

VISIONS SERIES

UNDERSTANDING VISIONS

Acts 2:17 onwards 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 your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; yes, and on my menservants and my maid servants 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.

The bible promises that when the Holy Spirit comes He would cause young men to see visions. Now the words *sons* and *daughters*, *young men* and *old men* do not just refer to physical age. Taking the leadings from the epistle of I John, John used the words *children*, *young men* and *fathers* to illustrate the different spiritual growth and spiritual maturity. The definition of *young men* in the bible is in I John chapter and speaks about Christians at the peak of their spiritual life, winning spiritual battles and claiming the promises of God.

I John 2:12 *I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for His sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning.* Obviously, this does not just refer to physical age. Not all fathers may be spiritual fathers. Some are old when they are born again and they are spiritual babies as far as God is concerned. So here is in reference to spiritual age.

I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

So here it is in reference to spiritual age. In speaking about the young men he particularly mentioned that young men are those who overcome the enemy, those who are strong in the Word of God. As we grow in our spiritual life we will grow from children to young men and to spiritual fathers in the Lord. That is the spiritual age.

Taking that definition of I John as we go back to Acts chapter two we can see how that there is spiritual age that is mentioned in *sons and daughters, young men and old men*. We all know that is a fact because we know that young men also dream. So here the bible is referring more to spiritual age.

In our teaching series on dreams we examined the word *dream* in the book of Acts chapter two and we have found that the word *dream* in Acts two is not the usual word for *dream*. It's a special word that speaks about the consciousness of the vision of God, it fills your whole life, and it rests even in the sub-conscious realm. So he talks about how the vision of God, the dreams of God, and the will of God have consumed your entire being. That would be in line with spiritual age. The more you grow in the Lord the more the vision and the will of God consumes you. By the time you reach the spiritual age of a spiritual father, the things of God, the will of God and the vision of God would have saturated in your life, even in the sub-conscious level.

We want to look at the subject of how to understand visions. Basically, there are three types of vision. We must know what they are in order that we can flow along with God's manifestation. And they are part of the leadings of the Spirit of God.

1. Open Vision

There is first of all what we call the open vision. The open vision is a vision where you could see physical things and at the same time see spiritual things. Like for example if the Lord Jesus were to appear right now and stand in front here and your eyes could see Him, and at the same time you could see this plant here, you would be experiencing what we call an open vision. You are wide-awake, you are conscious and you could see Him as if He was physically there. That would be an open vision. The word *open* is used more to speak about your physical senses are still opened to the physical world and yet opened to the spiritual world at the same time. Now this open vision can be so real that the spiritual things look as if they are physical. You could hardly differentiate between them at times.

In Acts 12 Peter was in a prison waiting for trial. The church in the book of Acts was praying. And it was incidentally an overnight prayer. What happened in Acts 12 was an angel came. So lets see Peter's experience of an open vision. In the book of Acts 12:5 we read about the overnight prayer being held in Mark's house.

Verse 7 And behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell, and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals," And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him, he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. He was but it was so real. And yet it was a vision.

Verse 10 When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the Iron Gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all the Jewish people were expecting."

Here we have Peter experiencing an open vision. How do we know it's an open

vision? When he woke up first of all an angel touched him. He felt real for somebody shook him up. He was sound asleep. Remember the next day he was supposed to be executed. Only if you have God can you do that. What would you do if you knew that tomorrow you are going to be executed? Most people would be sleepless. It is their last night on earth. But here Peter is sound asleep. Because he knew Jesus, he has no more fear of death. Not only that I believe that he knew that his time has not yet come to go home. He was probably still in his middle age at that time. And the Lord Jesus told him at the end of the gospel of John that when he is old then they would lead you and do something to him. But he was not old yet. So he knew his time has not come. He slept soundly and the angel shook him up. And he was not sure whether it was a vision that was really happening or not. See every thing was so real. He saw the prison gates. He tells us that he even knew that he passed through the first guard post and the second guard post. And he physically saw the Iron Gate open physically with his eyes. At the same time the angel said, "Follow me." So there he was the angel was walking in front of him and he was following the angel from behind just watching where the angel went. It was an open vision.

An open vision is interesting for when you receive one or you experience one it looks like the spirit realm and the physical realm are just one. It's quite hard to differentiate the two. It all just happened together. It is what you call the fifth dimension happening. Men live in three dimensions. The fourth dimension as described by Albert Einstein is time. Time is one of the dimension scientists discovered in the universe. The fifth dimension is what we call the spiritual dimension. Man has not fully discovered the spirit world yet. So here we have the spirit world being experienced as if it's a daily part of life – an open vision. That is the first type of vision.

2. Closed Vision

The second type of vision that a person can experience is called the closed vision. The closed vision is where you only see the Spirit world. Many times, if you experienced it you would probably not be aware whether you are in the body or in the spirit. Your physical senses are completely closed up. You are not aware of. If somebody came and shook you while you are having a closed vision you wouldn't

know. You are in a quote unquote trance like state. You are not aware of your physical surroundings at all. All your total conscious awareness is the spirit world. It was one of these experiences that Paul received when he says he knows not whether it was in the spirit or in the body. That is the experience of a closed vision. The word *closed* is applied to your physical senses. Your physical senses are closed up. And you don't experience them any more. The full state of it is in a trance. When I mention the word *trance* in Asia, people think of the wrong kind of trance where a temple deity would possess a person acting as a medium. But the bible uses the word *trance* so it's all right to use that word.

