



**Sunday May 19, 2019**  
**Receiving God's Guidance**  
**Part-3 : Dreams, Visions, Prophecies, Angels**

**REVIEW**

In this series, we are covering:

(1)The Word, (2)The inner witness of His Spirit, (3)The voice of the Holy Spirit, (4)Gifts of the Holy Spirit, (5)Dreams and visions, (6)Prophecies, (7)Angels, (8)Godly counsel, (9)The renewed mind, (10)Times and seasons, (11)Circumstances and divine orchestrations.

**God guides us by His Word, the written Scriptures:**

- 1) The Instructions In God's Word
- 2) The Quickened Word
- 3) The Word Preached
- 4) The Inner Voice - The Voice Of Our Conscience

**God guides us by His Holy Spirit:**

We will specifically cover:

- 1) The inner witness of the Holy Spirit**
- 2) The voice of the Holy Spirit**
- 3) Gifts of the Holy Spirit** (we did not cover this in detail)

**THE INNER WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- 1) Quickening of Scripture
- 2) The Assurance Within
- 3) The Desire Within
- 4) The Knowing Within
- 5) The Prompting Within
- 6) The Stirring Within
- 7) The Foreknowledge Within
- 8) The Warning Within

**THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- 1) The Inner Voice
- 2) The Audible Voice
- 3) The Voice Of The Spirit In Prophecy (will cover this today)



## **TODAY**

Will pick up from where we left:

### **The Collective Witness To The Holy Spirit's Leading**

We also have examples of the Holy Spirit speaking to a group of people. While His voice could have come through the voice of prophecy or through the inner voice or even the inner witness - the important factor is that multiple people attested to hearing the Holy Spirit say the same thing. This brought a collective witness to what the Holy Spirit was speaking and hence they could follow the Lord confidently.

Consider the following examples:

#### **Acts 13:1-3**

**1** Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

**2** As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

**3** Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

There were five leaders who were in prayer, fasting and ministry to the Lord together and the Holy Spirit spoke. He gave clear instruction what to do, and they acted on it, without a doubt.

#### **Acts 15:28**

**For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:**

Acts 15 records the first Council in Jerusalem where the apostles and Elders in Jerusalem, along with Paul and Barnabas to discuss the matter on whether gentile believers had to keep Jewish customs and traditions. Although we do not see any mention of prophecy or other supernatural expression, at the end of the deliberations, the leaders issued their statement, as being good to the Holy Spirit and to us. They were in agreement and they also were convinced that this was what the Holy Spirit was saying to the Church. There was collective witness to the decision being made.

#### **Acts 16:6-10**

**6** Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.

**7** After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.

**8** So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.



9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

We see how the Holy Spirit was directing the apostle Paul and his team. We do not know how exactly they determined that the Holy Spirit was not permitting them or directing them in another direction. But the team had a collective witness to the Spirit's leading. Later when Paul had a vision directing them into Macedonia, the entire team moves together, in agreement. This once again indicates that they all bore witness to the leading of the Spirit and moved together.

**We now move forward to discuss other ways God guides us:  
Dreams and Visions, Prophecies and Angels**

(1)The Word, (2)The inner witness of His Spirit, (3)The voice of the Holy Spirit, (4)Gifts of the Holy Spirit, **(5)Dreams and visions, (6)Prophecies, (7)Angels,** (8)Godly counsel, (9)The renewed mind, (10)Times and seasons, (11)Circumstances and divine orchestrations.

What we cover today about dreams and visions, prophecies and angels, may be very new to some of us. To others you may be open to these and may have already experienced God speaking to you this way. The reason we share about these is because we see these in Scripture and we know by experience that God does speak and guide us in this manner even today. So we need to be open and aware when God speaks to us this way.

## **5. DREAMS AND VISIONS**

We are in the hour when God is pouring out His Holy Spirit. This outpouring of this Spirit is characterized by dreams, visions and prophecies. We should be open to such activity of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 2:17-18**

17 'and it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.

18 and on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.



## Dreams

Dreams can have three different sources. Some of our dreams can be because of things our mind has been pre-occupied with (Ecclesiastes 5:3). Some of our dreams can be God speaking to us. Some of our dreams could be demonic interference in our sleep. When we have bad dreams whether they are from our own mind or demonic, we reject them and do not permit those dreams to affect us.

God can speak to us through dreams.

