

DREAMS SERIES

THE IMPORTANCE OF DREAMS

Part One

Acts 2 as Peter speaks regarding the out pouring of the Spirit he says in verse 16 onwards. *This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel; And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; yes, and on my menservants and my maidservants in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth beneath, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and manifest day. And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

We are going to look at dreams and visions that God has placed in our lives. And especially we want to focus on fulfilling our dreams that God has given to each one of us. I guess that all of us have dreams to a certain extent. In fact we all dream every night. But we don't remember the dreams. Sometimes we remember the dreams when we wake up. We say, "I had a dream." Dreams are an important part of our lives. It is just like thinking. It is interesting to know that all of us do dream. Even though some of you say you don't dream at all you do dream except that you forgot your dreams.

We advise people that if you really want to remember your dream especially those that are from God, then spend some time with the Lord before you sleep, especially praying in the Spirit. Usually those dreams that you could remember

have a significant message in your life. As we see the beginning of this New Year we realize that there could be dreams in some of our lives that you may see fulfilled this year. Perhaps some of your dreams were fulfilled last year but other dreams were not fulfilled yet that you thought would have been fulfilled last year. There is a great possibility that perhaps one or two or more of your dreams may be fulfilled this year. But whether they are fulfilled this year or not we must always develop a quality to be a dreamer of dreams. Dreams are the fertile ground for the Holy Spirit to work and move in our lives. However we know that there are dreams that are caused from daily activities, dreams that are brought forth from God and there are some that are infiltrated from the enemy.

Why is it important to dream? In our modern world dreams have been pushed aside where we don't give them a much emphasis. Do you realize that just maybe several thousand years ago dreams were considered important? In our modern society we put it to the side as something insignificant and unimportant.

God wants us to be dreamers. This is not to mean dreamers in the sense of someone who is of no earthly good or who does not know how to be practical in his life. We are not talking about that definition. But there is a necessity to be one who dream dreams if you want to reach into the height and greatness of God's plan for your life.

One of the reasons why we want to dream dreams is usually in a dream you are not limited by what you are limited by in the natural. For example in the natural your income may be let's say about seven hundred dollars a month. And you are just struggling to live by. Do you know all you have to do is just close your eyes and dream? And in your dream or imagination you could be living in a farm with lots of hills to meditate. In your dream, you are not limited by your income. Then in that dream you are not limited by education or ability. Some of you could never play any musical instrument. All you have to do is close your eyes and dream. And you could see yourself playing the musical instrument. Don't you think that's a powerful tool that God has given to us? You are not limited in your dreams. Whether by your financial standing or by your education or by anything at all in your dream there is a fertile ground for anything to happen.

In a dream strange things happen. You could be for example driving in a car and suddenly your car turns into a truck. Or going by a hill and suddenly the hill turns to a diamond hill. Anything can happen in a dream. There are no limitations, as we know it in this natural world. And what we want to stir in your life is the importance of dreams. And how we need to cultivate ourselves so that we become dreamers of dreams. And that's where faith can began to take hold of some of the things you dream about.

Let me read a few scriptures to show how important dreams are. The book of Job 33:14 *For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it.* Now God speaks to us all the time. Sometimes through the soft inner voice, sometimes through people, sometimes when we are really hard of hearing then through circumstances.

Verse 15 *In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while they slumber on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and terrifies them with warnings, that He may turn men aside from his deed, and cut off pride from man; he keeps back his soul from the Pit, his life from perishing by the sword.*

God speaks through dreams. In verse 15 it tells when those dreams occur, in deep sleep. The dreams only occur when you enter into very deep sleep. Even according to modern dream research, our night sleeping hours are in cycles. As you fall into sleep in the first phase of your sleep there is no dream. Then in the second phase of your sleep dreams occur. They know when dreams occur because of your REM sleep or rapid eye movement sleep. The first part there is no REM. The first part possibly has to do with the physical body resting. But they have not fully understood why we should dream dreams.

