

## DREAMS SERIES

### DIFFERENT TYPES OF DREAMS

*Genesis chapter 37:6-10 He said to them, "Hear this dream which I have dreamed, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf arose and stood upright; and behold. Your sheaves gathered round it, and bowed down to my sheaf." His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to have dominion over us?" So they hated him yet more for his dream and for his words. Then he dreamed another dream, and told it to his brothers, and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream; and behold, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars were bowing down to me." But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him, and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?"*

Here are two dreams that Joseph had in his early life about seventeen years old. Apparently it's a very simple dream that they understood. In the last message we saw how that when we have dreams God will take from the background that we had to speak to us. God will also speak to us dreams that concern our life in some ways. Although you may dream of some area that is further from your life yet in some way your life will be connected to that. He won't just suddenly give you a dream about something taking place in the North Pole where you have no involvement at all. If you have never hunted polar bears before, never seen what a polar bear is like it would be very exceptional for you to suddenly have a dream about polar bear. God doesn't do that He usually takes from our resources that is within us.

Let me illustrate something like prophecy. God can give a word of prophecy and the instrument or the vessel that delivers that prophecy will be limited by the vessel's vocabulary and language. If for example you find that your vocabulary is very small and limited, then when God speaks something using whatever word you have to describe what God is seeking to say to you or through you to somebody else, God will make use of all that is within you to bring forth a message.

When the Holy Spirit gives a dream it will be so clear cut its different from the dreams that you have by your soul or your spirit. Those are from the different category. We are talking about dreams from the Holy Spirit and how to interpret them. Notice that the dreams that Joseph dreamt he had a part involved in the dreams. We realize that it took many years for the dreams to come to pass. But those dreams concerned himself. Although he dreamt about his brothers and his father it concern himself. One of the things that Joseph dreamt in the first dream was about sheaves. That is something that Joseph and his brothers are working on all the time. It was an incident taken from his daily life. It was something that he was familiar with. Apparently they worked at the farm and they constantly have been doing that. So the Holy Spirit took something from his life to illustrate and to give him a word of wisdom in a dream regarding his future. It is very clear-cut because there were the number of sheaves there and the fact that they bowed to him signifies that he had the lordship or some measure of authority over them.

Now the second dream where he dreamt about the sun, the moon and the eleven stars speaks of a greater realm of authority. Joseph's father seems to understand that the sun and moon represent him and the mother. Obviously they knew the interpretation of the dream. Thus he says, "Will you really reign and rule over us?"

Lets show again Genesis chapter 40 and 41 that in the butler's dream it was something from his own life too. In chapter 40 verse 9 the butler dreamt about the vine and the cup and they were things he was familiar with. The baker dreamt about baskets and bread, which again were things that he was familiar with. Pharaoh in chapter 41 dreamt about cows and river and there was a message in regard to his rule and reign. It affected his life.

We saw in the last message how in the book of Job chapter 33 that God in a dream will reveal and will show forth things to come. In verse 11 and 12 how God hid the hidden mysteries of things to come. And all these in regard to the dreams that come forth.

So let's lay down some rules of this interpretation of dreams. Usually a person who dreams a dream, after isolating all those dreams that came from his soul and spirit would find that some dreams are from the Holy Spirit. The dreams would usually have something to do with your life. God will not reveal something way out. It would be something that you are acquainted with that you may be directly or indirectly involved. And that being the case the best interpreter of that dream would be yourself with the Lord's help of course.

Let me just give one more illustration so that it will seal into your life. Take Daniel for example. Bear in mind that Daniel was at the peak of the political system in his days. Daniel was a man acquainted with the change and coming of kingdoms. God in His time shows forth visions and dreams. The incident is about Nebuchadnezzar who had a dream. But when Nebuchadnezzar woke up he forgot his dream. And what was required was that the wise men were to not only interpret his dream they must tell him what the dream was. Nobody could do it but Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2 verse 24-28 *Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon; he went and said thus to him, "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation." Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus to him, "I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who can make known to the king the interpretation." The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?" Daniel answered the king, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians or astrologers can show to the king the mystery which the king has asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the later days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these; To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be hereafter, and He who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be.*

Daniel proceeded to describe the dream. Basically the dream about the statue of Nebuchadnezzar in gold, silver and bronze and clay and iron that went down was basically talking about the four kingdoms. Daniel himself was involved. He was involved in the first kingdom in the Babylonian kingdom. In the end he was promoted to be the Prime Minister over the whole entire empire. In the kingdom of the Medes and the Persian, Daniel again continued in the high position. So he was involved in some ways with that dream. Later on in his life notice that the visions that he received that were symbolic about all the animals related to him being in that position. So in other words when God gives you a dream if it is from the Lord it would directly or indirectly but in a closely knitted way have to do with your involvement in it. A dream is not only just given for your entertainment.