Look at the book of Acts chapter 10 except we must understand that this is the Spirit of God working. Verse 10 *And he became hungry and desire something to eat; but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance, and the heaven opened and something descending.* And in that vision, he heard a voice, he saw the animals, three times it happened. It was a closed vision. When he came out of it, the vision was gone and he did not fully understand the meaning of that vision. That would be a closed vision.

The first two types of visions are not so common. And the first two types of visions come as the Spirit wills. There is nothing you can do about trying to get them. When God wants to show you those things He will show you. As a young Christian, I used to desire for all these things but as you mature in the Lord, you learn not to live by them. You reached a point where you don't desire anything, you are just happily praising and serving the Lord, and then it can just suddenly happen. So the first two types of visions there is no training that is required. You could be a young Christian and yet you could be given an open vision or closed vision. There is nothing you can do about it except to understand its interpretation, which we are going to see.

3. Inner Vision

But what we are going to focus most of our time is on the third type of vision. Which to us is the most important because let me put it this way it's the only kind

of vision that we can develop, train and recognize. So the third type of vision is called the inner vision or some call it the spiritual vision. But to make it clearer I like to call it the inner vision. The inner vision is a vision that you see inside the corridors of the canvas of your spirit. You are consciously awake and somebody touches you, you would be aware of it. But yet you see an inner picture when you think and it is something akin but quite different to the pictures you see. Now that third type of inner vision is called a spiritual or inner vision. And that is the only type where we can be trained and that is the most common type of vision.

Let's illustrate with God's voice. God can speak with His audible voice. I heard it only once in my lifetime. God can speak through the voice of the Holy Spirit inside you. That is inside you but its authoritative and loud. Some times it sounds like outside but you know it's inside. And then thirdly God can speak through the inward voice of the human spirit. So you can see that we could learn to recognize God's audible voice, the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the human spirit. Most of the time, God will speak to you through your human spirit, less often through the Holy Spirit and thirdly, very infrequently or sometimes none at all through the audible voice of God.

Vision also has a relationship to the voice. The most common type of vision that God bring forth is called the spiritual or inner vision. And then less often is what I call the closed vision. And less often still is the open vision. You can't do anything about the first two visions except to be opened to them. But there is a lot you can do about the third type call the spiritual or inner vision.

Before we go into scriptures in this area let us make this statement further. The first type of vision is called the open vision. The second is the closed vision. The third is the spiritual vision. Of the three types of visions, the highest type of revelation is the third type, the spiritual or inner vision. And the lowest type of vision is the first type of vision the open vision. This statement is not only made as I discover the things of the Spirit but other men of God have also made the same statement. I believe Kenneth Hagin did say the same thing in his book "I Believe in Visions." He says that the Lord Jesus visited him in the hospital when he went into the permissive will of God and got himself into trouble. It was an open vision. And the Lord taught him about visions. Then the Lord described to him the different types

of visions. And the Lord also said the same thing that the lowest type of revelation is an open vision. And the highest type of revelation is the inner or spiritual vision. But the highest type of vision is the open vision. And the lowest type of vision is the inner or spiritual vision. There are three types of visions: open vision, closed vision and the inner or spiritual vision. The highest vision that you can reach into the realm of the Spirit is the open vision. Second is the closed vision. Third and the lowest type of vision is the inner or spiritual vision. But when it comes to revelation the highest type of vision is the reverse. And the lowest type of revelation that you can receive is the open vision.

These can be compared to the voice of God. The highest type of revelation that comes through would be not through the audible voice but through sensitivity and development through your inward spirit. Robert Liardon made a statement close to this about what God wants to do in these last days. That God is training His people to the extent that they would know God's thoughts and feelings and that they would just move into it without necessarily hearing from God. He is saying that God's people would reach a point of union with God where they will sort of just move what they want to do. In the past, it has always been man has to hear from God in an audible voice before they could operate. But the more we move into the end times we have to learn that revelation is progressive and it's going to its fullness. And that is why we had to teach on visions so that we understand what God is doing and what God intends to do and move in our lives.

Now here is the reason why open vision is the lowest revelation although it is the highest vision. And inner spiritual vision is the highest revelation although it is the lowest vision. If you see an open vision, you don't require much faith. If Jesus were to appear to you right now stand in front of you and say, "I want you to go right now to a house No. 3 Washington Street and you will be a person there whose name is John Smith. You will find his wife lying on the bed. And she has been lying there for 18 months. I want you to go there and raise her up from the bed." You don't require much faith since Jesus just talked with you. He appeared to you in an open vision. You saw Him and you heard His voice ringing in your ears. It doesn't take much faith. All you have to do is just go and obey.

But suppose he received an impression in his spirit that God wants to say something to him and he could not get it quite so clearly. And so, he has to go to God in praise and worship and get into the realm of the Spirit. Get his mind quiet. You have spiritual noises but mental noises some times hinder. Then he began to have the very same picture coming. And he sees a house, and he sees a road. And he saw the number there on the house No. 3 Washington Street. He saw a person there in a very faint vision. As he comes out from that inner vision, he wonders whether it is his imagination. See it's easier to doubt an inner vision and impression than it is to doubt an open vision. I know it's easy to doubt what somebody else shares that Jesus just met him in the street. We would look incredulously at him. But if Jesus appears to you, it's not so easy to doubt, when you heard His voice and have seen His face. It's easier to doubt an inner or spiritual vision than it is to doubt an open vision. For that reason it requires more faith to obey an inner vision. Since faith is proportional to pleasing God, things that demand a greater faith are classified under a higher spiritual revelation. The inner or spiritual vision is regarded as the highest form of revelation because it demands more from you. It demands more from your life. It demands more faith from you.

