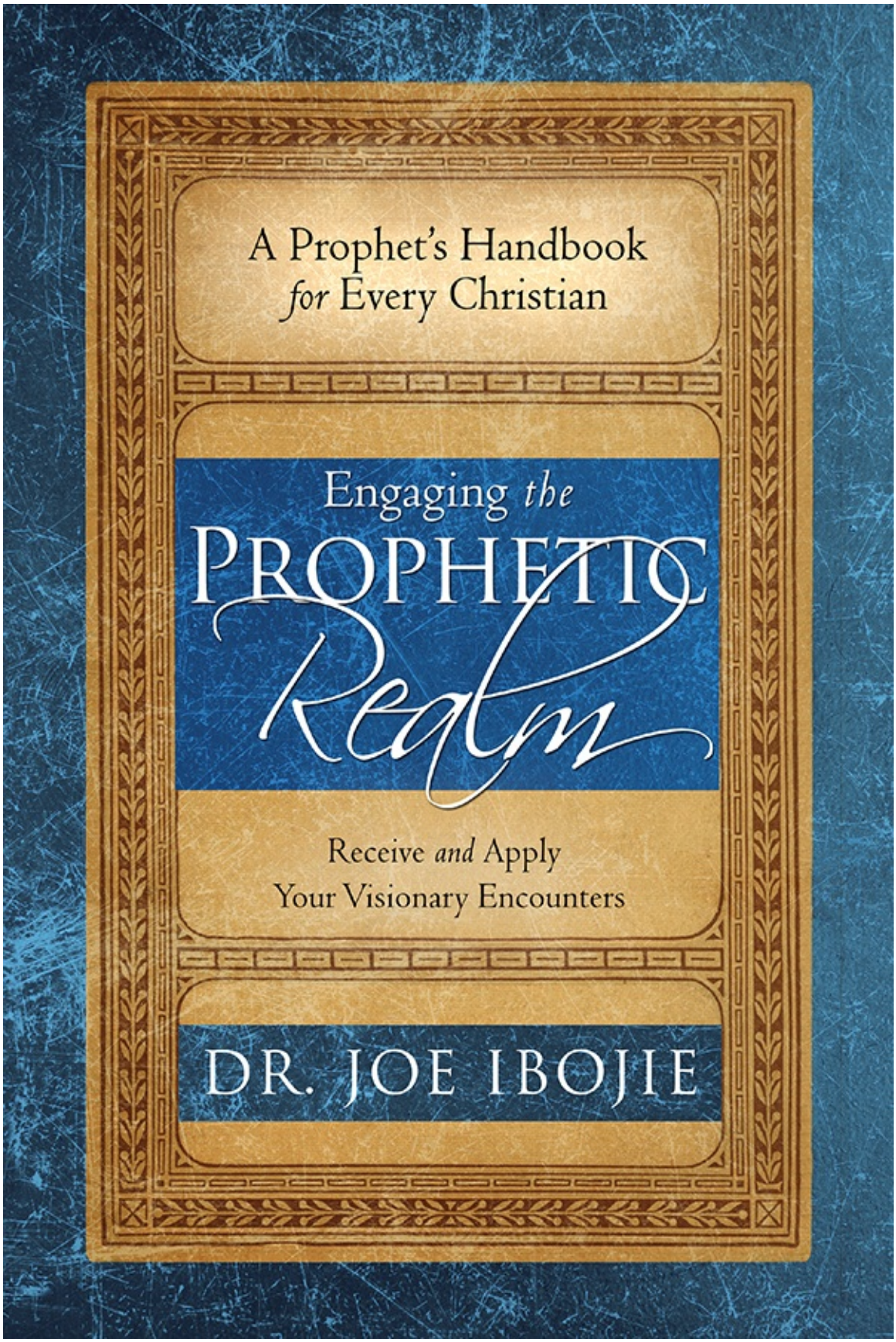
A Prophet's Handbook *for* Every Christian

Engaging *the* PROPHETIC *Realm*

Receive *and* Apply
Your Visionary Encounters

DR. JOE IBOJIE


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Books by
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About the Author

Introduction

At various times in the past I have written on the fascinating subject of *visions*, but more recently I have been prompted by God to put together as a stand-alone subject, revelations on visions endowed to me over many years of walking with the Holy Spirit. This book is the result of God's prompting.

There are many ways God speaks to humankind. The key is to hear Him whichever way He may choose to speak to you. This is fundamental to the essence of our walk with the Holy Spirit. To hear Him we need to be in the Spirit because God is Spirit and our spirits bear witness with the Spirit of God; and as the Bible says, those who worship Him must do so in Spirit and in truth. Being in the Spirit is the conduit to hearing the voice of God, irrespective of where you may be. One of the ways we hear from God is through dreams and visions.

Many people receive messages from God by visions and visionary encounters, as do many by dreams, and often the two are interwoven and may be hard to delineate one from the other. But they are not mutually exclusive. Sometimes the effort to distinguish visions from dreams has taken undue prominence, almost undermining the focus on understanding what is being released from the throne of Heaven.

For a great majority of people, the ability to recall and remember dreams diminishes with age—but with visions, the capacity to receive by visions and have visionary experiences not only increases with age but actually gets better, so the scope of visions, therefore, becomes limitless. As in the days of the prophet Hosea when God said, *"…I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets"* (Hosea 12:10 KJV), God is still speaking to us these days in ***multiplied visions and similitude,*** which in practical terms means diverse metaphoric illustrations, signs, and symbols through the ministry of the prophets.

Many people can experience visions without realizing it; and even when they might be conscious of the supernaturalness of the encounter, they fail to realize it is visionary in nature and therefore miss the wider implications.

Visions cover a wide spectrum of supernatural occurrences ranging from a mere sight to an almost cinematographic happening—from being purely auditory

to being purely aromatic (sense of smell) perception. Visions can be tangible physical interactions with the natural realm and may include differing involvements of the human body. It also covers indeterminacy between physical realities and supernatural happenings and between being awake and being asleep.

I believe the full spectrum of visionary encounters is not fully appreciated by many saints of God so they are not able to tap into the full blessings of their visionary experiences. Visions can involve the totality of the human being—body, soul, and spirit—such that a vision can sometimes be perceived through the natural senses if the vision has penetrated the natural realm. This means that depending on the nature of the visionary occurrence, the vision can be seen, heard, touched, or smelled! Though most visions are predominantly visual, sometimes the visual component of a visionary encounter may be so infinitesimal that it is negligible and missed (read 1 Samuel 3:1-15).

I have had many twilight visionary encounters in my walk with God, particularly when about to drift off to sleep. More recently with the help of the Holy Spirit, I have engaged more intimately with God to channel these experiences into very valuable conversations with our Father. This topic is covered in the chapter titled Intimate Moments with God.

The Bible says spiritual exercises are more valuable than physical exercises, but many tend to neglect this as they pay more attention to physical and intellectual exercises. The onus rests on us to engage with God to bring us to the fullness of all the great potentials inherent in each person. This onus—duty or responsibility—is expanded on throughout the following pages of this book.

Included at the end of each chapter are sample interpretation exercises to sharpen your skills for understanding dreams and visions. They are designed to act as preliminary launching models for your thoughtful and wise approach to understanding your own very specific dreams and visions.

There is a growing number of people asking questions that can no longer be ignored regarding visions. They need godly answers from the church, or they will be driven to the open arms of the devil or his agents.

This book is written to draw attention to these pertinent queries while brokering the way forward to the reception, understanding, and application of visions for the edification of the body of Christ! I pray that as you read this book you will find a narrative akin to your story and experience, for I believe the greatness of any one of us is in the story of each of our lives.

1

Visions of God

A vision is the visual reception of revelation or visual perception of a supernatural event—usually perceived by spiritual eyes. The Amplified Bible (Classic Edition) refers to visions as "divinely granted appearances" in Acts 2:17. Therefore, true visions are initiated by God, but the actions of humans can enhance our ability to receive visions, further the progression of the discussion with God, and encourage more revelations from God.

And it shall come to pass in the last days, God declares, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy [telling forth the divine counsels] and your young men shall see visions ***(divinely granted appearances)****, and your old men shall dream [divinely suggested] dreams* (Acts 2:17 AMPC).

One inference from this is that as Christians we should not seek after visions as many non-Christians do. Many do this in the name of "visionary quest." But we should seek after God realizing that it is at God's initiative that spiritual experiences—including visions—are *divinely granted.*

Visions are usually seen with spiritual eyes. Visions encompass a wide spectrum of spiritual occurrences that have differing involvement of the natural realm and could involve the human body in tangible ways. There is great interplay between the supernatural and natural realms in most visionary encounters.

How Visions Are Received

Unlike dreams, visions can be received with our natural eyes wide open and our minds fully alert, though the reception is predominantly in the human spirit.

Thus, a person can receive a vision in the spirit but with varying involvement of the human mind and body. In this way, a vision can therefore sometimes be perceived through the natural senses if the vision has penetrated the natural

realm as in an apparition. An apparition is when the supernatural happening has permeated the physical realm sufficiently enough that it can be perceived with the natural senses and even experienced tangibly. Therefore, depending on the level of the permeation of the physical nature by the visionary occurrence, the vision can be seen, heard, touched, or smelled!

The elements of a vision are offered in the following graphic.

THE COMPONENTS OF A VISION	
1. Objects	**10. Pattern**
2. People	**11. Recurrences**
3. Context	**12. Timing**
4. Background	**13. God**
5. Atmosphere	**14. Angels/Demons**
6. Feelings/Thoughts	**15. Penetrance of the Natural Realm**
7. Writing	**16. Perceptibility in the Natural Realm (Sight, Smell and Touch)**
8. Spoken Word	**17. Involvement of the Human Body (Healing or Affliction)**
9. Internal Component	

Studying the elements of a vision can reveal a better understanding of the vision and clues to its interpretation. Below are expatiations on some of the elements of a vision:

Objects: Objects are anything perceptible, something that can be seen or felt; a material thing. Every object in a vision has a purpose, and it is solely God's prerogative to choose the objects in a vision. Many objects in a vision may point to the focus of the message or direct attention to the right focus. Any object out of the usual or out of the expected may indicate something unexpected.

People: The majority of people in visions may be literal, but many are symbolic. The essence is usually about what you know about the person. For instance, seeing an abusive boss from your previous employment may indicate a person with similar traits in your current circumstance.

Context: The context is the vision's atmosphere and somehow the context can foretell the mood of the people or the tendency of the events when the vision is being fulfilled, such as the eventual joy or sadness that may prevail. Scenes of confusion or forgetfulness may often indicate inner uncertainty or indecision at the time of fulfillment. Urgency with which events might have occurred may be "event-play" (just as we have word-play) that indicates the need for speed in real life to avoid missing divinely set timing. Take note of the concluding emotion that prevailed in the vision or concluding statement that the visionary woke up with, as this may indicate the visionary's ultimate response at the fulfillment of the vision.

Feelings/Thoughts: Feelings or thoughts experienced during the visionary encounter may indicate what lies beneath the surface that might not be immediately obvious or divine prompting. Any lingering emotion from the vision that is something from the visionary encounter that sticks with the visionary should be noted, such as experienced by the prophet Daniel: *"I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell—the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully"* (Daniel 7:20). Inappropriate responses may be to draw the visionary's attention to what may otherwise have gone unnoticed or that things that may not be what they appear to be on the surface. Conversely, the inappropriateness may, in fact, be the true thing that has been covered up. It may also hint at the symbolic nature of the vision.

Incongruous feeling on the part of the visionary or incongruous reaction from other people may mean to be careful, things may not be what they seem; or it may be to alert the visionary to the symbolic nature of the vision. Scenes that portray surprises of either pleasantness or unpleasantness are often clues to help with interpretation.

Spoken Word: Vision phrases are often heard and they are to be carefully studied in line with the Word of God. Each phrase should be recorded exactly as heard. They may be divine insights into a situation that run far beyond the limits of human verbal communication. However, revelatory phrases that run contrary to the Scriptures are *not* from God, no matter how smooth, appropriate, alluring, and wise they may sound.

The different types of phrases that commonly occur in visions include:

- *Decreed events*; things that are ordained to happen, regardless of human

action.

- *Proclamations of paradigm shift*; announcing to humankind the need to prepare or adjust for what God wants to do or is doing.
- *Persistent echo*: to provide a lingering echo, or a soft, gentle, and persistent reminder.

The various sources of the voice in visions include the:

- voice of God and His messengers
- voice of other people
- voice of the devil and his agents

Interplay of Visions and the Physical Nature

The book of Exodus tells us how Moses had a *strange* visionary experience in the wilderness. This visionary (supernatural) experience of a bush on fire that blended with the natural surrounding; it was burning yet was not consumed:

> *There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and* ***see this strange sight****—why the bush does not burn up"* (Exodus 3:2-3).

My Personal Experience

—A Vision of Angels on Assignment—

Many years ago I was going to travel to the USA from the UK for a ministry assignment; but just before I left, my wife gave birth to our youngest child by cesarean section. I contemplated not going on the trip. During the night following the birth of our child, I had a visionary encounter that showed a remarkable interface and interplay between the natural (physical) realm and the spiritual realm. In this encounter, certain men came to me and informed me that they had been sent to take care of my house and wanted to know where the gas and electricity meters were located.

I took "these men" to the basement of our home and showed them the

meters, and then brought them back to our living room on the ground floor. I then proceeded to return to our bedroom situated on the first floor. I woke up (or came to my natural consciousness) while on the staircase. I then realized I was in a visionary encounter and rushed to the living room—the men were nowhere to be found. I concluded that the Lord had sent His angels to take care of my house.

Visions are spiritual encounters with differing points of involvement in the physical realm. In some Scripture examples, people who had visions were left with residual, physical evidence of the encounter. Unlike dreams—in which encounters are on a purely individual basis—visions can be corporate because of the involvement in the natural realm. In Genesis, Jacob had a visionary encounter with an angel that left him with a physical deformity:

> *So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man* (Genesis 32:24-25).

Paul described a visionary experience in which he was not sure whether he was in the body:

> *I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heavens. Whether it was in the body of out of the body I do not know—God knows. And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell* (2 Corinthians 12:2-4).

When a visionary happening has sufficiently permeated the physical realm such that it becomes perceptible by the natural eyes, it is then called an *apparition*.

The degree to which a person is able to perceive a visionary occurrence depends on a few factors, including the following two:

The number one factor is the God-factor. All true visions or visionary encounters are initiated by God. Any visions or visionary encounter induced by other means is false or counterfeit, a hallucination. God gives visions to achieve a purpose; hence, that may influence when and who actually receive or participate in the vision and to what extent participation is granted (read Numbers 22:23-31).

Second, and to a large extent, the perception of visionary occurrence is

proportional to the spiritual visual acuity (ability to see into the spirit realm) of the person. Thus, a person with well-matured spiritual acuity will be able to see a vision that other people are not able to see. This accounts for the variable perception of vision among the people receiving a corporate vision.

For example, in the case of Elisha and his servant, Elisha's servant could not see the vision of the chariots of fire and the horses of fire around Elisha, even though the prophet himself could see them. The prophet had a more mature spiritual visual acuity than his servant, among other factors. But the servant was subsequently able to see them when the prophet Elisha prayed for him—and his spiritual eyes opened and were upgraded (see 2 Kings 6:15-17). Prayers instantly and divinely increased his spiritual visual acuity.

VISIONARY APPEARANCES

Visionary appearances can take various forms including those with a significant auditory perception component, such as the one that young Samuel had during the time of his tutelage under Eli:

> *Then the Lord called Samuel.*
>
> *Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."*
>
> *But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.*
>
> *Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."*
>
> *"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."*
>
> *Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.*
>
> *A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."*
>
> *Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.*

The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:4-10).

There are the uncommon ones such as the transfiguration of Jesus:

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead" (Matthew 17:1-9).

And there are the life-transforming encounters like the one that Paul experienced on his way to Damascus:

As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor

drank (Acts 9:3-9 NKJV).

Various forms of visions have been used to call people to action:

- Encouraging visions; Genesis 46:1-5.
- Visions with significant auditory component; 1 Samuel 3:10-15.
- A call to action; the Macedonian call; Acts 16:6-10.
- Warning vision; Acts 18:9, Acts 22:17-21.
- Life-transforming vision; Paul's experience on the way to Damascus; Acts 9:3-9.
- A call to destiny; Moses' burning bush experience; Exodus 3:1-10.
- Visions of divine judgment; the mysterious hand writing on the wall (apparitions); Daniel 5:5-7.
- Trances, a twilight state; Acts 10:9-17.
- Third heaven experiences; 2 Corinthians 12:1-5.

Capacity for Spiritual Sight

Capacity for spiritual sight is inherent in everyone, but sanctified access to the third heaven is built on Jesus Christ.

Everyone has the capacity to see into the spirit realm, whether apostle Paul who wrote, *"Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple*, ***that I was in a trance and saw Him saying to me****, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me'"* (Acts 22:17-18 NKJV), or the wicked King Nebuchadnezzar who said, *"Look!" he answered,* ***"I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God"*** (Daniel 3:25 NKJV), but Jesus spoke of the sanctified route of open heavens in John 1:51, *"Very truly I tell you, you will see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ described the essence of New Testament teaching on the concept of open heavens. Jesus was talking with Nathanael:

> *Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I*

said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man" (John 1:49-51 NKJV).

Indeed, by the death of Jesus the veil to the Most Holy Place was torn; and by His resurrection, access to the heavens was established. This is without geographical limitation or time restriction! The key requirements are salvation and faith in Jesus; then access to the heavens is granted and built upon Jesus.

As Christians, our open heaven is built on Jesus Christ, by whom we have access to the third heaven!

The following are visions received by Gentiles that are cited in the Bible.

VISIONS RECEIVED BY GENTILES

VISIONS	COMMENTS/LESSONS
Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, your Majesty." He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods" **(Daniel 3:24-25).**	**Nebuchadnezzar's vision. In this encounter, the king was compelled to acknowledge the supremacy of the Lord God, *"Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way"* (Daniel 3:29).**
Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the Moabite officials. But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the Lord stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, it turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat it to get it back on the road.	**Balaam's vision.** **In this encounter, God demonstrated to Balaam that though the gift and callings of God are irrevocable, if used contrary to God's purpose, they can be frustrated or cursed:**
Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path through the vineyards, with walls on both sides. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against it. So he beat the	***"…For the Lord had determined to frustrate the good advice of Ahithophel in order to bring disaster on Absalom"* (1 Samuel 17:14).**

donkey again. Then the angel of the Lord moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat it with his staff. Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?" Balaam answered the donkey, "You have made a fool of me! If only I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now." ***The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?" "No," he said. Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown*** **(Daniel 22:21-31)**	***"There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord"*** **(Proverbs 21:30).** **And Balaam was rebuked by a mere donkey.**
At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" ***Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea"*** **(Acts 10:1-6).**	**Cornelius' vision.** **Cornelius was a devout and God-fearing man, so his righteousness spoke for him in a time of need, which is reminiscent of what Jacob said,** ***"So my righteousness will answer for me in time to come…"*** **(Genesis 30:33).**
In disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones shake. Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair on my body stood up. It stood still, but I could not discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes; there was silence; then I heard a voice saying: "Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker?" **(Job 4:13-17 NKJV)**	**Eliphaz's vision.** **God showed that no man can be more righteous than God.**
King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. So they brought in the gold goblets that had been	**Belshazzar's vision.** **This encounter shows the public humiliation for the arrogant and blasphemous King Belshazzar.**

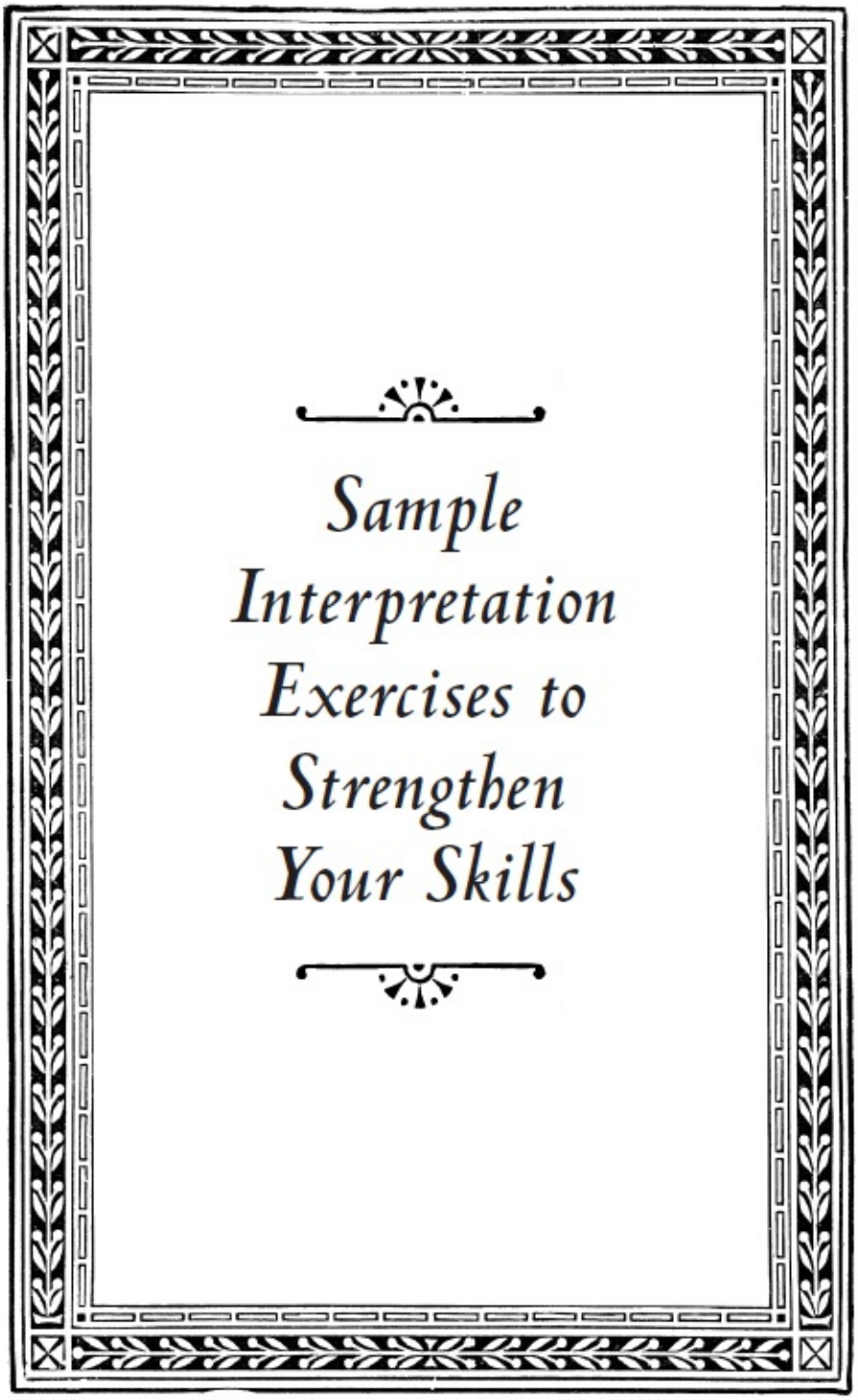
taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone. Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees were knocking **(Daniel 5:1-6).**	

ACTIVATION EXERCISE 

—Open Heaven Activation—

(Scripture reference: Ezekiel 1:1-3)

- Ask God to open heaven upon you.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to grant you grace and the capacity to receive and perceive the opening.
- Listen in your spirit, in quietness and stillness.
- Note what you may sense, see, or hear.
- Ask for understanding of the things revealed.
- Write down what you have experienced.
- Repeat this exercise as often as possible.


Sample
Interpretation
Exercises to
Strengthen
Your Skills

In many of the chapters, you will find personal examples of dreams and visions from my life and the lives of others who have allowed me to share their dreams and visions and subsequent interpretations. These dreams and visions and their interpretations were chosen because subsequent events in the lives of the recipients have confirmed the interpretations. They can therefore be used as preliminary launching pads for your own thoughtful interpretations based on your specific dreams and visions.

SOME KEYNOTES ON INTERPRETATION

- Interpretation is a confirmation of what God has imparted to the spirit of the recipient.
- Every dream or vision comes with its meaning, but this meaning is sealed in the spirit of the recipient until the appropriate time for the meaning to unfold to the recipient's mind: *"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 NKJV).
- Keep the interpretation simple, concise, and short, not overbearing.
- Don't argue with the recipient if the interpretation does not resonate with his or her spirit.
- A true interpretation has the capacity and power to break any wrong mindset.
- Every symbol in a dream or vision is relevant to the full understanding of the message, but some symbol meaning may not be immediately obvious and may only unfold at the time of fulfillment. Therefore, a true interpretation is a general overview of the meaning of the message that allows the recipient when necessary at a later time to fill in further details as the Lord unfolds them without contradictions.
- The essence is to give a true panoramic view of the message, usable by the Holy Spirit to direct the recipient.
- Only God has 100 percent understanding of any dream or vision; our understanding unfolds in stages and with time at the discretion of God.
- When interpreting for other people, remember that interpretation is not the interpreter's prophetic word to the recipient, because a dream or

vision is God's direct prophetic word to the recipient. A word of prophecy (or the prophetic word) is what speaks to or addresses or opens up the situation and this comes from God in the dream or vision. The interpreter helps the recipient understand the message by giving the word of wisdom (what gives the reason for or strategy to the situation). When these two are confused, the interpretation may not resonate with the spirit of the recipient. See examples of Joseph and Daniel interpretations below:

- The interpreter can bring the prophetic word or prophetic forthtelling only after the interpretation, and often should let the recipient know that it is prophetic counseling:
    - Joseph's ***interpretation (word of wisdom)*** to Pharaoh – Genesis 41:25-32
    - Joseph's ***prophetic word or counseling*** – Genesis 41:33-36
    - Daniel's ***interpretation (word of wisdom)*** to Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 4:19-26
    - Daniel's ***prophetic word or counseling*** – Daniel 4:27
- Give the interpretation with the love of God.

DREAM AND VISION 1

—Outer Space Experience—

Once I was caught up into a visionary experience in which I was in the company of a celestial being and was being transported to outer space and shown many places including, I believe, the stellar bodies. The means of transportation was not clear to me, but this being and I sat on what looked like a motor bike but without an engine. It had no covering, so we could see the earth beneath. There was no fear whatsoever!

He showed me many places around the world including many parts of Africa. Then he took me to a place that I think was the moon. It was a pleasurable trip; after a while, he said it was time to return to my usual abode. I wanted the ride to continue a little longer, but suddenly it seemed as if I was dropped back to the earth.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Transport
- Outer space
- No fear
- Moon
- Like a motor bike
- Places

—Interpretation—

This was a *call and impartation visionary encounter.* The recipient was being called and imparted with a capacity to train for the ministry. The visionary was shown places where the ministry would particularly influence; the celestial being was an angel of God. This call included the impartation of the grace for understanding of the dark sayings of God, the mysteries of God—in that the moon is designed to rule the night: *"God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars"* (Genesis 1:16).

DREAM AND VISION 2

—Vision of Christ—

I was at an uncle's house in Guyana, helping with cleaning routines. Suddenly the roof of the house was opened above me; I saw Jesus Christ in His magnificent appearance. High up, as though in an open expanse of some sort, there were golden rays of light all around Him, and glorious light radiated from Him. He reached His right hand downward, beckoning me to come to Him. He was dressed in a pure white robe; the robe was flowing in the wind about Him and His face glowed like the sun.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Guyana

- Helping with cleaning routines
- Suddenly the roof was opened
- Jesus Christ
- Jesus' appearance
- Golden rays
- Reached out His hand
- Dressed in pure white robe

—Interpretation—

This vision was a call (beckoning) and impartation (golden rays of light) encounter. The Bible says: *"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts…"* (Hebrews 3:15). In light of this biblical admonition, the recipient should answer the call and will receive grace for the ministry, especially in the place of obedience and current service (helping with cleaning routines). The cleaning routines also indicate the dreamer has an anointing for intercession. The eventual ministry will be an open-heaven ministry endowed with abundant revelations from God. This encounter also speaks of endowment with favor to train for an open-heaven ministry. Guyana will be one of the places of maximum influence.

DREAM AND VISION 3

—Dream of People on Earth—

I dreamt I was being accompanied by an individual who was guiding me to various sites. In this dream, I was taken up into the sky, and I seemed to be surveying the activities of people on the earth. I hovered high up in the clouds and looked down at entire communities. I was taken to what seemed to be a community, and I was hovering in the clouds; people were living in tents in highlands and open land spaces. I could leap from one tent to the next, across the land, watching the activities of the people. For example, one young person was smoking marijuana in one tent, while in another a child was crying, and in another tent a couple were fighting, etc. I woke up amazed at my abilities in that dream; I wondered what it all meant.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- An individual
- Sky
- Taken up, hovering above
- Surveying the activities of people
- Community
- Tents
- Able to see what people were doing in the tents

—Interpretation—

This is a call to watchman anointing. The person is being equipped to watch over specific people and places and imparted with a supernatural ability to see what most other people are not able to see. This includes the anointing to warn those in sin to turn from evil ways and to encourage those in the right to continue their righteousness: *"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me…"* (Ezekiel 3:17-21).

2

Preparing to See with the Eyes of Faith

As noted in Chapter 1, the Amplified Bible refers to visions as "divinely granted appearances":

> *"And it shall come to pass in the last days, God declares, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy [telling forth the divine counsels] and your young men shall see visions (divinely granted appearances), and your old men shall dream [divinely suggested] dreams (*Acts 2:17 AMPC).

Visions are usually seen with spiritual eyes.

What are Spiritual Eyes?

Spiritual eyes are parts of the human spirit. Humans are made up of body, soul, and spirit:

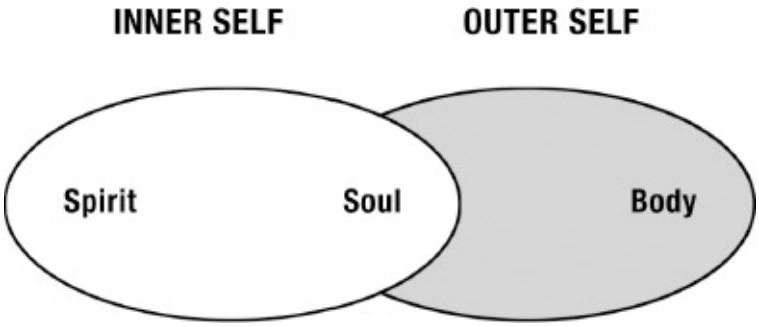
> *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

The *body* is the mortal, material part of a human being that is formed from the dust of the earth. This is the seat of the natural realm in you and is where physical interactions with the fallen world take place. This is also the seat of the *natural* eyes and other *natural* senses.

The *human spirit* is the immortal, nonmaterial part of a human being, formed from the breath of God. This is the seat of the spiritual realm, your center and the cardinal means of communion with God. This is also the seat of the *spiritual* eyes and other *spiritual* senses.

The *soul* is the mortal, nonmaterial part of a human being that provides

means of interaction between the body and the spirit. This is the seat of your *relational* issues.



Unlike pure dream experiences, visions can involve the totality of the human being—body, soul, and spirit.

SPIRITUAL SENSES

Spiritual senses are operative from our spirit, also known as the senses of our faith. Our *natural* senses are operative from our natural body and are limited in the dimensions of time, space, height, and depth. However, there are no limitations with perception using the pure and unpolluted spiritual senses. Prophetic utterances are also multidimensional in dynamics and are perceived using spiritual senses. Spiritual senses transcend the limits of the human mind and natural senses.

We can all see into the spirit but with varying ability and easiness. There is a great degree of variableness in the giftedness to see into the spirit. Many people are highly gifted and can therefore routinely and spontaneously see with ease into the spirit. Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Daniel are good examples of people in this category. Of the prophet Jeremiah, God said, *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations"* (Jeremiah 1:5).

For Jeremiah, his was a high degree of giftedness, and he was appointed a prophet from a very early age with little or no preparation. Such people with a high degree of giftedness can see into the supernatural realm as easily as they see in the physical and natural world in which we live. While for others to attain a proficiency in seeing into the spirit will come only with training and practice. Nevertheless, we know that God is able meet everyone at his or her level of giftedness.

By far, the majority of people will need to train before becoming proficient in seeing into the spirit. This is the essence of this chapter. The life and ministry of the prophet Samuel epitomizes the category of those who trained and became extraordinarily proficient in seeing into the spirit realm. Though he started off not knowing the voice of God, Samuel later became a renowned prophet and was accredited with starting the first school of prophets in the Old Testament:

> *Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. …The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word. And Samuel's word came to all Israel…* (1 Samuel 3:7,19-21; 4:1).

Whether highly gifted or not, everyone needs practice to mature in the art of using spiritual sight: *"But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil"* (Hebrews 5:14).

Seeing with Eyes of Faith

Our spiritual senses are every bit as real as our natural senses, though many believers are unaware of this. We need to train our spiritual senses just as we train our natural senses and pray to God for guidance. That is why the apostle Paul prayed for the saints of God saying, "*that **the eyes of your heart** may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people"* (Ephesians 1:18). The potential to see into the spirit is inherent in everyone, but we need to learn how to plug into it. The eyes of the heart or eyes of faith exist in everyone, but those eyes may be shut, lie dormant, until we tap into that part of us.

The spiritual eyes (the eyes of your faith or heart) and the natural eyes are both real but distinct from each other. They are interconnected and may influence one another.

Most people find it easier to use their spiritual eyes when the natural eyes are closed. This is because our natural eyes dominate our senses, allowing millions of sights to flood into our minds, souls, and spirits with every blink. With giftedness and experience, though, many can see into the spirit with their natural eyes wide open.

For instance, with his natural eyes wide open but in deep reflection, Moses saw with the eyes of faith:

> *By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because* ***he was looking ahead*** *to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because* ***he saw him who is invisible*** (Hebrews 11:24-27).

ACTIVATION 

Activation is a spiritual exercise designed to stir up a potential into action or to make a stagnant gift flow more freely.

Activation of spiritual eyes can follow God's sovereign intervention as in the life of Jeremiah:

> *Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." The word of the Lord came to me: "****What do you see,*** *Jeremiah?"* ***"I see the branch of an almond tree****," I replied. The Lord said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled"* (Jeremiah 1:9-12).

After God had touched Jeremiah's mouth and given him instruction, He asked Jeremiah what he could see. This is divine activation of the seer's realm (more about "seers" in an upcoming chapter).

However, it is more common to train to activate our spiritual eyes as one approved by God, a worker fit for the Master's use. This is why the Bible says:

> *Do your best to present yourself to God as* ***one approved, a worker*** *who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. …In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes,* ***made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work****"* (2 Timothy 2:15,20-21).

We should endeavor to apply this principle in our personal exercises to activate our spiritual eyes.

Key Factors that Enhance Activation of Spiritual Eyes

To activate your spiritual eyes simply means performing spiritual exercises that will stir up or enable your spiritual eyes to receive from God (revelations from God) by pictures. The Bible says, *"The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant"* (Psalm 25:14 NKJV). Obedience and the fear of God are prerequisites for easy activation of your spiritual eyes and entitle you to His secrets.

An intimate walk with God is also required as Job said, *"Oh, for the days when I was in my prime, when God's intimate friendship* [secrets] *blessed my house"* (Job 29:4). Jesus said only the pure in heart will see God (Matthew 5:8); by inference, purity of the heart is connected to the ability to see into the spirit realm. The book of Hebrews says, *"Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord"* (Hebrews 12:14). Holiness is vital to being able to use your spiritual sight.

Activation of the spiritual senses is also facilitated by praise and worship: *"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them'"* (Acts 13:2).

The following is a list of key factors that enhance activation of your spiritual eyes:

- Intimacy with God
- Holiness
- Penitence, fasting, and consecration
- Studying the Word of God, the Bible
- Prayerfulness
- Praise and worship
- The prevailing spiritual atmosphere
- Practice and constant use

Avoid the Dangers of Presumption

When you receive a picture or an image from God, don't assume things and don't try to match what you see to what you know or what you might be expecting. Wait and depend on God to grant you the meaning of the image.

Usually the first thing you receive from God is the invitation to a conversation with Him:

> *But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord. Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant. The word of the Lord came to me:* ***"What do you see, Jeremiah?" "I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied. The Lord said*** *to me,* ***"You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled"*** (Jeremiah 1:7-12).