Dream researchers noticed that if a person is prevented from dreaming, their creativity during the day is diminished. When you fall asleep your body is actually resting. But when you are dreaming all the biological activity in your body

functions as if you are awake. It consumes much energy in your dream state. The eyes move and the body is activated but its like you are in a different realm. You are not conscious. Then whenever the subjects under study fall asleep and just as they are about to dream when their eyes movement becomes rapid, they are woken up. The researchers try to stop the subjects from dreaming. Every time they dream they wake them up. Then they fall asleep again and then they wake them up. They found that these people became less and less creative. Creativity is an important part of our lives. Those people become reduced to almost mere robots or zombies in their waking state. So there is something about the ability to dream, which must be cultivated in our lives. Now here it speaks about a dream that comes when you are asleep.

In the book of Acts chapter 2 it is not necessarily speaking about a dream that occurs when you are asleep. In Acts 2:17 it says *your old men shall dream dreams*. The word *dream dreams* is the word *enupnizomai enupnion*. The normal Greek word for dream is the word *onar*, which is used in the book of Matthew when Joseph had a dream. Here in Acts 2 he is talking about a dream state not necessary a sleep state dream. The word *enupnion* speaks about a kind of dreaminess. It is almost like what we use in the English word *dreamy*. Like some one sitting quietly in a corner and they are like in a world of themselves dreaming. This is from the special Greek word for dreams *enupnion* and not from the ordinary Greek word for dreams *onar*.

And this word *enupnion* has been used of people who are dreamers in their waking state. Job 33 is referring to those in their sleeping state. It had been used in the negative sense in the book of Jude verse 8 *Yet in like manner these men in their dreamings defile the flesh, reject authority, and revile the glorious ones*. He is talking about those who in a negative sense dream of the wrong things. They are not asleep they are awake. We immediately see that there is such a thing as a dreamlike state while conscious and a full dream state while in deep sleep.

Today modern psychologists tell you that there are different states of consciousness. Some try to tap into the sub consciousness as deep as possible. Actually our brain waves have two to three different patterns. Some psychologists try to get people into some of these patterns. But they are doing it without Jesus. They don't understand how dangerous it can be. If there were no devils and no demons it

would be fine. But because the other realm is full of demonic activities and power we need a source of protection, which is the blood of Jesus. Which is why people who go deep into transcendental meditation without Jesus many of them end up inviting demonic activities into their lives unknowingly. They don't have the protection of the Lord.

So the ability to dream is an important one. It does occur even in your waking moment and as well as in your deep sleep. What we encourage you to do is to dream dreams and go beyond those areas that have limited you. If you could dream of things that are impossible to you, you can move into that realm. Is your mind limited by only what you think is possible? You refuse to think of things that are impossible. You dare not even think of such things. Perhaps the attitude is wrong. You need to think of things that you never thought before. It may not be God's will for you to go into the ministry and preach to millions of people. But yet in your dream you could do it. You could see your life affecting others. It may not be God's will for you to handle millions of dollars but yet in your dream you can do so.

Why must I dream of things that are not of God's will for me but still in line with the Word? Because faith is the substance of things hoped for. Dreams are the seeds of hope. Sometimes when I fellowship with people and we sit around, we talk about the many things we could do for the Lord. Not that we want to do them. But we said we are just dreaming dreams. I said how wonderful if we could just hold healing services for multitudes in our own premises instead of renting stadiums. As we walk through town we see these multimillion-dollar buildings owned by unbelievers. I said how nice if we could get a whole floor just for Christian entrepreneurs. Some of these things may materialize and some may not. But its fertile ground to dream dreams. Some of your dreams may travel along and somebody else picks it up and actualized it. And we will just sit down and dream dreams. I remember some time back and we were talking about how Christian entrepreneurs will own a whole building and Christian music is played all the time.

