

**General Topics :: I have a question?****I have a question? - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/3/10 11:34**

I know that God does sometimes speak to us through dreams but how does one begin to understand what the dream means. Does God sometimes give us a dream that is defiantly from Him but with hold understanding? Even after much prayer I do not understand this dream or why I keep having it night after night?

Thank you
mj

Re: I have a question? - posted by Ceri (), on: 2010/3/10 12:18

You will know when the time comes!

In my case it was with hindsight.

A terrible tragedy occurred where a friend of mine from Church who I sang duets with, was killed in a head on collision aged 22. A vivid dream I'd had 8 weeks prior suddenly meant something. My friend was being swept away across a river and I was reaching over trying to grab hold of her to pull her back, I was shouting and screaming to her as she was drifting away from me. Then as I woke up in a state of panic I heard God's voice urging me to 'keep praising, keep praising no matter what happens don't ever stop praising!'

When our pastor came around to break the news I was suddenly aware of the dream and that I knew this was to happen! God had been warning me, it was in His hands. The 'keep praising' meant a lot to me as I was leading on the worship team at Church the following day.

I realised that the dream had been prophetic and was able to look back and know what it now meant.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2010/3/10 17:31

My advice is to be careful when it comes to dreams.

While it is true that God can communicate via dreams, it is a very rare medium for Him to use today. The reason for this is that it leaves too much to our own subjectivity. When God speaks to us, He wants to make it known undeniably and in a way that will not leave us second guessing. Most of the time this occurs via a still small voice *while we are awake and in full control of our senses*. It is primarily the forces of darkness today that "slip in the backdoor" via dreams to make impressions upon us.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/3/10 18:01

Brother Paul: Perhaps caution and more prayer is what I need to be about. I do not often have dreams that I remember and even the ones I do I pay next to no attention to. This particular one though has been reoccurring for the past 8 nights and always involves the same three images. I think that is why it had been on my mind so much. But I do take your word to heart brother Paul, I do not want to take my focus off of Jesus and get caught up in dreams either. Thank you for this very good reminder!

Ceri: I was sorry to hear of the loss of your friend. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me on this. I will be praying more and trust that if this is from the Lord, He will make all things known in His time.

Thank you both.
maryjane

General Topics :: I have a question?

Re: I have a question? - posted by Goldminer (), on: 2010/3/10 18:52

Dear mj,

While I also believe we need to be very careful about dreams, it is also true that God does still speak through dreams.

Quote:
-----Joe 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Quote:
-----Act 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of 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:

The Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever and He spoke to people all through the bible through dreams.

I have been saved 33 years and have had a number of dreams that I knew were from the Lord. Some were warnings, I saw a couple getting a divorce that nobody would have thought that was a possibility. Unfortunately shortly afterwards they did indeed divorce. I have seen people that I haven't seen in years and the next day came in contact with them. I don't have them frequently, but occasionally, and many I get in between them are probable pizza dreams. But I do prayerfully pay attention.

Most of the time I search the bible for insight, along with prayer for understanding. I also agree with what was shared, if it is from God in time He will show you the reason for it. I have also had some friends help me with understanding parts. This isn't unbiblical as Joseph interpreted dreams.

I would be careful not to try to work up understanding, but rest in the Lord and know He will reveal everything in His time if He is the origin of it.

Quote:
-----Mat 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2010/3/10 19:02

Dear Mary,

Repeated dreams are a frequent thing for many, many people of all walks of life: Buddhists, Muslims, Atheists, Christians, Jews, Hindus, et cetera all experience infrequent reoccurring dreams, and usually they are nothing more than our minds processing bits and pieces of submerged miscellaneous information, mental snapshots, childhood remnants and stitching them all together inside the nocturnal cauldron of our mind during a REM cycle. Many non-believers also experience prophetic dreams as well: dreams that warn of an auto accident, flunking a test, getting pregnant, etc. And they come true! It doesn't mean any of these prognostic dreams are of God in the Christian sense.