> *Then* ***I looked up, and there before me were four horns***. ***I asked*** *the angel who was speaking to me, "What are these?"* ***He answered me****, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem"* (Zechariah 1:18-19).

> *The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and* ***I saw a great many bones*** *on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry.* ***He asked me****, "Son of man, can these bones live?"* ***I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know"*** (Ezekiel 37:1-3).

In all these examples, the picture or image received initiated conversation between God and the prophet. Rather than rushing into immediate and perhaps a presumptuous conclusion, each of these prophets engaged with God to reach God's ordained message and purpose.

When you receive any picture from God, talk to Him, ask Him to expand it and guide you to the fuller meaning and gain the wisdom of the revelation as with Zechariah:

> *I looked up, and was surprised by another vision: four horns! I asked the*

Messenger-Angel, "And what's the meaning of this?" He said, "These are the powers that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem abroad." ***Then God expanded the vision*** *to include four blacksmiths. I asked, "And what are these all about?" He said, "Since the 'horns' scattered Judah so badly that no one had any hope left, these blacksmiths have arrived to combat the horns. They'll dehorn the godless nations who used their horns to scatter Judah to the four winds"* (Zechariah 1:18-21 MSG).

How to Confirm The Communication Is from God

God speaks to us in a variety of ways: through the Bible; through dreams, visions, trances, visitations, and translations; through audible voice; and through other people.

There are four main ways people receive from God. Some are ***hearers***—their gift is predominantly in the ability to hear what God is saying. Some are ***feelers*** —they feel what God wants to communicate; for example, they feel pain in the part of their body where God wants to heal somebody. Some are ***seers***—they are gifted in the ability to see pictures, flashes of pictures, and dreams and visions on a constant basis. Others are ***spiritually sensitive*** enough to discern what God is saying by the spirit of discernment.

There are many communications or messages in the spirit world, but the message from God is recognizable only if the message is subjected to the following checks. Does the message:

- Lead you to greater intimacy with God?
- Lead to expression of love? (For God is love.)
- Put God's interest and the interest of others before personal benefit?
- Lead to greater manifestations of Christ-likeness?
- Lead to more humility? (It should *not* appeal to your ego.)
- Generate more joy, peace, and righteousness? (The Kingdom of God is love, peace, and righteousness in the Holy Spirit.)
- Lead to greater dependence on God?

- Line up with the written Word of God?

If it does, it's likely a message from God.

Also watch for:

- The peace of God that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7; Psalm 85:8)
- Supernatural favor (Psalm 44:3)
- Liberty, because where the Spirit of God is there is liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17)
- Divine strength and unquenchable drive (Judges 6:14; Jeremiah 20:9)

God, Visions, and The Recipient

True visions come from God to establish God's agenda on earth. For a person to receive visions from God, many factors come into play. These include the person's:

- Level of giftedness
- Preparedness
- Knowledge of the Word of God (studying the Bible)
- Prayerfulness
- Consecration
- Devotion to worship
- Divine assignment

God is not limited to what He may show in a vision. By and large the following are what you may expect to see in a vision, among others:

- Celestial visitations from the heavenly realm
- Angels and other God's messengers transiting through the heavenly realm
- Hell's assignments
- Spiritual warfare
- Revelation about people, places, and situations

- God’s purpose and agenda on earth

The Language of Pictures

The language of the Spirit is the language of pictures and symbolism—and no other book speaks in symbols more than the Bible. Pictures and symbolism are also the language of visions, and in several ways the language pattern in visions is akin to the pattern of speech used in the Bible. Some people have described the Old Testament as “the New Testament concealed” because of the extensive use of pictorial symbolism.

The language of reason is limited, whereas the language of a picture is infinite. Though a picture or symbol may be identified by one word, it may also take volumes of words to be comprehensively described. There is great depth and power to the language of pictures and symbolic actions. As the saying goes, “One picture is worth a thousand words.”

Children learn the language of pictures and symbols before they learn the language of words and reason. Humans think and process information in pictures. Picture language transcends the borders of age and education.

The Power of a Picture

Those who have understood the tremendous power of pictures and symbols have gained incredible insight into the mysteries of God, because God’s ways are wrapped up in the language of pictures and symbolism.

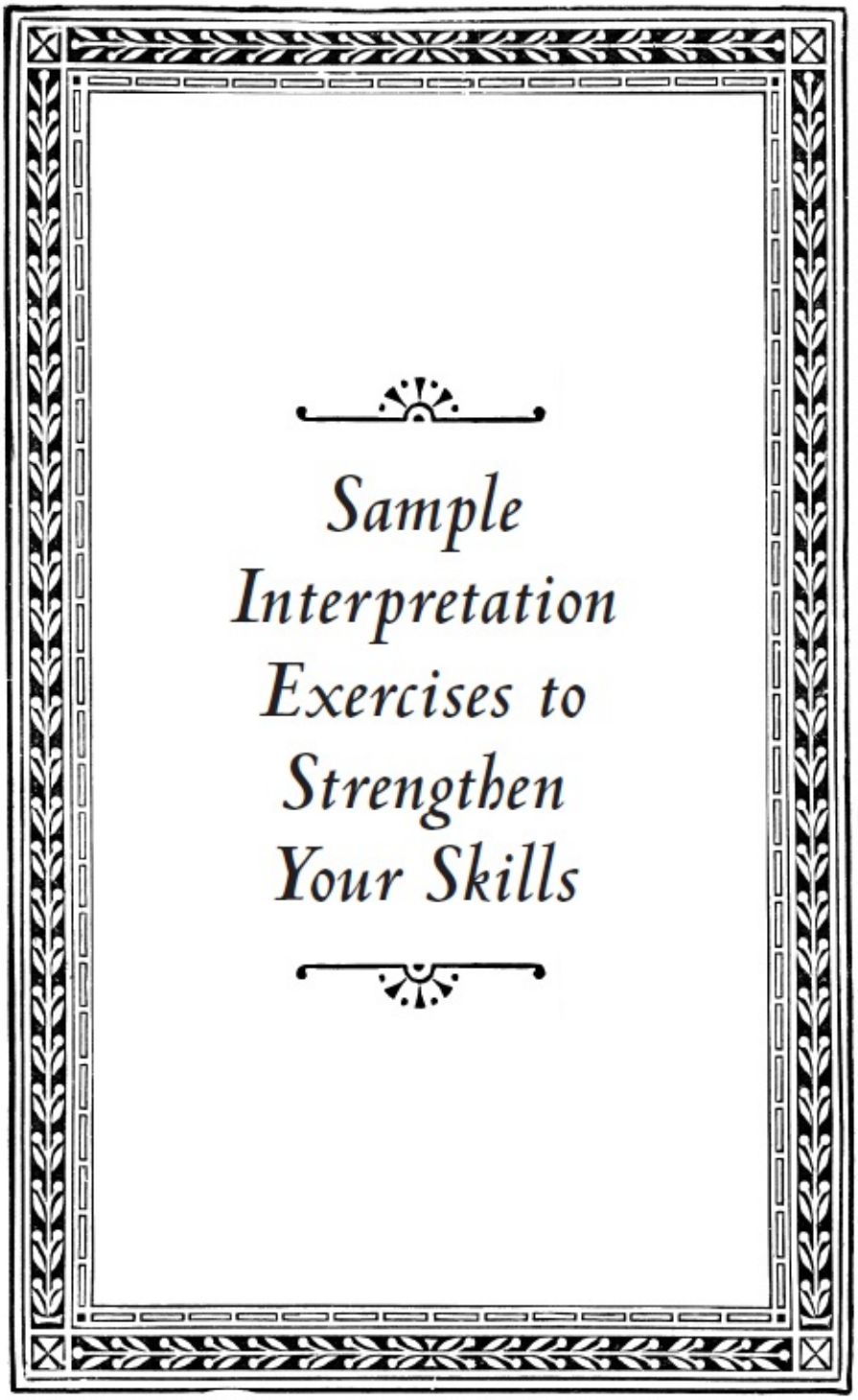
Human beings think in pictures and people need visual appreciation in order to grasp the essence of a concept. Symbols evoke powerful emotion and elicit strong passion; from generation to generation, politicians, philosophers, and religious leaders have used them to illustrate their points. For example, national commitment is symbolized in the pride and honor that is accorded to the national symbol in the form of a flag. Many would be outraged to see their flag dishonored, and public hatred is often demonstrated by the burning of an enemy’s national flag.

Activation Exercise 

The ability to use your spiritual eyes can be activated, upgraded, and

expanded. (More detailed information is in an upcoming chapter, How to Activate Your Spiritual Eyes.) The following exercises will help to activate and sharpen your spiritual senses.

1. In your mind, choose a topic you want to discuss with God.
2. Pray and intercede in tongues for a few seconds.
3. With your natural eyes firmly closed,
4. Take a deep breath and relax.
5. Ask God for what He is saying regarding the issue.
6. Notice the first picture that comes to you.
7. Notice any intrusion from your mind (doubts, insecurity, or distraction).
8. Wait for a few seconds for a gentle flow from the Holy Spirit (enhanced by peace and liberty).
9. Repeat with your natural eyes widely open.
10. Notice any difference in what you received with your eyes closed and with your eyes open.


Sample
Interpretation
Exercises to
Strengthen
Your Skills

DREAM AND VISION 4

—A Dream of Being 'Terminally Dead'—

It seemed like I was on the verge of waking and found myself standing in the company of a person I could not recognize. The person was wearing a whitish garment. Then I heard these words clearly from this person, "YOUR MOTHER IS TERMINALLY DEAD." Immediately I woke up.

Interaction with the dreamer indicates that the dreamer's mother is not a believer; and in spite of the efforts of the dreamer and another sibling, the mother is not receptive to the gospel of Christ.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Verge of waking up
- Company of a person
- Whitish garment
- "Your mother is terminally dead"

—Interpretation—

This dream was received in a twilight state.

The dream confirms that the dreamer's mother will eventually accept Christ as Lord and Savior, but toward the end of her life. It also means, therefore, efforts to minister to her should not be abandoned, despite her apparent lack of receptiveness to the gospel of Christ for (**flesh will die "terminally," meaning at the end**). But can also appeal to God to make it sooner by prayers. The Bible says: *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "**The righteous will live by faith**"* (Romans 1:16-17).

DREAM AND VISION 5

—Discerning Evil Presence—

I found myself in an environment where there were dim lights on wooden fire torches, a bonfire of sorts. I cannot exactly remember other people around, but there was a little girl walking toward me with her gaze fixed on me. She was about eight years of age with straight, blonde hair; she was wearing a long, whitish gown. I felt troubled in my spirit. When she came closer to embrace me, I felt my body shiver in fear. I reacted by pushing her backward; she fell on the ground. I could still feel my body shivering, goose pimples. I woke up.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- An environment
- Dim light
- Wooden fire torches
- People around
- A little girl
- Walking toward me
- Gaze fixed on me
- About 8 years of age
- White gown
- Felt troubled in spirit
- Closer to embrace me
- Felt body shiver in fear
- Pushed her backward
- Fell down
- Goose pimples

—Interpretation—

God is increasing the dreamer's ability to discern what spirit is in operation. The dreamer is in a situation or may soon be in a situation to watch out and guard against ungodly influences: *"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:7). God has gone ahead to help the dreamer discern and prevail in the situation when it comes.

3

Intimate Moments with God

How to Engage with God

One of the fundamental principles of God is that if you can engage with Him at your level of gifting, you can do incredible exploits, never minding that other people may be more gifted than you. Samuel, through engagement with the principles of God, became an outstanding high priest of Israel. Though there was a time when he did not know the voice of the Lord, Samuel rose to become a renown prophet, accredited with starting the first school of prophets in the Old Testament; and he oversaw the transformation of Israel from a conglomeration of tribes to a powerful nation. On the other hand, the prophet Jeremiah was highly gifted of God but was often given to misery and frustration!

The first principle of engaging with God in prophetic ministry is writing down what God says to you. This is important because it provides undeniable proof, reassurance if a situation tends to deny the promise, and also helps to put the full picture together. The Bible says:

> *Then the Lord replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay"* (Habakkuk 2:2-3).

David said, *"All this **I have in writing** as a result of the Lord's hand on me, and **he enabled me to understand** all the details of the plan"* (1 Chronicles 28:19). The second principle is to do what the Lord says to you to do, find the truth of whatever you are doing and trust God.

In the last decade, I found that the Lord speaks to me a lot in my twilight states. On my part, I have paid attention to these revelations, studied them, and I have applied them. They have become valuable tools in my walk with God.

The twilight state is a state of semiconsciousness, or partial detachment from

your physical surrounding often mimicking being half awake or half asleep. Twilight zone visionary experiences are difficult to define, whether they occur in the spirit or in the natural realm. Most occur in-between the boundaries of the two realms. Twilight zone visionary events come in various forms, strangeness, or awesomeness, and often show differing degrees of involvement of the physical realm.

Many people have also told me of similar visionary experiences. Common features in these encounters:

- Not knowing whether the vision is actually happening in the physical realm or if it is supernatural;
- The feeling of being between asleep and awake; and a short and clear experience.

A majority of strange events occur in the twilight zone—a state that is not clearly defined or demarcated between the spirit and the natural realms.

WHAT ARE TWILIGHT VISIONS?

Twilight visions are visions received in twilight states. They come in various forms. Some are *breaking-news type encounters* and many are trances. I call them "breaking news" because they are meant to break through the routines to bring what God is revealing. These manifestations are common to the ministry of a seer. They can occur at any time and mimic the feeling of being between sleeping and being awake (twilight consciousness).

Breaking-news visions are characteristically short, sharp, and clear, and are given mainly for the purpose of guidance. In the last days, God will increase His communication through these types of visions. But He will particularly increase the number and lucidity received when a person is in the twilight state. God commonly uses breaking news dreams and visions at critical periods in someone's life to align the person with God's purposes as we see in the life of apostle Peter (Acts 10: 9-20)

God also uses breaking-news visions to break through our natural defenses to convey an urgent message. On the whole, an increase in "breaking news spiritual encounters" of various sorts will occur in the last days. These manifestations are full of phrases that give clear, unambiguous instructions or warnings; they are often associated with angelic messages.

In the coming days, many people will receive healing and deliverance in their visions, and many others will be significantly imparted to in the arena of visionary encounters. Through a vision, the apostle Peter's wrong mindset was corrected, and he said, *"I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right"* (Acts 10:34-35). Even King Nebuchadnezzar, after seeing a vision, was compelled to acknowledge the awesomeness of our God, and he said, *"Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! …for* ***no other god can save in this way****"* (Daniel 3:28-29).

Also, Saul of Tarsus was converted in a vision on his way to Damascus to become Christ's apostle to the Gentiles:

> *He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." …But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is* ***my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles*** *and their kings and to the people of Israel"* (Acts 9:4-6,15).

How I Engaged with God in These Experiences

As mentioned previously, twilight visions are common in my revelations. For many years I have not treated these remarkable experiences as seriously as I should have. However, over the last decade they have become great tools in my walk with God. I would like to share how I have engaged with the Holy Spirit to make these occurrences great revelatory tools. I recommend following these practical steps:

- Most of the twilight visions that I receive come when I am about drifting off to sleep. Perhaps this dealing may be personally prescriptive of a God-ordained strategy for my particular situation, so I do not intend to make it generally descriptive for everyone.
- Make an effort to keep records by writing down what you receive. This helps to transfer the story from vanishing spiritual ink to more indelible natural ink of your mind and memory.
- Then pray about it and ask God to elaborate or expand where necessary.

- Often, further progression of the discussion may come in another form of revelation; but on some occasions, God has furthered our discussion by sending another twilight vision.
- Seek to understand what has been revealed to you.
- Prayerfully apply the revelation to the realities of your natural life.
- Be truthful to yourself and obey the instruction He might have given you.

Personal Experiences

The following are some of my experiences.

Vision Experience 1

—Vision of a Fake Prophet—

Once as I was drifting off to sleep, the heavens opened upon me, and I was caught up in a vision. I saw standing before me a man who claimed to be a prophet. I knew in my spirit that he was not godly. There was something about him that did not resonate with my spirit. He proceeded to pronounce condemnatory prophecy on me. I stood and said nothing, to my surprise! I awoke from the encounter and was upset because I should have spoken back to him, but I did not. After a brief prayer, I drifted off again into another vision. This time I heard the voice of God clearly say, “SEND YOUR WORD BACK TO HIM.” Then again I awoke to natural consciousness and proclaimed the promises of God in my life, particularly those that counter what the evil man had said.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- The heavens opened
- A man—false prophet
- Standing before me
- Condemnatory prophecy
- The voice of God

—Interpretation—

In this vision God says to the visionary to be alert and to stand his or her ground in face of enemy challenges. This vision demonstrates the importance of speaking the word of God to our situation. The Lord upholds all things by the power of His word (Hebrews 1:3) and the word of God is powerful and sharp (Hebrews 4:12). The words we speak are life and spirit; and what God hears us say to His hearing, that will He do. It is also a warning to pray against ungodly impartation.

VISION EXPERIENCE 2

—A Sudden Turnaround—

I was about to fall sleep, and I fell into a vision. I found myself in an unknown place. In this place, water was scarce, and somehow I witnessed as the scarcity became more severe. At first it started with not having enough water to drink, and then there was an absolute lack of water in the entire community. There was talk of "a teaspoon of water," but even that was nowhere to be found! It was painful to watch and the lack of water was reaching a breaking point. Then suddenly there was a down-pour—the heavens were opened and rain fell from above!

In this encounter, my attention was drawn to the largeness and clarity of each water drop and also to a tree nearby where big drops of water fell from the leaves. Then I heard a voice from Heaven above saying, "INTERPRET THIS AS IF IT WERE A DREAM." I awoke to my natural consciousness.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Place unknown
- Scarcity of water
- Got worse
- Teaspoon of water
- Hardship
- Downpour of rain

- Tree
- Water drops, clear and large

—Interpretation—

This encounter foretells an extreme lack accompanied by hardship and pain. It also speaks of a sudden turnaround from lack to abundance. As the Bible says, *"Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert"* (Isaiah 43:19 NKJV). Interpret "as if it were a dream" implies that special attention should be paid to symbols in the encounter: water indicates spirit; lack of water would therefore indicate the impending scarcity in the natural things would dampen the spirituality of the people. A teaspoon indicates the extreme nature of the lack. The tree indicates the leadership (such as the church) that would play a pivotal role in the management of the situation.

VISION EXPERIENCE 3

—The Faithful Promises of God—

One afternoon many years ago, I had three twilight visionary encounters within a space of thirty minutes. At this time in my life, I had a temporary job and was in search of a permanent job. During a lunchtime break, I drifted into a vision, and a person came to inform me that I had been offered a permanent appointment, and he congratulated me. I awoke into my natural consciousness. I prayed about it and accepted it and gave thanks to God. A few minutes later, I drifted into another vision, and this time the same person came and handed me an envelope containing the appointment letter. Again I awoke and prayed about it. For the third time, I drifted off into another vision and being shown the car attached to the post.

The day following, I received a letter of appointment for the job that brought me to Aberdeen where eventually we now have a ministry and home.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- A man

- Letter
- Announcement
- Car

—Interpretation—

These were encouraging visions that foretold a significant event in my life. The job was the means to get me to the place of my assignment. The person was an angel of God, and the car symbolized the ministry. The fact they repeated meant the revelation was going to be fulfilled as soon as possible—as indeed it happened.

DIALOGUING-WITH-GOD VISIONS

These experiences are a series of visions of dialoguing with God. Dialoguing with God in visions is when the person awakens between visions and intercedes in response to the preceding vision. God then replies with another vision in response to the person's intercession.

Many people have dialogued with God in their visionary encounters without being aware of it. This dialogue with God can span a period of minutes, hours, days, weeks or even months. Therefore, it is important to keep adequate records. Dialoguing-with-God visions are valuable progressive revelations in response to the person's intercession.

Joseph's two dreams were a pair of dialoguing dreams; the first dream is told about in Genesis 37:5-8, and the second dream in Genesis 37:9-11. The second dream was given in response to how Joseph and his brothers handled the first dream. Abraham had a combination of interactive and dialoguing visions and dreams. This encounter included an interactive vision (Genesis 15:1-9), an interlude (Genesis 15:10-11), and further discussion with God (Genesis 15:12-18).

TRANCES

A trance is a state of either partial or complete detachment from a person's natural surroundings while participating in the spiritual encounter. This,

therefore, implies an ability to participate in two realms at the same time. Trances occur mostly in twilight states; they are short, sharp, clear, and rich in phrases and angelic involvements. They often speak to the person in unambiguous terms, mostly addressing imminent or ongoing issues that demand prompt action.

Many believers are skeptical about trances, but this is because of the New Age fascination with the subject. Clearly many people in Bible days experienced God-given trances and these occurrences were very valuable means of divine guidance. From the description of the following Bible examples, they were not anything near the ecstatic and overwhelming occurrences of the non-Christians.

—Acts 22:17-21 NKJV—

*Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that **I was in a trance** and saw Him saying to me, "Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me." So I said, "Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him." Then He said to me, "Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles."*

In this trance, God broke into Paul's routines to warn him to make haste and leave Jerusalem.

—Numbers 24:3-4 KJV—

*And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, **falling into a trance, but having his eyes open**.*

Trances are not only experienced in twilight states, they can be experienced when wide awake with the natural eyes wide open.

—Numbers 24:15-16 KJV—

And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, ***falling into a trance,*** *but having his eyes open.*

—Acts 10:9-20 NKJV—

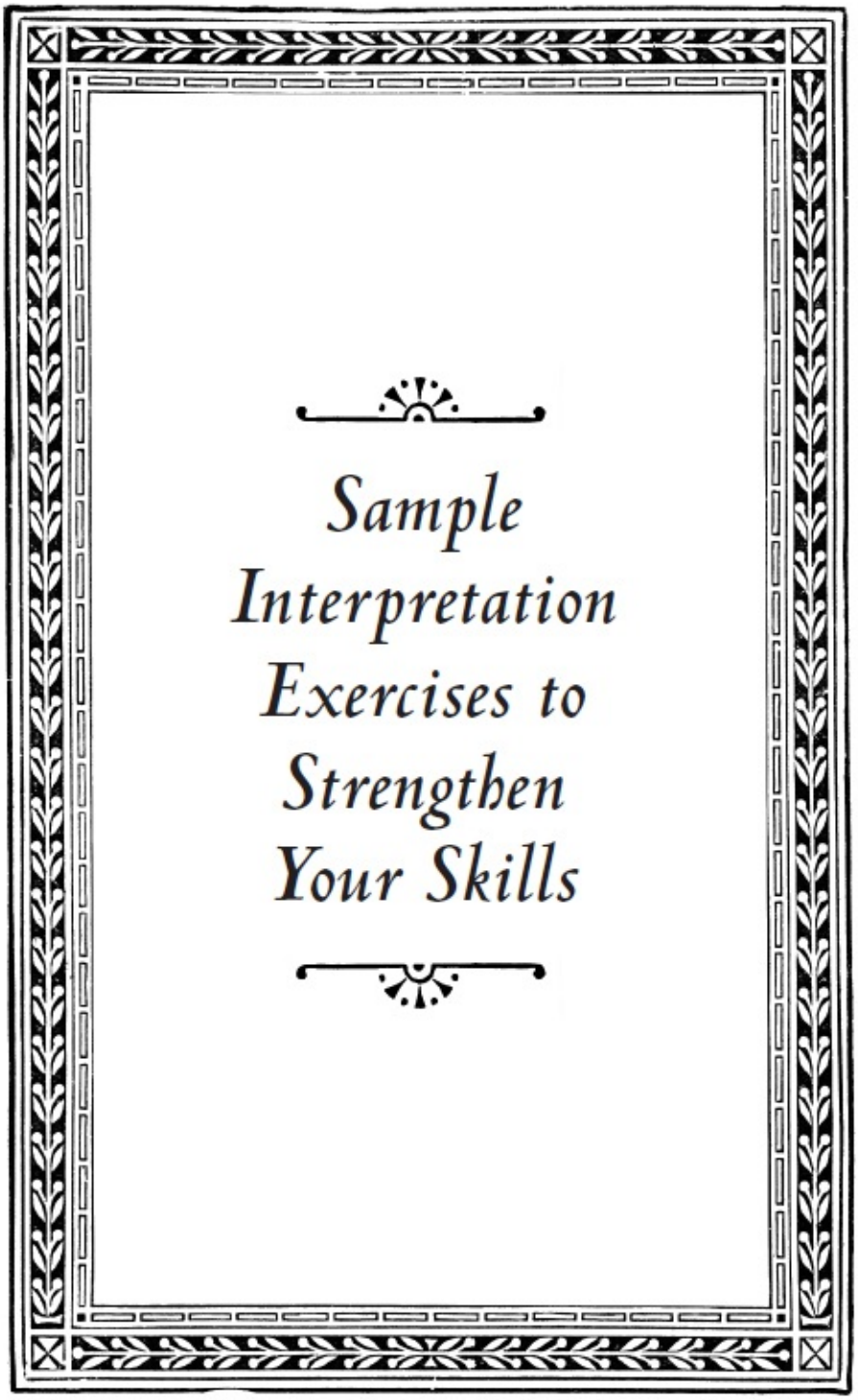
The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he ***fell into a trance*** *and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again. Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there. While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them."*

Prayer and fasting can also facilitate the occurrence of trances.

ACTIVATION EXERCISE 

- Scripture reference: Acts 10:9-19.
- Ask God to open the heavens upon you and give you a vision experience.
- Pray in the spirit and be expectant and wait upon the Lord.
- Look to see or hear or sense what God might be willing to show. Don't force things! If it happens, it happens.
- Write down what you might have received.

- Give Him thanks.
- Repeat as often as possible.



DREAM AND VISION 6

—A Statue of Jesus Christ—

In this dream, I saw the statue of Jesus Christ and it was made of a mixture of iron and burnished brass to withstand the elements of the weather because it was in an open space. As I was looking at this beautiful sculpture, I saw people, both men and women, come and start to stab the sculpture; but the more they stabbed it, the duller their swords or knives became. The sculpture remained untouched; I realized how senseless their actions were. Then I woke up.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Statue of Jesus
- Made of a mixture of iron and burnished brass
- Open space
- Men and women
- Stabbing
- Swords and knives
- Untouched
- Senseless actions

—Interpretation—

The statue of Jesus symbolizes an image of Jesus, and in this instance refers to the dreamer. Being made of brass and iron means the dreamer is divinely made of solid and durable substances that can withstand the vicissitudes of life. The men and women who were stabbing the statue represent the people who are attacking or accusing the dreamer in the natural life, but their accusations and attacks will be harmless. This dream is to encourage the dreamer that whatever false accusation may come, it will not affect the dreamer.

DREAM AND VISION 7

—Visa Granted—

In real life, my husband lives overseas while I live in Scotland; and at the time, we had applied for him to join me under a spouse visa program. I dreamt I was fixing something outside of my flat's main door. There was a car parked in front. My husband came out of the car and I was surprised. I asked to see his passport because I couldn't believe that the visa application was approved so quickly. I saw the visa expiration date on the passport: 6 June 2019. Then the scene changed and I was in a water activity in a boat with a church group. I was explaining it to them. The scene changed again, and I picked up my sunglasses to drive my husband around city where I live. I was excited. The scene changed again and I saw a pastor from our church, and explained it all to him.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Outside my flat
- Car
- My husband
- Passport
- Expiration 06/06/19
- Water activity in a boat
- Explained to church group
- Drive around the city
- Explained to a pastor
- I was excited

—Interpretation—

The interpretation of this dream was given to the dreamer in late *May 2017.* The main focus of this dream was the visa application and the date. The date of *expiration* of 06/06/19 was indicative of the date (day and month) by which the visa would be granted; that is to say that the visa would be granted *by the sixth of*

June and that the significance of *19* in *2019* implied that by *faith (19),* the promise would *mature (2000) by being fulfilled.* Telling church people in the latter part of the dream about what happened in an earlier part of the dream was akin to giving testimony of the promise (or occurrence) in the earlier part of the dream. **Whenever testimony is given in the latter part of a dream about what happened in the earlier part of the dream, fulfillment of the promise is sealed and secured.** Because the dreamer gave the testimony to another person, it means the fulfillment would soon happen.

By the second week of June, the dreamer testified that the visa application was successful and the passport was stamped approved on the fifth of June 2017.

4

Visions and the Third Heaven

As described in the book of Revelation, the third heaven is the highest place of prophetic revelation. The frequency of visions received in a place reflects the openness of the third heaven over that location.

The immediate surroundings of the throne and abode of God are the third heaven. (The second heaven refers to the zone of spiritual warfare, which is the abode of satan and his agents though God's agents and blessings pass through this zone as well, while the first heaven refers to earth.)

Jesus also spoke of open heavens in John 1:51 (TLB), *"You will even see heaven open and the angels of God coming back and forth to me, the Messiah."*

The heavens also opened during the baptism of Jesus Christ:

> *Then Jesus came from Galilee to Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." Then John consented.* ***As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened,*** *and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased"* (Matthew 3:13-17).

An opening of the heavens bypasses hindrances of the second heaven to connect God's abode with the earthly realm.

The Bible speaks severally of open heavens and the implication is that there are places where the heavens are not opened, meaning *closed*. A ***closed heaven*** is a nonpermanent hindered accessibility of the third heaven over a place. A closed heaven happens when access to the third heaven is temporarily blanketed over a place, such that people have no easy access to the third heaven. This situation is also called a *brass* or *bronze heaven*.

The term "closed heaven" was not mentioned in the Bible, but a brass heaven

was described in Deuteronomy 28:23 in the King James Version, *"And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron."* A bronze heaven is mentioned in various other Bible versions, *"The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron."* Though there are areas of permanent opening of the third heaven known as *heavenly portals,* there are no areas on earth that are permanently closed to the third heaven. Any areas closed to the third heaven can be reversed if people take the appropriate steps in response and obedience to God. For details of the causes of a closed heaven and how to dismantle a closed heaven, please refer to my book, *Dreams and Visions Volume 2.*

THE WORST OF ALL FAMINES

The worst of all famines is when the visions of the Lord become rare. When God withdraws visions and His words from a people, they experience the worst of all famines. This judgment from God stands above all others. Our God is holy; and whenever the level of iniquity gets high enough, people become spiritually distanced from Him. In Israel's history as a nation, the people experienced the Lord's silence on many occasions. The Bible tells of a time when the Word of God was rare in Israel, under the corrupt priesthood of Eli: *"The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions"* (1 Samuel 3:1). The prophet Isaiah reiterated this when he said, *"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear"* (Isaiah 59:1-2).

The prophet Amos described a famine of the word of God:

> *"The days are coming," declares the Sovereign Lord, "when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the Lord, but they will not find it"* (Amos 8:11-12).

This is also emphasized in Proverbs:

> *Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, I will make known to you my teachings. But since you refuse to listen when I call and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand, since you*

disregard all my advice and do not accept my rebuke, I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you; I will mock when calamity overtakes you—when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you. Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me (Proverbs 1:23-28).

To properly understand visions, we have to examine them within the context of the bigger picture of the interaction between the earth and the heavens—between the supernatural and the natural realms.

At the time of creation, God made the heavens and the earth at the same time: *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1). So right from the start, God established the heavens and the earth and instituted a constant connection between the third heaven and the earth. In this divine partnership between the third heaven and the earth, called *the universe,* the heaven is invisible to the natural eyes and the earth is the visible and tangible part of the partnership.

Broadly, visions are the visual perception of the supernatural world from our earthly abode; and on the other hand, visitation of celestial beings to the earth, like angelic visitations, represent one of the ways the supernatural world breaks into our earthly world. These occurrences need to break through the intervening interface of a celestial expanse called the second heaven.

The *second heaven* is the celestial expanse immediately hovering and covering the earth, but beneath the third heaven. The *third heaven* is the abode of God and home of the departed saints of God. The earth is the terrestrial expanse where the wind blows, the birds fly, the sun shines, and the clouds move—this is the expanse where we live.

An *open heaven* is when the covering of the second heaven over the earth is opened up to establish a connection between the earth and the third heaven breaking through the second heaven interface. The third heaven is the highest level of revelatory experience (more details coming up in the chapter titled Operating Under an Open Heaven).

The patriot Jacob had an open heaven experience on his way to Paddan Aram:

He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the ***gate of heaven****"* (Genesis 28:17).

Note that the Bible says that the house of God is the gate of heaven. In other words, a good house of God should be a good gate of heaven to the people. I believe this is why most people find it easier to gain entrance to the heavenly realm on a corporate basis as we worship in the house of God. (For more detailed examination of this topic, read my books, *Dreams and Visions Volumes 1 and 2*.)

Another common manifestation of an open heaven is the free flow of the eternal Word of God and availability of the mighty hand of God to perform miracles, wonders, or strange events:

> *In my thirtieth year, in the fourth month on the fifth day, while I was among the exiles by the Kebar River, the heavens* ***were opened*** *and I* ***saw visions*** *of God. On the fifth of the month—it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin—****the word of the Lord came*** *to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, by the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians. There* ***the hand of the Lord*** *was on him* (Ezekiel 1:1-3).

Visions of the Heavenly Realm

We can categorize the interactions between the third heaven and the earth into two broad groups—*actual* (recipient tangibly participating in the happening) and *visual* (purely revelatory) experiences—whether it is the third heaven that breaks into the earth realm or it is an interaction beginning from the earth into the heaven. However, every *genuine* spiritual experience is at the initiative of God Himself, otherwise it is counterfeit.

When God allows humankind to peep into the supernatural realm from the natural realm, these experiences are most of the time visual, with a few rare actual experiences. These experiences include:

- Dreams
- Visions
- Translation
- Throne room encounters:
    - Visual revelatory experience; Isaiah 6:1-3
    - Actual experience; 2 Corinthians 12:1-4

Visual experience:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke (Isaiah 6:1-4).

Actual experience:

I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell (2 Corinthians 12:1-4).

Broadly speaking, when the supernatural realm breaks into the natural realm, the experiences are varied and could be either visual or actual. Most of these experiences include:

Apparitions:

- Fourth man in the burning furnace
- Angelic appearances

Divine sight:

- The burning bush experience

Visitation by celestial beings:

- Angelic visitations
- Jesus Christ appearing to disciples on the road to Emmaus
- Visitations from the realms of hell

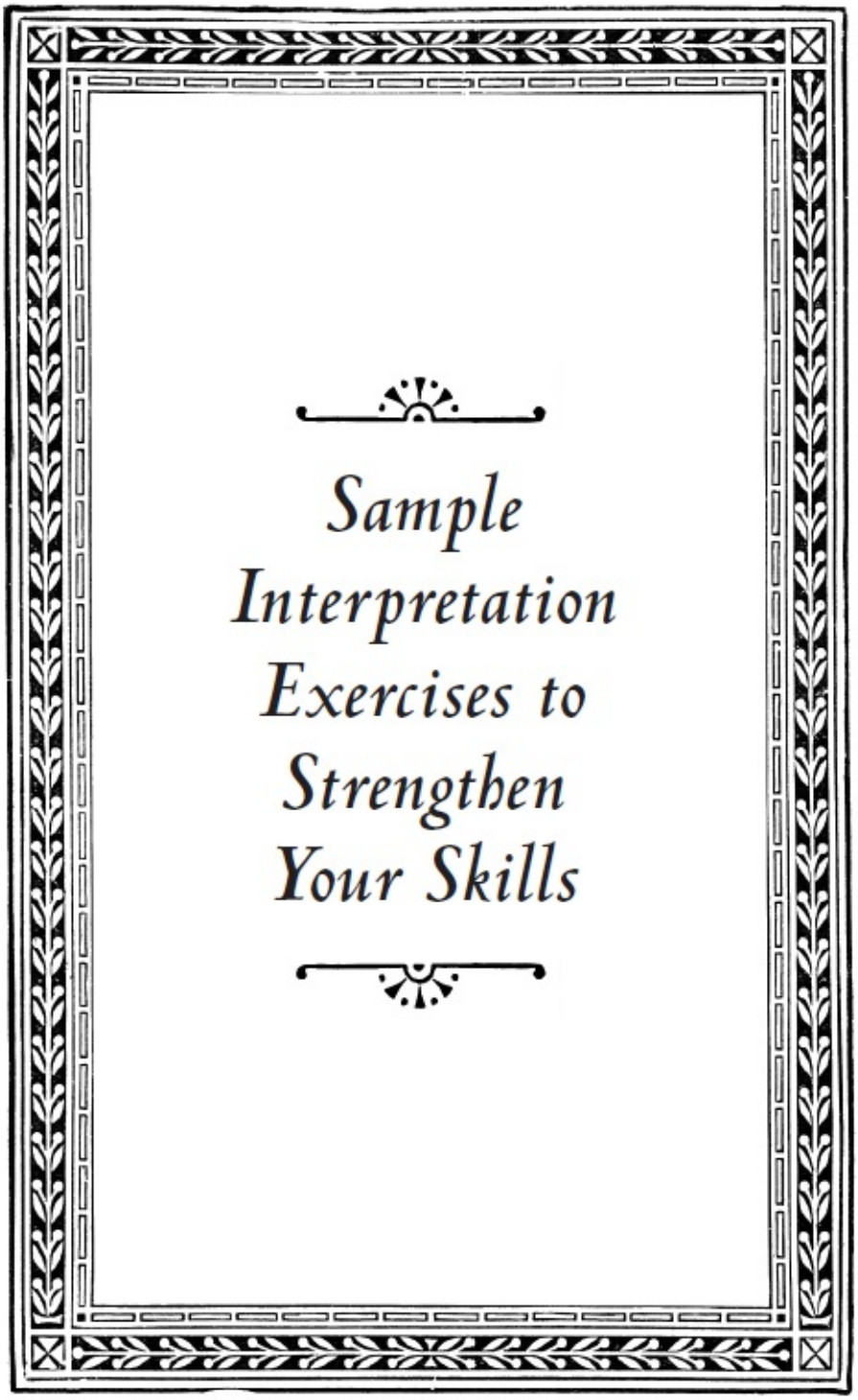
Strange and mysterious events:

- The hand writing on the wall

- Wrestling with the angel of the Lord as Jacob did
- Transfiguration of Jesus Christ

Activation Exercise 

- Reread 2 Kings 6:15-18 and visualize for yourself an army of horses and chariots of fire.
- What else came to mind as you saw this scene in your mind's eye?
- You may need to close your natural eyes so your spiritual eyes can focus on heavenly images rather than earthly sights.
- Read another portion of the Bible that piques your spirit—then visualize the scene, allowing God to bring His Word to life.