As we see all these things then God in these last days would want to work in our lives to the extend that He began to deal in our lives to show many spiritual and inner visions. And we can walk with God so much that what God thinks and what God sees is automatically channeled into our spirit and we have an inner knowing of flowing with God. Robert Liardon spoke a little about that about the last days where the church would move like it never did before. We will really know God's heart; really know God's mind. We will just move into the things of God.

The three ways in which visions can appear to you are similar to the three types of dreams. Vision can appear to you in what I call an allegorical vision. Or it can appear to you as a message vision. Or it can appear to you as a clear-cut real life situation vision. You find all those things in the bible.

Allegorical Vision

For example in Acts 10 we have just read, Peter had this second type of vision called the trance or close vision. He had the allegorical type of vision. He saw in Acts 10 animals coming down and going up three times. And in that cloth that brought the animals down, he saw all kinds of unclean animals. Then God said, "Peter rise kill and eat." And he said, "Lord I have never eaten anything unclean." Then the vision went up and repeated a second time. And again, the voice said, "Peter rise kill and eat." Peter replied the same thing, "I have never eaten anything common or unclean, Lord." It went up and next time it happened a third time. The vision came down and said, "Peter kill and eat." Peter said, "No, Lord I have never eaten anything common or unclean." And then it went up and it stopped. The vision stopped and he came out of it.

The bible says in the book of Acts 10 Peter doubted. He was wondering what it meant. See allegorical visions are very hard to interpret. You need the same Holy Spirit to give you the interpretation. It's just like dreams that we talked about in our teaching series on dreams. The symbols again followed the same principles in dreams. The symbols have to be scriptural. That is if a dog represents some thing bad in the bible then in your interpretation a dog in your dream or vision should be interpreted as some thing bad. Your interpretation must be in line with the scriptures. Or if it's an unclean bird then it symbolizes something that is not good. Your interpretations of the symbols in your dreams and visions have to be in line with the bible. If you see a white snake that says, "Hello," it is still bad even though it's white and friendly. Your interpretation of the white snake can only be that it is evil, like a wolf in sheepskin.

And so, Peter here was wondering what it meant. And suddenly here come these three Gentiles downstairs and they are looking for Peter. Look at it three Gentiles; they were symbolized by the white cloth coming down three times. Obviously, we need a lot of good interpretations otherwise Peter would think that since God also said, "Go kill and eat," he might think that God was telling him to kill and eat the Gentiles. That would make him a cannibal. What God was saying is go and minister to them. Peter later understood that the vision was telling him to go and minister among the Gentiles. So, that is an allegorical type of vision.

Message Vision

The second type of vision can come to people is what we call a message vision. For example in the book of Acts 16 Paul went to Mysia and then to Bithynia And the Holy Spirit told him not to go to these places and he went in the end to Troas which is a sea-side town. And while he was there he saw a vision in the night in Acts 16. A famous vision we call The Macedonian Man vision. In that vision, he heard a man dressed in Macedonian garment saying, "Come over here and help us." Later you read in the book of Acts 16 Paul went into Macedonia and the first place he landed was the capital of that area called Philippi. As he landed in Philippi, he did not look for the man. He just went wherever he found people meeting and he ministered the gospel. In fact, the first people he met in Philippi were women who were praying at the seaside. It's funny he had a vision of a man calling him and he is among women. Then we have these women there. Now Paul understood the vision. The vision is what we call a message vision. It is the same like your message dream. There may be many things in the vision but there is only one main message. And the message was go to Macedonia and minister there but not to go and look for the man. If Paul were to take it as the third type of vision then it would have been different. But he understood it as a message.

Clear-cut Vision

The third way is a clear cut direct vision. A clear-cut vision is one that you don't need interpretation. You take it as it is. An example of this vision is found in Acts 9 where Paul has just been born again on the road to Damascus. Paul was waiting in a house and while he was there fasting three days, Jesus in Acts 9 appeared to Ananias and Jesus told Ananias who Paul was and what his name was, the house he lived in, the Street he stayed in. and part of his future life and ministry. And all Ananias had to do was to go and lay hands on the apostle Paul. Paul was not an apostle yet but he was called to be an apostle. So the third way a vision can come is a direct vision. You don't need interpretation; take it as it is, nothing to interpret. A clear-cut vision is just like a clear-cut dream.

Basis for Spiritual or Inner Vision

Having established this fact what we are going to focus on is the third type of vision called the spiritual or inner vision, which can come in any of these three ways. It can be allegorical, it could be a message or it could be a direct vision. Whatever it is the means of receiving them is inside and it can be trained. It's in the corridors and in the canvas of the womb of our spirit. Visions are what God deals with. When God made man, He made man a creature that relies very much on visualizing. All of us in essence think in pictures. We can analyze what we think in pictures. For example if I say a dog, you won't have on the screen of your mind the word *a dog*. When I say, *a dog* through your mind comes a picture of some dogs that you know. If you have been dealing with small little dogs, you are thinking about small ones. If you have been with big dogs, you are thinking about big ones. But if I say a black dog, your inner vision changed. See we all think in pictures. If I say a *fierce black dog* or a *fierce big black dog*, our pictures change accordingly.