We talked about three types of dreams and we are only concerned with the parabolic dream. The other two types of dreams don't need any interpretation. But parabolic dreams are dreams that are in symbols. So symbolic dreams are the hardest to interpret that is why we are teaching on those symbolic dreams. So the first thing we mentioned that God will use something. In the last message we talked about how God will use symbols in society to speak onto us. Like in Pharaoh's time in Genesis 41 cows and cattle are the symbol of prosperity in their days. So God use those symbols to speak to Pharaoh. Today cows are not necessarily symbols of prosperity any more. There are other symbols of prosperity and God will use the symbols that we understand today. Remember that symbols change with time. Something that is symbol of prosperity long ago may no longer be a symbol of prosperity today. God will speak to us something current that we can understand. So the interpretation of dreams is not so way out that we have to go back into long historical time. But it is always in terms of something we understand today.

What we are bringing forth here is the other factors. The first factor is that the dreams that we receive from the Holy Spirit has to do with our life and our position and what we are involved with. Sometimes it could be like Joseph a seventeen boy and you never understand how that will one day his dreams will come to pass. There is no natural way he could think of. He was only seventeen years old having such a dream. That is why the father scolded him. There is no natural way that Joseph could know how that could come to pass. But yet when God gives a dream

it was because he was directly going to be involved in that. Those dreams were going to come to pass in his life. So when God gives a dream it would involve you directly. So the next time you have a dream don't come and say to somebody else and say I dreamed about you and it involved you. If you dream about somebody else then perhaps you may have something to do with that. God is not going to just give you a dream so that you know about a person that's all. God doesn't waste time like that. When He gives a dream you are directly or indirectly involved maybe through prayer, maybe through an active role like Daniel was involved in those kingdoms that he dreamt about. He had a very active role in the rule and reign of those kingdoms. So when you have dreams from the Holy Spirit there will always be a direct involvement with you.

I was thinking of not sharing these other areas but I felt in my spirit that I must touch a little bit on that too just to make it clear. The dreams from the Holy Spirit are clear-cut and they follow the same rules that we talked about in hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit. The voice of the Holy Spirit, the voice of the human spirit and the inward witness are different. There are five inward witnesses, and the voice of the human spirit is in a category by itself and it is just like the normal flow of things. Remember one of the rules of the voice of the Holy Spirit is that before the Holy Spirit speaks, it is always accompanied by His presence. See God speaks all the time through our human spirit. Our human spirit can pick up all kind of things. But when the Holy Spirit speaks there is a presence that comes with it. You know that His presence is there. In the same way dreams of the Holy Spirit carries that same kind of presence. You may wake up immediately after the dream although its 3 a.m. or it will be distinct in you that you will remember. Sometimes like Nebuchadnezzar's case he forgot about it but he knew that it was important.

Dreams can be caused as you see in the book of Ecclesiastes from our daily activities. That is from our soul or from our human spirit. Dreams from the soul realm are more the daily activities of things as well as what I call soul contact. Dreams from our soul can come from our daily activities or from sensitivity to various things around us. One time when I was sharing that in our overnight prayer somebody mistook that and took it in a wrong way. So it is very dangerous sometimes when I share some of these things. Anything you take out of context you can make some heresy out of it. Please take it contextually. If I take somebody's shirt or personal belonging and put it under my pillow and I sleep on it, I would be

able to pick up a person's strength, weaknesses and characteristics from that person's shirt or belonging. It has nothing to do with the Holy Spirit or the human spirit in that sense. But it has to do with what I call soul contact. For example if that person is a person full of fear or perhaps that person is an orphan, and insecurity, and loneliness are there. And I take that person's shirt and put it under my pillow and sleep on it, in my dreams under normal circumstances I would pick up loneliness, fear and insecurity. These are things that I may not be involved with directly. How it comes in a dream would be what I call a mirror effect of the soul. Like I would feel myself in a situation in that dream I would be lonely, in despair, which is never a part of my experience at all. How did I pick up from the soul?