My experience thus far is that God as a rule doesn't speak enigmatically via odd dreams to His children in the New Covenant. It is mostly the people of charismatic persuasion that try to mystify God's communications with us; telling us that God is behind every strange dream or shadow or that He requires us to make brash moves during periods of uncertainty and call it "faith". The truth is that no loving father, when he wishes to send a message to his own son or daughter, will do so in a convoluted, enigmatic or mysterious way and expect his dear confused child to "decipher" the code. But this is the very fallacy that many attribute to God, and it is why you find certain confused believers very attentive to decoding dreams like a New Testament Joseph and Pharaoh, thinking God is trying to reach or warn them by this medium (you will notice Pharaoh came to Joseph and not vice-versa). The fact that you have been prompted to bring this dream into a forum to determine whether it is or is not of God is pretty good indication of the latter.

General Topics :: I have a question?

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/3/10 19:47

Brother Paul

Quote:
-----The truth is that no loving father, when he wishes to send a message to his own son or daughter, will do so in a convoluted, enigmatic or mysterious way and expect his dear confused child to "decipher" the code.

This is where my real confusion came from. I had been praying about the dream and thought sure it was from the Lord but could not understand why I was not able to understand it if it was from Him. It left me feeling confused and I have even thought perhaps I have been in sin over this, that maybe there was something God was trying to show me but in my flesh I have been unwilling to see it.

God Bless
maryjane

Edit: Thank you also to those others who posted and shared with me.

Re: I have a question? - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2010/3/10 20:13

"For God speaketh once, yea twice, *yet man* perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed;"

- Job 33:14-15(KJV)

MaryJane,

I think that in the Scriptures God has spoken to all different sorts of men in dreams in the scriptures, even who also did not at first understand what the dream meant. From Joseph, to Potiphar (EDIT it was the baker and the butler that had the dreams (not Potiphar)) and, to Daniel, to Nebuchadnezer.

In my opinion, it is presumptuous to assume that God will choose to reveal everything to us plainly because He is Father. I think it presumes upon what may be His hidden purposes as well as His Wisdom in knowing how exactly best to communicate. To anyone. Anywhere. Anytime.

Re: - posted by Veronica226 (), on: 2010/3/10 20:20

That's definitely hard MJ. I believe that God does still speak via dreams, but we must be very careful about attributing a dream to God. I have never had any dreams of this manner, but my younger sister has them often. Oddly enough it is not in a convoluted, enigmatic or mysterious manner as some would suggest. In fact her last one had a voice telling her that her sins were forgiven. (Something she struggles with, I think she has a guilt complex...) And that is obviously Biblical. And I do agree that the Joel 2 passage about dreams is true. Not just for Israel, because we are also His children as believers. And because the time period between Christ's coming to earth and the destruction of the earth is referred to "the last days."

That wasn't really advice... ha ha. I guess my advice would be continue to pray about it and if possible see what the Bible has to say. God's Spirit will never contradict God's word.

Paul:

Quote:

General Topics :: I have a question?

-----It doesn't mean any of these prognostic dreams are of God in the Christian sense.

Not really sure what you mean here... Since I believe that God is sovereign I believe He works in everyone's life, believe r or non-believer, so He could give them dreams like that.

Quote:
-----My experience thus far is that God as a rule doesn't speak enigmatically via odd dreams to His children in the New Covenant.

What about the occurrence of dreams from God in books of the New Testament? Weren't they New Covenant children? I think it is silly to pass off dreams as only "our minds processing bits and pieces of submerged miscellaneous information" just because you prefer to take the scientific approach.

Quote:
-----The truth is that no loving father, when he wishes to send a message to his own son or daughter, will do so in a convoluted, enigmatic or mysterious way and expect his dear confused child to "decipher" the code.

Why couldn't God speak in a mysterious way? A lot of the Bible is pretty mysterious. Isn't that what He did with all the prophecies in the Bible? Including Revelation? I for one find Revelation and the prophecies in Daniel to be very mysterious . Does this mean we should throw away those parts of the Bible?
I understand your point of view. A couple of years ago I would have said the same. But now... I've learned to take things with a little more childlike simplicity. Albeit, remembering that Satan uses dreams more often than God. Especially with all the false prophets nowadays.