Scientists have recently discovered that the brain is more than just like computer. Man tries to describe their mind in direct proportion to technology as it is. And so, when men invented the computer they have tried to see the brain function like a computer. In a sense it does. But today they are moving further and beginning to see that the brain is not just a data processing center. It is but it's not. It is like a hollow graphic processing center. It stores information in pictures. So the data are actually pictures that are stored. You can recall from your mind a picture of the first house you lived in. Your mind stores information like pictures. When God created man, He made man that way. Why are we touching on this natural area here? Remember this the bible tells us that the things of the natural are made from the spiritual. The patterns of things you see around you tell you about the spiritual realm. We are going at it backwards because we have been trained and brought up in a physically conscious society, sense knowledge society. But actually, God made the spiritual world first and then He made a pattern of it in the natural.

Let me give you two scriptures to substantiate this point. In the book of Romans 1: 20 *Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.* He is talking about God's creation. That when God created this world He put into His creation the pattern of His attributes that we could recognize. His

creative and artistic ability we see in all of creation. His orderliness, all His attributes can be seen in the natural world. This is why we say that if a person says that he doesn't believe in God we are surprised for there is nature to prove the existence of God. Somebody asked me one time prove to him that God exist. I heard the Holy Spirit answer through me saying you prove that God does not exist. And he could not. Then I went further and said that it takes a lot of faith not to believe that God exists with all the evidences that we find in the world. If you drop a watch on the street and somebody found it and said, "Look the wind and the rain and the river have brought that watch together." That is hard to believe. And here someone has created the world. It was not an accident that life came. No, there is a creative force involved. And I say that you can go ahead and believe that there is no God. I believe that there is a God. If I believe that, there is a God and live my life according to God, when I face eternity I find that there is no God I would still be all right. But if I believe there is no God but in the end when we all face eternity I find that there is a God, I would be in trouble. Both counts I win. See you don't lose anything when you believe there is a God. You gain. And there is a God. So God has created the heavens after the pattern of the Spirit.

Hebrews 11: 3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.* In other words, the world is made of the invisible. Let me go further to say that God made man after a certain spiritual image of man. If you were to die and go to heaven, right now you will find that your spiritual body in heaven having two eyes, two ears, one nose, one mouth, two legs and two hands. There is a pattern. Our spiritual body was the pattern for the physical to be made. There are slight differences. In heaven, our bodies have no physical organs like we have. In Corinthians Paul said that the law is for the body is just as the stomach is for food, then he goes on and say both are done away with. From there, we know that our heavenly body's internal structures are slightly different. There are still two eyes, two ears, one nose, one mouth, two legs, and two hands but we won't have any reproductive organs and no inner organs that we rely on and it is totally different. And so, in that realm of the spirit that was the pattern that God made the human being.

God made us with an inherent ability to visualize and conceive an image inside him. Long ago before Adam fell, man could use a hundred percent of all his intelligence and all his creativity that God has put. Today scientists recognized man

is only using 5 or 10 percent of his brain and ability. So we got a lot in reserve that we know not how to use or what to use it for. But there is a lot that we have fallen off from. But just bear this in mind there is a certain tiny little part of our physical body that scientists have been wondering what is it for. A little tiny little hook right the end of your small intestine called your appendix. That is a useless little thing. But there are other biologists who have gone further today. They examine that part of the animal's body where the small intestine join the large intestine to see what is there that is different from us. They came with this fact, that all the herbivorous animals have a structure right there and it's used to specially digest plants and leaves. They stopped there but I took that information and bring this conclusion. Man was once an herbivorous animal and through his development, he has become more of a carnivorous animal. And through time, that organ of his is no more in use and it slowly diminishes until it is a little curved appendix.

We go back to the bible we found that when God first made man He said of every tree and of every herb you shall eat. Man was originally made a vegetarian. After man fell and after Noah's flood, world conditions were changed. There are four things that we cannot give time to share it. I just give you the four conclusions.

Firstly, time changed. The earth that was rotating round the sun at 360 degrees or 360 days a year became 365 days, as we know.

Second the earth became tilted and the four seasons started.

Thirdly the covering of water of the earth that was mentioned in Genesis one was dissipated and more sun-light, ultra violet light, infra light, all kinds of radiations that man was protected before started coming through. That was one of the reasons why after Noah's flood you see a sudden change in the life span of man. Where man used to live eight hundred over years suddenly, it became four hundred over years. And now it became one hundred plus. Because there are things that are released after man fell and this earth is not fully what God wanted it to be.

The fourth thing that happened was man's diet was changed. God specially allowed Noah to eat animals. The reason is that because the world has changed. If you were in a cold country, you take a large steak and you can see how warm it can keep you. What we are saying here is that after God made man in His pattern there was a change after the fall. Before the fall man experience tremendous resources, his mind, his soul, his spirit, was perfect. Adam could have lived ten thousand years and would still look the same as the day he was created. There is no way we could fully understand that.