How wonderful if we have a Christian hospital that applies not only the laws of natural healing and medicine but incorporate prayers and the Leviticus laws to

bring about healing. I tell you we could have more people healed than other hospitals in the world. I may not be the one who fulfill that vision. I may not be the one who do it. But if I dream dreams one day somebody will catch hold of that dream. I could dream dreams I could see Christian doctors get together perhaps one day they would open a hospital that is based on God's healing principles. They not only dispense medicine they will give their best and the most modern technological medicine but on the top of that they will pray. Some thing will happen. I believe that somebody somewhere had that dream that they will fulfill. But yet I could have that dream too. Because if I were to have that dream too and he would have that dream whoever he is, where two or three agree on earth although we don't know each other, it is going to cause something to start happening. That's why we need to dream dreams. We need to talk about dreams since it is the fertile ground for faith to take place.

Heb. 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* I could phrase it in another way. Faith depends on hope to bring a substance of reality. Without hope there is no faith. Dreaming dreams is like doing weight lifting in your spirit. If you have ever lift weights before you know what its like. You stretch your muscles beyond its normal usage. And unless you stretch your muscles the muscles will not grow. Muscles need constant stretching to grow. Dreams are the weight lifting of the creative part of your soul and of your spirit. When you are dreaming dreams you are weight lifting. And you stretch your imagination. Not a hundred percent of your dreams may come to pass but they keep your muscles healthy. I lift weights not to enter the contest. I lift weights to keep myself healthy. In the same way we need to lift dreams in our lives. Sometimes I used to share with those in the ministry and say how wonderful if we just have a place for Christian retreat. For some others they have already actualized that vision. We could just call all those five-fold ministries in, accommodate them and say lets have a time of praying together. It's a dream and we need to dream in order for it to come to pass one day either in our life or somebody else's life to bring it to pass.

Dreams are the fertile ground of faith to take root. As we stretch our muscles of dreams some of them may be God's destiny for our life. Some of them may be for another people's lives to fulfill. I may not own a Christian hospital with all the Christian doctors, but if I dream it and share my dreams somebody else who is in the medical profession may catch hold of that dream. And for them that dream

becomes a vision. Which is why the bible calls it *old men dream dreams and young men see vision*, because the old would have finished their work and their call. But they continue to produce seeds that the young men could take hold of and become their visions. The vision of their life becomes their destiny.

It is good to be a dreamer of dreams. Strangely it's the dreamer of dreams that contact the prophetic realm. In Acts 2 we see that out pouring of the Spirit, dreaming dreams and seeing visions are all in line with the prophetic realm. It didn't say that only prophets will move in prophecy. It says young men, young women. Menservants, maidservants they shall prophesy. They shall contact the prophetic realm. And the testimony of Jesus Christ is a spirit of prophecy. What is prophetic realm? The realm of things to come.

God calls prophets dreamer of dreams. Turn to Deut. 13:1 *If a prophet arises among you, or a dreamer of dreams*. The way he classify it a dreamer of dreams is equivalent to a prophet. Not all dreamers of dreams may be prophets. But all prophets are dreamers of dreams. A dreamer of dreams reaches a realm that is equivalent to the realm that a prophet moves in. It is on a higher level of consciousness. Most of us in the modern world are trained and educated to function only on the intellectual realm. We rationalize and think but there is a higher level that we could move into. It is a level of consciousness beyond our intellectual mind. It's a level of dreaming dreams and seeing visions. It is not just rationalizing something.

Today they have discovered that people can develop ability to control things that are beyond what they thought possible. I have a book on quantum fitness and there is a research on the latest scientific application in the area of physical development. Long ago they tell you that the physical body has two sets of actions one voluntary and one involuntary. One is a reflex action where you don't think before executing an action. If you have to think you may die due to the slowness of your actions. Lets take for example a hot pan or fire touches a part of your body, and you didn't feel your flesh burning immediately. You rationalize and say, "Now a smell is coming from here, I feel pain in my arm, there is burning, this pan is hot, I know I should move away from that pan." You don't think you immediately say "ouch." Reflex action. If you have to think that there is danger here you may die. Our heartbeat is involuntary. We don't have to make our heart beat. You should thank

God for that. Otherwise the day you stop thinking, you will drop dead. We don't have to tell ourselves to breathe. If so many of our physical body have to come under voluntary action, our minds would be so exhausted doing all the thinking that you got no time left for other things. So God places a portion of our body into involuntary area.

