

DREAMS, VISIONS, PROPHECIES

God spoke to people in the Bible through dreams and visions. I am glad he did, for one dream protected baby Jesus from the wicked plans of Herod. After the Magi from the East had brought gifts for Jesus to the house of Joseph and Mary, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a **dream** and said to him:

Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him. - Matthew 2:13

There were not many visions or words from God in the days of Eli the priest and boy Samuel. However, God spoke to Samuel several times before he realized that it was the Lord and not Eli (1 Samuel 3). Finally, Samuel responded with these words as God was before him....

Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.

God gave Samuel a challenging word to Eli and his family....that they would be judged for complacency over sin in the house of God. It later happened just as God had said.

It was a nice early summer day in London in 1989, and I had spent the whole morning by myself in the large Osterly park near my house.... jogging, reading and praying. I was in a transition time in ministry and desired to hear from God. Unexpectedly, I also got a message regarding my pastor.

The sheep have been neglected, leaders have been quenched and he is going to learn the hard way that one man ministry is out.

It's not the type of message one wants to deliver to their pastor, but I knew it was from the Lord. However, as we mentioned in a previous message.....one must let God guide the timing and way he wants to have a message conveyed. In other words, prophetic words need to be accompanied by wisdom. I decided to give the message to the senior elder of the church and let him relay the message to the pastor at his own discretion. I never found out if he did, but I had done my part in listening and passing on the info. The pastor did learn the hard way, as over the next year the congregation dwindled. He also had a health challenge and had to cut back on his ministry and learn to delegate some responsibilities which included preaching.

I have had three **dreams** that I believe that they were direct messages from God. In May 2005 I was sitting in the back left corner of a stage and Kenneth Copeland was speaking to a small auditorium of people who were sitting in the dark. Suddenly he stopped speaking and walked right over to me and pointed his finger in my face and said: '**You have a call to the nations**'.

In March of 2015 I ran across a scripture that inspired me to pray for God to speak to me at night.

*I will praise the Lord, who **counsels** me; even **at night** my heart instructs me. - Psalm 16:7 NIV*

A couple of nights later I had a dream about praying for India. Another dream took place on the first Friday of June in 2015. It occurred just before I awoke at 7 AM. I was painting the outside of a house and asked the owner: 'Who lives next door?' He said that a pastor did. Then I saw the owner hurl a large empty pizza box like a frisbee over onto the lawn of the pastor and wondered to myself why he was stirring up trouble. Then I saw a burly black man about 5ft.11inches tall, walk slowly towards me and figured it must be the pastor. At first I was concerned, but I then noticed that he had a friendly countenance. When he got close to me he asked me this question: 'What do you do?' I thought the question a bit odd as I was holding a paint brush in my hand. However, these words came out of my mouth: 'I'm a painter....and a PREACHER!!!' I really emphasized the word preacher. In the dream, it felt good to be bold about declaring that. Then the pastor said these words to me: '**I see that you are a kind person. You have a call to the nations, but you will not go by plane but by pen.**' He added that I may go places but only for short periods of time. The point was that writing would be my main way to reach the nations.

In October 2017 I attended a 'Heaven Come Down' conference in the nearby small city of Corry, Pennsylvania. I signed up to have someone prophesy over me in a short personal session. A young man prayed in the Spirit for about a minute and then released this powerful word over me that was spot on even though he knew nothing about me or that I had been a missionary. He began by saying: '**You have the heart of a missionary.....**

The rest of the message was edifying, confirming and comforting. He then went on to say that I had sacrificed things in serving the Lord, but now the Lord wanted me to enjoy things too. I left feeling quite awed and a bit woozy in the Spirit due to the power behind that encounter. These messages reinforced the words that God had downloaded to me directly in June 2014..... **Write and Disciple.**

In 1982 I took a year long pastoral ministry course in Florida at Christian Retreat, which included a course in writing. Our teacher was Tom Noton, who wrote a fictional account of the two thieves on the crosses next to Jesus. He told us to write about what we know best. He had been a thief before he became a Christian so he wrote about thieves. One day while teaching, he stopped and pointed at me and said: '**You have it....you could write a book if you wanted to**'.

Two years before that I was taking a course called Sociology of Religion at a local NY State University at Fredonia. On two different occasions, the professor stopped teaching, looked at me and said these words: '**Mr. Beckerink.....are you going to be a minister?**' Dr. Braude was not a Christian but Jewish. Sometimes God speaks to us in many ways and through unexpected sources. Such words were given to me as **confirmations** of what God had already placed in my heart.

(We should never go to psychics or spiritists for information. - Deuteronomy 18:9-12. Some of what they say may be true...but eventually one is led down a dark path accompanied by fear, foolishness and bondage. I saw this first hand with one boss who regularly went to a spiritualist center called Lilydale, here in our rural Chautauqua, NY

county.) In another message, we will see the benefit of getting prophetic words for others and offer some guidelines.

In the last days, God says. I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will **prophesy**, your young men will see
visions and your old men will dream **dreams**. - Acts 2:17

Keep listening!

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