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Welcome to the:

PROPHETIC TRAINING



LESSON SIX

DREAMS

ENCOUNTERING GOD IN YOUR SLEEP

Key Scripture:

"In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction." (Job 33:15-16)

1. Our ears are open **(Job: 33:16)**
2. Our minds are quieted
3. Our spirits never sleep **(Psalm 121:4)**
4. Our analytical skepticism is gone
5. To hide mystery for us to seek it out **(Proverbs 25:2)**

Jim Goll says in his book Dream Language, "Visions reveal God's nature while dreams often give us direction or reveal some part of God's plan."

The Purpose of Dreams

1. It leads to the Heart of the Father- dreams should draw us closer to the Lord as we journal and spend time prayerfully pondering the meaning. When we are asleep, we are free from distractions and our barriers are down. The Lord can speak directly to us through dreams.
2. It awakens our walk with Him
3. It imparts intercessory burdens
4. It launches you into ministry
5. It brings healing

"Hear now my words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream."

(Numbers 12:6)

God speaks to His people in a dream and will make Himself known in a vision. He uses both visions and dreams to draw us to His purposes.

Examples of those God has Communicated to in Dreams:

1. God warned ungodly kings and rulers through dreams:

*"But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife." **(Genesis 20:3)***

*"And God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. God I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her." **(Genesis 20:6)***

2. God gave Jacob the ability to get wealth in his dream:

And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted. Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.' And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where

you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.” (Genesis 31:10-13)

3. God warned Laban not to do any harm to Jacob in a dream:

But God had come to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said to him, ‘Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad. (Genesis 31:24)

4. The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and imparted wisdom and an understanding heart:

“At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, ‘Ask! What shall I give you?’” (1Kings 3:5)

In verses 9-15 of this same chapter, Solomon asks God to give him an understanding heart (hearing ear) to judge God’s people and that he would discern between good and evil. God granted this to Solomon as well as, riches and honor, which he did not ask for. God also gave him a long life. When Solomon woke up, he realized it had been a dream.

5. The birth of Jesus was orchestrated and directed through dreams and visions. Matthew 1:18-25 tells of when Joseph was deciding what to do about Mary, his fiancée. The scripture states that an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, *Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary you wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.*

Also, the wise men and Joseph were divinely warned in a dream:

And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way. Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.” (Matt 2:12-13)

Types of Dreams

1. **A Simple Message Dream**- no need for interpretation. These dreams are direct and to the point and self-interpreted. Ex; Matt.1-2., Joseph's dream concerning Mary and Herod.
2. **The Simple Symbolic Dream**- Dreams can be filled with symbols. The symbolism is clear enough that the dreamer and others can understand it without complicated interpretation. Ex: Joseph's dream in Gen 37.
3. **The Complex Symbolic Dream**- this type of dream needs interpretive skill from someone who has the ability in the gift of interpretation or from someone who knows how to seek God to find revelation. Ex: Daniel 2, 4 and 8.

Recording and Interpreting Your Dreams:

1. Name, date and title your dream, record your waking time. Daniel 7:1, "...Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts."
2. Write or draw your dream out in bullet point, diagram, outline or paragraph form.
3. Record the main facts and eliminate the unnecessary details
4. Ask the Holy Spirit for insight and understanding of the dream.
5. Does the dream symbol appear in the Bible? Search it out in the Word. Dreams from the Lord will never go against His word. **(Prov. 25:2)**

6. Ask questions about what you saw in your dream What did you sense and feel from the dream? Was it a good or evil presence, fear, love, concern, hopelessness, disappointment? What was the primary emotion? What are the colors? Is everything in black and white or in color? **(Zechariah 4)**
7. Look for the theme or essence the dream is communicating to you. Relate the dreams to your circumstances and spheres of influence. Consecutive dreams often have the same or similar meaning. **(Gen.41:1-7, 25-31)**. God will speak the same message more than once.
8. Keeping it simple is better than trying to complicate the dream.
9. Visualize the dream as you recall or rehearse the main symbols in the scenes of the dream.

When understanding and interpreting dreams, remember that our Heavenly Father has given us a Helper and will reveal truth to us. All we have to do is ask.