### Psalm 16:7

**I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.**

### Job 33:14-18

**14 For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it.**

**15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls upon men, While slumbering on their beds,**

**16 Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction.**

**17 In order to turn man from his deed, And conceal pride from man,**

**18 He keeps back his soul from the Pit, And his life from perishing by the sword.**

Dreams (sometimes also referred to as night visions) from God can serve different purposes. God speaks through dreams to:

- 1) **Meet and encounter us** (Jacob Genesis 28:12; Solomon 1 Kings 3:5-15)
- 2) **Encourage us** (Paul at Corinth Acts 18:9-11)
- 3) **Instruct and teach us** (Job 33:14-18 ; Psalm 16:7; Joseph Matthew 1:20)
- 4) **Direct and guide us** (Gideon Judges 7:13-15; Joseph Matthew 2:19-21; Jacob Genesis 46:1-4; Paul called into Macedonia Acts 16:9)
- 5) **Reveal future events** (Joseph Genesis 37:5-10; Baker and Butler Genesis 40:5-19; Pharaoh Genesis 41:1-10; Nebuchadnezzar Daniel 2; Daniel 4; Daniel in Daniel 7)
- 6) **Reveal secret things to us** (Jacob Genesis 31:10-13; Daniel in Daniel 2:19)
- 7) **Correct and realign us** (Abimelech Genesis 20:3-6; Job 33:14-18)
- 8) **Alert and warn us** (Laban Genesis 31:24; Wise men Matthew 2:12; Joseph Matthew 2:13; Joseph Matthew 2:22-23; Pilate's wife Matthew 27:19)

Note: We have included above, where in some cases it is recorded the person saw a vision at night (or visions of the night). This could be a dream in which they saw a vision, or a vision they saw at night.



So be open to receiving dreams from God.

Before going to sleep, you can pray and ask God to speak to you through dreams and visions at night. Consecrate your mind and the activity of your mind when you are asleep to the Lord.

While some dreams may be literal and easy to understand, often, dreams are figurative (having symbols) and need to be interpreted. Pray and ask God to give you an understanding of the dream.

Journal your dreams so you can always go back and review what God has been speaking to you.

## **Visions**

We must be open to God speaking to us through visions because we see this in the Bible.

There are numerous examples in the Bible of people seeing visions. Abraham (Genesis 15:1-5), Jacob (Genesis 46:1-4), Balaam (Numbers 24:2-9,15-25), Samuel (1 Samuel 3:15) and many others. Typically in the Old Testament, the prophets who saw visions were called seers (2 Chronicles 9:29).

In a vision, you can see angels (Daniel 9:21; Luke 1:11-22; Luke 24:23; Acts 10:3), see into the spiritual realm (2 Kings 2:12; 2 Kings 6:17), see into other locations in the natural realm (2 Kings 5:26), see into heaven (Isaiah 6:1-4; Acts 7:55-56). Others around may not see what you see (Daniel 10:1,7)

God can use visions He gives us to guide and direct us. We see in the book of Acts, God using different kinds of visions to provide guidance and direction to His people. God can and does still speak to His people through visions.

There are different kinds of visions that we see in Scripture:

### **1) Spiritual vision**

This is the most common, where God reveals things to us and we see with the eyes of our spirit. We may see pictures, we may see into things in the spirit realm, we may see into the hearts of people, etc.

God directed Ananias to go to Saul and informed Saul that someone was coming to him (Acts 9:10-12).



Cornelius was directed to call for Peter (Acts 10:3).  
Paul was called into Macedonia to preach the Gospel (Acts 16:9-10).

### **2) Trance**

This is where we temporarily lose consciousness of the natural world, while we are seeing something in the spiritual realm

Peter sees a vision when in a trance (Acts 10:17-19; Acts 11:5).

### **3) Open vision**

This is where you are seeing clearly in the spiritual realm and at the same time very aware of the natural world around you

Peter, James and John saw a open vision of Jesus transfigured, with Moses and Elijah on the mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9).

### **4) Travel in visions**

This is where you are travelling and going places in the natural world or spiritual world in visions. Your spirit, soul and body is in one place, but you are 'travelling' in a vision geographically and as well as in time - into the past or into the future.

Many of prophet Ezekiel's experiences were like this (Ezekiel 8:3 Ezekiel 11:24 Ezekiel 40:2 Ezekiel 43:3).

Daniel was also transported in a vision and saw what was going to happen in the future (Daniel 8).

### **5) Transported in spirit**

This is where your spirit leaves the body and travels and observes things in the natural and spiritual world.

Paul was caught up to the third heavens (2 Corinthians 12:1-3).

John was caught up to heaven (Revelation 4:1-2).

