dreams**.*

Conclusion

As we read in **Job 33:14-16** God speaks in different ways, in a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men. There He opens their ears and seals His instruction. We read there in that passage "*yet man does not perceive it*"

God wants you to be aware of His voice in your life. He has instructions and promises for you. He wants to touch your imagination and cause you to conceive and receive the reality of those promises. As you walk with Him and His word, He will cause you to discern His voice. God is ready to speak to you. Are you expecting? Here's one last scripture for us today:

Psalms 14:6 Message - *Do you think you can mess with the dreams of the poor? You can't, for God makes their dreams come true.*