But then when man fell the mind of man became darkened. A part of the life in him was darkened. In Ephesians chapter four speaking about the condition of man this is the description given. Verse 18 *They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.*

Here he talks about fallen man in general. Because we are cut off from life the understanding is darkened. Let me take it in a clearer form. Life was cut off therefore the understanding was darkened. Which one was cut off first? Life. When spiritual life was cut off the mind became darkened. So when life was cut off from Adam when he sinned darkness came and man didn't know like he knew before. See before he fell he looked at the animals and straightaway, he would know what it is. He could name them. Do you know today it takes one biologist to study for his whole life about ducks and reach some conclusions about ducks? Thank God that's all going to end in heaven we are going to be restored fully.

In this world right now we have a partial restoration. The reverse is true. If life is removed and darkness come then when life is restored light comes to the understanding. We have testimonies of children who come to church and they make "D" and "E" grades and when spiritual life comes their minds become enlightened and they start making "A" grades. Their understanding became brilliant. Hagin was also one example. The reverse is also true. We have a partial restoration although not a total because this body needs to be changed to have total restoration.

So in line with that we look now at Ephesians 1:17-18. *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, (which means to be flooded with light) that you may know what is the hope of His calling.*

The Greek word that is used here for *eyes of your understanding* is a Greek word that means the eyes of the imagination, the part of man that helps him to visualize. There are two Greek words for the word *mind*. One is the word *dianoia*, which means the imagination. Luke chapter one translates *dianoia* as imagination. Let's turn to Luke 1: 51 *he has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts*. The word *imagination* comes from the same word as stated *understanding* in Ephesians 1: 17-18.

In studying the bible both in the Greek and in the English, we see that the bible uses two different words for the word *mind* or *understanding*. One is the word *dianoia*, the other is *dialogismos*, and both mean two different things. *Dianoia* means a part of your mind is able to visualize, conceive a picture. *Dialogismos* means the part of your mind that is analytical like one plus one is two. That is not visualizing that is analyzing. It's a part of your mind that can analyze. If A equals B, and B equals C, then A equals C.

-

The part of our mind that is logical is *dialogismos*. I just give you the scriptures. We have done some teachings series on these areas. I just give you the scriptures so that you so that you know what we are bringing forth are scriptural and biblical. For example, the word *dialogismos* is used in Acts 18 verse 4 and verse 19. It speaks about Paul reasoning in the synagogue. Paul was using *dialogismos*. Incidentally, *dialogismos* comes from the Greek word *logis* is where we get our English word *logic*. *Dia* means through seeing through something logically. What Paul was doing was this. He was taking Old Testament scriptures; he was saying this is what the Old Testament said about Jesus, and this is what Jesus did. He was showing from the scriptures that Jesus was fulfilling all the Old Testament scriptures and therefore he was the Messiah. He was reasoning with them from the scriptures.

So the other part of the word *mind* or *understanding* used in the New Testament is the word *dianoia*, which refers to the ability in our soul that God has given to visualize. Our Western education focuses on logic. We are trained to think scientifically, logically and analytically. Our educational system world relies on one

aspect of the mind. Only recently, educators are realizing that there is another part of the mind that is far more powerful, the ability of the mind to visualize. And only today are they beginning to learn to tap on that. Now these are part of our mind that God has created but in its fallen state, it does not function to the fullness that God wants us to function. Here is where we tie up with spiritual and inner vision.

There are three ways you can see one is in the natural with your physical eyes. Second is through your soul. Third is through your spirit. Just as there are three ways you can hear. You can hear in the natural. You can hear in your mind. You can hear in your spirit.

There are three ways you can see. You can see with your eyes. You can see with your mind. You can see with your spirit. Spiritual vision is given with the eyes of the spirit. But the eyes of the spirit are connected to the eyes of the mind and they are connected to the eyes of the flesh. Some times Satan knowing this has tried through the eyes of the flesh to make an image to the eyes of your soul so that the eyes of your spirit will be blurred. When the serpent was tempting Eve he told Eve about the fruit and what it is supposed to do for them which is all lies anyway. And Eve fell not only because of the reasoning of the serpent in Genesis 3. Eve fell because she saw with her physical eyes. When she saw with her physical eyes, that image got into her soul and it affected the reasoning of her soul and it led her to a decision that caused the spiritual fall.

In the book of Samuel, we read how David was on his rooftop and looked over his neighbor's house and there was a woman bathing. Her name was Bathsheba and what David saw with his physical eyes produced lust in his mind and imagination. And it led him to a decision that cost him dearly.

You can see that Satan knows the connection. They are not isolated. God made your physical eyes after the spiritual. The spiritual was there first, followed by the soul and the physical. Now the devil works from outside. He tries to get your eyes to see the wrong thing hoping to impress a wrong image into your soul and lead you into a decision that will cause you to fall in the spirit. He knows the connection.

Now the key to understanding inner and spiritual vision is to understand the connection between the spirit and the soul, just as Satan understood the connection between the soul and the physical. We must understand the relationship and know how to deal with that area.

Lets have some scriptures at this point. Looking at the word *dianoia* and going further from there, turn to the book of Hebrews chapter 8:10-12 here is where I am proving to you that one of the things that God does is to train His people in inner vision based on the study on the Greek word. Remember that the word *mind* in this passage is the word *dianoia*, which is translated as *imagination* in the gospel of Luke chapter one. And in studying the bible, I have come to the conclusion that this word should be translated as *imagination* or *visualizing*.