### **Let's Be Open To This Work Of The Spirit**

Spiritual vision, is the most common which all of us as believers experience often. This is how the revelation gifts of the Holy Spirit operate.

## **6. PROPHECIES**



Prophecy is speaking a message from God inspired by the Holy Spirit. Prophecy is one of the gifts of the Spirit available for all believers. This gift of prophecy is used to bring edification, exhortation and comfort to people (1 Corinthians 14:3). There are some who are called as prophets in the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11).

**1 Corinthians 14:3**

**But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:20-21**

**20 Do not despise prophecies.**

**21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.**

All prophecy must be tested.

Test the source of the inspiration. Is the person truly speaking from God, from their own thoughts or is it from a demonic source?

Test the validity of the message given in prophecy. Is the message in harmony with written Scripture? Is the message exalting Jesus Christ? Is there a Holy Spirit witness in my spirit to message? Is this message aligned to what God has spoken to me through other ways?

Understand the timing of the message.

**Prophetic Confirmation**

God can use prophecy to bring confirmation of what He has been speaking to us.

**Prophetic Direction**

God can use prophecy to show us what He wants us to do.

**Prophetic Revelation**

God can use prophecy to reveal things about the future so that we can prepare ourselves.

Don't go around seeking for prophecies. Let God speak to you at the time and through whom He chooses.

**7. ANGELS**

We are still living in the Church Age, that is in the same dispensation (or age, or time in God's calendar) as the Church that was born on the Day of Pentecost. Definitely we are closer towards the end of the Last Days than the Church at Pentecost, but we are still in



the Church Age. Angels were active during Bible times and during the time of the Early Church and they are still active.

**Hebrews 1:14**

**Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**

We see in both the Old and New Testaments God using angels to send messages to His people to guide them, direct them, reveal what God was planning to do and explain the meaning of the visions they received from God.

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream instructing him to take Mary as his wife and not put her away (Matthew 1:18-24).

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and instructed him to go to Egypt with Mary and the baby Jesus for safety (Matthew 2:13-15).

We see a lot of angelic activity in the Early Church as recorded for us in Acts.

- ✓ An angel delivered Peter from prison and instructed him to go preach in the Temple (Acts 5:19-20).
- ✓ An angel directed Philip to go down to Gaza (Acts 8:26) where Philip preached the Gospel to the man from Ethiopia.
- ✓ An angel appeared to Cornelius and directed him to send for Peter to hear the Gospel (Acts 10:1-7).
- ✓ An angel released Peter from his chains and took him out of prison (Acts 12:7-10).
- ✓ An angel struck Herod and he died (Acts 12:23).
- ✓ An angel appeared to Paul while on sail to Rome and assured him that no life would be lost even though the ship was going to be damaged and that Paul would appear before Caesar (Acts 27:22-25).

Angels can appear to us and speak audibly, or they can speak to us in dreams. Therefore we conclude that angels can influence our thoughts or put thoughts into our mind (similar to how demons tempt us). Angels can speak and we hear with the ears of our spirit. Angels minister to us even when they are unseen. You can hear angels even when they are unseen.





Warning :

We do not worship angels.

We do not seek after angelic visitations.

We must discern angelic visitations.

We ask God for the assistance of His angels.

We speak God's promises declaring what His angels do for us.

MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Sunday May 19, 2019**  
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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

**Preparation**

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at [apcwo.org/sermons](http://apcwo.org/sermons). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**Welcome**

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

**LISTEN to God's Word**

Read the following Scripture passages: *Acts 2:17-18; Job 33:14-18; 1 Corinthians 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21; Hebrews 1:14*

**INVESTIGATE God's Word Together**

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

*1) Recall a dream where you know God was speaking to you. How did you recognize that this was a dream from God? What did you do about that dream? Did it help you in any way?*

*2) Have you experienced what we have called a "spiritual vision"? How did you know this was from God? How did it help you in your decision making?*

*3) Have you received a prophecy spoken over you that really helped you? How did you know this was from God? Share what God did in your life through the prophecy?*



*4) Did you at any time see or sense an angel of God around you? Have you at any time experienced supernatural intervention (protection from danger, re-direction of what you were going to do, an unusual idea or thought coming - message - coming to you which you knew was from God), and felt that this could have been because of an angel of God ministering to you?*

*5) Pray and ask God to increase dreams, visions, prophecies and angelic encounters for all in your group and for all of us in the local church.*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

#### **FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey**

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

#### **ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another**

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

*1, families to be protected and strengthened*

*2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

*3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>