“but the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I, said to you.”
(John14:26)

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.”
(1John 16:13-15)

“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”
(James 1:5-8)

Creating a Culture for Revelation

The following was taken from Jim Golls' book - Dream Language:

- A. Pull out your spiritual antenna- we have to be tuned in and ready to receive God's transmissions. Get ready and expect to receive.
- B. **The Power of the Blood** – Hebrews 9:12: *“and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”*
- C. **Pray in the Spirit**- Jude 20: *“But you, beloved, build yourselves up on you most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.”*Praying in the Spirit refreshes us, stirs our faith, and creates an atmosphere where God's mysteries are spoken and revealed.
- D. **Meditate on God's Word - Joshua 1:8**: *“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”*
- E. **Worship and Sing Praises- 2 Chronicles 20:18-22**: This scripture talks about the worshippers going ahead of the army and defeating the enemy by their praise.

The Drain to Dreaming

- A. **Church Culture and Worldview**- Wrong traditions and worldview have stolen the relevance of dreaming. There has been no place for dreams in materialistic and logical scientism. We have moved away from our Hebraic foundation and shifted into a Greek mindset. This philosophy produces an analytical mindset.
- B. **Are you at rest or are you striving?** - Isaiah 30:15- *“For thus the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said, “In repentance and rest you will be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength.”*

C. Is your receptor clean?- Ephesians 4:23-27, “ *Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry, and yet do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.*”

1. **Worry**- Ps. 37:8
2. **Anger**- Ephesians 4:26
3. **Lust**- Romans 13:10-14
4. **Bitterness**- Hebrews 12:15

Our spirit must be able to receive. We must be careful what we watch and listen to. We must not give place to the devil. We must not grieve the Holy Spirit.

D. Our Routine - inconsistent schedules can hinder the flow and retention of revelation. A lot of times this is not our fault, just due to the demands of life. Ask the Lord for His grace and to help you work out your schedule and even to alter it, if needed. Set apart times for receiving from the Lord. Sacrifice releases power. Fasting can be used to soften our heart and to put us in a position for heavenly downloads.

E. To Whom Much is Given? Matthew 13:12-16- “*For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. Therefore, I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. In their hearing, but will not understand; you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; for the heart of this people has become dull with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes, otherwise they would see with their eyes, hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I would heal them. But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears because they hear.*” If we do not pay attention to what we have already received, the Holy Spirit is not obligated to give us more. Faithfulness brings reward!

- F. **Integrity is a Major Issue**- Both the Holy Spirit and people are drawn to integrity. Tomorrow's call does not give you authority today. There is a learning process of being called, trained, and commissioned. Don't distort the meaning of a dream out of your insecurity. Don't say more than God says or more than God said to say. Learn to pray and hold-wait for more revelation before you speak.

Other things that will hinder our dreams could be:

1. **Distraction** - The scripture says to set our minds on things above and not on earthly things. We need to set aside time to receive revelation away from distractions- cell phone, computer, TV, books, magazines, friends, and family.
2. **Disinformation** - What does God have to say in His Word? God still speaks to us today. Too often, as Christians, we are looking to institutions, denominations and uniformed people to get our theology rather than basing it on the Word of God. Wrong information and lack of information is a culture that allows the doubts of darkness to breed and remain. Hosea 4:6 states: "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*"
3. **Disbelief** - Many can't and will not hear the voice of the Holy Spirit in their lives because they do not believe God wants to speak to them. Disbelief can filter out God's love, care, revelation and at times His empowering. Remember that we serve an all-powerful, all-knowing God who has spoken, is speaking and will continue to speak to His people. The scripture in Mark 9:23 states, "*I do believe, help my unbelief!*"

Things to Remember in Keeping Interpretation Simple

1. Most of all, dreams should be interpreted on a personal basis first. **Jn. 10:3**
2. Most dreams should not be taken literally. They need to be interpreted. **Dan. 1:17**
3. God will use familiar terms you know. **Matt. 4:19**
4. Ponder on the dream or revelation and ask the Holy Spirit for insight. **Dan. 7:8**

5. Ask the Holy Spirit what the certain thought, word, or issue is in the revelation. Reduce the dream to its simplest form. What is the main thought? What object or thought occurs most often?
6. Search it out in the Word. Dreams from the Lord will never go against His word. **Prov. 25:2**
7. What did you sense and feel from the dream? Was it a good or evil presence, fear, love, concern, hopelessness, disappointment? What was the primary emotion?
8. Relate the dreams to your circumstances and spheres of influence.
9. Consecutive dreams often have the same or similar meaning. **Gen. 41:1-7.**
10. What are the colors?
11. Interpretations can be three levels:
 - a. Personal
 - b. Church- congregation, city church, church in a nation, global body of Christ
 - c. National and international, these can be governmental in nature.
12. More than one interpretation can come from one dream. Just like in scripture, there is an historical context as well as the personal, present implication. In dreams, it might be a general word for the church with specific applications for yourself
13. Some dreams may only be understood in the future. They unfold over time. Details will make sense down the road.
14. Write down the summary, date it, where you were, the time, if you woke up from it, the main emotions and a possible interpretation in a journal.
15. The key to proper interpretation is to question, question, and question. See Zech. 4.