Sample
Interpretation
Exercises to
Strengthen
Your Skills

DREAM AND VISION 8

—My Sister and I—

(Note: dreams and visions 8 and 9 are from the same person.)

My sister and I were riding in a public bus leaving our city (from the encounter it was a place we were familiar with) and traveling to another town. We arrived and got off the bus. It was a somewhat busy time with all sorts of market activities going on; early evening time. My sister and I were walking in the opposite direction from where the bus was. Then a skinny tall dog ate my sister whole. It stood up to eat her and then went back down onto its four legs, and was once again its skinny self. I was shocked at how it managed to do that and remain skinny. Then I woke up.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- My sister
- Me
- Public bus
- Traveling to another town
- Arrived at destination
- Walking with my sister
- Skinny, tall dog
- Stood up and ate her
- Returned to standing on four legs and became skinny again
- Interaction with the dreamer: sister is born-again Christian walking with God. Dreamer is also a born-again walking with God.

—Interpretation—

The dream is about two aspects of the dreamer: one aspect is susceptible and vulnerable to being attacked and possibly consumed by the devil; the second

aspect is that the dreamer is well submitted to God, fit for the Master's use and protected. The "sister" represents that aspect of the dreamer not yet submitted to God. The bus journey is symbolic of the dreamer's spiritual walk with the Lord and that God will guide the dreamer to a place of destiny and choices. Therefore this is a dream of divine guidance. Notice also the dreamer's incongruous reaction to the sister being eaten by the dog *(shocked at how the dog managed to do that and remain skinny)*, which indicates the symbolic nature of the dream.

DREAM AND VISION 9

—A Vision of Two Plants—

Like a picture when sleeping, God showed me two plants. One plant was short and hadn't grown much; it was stagnant. The other plant had a red flower; it seemed like a rose that was tall and had bloomed. I felt that God was telling me that He is going to cause me to bloom where I am.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Two plants
- One plant not growing
- The other plant, grown and bloomed
- Insight of God
- Interaction with dreamer: dreams 8 and 9 were received by the same dreamer

—Interpretation—

In this dream-vision, God is telling the recipient that there are two streams of potentials in the dreamer. One is fulfilled, active, grown, and blooming; the other needs to be activated to move from stagnating to flowing freely in God. Together, dreams 8 and 9 speak about the dreamer having two great potentials: one remarkably developed and submitted of God, the other not developed and therefore vulnerable and exposed to being attacked by the enemy. These two dreams are a call to higher level and more effective ministry in God, by

submitting and depending on God in all aspects of life.

DREAM AND VISION 10

—A Bowl of Small Snakes—

I saw a woman holding a bowl of small snakes that looked more like worms. She filled two hands full of the creatures and flung them at my face. I was now holding my child's hand, my youngest, and running from someone who was pursuing us. I spent most of the latter part of the dream running away from whoever was pursuing us, holding on tightly to my child's hand.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- A woman
- Holding a bowl of small snakes
- Two handfuls
- Flung at my face
- Holding my child's hand
- My youngest
- Running away from whomever was pursuing them

—Interpretation—

This dream warns of an impending accusation, a direct confrontation:

The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down" (Revelation 12:9-10).

This dream speaks of accusation aimed at the dreamer and the child—

possibly their relationship because of the emphasis in the dream of holding on tightly to the child. “Flung at the face” indicates attacks or accusations aimed at the dreamer’s identity or integrity. This event would also generate much fear and anxiety so that the faith of the dreamer would be tested. Running persistently from a perceived danger in the dream often indicates lack of faith or a call to have more faith or confidence in God in the situation. Prayers are needed to avert this challenge; and if not averted, that when it eventually happens it should turn for the dreamer’s good.

The dreamer testified later that the child’s teacher wrongly reported the dreamer to police and social care department for child physical abuse. The police took the child away for questioning and the dreamer to a different location for questioning. The dreamer was temporary distressed; but at the end, the child was returned to the dreamer and the case dropped and dismissed as false.

5

Common Types of Visions

Types of Visions

The following are the different types of visions and how you can identify each.

I have relied extensively on Scripture examples for this categorization because I believe the Word of God is powerful, sharp, and capable of bringing illumination. I have cited personal and contemporary examples only to bring the visions to relevance in the times in which we live.

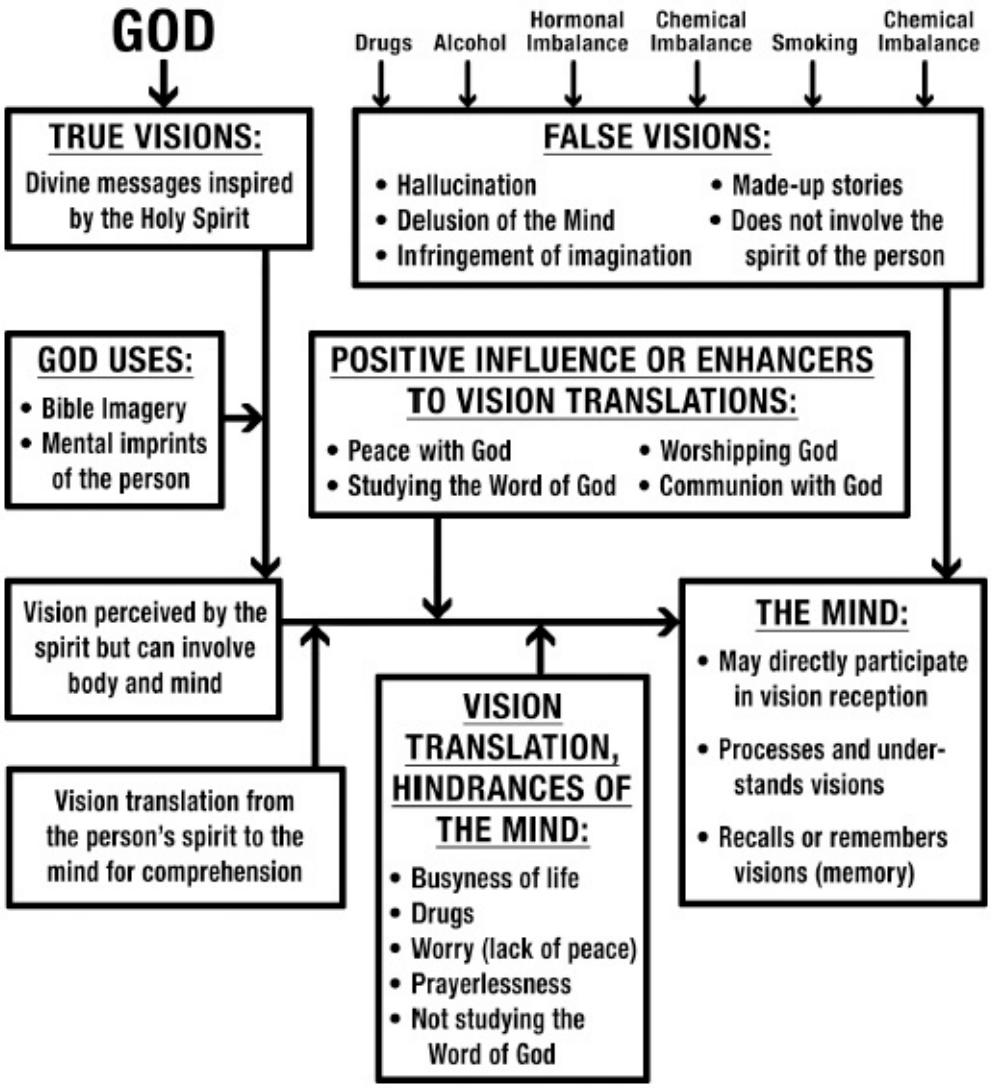
—True and False Visions—

All true visions originate and are initiated from God; and it is His prerogative for when, how, what, and to whom He will reveal something through a vision.

Any vision not originating from God is false. The following can produce visual infringements on human imagination: drugs, alcohol, and smoking. This is not to say that believers on medication cannot receive godly messages by dreams and visions.

False visions are not spiritual in origin, do not come from God, and do not exalt the name of Jesus. False visions are characterized by the following:

- Bizarre in nature
- Incoherent
- Contain no storyline
- Drain the person
- Don’t build up the person or the organization
- Empty or serve no purpose



Open Visions

Your natural eyes are open, but you can see the supernatural scene in your mind's eye:

> ***I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision****; those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone,* ***gazing at this great vision****; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground. A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees* (Daniel 10:7-10).

—Numbers 24:3-4 KJV—

And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, ***falling into a trance, but having his eyes open****.*

Closed Visions

Natural eyes are closed, but the image of the vision is seen in your mind either as a static scene or pictorial scene; or in a panoramic scene, like in a movie in which there is motion.

Divine Sight

In divine sight, the natural surroundings blend into the overall scene of the vision. It is hard to tell if the image is physical or spiritual:

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am" (Exodus 3:1-4).

Interactive Visions

An interactive vision is when an exchange happens between the person and God in the encounter. For meaningful interaction to occur, there should be an appropriate level of consciousness of the person's natural circumstances. Interactive encounters are commoner in visions than in dreams because it is easier to attain the required level of consciousness in visions.

—Acts 9:1-8—

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.

APPARITION

An apparition is when a visionary encounter becomes perceptible with the natural senses. An apparition can be a tangible experience of an actual happening of spiritual event in the physical realm. Sometimes an apparition is barely more than a mere sight.

An apparition happens because the spiritual event has permeated through from the spiritual realm into the natural realm, hence natural senses can perceive it. Apparitions were very common in biblical days. Although still quite common in modern times, many people experience them without realizing it.

—Daniel 5:1-6 NKJV—

Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand. While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which had been in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which had been in Jerusalem;

and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone. In the same hour ***the fingers of a man's hand appeared*** *and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other.*

—Genesis 32:22-30 NKJV—

And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had. Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks."

But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

So He said to him, "What is your name?"

He said, "Jacob."

And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray."

And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.

So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

—Joshua 5:13-15 NKJV—

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn

in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" Then the Commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

—2 Kings 2:9-12 NKJV—

And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so." Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces.

—Matthew 17:1-9 NKJV—

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus

*commanded them, saying, "Tell the **vision** to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."*

Visions that Call to Service and Commission

Certain visions can register God's call and/or commissioning to a person's divine destiny in the Lord. Two examples of this are when Saul (Paul) was brought out of his lifetime career of persecuting Christians:

"Who are You, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do" (Acts 9:5-6).

And when Isaiah accepted his prophetic call with the purification of his lips:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. …Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ***He said, "Go and tell this people****: 'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving'"* (Isaiah 6:1-9).

Proclamation Dreams and Visions

In certain visions, we can become the voice of agreement for God to proclaim His plans on earth. Proclamation visions can also occur through the voice of an angel, a divine messenger, or even God Himself. Most proclamations speak of decreed events, so we are well-advised to take them seriously. Once proclaimed, the event happens almost instantaneously in the spirit realm, although its natural manifestation may follow later (see Zechariah 1:8-17).

Another common form of proclamation is when God uses a respected spiritual leader or worldwide leader to declare an insightful spiritual statement relevant to the visionary's life. Sometimes the person makes the proclamation and declares profound insights into a situation. On the surface, such proclamations may be totally out of context with a vision's setting, but they can be deeply relevant to certain situations in the person's circumstances.

Nonvisual Perceptions of Visionary Encounters

There are nonvisual perceptions of visionary experiences such as predominantly auditory (hearing perception): *"Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered 'Here I am.' And he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, you called me.'…Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli* ***the vision****"* (1 Samuel 3:4-15).

Paul tells us that his companions on the way to Damascus had only an auditory visionary experience, while he alone had visual *and* auditory perception of the vision: *"The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone*" (Acts 9:7).

Daniel also gave an account of a corporate vision in which he alone had visual participation, but his companions had nonvisual (auditory and emotional) participation in the visionary encounter:

> *I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision;* ***those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves.*** *So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground* (Daniel 10:7-9).

John felt as if he were dead when he saw a vision: *"When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead"* (Revelation 1:17). Jacob was left with a limp for life after a visionary encounter (Genesis 32:22-26).

Personal Experience

—Aromatic Vision Experience—

A long time ago, while ministering to an interdenominational gathering, in the midst of worship I "smelled" the aroma of love. I immediately proclaimed it; and soon after this meeting, the churches in the local area experienced a profound level of unity, commitment to common purpose, and love that is still much remembered to this day.

A closer look at the auditory vision that Samuel experienced follows:

Now the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the Lord where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, that the Lord called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!" So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down. Then the Lord called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." (Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him.) And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ***Now the Lord came and stood and called as at other times****, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears"* (1 Samuel 3:1-10 NKJV).

This was a rather curious experience that the Bible describes as a vision, but the main occurrence in the encounter was auditory when God spoke with the voice of Eli because, *"Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him"* (1 Samuel 3:7). It was Eli who taught Samuel how to hear from God, and Samuel later became one of the most outstanding prophets in the Old Testament.

Even more curious, the Bible says, *"Now the Lord came and stood and called as at other times"* (1 Samuel 3:9), meaning at the earlier calls, God had stood by Samuel, though invisible. This vision was actually not only auditory, as God's presence was, in fact, present all the time for those with sufficiently mature, visual acuity to visually perceive.

GUIDANCE VISION

—Acts 16:7-10 NKJV—

After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit

did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 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." 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.*

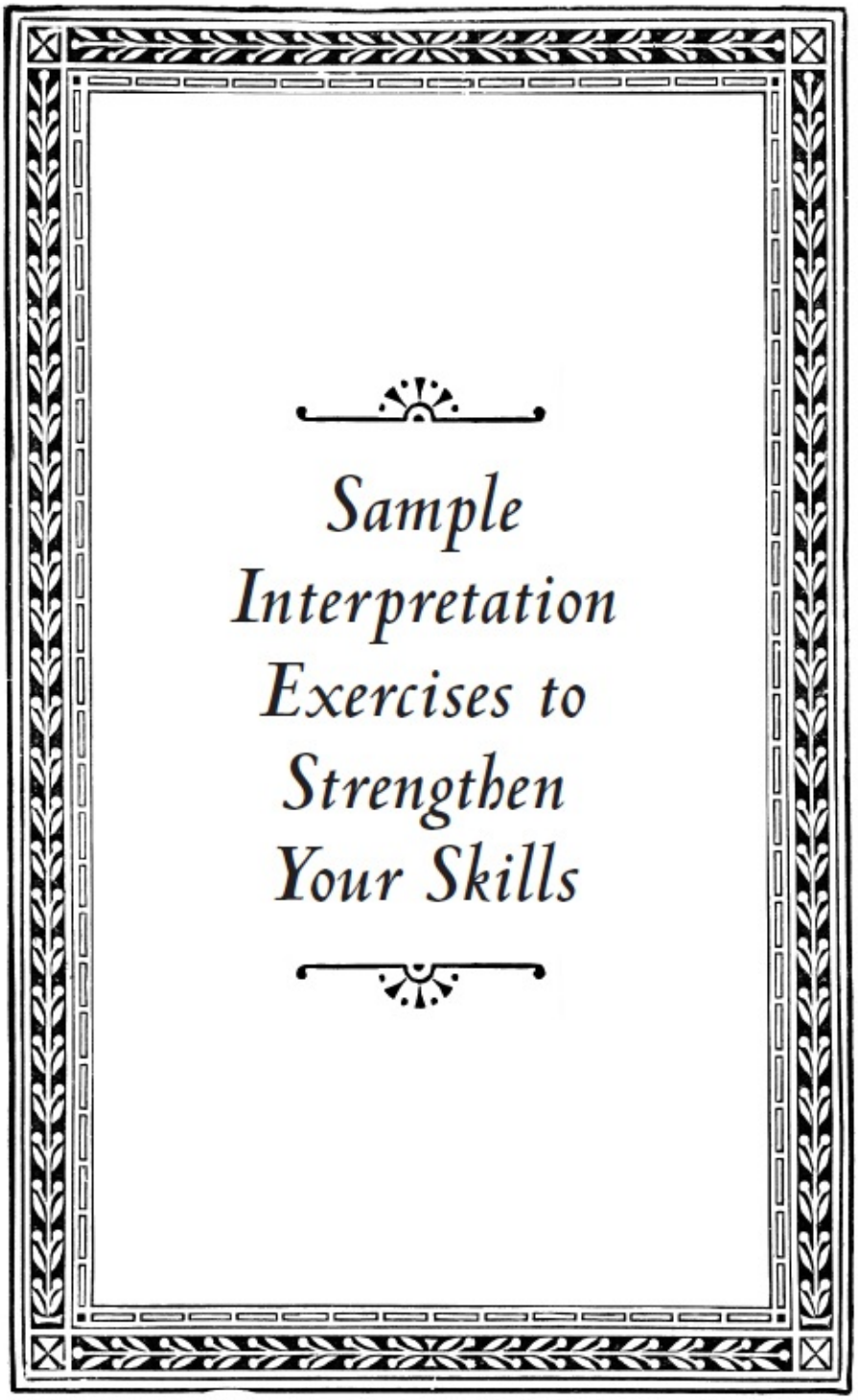
Throne Room Encounters

Visual (read Isaiah 6:1-4 NKJV).

Actual Visitation (read 2 Corinthians 12:1-5).

Activation Exercise

- Ask God to give you an encounter of who He is,
- And show you what He is doing right now in your life.
- Write down what He shows you.
- Of the different spiritual experiences mentioned in this chapter, which one (or ones) have happened to you? Write about the experience and be as in-depth as possible. There is much to learn about yourself, others, and circumstances during this process of digging into your vision memory soil.
- Do you welcome such experiences or are you afraid of them?
- Write reasons why you would not want God to speak to you in these ways.
- Write why you would welcome Him reaching out to you in any and every way.


Sample
Interpretation
Exercises to
Strengthen
Your Skills

DREAM AND VISION 11

—Power and Revelation—

I dreamt that God showed me the relationship between receiving revelations and moving in the power of God. It was like a graph showing that until the revelation gets to a certain level, the power of God will not be manifested.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Revelations
- God
- God's power
- Public manifestation

—Interpretation—

This is a teaching encounter and illustrates principles of God applicable to all, for all times. *"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things** and will remind you of everything I have said to you"* (John 14:26). As a general principle, there is a teaching component in every revelation for the recipient. This dream means every revelation comes with divine impartation of power to the recipient and that such power grows with each encounter. The prophet Samuel grew in the power and knowledge of God through the revelation of God to him by the word of God: *"And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word"* (1 Samuel 3:20-21). This dream reassures the dreamer not to be frustrated if his or her power of manifestation does not yet match his or her level of revelation. With time the power of God will made manifest in the dreamer's life and ministry.

DREAM AND VISION 12

—Flying in a Dream—

In this dream, I was driving on a motorway, following a colleague (I felt) who was driving a black 4 by 4 vehicle. Then I found myself flying, actually soaring. I could see my colleague's car far down below.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Driving
- Motorway
- Behind, following
- A colleague
- Driving 4 by 4 vehicle
- Flying, soaring

—Interpretation—

This is an encouragement dream; the dreamer should not be troubled even if others appear to doing much better than the dreamer. A 4 by 4 vehicle is symbolic of a ground-breaking means of achieving a goal or ministry. As soon as the dreamer hands over the situation to God—as flying is symbolic of moving in the things of God—the dreamer will experience divine acceleration and overtake all those who had surpassed the dreamer previously. The spirit of overtaking will come upon the dreamer, but it will come by the help of the Spirit of God—not by human power or might, but by the Spirit of the Most High God. In the process, the dreamer will be in a vantage position to see things more appropriately from higher spiritual perspectives *("far down below").*

DREAM AND VISION 13

—Warning of Danger—

I was in a house walking toward a room. The door of the room was partially open. Just then the door was shut and a knife was thrust through the door from the other side. In the dream, I was wondering what was going on. I ran to get

away from that situation. I didn’t know who had shut the door.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- A house
- Walking toward a room
- Partially open door
- Just then the door was shut
- Knife thrust through the door from the other side
- Wondering what was going on
- Ran from the situation
- Did not know who shut the door

—Interpretation—

This is a warning and guidance dream.

At the time of this revelation, the dreamer was about to enter an open opportunity; but God is warning that due to accusation or lies, this apparent opportunity may close suddenly. This vision calls for prayers that the doors God opened will remain. Pray, *“Thus says the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—to subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut”* (Isaiah 45:1 NKJV).

6

How to Activate Your Spiritual Eyes

The potential for spiritual sight is inherent in every human being; but in most cases, this potential needs to be activated. However, when an individual is highly gifted, the potential can spontaneously self-activate without an obvious activation trigger. For the majority of people, this potential needs to be activated.

Therefore, the ability to use your spiritual eyes can be activated, upgraded, and expanded. This principle is amply demonstrated in the lives and ministries of prophets in the Bible. At the other end of the spectrum, God in His sovereignty can blind the spiritual eyes of people or prophets and can impose a closed heaven *(when it is difficult to access the third heaven from earth)* over a people or places because of unbelief, sins, or disobedience to the laws of God. This is why the Bible admonishes us to *"buy from Me* [God] *gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see* (Revelation 3:18 NKJV).

The principle of activating and withholding sight by spiritual eyes is illustrated in the story of Balaam and his donkey. At first God opened the donkey's eyes to see into the spirit realm, but withheld the prophet from seeing the angel with a drawn sword. Later, God opened the prophet's eyes and he could see: *"**Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes**, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown"* (Numbers 22:31).

Jesus' disciples had a similar experience on their way to Emmaus, though in this case it was not because of their sin:

> *While they were talking and discussing it, Jesus Himself came up and began walking with them. But **their eyes were [miraculously] prevented from recognizing Him.** But they urged Him [not to go on], saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening, and the day has just about ended."*

So He went inside to stay with them. And it happened that as He reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. ***Then their eyes were [suddenly] opened [by God] and they [clearly] recognized Him****; and He vanished from their sight* (Luke 24:15-16, 29-31 AMP).

The prophet Isaiah spoke of blind prophets when he said:

For the Lord has poured over you a spirit of deep sleep. ***He has closed your eyes, [you who are] the prophets; and He has covered your heads, [you who are] the seers.*** *The entire vision [of all these things] will be to you like the words of a scroll that is sealed, which they give to one who can read, saying, "Read this, please," he shall say, "I cannot, for it is sealed"* (Isaiah 29:10-11 AMP).

The operations of spiritual eyes are subject to the sovereignty of God and are influenced by the things we do or don't do. This ability to see into the spirit can be upgraded or expanded as we see in Revelation 4:1-2: *"After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said,* ***"Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this****"* (Revelation 4:1). This phrase to *"come up"* implies an upgrade.

ACTIVATION LEADS TO IMPROVED LEVEL OF VISUALIZATION

To be visually activated means the stirring up of dormant spiritual eyes into kinetic motion of activity, from stagnancy to flowing freely. Expansion of spiritual eyes entails attaining an improved level of visualization in its many ramifications such as the following:

1. ***Greater depth of spirituality:***

   After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this" (Revelation 4:1 NKJV).

2. ***A clearer visionary encounter such as in the story of man who first saw men as trees; "I see men as trees," and after prayers he saw more clearly:***

They arrived at Bethsaida. Some people brought a sightless man and begged Jesus to give him a healing touch. Taking him by the hand, he [Jesus] *led him out of the village. He put spit in the man's eyes, laid hands on him, and asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up.* ***"I see men. They look like walking trees****." So Jesus laid hands on his eyes again. The man looked hard and realized that* ***he had recovered perfect sight, saw everything in bright, twenty-twenty focus****. Jesus sent him straight home, telling him, "Don't enter the village"* (Mark 8:22-26 MSG).

3. ***A better understanding and restoration of visions:***

   "…get medicine from me [God] ***to heal your eyes and give you back your sight****"* (Revelation 3:18 TLB).

   Also, as in the book of Isaiah 58:8, following fasting, "light" (understanding and illumination) will come: ***"Then your light will break forth*** *like the dawn."* This speaks of better understanding.

4. ***Obtaining a different and better perspective of the situation:***

   I looked up, and was surprised by another vision: four horns! I asked the Messenger-Angel, "And what's the meaning of this?" He said, "These are the powers that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem abroad." ***Then God expanded the vision to include*** *four blacksmiths. I asked, "And what are these all about?" He said, "Since the 'horns' scattered Judah so badly that no one had any hope left, these blacksmiths have arrived to combat the horns.* ***They'll dehorn the godless nations who used their horns to scatter Judah to the four winds****"* (Zechariah 1:18-21 MSG).

An expanded spiritual sight following activation means shifting from the narrow and restricted dimension of human understanding to the all-encompassing godly perspectives, such as happened to the prophet Zechariah in the above passage.

PRACTICAL STEPS

The following are practical steps to work your way toward activated spiritual sight:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what is happening right now in the spirit

realm.

- In the quietness of the Lord, be still and rest in Him.
- Take note of what He might be showing you.
- Start with simple familiarization; you may want to ask God what He is wearing. All depends on your relationship with Him.
- Write down whatever comes to your spirit.
- Repeat this exercise as often as possible until you grow in confidence to what you received.

Steps from Spiritual Blindness to Full Spiritual Sight

The principles of being spiritually blind to gaining full spiritual sight are illuminated in the following story in Mark 8:22-26:

> *They came to Bethsaida, and* ***some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him****. He took the blind man by the hand and* ***led him outside the village****. When he* ***had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him****, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up and said, "****I see people; they look like trees walking around.****" Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes.* ***Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly****. Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't even go into the village."*

Step 1. Salvation Factor. True sight and light are found only in Jesus. The phrase *"some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him"* implies process of hearing the gospel and salvation. Salvation is fundamental to our walk with God and the basis to all entitlements in the lives of those redeemed by the blood of Jesus. Also, John 1:9 (NKJV) says of Jesus, *"That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world."*

People with great potential for spiritual sight become activated when they give their lives to Jesus. Reading the Word of God facilitates activation of spiritual sight.

Step 2. A touch from Jesus—"He took the blind man by the hand." Everyone needs a touch from God if we are to move from dormancy to moving

freely in the gifts of God. Therefore, this first touch from Jesus connotes the establishment of relationship between the blind man and Jesus. This is the basis and essence of a true experience in the spirit realm; it is based and sustained in Jesus.

Step 3. Led by Jesus—"led him." Once relationship is established, we must submit and be guided by the Holy Spirit. As the Bible says, *"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God"* (Romans 8:14). Many people judge the depth of their relationship by the degree of spiritual experiences and miraculous manifestations—but Jesus is looking for fellowship and communion with everyone. Notice the blind man remained blind, but he maintained the established relationship with Jesus though nothing changed; he trusted in Him. Truly as Isaiah 40:31 says: *"but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

Step 4. A change of place, thinking, and circumstance—"led him outside the village." We must make efforts to change from the old ways of life and accept the new way. Second Corinthians 5:17 says: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here!"* Only the pure in heart can see God.

Step 5. Another and deeper touch from Jesus—"When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him." We must seek Jesus for higher revelation and greater depth in the ability to use our spiritual sight.

Step 6. He started to see, but not clearly—"Jesus asked, 'Do you see anything?' He looked up and said, 'I see people; they look like trees walking around.'" This is a state of transition of development. Everyone will of necessity have to grow in God through dependence on God and continuous practice of the art of seeing into the spirit realm. Many people give up because things are not happening as fast as they want; but Hebrews 5:14 says, *"But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."*

Step 7. Be truthful and do not be presumptuous—"He looked up and said, 'I see people, they look like trees walking around.'" At the initial stage, the sight of the blind man started to be activated but not fully functional, and he spoke truthfully about it. Know where you in God and continue to seek greater height in Him.

Step 8. Need for further prayers and continuous dependence on Jesus —"Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly." The man's sight became fully restored and he could see clearly, being fully activated.

Step 9. Don't return to your old ways of life—"Jesus sent him home, saying, 'Don't even go into the village.'"

Bible Prayers to Activate Your Spiritual Eyes

The Bible is replete with instances of when, through the actions of humankind or by divine intervention, people's spiritual eyes were opened. Many factors help in the activation or enhancement of the ability to see into the spirit realm.

The following are biblical examples of prayers associated with spiritual eyes being opened. As you read them and pray, meditate on them that the eyes of your understanding will be enlightened more and more to see into the spirit realm.

—Elisha's Prayer—

This is the story of the prophet Elisha mentioned previously, when he was surrounded by the army of the adversary; and though the prophet could see the divine formation protecting him, the servant was worried because he could not see into the spirit. So Elisha prayed for him: *"And Elisha prayed, 'Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.' Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha"* (2 Kings 6:17). So here we notice that seeing into the spirit realm is influenced by the company we keep, the spiritual cover over us, prayerfulness, and intercession of other people.

—God Expanded Zechariah's Vision—

Most times, the first thing we receive from God is an alert of some kind to bring us into discussion with Him. Often it is also a revelation of what the enemy is doing or planning. Therefore, we should handle these things with faith and

trust in God who has revealed it and is also able to bring redemption. In the story of the prophet Zechariah, God showed him what was wrong, what the enemy was doing, and then later He revealed to the prophet what He is doing by expanding the original vision:

> *I looked up, and was surprised by another vision: four horns! I asked the Messenger-Angel, "And what's the meaning of this?" He said, "These are the powers that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem abroad." Then* ***God expanded the vision*** *to include four blacksmiths* (Zechariah 1:18-20 MSG).

Pray that God will expand your vision; ask Him to do so.

—Breaking Bread Opens Spiritual Eyes—

Holy Communion is an ordinance ordained by Christ; and whenever we obey and hold on to God's tenets, we move further in our assignment on earth. Among the many-fold blessings of sharing Holy Communion is the activation of spiritual eyes: *"Now it came to pass, as He* [Jesus] *sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then* ***their eyes were opened*** *and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight"* (Luke 24:30-31 NKJV). Whenever you partake in Holy Communion, prayerfully ask God to enhance your visual acuity.

—The Desperate Cry Prayer of Hagar—

God promised to bless Hagar and her son, but there came a time in her life when those promises seemed like a distant reality. In her desperation, she cried to the only One who could help her. She lifted up her voice to God:

> *Then she went and sat down across from him at a distance of about a bowshot; for she said to herself, "Let me not see the death of the boy." So she sat opposite him, and lifted her voice and wept. …Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink* (Genesis 21:16-19 NKJV).

Pray that God will open your eyes to the opportunities around you, despite the pressure of the challenges.

—Applying the Faith of Nathanael —

Jesus Himself said to Nathanael that Nathanael's belief in what Jesus said will enable him to see the heaven open and that Nathanael will see greater things:

> *Jesus asked him, "Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? **You will see greater things** than this." Then he said, "I tell you the truth, **you will all see heaven open** and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth* (John 1:50-51 NLT).

Have faith in God and you too will see great things in the spirit.

—Fasting and Prayers—

Prophet Isaiah said:

> *Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then **your light will break forth** like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard* (Isaiah 58:6-8).

Light means revelation and enhanced ability to see into the spirit realm. Also, we see heaven break open over Peter in the midst of fasting:

> *About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, **he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened** and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners* (Acts 10:9-11).

—Obedience and Submission to Authority—

Obedience to the laws of God paves way to seeing into the spirit. Jesus

submitted to being baptized by John, though He is the Son of God, because He wanted to fulfill all righteousness:

> *Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now;* ***it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness."*** *Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.* ***At that moment heaven was opened****, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased* (Matthew 3:13-17).

Pray for the grace and spirit of obedience to come upon you in a fresh and significant way.

—A Positive Paradigm Shift to Righteousness—

A positive shift in the environment results in an open heaven over a place. King Uzziah was very successful and God gave him the wisdom to do all he did. But soon the people started to put their trust in the provisions of Uzziah's time, and not on the God who gave the king the wisdom and power to achieve the success. So when he died, there was a shift toward God: *"In the year that King Uzziah died,* ***I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne****; and the train of his robe filled the temple"* (Isaiah 6:1).

Pray for a paradigm shift to righteousness in your environment.

—The Power of Unity and Agreement—

The power of unity and agreement enhances the openness of heaven.

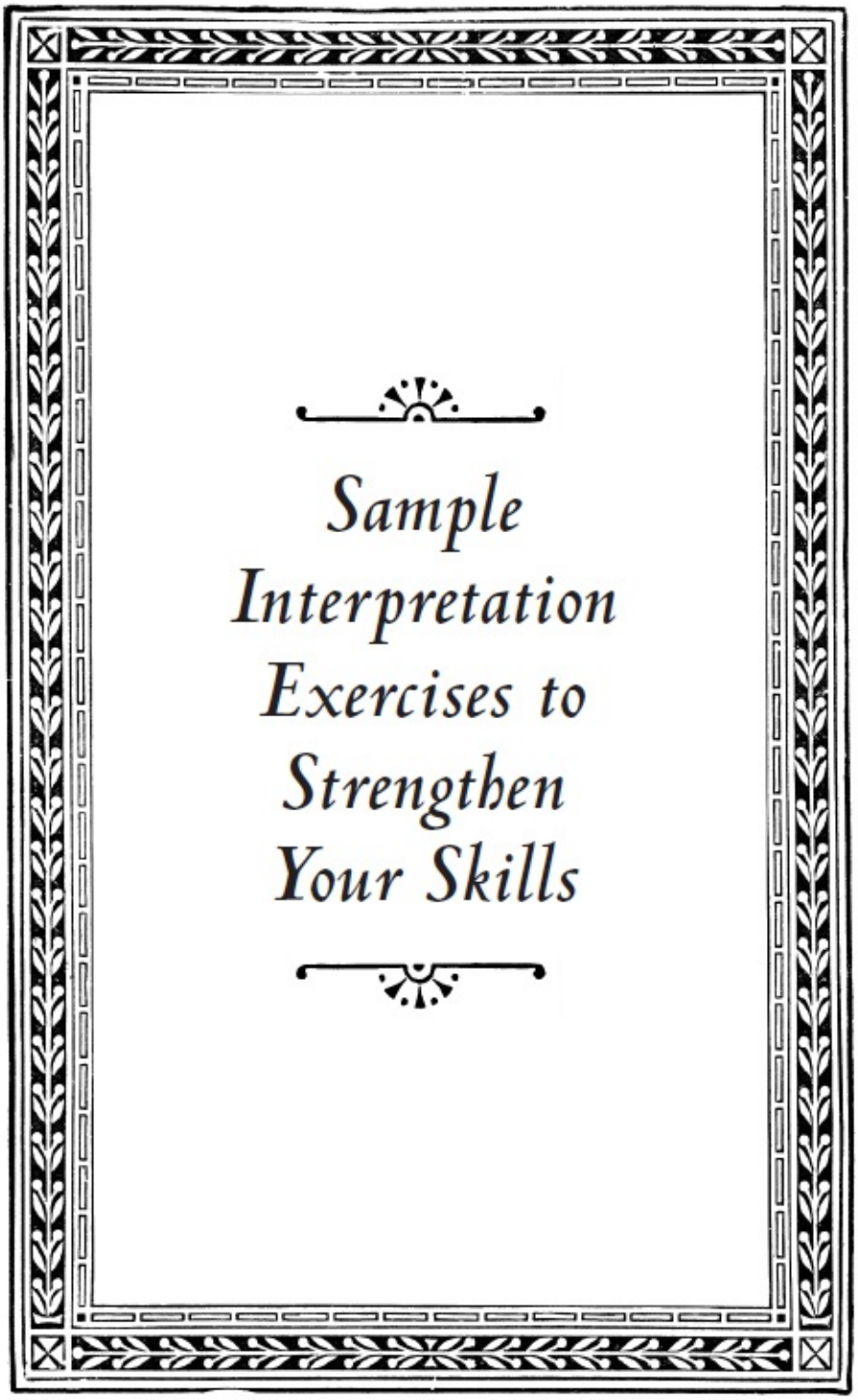
> *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.* ***They saw what seemed*** *to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them* (Acts 2:1-3).