Heb. 8:10 *This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord; I will put my laws into their minds (dianoia) and write them in their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

The same thing is repeated again in Hebrews 10: 16-17 *"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord; I will put my laws into their hearts, and write them on their minds." Then he adds; "I will remember their sins and their misdeeds no more."*

Did you notice the connection between Luke 1, Hebrews 8 and Hebrews 10? There is something similar in the way the author uses the word *mind*. In case you have not seen it yet this is the similarity. Every time the word *dianoia* or *mind* is used, the word *heart* is mentioned. Why does he says the *mind* and then goes to the *heart*. *I will write my laws in their minds and in their hearts*. And there in Luke chapter one it says *the imagination of their hearts*. I could give you more than three scriptures. We don't have the time to do that. To show you how every time *dianoia* is used there is a connection to the *heart*.

What exactly is the heart? Hebrews 4: 12 *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* Now look at the words he uses, *soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

The bible is giving us a relationship between the soul and the spirit. Many can to a certain extent differentiate the body from their soul. You know that there is a part of you that thinks called the mind. But there is a bodily part called the brain. They are related but you can't quite know how they are related. They could cut you up and not find the soul. They only find your body because the soul is invisible. So there is a relationship between the soul and the body. There is an inner consciousness in us that is outside of the body, feelings and affection, things that are not necessarily caused by the body. But it's real. It's inside us. Human beings feel hurt, jealousy, envy and other emotions. You don't see the animals feeling all these things. You don't see animals experience the extent of the human experiences. And then human beings know right and wrong to a certain extent. Animals don't know right and wrong. Animals don't have moral laws. Only man has. His soul and his spirit are conscious to a certain extent.

So we know there are an outer man and an inner man. But the problem is people don't go further than that. There is a difference between the spirit and the soul too. Paul here is saying that your soul and your spirit are related, just as your joints (the Greek word for *joints* talk about all your other bodily parts) and your marrows are related. He is illustrating how the marrow, which is the place where blood is manufactured, is affecting the rest of your body. And then it talks about the relationship between the thoughts and the intents of the heart.

So having made those relationships this is where we draw our conclusion. The soul has a certain ability to think, to visualize and to see. But the greatest seeing is done from the spirit man. And on the day that you got born again, your spirit man's line with God is restored. Everything that God wants to speak to you, your spirit man automatically receives. There is no breakage, no communication problem, no over

flow of data between your spirit man and the Holy Spirit. Everything that God wants to speak to you He speaks through your spirit man.

First Key : Cleansing of the Heart and Mind

But many times, there is a problem between our spirit man and our soul. The voice of the Spirit is not discerned by the soul that is not trained. Just as our soul can receive impressions from the natural, our souls are subject to impressions from the spiritual realm. And in the area of inner visualizing and spiritual vision what God does is first He cleanses. There has to be a cleansing. You see not every imagination you have is from the Spirit. Some are from the soul, from your eyes. Some memories of what you saw are from the physical realm. We have to clear the channel and let the Spirit flow easily between our heart and mind. Hebrews 8: 11 *And they shall not teach every one his fellow or every one his brother, saying, "Know the Lord." for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greater."*

Then in Hebrews 10: 16 and 17 he says that He will put His laws in their hearts and in their minds and I will write upon them He says in verse 19 *Therefore*. When you see the word therefore there is a conclusion being made by statements that precedes it. So there is a connection in between verses 16-17 where God says He will write His laws in our hearts and minds and verse 19 where we can have the confidence to enter the sanctuary.

Hebrew 10: 19 *Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way which He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our heart sprinkled clean from a evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

Now he is saying that there has to be a cleansing that takes place in the area of our hearts where the conscience resides. Let me go into this statement now. The heart is a part of your life that connects intricately with your spirit. And unless a heart is

cleansed the channel between the spirit and the soul is affected. Therefore, he says let the heart be cleansed by the blood. So that's the first thing we see here in order to be in a position to really receive an inner spiritual vision.

The reason we touch on this area is because seeing pictures is a norm in our life. You see pictures in you all the time. Imagining is some thing that even children do. In order to dissect and divide what is from God and what is from ourselves and what is from the enemy we need the cleansing by the blood of Jesus. Why the blood? If the intents of your heart are not right, you will not see the right pictures. Your inner man is affected. Lets say you have already made up your mind in certain thing, in the wrong things. Perhaps you are a very lustful person. You have all kinds of wild imaginations because of the things you do and the things you read. If you fill your mind with the wrong things, you will never be able to operate *dianoia* or inner spiritual vision. For Jesus said in Matthew 5: 8 *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

And here is where the first key to break into inner and spiritual vision is to reach a point where our heart is still, cleansed and in union with Jesus. Some times, our heart tries to move out of that position. When you worry, your heart is troubled. Or you have sin coming into your life, it will affect your ability to receive in the third kind of vision the spiritual or inner vision.

So the first keys to move into the area of seeing visions is a cleansing of the heart. And it's not some thing that just applies to being born again. When you are born again, you are cleansed. But we can allow the wrong things to come and we need to confess our sins before God and remain cleansed. For that reason if you have sin in your life and if you try to move into the spirit realm you can receive wrong information. It's dangerous to open yourself to the spirit world if you are not under the blood. Deception will come in. We are talking about a very sacred area. The area of your inner vision and that's the area where God brings tremendous visions to all of us. And every thing received through that realm is a picture, is a vision, from the inside coming out. And if your mind is renewed to understand it then the Spirit can lead you in that realm.