Activation

Split up into groups of 3 or 4 and tell of a dream you had recently. Using some of the dream symbols and prayer try to interpret the dream.

Homework

Prepare yourself for dreams by surrendering to the Holy Spirit before you go to sleep. Ask the Lord to speak to you in your sleep. When you awake, write down any dreams you have and begin to seek the Lord for the interpretation.

Dictionary of Dream Symbols

Symbols & Interpretation

From the Bethel Community Life School Manual

Colors

Amber – contamination, holiness, idolatry, purity

Black - stability, death

Blue – anxiety, depression, revelation, communion, truth, peace

Brown- Pastor, humanism, compassion, order, earth

Cyan (light blue) - Fasting, will

Gold- contamination, holiness, purity, wealth, prosperity, wisdom

Gray – weak, sorrow, security, maturity

Faded Colors-weakens meaning of color

Green- pride, envy, conscience, life, nature, fertility

Magenta- emotion, giving

Orange- perseverance, stubbornness, vitality

Pink-love, beauty

Purple-authority, royalty, false authority, intercession

Red- anointing, praying, anger, war, wisdom, courage, vitality, action

Silver-redemption

Yellow-fear, hope, mind, joy, happiness

White-purity, cleanliness

Numbers

1- God, unity

2- Division, judgment, multiplication, split, difference, opposition

3- Godhead or triune God, complete

4- God's creative works

5- Grace, redemption

6- Man

7- Completion, perfection

8- New beginnings, teacher

9- Evangelist, judgment

10- Journey, pastor, wilderness

11- Prophet, revelation, transition

12- Apostle, government

13- Rebellion

14- Double anointing

15- Mercy, pardon, reprieve

16- Established beginnings

17- Election or elect

18- Established blessing

24-elders around the throne

25-begin ministry training
30- begin ministry
40-completed rule, generation
50- freedom, jubilee
111- My beloved Son
120- end of flesh
153- kingdom multiplication
555-triple grace
666- full lawlessness
888- resurrection
1500- authority, light, power

Animals

Alligator- bossy spirit, great influencer, big mouth
Ants- irritation, unwanted guests
Armadillo- nuisance, harasser, destroyer
Bat- satanic torment
Bear- demonic force, hungry for something you have
Bee- higher demonic power but less lethal
Birds- kingdom of heaven
Black panther- higher level witchcraft
Cat- a watching demonic spirit, independent thinker
Chicken- being chicken
Cobra- spirit of control and manipulation
Cow- slow laborious change

Crab- hard shell, not easy to approach

Crocodile- big mouth, something that can drag you down, vicious verbal attack

Dog- friend

Donkey- stubborn

Dragon- satan or his plans

Duck- false or quack as in a charlatan

Eagles- prophetic

Elephant- demonic force designed to attack your mind, humanism

Frog- counterfeit of conscience, lust, sexual spirit

Hamster- running around in circles

Hippopotamus- big mouth, bossy spirit, great influencer

Hornet- higher demonic power, less lethal

Horse- power, sometimes major or for movement of God

Ladybugs- eat the harassers

Lion- intimidation, power

Lion attacking you- God coming against you

Lizard- lying (long tale)

Ox- slow laborious change

Panther (black) - high level of witchcraft

Pigs- carriers of demons

Rabbit- sexual torment

Rams- satanic occult

Rat- garbage (sin)

Ravens-soul

Rhinoceros- critical and harsh

Scorpion- someone wanting to do you in, witchcraft

Sharks- vicious or malicious activity by people you know

Snake- backbiting, divination, false accusations, false prophecies, gossip, long tales, slander