Pray for other believers in Christ—when you are all together and when you

are in your prayer closet.

Activation Exercise 

- Scripture reference: Matthew 6:6.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a one-on-one encounter with Jesus Christ.
- Pray in the spirit for a few minutes.
- The more you pray, the more comfortable you become in communicating with God. The Bible tells us to pray in our closet, which is essential for a personal, one-on-one conversation (Matthew 6:6). Set a time aside each day or evening to meet with Him.
- Pray each of the prayers listed—one a day, placing a genuine emphasis on each. When you come to the last one, start over.
- It is also important to pray for and with others. Offer to say the blessing at your next mealtime—whether with family or with friends. Humbly share a prayer that acknowledges your Savior and His faithfulness. If you are uncomfortable praying in public, practice at home.


Sample
Interpretation
Exercises to
Strengthen
Your Skills

Dream and Vision 14

—A Missed Appointment—

I dreamt it was afternoon, and I remembered I had missed an appointment to have my hair cut at 11 a.m. Then I remembered my husband and I had to do something in the morning before the hair appointment, and in the process I had forgotten about the hair appointment. I went to the hairdresser to explain and see if she could cut my hair. She said she had wondered where I was as I had never missed an appointment.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Afternoon
- Hair appointment in the morning
- Missed appointment because of business
- Went to the hairdresser
- Hairdresser was willing to reschedule

—Interpretation—

This is a warning dream stressing the need for prioritization and to watch that busyness does not lead to a missed divine appointment. However, God is also reassuring the dreamer that whatever may have been missed, the grace of a second chance is available to the dreamer.

Dream and Vision 15

—A Vision in a Dream—

I dreamt I had a vision in a dream. I saw my mother. I was so happy. I told her I really missed her. I hugged her. She had lost weight. I told William, my brother, I had had this vision in a dream.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Mother
- Happy, hugged her
- She had last…
- Told my brother about the vision
- Interaction with the dreamer: mother is late but missed dearly

—Interpretation—

The dreamer is about to experience love and affection, like the type the dreamer had when the dreamer's mum was alive. The dreamer told the brother in the dream, which indicates that the fulfillment of the dream is sure! Telling or reporting any earlier occurrence while still in a dream is indicative of a sealed fulfillment of the promise of the dream. It is often evidence of sealing the fulfillment of the goal of the dream. I regard this as fairly certain to be fulfilled.

DREAM AND VISION 16

—A Dream of an Old Friend Called Patience

—

I dreamt I was in a car. I was in the driver's seat. The car was parked. There was a hotel nearby on our right. Two African ladies came to the car and smiled at us through the windshield. I saw they were very similar. I realized they were twins. Then I was with Patience M (old friend) in the car. She was in the passenger seat to my left. There was a car to our left with two ladies in it. Patience reached out and gave them an envelope. I felt it had money in it. She told them, "I know what it is like to go through what you are going through."

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- In a car
- Parked

- Hotel nearby
- Two ladies from home country
- Identical twins (double)
- Patience M in the car
- Patience M gave envelope to two
- Needy ladies

—Interpretation—

The dreamer is a temporary situation (in transition) (hotel nearby). It is a season of receiving double portion (the twins), even for the deeds of long ago. Dreamer requires patience and should continue to do good to those in need for in the due season dreamer will reap reward. Patience and benevolence are vital keys in the dreamer’s life and ministry.

7

Spiritual Activation

Spiritual activation exercises are designed to stir up spiritual gifts and senses or to break the barrier holding back a stagnant gift. This means you can activate or sharpen or break the barrier that may be holding back the expression of godly gifts and spiritual senses in your life. This is why the apostle Paul said to Timothy his spiritual son, *"I remind you to fan into flame the gracious gift of God, [that inner fire—the special endowment] which is in you through the laying on of my hands [with those of the elders at your ordination]"* (2 Timothy 1:6 AMP).

The emptiness and the briefness of our outward existence can become so overwhelming at times that we forget the greatness of the life of God that exists inside us. Our minds without the rule of the Spirit is so fickle that it may want to drive us away from the living reality of great potentials, giftedness, and spiritual senses that are available to us on the inside. God has equipped every one of us with all we will ever need to live a godly life! We must resist the pull to the emptiness of *outward* existence and deliberately retract to the awesomeness of His power already living *in* us, which spiritual exercises enable us to tap into.

These activation exercises help trigger into action the gifts that are already in the believer, as the Scriptures remind us: *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us* ***in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing*** *in Christ"* (Ephesians 1:3) and *"His divine power has* ***given us everything we need*** *for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness"* (2 Peter 1:3). Therefore, activation is the process of cultivating or activating these potential gifts and spiritual senses into the realities of our physical existence. In much the same way, the fruit of the Spirit can be cultivated and made to grow by regular spiritual activation.

Though spiritual exercises are more valuable than physical or mental exercises, most believers tend to neglect them. Paul admonishes us saying:

> *Bodily exercise is all right, but spiritual exercise is much more important and is a tonic for all you do. So exercise yourself spiritually, and practice*

being a better Christian because that will help you not only now in this life, but in the next life too (1 Timothy 4:8 TLB).

There are biblical examples of spiritual activation:

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And ***when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them****, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all* (Acts 19:1-7 NKJV).

Here we see the disciples were baptized, but they did not realize the baptism included the Holy Spirit baptism, so Paul activated that great potential into existence in their lives by the laying on of hands.

Peter activated the healing virtue in the redemption package that Aeneas received when he first believed. Aeneas became a disciple but remained bedridden because he did not realize the healing potential that was included in his redemption:

*Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "****Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately****. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord* (Acts 9:32-35 NKJV).

In this encounter notice that Peter's response was more of a declaration of the truth than of prayers. The potential for this healing that Peter declared existed all along, though it was not manifested until Peter activated it.

Thus, activation brings what already exists in the person into physical manifestation. Activation will not only help trigger a dormant potential into action, it helps to nurture the gift and its expression to maturity by regular

spiritual exercises as the book of Hebrew says, *"But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil"* (Hebrews 5:14 NKJV). This is why we should persist with these exercises until they yield the desired results. Maturity, dexterity, or other forms of skillfulness often come as a result of regular use or exercise!

Spiritual activation can also help to sharpen all of the spiritual senses so that the person can become a better Christian, fit for the Master's use.

Divine Activation of the Sense of Hearing

After God touched and purified Isaiah's lips, his sense of hearing was activated to hear at a higher or deeper level, and he heard the voice of God:

> *Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."* ***Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying****, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me"* (Isaiah 6:6-8).

That is why later in his ministry, the prophet Isaiah affirmed that God awakens his ears to hear from Him daily.

> *The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary.* ***He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. The Lord God has opened My ear****; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away* (Isaiah 50:4-5 NKJV).

We must seek to refuel from the heart of intimate relationship with God and choose divine encounter with God over the pull of desire of outward ministration to others, as good as that might be, because every genuine ministry must be from the overflow of our intimate, divine encounters with the triune God. For in Him we live, move, and have our being! (See Acts 17:28.)

—Dual Divine Activation—

It is also worthwhile to notice the *dual divine activations* of the hearing

realm and the speaking realm in the life of the prophet Isaiah. His *"well-instructed tongue"* was connected to his *"opened ear."* As he attained the tongue of the learned, his ears were opened to hear and obey.

—We Hear in the Spirit—

There is an inherent ability to hear the voice of God in every believer, that is why Jesus said:

> *"The sheep that are My own hear and are listening to My voice; and I know them, and they follow Me"* (John 10:27 AMPC).

This great inherent potential of hearing His voice is activated only *when we are in the Spirit.* As the Bible says:

> ***I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice**, as of a trumpet, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea"* (Revelation 1:10-11 NKJV).

Though prayers, fasting, worship, and obedience are all pivotal to our walk with God, believers need to be *in Spirit to hear God.* Believers should endeavor to be in the Spirit at all times, whether in the mundane things of life or in prayers or worship. When we are in the Spirit, we can hear God in the bathroom, while driving a car, or in the supermarket. There is no limitation to when or where to hear from God when we are in the Spirit.

ACTIVATION FOR SPEAKING REALM

By the power of the word of God, we are activated and empowered to speak the word of God to every situation. We see this in the life of the prophet Ezekiel:

> *Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; **eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel**." So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness. Then He said to me: "**Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them"***

(Ezekiel 3:1-4 NKJV).

Also in the ministry of apostle John:

> *Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, "**You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings**"* (Revelation 10:10-11 NKJV).

The fire of God touched and cleansed the mouths of the prophet Jeremiah and the prophet Isaiah with supernatural enablement and grace so they could speak God's word with power demonstration.

—Dual Divine Activation—

Also notice the dual divine activations of the speaking realm and the spiritual sight in the life of the prophet Jeremiah:

> *Then **the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth** and said to me, "**I have put my words in your mouth**. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." The word of the Lord came to me: "**What do you see, Jeremiah**?" "**I see the branch of an almond tree**," I replied* (Jeremiah 1:9-11).

These dual divine activations help to illustrate the connectedness of all our senses in the Spirit.

Activation of Spiritual Sensitivity

Being sensitive in the Spirit is a valuable attribute in the life of the believer. It is by being sensitive in the Spirit that we can pick up what is not immediately obvious to the natural person. Through the practice of benevolence and care, our sense of spiritual sensitivity is activated, enhanced and enabled to tap into the heart of God in each situation.

God is love and love cannot fail. Whenever we tap into the love of God, we become more aware of His presence and His power around us. This can often be the foundation of divine sensitivity in our lives. The following Bible passages illustrate this truth:

*And she said to her husband, Behold now, **I perceive that this is a holy man of God** who passes by continually* (2 Kings 4:9 AMPC).

And listening as Paul preached. Looking straight at him, Paul realized he had faith to be healed (Acts 14:9 NLT).

ACTIVATION OF SPIRITUAL SIGHT

God wants to open us to greater heights in spiritual sight and to move us from the restricted monologue in spiritual sight (seeing only or to see predominantly what the devil is doing) to full engagement and participation in divine dialogue in spiritual sight. To achieve this, we need to shift our focus to what God is doing or saying at all times— because what we pay attention to, we make room for!

As mentioned previously, to be visually activated means the stirring up of dormant spiritual eyes into kinetic motion of activity, from stagnancy to flowing freely and expansion of spiritual sight entails attaining an improved level of visualization in its many ramifications.

Heaven is the ultimate source of spiritual sight activation for every believer. That is why Jesus said, *"Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; **he can do only what he sees his Father doing**, because whatever the Father does the Son also does"* (John 5:19). Jesus was saying by this that heavenly focus is required for spiritual sight. As the Bible says, only those with pure hearts can see the Kingdom of God (Matthew 5:8). Holiness is a prerequisite for seeing into the Kingdom of God and fundamental for spiritual sight activation.

In the book of Ephesians, apostle Paul gave us the benefits of activating and seeing with our spiritual eyes:

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength (Ephesians 1:17-19).

These benefits include:

- Increased knowledge of God

- More revelations and wisdom from God
- More understanding of things and situations
- Knowing the mystery of individual callings
- Knowing the riches of our glorious inheritance
- Knowing the great power at work in us

Activation of the Fruit of the Spirit

With regular spiritual exercises, you can grow in the fruit of the Spirit by practicing regular communion, spending quality time with God, and asking Him for endowment with fruit of the Spirit.

Activation of the Sense of Taste

Job said, *"Is there iniquity in my tongue? Cannot my taste discern perverse things?* (Job 6:30 KJV) and *"Doth not the ear try words? And the mouth taste his meat?"* (Job 12:11 KJV). In other words, our sense of taste is as real and discerning as our sense of hearing (ears).

We should pray that God will activate our spiritual sense of taste as He did for Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the apostle John to empower their prophetic ministries:

> *Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it,* ***and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth****. He then said to me: "Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them"* (Ezekiel 3:3-4).
>
> *When your words came****, I ate them; they were my joy*** *and my heart's delight…* (Jeremiah 15:16).
>
> *I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it.* ***It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth****, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings"* (Revelation 10:10-11).

Activation of the Sense of Smell in the

Spirit

The Bible says we are the aroma of Christ:

> *But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us* ***to spread the aroma*** *of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing* ***aroma of Christ*** *among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?* (2 Corinthians 2:14-16)

> *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice* ***to God for a sweet-smelling aroma*** (Ephesians 5:1-2 NKJV).

Clearly from these verses it is obvious the sense of smell exists in the spiritual as it does in the natural realm. We need to pray to God to activate our sense of smell in the Spirit just as we use the natural sense of smell. It is by an activated sense of smell in the Spirit that many believers often sense the aroma of God's presence in times of worship.

Knowing the Process of Spiritual Activation

All born-again Christians filled with the Holy Spirit can minister activation to themselves or minister it to another Christian. A safe place suitable for one-on-one conversation with God is essential. It can also be ministered in a small group of people setting.

Trust in God is important, and being open to receive in a sincere and intimate way from God is also important. Having patience, even if it takes time to notice any visible progress is important. We must come to God as little children come to their earthly fathers with innocent simplicity. Keep a record of your progress in absorbing these attributes into your everyday life.

Writing on the subject of prophetic activation, John Eckhardt[1] says activation may use any of the following: *words, actions, objects, Scripture verses, worship songs, and prophetic prayers.* Activation means *to start it off, trigger it, or set it in motion.* And that the goal of activation includes:

1. To trigger the gifts to flow freely.

2. Set in motion Holy Spirit utterances.
3. To break down the barriers of *fear, doubt, timidity, and ignorance* that hinder and prevent people from operating in these gifts.
4. To *rekindle and fan the flame of ministries that has become stagnant.*
5. Activations are simply designed to stir people to grow in whatever level they are called.

ACTIVATION EXERCISE SAMPLES 

Exercise 1
—Fruit of the Spirit Activation—

- Scripture reference: Galatians 5:22-23.
- Find a safe and secure place.
- Pray in the Spirit for a few minutes.
- Ask God to tell you which fruit of the Spirit He is teaching you through your current life situation.
- Ask Him to grant you the grace and peace to engage fully with His dealings.
- Look to see or hear or sense what He might be revealing to you (the true reason behind what you are going through).
- Be open, sincere, and ready to receive.
- Then spend some time to reflect on what has been revealed to you.
- Examine or recall your current natural situation and see what matches with what God has revealed.
- Write down what you have received.
- Thank God for His grace.
- Repeat exercise as often as possible.

Exercise 2

—A Sample for Spiritual Senses Activation—

- Scripture reference: Hebrews 5:14.
- Find a place suitable for a one-on-one conversation with God.
- Ask God to expand your spiritual sight (read Revelation 4:1-2) and sharpen your sense of smell in the Spirit.
- Ask God to open your eyes to see more heavenly activities, including the angelic realm.
- Look to see or hear or smell what He might be revealing to you.
- Write down what He showed you or what He said to you.
- Give God thanks.
- Repeat exercise as often as possible.

Exercise 3
—Open Heaven Activation—

- Scripture reference: Luke 3:21.
- Use your prayer closet.
- Ask God to open the heaven upon you.
- Look to see what He might be revealing to you.
- Ask Him what you are to do with the revelation.
- Write down what God has revealed to you.
- Give God thanks.
- Repeat as often as possible.

Exercise 4
—Prophetic Activation—

- Choose a partner and believe God for a word of encouragement.
- Using that one word, let God guide you to prophesy into the person’s life.

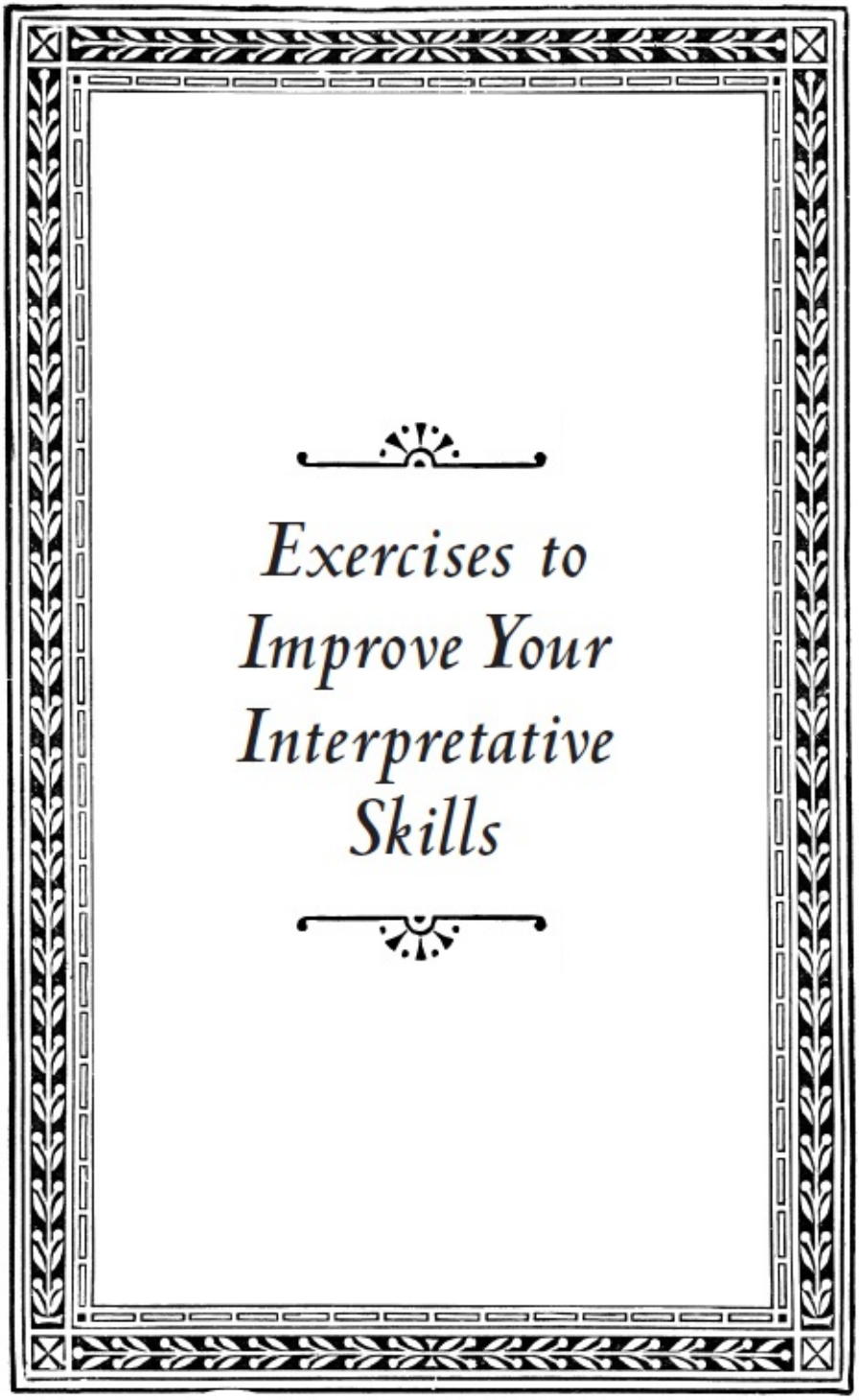
- By faith, break the hesitation in your spirit; and as you do, God will lead in several directions relevant to the person.

Exercise 5
—Prophetic Activation—

- Choose an object.
- Use the object as a prophecy trigger in much the same way as using a snapshot vision.
- You may choose a pen, book, watch, mobile phone, keys, Bible, and wallet.
- Using the object and depending on the Holy Spirit for gentle leading, prophesy into the person's life.
- Start to speak, and gradually your speech will gain volume.

ENDNOTE

1. John Eckhardt, *Prophetic Activation* (Lake Mary, FL: Charisma House, 2014).



Exercises to Improve Your Interpretative Skills

GIVE MEANING TO:

—A Broken Tooth Requiring a Dentist—

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Tooth
- Broken
- Requiring a dentist

—Interpretation—

A tooth is symbolic of wisdom because it is used to break things down to small details or a means of gaining understanding. Broken indicates not functioning as it should be, disabled, hindered, lacking in normal ability. Requiring a dentist means in need of repair before it can return to normal functions.

—Conclusion—

This means a time when the ability to articulate things properly is hindered and needs to be repaired. However, depending on the context of the dream or vision, it could refer to a very specific issue or situation needing attention and in need of repairs.

STUDY AND GIVE MEANING TO:

—Zechariah 4:1-6—

The Dream*: Then the angel who talked with me returned and wakened me, as a man is wakened from his sleep. He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lights on it, with seven channels to the lights. Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left." I asked the angel who talked*

with me, "What are these, my lord?" (Zechariah 4:1-4).

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- I
- Solid God lampstand
- Bowl at the top
- Seven lights
- Seven channels
- Two olive trees
- One on the right and one on the left

—Interpretation—

Angels can wake us up to record our dreams and visions. Angels can also bring understanding to us in our dreams and visions; usually when an angel brings understanding, it is in the form of an overview of the dream or vision—a word of knowledge interpretation. A word of knowledge interpretation is the true and correct interpretation given by the Holy Spirit, but does not delve deeply in the symbolism of the dream or vision.

Word of knowledge interpretation given by the angel: *He answered, "Do you not know what these are?" "No, my lord," I replied. So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty"* (Zechariah 4:5-6).

—Exposition of Elements in Zechariah's Dream—

However, through the divine wisdom inherent in the dream or vision symbolism, a true and correct interpretation can also be determined. In that case, the strategy for achieving the divine goal is revealed via the symbolism of the dream or vision.

As long as Zerubbabel remains connected to the source of anointing— as

symbolized by the two channels connecting the bowl and the two olive trees—then the light (the Spirit) will continue to burn in him. It will not be by might nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Almighty that Zerubbabel will succeed.

8

Diversity of Visionary Encounters

The term *vision* covers a wide spectrum of spiritual occurrences from a snapshot pictorial, auditory or olfactory (sense of smell) perception, to tangible almost cinematographic presentation. There is great interface between visionary experiences and natural occurrences, so much so that many are often not sure whether it is real (natural) or supernatural encounter.

God drew Moses' attention when He showed him a divine sight (vision) of a burning bush—a supernatural occurrence that blended with the natural surrounding (Exodus 3:1-4), the apostle John felt as if he were dead when he saw a vision: *"When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead"* (Revelation 1:17). Jacob was left with a limp for life after a visionary encounter (Genesis 32:22-26). And Samuel heard the voice of God but did not see Him in the visionary encounter (1 Samuel 3:4-10).

Visions of the heavenly realm include:

- Angelic visitations (read Daniel 10 and Luke 1:26-38)
- Strange and mysterious events (read Exodus 3:1-5; 2 Corinthians 12:2-4; 1 Kings 18:46)
- The handwriting on the wall (read Daniel 5:1-12)
- Wrestling with the angel of the Lord as Jacob did (read Genesis 32:22-32)
- Transfiguration of Jesus Christ (read Matthew 17:1-9)

Vision and Dream Interface

Sometimes spiritual experiences are hard to define as either dreams or visions; these experiences are referred to as occurring in vision and dream

interface. These experiences are not uncommon.

It is important to note that some dreams can contain visionary encounters and some visions may contain dream experiences. For instance, a vision in a dream is found in Daniel 7:1, *"…Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream."* A dream within the context of a vision is found in Genesis 15:12, *"As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him."*

—Visions while Awake—

When a vision is experienced by a group of people, commonly each person within the group perceive the vision according to the level of their spiritual visual acuity (the person's visual sharpness) and as sovereignly determined by God. The Damascus Road experience is a good example of this circumstance (see Acts 9:1-9). This also happens with most angelic corporal (physical) appearances (see Daniel 10:2-9).

Sometimes there is a full view for all recipients of the corporate vision such as the mysterious handwriting on the wall or other apparitions, because the visionary happening has sufficiently permeated the natural realm to be seen with natural eyes (Daniel 5:4-6 TLB). (See the illustration of the components of a vision.)

—Dreams while Asleep—

Dreams are only received when asleep, and dream reception involves only your spirit. Soul and body participation in dream reception is highly restricted. In most cases, what appears to be bodily involvement in a dream is probably because of the visions within the dream.

Differences Between Dreams and Visions

As mentioned previously, in Acts 2:17, the Amplified Bible refers to *visions* as divinely granted appearances and *dreams* as divinely suggested communications.

Dreams are more suggested possibilities than inevitabilities. Dreams of

promises need to be prayed through for fulfillment. Dreams of warning need to be prayed through so danger can be averted.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DREAMS AND VISIONS	
DREAMS	**VISIONS**
• In Acts 2:17, the Amplified Bible refers to dreams as **divinely *suggested* communications.**	• In Acts 2:17, the Amplified Bible refers to visions as **divinely *granted* appearances.**
• Dreams are more suggested possibilities than inevitabilities.	• Visions need more appropriation and application.
• Dreams of promises need to be prayed through for fulfillment.	• Visions more often may require declaration and decrees.
• Dreams of warning need to be prayed through so danger can be averted.	• Visions need prayers and may require prophetic acting.
• To receive dreams, the mind has to be asleep; see Genesis 15:12-13.	• Visions are received with varying degrees of mind alertness.
• Dreams are always experienced on a personal basis.	• Visions can be experienced in a group setting.
• Dreams are received by a person's spirit; are mostly Spirit-to-spirit encounters.	• Visions may involve varying degrees of the physical or natural realm, such as tangible bodily experiences.
• Dreams are more symbolic.	• Visions are more literal.

God's Secrets, Visions, and Strange Events

A vision is the visual perception of a supernatural happening with varying degrees of symbolism. A vision is like a multimedia package that can range from mere auditory to complex cinematographic presentation.

Each time someone receives a vision, something of the nature of God is embedded in the person's being.

Visionary occurrence comes with varying degrees of natural or physical involvement. A vision could be a mere sight as in a "burning bush" experience, or a tangible physical experience as in Jacob wrestling with the angel. Visions reveal the awesomeness, the majesty, and colorfulness of God.

God Reveals His Secrets

Matthew 13:10-11 says, *"The disciples came to him and asked, 'Why do you speak to the people in parables?' He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them."*

The *knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom* of God is the major reason for the warfare in the heavenly realm—it is about the devil trying to gain access to the secrets of God! (See Daniel 9:21-22; Daniel 10:12-14.)

Visions connect the person to the nature and attributes of God in a deep and intimate way. Visions are gracious revelations of the secrets of God!

> *he said, "Listen to my words: When there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams"* (Numbers 12:6).

The only true secrets are the secrets of God, all other secrets are available to God to whom everything is exposed: *"Everything is uncovered and laid bare"* (Hebrews 4:13). And God can make it available to whomever He wishes.

Deuteronomy 29:29 says, *"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law."*

God Keeps Secrets

Your placement in life depends on God's secrets made available to you; and the more of God's secrets you have, the more outstanding your success becomes! God's secrets give you the strategy to overcome the obstacles of life.

God's secrets are the weapons for victorious warfare. There was a plot against Jeremiah, and he only knew about it after God revealed the secret to him. So, the secrets of God can preserve your life:

> *Because **the Lord revealed their plot to me**, I knew it, for at that time he showed me what they were doing. I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying "Let us destroy the tree and its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more." But you, Lord Almighty, who judge righteously and test the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause* (Jeremiah

11:18-20).

God's secrets give you divine access to prosperity; Job said, *"As I was in the days of my youth, when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle"* (Job 29:4 KJV). Job was the richest man in the east. God's secrets are the keys to financial breakthrough. Jacob had a revelation from God about how to regain economic abundance in the house of Laban (see Genesis 30:37).

God's secrets are keys to life preservation. God revealed the secret of the king's dream to Daniel and his friends in a vision to preserve their lives:

> *This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death. …At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him. Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. He urged them to* ***plead for mercy from the God*** *of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. During the night* ***the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision****. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven* (Daniel 2:12-19).

God's secrets help to prevent fatal sins; the secret of Sarah's true identity was revealed to King Abimelek in a revelation, otherwise he would have sinned against God (see Genesis 20:1-8).

The Fear of God

The fear of God entitles you to His secrets and visions. God makes His covenant, His promises, known to those who fear Him. There are many people who are privy to the deep secrets of God as they affect humanity, but they may not be permitted to talk about them (see 2 Corinthians 12:2). Vision is about God revealing His secrets to a person. In this way, God bypasses the human mind and all other influences from our natural consciousness.

Strange, Unusual Events from God

There is an increasing occurrence of strange events in the last days—most of which are described in the Bible. The Living Bible translation puts this rather

clearly: *"And I will cause strange demonstrations in the heavens and on the earth…"* (Acts 2:19); *"and put strange symbols in the earth and sky…"* (Joel 2:30). Strange events come in various forms and in varying degrees of strangeness or awesomeness. Most strange events serve to emphasize the sovereignty and supremacy of God; yet in many other instances, the strangeness or bizarre nature of the spiritual encounter seems not to be God's first choice. Some of God's messages may assume strange or bizarre forms, possibly to compel humankind to pay attention to what God might want to say.

The following are examples of biblical strange events:

- *Translation,* transporting from one place to another or to convey to heaven without natural death (see Hebrews 11:5 KJV; 2 Kings 2:11-12; Ezekiel 8:1-7; Acts 8:39; 1 Kings 18:44-46; Acts 16:6-10).
- *Apparition,* a visionary encounter in which a supernatural happening becomes perceptible to the natural eyes. An apparition happens because the supernatural event has sufficiently involved and permeated the physical realm to the extent that it makes it possible to be seen by the natural eyes. An example is when an angel assumes a temporal appearance (see Daniel 3:20-25; 5:5-7).
- *Carry-over,* when an event or occurrence in the spiritual encounter is carried over into the physical realm (see Genesis 32:22-32; Daniel 7:28).
- *Dream-like state visionary encounter,* such as when Peter was miraculously released from jail and he walked out of the jail and passed through the iron gate before he came into his natural senses (see Acts 12:7-12 NKJV).
- *Transfiguration,* is when an earthly vessel transforms to take on a temporary heavenly appearance. Thus, the Bible speaks of the heavenly appearance that once came upon Jesus, in His humanity, during His earthly ministry (see Matthew 17:2-9 NKJV, also see Acts 6:15).

The Bible says God will show forth wonders in the heavens and signs on earth. However, signs and wonders are not seals of divinity. Important considerations:

- A *miracle* is an event that appears unexplained by the laws of nature and so is held to be supernatural in origin or an act of God.
- A *wonder* is defined as something that arouses awe, astonishment, or admiration, or something strange.

- A *sign* is a pointer, like a signpost, confirming the Word of God and directs people's attention to Christ.

Whether a divine sign, a wonder, or a miracle, each transcends the limits of natural logic and serve to confirm the supernaturalness, supremacy, and sovereignty of God (see Daniel 4:3; Exodus 4:8 KJV). A sign from God has "voice"; God's clear objective in giving the sign is to speak to us. Though signs are supernatural signals from heaven, they happen in the natural and are therefore easily missed.

The first and most important factor that influences whether a person is able or not to recognize a divinely orchestrated strange event, is the state of a person's heart. Those whose hearts are not yielded to the truth of Christ are less likely to distinguish divine from satanic strange events:

> *and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved* (2 Thessalonians 2:10 NKJV).

Divine strange events reveal the glory of God (see John 2:11), but magic miracles and wonders do not, they draw people away from God.

Divine strange events draw attention to something God is doing that otherwise might have been missed. Divine strange events increase our faith in God and draw us closer to Him as exemplified by what happened to the disciples:

> *This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. …Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said* (John 2:11,22 NKJV).

These divine events establish the authority or the sovereignty of God as illustrated by the demand of the Jews (see John 2:18). On the other hand, magic miracles create fear and binds people to the bonds of lesser gods and their evil covenants.

How to Recognize Divine Strange Events

Divine strange events bring people to the knowledge of God. Paul wrote to the Romans:

Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them. ***They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit.*** *In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum* (Romans 15:18-19 NLT).

Divine strange events:

- Draw people to the majesty of God.
- Exalt the name of God.
- Bring reverence to God.
- Bring reassurance of the character of God: love, kindness, compassion, mercy, and forgiveness.
- Are often a one-time occurrence, divinely made for the particular situation.

With divine strange events, the focus is never on the human being, even though the divine strange happening may be distinctively associated with the person; for example, the healing power of God in the crusade of an evangelist associated with the healing anointing may manifest even before the evangelist arrives at the crusade arena.

Beware! Signs, wonders, and miracles are not always of God. As the Bible says, *"This man of sin will come as Satan's tool, full of satanic power and will trick everyone with* ***strange demonstrations*** *and will do great miracles*" (2 Thessalonians 2:9 TLB). Always be alert and have a discerning spirit, as satan's ability to pretend is probably far beyond human comprehension: *"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light"* (2 Corinthians 11:14).

Also, the Bible admonishes us to *"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour"* (1 Peter 5:8; also see Acts 19:11-20; 1 Samuel 28:5-19).

Paul described a man who had an out-of-body experience, and many agree he is talking about himself:

You've forced me to talk this way, and I do it against my better judgment. But now that we're at it, I may as well bring up the matter of visions and revelations that God gave me. For instance, I know a man who, fourteen

years ago, was ***seized by Christ and swept in ecstasy to the heights of heaven.*** *I really don't know if this took place in the body or out of it; only God knows. I also know that this man was hijacked into paradise—again, whether in or out of the body, I don't know; God knows. There he heard the unspeakable spoken, but was forbidden to tell what he heard. This is the man I want to talk about* (2 Corinthians 12:2-4 MSG).

THE SUPERNATURAL TRANSPORTATION OF PHILIP

Philip was snatched away by the Holy Spirit and transported; he later "found" himself in Azotus:

He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of ***the Lord snatched Philip away****. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He preached the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea* (Acts 8:38-40 NLT).

ELIJAH'S MYSTERY

Elijah outran the king's chariot:

And sure enough, the sky was soon black with clouds, and a heavy wind brought a terrific rainstorm. Ahab left hastily for Jezreel, and the Lord gave special strength to Elijah so that he was able to run ahead of Ahab's chariot to the entrance of the city! (1 Kings 18:45-46 TLB)

Peter was caught in a strange occurrence when he was released from the prison by an angel in real life—but Peter thought it was dream and a visionary experience until much later. *"So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a dream or vision and didn't believe it was really happening"* (Acts 12:9 NLT). This is a perfect example of the blending of natural and supernatural occurrences.

Solomon was caught up in a revelation, but he thought it was happening in real life (natural realm) but it was a supernatural occurrence. *"… Then Solomon woke up and realized it had been a dream"* (1 Kings 3:1-15).