To help you understand the scientific application of this, let us take our body odor. The dogs can pick it up in the natural. You sit in your seat and I bring a trained dog and that dog can pick up where you sat. With our nose we cannot pick that up. Now there is a sort of body odor in the soul. If you enter a home the atmosphere of the soul is there in objects and in that person's place. That doesn't mean that when you take secondhand objects you say O dear what kind of soul that person has. Thank God for the blood of Jesus it can cleanse all influences. The blood of Jesus can cleanse all soul influences. The reason I say this is because it's a possibility of that affecting dreams. In the dream realm in the soul you could pick that up. Even if somebody comes and stay in my house I could pick up everything from him. Or perhaps I go and stay in your house I could pick up everything in the house. At first I was wondering why I was so sensitive to all these things.

Recently there is this book called "Thundered" about the K.C.F. or the Kansas City fellowship of prophets. It began to give me some understanding when I read that. The book says that some of them were natural prophets; they were born, bred and called to be prophets and they have openness and a very great sensitivity to things like that. Not everybody may be like that. Some people you put them anywhere in the world and they sleep like a log. They don't seem to pick up all these things at all. But there are those that the bible calls "*If there arises those among you a dreamer of dreams,*" who seems to have an inclination towards that according to their call. So it may not apply to everybody but I sense and think in my spirit that it is possibly a development in our lives. The more we grow in God the more sensitive enough we become to things like that. But not everybody could be sensitive in that area. Others could sleep like a log and their field and ministry are in a totally different area. It

doesn't concern that area. But those who move in the Spirit in that realm you seem to have an openness that you pick up everything.

Then you could have dreams that come from your spirit man. Dreams caused by your spirit are different. Dreams that are caused by your spirit are self-analytical. In other words your spirit man will expose you. You could wear a mask in front of people and hide and put a good front. For example if you have an inner insecurity about something, you will always find it recurring in your dream. It is a self-analytical dream. Your spirit man judges you. Your spirit man points the weaknesses in your own character in order to help you. I won't call those dreams from the Holy Spirit not directly but maybe indirectly. But directly they are not from the Holy Spirit. They are not dreams that are the voice and the Word of God from the Holy Spirit. They are just your human spirit picking things up. In a normal way as in your conscious life your human spirit picks up things and your soul picks up things in your conscious mind. How much more in the sub-conscious life the soul picks up things and our spirit picks up things. So those are what we mean by spirit and soul caused dreams. They are totally different category.

I am talking about dreams from the Holy Spirit. Those are word and a message from God. When God specially give a word or a message usually it is in regard to things to come in the future. Notice that dreams from the human spirit tends to be self-revealing of your present and your past. It gives you a better analysis than your mind no matter how great your I.Q is. Dreams caused from the soul tend to be more exterior stimuli caused from the exterior realm. So dreams directly from the Holy Spirit would still be limited to draw illustrations from your life. If you have been a farmer there is a possibility that He would draw that from your experience to speak about an area in your life in the future. He would possibly and definitely not suddenly draw an illustration from fishing. He draws illustration from your life to speak to you in those areas. If you have been brought up in the city like my children to see a cow is a joy. You are used to buses and noises God will pull it up from your life to make a message out of that in regard to you. He will usually give you dreams from your background.

The other point there is such a thing as a gift of interpretation. There is such a thing as a sensitivity to the dream realm and the spirit realm. Some people are born with

an inherent sensitivity to that. Usually those who are called to be prophets, those who are called to the ministry have a tendency and inborn sensitivity to that kind of realm. So there is such a thing as a gift of dream a dreamer of dreams. And some people have inherent abilities to flow in visions and dreams. Then on the other hand there is also the gift of the interpretation of dreams.

Lets look at the book of Daniel chapter 1:17 *As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all letters and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.* Notice he had a specific gift in that area. It is interesting to note that even Joseph in the book of Genesis had that same gift. It's a gift for the interpretation of dreams. That means that we could pray for God to give us that gift. We have not because we ask not. You could pray and ask God for that special gift to interpret dreams and visions. Not just to receive. It's a gift also to receive it. It is another separate gift to interpret those dreams. Joseph perfected the interpretation of dreams in his life. During his days in prison he could just pick up the interpretation straight away when the butler and the baker called him. And it is because of the gift of the interpretation of dreams that he was brought before Pharaoh. Your gift makes room for you. You have to perfect your gift before your gift makes room for you. So the ability to receive dreams is one. The ability to interpret dreams is another.