Let me make this statement too. In the majority of Christians, their inner and spiritual vision is trying to come through but not many are picking it up because of pollution of their mind and of the heart. Only as we cleanse ourselves in the blood can we open ourselves to the realm of the spirit. It's a tremendous realm.

Second Key: Focusing on the Vision for Greater Understanding

But the second is more difficult to understand its meaning. Like for example, some of you receive pictures of people coming to you in your prayer. By pictures, I am talking about inner pictures that come. And you are wondering what they are. They need interpretation. Some times, it could be asking you to pray for those people or you already were praying for those people. Like for example, some times when I minister and open myself to the spirit realm and it is one of the days that the Spirit operates. So here, as I stand before people to minister and as I stand before a person lets say I have never seen that person before. Suddenly to my mind comes somebody who has no relationship with this person. I have never met this person before. But to my mind comes a picture of this other person. I am looking at this person but my mind tunes up to my heart and receives the picture. I don't understand it. If I don't understand it, I cannot operate it. And so, I have to seek God for the understanding. Later God showed me that what He was trying to tell me was that this person that I am praying for had the same particular problem that the other guy had. Isn't it marvelous the way He works? So simple but yet we some times missed it. As I was praying for this person, here comes this picture and I don't understand what it was. Later I ask the Lord. The Lord says I am trying to tell you that this person had the same problem. Just tell the person what the problem is. See God brings to your mind and heart some pictorial connections. The most important thing is to realize that there is nothing in the natural that causes it. I mean you are not even thinking about this other person. You were concentrating on the Lord Jesus Christ and it just comes in your heart through your mind. And many times when each of you were praying in the realm of the spirit a lot of things go through the corridors of your spirit. It goes through in your heart and in your mind. But we many times don't pay attention to it.

There was a time when I operated in a word of knowledge and I used to call up people for various sicknesses. Then I began receiving some words of knowledge about some sicknesses and pictures of men or women that I didn't understand in the corridors of the heart. Later the Lord began to speak to me and said that they are connected. Those were the particular people having the particular sicknesses, narrowing down to how they were dressed whether they were a man or a woman. I say, "Lord sorry I missed it." See if you don't pay attention to what is happening in the inner most part of your heart, you miss a lot of things in the spirit.

And God says that in the last days His Spirit would be poured out upon all flesh. And young men shall see visions. *Young men* according to our classification are those who come against satanic forces, who overcome the evil one and who are strong in the Word of God. Part of the spiritual battle that you have to fight is learning to let the visions of God lead you in your spiritual weapons. The successful soldier in the army is the one who knows exactly what the commander commands. We have to be in tune and in line with our Chief Commander Jesus Christ. And so He is telling us some things and unless we flow in what He is telling us, we are not waging a good warfare, a powerful warfare that He wants us to fight.

And so, the second thing is to understand those inner visions. A lot of it seems so natural that we miss it. Or it can come in different ways. For some of you this is the way it is coming that you could be opening yourself to allegorical kind of inner vision. As you face a person, you began to open your spirit up and you began to sense a picture coming to you. It could be a basket of fruits. You say what's a basket of fruits related to this guy here. But we need to examine and focus properly on some of our inner visions like binoculars. And you see very carefully and you say it's a particular type of fruit. And you focus it properly and you say the grapes that are there. And you look carefully its all grapes. Then as you examine it more carefully, then you see it's a whole basket full of grapes. And as you focus it, to your mind comes John 15 and then more things come.

Now in this second area here operating things in inner and spiritual visions is slightly different from open and close visions. Open and close visions you received it like the grand slam, like the big bang theory of the universe. The big bang came

from God. He spoke, "Let there be light," and there was light. So in the first two types of vision, the visions just come. You could remember the details later. But inner and spiritual vision operates slightly different. And this is a peculiarity. You could focus on it and get clearer details if you are receptive. You could focus on it like a telescope and then you bring it nearer. Then suddenly you could adjust it to go further and you see the background. And it operates in inner and spiritual vision.

You could for example pray for somebody or be in an atmosphere of somebody. Then you suddenly see this person in a field. The picture stays there it doesn't move. If you were not receptive, you did not listen to this kind of message, you are not open to the Spirit, you just let it go and nothing happens. But if you start paying attention to it and opening yourself to it, you began to focus on it and say God is giving some thing here and you focus on it. As you focus on it, the Holy Spirit may do two things. He may help you zoom on it. And then you go closer and you say this person is dressed in a particular way. Suddenly it can go wide angle and you saw behind that field on the left side there are scorpions there then you see some thing on the picture. It's interesting when you began to operate in the inner and spiritual vision. The details increase as you flow in them. They are coming out from your heart. The reasons they are different from the other two visions is this is coming out from your heart to your mind. And so there is an information flow that is increasing as you tune to it.

It's just like the data they received through the satellite. As the data comes in you see a picture. More data come in you see a better picture. In the same way, there is a data flow from your heart to your mind. If you close out to the data, it stops. If you open up to it more flow come in. There is where you could focus on zoom or focus on wide angle.

We have to let the Holy Spirit guide us. The Holy Spirit is the one who helps you focus on it and you see more details in that realm and operate it. The details will be part of the process to help you to interpret. For example, I am talking about practical thing. Lets say we pray for the church land. Every time I pray all I see is a big map. The more you pray the more the zoom lens focus. Now that we define the land, we will zoom in the details.