Some strange events can look natural, but a close examination will reveal the

supernatural origin (naturally supernatural). Divine strange events do not originate from humans. Angels may assume human form and become naturally perceptible, but they are supernatural beings capable of taking on natural form to perform a divine assignment on earth.

As mentioned before, the degree to which a supernatural occurrence can be perceived by the natural senses is dependent on the extent to which it has penetrated (involved) the natural or physical realm. When a supernatural occurrence fully penetrates the natural realm, the occurrence becomes perceptible by the natural senses; hence, everyone present is then able to perceive it.

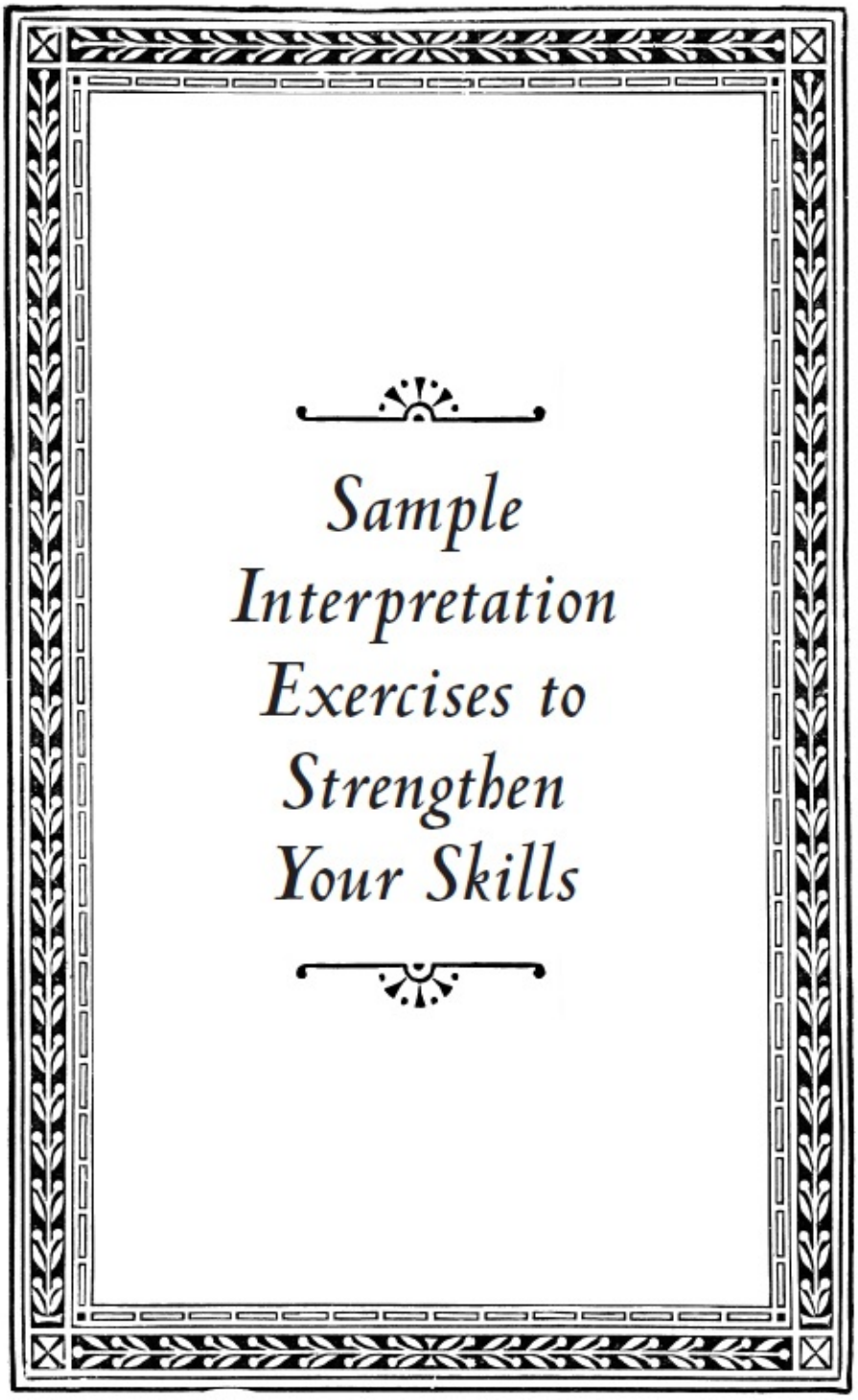
Not all strange events are from God. Therefore, it is vitally important to be able to distinguish those that are from God: *"For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones"* (Matthew 24:24 NLT).

> *This **man of sin** will come as Satan's tool, full of satanic power, and **will trick** everyone **with strange demonstrations**, and will do great miracles. He will completely fool those who are on their way to hell because they have said no to the Truth; they have refused to believe it and love it and let it save them* (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 TLB).

ACTIVATION EXERCISE 

- Ask the Lord for a supernatural experience with Him today.
- Ask Him for a Bible verse for whatever situation you may be going through.
- Look it up and see if it speaks to your situation.
- Have you experienced strange events occurring in the "twilight zone"? (The state between the spirit and the natural realms.) Record these events, which may reveal a pattern of communications from God.
- Have you witnessed magic events (miracles and wonders) that draw people to a person and away from God? What convinced you that this was an ungodly event?
- As a believer, you have said "Yes" to the Truth, you have believed and love the Truth, therefore you will not be fooled. In what ways has God given you the ability to distinguish between false strange events and

God-initiated strange events?



Dream and Vision 17

—A Long White Wedding Dress—

I dreamt I was wearing a long white wedding dress. I looked and saw a beautiful veil and gloves laid out. In the dream, I knew I was married. I told my husband I didn't have white shoes. Then I remembered a pair of white shoes I had that had some black on them. I told my husband I would put them on. He was pleased. Then I met my sister. She said she was told one should wear blue or purple shoes.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Wearing a white wedding dress
- I looked and saw
- Beautiful veil and gloves laid out
- Knew I was married in the dream
- Told husband
- No white shoes
- Remembered a pair of white shoes
- Husband pleased
- Met sister

—Interpretation—

The dreamer is entering a new level of intimacy with Jesus Christ. All has been laid out for this to happen. Jesus is happy with the dreamer. This is a dream of encouragement. The husband in this dream speaks of Jesus Christ—the "Husband" of the Church; and the fact that anyone could wear blue or purple shoes speaks of spirituality and royalty that would be associated with the season.

Dream and Vision 18

—A Large Pond of Dirty Water—

I was standing on a platform, looking down at a large, round pond full of water. The water was not clear at all, as if it wasn't water at all; in fact, it was black and of very thick consistency, almost as tar. Suddenly my cousin, whom I called brother (because we grew up in the same household) appeared. He was round about the pond with someone else. My brother plunged right into that pond and began diving and looking beneath the surface of the water. When I inquired from him why, he told me that he was searching for his knife, which had somehow fallen into the water. After several dives about the seemingly muddy pond, he emerged with a scream. He was holding on to a snake that was quickly released. My brother sank beneath the water; he lost consciousness because he had been bitten by the snake.

As I began to scream for help, the person (whom I recognized in the dream but forgot when I woke up) quickly walked around the pond, as if to enter, in search of my brother. But as he was about to go in, the snake had exited and was swiftly moving away. The person grabbed the snake in his hands and extended it at arm's length, snapping its head, killing it.

At that point, I ran down the street toward my family home, calling out for anyone to come help my brother Moses, telling them about what had happened. The dream ended while I was going toward the family's home.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- A platform
- Large, round pond full of water
- The water was not clear (as if not water)
- Black and thick
- My cousin (brother)
- Cousin plunged into the pond
- Diving beneath
- Looking for his knife
- Hold on to a snake

- Brother sank beneath because he has been bitten by snake
- I screamed for help
- Someone killed the snake
- Ran toward the family home
- Telling them about what had happened

—Interpretation—

This dream is about the family and the great potential that exist in the family. There is giftedness in family, but this great potential has been adulterated with ungodly doctrines and now hijacked by the evil one. Many in the bloodline have lost their sharpness in spiritual things because of evil adulteration of the potentials, and some people have suffered serious harm in the process. Most have lost their sharpness and the spirit and the essence of "sword of the spirit" as a result of the lack of biblical-based principles. But God is raising the dreamer as a redeemer and crier to the family, and God has sent assistance to help dismantle the evil presence. The fact that the final outcome of the situation, particularly the fate of the brother bitten by the snake, remains unknown in the dream encounter means it is a call to prayers to determine the eventual outcome.

DREAM AND VISION 19

—An Old Woman in a Wheelchair—

I was walking along a very straight and narrow earthen path when I noticed an old woman in a wheelchair moving along slowly behind me. I thought to myself, *I must be blocking her way,* since the path was too narrow to accommodate two abreast; so I stopped and allowed her to overtake me. Immediately the wheelchair disappeared and the woman was gleefully running in front, fully functional, sticking out her tongue at me, mocking me. I woke up and prayed against any form of deception.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Along a very straight and narrow path

- Old woman in a wheelchair
- Moving slowly behind dreamer
- Dreamer gave way
- Wheelchair passed dreamer
- Immediately the wheelchair disappeared
- Woman was gleefully running
- In front, fully functional
- Mocking the dreamer

—Interpretation—

This dream encourages the dreamer not to be weary in doing well. The dreamer will tap into the supernatural power and miracles of God through kindness and benevolence. The Bible says whatever your hand finds to do, do it as unto the Lord. God is equipping the dreamer for the miracle-working power of God (Galatians 6:9). The apparent mocking in the dream is a call to resilience and to continue in all things as unto the Lord.

Resist the soulish interpretation that would say that this dream is a warning to the dreamer to be more discerning in order to avoid being taking for granted by deceitful people—meaning to be careful who the dreamer does good to because some people will come deceitfully. That would not be God's perspective of things. Good is good, and we should not be weary in well-doing: *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers"* (Galatians 6:9-10).

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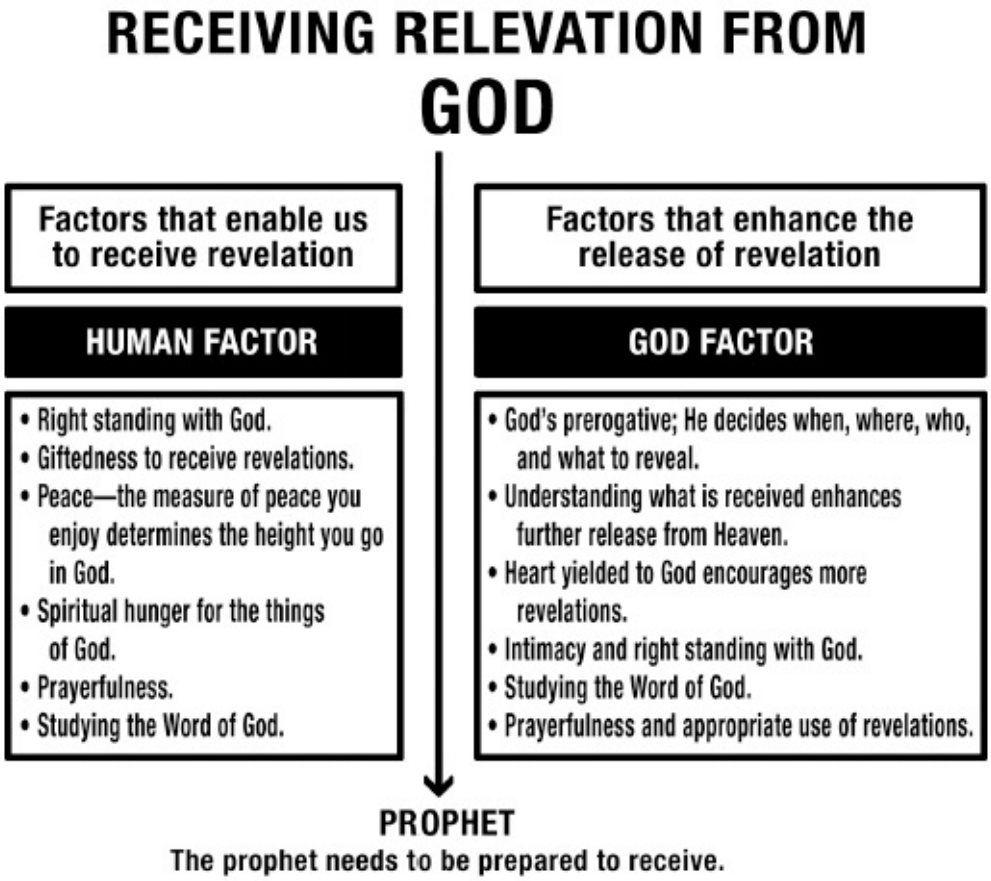
Practical Keys for the Visionary

Revelations come from God. God has the sovereign rights over what, when, and where to release revelation. He also decides who and to what extent He chooses to release the revelation. A person's ability to receive depends on the giftedness and the preparedness to receive. Once God initiates a revelatory conversation, furtherance of the discussion depends on God's agenda and the preparedness of the person to engage with God.

Receiving a revelation does not automatically entitle you to its interpretation, because interpretation is both a gifted, studied art, and flow from intimacy with God. Interpretation is also the reward of intimacy with God. Giftedness coupled with regular use results in proficiency.

The Lord confides in and reveals things to those who fear, or revere and respect, Him: *"Friendship with God is reserved for those who reverence him. With them alone he shares the secrets of his promises"* (Psalm 25:14 TLB). See also Daniel 2:47 and Genesis 41:16. The secrets (revelations) of the Kingdom of God are for saints (Mark 4:11-12). Reliance on the Holy Spirit is an absolute necessity to receiving revelation and its interpretation—and every revelation needs an interpretation in one way or the other.

The spoken word and written Word of God are indispensable tools to both the reception of revelation and interpretation of it. One meaning of a symbol is not necessarily its meaning for all times. Most people tend to derive meaning from their symbols from their life experiences; but as they study the Word of God, they will draw less on their own life experience and more from a biblical reservoir of examples.



God Speaks in Many Ways

God Himself described His pattern of speech to the prophets in Numbers 12:6-8 KJV:

> *And he said hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a **vision**, and will speak unto him in a **dream**. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak **mouth to mouth**, even **apparently**, and not **in dark speeches**; and **the similitude** of the Lord shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?*

Key points from the Scripture passage from Numbers 12:

- God does not speak to everyone the same way.
- He speaks in dreams and visions.
- He speaks in clear language.

- He speaks in riddles or parables.
- He speaks in dark speeches.
- He speaks in similitude.

He is God; therefore, He may choose how He speaks to us.

Many voices exist in the spirit world, but God's voice will be recognizable if our spirit:

- Bears witness to it
- Lines up with Scripture
- Senses that the voice speaks of His love
- Is drawn closer to God
- Senses that the voice is not speaking to your ego

Hearing from God must begin from the level where you are currently. So for most people, divine inspiration may occur as a mere impression, or perhaps a prompting such as the flash of an idea, a picture, a birthing in the spirit, or even a knowing of conviction.

Know Yourself as a Tripartite Being

Humanity exists in a state of conflict of interest, which the Bible speaks of when it says, *"For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another…"* (Galatians 5:17 NKJV). To truly become the redeemed of the Lord, we need to understand the origin of our tripartite nature and intentionally bring these warring parts under the rule of the Spirit of God (see 1 Thessalonians 5:23).

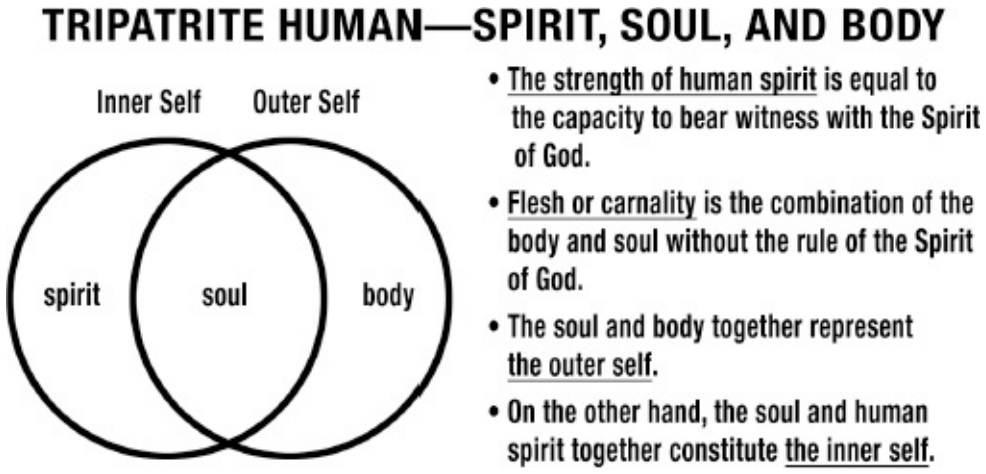
Strengthening Your Spirit and Spiritual Senses

The way to cooperate with God is to learn to live in the spirit. To live in the spirit or supernatural, we must first train ourselves for spiritual fitness. We have learned to develop the soul and the body, mostly at the expense of the spirit. Teaching about the need to exercise our spirit is rare, even though the Bible clearly admonishes us to do so:

Don't waste time arguing over foolish ideas and silly myths and legends. Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit. Bodily exercise is all right, but spiritual exercise is much more important and is a tonic for all you do. So exercise yourself spiritually, and practice being a better Christian because that will help you not only now in this life, but in the next life too (1 Timothy 4:7-8 TLB).

Our *natural conscience* recognizes between right and wrong regarding conduct, together with the feeling that we ought not to do wrong. But when we allow God to teach us the true way of life, we strengthen our human spirit. A sanctified natural conscience is the one washed by the blood of Jesus.

Our *sanctified conscience* is therefore superior to our natural conscience. When we apply our sanctified conscience, by being less self-conscious and more God-centered, we strengthen our spirit. Another way to empower our spirit is to seek the wisdom of God, which is the "life's application of the Word of God." The only true wisdom is following the dictates of the commandments of God, no matter what.



Sharpen Your Spiritual Senses

In the diagram, the soul is the non-tangible and immaterial part of humans. Our soul is also the relational part of us. When the spirit is strong, it dominates the soul, and when the body is strong, it dominates the soul. Therefore, the soul can go either way, whichever is the stronger, spirit or body, controls the soul.

The soul and the body together represent our outer self. On the other hand, the soul and the human spirit together, constitute our inner self. A controlled soul

means the emotions are controlled, the mind is renewed and submitted to God, and the will is yielded to God.

The strength of our inner self is determined by the strength of the spirit supported by the strength of the soul. Note that it is possible to have a weak soul and yet be strong in the spirit. For instance, Samson was strong spiritually, being anointed from the womb of his mother as a Nazarite, but he manifested weakness in his soul at the same time. This caused him to fall. John the Baptist, though he had a strong inner self, later in his life, his soul buckled under pressure and he doubted who Jesus was and was killed by Herod. His soul was unable to support his strong spirit at that crucial end of his life.

The Spirit or Inner Self

The spirit self is the essence of a person's life. Your spirit self is the consummation of your human spirit and your soul under the rule of the Spirit of God. You are only as strong as your spirit self is. Any affliction of your spirit self will eventually cripple the whole of your being. Hence, it is essential to prevent, detect, and remedy any infirmity of your spirit self.

The following are seven infirmities of the spirit self. The human spirit consists of three functional parts: the conscience, wisdom, and communion with God; and each component needs to be watchfully cared for.

Infirmities of the Spirit Self—Human Spirit

1. Defiled Conscience—*Sealed, hardened and not teachable.*

A defiled conscience is when human conscience becomes sealed with hardness and is no longer able to understand the things of God.

> *Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and* ***consciences are corrupted*** (Titus 1:15 NLT).

> *A person who is pure of heart sees goodness and purity in everything; but a person whose own heart is evil and untrusting finds evil in everything, for his* ***dirty mind and rebellious heart color all he sees and hears*** (Titus

1:15 TLB).

> *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from* ***all filthiness of the flesh and spirit****, perfecting holiness in the fear of God* (2 Corinthians 7:1 NKJV).

2. Lack of Communion with God—*Loss of value and relevance to the things of God.*

The strength of the human spirit is the measure of its ability to bear witness with the Spirit of God. If there is no communion, the human spirit loses value and essence: *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God"* (Romans 8:16 NKJV).

Lack of communion will lead to lack of peace and lack of liberty because where the Spirit of God is, there is liberty. Without the Spirit there is increased irritability, deception, and confusion.

3. Corrupt Wisdom and Worldly Wisdom—*Leading to vagabond spirit.*

Wisdom from God is pure and trustworthy. Life application of the Word of God is true wisdom:

> *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice* (James 3:13-16).

4. Lack of Fire or Fervency—*Being lukewarm and not usable by God.*

Lack of fire or fervency or being lukewarm toward the things of God does not please God:

> *I* [God] *know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth* (Revelation 3:15-16).

5. Poor Prayer Life—*Impoverished spirit and powerlessness.*

A prayerful Christian is a powerful Christian; powerlessness is the foundation of bondage. Prayer infirmities lead to lack of focus, inability to concentrate, becoming easily distracted, spirit of vagabond, and the spirit of stupor.

Read Ephesians 3:16-20.

6. Not Studying the Word of God—*Leading to weak human spirit.*

When there is no regular study of the Word of God, there is no sharpness, no purity, no discernment, and no power.

Read John 15:3; Hebrews 4:12; Joshua 1:8 KJV; Acts 20:32; Psalm 119:133 KJV; Psalm 119:105 KJV.

7. The Unbalanced Soul

The human spirit and the soul under the rule of the Spirit of God is a healthy spirit self. When the soul is dysfunctional, it leads to a unbalanced soul that is incapable of working or supporting the person's spirit.

A soul that is not submissive to or too stubborn to support the human spirit is unbalanced and leads to problems. Samson is an example of this deficiency:

> *Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. When he returned, he said to his father and mother, "I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife." His father and mother replied, "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me. She's the right one for me." (His parents did not know that this was from the Lord, who was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines; for at that time they were ruling over Israel)* (Judges 14:1-4).

A soul that is too weak to support the assignment of the spirit is an unbalanced soul. John the Baptist in the later part of his life is an example of this category:

> *John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" …At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what*

you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me (Luke 7:18-23).

A balanced soul works in consonance with the spirit of a person; the prophet Daniel is an example of this circumstance:

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. …To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds (Daniel 1:8,17).

Different Forms of Prophecy

The Bible defines various forms of prophecy:

*And it shall come to pass in the last days, God declares, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy [**telling forth the divine counsels**] and your young men shall see visions (**divinely granted appearances**), and your old men shall dream [**divinely suggested**] dreams. Yes, and on My menservants also and on My maidservants in those days I will pour out of My Spirit, and they shall prophesy [**telling forth the divine counsels and predicting future events pertaining especially to God's kingdom**]* (Acts 2:17-18 AMPC).

Prophecies can:

- Predict future events
- Tell forth divine counsels
- Be visions (divinely granted appearances)
- Be dreams (divinely suggested); dreams are not inevitabilities

When you receive a vision, you can pray and ask God to bring it to pass. If it is not good, you should pray so that it does not come to pass. Pray in faith. If God repeats the vision, ask God what you should do. A biblical example of a vision that was repeated is Acts 10 when the vision was repeated thrice to Peter.

Only God can prophesy: *"Gather the nations together! Which of all their*

idols ever has foretold such things? Which can predict a single day ahead? Where are the witnesses of anything they said? If there are no witnesses, then they must confess that only God can prophesy" (Isaiah 43:9 TLB).

> *Can your idols make such claims as these? Let them come and show what they can do, says God, the King of Israel. Let them try to tell us what occurred in years gone by or what the future holds. Yes, that's it! If you are gods, tell what will happen in the days ahead! Or do some mighty miracle that makes us stare, amazed. But no! You are less than nothing and can do nothing at all. Anyone who chooses you needs to have his head examined!* (Isaiah 41:21-24 TLB)

> *Who else can tell you what is going to happen in the days ahead? Let them tell you if they can and prove their power. Let them do as I have done since ancient times. Don't, don't be afraid. Haven't I proclaimed from ages past that I would save you? You are my witnesses—is there any other God? No! None that I know about! There is no other Rock!* (Isaiah 44:7-8 TLB)

Moving in the Power of Your Revelations

Most people don't move in the power commensurate with their revelations. In fact, every revelation comes with some measure of power impartation; so if you have received revelation, you would have been imparted and empowered by God. This is the grace that comes with the revelation. Therefore, we need to know when to move in the power of our revelation, as God says in Exodus:

> *And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea* (Exodus 14:15-16 NKJV; see also Jeremiah 1:10).

The following are some power moves available to the prophet:

- Proclamation
- Declaration
- Decrees
- Edicts

- Prophetic Acts
- Dramas

To bring divine justice to the earth, God institutes decrees, pronouncements, and commandments to regulate human behavior to ensure the strict standards of wrongs and rights and a code of conduct that applies to everyone.

On the other hand, the devil and his agents also have decrees or pronouncements targeted to push people out of God's plan and bring chaos and confusion: *"The words of the wicked are like a murderous ambush, but the words of the godly save lives"* (Proverbs 12:6 NLT). These power moves help the prophet to push back the kingdom of darkness while also establishing and upholding God's agenda.

Declaration: To verbalize an idea, word, or concept is called *declaration.* It has the power to activate a dormant promise or curse into kinetic motion of fulfillment. Declaration is the easiest and often the first step toward fulfillment of a promise. Declaration from the righteous can often be sufficient to counter the devious intentions of the evil one.

Proclamation: A public declaration is a *proclamation.* A proclamation requires public witnessing and has superior power than a declaration. Usually the public proclamation has both spiritual (invisible) and natural (visible) witnesses. Because of this, it can be quite powerful and much more difficult to counter if emanating from the evil one.

Decree: A *decree* is an authoritative order that has the force of law behind it and can come as a: ruling, announcement, declaration, verdict, judgment, order, or pronouncement. Decrees have varying levels of authority and power behind them. Anybody can issue a decree provided he or she has some authority to back it up. For instance, the head of the home can issue decrees for the household.

Edict: An *edict* is a decree that has a recognizable source of official backing. Consequently, edicts from an evil spiritual authority are harder to resist or nullify than ordinary decrees because they are associated with the evil power of the official backing that would need to be dealt with (see Daniel 6:6-7).

Prophetic Act: A *prophetic act* is an act, deed, drama or mission inspired by the Holy Spirit to bring or facilitate the agenda of heaven on earth. It has more implications than a similar physical action and it establishes spiritual authority in the invisible realm—usually by means of physical action with or without pronouncements. Examples are seen in Exodus 17:8-13 and Joshua 8:18-26.

The Demands of Power Moves

- Prayers: James 5:16-17 and 1 Kings 18:41-45.
- Study and apply the Word of God: Hebrews 1:3; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:15; Job 6:25.
- Penitence and fasting: Daniel 10:2,12; Isaiah 58:5-6,10.
- Meditation: Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:97-100.
- Spend time in the presence of God: Exodus 34:29-30; Jeremiah 23:22; Isaiah 40:31.



RECEIVING REVELATION

If you are not receiving as much revelation as you used to, ask God why, in case you can do something about it.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BEING COMMISSIONED:

- **Faith in God increases.**
- **Boldness, because there is more trust in God.**
- **You know who you are in God.**
- **Acceptance by the people you are called to**

Characteristics of Being Called:

- Supernatural favor with God that grows with time; Luke 2:52 says, *"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."*
- More intimate relationship with God.

- Time for you to be equipped.
- Abundance of revelations.
- Skills to study and learn; Daniel 1:17 says, *"To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds."*

Without favor or acceptance by people, your power cannot manifest. Jesus grew in stature and favor with God and with people (Luke 2:52).

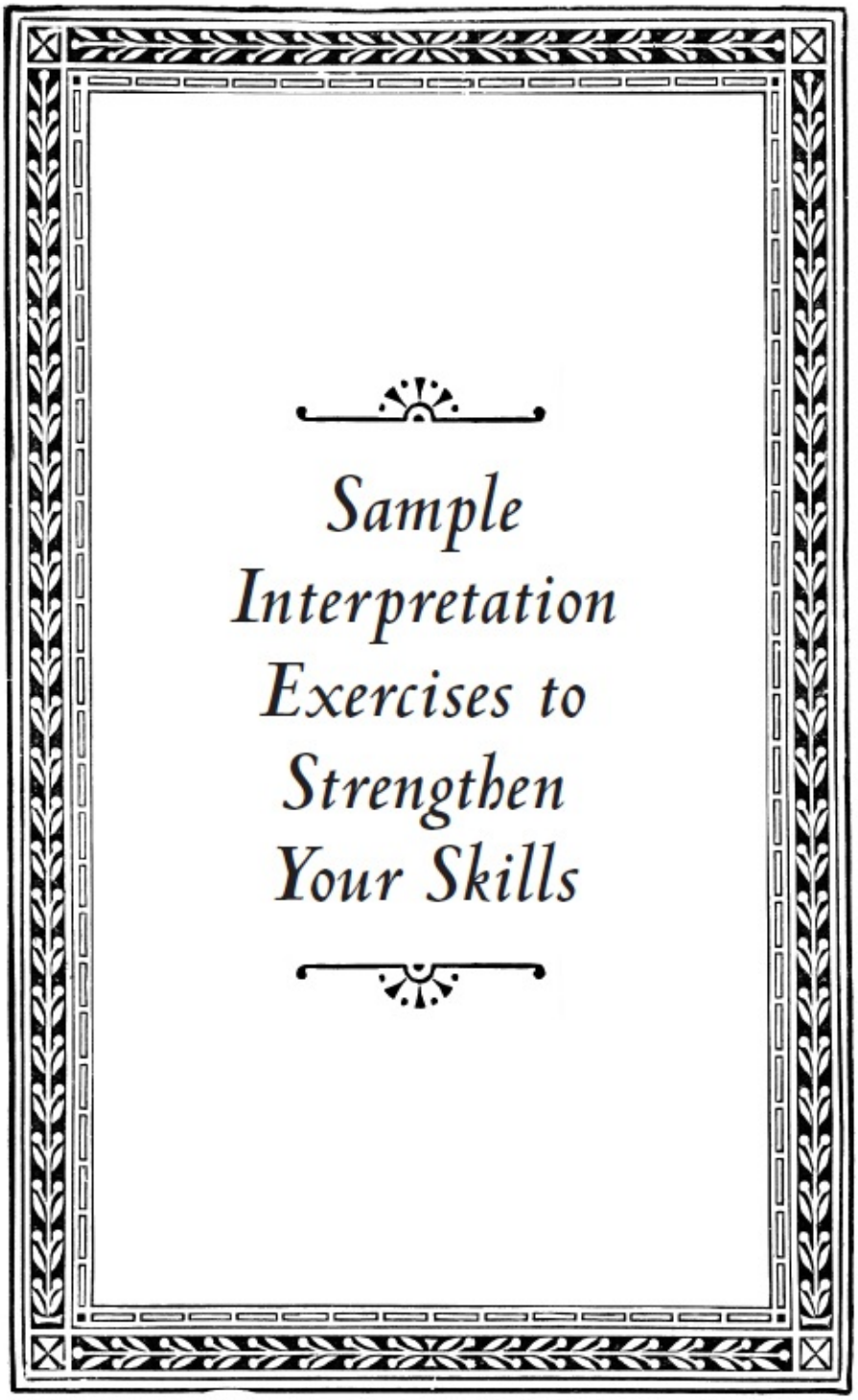
How do we grow in favor with God and people?

- Spend time in the presence of God.
- Spend time reading and meditating on the Word of God.
- Know the timing of your call, when you have favor with God and people.

THE NINE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT		
Revelation Gifts	**Vocal Gifts**	**Power Gifts**
• **Word of Wisdom** • **Word of Knowledge** • **Discerning of Spirits**	• **Prophecy** • **Different Types of Tongues** • **Interpretation of Tongues**	• **Faith** • **Working of Miracles** • **Gift of Healings**

ACTIVATION EXERCISE 

- Of the six "Human Factors" and the six "God Factors" listed in the chart at the beginning of this chapter, write each one and expand with personal, current situations that apply.
- For each of the situations you cited, write how each could be improved or should have been handled differently.
- Which of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit do you have currently manifesting? In the past, how many have you used according to God's gifting? In the future, how many do you hope and pray for receiving?


Sample
Interpretation
Exercises to
Strengthen
Your Skills

DREAM AND VISION 20

—A Dream of Grandmother—

In a dream, I saw my grandmother come to my house and call out my dad's name, James. However, my second son's name is also James. I opened the gate, and my son was standing behind me. I asked him whether I should leave the door of the gate open or closed, because at that time my husband (his father) had not yet come home. My son said I should close the door of the gate since I could always open it again when necessary.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- My house
- Granny
- My dad's name
- Second son
- Second son's name
- Gate
- Open the gate
- Son's advice

—Interpretation—

This dream speaks of bloodline inheritance. The dreamer has inherited some traits from the grandmother through the dad, and has also transferred the same to the son. God is telling the dreamer to become the gatekeeper for the family and watch over what traits should be allowed to manifest and what traits should be prayerfully stopped from manifestation, even though it might have been inherited.

DREAM AND VISION 21

—A Dream of Submitting PhD Thesis—

About one week before submitting my PhD amended thesis, I had been praying and fasting concerning my thesis and how to overcome any remaining obstacles before submission. One night I drifted off to sleep and I saw a woman with her back toward me so that I could not see her face. She said to me in a clear-sounding voice, “THURSDAY.” On the Thursday of that very week, my supervisor released all the chapters of my thesis to me, so I was able to complete it and submit it on time. Glory to God!

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Dreamer’s prevailing situation
- Thinking of PhD thesis yet to be submitted
- A woman
- Voice said Thursday

—Interpretation—

This is an encouragement to the dreamer that the effort for the completion of the thesis would be successful. On Thursday that week, the dream was fulfilled as foretold.

10

The Eye Gate, God's Whispers and Utterances

There is a difference between what you *see* and what you *hear*. God Himself presented credence to the power of what is seen when He encouraged Abraham in Genesis 13:14-15. The effect of a few seconds of sight may long linger on after the sight has passed. This impart is used by modern-day advertising companies in our everyday living to entice a purchase. Also to a large extent, what you see can help to bridge the confidence gap in situations where lack of faith is an issue, because seeing provides undeniable and concrete evidence. As the Bible says, *"**faith** is… the evidence of things **not seen**"* (Hebrews 11:1 KJV).

In reference to the vastness of God's promises to Abraham, God said to him, *"…**Lift your eyes now and look** from the place where you are— northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever"* (Genesis 13:14-15 NKJV).

Very often God asks the prophets, "*What do you see?*" (Jeremiah 1:11; Amos 8:2) and the angel of God also asked Zechariah, *"What do you see?"* (Zechariah 4:2; 5:2). In these instances, the essence was to buttress the relevance of the seer's anointing. This is why King David prayed, *"Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law"* (Psalm 119:18 NKJV) and God Himself said, *"I counsel you to buy from Me…and anoint your eyes with eye salve, **that you may see**"* (Revelation 3:18 NKJV).

The relevance of the eye gate in the totality of our walk by the Spirit is growing. The eye gate is the sensory gate by which a person perceives or receives visual revelation or information. I believe that *the eye gate functionally consists of the natural eyes, the spiritual eyes, how the two work, and how the human eyes influence the light within you.* The eye gate is an important door through which a multitude of realities, and falsehoods, can get into one human—and then can infiltrate a significant number of other humans.

The Bible says that the eyes are the "lamp of the body." A good eye is

symbolized as a useful lamp, and it gives true enlightenment to the whole body:

> ***Your eye is the lamp of your body.*** *When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness. See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be full of light, as when a lamp shines its light on you* (Luke 11:34-36).

Proper functioning of the eye gate is crucial for the effectiveness of seeing in the spirit realm. Evidence abounds in the secular world as to the significant role and the addictive nature of the eye gate in capturing the human attention. The human mind processes thoughts, ideas, and concepts in pictures. Impressions logged into your imagination are long lasting—be careful what you allow to enter your eye gate.

SEEING INTO THE SPIRIT REALM

The main essence of the ministry of the "watchman" is to see into the spirit realm and report to the people. If a watchman is blind, he or she has virtually lost the core of the ministry:

> *Come, all you* ***beasts*** *of the field, come and devour, all you beasts of the forest! Israel's watchmen are blind, they all lack knowledge…* (Isaiah 56:9-10).

