

#1 THE DREAM.....

I came to the Lord at the age of sixteen and was baptized with the Holy Spirit two years later. My first spiritual dream occurred soon thereafter and proved to be foundational with regard to the many dreams that would follow. The meaning of this dream was not clear to me for several years.

In front of me stands the Lord Jesus, dressed in pure white from neck to feet, His clothing very bright in appearance. As He speaks to me I am aware His lips are moving but what He is saying I cannot hear. While still speaking this darkness is around Him, not in a negative or evil sense, just darkness.

I soon find myself awake pondering this dream, but it was not until several years later when I was in prayer and Bible study that the Lord impressed me to turn to a portion of Scripture found in Numbers 12:6-8 with special attention to these words:

“...I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream” (KJV).

As I read, the Spirit impressed me with the words “speaking in dreams” and “dark speeches” (verse 8). He began to show me that He would reveal some matters to me through dreams. Then I clearly understood that first dream and its symbolism. The Lord was speaking and speaking in dark speeches or dark sayings. A dark speech or saying is a puzzle, conundrum, maxim, hard question, proverb or riddle. I knew the Lord’s speaking to me and my inability to hear symbolized that He would speak to me in dreams of which some would have meanings not at first plain. Thus I saw Jesus speaking in dark sayings in this dream. It was not what He was saying that was the key to this dream, but that He would speak in dreams in dark sayings. Though Jesus on occasion did speak plainly in dreams to me, some of what He spoke took prayer and waiting on Him to get the interpretation.

As in old times God still uses symbols to reveal His plans and ways. Often we remember more clearly details seen in symbols, which are another form of language or communication. The written Word is filled with many symbols and indirect means of revelation. God uses signs, miracles and wonders when He chooses and when necessary. He will use these at times to confirm His words and promises to us. Now to seek signs for the wrong motive is considered a sin by our Lord. We must let God answer our prayers in His way and not attempt to dictate the method to Him. The unbelieving and rebellious soul will not find God granting signs or wonders. Look at this Scripture in Acts 10:40-41:

“Him God raised up the third day, and gave him to be made manifest, not to all the people, but unto witnesses that were chosen before of God...”

Yes, even Christ taught in parables for this very reason: to conceal truth from people who were not open to spiritual matters but only curious and wanting mere knowledge of His teachings without any intention of following or obeying Him. Yet Jesus did explain to His disciples the hidden meanings behind His parables. God still hides truth from hearts who do not seek after Him with right attitudes or who seek with proud spirits. Jesus went so far as to tell His own disciples not to cast their pearls before swine. This applies today. Its meaning is very simple: swine symbolize those who are impure and have no desire for spiritual truth. These truths would be counted worthless by them. Yet when the swine---

the unclean---are convicted by God's Spirit, they may be open to these truths and so find the true bread from heaven and turn from their slop.

So you see, my friends, proud, demanding and rebellious people will never find much of a positive response from God. He does not seek to reveal Himself to such persons and, until they submit to His terms, God may appear dead to them. Yes, to many God appears dead. Though God is everywhere and sees all, many do not perceive Him. Consider this example: at any given moment we have many radio waves passing through our bodies, yet we hear none of them. Nevertheless, is it not true? We could hear if we had a radio receiver tuned to a proper frequency. Thus God may appear dead to many for they are not tuned into Him. They refuse to tune into His channel. Does it change God if we tune Him out? Most certainly not! God is ever alive, ever speaking through many channels. He speaks through nature, through the Bible, by His Spirit to our spirits, and by His servants, ministers, preachers and teachers. He can not be heard by the proud and wicked. Many Christians at times will not hear His voice because of sin in their lives or their lack of seeking after Him.

It is not that God desires to hide Himself from us, but He has stated certain principles by which He operates. We must conform to them; He will not conform to us. Why, I used to be amazed by the many professing Christians who say that they do not ever hear from God. Not surprising though, these same individuals can spend hours in front of their television sets, reading their papers or doing what pleases them, yet find no time to read God's Word or to seek Him. If we do not put God first, do not think that God will be so ready to share Himself and His concerns with us. God is more willing to reveal Himself than many believe but, again, it will be on His terms and not ours. Therefore, if we never hear from God, know it is not because He is not willing to speak. No, it's because we do not give Him lordship and first place in our everyday lives. To know a person we must spend time with that person. It is no different with God.