Some of you in the business area have been educated in the Western way. You are an analytical, logic, intellectual nut. But you miss out our life's best because you are not trained in *dianoia* in visualizing. The world trained you to visualize in a different way. It depends on the strength of the soul not on the strength of the spirit. The second difference is the world tries to get the vision, tries to let you form the vision and make things go by that vision. Whereas in the spirit realm you don't make the vision, you receive them. God makes them. You can't visualize some thing that God doesn't want you to have. God makes them we just receive them and co-operate with it. Let it grows within us.

In the business realm, some of you may be praying and you are waiting to hear God's voice. How do you expect God's voice? Through the inner witness, inner voice and the voice of the human spirit. But then way at the corner of your heart is a little picture coming up but you are ignoring it. The more you pray there is a tiny little picture coming out like a little basket of fruit. You say what is this fruit coming into my mind. But the more you pray it keeps bubbling up. Here you are you are trained in analysis but you are not trained about visualizing. And in the end, you are opened to it. You tuned to it. The moment you tune to it, the zoom lens comes out. And you see the basket of fruit and following that fruit, you began to see beyond the fruit. And you see buildings etc. and then God began to speak to you. Then you realize that God was speaking to you to do business in that area. He is telling you I will bear fruit in that area. And He is telling me to go into that field of business. But we missed it because we are not tuned to it.

See a lot of times it is not because God did not speak but it's because we did not hear. Not only that, we look for the wrong areas to hear. God says in the last days He shall give us visions. After this teaching when you pray don't only open your ears, please open your eyes. How would you like to go round the world just with your eyes closed and missed a part of life because you never open your eyes? In the same way, you are trying to receive instructions from God. And all you did is open your spiritual ears when God was trying to bring some things through your eyes. And you missed it because you are not trained in spiritual inner visions.

But the thing that people didn't go further is this. A spiritual and inner vision has focusing ability zoom and wide angle. The details are some times in black and white and sometimes in color. The more you zoom on it the clearer. You see the realm of the spirit is exciting. Once you moved into this area of the realm of the spirit, there are so many things in the spirit realm to discover and you don't need the things of the world to entertain you any more. You have God to entertain you and He will show you things to come.

Let me tell you every man of God and those who walk with God knows the things of the future. Paul knew in Acts 20 he told the people, "I am not going to see you again." And Paul knew when he was going to die. In II Timothy, he says assuredly I will be going home. I fought a good fight of faith. Jesus knew when He was going to die. He even knew the exact time they were going to come and betray Him, How did they know? Not only because they opened their ears but because they are opened to the realm of the inner vision.

Let me say this, this is very important God speaks more in visions than in voices. Can you see how much you missed if you only got voice? God speaks more in visions than in voices. The whole spiritual realm is a realm of visions. And if you do not train yourself in this area of the inner vision and spiritual vision there is a far lot that you missed.

So the second point we talked about is the understanding of the various ways a spiritual vision operates.

Third Key: Learning How to Tell the *What, How* and *When*

Thirdly, we learn how to channel it. Every vision has its time for fulfillment. Under the third point, remember just three keywords *what, how* and *when*. God will show you what it is the facts. And God will show you how to bring it about. Then that's not good enough God will show you when to start it off. When you operate in the

realm of spiritual vision is very important that you move into the realm. And this is what I discover. You move into the realm where time does not count any more. Some times, you move into the realm of the spirit and you could see into the realm of the spirit. In the realm of space, there is no time.

If you try to move into the realm of the spirit and try to detect in the life of this person what is it like? {Praying over a person now.} The first thing I began to pick up in my spirit is a picture. Not a voice yet. The spirit realm consists primarily of pictures.

I pick up in my spirit a sort of furnace burning with black smoke coming out.

But I must also pick up the time span. Is it some thing from his past or some thing from his future? That's why the *when* is important.

The *how* is when God tells you to do some thing and you have to get the details. It's from the past. See I am picking up the *when* and it is from the past. And as I pick up it remains stationery because I am not focusing on it now. Some of you received visions and it remains stationery because you didn't focus on it. But now I turn and close my eyes and concentrate on what is going on in that spirit realm and see in that spirit realm that furnace.

I begin to see rain coming down and just covering it.

You see more details come as you move into that realm.

And suddenly there was a rainbow over that.

It's a continuous moving picture that flows along.

You are in the covenant of God. In the past your life was dark like a burning furnace something burning to consume. But it seems that there is peace.

It is important for us to see that the realm of the inner vision is continuous and it just moves continuously into that realm. You can focus on it; zoom on it, wide angle.

But the third part is very important. What is it exactly, how to go about it and when. Pictures will go with words. As you see the pictures, words start coming and they go together. And the realm of the spirit is such, you hear God's voice but as you see the pictures and you tune to them, the voice and the words go together to form the whole picture.

-

Let me conclude by giving some principles to guide spiritual vision and its operation. All the three keys essential to operate in the anointing also operate here in receiving and discerning visions. That is in order to flow to the fullness of it we have to receive it first. To receive is very simple. Just to constantly be under the blood, worship and praise the Lord, being in the spiritual atmosphere. It will always keep flowing in your life, richly from your heart. Second, we have to understand it and thirdly we need to interpret it. We have to be in a position to receive them, which when you are born again it starts working in your life. And the reason we teach on this area is because many of you are receiving some spiritual visions but you are not aware that it is spiritual vision. Most of the time, you thought that it was your imagination.