And thirdly the ability to apply interpretation is a different category. You may have the ability to interpret but you may not have the wisdom to apply them. That's a different category altogether.

In Genesis chapter 41 after the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream in verse 33 *Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.* Now this is not part of the interpretation. He had actually completed the interpretation. The interpretation of Pharaoh's dream means seven years of prosperity followed by seven years of famine. He need not have to apply further than the interpretation. But here he moved into what I call application. He says let Pharaoh select a wise man set him over the land of Egypt. Verse 34-36 *Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land, and take the fifth part of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plenteous years. And let them gather all the food of these good years*

*that are coming, and lay up grains under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine which are to befall the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine,"*

What would you have done if you have a dream? In the dream you see your friend getting into an airplane. And the airplane takes off. Then halfway along its flight the airplane knocks into a high mountain and crashes. You see your friend parachuting down safe and sound. What would have been your interpretation? Secondly, what would have been your application? Most people react to dreams like that with shock and they get in a state of stupor. Most people will take it as the actual type of dream, meaning it will be actually happen.

There are three types of dreams. The first thing you have to do is to determine what classification. Is it parabolic, is it message or is it an actual? Actual means that it will actually happen. Message means that whatever the dream is there is only one key message. Parabolic means everything is in symbols. Most people will come to that friend and ask, "Are you about to fly in an airplane?" If his answer is yes, they will say to him, "Please don't go." They are interpreting it as an actuality, which may not be the case. Or perhaps somebody has a vision and in that vision they see failure all over. Perhaps they see themselves launching into this boat to go fishing. There they are with three fellows. Those three fellows happen to be the exact three fellows in their business relationship. So they see four of them getting into the boat into the Straits of Malacca. He sees the four of them letting out the net. Then as they pull the net halfway here comes a shark. The shark comes and cuts out a big hole in the net. They pull out the net and there was nothing left in the net. Then they say therefore that is saying to them not to go into business together. That's what normally people take. They take the simplified application. That may not be the case. See the yes and no is not there. It is only what will happen.

In a similar way as Acts 21 when Agabus the prophet came and prophesy over Paul, he took his belt tied himself and says this thing will happen to this man. He did not say yes or no to go. All he said was what will happen. But most people take dreams to be simplified yes or no. It is not the way to apply dreams. So you cannot take dreams to be simplified things yes or no. That's not the way to interpret dreams. What about Pharaoh since he saw those things that happened? He saw the

seven fat cows and seven lean cows. What does he do? Get into a frenzy and say, "O no this is going to happen," and just leave it there? No, it is not the simplified yes-no situation.

That's where the application of the interpretation comes in. The interpretation may be for example if a person has a dream about those four fellows going out and pulling out the net and the net got cut off. It is not yes or no. Maybe that God is telling them about dangers that are coming ahead. It may be God wants them to continue. See in the dream they didn't disperse yet. God is warning them about danger that may be coming and that they must be ready to face it. And possibly they could apply in the same way like Pharaoh. Perhaps right now the four partners in their business are doing very well that they got surplus in their bank accounts. Perhaps what God is telling them is a warning. Not that they are supposed to call it quits.

See a dream is sometimes vision and prophecy as such that is so easy to misinterpret and misapply the whole thing altogether contrary to what God intended. A person could take it and say God wants me to get out of this business quickly. Sell all his shares and get out of the business, which God may not want or intended in that dream. That's what I call people who take dreams to be in guesswork, a yes no situation. It is not that way. But what God could be warning regarding a shark that is coming. Who knows it could be a loan shark. God may be just speaking about an area to say not to go into that area. Not to go into an area is different from not going into the business altogether. You have to isolate areas from the whole business altogether.

Let say the dream about this friend of ours who is going on a flight. The most probable person who can have that kind of dream is his wife. It is very unlikely that a stranger would come and say that I had this dream about you. It is different from a person who is in the five-fold office as a prophet. That may be different. Usually they may see vision of that. But then even if they see those visions, God may want them to do something with that person. See there is always a relationship. Let's say there is such a thing as the mountain and the plane. If it is perhaps a symbolic dream, God may be just speaking to him about the impending danger that is

coming. Just to be aware of those dangers, that's all.