And the other part voluntary for example you choose to sit, you choose to stand. You don't sit involuntarily. They have discovered that there is a way which people can affect even their involuntary reflexes. They have analyzed some of those people who did it. Like some gurus who could even stop their heart beat. And they have an experiment where for a moment of time they stop their heart and restart it again. The scientists were amazed but some of them may use demonic power. But there is some aspects of what I call latent soul power. And there is this person who sits on a chair full of nails and there were holes poked into his skin all over the back. On one of the holes there was blood coming out. And he did something and it stopped. How could they do such things? There is only one thing that they did. They controlled their involuntary action through visualizing. Today it is documented scientifically that there is a certain extend by which we control our involuntary action through vision. Even out in the secular world people are healed of cancer by visualizing their white blood cells killing the cancer cells. They discovered the door into the involuntary area of a person's life. Vision. What does that person do? They visualize the very part of the body and in that vision they make it to work they want it to. Not by the rational thinking but by something deeper than that.

So there is a consciousness that is very deep that God wants us to enter into. To dream dreams. I dream dreams and I could see a building that sits a hundred thousand people. The engineers will be scratching their heads and asking how are they going to build that kind of building? I know that in our dream we defy a lot of natural laws. It is not so much that we want to do so. But because we could see in our dream we would discover natural laws and principles and engineering abilities to do what we dream about. We need to dream dreams to keep our faith healthy. If you stop dreaming dreams your faith has very little catalyst to work with. Faith is the substance of things hoped for. Who knows one day we may be able to build a canopy that covers a million people before Jesus comes. Could you dream it? In a dream all things are possible. These kind of dreams cause our faith muscles to stretch all the time. Say I love to dream dreams they are important for my faith.

Perhaps you are in the business world and you are struggling. You are living by your rational intellectual mind. You are always seeing what can be done that is not impossible. You are not a dreamer of dreams. You are a calculator. You calculate over the possibility. You dare not even think of things that are impossible. For a moment of time put aside those little things that are limiting you. Take time to go aside and just dream dreams. See your business grow. See yourself owning your own business premises. And dream dreams of the day that you own your own premises and your business going nation-wide and worldwide. You could dream dreams of things nobody dream about. Dream dreams may not be God's will for you but you need to stretch your muscles. Then after you dream of dreams you come back into reality and you find yourself refreshed. Then you began to look at some of your problems about planning to own your own business premises they don't look so impossible any more. You have been weight lifting with 45 pounds and you come back and you take the 25 pounds, no sweat. It becomes easier for your muscles have been stretched. And we need the stretching of our imagination of our dreams, especially in this New Year because this year is a year of great possibility. This is a year of power I would call it. It is a year of impossibilities becoming possible. This is the year where your dreams can be fulfilled.

How do we stimulate those dreams? What are those things that will help us to stimulate those dreams?

Lets look in the book of Daniel. In Daniel chapter two Nebuchadnezzar had a dream; Daniel received an interpretation for Nebuchadnezzar's dream and brought to Nebuchadnezzar some of the reasons of those dreams and why they occur. As he brought forth the dream he gave some background in verse 28-29 *But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.* Now Nebuchadnezzar was only the first part of the dream the golden head the others had nothing to do with him, the Middle Persian Empire etc. But yet in his dream he could contact areas that go beyond his life span. *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.*

No. 1 we need to think in the general area of those dreams for those specific visions of your life to come to pass. For example, if you are in the business world your mind needs to hang loose what will become of your business, what is God's will for you. As your thoughts revolve around in the area of wondering, you are hanging loose you are not limiting yourself to what you know or what you have. You are just wondering. In a state of mind of wondering what is to come to pass, the answer may come to you in your dreams.

