

Dreams/Visions
By Pastor Joan Hart

Have you ever had a dream from the Lord? Of course many have. When you think of the word dream, and what it entails, you tend to receive hope from the dream.

When the dream or vision is from God and He is revealing something to you for your future, you receive a longing for it to take place.

A dream is a visionary hope that creates deep longing for its fulfillment. It is an intense desire and it motivates you to keep going. You just like the mailman, you trudge through snow, sleet hail and rain to get to your destination.

God's plan inside of you almost seems like it becomes bigger than you. If life was up to us, we wouldn't have such a burning desire inside to fulfill it. We would walk through life like everyone else thinking that what we do is just something to get us through the day. But with the Lord, there is excitement, zeal, a burning desire, and a hunger to see it fulfilled.

If you are following a dream that you had and you don't have that kind of desire inside, you better question where the dream came from. Even if it is from God, that burning, zeal and excitement isn't always there at the beginning. But God seems to propel you forward toward it anyway.

This is a path you take that is different from others. You must never compare yourself to others, because each person has a different call, even if the call has the same title. God has individual purposes within that same title for each one.

A while ago, God revealed to me a call that He had on someone's life. When I asked what they felt God wanted them to do they didn't know yet, but they knew it was something. They felt the power of God pour upon them when I laid hands on them, and knew it in their heart, even though they didn't have the words to speak it out yet.

As you grow in your Christian walk, God reveals more and more of what He wants you to do. He might start you out in one area and move you to another. Each person who has a specific call on their life will be trained and will go through many teachings until they reach God's main purpose for their life.

When God called me I knew nothing about a "Call from God". I was a new Christian. I just knew inside when the pastor said if anyone feels they have a call on their life to come forward, I was compelled to go. I didn't understand nor did He tell me. He did confirm that I had a "Call" and he prayed for me. When I went back to my

seat I asked the Lord to confirm it to me in the Word.

When I was saved, I didn't know anyone, nor was I in a church that could teach me about a "Call". My Heavenly Father, through the Holy Spirit was my teacher. I read the Bible and He taught me! He revealed things to me and gave me understanding. So now, I relied on the word to confirm what had just happened. It had a good track record with me.

I sat down in my pew, picked up my Bible and asked the Lord to confirm my "Calling" again. I still did not know what He was calling me to do. The Bible opened to Isaiah 61:1 and I began to read. I couldn't believe my eyes! The first sentence said, "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me;" I thought, "Yes He certainly is". I could feel a heavy Presence of the Lord upon me as I sat there. I received that much anyway! Confirmation! Good ! Ok.. The next sentence said, "Because God has anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek" What? Preach!, I kept reading, "He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;". Tears began to run down my cheeks from His strong Presence. I continued to read and was absolutely astounded! "To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all that mourn," it went on and on. I remember words like, "give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." I could hardly believe what I was reading.

I had become sold on the truth of the Word, but He certainly couldn't be talking about me? I said, "Lord, I need this confirmed in the New Testament". I flipped the pages like all baby Christians do to get something from the Lord. Only this time the Holy Spirit did the flipping. The Bible fell open in Luke chapter 4 and my eyes immediately went to verse 18. I had picked a verse at random, and began to read it. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me..." Whoa, wait a minute, how did that same verse get in there? I had no idea it was repeated in Luke 4. I sat there in a state of shock. I couldn't tell you what the rest of the service was about because I was having my own little glory cloud.

As time passed, that verse burned within me. God led me through many things in my life to prepare me. The first part of this new adventure was becoming an Intercessor, one who intercedes in prayer for others. There were so many people who needed prayer and for some reason they would ask me to pray! Go figure. God knew what He was doing. He was also testing me to see if I cared about other people. He also had to teach me confidentiality so that what I was asked to pray about was not blabbed to anyone else. It was for prayer only!

I had received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and so I had a heavenly prayer language. I prayed in tongues. I didn't know how to pray for most of the situations people came to me with, but I could pray in the Spirit, in tongues and God would answer. He began to give me Scriptures to fit each prayer need. The Holy Spirit taught me how to incorporate God's Word into my prayers. I didn't hear it from anyone, but was led by His Spirit to do it. That's how the Scripture pages came into being. I had received so many of them I began to write them down so I could pray them daily. Others wanted them too, so I have passed them on for years sowing the Word to people I don't even know. They were taken to other churches to hand out. Not by me, but with my permission. God's word is free, it didn't belong to me only.

The more I read the Word, I began to learn about what is called the five-fold ministry. In Ephesians 4:1-12 it names the five-fold ministry as: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers.

Every one of these offices need to be intercessors. Without interceding or spending time in prayer you will never know what God has for you. Yes, He can give you a dream to bring clarity, but as you continue to walk with Him, He will give you more dreams or visions. He wants you to know He has something special for you to do. Many times people have to begin by faith and just walk, like I did until I grew up in the Lord. If He told you everything all at once, you couldn't handle it and would not be ready to step into the roll.

Eph. 4 tells what the five-fold ministry is for. It is for the "Equipping of the saints for the work of ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ". I didn't see one thing in that verse that edified self. It is always for others!

We always want to know we are in God's will in our lives. We should never follow a dream or a vision because it looks good to us. There is way to be sure about your dream or vision.

1st. Ask God to confirm it in His Word. Not through a random thing like I did, but by praying and listening. He will speak to your heart and you might even come across the confirmation in your daily reading. No flipping and pointing please!

2nd. Does the call give you a yes inside, does the vision give you a big yes inside? In other words, does your spirit bear witness? Can you nod your head up and down and know it's right? Is there doubt? Pay attention then and wait.

3rd. Does the vision or dream line up with the circumstances of your life? If it doesn't, you better wait and not run towards it. Don't change you life to fit the "Call". The

"Call" will fit your life. In other words if you get a dream about moving to Sing Sing and your spouse does not agree with the move, or you don't seem to happy about the move, don't do it. It could be a dream or vision from the enemy. He can give you false information. That's why we cover our minds with the blood of Jesus and are careful what we put our eyes on that might allow evil influences into our thinking.

4th. Do you have a peace about the dream or vision? You might be overwhelmed, but yet you know, that you know, it was God and somehow there is a nervous joy inside. There is still a peace about it once the initial knowing has settled. If it never settles, then it is probably not of God.

5th. Have it confirmed through two or three witnesses in the Body of Christ. A good and probably safe way is to talk to your pastor. They are your covering and it will bear witness in their spirit if it is true. Listen to those around you that are Christians. Don't go ask them, listen in conversation, God can confirm through them. Maybe it will be from a preacher on t.v. through something they say, even though they don't know your situation. God will speak through them to confirm it to you.

There is someone reading this article right now who has a "Call" on their life. You are sitting there with blue jeans on, a jean jacket over a printed shirt and your hair is pulled back. God wants you to know, He has called you, so stop doubting! He loves you and will guide you as you read His Word and listen to His Holy Spirit. He doesn't care about your past, it is the future that is important. He loves you!

Praise the Lord! Thank you Father!

If there any one of those five areas that do not line up, then put the dream or the vision on the shelf. Sometimes it is a matter of waiting. Later on it might line up. If it doesn't, keep the dream on the shelf and leave it alone. I mean don't walk towards it, leave it alone. If it's God, He will bring it to pass!

We don't need to follow the enemy. He deceives people and gives them vision and dreams of grandure and people get all puffed up. Honey if you are being puffed up.... it might not be God. He is the one who is exalted in dreams and visions. It will bring Him Glory, not you! Pray about it and leave it in God's hands, He will show you the way!

God bless!

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