When you have a dream you must first of all discern whether it's from the spirit, soul or Holy Spirit. If you miss out on that you are going to miss out on the rest.

Like one day many years ago before we started this church, we were up in Genting Highlands for a retreat. I had a very funny dream. It's a dream about failure. I dreamt about all those things. In those days I did not quite understand about dreams. I dreamt about failures here and there. I dreamt about going to meeting where nobody is there but myself. And I got up in the middle of the night. I said this couldn't be from the Lord. And I said whatsoever my hand shall put upon should prosper. There is no such thing as failure in God. Subsequently I found out that the owner of that particular apartment was a failure. So I classify it under soul. I picked it up from the soul realm. The first thing you do is the classification. If you classify that dream as from the Holy Spirit you will be having a hard time trying to interpret it. You classify it from the soul then you know that is a revelation of external stimuli, the area around you where you are. And God will use situations in your life to illustrate that also. So when I understood that matter, in Australia we were staying with this person. And we picked up all kind of things. At that time I didn't understand it. We all were wondering why are these funny dreams occurring every night. Every night I was ministering with the power of God, anointing of God but the dreams were funny. Then I realized that ninety-five percent of those dreams was picking up from that house where we were staying. As I said when you are opened to certain thing you have an extra sensitivity. Just like if you have a good pair of ears that is very sharp and good in music, your ears are also very sensitive to noise. You can't help it. To be good in that area you end up very sensitive to other areas. If your ears are very sharp in music you could pick up a note very easily. That very sharpness is a handicap in other areas where you are very sensitive to noise. You need that sensitivity to be good in that area. So that was when I understood that classification is important. Now when you experienced it, it becomes very easy. You could straight away pick it up in this category. When you wake up your spirit man will be able to classify it for you.

So the first thing when you have a dream classify it as to whether it came from your spirit, soul or Holy Spirit. After you classified it, if it is in the category of Holy

Spirit or human spirit then you can continue to take notice. If it is in the category of the soul you could still use it to your advantage. You could reveal the things that are in the other person. I remember in those days in Penang when we started the ministry, we have this triple bunk bed. I was sleeping in the middle bunk and another brother was sleeping in the other bunk. His toes were facing me and my toes were facing him. Somehow in the middle of the night his toes and mine made contact. And I had dreams that were not peculiar to anything I experienced neither in my childhood nor in my present experience. When I woke up in the morning I was wondering what was all these dreams. As I was examining it I found my toes were contacting this person. I found out that I was picking up everything of that person's soul. So I waited till the other brother woke up. I sat him in the chair and say these are all the weaknesses in your life. He says, "Yes how do you know?" That is what I call soul influence. So if you classify correctly you could use all these things to your advantage.

Then after you classified it you could now analyze it. If it were from the Holy Spirit then you would be able to put the laws of interpretation to it. If it is from the Holy Spirit there are the most important. Write down the dreams the Holy Spirit gives to you. If it is dreams from the Holy Spirit apply the laws of interpretation. You realize that whatever it is you will be directly involved with it. So you must write it down. Usually there is a message and then the three areas. Then even after you have the interpretation you need the application, which is a different thing. You got to pray for this area. Some times you have the right interpretation but no application. You are still left hanging. Notice that when Joseph applied the dreams that Pharaoh had, he was not asked to do it. But the wisdom of God in his life caused him to apply. If it were a dream from the soul it is more revelation that you know that you picked up something in the soul realm from the other person. But if it is in the realm of the human spirit it is for you to analyze yourself.

In the early days of my ministry and my spirit man was still being strengthened and developed there were several dreams that I had have to do more with my human spirit revealing myself. There were some particular dreams that were from my human spirit. I saw in the dream how I lost my teeth. I have never lost my teeth at all. But in that dream I lost about half of that. But the dreams were revealing to me things in my life that were defective. Things like the character in my life that God still had to mould. How God is going to mould. You see teeth symbolize things in

your character are supposed to be foundational. So God was revealing things in my life that were lacking. That was from my human spirit. My human spirit was analyzing me. So I got to go through them and get over them. Then through time the human spirit gave me a dream I saw myself flying. Human spirit dreams as I have said are self-analytical. Soul dreams are external revelatory. Holy Spirit dreams are the most important. They are the keys to your future. When God gives them for a purpose you must write them down. They could be the making or the breaking of your own future. That is why we must not neglect what the Holy Spirit speaks to us in dreams.