Here is king Nebuchadnezzar he is a mighty king. One day before he slept he wondered what would come to pass after his kingdom. What is the end of all these things? And with all these thoughts coming strong on him, it brought him into a position where God gave him a dream. The question we ask is if Nebuchadnezzar did not wonder about what is to come would he have that dream? The answer is no. Which explain why many people do not allow their consciousness to rise beyond their natural ability of what they have. God never could reveal to them what is to come in that area because they never let go of their limitations. They began to wonder what goes beyond their limitations what will come to pass.

Daniel does it in a different way. In the book of Daniel chapter seven verse one *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon. Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, and told the sum of the matter.* Apparently Daniel who serve in the kingdom was wondering what is to come to pass too. And in seeking after God's best for his life, he had this strange dream. Now that dream that he had in chapter seven there are several verses that he mentioned. In verse eight he says *I was considering the horns.* Verse nine *As I looked.* Verse eleven *I looked.* Verse fifteen *As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious and the visions of my head alarmed me.* He didn't understand but it did disturb him. Daniel was like a watcher. One who considers. One who seeks God's understanding. Look at chapter ten verse one *In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.* Daniel was a seeker after truth and after things to come. And there is something about people who long to know the future, long to know what is to come. Right now in God's book everything written about your life is already there. Everything

written about what you are to do is already in God's book. And if we desire after it God will reveal and bring it forth into your life. So one of the first keys is to be able to dream dreams in the category or have thoughts in your mind in the area that you would like to move into. It can get beyond these areas but it is the same general vicinity and it will stimulate those dreams in our life that is your destiny and vision for your life.

Turn over to the book of Genesis chapter 41 in Pharaoh's dream. We see Joseph coming to interpret Pharaoh's dream. There are some statements that he made as an introduction to his dreams. In verse 25 *Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dream of Pharaoh is one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do."* Now there is no record of what is the condition of Pharaoh before he slept and had the dream. But he had two dreams occurring in the same night. When he woke up and he slept he had a second dream. Two dreams that took place one after the other. Joseph said God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do. Doesn't that sound like Job 33? God seals it upon our lives what He is about to do.

No. 2 the dreams that God gives to you relate to the area in which you either have something to do with it or some influence in that area. Pharaoh had the ability to protect all these millions of people from starving. God was not concerned just for Pharaoh. God was concerned for all human kind. So God gave a dream to Pharaoh so that through Pharaoh He will do something to protect His innocent people from dying. The dreams that you have relate to the position you are in. And by position here in Pharaoh it has to do with the area where he was supposed to do something about. See God does not simply gives dreams. Dreams have a purpose in our lives. We saw in our earlier areas how it stimulates faith. Now we are looking at areas that could stir up more dreams in our lives.

If God place you into business world, let go and let God dream dreams through you. And cause dreams to come in that area of your life. Don't stop those dreams. If you are in the ministry let go and let those dreams of your ministry come forth. Don't stop there. Those dreams may save other lives and help other lives. Do you notice something about those dreams? Pharaoh didn't have the interpretation. It was Joseph who having the interpretation helped to fulfill that dream. That doesn't take place necessary all the time. But we cannot understand fully some of our

dreams until we come up together with people who are a part of the fulfillment of that dream. Perhaps you dreamt of something in the business world or something in the ministry. And you cannot fully comprehend that dream. But one day when you are with the people, who become a part of that dream, the interpretation becomes clear both to that person and to you. And together as a team you will be able to fulfill and bring that dream to pass. So write down those dreams even if you don't understand them or even if they look ridiculous to you. They are the fertile ground of your faith working in those areas.

By positioning yourself you stir up those dreams. You see if Joseph were anywhere else, he would not have the interpretation of dream. By position we are saying be in the right place at the right time and doing the right thing. When you are in the correct place dreams will come. Some are in the wrong place and the dreams are not coming forth. You need to be in the right place for those dreams to come forth in your life.

No. 1 you need to be filled with thoughts in regards to those areas of your dream. You need to be always wondering about things to come.

No. 2 being in the right place at the right time doing the right thing. Joseph was in the right place at the right time doing the right thing. Pharaoh was in the right place at the right time doing the right thing. And the dreams just came to pass. If you are in the wrong place doing the wrong thing, something stops your dream and it just won't come to pass.