In Christ
Veronica

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2010/3/10 20:28

Dear Mary,

I really think it must grieve the heart of God the way we so often try complicate and codify and mystify the way He communicates to His children. It took me so many years to learn that God's method of communication is often wrought in the most sober, calm, peaceable and lucid manner imaginable. He speaks to our hearts and not our heads - the latter being dream factory. The difference between the two is tremendous. If the Lord speaks a Word into your heart, you will know it is God at once, for it will instantly alter your life as though being hit by a freight train spiritually. You won't need anyone to tell you it was God. If it is only in your head (like a dream), you'll spend your time quessing and floundering on whether it was God.

Though God speaks to our hearts in a soft, still voice (while we are awake) most prevalently, the frequency of these communications may vary. Truthfully, I don't know if God has ever spoken to me *deeply* via a dream, and if He did, I will never be able to validate it this side of eternity. That's the one problem with dreams. Plenty of people I meet claim that God speaks to them all the time via dreams, and some of these same also claim to see demons and angels on occasion and hear God's audible voice.

I don't share this testimony unfortunately!

Brother Paul

General Topics :: I have a question?

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2010/3/10 20:37

Quote:
-----I think it is silly to pass off dreams as only "our minds processing bits and pieces of submerged miscellaneous information" just because you prefer to take the scientific approach.

Sorry I came off as silly. That was not my intention. I said such occurrences weren't impossible, but rare for today.

Brother Paul

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2010/3/10 20:41

Quote:
-----I really think it must grieve the heart of God the way we so often try complicate and codify and mystify the way He communicates to His children.

This may be true. I imagine it may grieve God **anytime** and **however** He is somehow interrupted from speaking to someone, whether it is by rancor or raucous, by criticism and cynicism in reaction to those that have abused spiritual revelation, or by the abuse of it itself.

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2010/3/10 20:45

Paul,

Quote:
-----I said such occurrences weren't impossible, but rare for today.

How would we know that Paul, given that there are 6 billion people on the planet?

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2010/3/10 20:47

Quote:
-----In my opinion, it is presumptuous to assume that God will choose to reveal everything to us plainly because He is Father.

Again, like Veronica, my words have been somewhat embellished upon. I never said God must reveal "everything" to us in a plain manner; I am simply sharing that "plain and simple" and direct to the heart has proven to be his most prevalent method of communicating to His children today.

General Topics :: I have a question?

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2010/3/10 20:49

Quote:

-----How would we know that Paul, given that there are 6 billion people on the planet

Chris, you're instigating an argument now, and I am going to end my part now. Thanks for the discussion. God bless you brother.

Brother Paul

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2010/3/10 20:52

Paul,

I think it was worth substantiating a statement like that.

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2010/3/10 21:04

Everyone, I appoligise for one more post here, pelase forgive me this:

MaryJane, please forgive me for distracting from your situation.

And brother Paul, please forgive me if I have been antagonistic to you in a anyway. May GOd richly bless you always brot her.

Chris

Re: I have a question? - posted by maizie, on: 2010/3/10 21:24

Sometimes the dream is for a future time and when it unfolds you will recognize its meaning. Your spirit can understand long before your intellect when it is given from God because it is Spirit to spirit.

Re: - posted by norton330, on: 2010/3/12 7:07

mj

in my experiences with dreams I give them no aknowledgment after their occurence UNLESS there is a clear Word from God with it. For instance I dreamed the other night I was being chased around my house by a black widow spider. I woke up and heard "a little bit of leaven, leavens the whole loaf." What did this pretain to? Fear. I was letting something small, but poisonous (anxiety) chase me around and terrify me. It started with a little question that turned into a lot of fear and anxiety.

I would say if it comes with a clear, biblical Word that explains it to pay it heed. Otherwise dismiss it. I have had several dreams come true that I did not aknowledge. They were simply dreams of realistic events, and when the event really came up it was a De Ja Vu moment, and I had an opportunity to react in a manner different than in my dream. I could react as Christ or as myself, God gave me grace to react as Christ in those instances.