Spider- demonic attack, occult

Spider web- demonic network

Tigers- soul power

Zebra- a horse that looks righteous but has soulish issues

Miscellaneous

Airplane- church, large corporation

Amphitheater- something is going to be magnified

Angel- good will toward men, messenger

Ann-grace

Arm- strength

Armored car- major protection

Atrium- glass indicates vision

Attic- past history issues, storing things God has given you that get dusty

Autograph- prominence or fame

Back porch- history

Bald head- lacking wisdom

Ball gown- prepared for something that requires elegance

Banner- victory

Basement- hidden or unseen

Bathroom-cleansing

Bed-intimacy

Bent knees- prayer

Big butt- laziness or apathy

Bike- individual ministry or calling

Books-knowledge, preparation time

Braking car- warning to slow down

Breasts- ability to nurse young

Bright from a light-from God

Brothers- the body of Christ

Buckler- protection

Bus- church or ministry

Cafeteria-spiritual food

Candle- impact, influence

Car- job or vocation, personal ministry, small church, small ministry

Car repair- minister/ministry healing

Chariot- major encounter, life destiny

Children- next generation

City- God's inner city, inner city work

Clouds, dark- from the enemy

Clouds, light- from God

Coat- mantle

Columns- foundations people put trust in

Controlled flying- spiritual maturity increasing

Convertible- open heaven

Cracked basement walls- problems in the foundation

Crops-different lengths of time

Crossing street- changing perspective, changing place of operation

Cultural clothes- call to nation

Dart- piercing, penetrating or painful experience

Dead body- being dead in the gifts

Dining room- eating spiritual food

Door- walking through something

Double number- double of what the number means

Dreadlocks- rebellion

Driving in reverse- not going direction should be with the anointing you have

Dusty- neglected, lack of use

Dying-too old to come into what God called you to

Eating- eating spiritual food

Eighteen Wheeler- blessing of ministry, judgment of ministry

Elevator- change in anointing, up=increase, down=decrease

Evening gown-what you are called to requires elegance

Eyetooth- vision or revelation

Face, dark- demonic

Face, lightened- angelic

Family pictures- family historical issues

Farm- feeding

Fast- easy

Feathers-comfort, confusion, covering

Fingernails- weapons

Fingers- ability to relate, direction, intertwine

Fire, roaring- God devouring His enemy

Flamingo- instruments that carry out the purposed of God

Flash- revelation or insight

Flowers- fragrance

Flying- spiritual advancement

Forehead- peace of mind

Former place- season you are currently in or coming to

Fed Flintstone car- human effort

Freezer- Storing spiritual food for future time

Front porch- vision

Garden- place of growth or intimacy, place of love romance as in Song of Solomon

Gas station- power

Gas station, old- old power

Gun- spiritual authority either good or bad

Gymnasium- great discipline

Hair- wisdom

Hair, long- growing wisdom

Hair, short- cut off wisdom

Hand- direction

Head- mind, intellect

High rise- high spiritual calling, spiritual heights

Hills- elevation

Hole in clothes- worn out or too old

Hospital- healing

Hotel- people come, get touched and move on

House- your church, family, your life

House, live in someone else's- similar anointing

Immobilization of body parts- demonic hindrances to what you are doing in the Lord

Incisor teeth- ability to decide

Index finger- prophetic

Jeans- completing or walking out what you are called to do

Jet- church or large corporation

Kiss- humility

Kitchen- preparing spiritual food

Knee- humility

Knife- holding a knife- protection, verbal responses such as sharp tongue

Lava- enemy, vicious slow attack against people of God

Left- gifts that you were born with

Left side- born with

Limousine- call of God

Lying on stomach- humble

Machine guns- high power weapons

Mall- church, egotism or selfishness

Mickey Mouse car- animated, colorful and entertaining, ideological, theoretical

Mobile Home- going to be changing homes, temporary condition

Money- favor

Money, lost- loss of favor

Mountain- God's presence, the Lord

Nakedness- nothing hidden, vulnerable, without guile

Names in scripture- to prophesy what's about to happen to a people

Neck- willingness, stubborn

Nightgown- darkness

Nose- discernment

Ocean- church, masses of people

Ocean liner- church that is mission minded, large movement

Office- calling and gifts

Top of head- indicates position and rank

Outer space- insight into the cosmos

Pants- completing or walking out what you are called to to

Parked Car- ministry on the sideline

Parking lots- short term levels

Picture frames, gold- framed by God for a precious purpose

Pornography- deterioration, soulish desires, you came in contact with this spirit

Private jet- instructions, you and God alone

Property- responsibility

Prophet- represents a prophetic word

For more reading and to study this subject further:

Dream Interpretation Guidelines-Christian Dream Symbols by Brenda McDonald

Dream Language by Jim Goll

Dream Encounters by Barbie Breathitt

Dreams-Divinity Code, The Key to Decoding your Dreams and Visions by Adrian Beale and Adam F. Thompson

Website: www.dreamlab7.com (Mary Ann and Stephen Kotch)

www.streamsministries.com (John Paul Jackson)