One more example of that. Paul and Silas were traveling from place to place seeking to preach the gospel. No matter where they go they seemed to be in the wrong place doing the right thing. So in Acts 16:6 *And they went through the region of Phrygia Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the Word in Asia. And when they had come opposite Mysia they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.* It seems that they were just knocking on blank walls. So *passing by Mysia they went down to Troas.* Troas was a seaside town. Only when they came to a place where they could take a boat did the vision occur. But he knew that he was in

the wrong place doing the right thing preaching the gospel. And he had to get into the right position for the dream to come forth. And Troas was the right place because God wanted them to take a boat. Troas was a seaside town and when he went there he had a Macedonian vision that began his second missionary journey. Do you know what the second missionary journey was? He had to go into areas he had never gone before. You see Paul tried to go into areas that he had gone before. God wants him to totally make a break and just go by boat and go forth into areas he had never gone before. He tried to stick around areas where Jews congregate and not in Gentiles areas. And so the vision may not come.

Why did they go to Troas? I believe that there was some how an inner inclination to go there perhaps something more will come from there. It is just like going and lying down at the airport. You know that God called you somewhere some place but you don't know where. So you go to the airport and just look at the planes and dream. And then God speaks in your heart, "Go to Macedonia." It doesn't mean that after this a few of you are going to gather in the airport and dream. But you need to be in a place where you could make a move to fulfill that dream. Are you in the right place doing the right thing at the right time? If you are those dreams will keep bubbling out into your life. If you are not, then get into position.

Sometimes God call you out of your home into a mountain into another place so that there He can give you that dream. Why is that so because there is a multitude of others things that prevent that dream from getting in your life. Ecclesiastes 5:3 says a dream comes through much activities. He is talking about the type of dreams that come from your daily life. It is like a noise that continues from your daily life. You need to get out from those activities and get into position. So that God could cause you to dream dreams. The basis of this message is to bring you to this point to face your life to ask, "Have the dreams in your life stopped?" Because the day it does creativity stops. It's the hassles of this New Year. Do you know something about being dreamy? You have to somehow detach yourself from this world and its activities. It is really hard to get dreamy while you are in the peak of activities. It is just impossible. You can only do it when you get out of these activities into the right position. Then those dreams will come. Sometimes it means just getting out to a hillside by our home and just looking over the whole place dreamy.

All the great men of God who have done great things are dreamer of dreams. Cho Yonggi's biography is a dream comes true. He is a dreamer of dreams. In his recent biography he showed a place where he likes to go and it was like a little kind of garden. That's where he likes to go to dream dreams. Get into position. By position it could be physical, it could be social, it could be geographical.

Let me give one last point on things that stimulate our dream life. I Sam.10:5 *After that you shall come to Gibeathelohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines; and there, as you come to the city, you will meet a band of prophets coming down from the high place with harps, tambourine, flute and lyre before them, prophesying.* No. 3 music stimulates the dream. God has put a song in our heart to sing to Him. Eph. 5:19 tells us *be filled with the Spirit speaking to one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.* If the melody and music in your life die the dreams will stop. The music needs to continue. And sometimes we need external help. If you are not a dreamer of dreams possibly you are also someone who seldom hear music. Perhaps you are so engrossed in other things, in study, in research and you are not one who just listens to music. I am not talking about music while you are in our beehive of activities. If you just put on good Christian music and you just sit and allow the music to take your spirit off into a dreamy state, you will once again stir the ability to dream in your life. All of us before we became adults we were dreamers of dreams. Somehow as we get educated as we get into a profession we get into the beehive of earthly worldly activities we lost the ability to dream. We need to put that music back into your life so that we could dream dreams again. Learn to wait on God. Do you notice that the greatest period of mankind has been the period when great music came forth? In the Renaissance period that's when the great classical music all came forth. And people took time to just listen to music. Their ability in the natural even rises. By all means have music in your life 24 hours while you are in activity. But learn to just be still and let the music take you off. And you will be able to dream dreams again.