As the watchman, the prophet Isaiah looked into the future and saw where other ungodly nations, symbolized by *beasts*, were stirred up to attack Israel. Because of the laxity of the watchmen of Israel, being blind and lacking spiritual insights as to the plans of the enemy, the nation was left unprotected, vulnerable to attack.

Never forget that satan is after the human eye gate to pollute, hijack, or corrupt its functionality:

> *"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it* ***your eyes will be opened****, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil"* (Genesis 3:4-5).

The eye gate was probably the first perceptive sense to be affected when humankind fell into sin in the Garden of Eden:

> *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and* ***pleasing to the eye****, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.* ***Then the eyes of both of them were opened,*** *and they realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves* (Genesis 3:6-7).

As the Bible says in the passage from Genesis 3, once the natural eyes were opened and activated, human reasoning was triggered into action, and unto this day has continued to grow exponentially. Unfortunately, there has been a corresponding dampening of humankind's ability to see into the spirit realm.

However, I believe that the plan and purpose of God concerning your spiritual visual acuity will continue to be:

> *…that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. …that* ***the eyes of your heart may be enlightened*** *in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength* (Ephesians 1:17-19).

The Power of the Eye Gate

The eye gate is connected to your memory and intellect, and it influences your soul. It is one of the principal ways through which emotions are aroused.

The power of the eye gate was demonstrated in the beginning of human existence. With his unpolluted and unadulterated eye gate, Adam was able to see, observe, and name the animals:

> *Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals* (Genesis 2:19-20).

Since the eyes can receive both from the natural and the spiritual realms, you should be mindful of what you allow to enter your eyes— spiritually *and* naturally. Most often you become what you behold. Job said, *"I made a*

covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman" (Job 31:1). David also said *"I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me"* (Psalm 101:3 NKJV). What you see can cling to you long after visual exposure has been put off. The New Living Translation puts it this way: *"I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar. I hate all who deal crookedly; I will have nothing to do with them."*

Ultimately, you can let in light or darkness. If you give your eyes to the Lord for His Kingdom purposes, you become the light of the world.

I also call spiritual eyes the eye of understanding because the Bible says:

> *Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is in the darkness. …They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them* (1 John 2:9-11).

> *But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ* (2 Corinthians 3:14 NKJV).

> *The god of this age has blinded the minds* [understanding] *of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God* (2 Corinthians 4:4).

How the Eye Gate Components Work

The three components of the eye gate can work together:

> *And the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lift my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me…* (Daniel 4:34 NKJV).

Here Nebuchadnezzar lifted up his natural eyes symbolically to heaven (the spirit realm only via the spiritual eyes) and his understanding (the light within him) returned to him.

In many instances in the Bible, we are reminded that humankind is responsible for how the eye gate is used. It is therefore, a matter of determination to keep your eye gate pure.

> *Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word* (Psalm 119:37).

> *We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and*

perfects our faith.…(Hebrews 12:2 NLT).

THE WHISPERS OF GOD

A whisper from God is a private communication that invites the hearer to divine intimacy, a gentle but powerful beckoning to the heart of God, or it could be seen as an invitation to a deeper level of God's realm. Though God's whispers usually come as soft and gentle speech, it is powerful because it comes through *the breath of God* rather than through *His vocal process*.

In the natural, every whisper comes from the breath of the person rather than the vocal process, so it is even in the spiritual. This distinction is significant. Divine whispers come from *the breath of God* and it carries the warmth of His being and is embedded with divine fervency. This is the same *breath of God* that transform the lifeless mode of *the dust of the earth* into a living being: "*Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being"* (Genesis 2:7). A whisper from God carries divine substance that embodies creativity and irrefutable wisdom from on high.

God's whispers are more powerful than earthquakes, more consuming than fire, and more torrential than violent wind! The prophet Elijah experienced this on Mount Herob:

> *And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?* (1 Kings 19:11-13 KJV).

When the prophet Elijah thought all was lost, he heard the still small voice, the gentle whisper of God that gave him the courage and power to face another day!

WHEN DOES GOD WHISPER?

God whispers when He thinks the secret is confidential enough to prevent anyone else from eavesdropping or that the message needs to come with the warmth of God's breath to empower the fulfillment of His agenda on earth.

1. God whispers in the dark season of life or during hard times.

> *What I tell you now in the darkness, shout abroad when daybreak comes. What I whisper in your ear, shout from the housetops for all to hear!* (Matthew 10:27 NLT).

God whispers to you mostly in your hard times or in the dark seasons of life experience. It comes when you need encouragement, or when it seems you have hit the bottom. It is often a call to faith and an invitation to divine partnership with the Almighty God for exploits.

Whatever you learn in such season, you are to broadcast it at the rooftop for all to hear and lift up the name of Jesus!

In this passage (Matthew 10:27), Jesus advised His disciples that during their fear, He would whisper to them the secret things of God to empower them and that they are to proclaim from the rooftop whatever they learn in such a season of hard times.

2. God whispers for more intimate discussions.

God called Samuel audibly at the beginning of his tutelage under Eli: *"When the Lord called, **Samuel!** And he answered, Here I am. He ran to Eli and said, Here I am, for you called me. Eli said, I did not call you; lie down again. So he went and lay down"* (1 Samuel 3:4-5). This was the voice of God through His vocal process.

But God *whispered* to Samuel after he was matured in the things of God and in communication with God:

> *Now the Lord had told Samuel **in his ear** the day before Saul came, saying, "Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him commander over My people Israel, that he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon My people, because their cry has come to Me." So when Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said to him, "There he is, the man of whom I spoke to you. This one shall reign over My people"* (1 Samuel 9:15-17 NKJV).

3. God whispers when someone is in danger.

God whispered to Elisha when his life was in danger:

Then he said, May God do so to me, and more also, if the head of Elisha son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day! Now Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him. ***And the king sent a man from before him*** **[to behead Elisha]**. *But before the messenger arrived, Elisha said to the elders, See how this son of* [Jezebel] *a murderer is sending to remove my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door and hold it fast against him. Is not the sound of his master's feet* [just] *behind him? And while Elisha was talking with them, behold, [the messenger] came to him* [and then the king came also]. *And* [the relenting king] *said, This evil is from the Lord! Why should I any longer wait* [expecting Him to withdraw His punishment? What, Elisha, can be done now]? (2 Kings 6:31-33 AMPC)

4. God whispers for correction and guidance.

God whispered to Peter at a critical moment in his ministry:

And while Peter was earnestly revolving the vision in his mind and meditating on it, ***the*** [Holy] ***Spirit said to him****, Behold, three men are looking for you! Get up and go below and accompany them without any doubt [about its legality] or any discrimination or hesitation, for I have sent them* (Acts 10:19-20 AMPC).

UTTERANCES OF GOD

An utterance is the way of expressing something aloud. Utterances are either spoken or other characteristics of divine manifestation to signal humankind in the direction of God's attention or emphasis. Utterances are the unction of the Holy Spirit in a person to draw the person's attention to what God is doing or the agenda of God on earth.*"But ye have an* ***unction*** *from the Holy One, and ye know all things"* (1 John 2:20 KJV).

The following are some of the utterances that most saints experience in their walk with God and are also recorded in the Bible:

—A Burning in the Inner Self—

*When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "**Were not our hearts burning within us** while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"* (Luke 24:30-32)

*But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name," his word is **in my heart like a fire a fire shut up in my bones**. I am weary of holding it in indeed, I cannot"* (Jeremiah 20:9).

This utterance manifests as an undeniable inner witness, a compelling resonance with the human spirit, or a feeling of fire or inner fervency.

—Still Small Voice—

*Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire **a still small voice*** (1 Kings 19:11-12 NKJV).

*…Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire came **a gentle whisper*** (1 Kings 19:11-12 NIV).

This is the weight and the power of peace of God. It is a gentle and quiet dawning in the heart, a knowing in the heart.

—A Voice Behind You—

*Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear **a voice behind you**, saying, "This is the way; walk in it"* (Isaiah 30:21).

This utterance comes as a persistent nudge or lingering thought or repeated gentle reminder.

—Gentle Resistance or a Push—

> *Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them* (Acts 16:6-10).

Apostle Paul said the Holy Spirit forbade him, much the same way as the Bible also says God resists the proud in James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5, though in this instance God did not resist apostle Paul for being prideful but to align things with His divine agenda.

This utterance of divine resistance comes as *gentle resistance, lack of peace, a pull back.*

Later following a call Paul received through a vision, they concluded or they were *gently nudged* to proceed to Macedonia. Therefore the utterance's *divine release* comes as a gentle liberty to release something, *a peace to do something, or a gentle push, a nudge that the time is now*.

—Carried by the Spirit—

> *And we have the prophetic word [made] firmer still. You will do well to pay close attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dismal (squalid and dark) place, until the day breaks through* [the gloom] *and the Morning Star rises (comes into being) in your hearts.* [Yet] *first* [you must] *understand this, that no prophecy of Scripture is* [a matter] *of any personal or private or special interpretation (loosening, solving). For* ***no prophecy ever originated because some man willed it*** [to do so—it never came by human impulse], *but* ***men spoke from God who were borne along (moved and impelled) by the Holy Spirit*** (2 Peter 1:19-21 AMPC).

> *The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones* (Ezekiel 37:1 NKJV).

Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea (Acts 8:39-40 NKJV).

This utterance connotes a sudden relocation, a sudden illumination, a burst of fresh ideas, sudden and new realization or imagery. It is also a sudden word of wisdom. This is the utterance that propels spiritual scribe anointing (writers of divine truths; "*men spoke from God who were borne along (moved and impelled) by the Holy Spirit"*).

—In the Spirit—

On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea" (Revelation 1:10-11).

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it (Revelation 4:1-2).

This utterance is to be under the rule of the Spirit of God or enjoying the reign of the Holy Spirit. It is under this utterance, that a person is able to manifest in God's given gift or even the ability to hear the voice of God.

How to maintain the reign of the Spirit: *"Elisha said, 'As surely as the Lord Almighty lives, whom I serve, if I did not have respect for the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not pay any attention to you.* ***But now bring me a harpist." While the harpist was playing, the hand of the Lord came on Elisha****"* (2 Kings 3:14-15).

In this instance, Elisha stepped out of the rule of the Spirit by his attitude toward King Ahab, and needed to call for music to get back into the rule of the Spirit before he could prophesy.

The following factors will help to bring one back into the reign of the Spirit when one steps out of it; Prayers; Worshipping (Acts 13:1-3); Music; Company (atmosphere); Fasting; and spontaneous.

—Quickening—

I went past the field of a sluggard, past the vineyard of someone who has no sense; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds and the stone wall was in ruins. I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw (Proverbs 24:30-32).

This utterance is like a trigger, an awakening, or divine reminder or a sudden correlation or a *this is that* phenomenon.

—Overwhelming or Almost Near Complete Takeover—

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and ***the power of the Most High will overshadow you****. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God"* (Luke 1:35).

*When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "****They have had too much wine****"* (Acts 2:1-2,12-13).

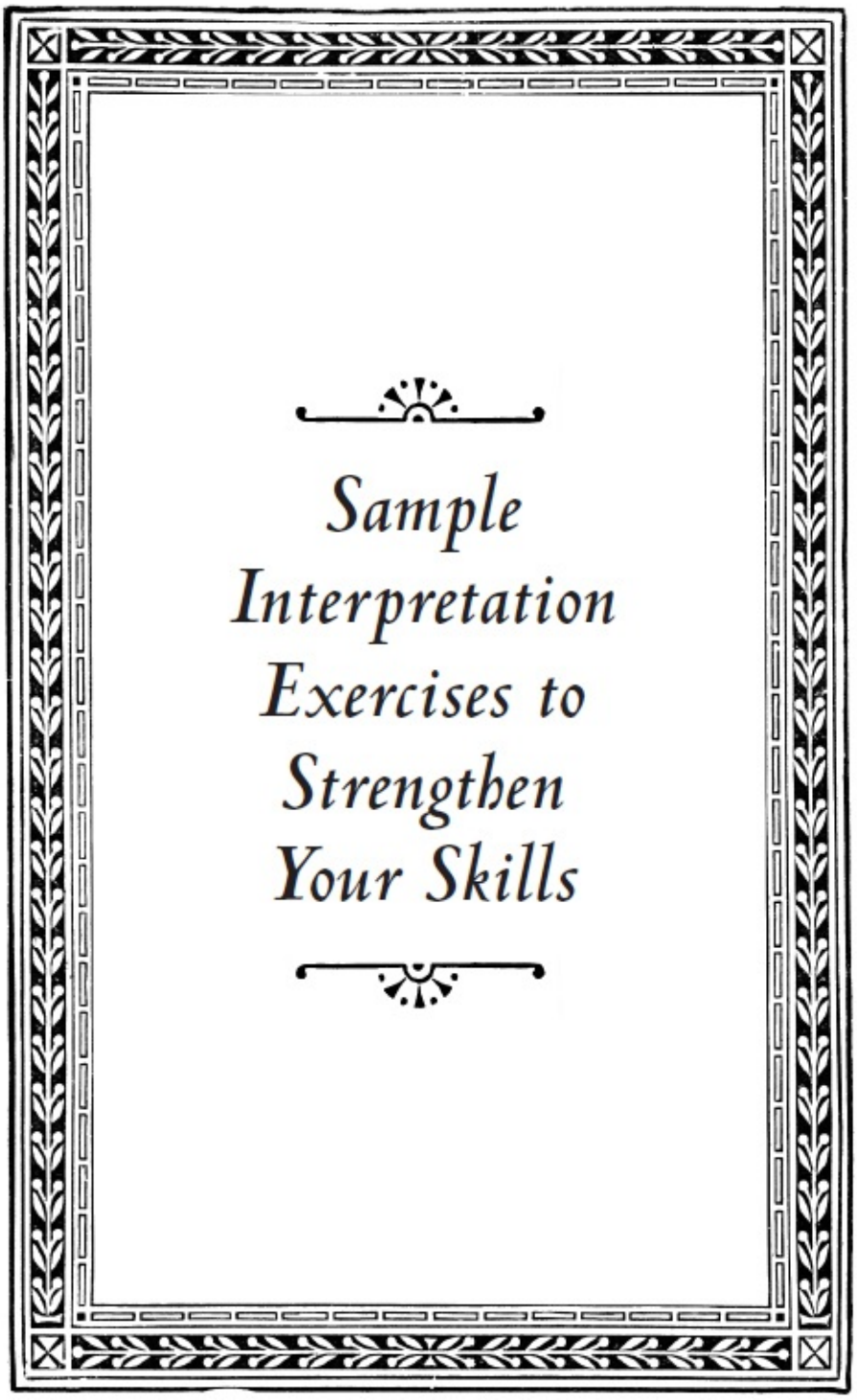
This utterance is like a divine, supernatural overpowering. This is often associated with decreed events from heaven; these are events that don't depend on human participation for fulfillment.

ACTIVATION EXERCISE

- For the next 24 hours, determine to monitor everything you see with your natural eyes. Of course it would be impossible to record everything you see, but mentally keep track of anything that makes you uneasy or pricks your spirit as unhealthy. Immediately turn your eyes away from worthless and sinful sights.
- Consider the people in your family, your friends, people at work or school and be cognizant of the light or darkness that comes to mind when you think of each one. If necessary, forgive the people whose

remembrance brings anything but light.

- Take time each day to raise your natural eyes toward heaven. Look at the sky, the clouds, the stars, the rain or sunshine, the gray or blue—then ask God to open your spiritual eyes to see whatever He deems right for you at that moment.



DREAM AND VISION 22

—Uprooted and Replanted in Destiny—

I had a dream in which I saw a professor who is also a bishop in one the major ministries in my home country in Africa. He came to my house in England, UK, with a 12-wheeler truck carrying an uprooted plant, with all its roots and leaves. He said it had been uprooted in Africa and was to be planted in England, in the garden *(of the home of the dreamer*) in the UK.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Professor (bishop) came
- Uprooted plant from Africa
- 12-wheeler truck
- To be planted in the dreamer's garden

—Interpretation—

The dreamer will be able to function in a high capacity in the secular world while functioning in a high rank in the spiritual world of ministry as indicated by the symbol of the person who is a professor and a bishop. The dreamer is called to the UK, though born in Africa. The 12-wheeler is an indication of the blessings that would come with serving in this place of call. The dreamer is divinely planted (relocated) to the UK.

DREAM AND VISION 23

—A Vision of Levitating—

I had a vision of myself levitating above and looking down at my body that was lying lifeless on my bed. My body looked as if I was dead, and the body was wearing a black gown. There were flowers alongside the body, as if in a coffin. There was also a person, whom I could not identify, sitting on a chair at the

bedside, as if guarding the body. I woke up startled and proceeded to offer loud warfare prayers.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Levitation upward
- Out of the body
- Dead body
- Floating around in the air
- Guardian person

—Interpretation—

The recipient is being equipped by divine impartation for the ministry. God was showing the dreamer that God is able to separate the suffering of the body (flesh) from the spirit: *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit"* (1 Peter 3:18). The key point in this visionary encounter is that God is able to separate the spirit from the body. God was saying to the recipient that the prevailing circumstance at the time of the encounter was meant to bring the flesh to submission of Christ and give more life to the spirit self: *"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ"* (2 Corinthians 10:5 KJV). Interaction with the recipient indicates that the dreamer was experiencing great challenges on family, financial, and marriage fronts at the time.

11

Pictorial Visions

Snapshot Visions and Prophecy Triggers

Pictorial visions are commonly received during prayer sessions.

My Personal Experience

—A Call to Prayers—

Once I was expecting a payment for about fourteen years' worth of funds in arrears. I was discussing and negotiating with the legal team of the organization. The week before the final meeting, while I was in a family prayer session, I saw into the spirit realm a payment notification envelop in my hand. I did not see details of how much or when it would happen, but was reassured that the payment would be made. I concluded that God did not show me these details because these were subject to the impart of our prayers.

Often when someone awakes from a revelation, before the final details are reached in the revelation, it often means the eventual outcome is subject to the prayers. It could be regarded as an invitation to participate with God to determine the eventual outcome. The arrears were granted and payment was made to me.

Usually pictorial visions are meant to stir up reaction in the visionary to what the Father might be doing in Heaven or what He may want to communicate. They are snapshot visions that help direct our focus to the essential issue of the time. Because pictorial visions are without motion, there are endless possible meanings to a single picture. To help direct us in the right way, God gives clues.

God gives us hints to the correct meaning of the snapshot revelation immediately following the vision. However, these divine clues or hints are easily missed.

A majority of intercessors are prone to receiving snapshot revelations, as do

many prophetic people whose prophetic utterances are often triggered by pictorial (snapshot) visions. There are many other possible reasons why some people are prone to receive snapshot visions, including:

- Simply a sovereign choice of God to give them snapshot visions.
- May be due to the uniqueness of the individual's gifting, which makes the person more prone to receive predominantly through pictorial visions.
- Those who are more sensitive and alert in the spirit to pick up visionary revelations of all kinds (including pictorial visions).
- May include a subgroup of people who, although they have the seer anointing, have not yet developed their gifting to its fullness, hence appear to be more receptive to receiving by snapshot pictures primarily.

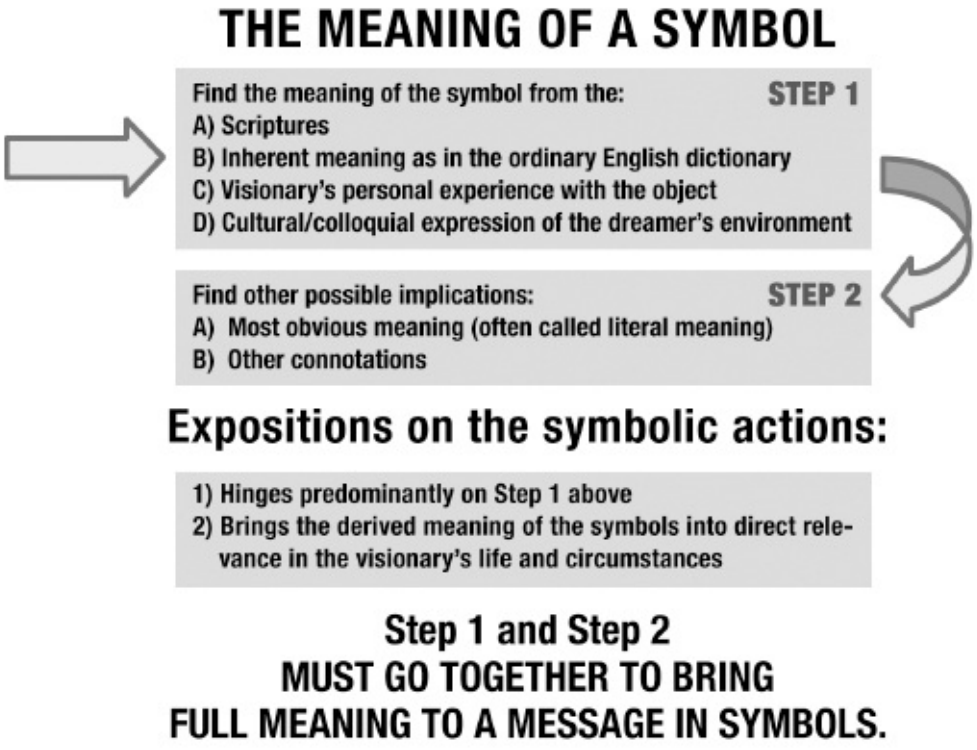
Pictorial visions may also serve as prophecy signals or triggers. A prophecy signal is a prompting from God that triggers the prophetic anointing in the person. In general, a prophetic signal may be a natural or a spiritual occurrence, such as a snapshot vision or natural event.

Translating a Picture or Image into Spoken Prophecy

When God shows you a picture, it immediately switches your mind to symbolic thinking. Symbolic thinking is the art of processing the image in the following manner in order to gain understanding of the message of the picture or image. Consider:

1. What is the obvious and direct meaning of the image? And then,
2. What is the other possible or collateral connotation of the image?

If both meanings are not taken into consideration, the full meaning of the image and the wisdom inherent in the message will not be realized (see the following illustration). There is often a hidden word of wisdom in pictures and symbolism of a vision that gives divine or indicates the strategy to the fulfillment of the promise of the vision.



The picture or image may be literal or symbolic. If symbolic, note that a symbol is when one thing is used to represent another or one thing is used to typify something else, either by association, resemblance or convention, or when a material object is used to represent something invisible, such as a dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. A symbol meaning has deep personal relevance and application to the recipient.

For those with an established prophetic ministry, the image or picture may have been drawn from a background often familiar to the prophet, but it should also bear personal relevance to the recipient as well.

Word-of-knowledge understanding of the picture or image is common among prophets, but the wisdom of God inherent in the message is embedded in God's perspective of the situation, which is reflected in His choice of symbolism. Often the symbolism will give the word of wisdom or the divine strategy for achieving the goals of the message.

Steps to Prophesying with Snapshot Visions

Steps to prophesying with snapshots as triggers follow:

- Note that the picture/image is a signpost or a signal, something to draw your attention to what God is saying or doing regarding the person or situation. It is also a clue to something you could have missed otherwise.
- Listen in the spirit.
- Avoid emotional rush.
- Trust that God will give the understanding.
- Allow the prompting of the Holy Spirit to flow into your spirit; notice something lighting up or standing out or a *rhema* (spoken) word from God.
- Ask God what He wants you to do with the image or picture,
- Then allow yourself minimal processing of the events and symbols.
- Intimate with the recipient, if possible and when necessary.
- Put the story into a perspective that correctly fits (read Daniel 2:39-42).

The following are some Scripture examples of snapshot visions and how they were immediately followed by a divine clue or interpretation that helped people understand them. I hope by studying them you will gain valuable insight to help you understand your pictorial revelations. For more detailed discussion of snapshot visions recorded in the Bible, please refer to my book, *Dreams and Visions Volume 2*.[1]

Pictorial Vision (Snapshot Vision)	Meaning, Immediately Following	Points to Note
THE BRANCH OF AN ALMOND TREE PICTURE		
Jeremiah 1:11: *The word of the Lord came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?" "I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied.*	Jeremiah 1:12: *The Lord said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled."*	The **almond tree** drew the farmer's attention to an imminent **change in season:** It was, therefore, a symbol of **wake-up call (a watcher tree).** A token of an early spring, the harbinger of spring. It also marks the beginning of **blooming season**. It is also a sign that it is **time for God to fulfill** His promise (early execution of God's will).

A BOILING POT PICTURE

Jeremiah 1:13: *The word of the Lord came to me again: "What do you see?" "I see a boiling pot that is boiling," I answered. "It is tilting toward us from the north."*	Jeremiah 1:14-16: *The Lord said to me, "From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land. I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms," declares the Lord. "Their kings will come and set up their thrones in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem; they will come against all her surrounding walls and against all the towns of Judah. I will pronounce my judgments on my people because of their wickedness in forsaking me, in burning incense to other gods and in worshipping what their hands have made."*	In this vision, the **boiling pot** symbolizes: -Imminent disaster -God's judgment -Danger from a mightier force -Punishment from God -Also that the principal attack on Judah and Jerusalem was going to come from the north. -Later, in the book of Jeremiah, the prophet identified the "terror from the north" as Babylon that would come from the north against Israel (Jeremiah 20:4).

SWARMS OF LOCUST PICTURE

Amos 7:1: *This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: He was preparing swarms of locusts after the king's share had been harvested and just as the late crops were coming up.*	Amos 7:2-3: *When they had stripped the land clean, I cried out, "Sovereign Lord, forgive! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!" So the Lord relented. "This will not happen," the Lord said.*	**The king's share** in this vision connotes: -The first fruit that belongs to the Lord or the portion taken as tax to the king, -The choicest portion (the best portion). -The main portion. **Locust** in this context symbolizes: -The destroyer of harvest. -Impending danger targeted at the harvest. -A **wasting process** on the **means of livelihood**. -**After the king's** share indicates the remnant after the king's portion, which is what the people are supposed to survive on; and therefore if destroyed, represents a crippling economy and no means of survival.

PLUMB LINE OF JUDGMENT PICTURE

Amos 7:7: *This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand.*	Amos 7:8-9: *And the Lord asked me, "What do you see, Amos?" "A plumb line," I replied. Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. The high places of Isaac will be destroyed and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined; with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam."*	**Plum Line** in this vision represents God's measuring yardstick, which has been set in place among the people for generations to come. In this instance, it signifies impending judgment. Israel's time of grace has run out, and God is set to bring the work of everyone to test and those found wanting shall not be spared any longer. The **high places** represent the places of idolatry and the corrupt temple. God's judgment against sin in the land of Israel. The sins reminiscent of the sins of Jeroboam kingship The **house of Jeroboam** mentioned here could possibly refer to the corrupt dynasty of Jeroboam; both Jeroboam I and Jeroboam II (who was reigning at the time Amos) gave this prophecy. Though God is the God of mercy, He will, however, not negotiate the need and importance for us to have right standing before Him. See also **2 Kings 21:13**.
PLUMB LINE OF BLESSING		
Zechariah 2:1-2: *Then I looked up, and there before me was a man with a measuring line in his hand. I asked, "Where are you going?" He answered me, "To measure Jerusalem, to find out how wide and how long it is."*	Zechariah 2:3-5: *While the angel who was speaking to me was leaving, and another angel came to meet him: and said to him: "Run, tell that young man, 'Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the great number of people and animals in it. And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,' declares the Lord, "and I will be its glory within."* The purpose of this plumb line is for the rebuilding of Jerusalem.	**This measuring line (plumb line)** indicates the need to ascertain that the foundation is strong enough to hold the expected blessings. Technically, a plum line is a string with weight tied to the ends to establish a vertical line and ensure a straight line so that a wall can be built straight. The meaning of this vision: -The city will be restored. -**Jerusalem** will be a city without walls, overflowing with people and livestock. This is **also a picture of the future** church of Christ.

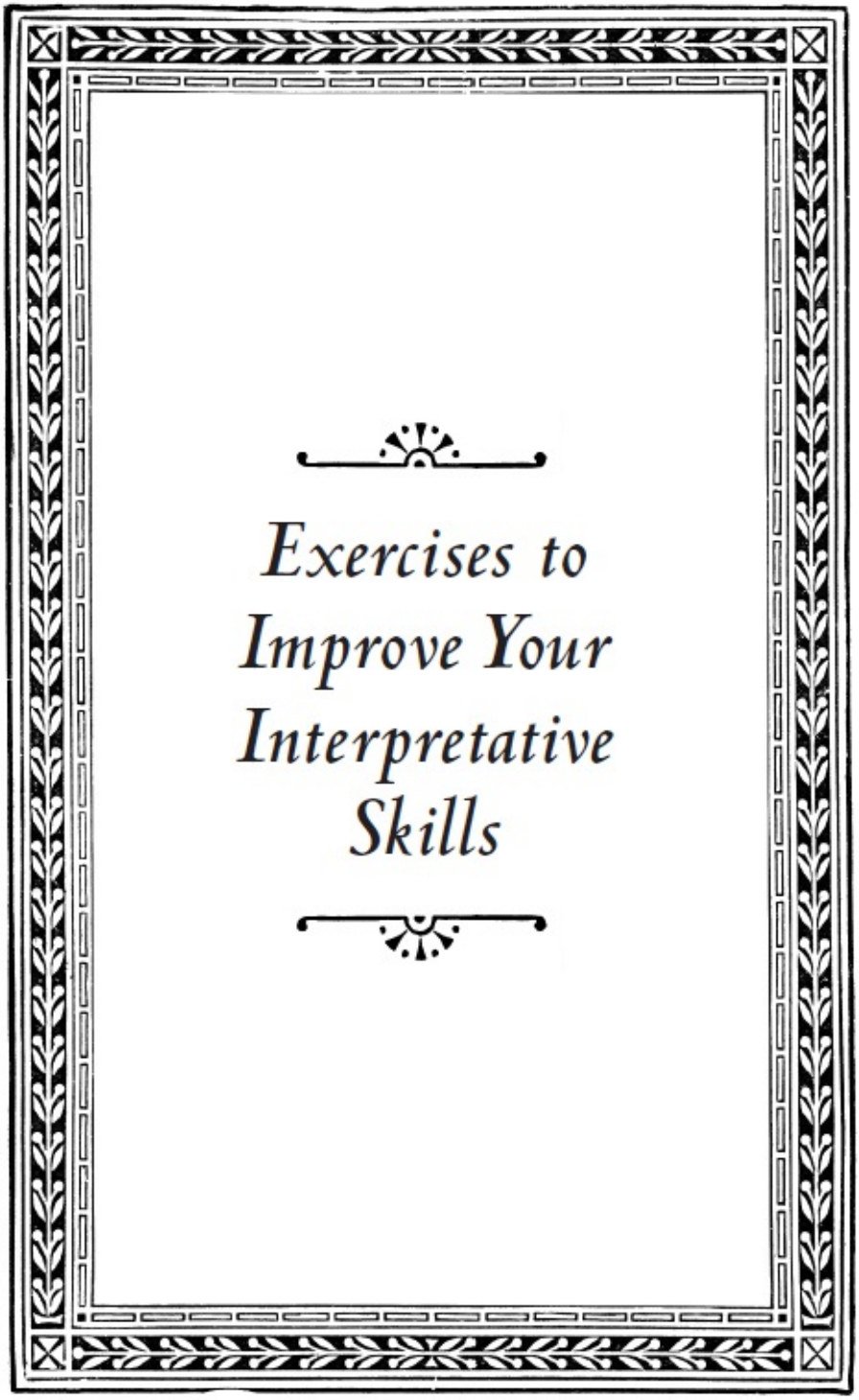
BASKET OF RIPE FRUIT PICTURE		
Amos 8:2a: *"What do you see, Amos?" he asked. "A basket of ripe fruit," I answered.*	Amos 8:2b: *Then the Lord said to me, "The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer."*	In this vision, a **basket** represents: -A measure of something. -A measure of time. The **ripe fruit** symbolizes in the context of this vision: -The appointed time. -The right time. -Readiness. -That which cannot be delayed any longer
BASKET OF RIPE FIGS PICTURE		
Jeremiah 24:1-2: *After Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah and the officials, and the skilled workers and the artisans of Judah were carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Lord showed me two baskets of figs placed in front of the temple of the Lord. One basket had very good figs, like those that ripen early; the other basket had very bad figs, so bad they could not be eaten.*	Jeremiah 24:4-7: *Then the word of the Lord came to me: "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Like these good figs, I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I sent away from this place to the land of the Babylonians. My eyes will watch over them for their good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down; I will plant them and not uproot them. I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.'"*	In this vision, **the basket of ripe figs** was a symbol of quality and goodness. Notice that the ripeness here connotes goodness and not a measure of readiness. (Ripeness of fruits was an indication of readiness in prophet Amos' vision of the basket of ripe fruits.) Therefore, ripeness could mean different things depending on the context of the vision or dream. **The good figs** identified are symbolic of the deported exiles; God had set them apart for Himself. God would bring them back. God would give them a new heart that would know Him and the new covenant (see Jeremiah 31:31-34).
	Jeremiah 24:8-10: *" 'But like the bad figs, which are so bad that they cannot be eaten,' says the Lord, 'so will I deal with Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials and the survivors from Jerusalem, whether they remain in this land or live in Egypt. I will make them*	**The bad figs** represent the depraved moral and spiritual state of the people who remained in Jerusalem after the deportation of exiles to Babylon. These were the people who would flee to Egypt and face trouble, shame, and calamity. They would become unusable to

	abhorrent and an offense to all the kingdoms of the earth, a reproach and a byword, a curse and an object of ridicule, wherever I banish them. I will send the sword, famine and plague against them until they are destroyed from the land I gave to them and their ancestors.'"	God.

As these pictorial visions have important meanings and consequences for those who receive them, likewise for us, the interpretations of dreams and visions are crucial for maturing into His glory.

ACTIVATION EXERCISE 

- Ask God to give you a snapshot vision.
- If you have had a pictorial vision, describe it in a paragraph or two, citing as many details as you can remember. Then write what you feel, based on the Bible and what you have learned in this book, were symbolic images and their meaning.
- Snapshot visions can lead to great revelatory encounters in God regarding healings or prophecies. Have you, or someone you know, experienced either of these supernatural occurrences?
- Of the biblical examples shown in the chart, which pictorial vision most intrigued you? Why? Which was the least intriguing? Why? How could one or the other affect your beliefs about visions?



Exercises to Improve Your Interpretative Skills

GIVE MEANING TO:

—A Bottle of Clear Water—

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Bottle
- Clear
- Water

—Interpretation—

Bottle symbolizes a measure of something.

Clear indicates purity, holiness, without contamination.

Water signifies spirit.

—Conclusion—

A move of the Holy Spirit. A fresh and unadulterated move of God is imminent.

GIVE MEANING TO:

—Armored Cars Coming Against a People—

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Armor
- Car
- Coming against
- People

—Interpretation—

Armor signifies a strong, organized force, formidable strength.

A car is the means of achieving a purpose.

Coming against implies in opposition.

—Conclusion—

An organized and powerful opposition is threatening or confronting a people. A warning to be prepared.

ENDNOTE

1. Joe Ibojie, *Dreams and Visions, Volume 2: A Bible-Guided Meaning to Your Dreams and Visions* (Scotland, UK: Cross House Books, 2009).

12

The Anointing and The Seer

THE ANOINTING

Anointing is the setting apart or consecration for a divine function. It is the transference of divine power to enable the recipient to carry out a specified function. It originates from God and is given by His Spirit. In the physical realm, anointing is symbolized by pouring oil on the head of the one to be anointed or on the object to be consecrated. Applying oil is the outward sign of inward grace.

A believer grows and matures in the anointing before eventually walking in it. Most of the time the anointing is concealed before the time of its manifestation, and you can be anointed without realizing it, just like Jeremiah (see Jeremiah 1:4-10).

Every anointing comes with the description of its purpose. Speaking about Jesus Christ, the Bible says:

> *The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,* ***because the Lord has anointed me*** *to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor* (Isaiah 61:1-3).

When a person is anointed, it is always for the purpose of performing a task. In accordance with the various levels of tasks, so too are people called with different levels of anointing: the greater the responsibility, the greater will be the measure of anointing. Anointing, however, is exercised according to the level of the person's faith. So, it is possible to operate below one's anointing when the

person lacks the appropriate faith, and conversely, a person can operate beyond his or her anointing when in faith.