Just focus and walk with Christ.

General Topics :: I have a question?

Re: I have a question?, on: 2010/3/12 8:15

Hi MJ,

Quote:

-----Even after much prayer I do not understand this dream or why I keep having it night after night?

Sometimes another person will be given the interpretation. A person who is genuinely a Christian, but has no revelation, will honestly tell you they don't know either. I believe the person who had the dream will know what is from the Lord and what is not.

Having said all that, Leanne Payne had a dream repeatedly, which had similarities but slight changes as well, and the Lord eventually explained it to her. That actual interpretation was really obvious, once she understood what it was connected to in her life, and after that she was able to pray constructively into the issues which came to her understanding, and move forwards in faith.

Re: I have a question?, on: 2010/3/12 8:34

Hi Paul,

I read p2 of this thread before coming to p1, and would like to comment on what you wrote here:

Quote:

-----The truth is that no loving father, when he wishes to send a message to his own son or daughter, will do so in a convoluted, enigmatic or mysterious way and expect his dear confused child to "decipher" the code.

If you re-read what you wrote here, it may well be a definition of how some people deal with dreams they believe God has given them, but, I do not like how you have attributed attitudes to God our Father, which all of us know are not fair to Him, and very likely not true.

Further, you may, on re-reading your sentence above, notice you have clearly put a burden to 'decipher the code' on to 'his dear confused child'.

Please. This is also unfair.

A human may well be confused. That's human in certain situations. I'm sure we have all felt confused as humans some times. But, to link it so closely to a child of God, as if confusion is a legitimate quality of a son of the Father in spiritual terms, is not at all fair. God is not confused. Those born of His Spirit, if they walk in the Spirit, are not confused either.

It is true a child of God may have to rule out human responses as being ungodly, or, not reflecting/demonstrating faith in the Father's ability to reveal truth to the heart and understanding of the child of God, but the whole point about revelation through a dream one does not understand is precisely that it is a spiritual message and it ought not to receive a human interpretation, but a spiritual one, through the ministry of Holy Spirit; either directly to the person who dreamed, or through another child of God to whom He has given the revelation.

Quote:

-----But this is the very fallacy that many attribute to God, and it is why you find certain confused believers very attentive to decoding dreams like a New Testament Joseph and Pharaoh, thinking God is trying to reach or warn them by this medium (you will notice Pharaoh came to Joseph and not vice-versa).

There may well be confused believers, but that does not mean God does not give dreams to trusted of His children, whom He has identified as worthy of His trust.

My experience of revelation from God, is that He gives it where there He can see a loving heart, full of integrity. There are many times in scripture where He uses a person in an area where previously they failed, or, simply calls them to a most unlikely task, or one in which they have no natural experience.

I believe that is God exercising His wisdom, and we should respect it with a certain amount of reverential fear and honest respect.

Quote:

-----The fact that you have been prompted to bring this dream into a forum to determine whether it is or is not of God is pretty good indication of the latter.

I think you assume too much, and if there is a sense of faith toward God, and fellowship towards MJ in your last sentence, then it is not at all manifest in general terms.

Let me apologise again that my time online is limited these days. I would urge you to scrutinise what you actually said, and how it reads, particularly because I don't doubt you have brought your own spiritual experiences to bear, just as I have mine. And, I do not doubt your integrity, nor question that you also yearn after truth in all points.

EDIT: I would add: I do believe we sometimes think God is being enigmatic and mysterious, but that is because we do not 'see' what He is getting at.

He uses the mystery of the way He chose to communicate, to get our attention, and to draw us into considering things - perhaps about ourselves - that we would never have thought about before. These may be to do with things in which He desires that we should change, or, to open us to a course of action which is so far removed from where we are at the time He begins His revelation, that humanly speaking, the leap is too great. However, by the time we understand Him, He has gently moved us towards His goal, and it has not been too painful, either!