Factors that cause the anointing to grow:

1. Faithfulness to the things of God.
2. Submission to God—in the authority that God has placed over you.
3. Sacrifice—laying aside your personal agenda, preferring the interest of others and God to self-interest.
4. Spending time with God—growing in intimacy that will intimidate the enemy.
5. Growing in the Word of God.
6. Growing in the power of the Lord.
7. Dealing with things within, such as dying to self.
8. Respecting the anointing in others ahead of you.

The characteristics of anointing:

1. Transferable
2. Subject to renewal
3. Increases
4. Decreases
5. May occur on and off (periodic intensification)
6. Originates from the Holy Spirit but works differently in different people

Anointing gives purpose: *"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has* ***anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor****. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners"* (Isaiah 61:1). When purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable.

Gifting gives ability: *"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another"* (1 Peter 4:10 NLT).

Whereas, *calling gives identity,* as in called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God: *"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God"* (Romans 1:1). If you mistake your gifting for your

calling, you may never know who you are in Christ; and if you treat your anointing as a calling, you will end up with misplaced priorities and ultimately waste your purpose! My prayer is that this will not be your portion.

For more details about anointing, please see my book, *How You Can Live an Everyday Supernatural Life*.[1]

The Seer

Seers are people gifted with visions and dreams and other forms of picture revelations on a consistent basis. They operate mainly from the receptive dimension of the prophetic ministry. A majority of seers receive a high volume of visions and dreams. They receive vivid visions on a consistent and constant basis as well as experience two or more dreams/ visions during most nights.

Most of the revelations that seers receive are in picture form and they may *see and describe* more than they *hear and repeat*. However, there are some seers *who hear and repeat* as much as they *see and describe*. From my experience, a major distinguishing feature in the ministry of a seer is that it is especially characterized by the occurrence of "strange spiritual experiences" and angelic interactions.

Strange spiritual events are occurrences that are curious, extraordinary, unique, unnatural, bizarre, or mysterious. They are common in the ministry of seers and distinguish the seer from the other dreamers. These strange events come in various forms and in varying degrees of strangeness or awesomeness.

The Spiritual Watchman

The ministry of the watchmen could be regarded as an offshoot of the seer's anointing. Indeed, most watchmen are seers. The following are some of the cardinal roles of the spiritual watchman:

- Watching and looking into the distance, especially to see approaching danger.
- Warning those who are endangered.
- Encouraging those who are righteous to continue in their righteousness.
- Warn the wicked to turn from their wickedness.

- Preparing people to give the appropriate protocol to the coming of the King or His divine messengers.

THE SEER'S ANOINTING

A seer (Hebrew: *ro'eh)* is someone who sees visions and dreams consistently. On a wider perspective, the term expands to include someone who perceives, looks, discerns, or stares into the supernatural to receive revelation mostly by pictures. A seer is therefore someone divinely enabled to see or discern the will of God, whose eyes have been divinely unveiled to see and to understand things that are not open to the ordinary person.

The *nabi* (meaning spokesman) prophet receives mainly by hearing things in the spirit realm. The Hebrew word *naba* means to prophesy and a *nabi* prophet is one who speaks out or is a proclaimer of the will of God (one who speaks by divine inspiration).

The following is an excerpt from my book *The Watchman*[2] that denotes the differences between a seer and a prophet.

SEER	NABI PROPHET
The seer is gifted with visual revelations on a consistent basis; Gad, Iddo, Hanani and Asaph were seers.	The nabi prophet hears and speaks more than sees and describes. The prophet Isaiah spoke of many future events as he heard them in the spirit realm, hence he was not too reliant on his personal vocabulary.
A seer is characterized by consistent and persistent visual revelation, the experiencing of strange spiritual events, and having common angelic involvement.	By faith, a nabi prophet receives divine inspirations that bubble out from within. Most nabi prophets get more inspiration after they start to speak. So they might start slowly, but soon bubble into great speed and volume.
Seers see events in the supernatural realm before they happen in the natural.	A nabi prophet can prophesy upon many people at a time.
Seers more often see and describe.	They are good exhorters and are often greatly used by God to bring inspiration or motivation to people in moments of despair.
In describing what is seen, some seers grope for vocabulary. The seer's vocabulary capacity affects the ability to express what is received. Ezekiel and the apostle John relied on the capacity of their	They may give general or very specific messages.

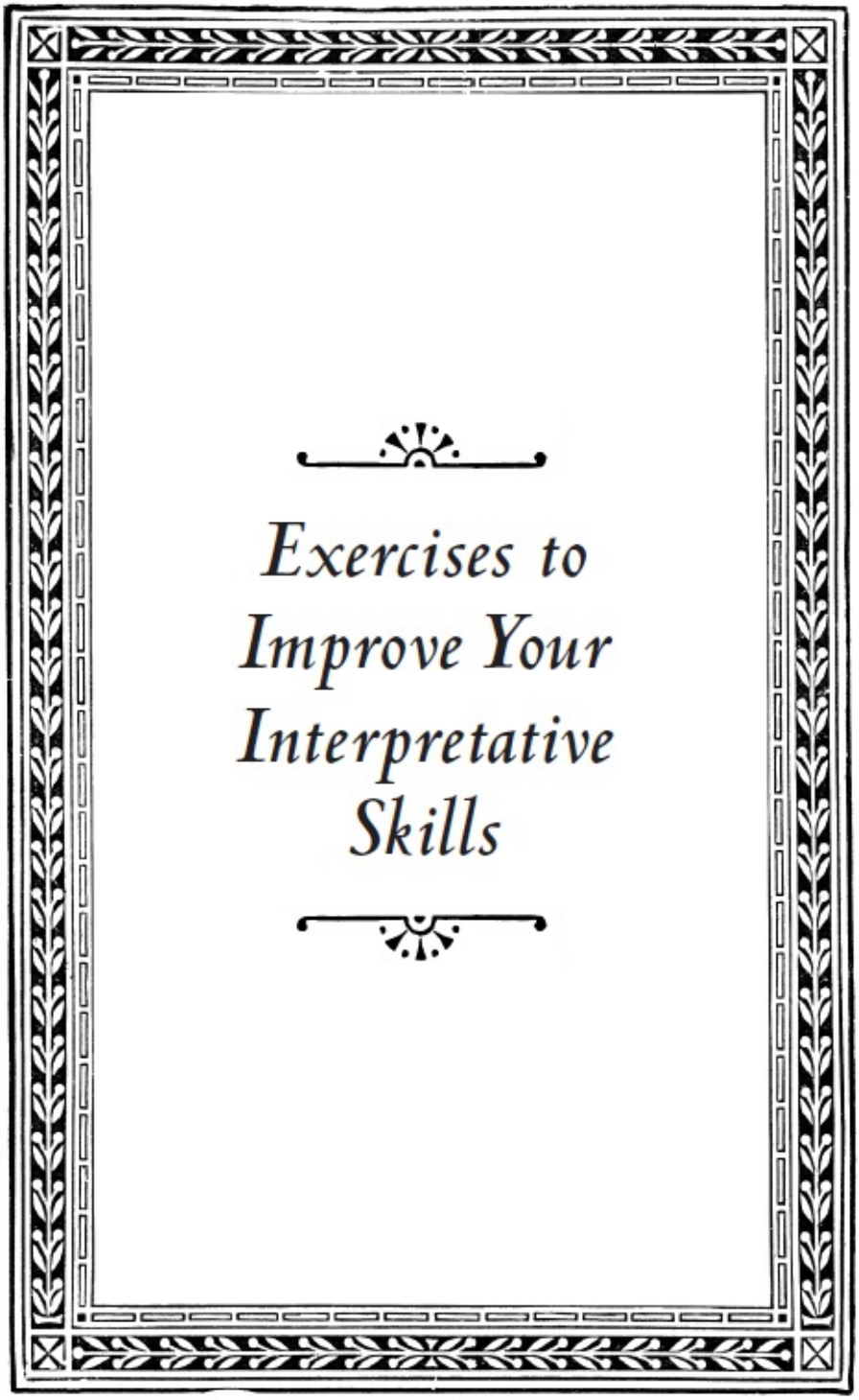
vocabulary to express what they saw. So on some occasions, seers gave different descriptions to somewhat similar pictorial revelations.	
Seers are those gifted with visions and dreams on a consistent basis. Also, long and vivid visions are common with the seer's anointing. A key distinguishing feature is that the ministry of a seer is characterized by angelic interactions and strange spiritual encounters.	Nabi prophets are in the communicative dimension of the prophetic ministry.
On the downside of the seer's anointing is the easy susceptibility to failure in relational issues, the lusts of the eyes, and and failure to act on revelation. These are snares to the anointing and functions of the seer's ministry. Giving in to these temptations, particularly those involving the eyes, can make revelations in the seer's realm cloudy, smeared, and jumbled, and filled with distorted images. Most seers need to work on relations with people; some have unfortunately ended up becoming reclusive because of relational issues. Working on the seer's character and a life of sanctification enable the seer to see more clearly.	Some may be given to acting out prophetic messages.
Not all those who receive visual revelation are seers, as visual revelations may be evoked through intensive purification (fasting and prayers) and intercession.	On the down side, they tend to be extroverts and therefore should make efforts to avoid exaggerations that may give false hope or unattainable expectations.
The seer's anointing is very sensitive, as seers tend to pick up much visual revelation that leaves long, lingering effects.	
A seasoned seer is adept in the understanding of the dark speeches or mysteries of God because of the frequent search to gain understanding of parables in picture revelations.	
Seers are often deep thinkers; hence, many people describe the seer anointing as the receptive dimension of the prophetic ministry.	
Because of the reflective nature of the seer's anointing, the well-integrated seer soon becomes a great resource for other prophets. Seers can often become good teachers and administrators as exemplified by the lives of Samuel, Joseph, and Daniel.	
However, some seers need to put forth much effort	

to have effective relationships with other people. Some may even become reclusive.	

This is a rather simplistic categorization and is only meant to help rather than to restrict. It is also important to remember that there are many who receive, or walk, in both categories or offices. Perhaps the prophet Gad moved in both realms.

ACTIVATION EXERCISE 

- Ask God to give you revelation about a friend that will build up the friend.
- Ask for a Bible passage to back up the revelation.
- Is it hard for you to bond with people? Do you lust after what isn't yours? Do fail to act on revelations that God gives you? Because of these issues, do you think you are a seer who needs to seek God for remedy? Ask God for forgiveness.
- For appropriate interaction with God in dreams and visions, the ability to retain a certain level of adequate natural consciousness is required. This means that you must know who you are and what you would normally stand for in your natural life during the encounter. Write down all the principles, ethics, and moral codes that are the basis of what you stand for—what you believe and won't compromise.
- How susceptible are you to being swayed by your emotions? Can you be objective when an emotional issue threatens to pull you under rather than standing firm? Write a few examples of when you have been pulled under—and when you stood firm.



Exercises to Improve Your Interpretative Skills

GIVE MEANING TO:

—A Microwave in Front of You—

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Microwave
- Front
- You

—Interpretation—

A microwave signifies a means of achieving quick results or lack of patience. *In front of* could mean something in the future or ahead of. *You* stand for the recipient in this regard.

—Conclusion—

This could mean a situation ahead of the person that requires caution and patience to handle (and warning not to behave like a microwave). Or depending on the context of the encounter, it could mean a situation that the ability of the person to obtain a quick result will be valuable.

GIVE MEANING TO:

—Amos 8:1-2 and Jeremiah 24:1-2—.

(Compare and contrast the two passages.)

> ***Amos 8:1-2:*** *"This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: a basket of ripe fruit. 'What do you see, Amos?' he asked. 'A basket of ripe fruit,' I answered. Then the Lord said to me, 'The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.'"*

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- A basket
- Ripe fruit

—Interpretation—

Ripeness refers to time. A basket symbolizes a measure. Fruit symbolize outcome, reward, judgment resulting from past action.

—Conclusion—

The time has come for God to bring judgment.

—Jeremiah 24:1-2—

After Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah and the officials, the skilled workers and the artisans of Judah were carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Lord showed me two baskets of figs placed in front of the temple of the Lord. One basket had very good figs, like those that ripen early; the other basket had very bad figs, so bad they could not be eaten.

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- One basket
- Ripe figs (good)
- Another basket
- Bad figs

—Interpretation—

Ripeness here symbolizes goodness. A basket is a measure.

—Conclusion—

The ripe figs are the good people ready to receive God's favor and protection.

—Compare—

Ripeness in Amos' Scripture passage indicates readiness in time, and Jeremiah's ripeness symbolizes goodness. One meaning of a symbol is not its meaning for all times. Therefore, true symbol meaning depends on the context of the dream or vision.

ENDNOTE

1. Joe Ibojie, *How You Can Live an Everyday Supernatural Life* (Scotland, UK: Cross House Books, 2014).
2. Joe Ibojie, *The Watchman* (Italy: Destiny Image Europe, 2009).

13

Operating Under an Open Heaven

Though invisible, the third heaven is as real as the visible and tangible earth in which we live. There are constant interactions between the earth and the third heaven. These interactions can be clear or clouded. Also, things we do in the natural world can either hinder the connection or enhance communication. In the book of Deuteronomy, we are told that disobedience to God's commandments can block this type of communication.

> *And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron* (Deuteronomy 28:23 NKJV).

In this instance in the Bible, God described the heavens over a person's head as the accessibility of the third heaven through the piercing of the second heaven interface by the person. By sovereignty, God can decide to boost the connection or to blanket this communication between the earth and the third heaven, as the patriarch Jacob experienced on his way to Haran (see Genesis 28:10-17).

What Is an Open Heaven?

An open heaven is when the covering of the second heaven is opened to establish easy or a facilitated access or quick connection between the first and third heaven. There are three factors operative in the openness of the heaven:

1. The God factor; Genesis 28:10-22 and Matthew 3:16-17. By the sovereignty of God, He can choose to enhance this communication or blanket it by making it hard to communicate from the earth to heaven.
2. The region or land factor; 1 Samuel 3:1 and Amos 8:11. As in the days of Eli's priesthood, this communication was hindered because of the sins in the land resulting in moral decadence and a spiritually bankrupt priesthood.

3. The personal or individual factor; Deuteronomy 28:23. On an individual basis, even when the heaven over a place is open, personal ability to access the third heaven from the earth may be hindered depending on personal sinfulness.

A closed heaven is when there is difficult or hindered access to the third heaven from the first heaven. A closed heaven is sometimes called the "brass heaven."

The Heavens

The Bible says in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). Yet, there are several aspects to the physical and spiritual worlds. A study of the Scriptures reveals to us that there are three heavens. Second Corinthians 12:2 says:

> *I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don't know—only God knows* (2 Corinthians 12:2 NLT).

Since Paul was speaking while on earth, he must have started counting relative to his position—the earth as the first heaven. Therefore, the second heaven is between the first and third heavens.

The First Heaven

The first heaven is the physical heaven, consisting of the earth, the atmosphere of the earth, and the sky. The Bible describes the creation of the first heaven:

> *When God began creating the heavens and the earth, the earth was a shapeless, chaotic mass, with the Spirit of God brooding over the dark vapors. …And God said, "Let the vapors separate to form the sky above and the oceans below." So God made the sky, dividing the vapor above from the water below. This all happened on the second day. Then God said, "Let the water beneath the sky be gathered into oceans so that the dry land will emerge." And so it was. Then God named the dry land "earth," and the water "seas." And God was pleased* (Genesis 1:1-2,6-10 TLB).

The earth is the expanse in which dew and frost form, the birds fly, and the winds blow, but it extends to the regions of outer space where stellar bodies, the sun, the moon, and the stars are. The God's Word version of the Bible says, *"The highest heaven belongs to the Lord, but he has given the earth to the descendants of Adam"* (Psalm 115:16 GW). The present earth shall pass away and a new earth shall be established (see Isaiah 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1).

The Second Heaven

The second heaven is the celestial expanse between the earth and the third heaven. Geographically, the second heaven refers to the invisible expanse that covers the earth and lies beneath the third heaven. It does not belong to the devil; it was created by God and belongs to God.

The second heaven is the place from where the demonic forces exert their influences upon the earth:

> *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms* (Ephesians 6:12).

Functionally, the second heaven is the zone of spiritual conflict between the good and the evil forces and acts as a sort of holding place for blessings and curses. It is like a trading place in the spirit realm. The conflict between the prince of Persia and the messenger angel sent to the prophet Daniel took place in this realm.

The Third Heaven

The third heaven is the abode of God and is the home of those who died in Christ, the righteous of God. There are many parts of the third heaven mentioned in the Bible. Among the many locations referred to as parts of the third heaven, two are the throne room and the throne room of judgment:

> *Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne* (Revelation 4:2 NKJV).

> *The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven* (Psalm 11:4 NKJV).

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens (Hebrews 8:1 NKJV).

And the throne room of judgment:

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books (Revelation 20:11-12 NKJV).

Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right hand and His left. And the Lord said, 'Who will persuade Ahab king of Israel to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, and said, 'I will persuade him.' The Lord said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the Lord said, 'You shall persuade him and also prevail; go out and do so'" (2 Chronicles 18:18-21).

I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened (Daniel 7:9-10 NKJV).

Other places mentioned in the Bible about the third heaven are the holy mountains, the Mount of Congregation, and the cloud of heaven that includes cities, rivers, streets, and mansions. *"You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones"* (Ezekiel 28:14). The Mount of Congregation is the center of God s Kingdom rule from where He controls the universe:

You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly [congregation], *on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon* [the sacred mountain]" (Isaiah 14:13).

How the Heavens Interact

There are constant interactions between the first and third heaven. As mentioned previously, God can enhance these communications (Genesis 28:10-17) and the actions of humans (John 5:45-51), but we must be open to receiving messages from God for them to be enhanced. We can learn a lot about the interactions between the heavens by looking at each more closely.

Two types of open heavens are temporary and permanent. Let's look at each one as well as how to prepare to receive revelations from open heavens.

Temporary Open Heaven

The temporary opening of the third heaven over a location on earth or over a person's head can be facilitated by what the person does, especially prayer and fasting, right standing with God, crying out to God, and the person's actions actions and attitude.

You can take deliberate actions to enhance the easy flow of divine revelations over a place (see Acts 10:9-11). In this instance in Acts 10, Peter's prayers and fasting undoubtedly contributed to the sudden opening of the heaven upon him. Other examples of temporary openings of heaven:

- Right standing with God: The prophet Ezekiel's right standing with God facilitated the opening of the heavens over him for the following encounter to occur, *"On July 31 of my thirtieth year, while I was with the Judean exiles beside the Kebar River in Babylon, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God"* (Ezekiel 1:1 NLT).
- Jesus' obedience and submission to the will of God enhanced the opening of the third heaven over Him. *"After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him"* (Matthew 3:16).
- The prophet Isaiah cried out that the Lord would rip open the heavens and come down; the genuine heart cry of the people enhances the openness of heaven (see Isaiah 64:1 MSG).
- At another time, the prophet Isaiah experienced an open heaven that he associated with the year when King Uzziah died. The Bible does not say why Isaiah associated the open heaven with that time; perhaps it was because the kingdom had remarkable success in the infrastructures and

the political, agricultural, and military machineries that the people became spiritually blinded and more reliant on the worldly system rather than the arm of God—who gave the wisdom for the worldly successes (see 2 Chronicles 26:7-16). It is possible that when King Uzziah died, there was a significant paradigm shift to begin to rely on the arms of God; as a result, there was an enhanced openness of the heavens over Isaiah and people like him (see Isaiah 6:1-2).

A temporary opening of the heaven over a place can simply be an act of God as we see in Jacob's experience on his way to Haran; the heavens opened upon him, and he saw a vision of a ladder from earth to heaven.

Preparing to Receive Revelations

Over the years, I have experienced periods of intense revelatory reception and periods when revelations from God are rare. The potential to receive is the giftedness, but the quantity and quality of what you receive is dependent on your walk and intimacy with God.

Let's examine the following eight ways you can enhance your ability to receive revelations in an open heaven situation.

1. *Intimacy with God;* see Proverbs 3:32; Psalm 25:14. Seek His secret counsel as an upright, righteous believer. Seek His promises through respectful reverence of Him.

2. *Exercise your spiritual senses;* see Hebrews 5:14. If you pay attention to what you receive and seek the face of God, you get godly interpretation of your revelations. The more you use your spiritual senses, the sharper the understanding of spiritual things. Good understanding leads to appropriate response. Appropriate response to what God is doing in heaven leads to further release of revelations from Him. As revealed in Deuteronomy, the heavens over a place can become inaccessible if people live in disobedience to God; see Deuteronomy 28:23.

3. *Strengthen your spirit;* see Ephesians 1:17-19. You are as strong as your spirit is. The strength of your spirit reflects the quality of your relationship with God. A strong spirit receives clearly and abundantly from God. The strength of the spirit is your ability to bear witness with the Spirit of God. You can recognize the prompting of God and discern what is godly and what is not.

4. *Expand your prayer life;* see Hebrews 5:7. If you have a good prayer life, you will receive wonderful revelatory encounters with God. Prayer and fasting bring double blessings. You must have a consistent and effective prayer life (see 2 Chronicles 7:14; 1 Kings 3:4-5).
5. *Fast;* see Ezra 8:23. Fasting breaks the hold of the outer self and allows the inner self to manifest expressly (see Isaiah 58:6). Unless the outer self is broken, the inner spirit self will remain unexpressed (see Hebrews 9:8). When the inner self is fully manifest, you are better able to receive and relate to God.
6. *Tithe;* see Acts 10:2-4. Giving tithes and offerings brings God's blessings. King Solomon's one night encounter in the court of God illustrates this principle very well (see 1 Kings 3:4-5). In the book of Malachi, God said to bring the whole tithe into the store house, so there would be food in His house. Then He said He would open the window of heaven and pour out a blessing until it overflows (see Malachi 3:10). When the window of heaven is opened, not only physical blessings are released, there is also an increase of revelation from God and enhanced ability to receive from Him.
7. *Meditate;* see 2 Peter 1:19. Meditating on the Word of God prepares you for blessings. As the Bible says, the entrance of God's words into your life bring light and understanding (see Psalm 119:130 NKJV). When you are well-grounded in the Word of God, revelations will not only increase, revelations will be received with great clarity. Stand firm and hold on to the promises of God until you see the hope of God rise in your heart.
8. *Stand in your place of assignment;* see Luke 2:8-9. Staying in the place of your calling or responsibility will bring His blessings to you. Though we are not quite sure why God chose to reveal this great news to these shepherds, we can be sure of one thing, they were at their post of responsibility watching over their flock that night. And while at their post, they received the great revelation of the birth of Jesus.

Permanent Opening of Heaven: Heavenly Portals

The openness or manifestations of the third heaven over a place can be permanent. Whereas temporary openness can be periodic or can be accentuated,

the permanent opening is a permanent connection. When the third heaven opens over a place on a permanent basis, it is called a “heavenly portal.”

A heavenly portal is a doorway of the third heaven that cuts through the covering of the second heaven and breaks open upon the earth. This doorway is a permanent connection between the first heaven and the third heaven. It originates from God and comes with divine insurance for the permanence of the connection. However, the actions of people and demonic activities can influence the intensity of the traffic at the portal. These portals are usually areas of high spiritual contention between the devil, his cohorts, and godly agents.

The Bible is replete with instances of abuse and misuse of these places. Ignorantly, non-Christians have frequently used such portals as places to seek God’s power by ungodly means. Others have used portals for visionary quests, idolatry practices, and ritualistic activities. Most high places in the Bible were built on the premise of easy accessibility of the heavenly realm in these places (heavenly portals).

At the heavenly portal in Bethel, Jacob’s spiritual eyes were opened, and he saw the traffic of angels ascending and descending on a ladder connecting the earth and the third heaven. He also saw God at the heavenly end of the ladder. In this encounter, God conferred Abraham’s blessing on Jacob. This all came to Jacob in a dream of the night (see Genesis 28:16-22).

The devil always seeks to influence the portals: First, he attempts to possess the traffic on the pathway for his evil watchman activities. Second, he tries to oppress and pollute human activities in this place. Ultimately, the devil seeks to establish demonic practices in these places. However, when believers take appropriate steps to move toward God, the portal can become sanctified and consecrated once again to God.

Another portal is Mount Sinai and the following are some of the recorded events that took place at this portal:

1. Burning bush experience (Exodus 3).
2. Place where promise was fulfilled. God told Moses they would worship God after being delivered out of Egypt (Exodus 3:12).
3. Ten Commandments given to Moses (Exodus 24).
4. Elijah heard the still small voice of God (1 Kings 19:11).
5. Moses hit the rock (Exodus 17:6).

6. Israelites worshipped the golden calf (Psalm 106:19).
7. Place of consecration; God spoke to the Israelites from the cloud (Exodus 19:9).

Other names for Mount Sinai:

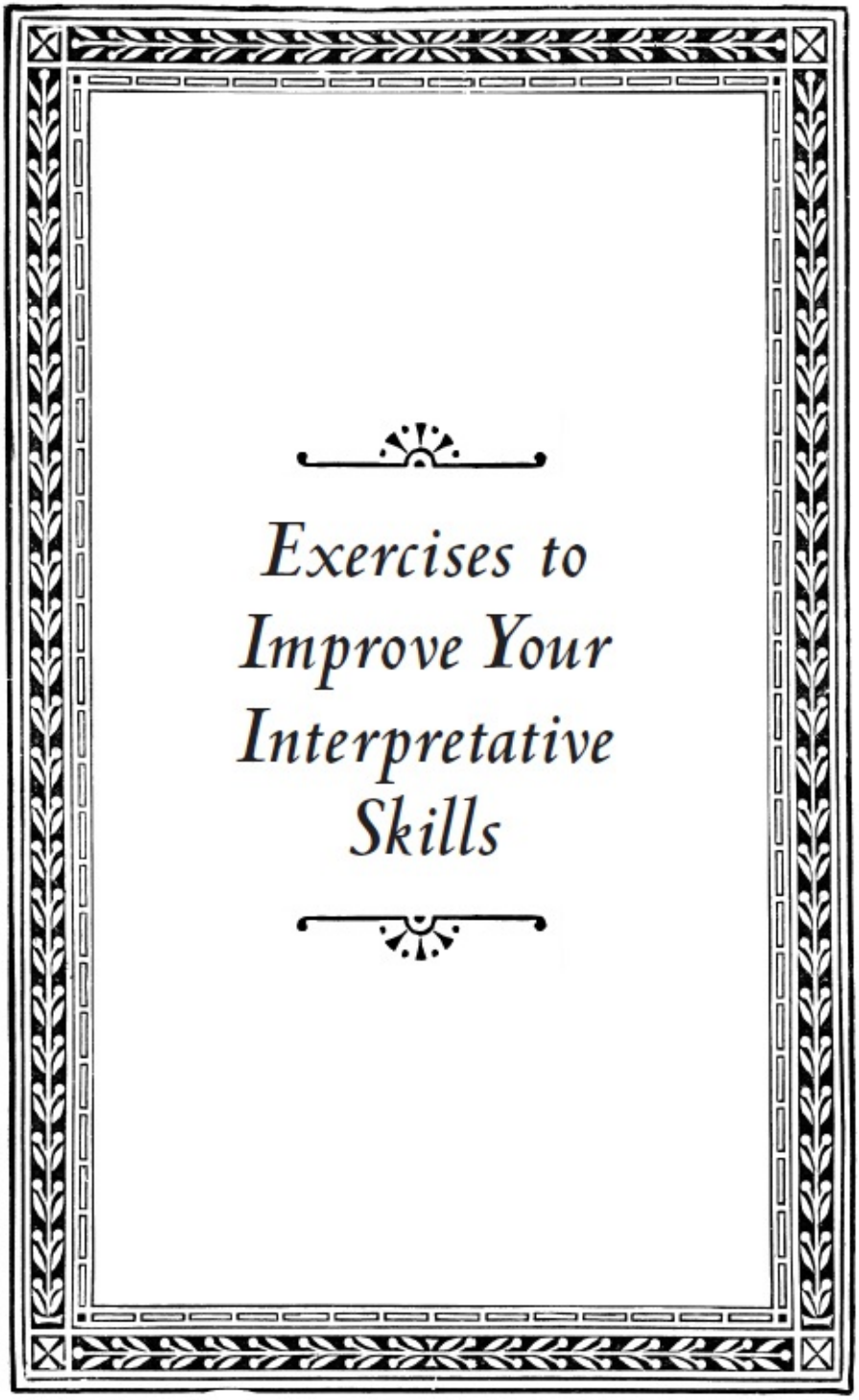
- Mount Horeb
- Mount Seir
- Mountain of the Lord

Today Mount Sinai is located in Saudi Arabia.

Activation Exercise 

- Ask the Spirit of God to reveal Himself to you in a new and fresh way.
- Of the eight ways you can enhance receiving revelations, which two would be the easiest for you to implement today? Which two would be the hardest? Explain each, then take action.
- Write down as many actions that come to mind how people and demonic activities can influence the intensity of the traffic at a portal.

Are you aware of any heavenly portals in your region of the world? Research the subject on the Internet to see if the Lord directs you to any new discoveries. Beware, of course, of any false information that the evil one may disguise as truth.



Exercises to Improve Your Interpretative Skills

GIVE MEANING TO:

—Playing with a Friendly Snake—

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Playing
- Friendly
- Snake

—Interpretation—

Playing symbolizes not taking things seriously or neglecting the importance of a thing, considering surface value only, not looking beneath the surface. A friendly snake indicates something appearing to be innocuous but could turn dangerous, or something dangerous pretending to be harmless.

—Conclusion—

This signifies a situation that appears harmless but can easily become dangerous.

GIVE MEANING TO:

—A Bleeding Nose—

—Symbols and Points to Note—

- Bleeding
- Nose

—Interpretation—

Bleeding means losing blood, which could mean losing spirituality or losing the power inherent in the blood of Jesus. A nose symbolizes a means of discernment.

—Conclusion—

This may mean losing spirituality that may eventually lead to losing the ability to discern or a reduced ability to discern.

14

Understanding Your Visions

Interpretation and Appropriation of Visions

Let me begin with the characteristics that make understanding visions different from how dreams are interpreted. Also, I must mention that a majority of people with established prophetic ministries experience a great degree of word of knowledge impartation during the reception of their visionary encounters. They are, therefore, quick to arrive at the meaning of their visionary experience and may not need to delve heavily into the symbolism of the encounter. Another aspect of this story is that many prophets receive snapshot visions as triggers to prophetic ministration. However, I will emphasize that everyone should endeavor to tap into the word of wisdom inherent in the divine choice of symbols used in picture revelations.

The following are salient points to understanding, appropriating, and applying visions and visionary encounters:

- Visions can be received when your eyes, mind, and other natural senses are awake and alert.
- Interactive communication with God is easily attainable in vision or visionary encounters because of mind alertness.
- The human mind is variably involved in the reception and therefore processing of visions.
- During reception of visions, divine word of knowledge impartation can take place more easily than in a dream encounter so that in visions understanding is planted in the mind of the recipient.
- For most people, visions are literal and appear to be more real than dreams.
- Because of the combination of these factors, visions are often easier to

understand.

- From my experience, symbolism is remarkably minimized in most visions. However, there are visions with high levels of symbolism such as:

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will rule all the nations with an iron scepter." And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days (Revelation 12:1-6).

- In symbolic visions, the understanding of the true meaning of the symbols and symbolic actions are basically the same as in dreams, except in cases where understanding is facilitated by a word of knowledge sown by God at the time of the reception of the vision.
- Exposition or correlation of the relevance of the symbols and actions in the vision to the actual life circumstance of the recipient is also remarkably influenced by the word of knowledge impartation that might have occurred during the visionary encounters.
- The varying degrees of bodily involvement in visions provide a framework for healing or even physical harm that can often take place in visions. Physical tiredness or even physical harm can therefore occur more readily in visions than dreams.
- Visions carry a greater degree of being able to impact the body and the mind of the recipient than dreams. But on the other hand, dreams are more able to connect the dreamer with God's heart.
- Visions may therefore be more easily interpreted but would require *careful evaluation, proclamation, and application.* Reception and understanding visions are less susceptible to hindrances emanating from the personal situation of the recipient—lack of peace, pressures of life, or

evil revelatory delays— than in dreams, because of the direct mind participation in the reception of visions and the subsequent easy understanding that often follows. In seasons of low dream reception, God is often able to speak to the person with visionary messages.

- Above all, as with the interpretation of dreams, only by the Holy Spirit can we gain understanding of visions.

General Principles

Studying examples of how visions and dreams were interpreted in the Bible is not only instructive but thoroughly interesting and helpful in understanding the mysteries of God. It is as though special anointing lifts off the pages of the Bible to the reader.

Such impartation sharpens and seasons the person's mind and sets the stage for correct and godly interpretation. So in this book I have cited extensively from the Bible examples of visions and how they were understood. This way we can learn to interpret and draw godly conclusions from our visions.

Vision penetration into the physical realm correlates with its perception by the natural senses. The natural perception of a vision varies in accordance with its penetration of the natural realm.

Those with established prophetic ministries often get the meaning of their visions by word of knowledge (see 1 Corinthians 12:8).

Biblical Symbols

Symbols are used throughout the Bible; they are used to represent something or are used to typify something. A symbol can also mean a material object used to represent something invisible, such as an idea (the dove as a symbol of peace). A symbol is an image that stands for something but has dual advantage of having its own literal meaning. Symbols may include details you can sometimes find difficult to understand.

Patience and due diligence are required to unravel the depth and scope of each symbol's meaning. Only God has the sovereign choice of symbol selection in divine revelation. Because the language of the spirit is rich with symbolism, understanding the symbolic language of God is essential in your walk in the Spirit.

Biblical symbols and metaphors were pulled not only from history, but also from the knowledge and culture of the people. In a vision, God showed Ezekiel the valley of dry bones. God explained later that the bones refer to the house of Israel (see Ezekiel 37:11). When Jesus Christ said, *"rivers of living water will flow from within them"* (see John 7:38). He did not mean actual water, but referred to the Holy Spirit.

Symbols help you see things from God's perspective—they reflect God's thoughts. Because symbols can have hidden meanings allows God to clarify things in stages, which ensures your dependence on guidance from the Holy Spirit. Symbols are used extensively in visions. Consider the following chart and how the prophet Nathan's story, given in a symbolic illustration, helped King David come to the realization of the seriousness of his sin.

POWER OF SYMBOLICAL THINKING
(Anatomy of Nathan's Statement to David)

SYMBOL/ACTION	MEANING	THE POWER OF IMAGERY
Rich man.	**David.**	**Important personality.**
Poor man.	**Uriah.**	**A person who is vulnerable because he lacks the necessities of life.**
Little ewe, like a daughter.	**Uriah's wife - precious to him.**	**Something precious to the dreamer.**
Arrival of traveler.	**A need arises.**	**A potential need is imminent or at hand.**
Refrain from using his own.	**Selfishness.**	**Spirit of self-centerdness, or inconsiderate of others.**
David's anger burned against the injustice of the man in Nathan's story.	**Then David came to a realization that the sin was his, therefore realizing the true gravity of the sin.**	**Holy anger stirred by spirit of righteousness or coming to one's senses after a period of attck of carnality.**

PERSONAL SYMBOLISM

Through symbolism God brings His message to you individually, relating to you specific symbolism. Some symbols' true meaning can only be revealed to

the intended recipient because of the deep individual traits embedded.

The language of symbols is deep and powerful; it is the most elementary language and available to all ages. Symbolism also helps with your conceptualization—the ability to form mental imagery. Symbolic thinking helps broaden your different ways of thinking. (For a much more detailed examination of symbols and the language of symbols, read my book, *Bible-Based Dictionary of Prophetic Symbols for Every Christian.)*

The following are key points worthy of note (and repeating): To interpret a symbolic revelation, you must think symbolically. The choice of symbols in revelations is God's prerogative. Even the most literal revelation may contain some degree of symbolism. Each symbol may have a unique association drawn from the recipient's own experience. own experience. Symbols are not used haphazardly; their use is specific and purposeful.

As symbols are chosen for very specific purposes, it is necessary to first identify what God's purpose is for using a particular symbol. A symbolic revelation addresses the issue more frankly than human illustration because the symbolic representation allows emphasis to be placed in the way God sees it.

Key Facts to Note When Interpreting Visions and Dreams

1. Rely on the Holy Spirit and acknowledge that it is God who reveals the mystery; see Daniel 2:26-28 and Genesis 41:16.
2. Know that God gives interpretation for the benefit of the recipient and the recipient's assignment; see Daniel 2:30 and Genesis 41:28.
3. Interpretation may include sometimes, the hidden meaning of a vision or of a dream elements/events/actions, whose understanding could only have come from God. Such as:
    - *Seven cows* equal seven years (Genesis 41:26-27)
    - *The statue head* equals King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2:31-32)
4. Interpretation may include some hidden meaning of the vision's symbolic actions. Such as:
    - *Change from gold to silver* meaning a change from a superior to a less superior

- *Ugly and lean* equal famine
- *Fat and sleek* equal prosperity
- *Together* equals unity

SEEKING MEANING OF REVELATIONS

(see Proverbs 25:2 and Acts 17:27)

Striking features of symbols:

- Help with impartation
- Aid remembrance
- Help with interpretation
- Help with prioritizing
- Allow emphasis
- Allow meaning to unfold in stages
- Reveal the secrets of the mysteries of God belonging to the Kingdom of God

Why does God use symbols?

- He hides what humans cannot yet understand.
- To hide a thing is the glory of God and to search it out is the honor and glory of people.
- The secret of the mysteries of God belong to the Kingdom of God.
- God speaks with an economy of words, such that a single image (symbol) may be applicable at different stages in a lifetime.
- Symbols allow God to package His message and release its meaning in stages.
- Symbols allow God to emphasize some parts of the message while keeping a lid on other parts. This helps prioritize human response.
- Symbols allow God to hide some of the meaning until the appointed time of release.

Symbols allow God to express His thinking on a matter:

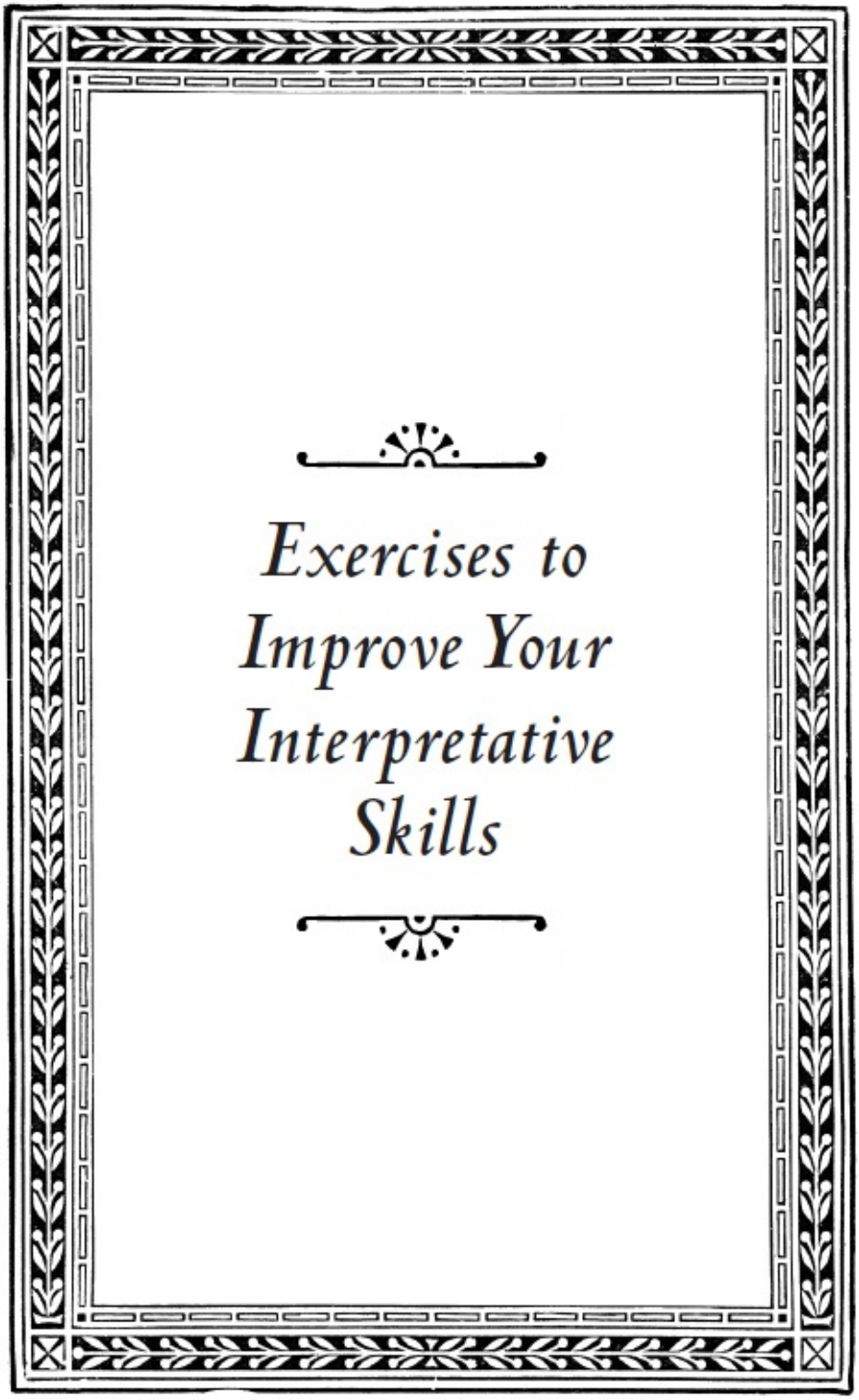
- Meaning is not fixed for *all* occasions; should be separately derived for each occasion.
- Symbol meanings have deep personal relevance and application to the recipient.
- For prophets, symbols are given on a background often familiar to the prophet, but bear relevance also to the recipient of the prophecy.

Deriving meaning for each symbol should be drawn in the following order from the:

- Scriptures
- Inherent meaning of the symbol
- Person’s experience
- Social influences of the person
- Culture and the colloquial expressions the person

ACTIVATION EXERCISE 

- Scripture reference: Daniel 1:17.
- Ask God to give you skills to acquire knowledge and grant you grace to learn.
- Ask the Lord to make reading the Bible pleasurable and easy to understand.
- Ask for the ability to understand dreams and visions of all kinds.



Exercises to Improve Your Interpretative Skills

Study the Anatomy of the Dream of the Great Tree

(Daniel 4:4-28)

*These are the visions I saw while lying in bed: I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous. The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth. Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the wild animals found shelter, and the birds lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed. **In the visions I saw** while lying in bed, **I looked**, and there before me was a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven. **He called** in a loud voice: "Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches. But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth. Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him. The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people"* (Daniel 4:10-17).

Question and Answer

After reading Daniel 4:4-28, answer the following:

Q: What does the tree represent?

A: Leadership, which symbolizes King Nebuchadnezzar.

Q: Who is the messenger and what is the message?

A: The Holy One, a divine messenger, and the message: "*The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth*

and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people" (Daniel 4:17).

Q: Why was the vision sent?

A: To advise the king: *"Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue"* (Daniel 4:27).

15

Managing Your Revelations

> *Then the Lord replied: "**Write down the revelation** and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay* (Habakkuk 2:2-3).

Managing your revelation includes writing it down. This step may seem inconsequential, but it is vital—vital enough for the instruction to be expressed in the Bible. Specifically, management also includes:

- Write down the revelation clearly. Whenever you receive a revelation from God, write down what was said and anything you heard. Otherwise, you will forget.
- Pray about it. Pay attention to it, and be sensitive to what God says.
- Expect God to answer.
- What is God saying to you? Watch how you react.
- Make the vision plain, keeping it simple.
- Simplify it so that a child can understand it.
- Have faith. The vision is for an appointed time.
- If your situation does not match up with your revelation, do not allow your situation to challenge your revelation, but speak to your situation.
- At the end, your vision will speak and not lie. (Joseph eventually left Egypt, even though it was his bones that were carried out.)
- It will certainly come to pass, in God's perfect timing.

Life Application and Appropriation of

VISIONS

The following are suggestions about how to apply and appropriate your visions into your life:

APPLY THE VISION.

- Only confirmed, correctly interpreted visions should be applied in your life.
- First, simply apply the vision and its symbols to yourself.
- Start with simple changes that do not entail major shifts in your circumstances, unless the vision specifically says to do so.
- Always move according to the proportion of your faith, because without faith it is impossible to please God.

APPROPRIATE THE VISION. Appropriation is the process you take in faith by assuming or adopting the promise of the vision. Appropriation consists of:

1. Faith
2. Diligent seeking, such as studying relevant Bible passages
3. Preparing the soil of your heart by encouraging yourself in the Lord
4. Paying attention to fine details
5. Moving in faith and in the reality of the promise as though already fulfilled

HOW TO WAIT FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR VISION

- Pray about it.
- Seek help if necessary to understand it.
- Receive and keep it in your heart.
- Ponder it in your mind.
- Remain obedient to God in what you do understand.
- Remain spiritually sensitive, but don’t over-spiritualize matters in the

process; wait on the Holy Spirit.

- If necessary, wait for matters to unfold with time.

The process of waiting for circumstances to unfold in time requires certain critical steps. These steps are enunciated in a vision of the apostle Peter, and the unfolding of its revelation that Gentiles were potential heirs of salvation (see Acts 10:11-20).

How did Peter unravel the truth of the vision? He waited, stayed spiritually sensitive, and remained obedient to God in what he understood. Then he approached the situation with an open, teachable spirit. The vision's understanding unfolded to Peter in stages:

- Don't call anyone impure or unclean: *"While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: 'You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. **But God has shown me** that I should not call anyone impure or unclean'"* (Acts 10:27-28).
- God shows no favoritism. *"Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right'"* (Acts 10:34-35).
- The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on Gentiles: *"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God"* (Acts 10:44-46).
- No one can stand in the way of God: *"Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have"* (Acts 10:47).
- It is futile to oppose God: *"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life"* (Acts 11:15-18).

Activation Exercise 

- Find or buy a notebook to use exclusively for writing your visions, symbols, interpretations, and revelations.
- Write what action you will take to fulfill the vision or watch to see how the vision will change your mindset going forward.
- Write the outcome of the revelation and how it affected others.
- Don’t forget to date your entries—they will become exciting pieces of your spiritual journey.

Conclusion

This handbook you have just read provides the essence of prophetic visions. Other books I've written delve more deeply into the actual symbols. For instance, the *Bible-Based Dictionary of Prophetic Symbols for Every Christian* bridges the gap between revelation and application. It also contains an expanded version of my book, the *Illustrated Bible-Based Dictionary of Dream Symbols.* These two books, combined with *Dreams and Visions, Volumes 1 and 2*, are the most comprehensive set of books on this subject that I am aware of—bar none.

With this knowledge, you can now welcome and joyfully accept any and all visions that God wants to bless you with. With confidence, you can receive His words of wisdom, encouragement, and direction.

In the Appendix is an excerpt from the *Illustrated Bible-Based Dictionary of Dream Symbols* that is referred to by many and find it very helpful in interpreting visions and dreams.

I wish you all the best in receiving, accepting, interpreting, and applying the visions that God has designed especially for you. Absorb them— and Him—into your every waking and sleeping hour.

APPENDIX

Excerpt from:

The Illustrated Bible-Based Dictionary of Dream Symbols

ACID: Something that eats from within. Keeping offense or hatred or malice.

—Symbolic Actions—

Seeing acid in a container: Potentially dangerous situation, something to be handled with care.

Acid smeared on the skin: Challenging situation, something that could be dangerous and corrosive.

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many (Hebrews 12:15).

ADULTERY: Unfaithfulness regarding things of the spirit or of the natural, or actual adultery; lust for the pleasures of this world; sin.

—Symbolic Actions—

When a married person dreams of having extra-marital affairs: May indicate dreamer unfaithful in things of God, or may be literal or tempting situation, divided loyalty, wavering between options.

When a married man dreams of looking for a person to marry: May indicate the need to fully identify one's calling in God; the dreamer is not completely settled into the marriage relation; the need to be more intimate with one's spouse.

When the dreamer suspects spouse is in extra-marital affair: This may commonly indicate that one's spouse is paying too much attention to things like business or profession. From my experience, however, this may only occasionally be literal.

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions (Galatians 5:19-20).

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God (James 4:4).

AIRPLANE: A personal ministry or a church; capable of moving in the Holy Spirit. Flowing in high spiritual power. Holy Spirit-powered ministry.

—Symbolic Actions—

Crashing: The end of one phase or change of direction.





High Flying: Fully-powered in the Spirit.

Low Flying: Only partially operative in the Spirit.

Aircraft Soaring: Deep in the Spirit or moving in the deep things of God.

Warplane: Call to intercessory ministry; things of present or spiritual warfare.



AIRPORT: This often refers to the ministry that sends out missionaries; high-powered spiritual church capable of equipping and sending out ministries; ministry in preparation or capable of providing or nourishing others in readiness for service.



Types:

- A ministry capable of influencing many people or groups.
- An aspect of the ministry that is a major resource and should be guarded carefully, or a ministry that is itself a major gate in the area or region.
- The major means of resources in the ministry.

ALLIGATOR: Large-mouthed enemy; verbal attacks; situation or person from which or whom verbal attack will emanate.



Other animals with similar meaning:

Crocodile: Large mouth—very dangerous at all times, to be avoided.

Whale: Large mouth—care is needed to avoid danger.

ALTAR: A place set apart for spiritual rituals or prayers/worship; place of sacrifice; call to repentance; place for meeting with God or the devil.



—Symbolic Actions—

Taken to or being compelled to go to an altar: Someone is visiting an altar either on behalf of the dreamer or against dreamer.

Worshiping at an altar: May indicate true worship of God (if holy) or willing participation in idolatry (if unholy—whether innocent or not).

Non-participatory observance of activities at an altar: May indicate a spiritual glimpse of things being done in place of spiritual importance.

Hear pronouncements/incantations being issued at an altar against one: May indicate blessings or curses being issued against the person by people in high spiritual places, usually demons.

David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped (2 Samuel 24:25).

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it (Genesis 8:20).

There he built an altar, and he called the place El Bethel, because it was there that God revealed Himself to him when he was fleeing from his brother (Genesis 35:7).

Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains and on the hills and under every spreading tree where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods. Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and burn their Asherah poles in the fire; cut down the idols of their gods and wipe out their names from those places (Deuteronomy 12:2-3).

ANCHOR: The pillar that something or person hangs on; something that hope is built on.



—Symbolic Actions—

Trying to secure an anchor: Realizing the need to put things in order or making things more secure.

Broken anchor: Losing firmness or security.

Strong/firm anchor: Confirmation that security is in place.

Weak/shaking anchor: Indicates the need to strengthen existing security.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain (Hebrews 6:19).

ANKLES: Little faith, early stages.

—Symbolic Actions—

Water up to the ankle: Faith in God, little faith.

Chains on the ankle: Bondage, slavery.

Jewelry on ankle: Vanity; seduction; beautiful; wrong emphasis.

As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep (Ezekiel 47:3).

ANOINT: Equipping with the Holy Spirit for service. The power of Holy Spirit to do something; sanctification; setting apart for something; a call to a particular responsibility.

—Symbolic Actions—

Being anointed in a church service: May indicate a new level of anointing imminent.

Being anointed by a person who is wrongly dressed or by a person saying things that are not in consonance with the Word of God, or when there are doubts in the mind of dreamer regarding the purity of the minister: May indicate the need to be mindful of who lays hands on the dreamer. Prayers to avoid corrupt doctrines, impartation or contamination from polluted spiritual influences.

Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:14).

Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet (1 Kings 19:16).

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the

power of the devil, because God was with him (Acts 10:38).

Then the men of Judah came to Hebron, and there they anointed David king over the tribe of Judah… (2 Samuel 2:4).

ANT: Industrious, ability to plan ahead; conscious of seasons of life; unwanted guest, nuisance.

—Symbolic Actions—

Invasion of large number of ants: May commonly refer to challenging situations.

Stung or bitten by ants: Dangerous situations/attacks of the enemy—to be avoided by prayers.

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest (Proverbs 6:6-8).

Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer (Proverbs 30:25).

ANTIQUES: Something relating to the past; an inherited thing.

—Symbolic Actions—

Receiving or discovering antiques: There are things in the past (usually valuables) to be discovered or yet to be revealed.

Many antiques in the house or on display in the house: Valuables from the past, potential, from in the bloodline; may also indicate need to make things more relevant to the time and season.

This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." But you said, "We will not walk in it" (Jeremiah 6:16).

APPLES: Spiritual fruit, something precious like the apple of God's eyes, something dear to God.



—Symbolic Actions—

Spoiled apple: Corrupt wisdom or wasted giftedness.

Unripe apple: Time and season is yet to come for manifestation of the promise or gift/potential.

Overripe apple: Danger of missing the divine timing; or, if unused, the gift may become irrelevant with time.

Enticing apple: Tempting situation.

Difficulty in reaching an apple: Not fully equipped to reach a promise fulfillment. If apple is precious in the dream—something valuable to the dreamer or apple of God's eyes.

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it (Genesis 3:6).

In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye (Deuteronomy 32:10).

For this is what the Lord Almighty says: "After the Glorious One has sent me against the nations that have plundered you—for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye" (Zechariah 2:8).

ARK: Something relating to God's presence. Something of strength or a symbol of God's authority.



—Symbolic Actions—

Large ark: Something for rescuing people (Noah's ark).

Building an ark: Obedience or preparing for future event or rainy day.

Place the cover on top of the ark and put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law that I will give you. There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites (Exodus 25:21-22).

ARM: Power and strength whether for or against the dreamer; superior assistance, the spirit of might.



—Symbolic Actions—

A display of arm: A threatening situation; boastfulness; warning from a superior power.

An arm coming against the dreamer: A dangerous situation may be approaching; a call for additional wisdom, strength, or prayers.

But his bow remained steady, his strong arms stayed limber, because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel (Genesis 49:24).

Therefore, say to the Israelites: "I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment" (Exodus 6:6).

With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles. And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said (2 Chronicles 32:8).

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? (Isaiah 53:1).

ARMIES: Spiritual warriors—good or bad; sudden declaration of hostility; call to intercessory prayers; call to be in war mode.

Types:

- One's own army:

Well-equipped and dressed: In a state of adequate readiness.

Disorderly /confused: Need to re-strategize to avoid defeat in warfare.

Wounded soldiers: Need to avoid casualties, prayers need to be intensified.

- Enemy army:

Coming against the dreamer: May indicate a challenge from the enemy and the need for intercession.

Running away from the dreamer: Victory at hand for the dreamer.

Overpowered by the enemy army: Call for prayer to avoid defeat or the need to avoid presumptions that may lead to defeat.

In a well-organized formation: Well-structured enemy opposition.

ARMOR: Spiritual covering that protects the dreamer. Divine protection. The truth of God.



Types:

- ***Good, well-fitting armor:*** Well-prepared for spiritual warfare.
- ***Defective/incomplete armor:*** Protection is not adequate.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes (Ephesians 6:10-11).

ARROWS: Powerful words whether for or against the dreamer. Word of God or curses from the devil. Spiritual children. Good or bad intentions. Arrows with poisonous tip equals words capable of much damage. Modern sign for direction.



Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from Him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth (Psalm 127:3-4).

They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim cruel words like deadly arrows (Psalm 64:3).

Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is one who gives false testimony against a neighbor (Proverbs 25:18).

"Open the east window," he said, and he opened it. "Shoot!" Elisha said, and he shot. "The Lord's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram!" Elisha declared. "You will completely destroy the Arameans at Aphek" (2 Kings 13:17).

He [God] *made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver* (Isaiah 49:2).

ASHES: Signs of repentance or sorrow. To humble oneself. A memorial. Aftermath of God's consuming fire (see Ezek. 28:18; 2 Pet. 2:6).

Your maxims are proverbs of ashes; your defenses are defenses of clay (Job 13:12).

My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes (Job 42:5-6).

Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornate robe she was wearing.

She put her hands on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went (2 Samuel 13:19).

ATOM BOMB: Something capable of great destruction. Something of great suddenness or quick in occurring.



ATTIC: The mind-zone; thought process. The spirit realm. Memories/ past issues/stored up materials.

—Symbolic Actions—

Dream takes place in the attic: Relating to the mind or spiritual realm, or something that is happening or is about to happen.

Memorabilia in the attic: Things from the past that are stored up in the mind.

Leaking attic: Defect in the mind-zone, no adequate spiritual coverage.

About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners (Acts 10:9-11).

AUTOGRAPH: Prominence or fame.

—Symbolic Actions—

Being asked for an autograph: May mean the person will become famous or will come to a place of prominence.

Obtaining an autograph: Favor or approval from people in high places.

Unable to obtain an autograph: Pray for more favor or for hindrances to be removed so that favor from high places can flow in; the need to avoid presumptuous action.

AUTUMN: Transition. The close of harvest season or entering difficult times. End of something and beginning of another.



—Symbolic Actions—

Seasons and timing are relevant in the situation.

Warning to prepare for difficult times ahead.

They do not say to themselves, "Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest" (Jeremiah 5:24).

AUTOBIKE: A spirit-powered ministry that has either one or two-person involvement. Single man ministry with a lot of exhibitionism.



AUTOMOBILE: Means of getting to a destination or achieving the desired goal.



—Symbolic Actions—

Air-conditioning: If in good working condition, indicates adequate comfort for situation; if not working, indicates faulty provision for comfort.

Brakes: Slowing down; to stop; compelled to stop; hindrance.

Convertible: Capable of open-heaven ministration; indicative of revelatory ministry.

Driver's seat: Indicates leadership.

Engine: Holy Spirit power, supernatural empowerment.

Four-wheel drive: A powerful ministry; ground breaking; capable of global influence.

Junkyard: Ministries that are abandoned or in need of repairs.

Rear-view mirror: Looking back, focusing on things in the past; warning to look ahead; warning to watch your back.

Seatbelt: Something that ensures safety; fastened means prepared/prayers; unfastened means prayerlessness/carelessness.

Steering: The controlling and leading part, the means by which leadership is effected.



Tires: Symbolic of the spiritual conditions of the ministry; flat means needing spiritual enabling, needing more prayers; full means powered by the Spirit.

Topless van: Not having adequate anointing for the occasion; vulnerable or transparent.

Van: Goods—delivering, group-ministering.

Vehicle key: Authority in the ministry.

Wreck: Crashing, clash, end of one phase, change of direction. Danger. Contention or confrontation or offense.

The chariots storm through the streets, rushing back and forth through the squares. They look like flaming torches; they dart about like lightning (Nahum 2:4).

AWAKENING: To be alert/watchfulness; to be stirred into action. Rousing the dreamer or being aroused in order to take action. Aroused from passivity and vulnerability to initiatives and progression or aggression (see Isaiah52).

Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, as a warrior wakes from the stupor of wine (Psalm 78:65).

Awake, awake, arm of the Lord, clothe yourself with strength! Awake, as in days gone by, as in generations of old. Was it not you who cut Rahab to pieces, who pierced that monster through? (Isaiah 51:9).

"Awake, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!" declares the Lord Almighty. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones" (Zechariah 13:7).

Wake up, wake up Deborah! Wake up, wake up, break out in song! Arise, Barak! Take captive your captives, son of Abinoam (Judges 5:12).

AX: The Word of God. To encourage by kind word. Issue that needs to be settled.



—Symbolic Actions—

Ax at the foot of the tree: Judgment has come; the time to give account,

especially for those who have been given responsibilities.

To ax: Forceful determination of an outcome.

Ax-head: The cutting edge or the sharp point of something or anointing.

Ax-head floating: Miraculous event is coming.

The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire (Matthew 3:10).

BABY: The beginning of something new. Beginning to be productive. New Christians. Something in its infancy or early stages. Honor from God; something to celebrate, a gift from God.

—Symbolic Actions—

Caring for other people's babies: Helping others to nurture other ministries; interceding for others; scene common with intercessors.

Having or giving birth to a baby: Something new is about to break forth, or the birth of new ministry.

Deformed baby: Need to pray against corrupted or perverted gift beginning.

Stolen baby: Guide against hindrances or delay to the manifestation of gift or potentials.

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation (1 Peter 2:2).

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready (1 Corinthians 3:1-2).

BACK: Pertaining to the past. Something behind or hidden; out of view. Concealed thing.

—Symbolic Actions—

Watching the back: There may be something not yet visible to the dreamer.

Looking at the back: Paying attention to things in the past or out of immediate view.

Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again (1 Kings 18:37).

Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak (Mark 13:16).

Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62).

BACKSIDE: Something in the past or behind the dreamer. Something concealed from view or understanding. Evocative image for rejection, a time of pruning, e.g., Moses at the backside of desert.

BADGER: Underground dwellers.

BAKER: One who instigates or originates something.

—Symbolic Actions—

Watching a baker or dreamer baking as a baker: The dreamer may be potentially gifted in forming concepts or will be especially good in architecture.

BAKING: Making provision for feeding people. Preparation for welfare ministry; God's provision; hospitality; preparing for tomorrow.

BALANCES: Something reflecting both sides of the matter. Something waiting to tilt one way or the other. Judgment. Need to objectively look at things.



BALD HEAD: Lacking wisdom, emblem of shame, mockery. To shave one's hair signifies mourning (see Jer. 16:6).

Types:

- ***Bald head on youth:*** May indicate the lack of wisdom.
- ***Bald head on a female:*** May indicate lack of glory, attraction, honor; or being too masculine.
- ***Bald head on an old man:*** Sign of maturity or mourning.
- ***Compelled to shave the hair:*** Humiliation, sign of bereavement.

From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some youths came out of the town and jeered at him, "Go on up, you baldhead!" (2 Kings 2:23 NKJV).

Both high and low will die in this land. They will not he buried or mourned, and no one will cut himself or shave his head for them (Jeremiah 16:6 NIV).

Shave your heads in mourning for children in whom you delight; make yourselves as bald as the vulture, for they will go from you into exile (Micah 1:16 NIV).

BALM: Healing, anointing; something to relieve pain, stress, or agony.

Types:

- ***Apply balm:*** To comfort; to help with restoration; to bring healing to the situation.
- ***To receive balm:*** To be imparted with healing anointing; to receive encouragement.

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people? (Jeremiah 8:22).

Babylon will suddenly fall and be broken. Wail over her! Get balm for her pain; perhaps she can be healed (Jeremiah 51:8).

Judah and Israel traded with you; they exchanged wheat from Minnith and confections, honey, oil and balm for your wares (Ezekiel 27:17).

BANK: Heavenly account. God's favor for a future season. A place of safety/security. A dependable place or source; God's provision.

—Symbolic Actions—

Withdraw money from a bank: Favor as a result of one's effort; reward of labor; time of favor has come.

Deposit money in a bank: Saving for a future time.

Robbing a bank: Attempting to obtain what is not rightfully yours or forcefully obtaining favor, maybe good or bad, depending on the context of entire dream!

Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account (Philippians 4:17).

But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal (Matthew 6:20).

BANNER OR FLAG: The covering to which everyone belongs or is committed to. Something that brings unity, love, or purpose; a unifying object or circumstance; victory.



—Symbolic Actions—

Carrying a banner: To act as the unifying agent, or agent of love; demonstration of commitment.

Burning a banner: Protesting against the organization or country the

banner represents.

Waving a banner: Sign of victory; sign of surrender; sign of pride in the group.

Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner (Exodus 17:15).

BANQUET: God's provision. A full cup. Plentiful/affluence/abundance. Satisfaction. Blessing. Celebrations. Structured teaching of the Word of God. An evil banquet means decadence, idolatry, indulgence/judgment (see Dan. 5:1-6).

He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love (Song of Solomon 2:4 NIV).

King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them…As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone. Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote (Daniel 5:1,4-5).

His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees were knocking (Daniel 5:6).

BAPTIZING: A change in spiritual life; transformation from the natural to Christ-likeness. A change from the natural to the spiritual. Dying to self, expression of the new man.

He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 3:3).

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life (Romans 6:4).

Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead (Colossians 2:12).

BARBERSHOP: Time, place, period of changing beliefs or customs or

habits. A church where these can take place; a place of correction.



Types:

- A place where beliefs could be charged, a place for instructions.
- A place of gathering for gossip or training.
- A place of impartation for good or bad cultures.

BARENESS: Unproductive, difficult time or period, need for supernatural, divine intervention. Sign of vulnerability, exposure, and shame.

BARN: A place of provision. A church. Stored spiritual wealth.



—Symbolic Actions—

Finding yourself in a barn: May indicate a place of restoration or removed is imminent.

Receiving from a barn: Indicating benefiting from the storehouse of God.

Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn (Matthew 13:30).

Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit. From this day on I will bless you (Haggai 2:19).

BASEMENT: The unseen part of something. Storage zone. Related to the foundation. Hidden. Bloodline-related issue.

—Symbolic Actions—

Valuables in the basement: May mean inherited effectiveness, or great potentials are yet to be revealed or manifested.

Fault in the basement: May indicate the need for repairs or may indicate broken foundation or something in the bloodline that needs repentance.

BASKET: A measure of God's provision. A measure of judgment.



—Symbolic Actions—

Receiving a basket of fruits: A measure of impartation of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

A basket of ripe fruits: Time for something, no more delay.

A basket of bad fruit: That which is not usable for God's purpose.

A basket covered or sealed with a lid: May mean a measure or reward or punishment that will be revealed at a future date.

A basket of bread: Life-giving resources.

A basket of flowers: A measure of appreciation; to be honored or recognized.

This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: a basket of ripe fruit. "What do you see, Amos?" He asked. "A basket of ripe fruit," I answered. Then the Lord said to me, "The time is ripe for My people Israel; I will spare them no longer" (Amos 8:1-2).

Then the angel who was speaking to me came forward and said to me, "Look up and see what this is that is appearing." I asked, "What is it?"

He replied, "It is a measuring basket." And he added, "This is the iniquity of the people throughout the land." Then the cover of lead was raised, and there in the basket sat a woman! He said, "This is wickedness," and he pushed her back into the basket and pushed the lead cover down over its mouth. Then I looked up—and there before me were two women, with the wind in their wings! They had wings like those of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between Heaven and earth. "Where are they taking the basket?" I asked the angel who was speaking to me. He replied, "To the country of Babylonia to build a house for it. When it is ready, the basket will be set there in its place" (Zechariah 5:5-11).

BAT: Creature of darkness. Satanic instrument, related to witchcraft. A nighttime creature. Could represent association with the dark side of life.



—Symbolic Actions—

Flying bats: Challenges from the enemy are imminent.

Sounds from bats: The boastfulness of the enemy, satan—ignore and walk in faith.

BATHING: What you do on the outside or outwardly to prevent unclean or unholy attitude from sticking to you; outward repentance.



—Symbolic Actions—

Preparing for a bath: Contemplating how to rid oneself of surrounding evil practices.

Having a bath: What the dreamer does to resist the influences of the vile things in the world.

Not having enough water for a bath: Need for more prayers and the need to move more in the Holy Spirit; some areas of indulgence may be hindering the desire for holiness.

Bathing in public places: Not ashamed to disassociate oneself from evil practices.

Bathing with dirty water: Desire for good, but care not to go about it in a corrupted or ungodly way.

Bathing in shrine: Worshiping an idol, putting your faith in an idol or man.

BATHROOM: A period of cleansing/entering a time of repentance. A place of voluntary nakedness or vulnerability or facing reality in one's life.

—Symbolic Actions—

Clean bathroom: Conducive atmosphere for resisting the influences of the evil one; the right frame of mind to resist the devil.

Unable to get into or use the bathroom: A place or season that may not be helpful in resisting evil practices; prideful attitude not allowing true repentance.

Attack in the bathroom: To be watchful of challenges at the area of vulnerability.

BEAM: Power or illumination coming from God or the heavenly. A time of exposure or spotlight. A supporting frame. God is the Father of lights and Christians are the children of lights.

BEAR: Danger; wicked person or spirit; vindictiveness. Evil, something that is after what you possess.



—Symbolic Actions—

Being attacked by a bear: Impending dangerous challenge or attack from wicked person.

Being pursued by a bear: Watch also for any spirit of vindictiveness in the dreamer himself or from others.

But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you" (1 Samuel 17:34-37).

You know your father and his men; they are fighters, and as fierce as a wild bear robbed of her cubs. Besides, your father is an experienced fighter; he will not spend the night with the troops (2 Samuel 17:8).

It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him (Amos 5:19).

BEARD: To have respect for authority.

—Symbolic Actions—

Messy: Insane.

Trimmed: Sane.

Having a long and well-kept beard: A symbol of wisdom, authority, or prophetic anointing.

To shave one's beard: To mourn or to be humiliated.

BEAUTY SHOP: A place of preparation with emphasis on outward appearance, tending toward vanity. See also Barber's Shop.

BED: Revelations, rest, contentment. Becoming relaxed or lax. Final place of rest means death.



—Symbolic Actions—

House or place with many beds: May mean a person with prophetic gift, particularly great capacity to receive dreams/visions.

Happening on the bed: Something likely to happen or refers to something happening in an intimate place.

BEDROOM: A place of intimacy. A place of rest, sleep, or dreams. A place of covenant, a place of revelation.

BEES: That which makes offensive noise. More noisy than effective. A double-edged situation capable of going bad or producing sweetness. Stinging words, gossip.



Some time later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion's carcass. In it was a swarm of bees and some honey (Judges 14:8).

BELLS: Call to attention or action. To bring to alertness. To say it loudly; public warning.



—Symbolic Actions—

To hear the sound of a bell: Means time for something has come.

The sound of an alarm bell: Something of great importance is happening or *about to happen. A warning to get ready!*

BELLY: Feelings, desires, spiritual well-being, sentiment.

Types:

- ***As mind/sour:*** See Jeremiah 4:19, Luke 10:33; Job 15:35.
- ***As greed:*** See Philippians 3:19.
- ***As words:*** See Job 10:15.
- ***As a place/pains:*** See Jonah 2:2.

Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach and their glory is in their shame… (Philippians 3:19).

BICYCLE: A ministry depending on much human effort. One-person ministry. A ministry with much exposure—may be a good thing, but could increase vulnerability. Limited capacity to influence many people at one time.

BINOCULARS: Looking ahead, looking into the future. Prophetic ministry.



BIRD: Symbol of leader, evil or good at different levels. Agents of authority.



—Symbolic Actions—

As food or divine provision of food. See First Kings 4:23.

As a symbol for escape into freedom/safety.

As faithful observers of the season.

As an emblem of trust in the Lord's provision.

Types:

- ***Dove:*** Holy Spirit, peace, a seal of approval from Heaven. May mean spiritual naivety.
- ***Eagle:*** Personality or spirit capable of soaring in the Spirit. Good focus/swiftness powerful. A prophet of God.
- ***Owl:*** An evil eye that monitors; spirit of craftiness.
- ***Raven:*** Symbol of unclean spirit.
- ***Sparrow:*** Divine provision and food. Symbol of God's desire to provide for us.
- ***Vulture:*** Evil spirit, opportunistic person. Night creature or something that preys on dead things (human weaknesses). Unclean spirit. A loner.
- ***Feathers:*** A protective covering, a shield or instrument for flying or moving in the spirit.
- ***Wings:*** A place of refuge. God's presence. Safety/something that provides escape from danger.
- ***Fowler:*** A person or spirit that entraps. Fowler's net.

Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to

feed you there (1 Kings 17:3-4).

I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest—I would flee far away and stay in the desert, I would hurry to my place of shelter, far from the tempest and storm" (Psalm 55:6-8).

Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration (Jeremiah 8:7).

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Therefore do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!" (Luke 12:22-24).

Ephraim is like a dove, easily deceived and senseless… (Hosea 7:11).

BLACK: Lack, famine. Evil, demonic spirit. Darkness.

May gloom and utter darkness claim it once more; may a cloud settle over it; may blackness overwhelm it (Job 3:5 NIV).

They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever (Jude 1:13).

I clothe the heavens with darkness and make sackcloth its covering (Isaiah 50:3).

BLEEDING: Hurting. To lose spiritually; verbal accusation. Traumatic.

Injury with much bleeding: A situation that will drain the person of much spirituality.

Persistent bleeding: Situation that may cause repeated irritation and so continue to drain spirituality.

BLIND: Lack of understanding, ignorance. Not able to see into the spirit world.

To be blindfolded: Beware of deceptive situation.

BLOOD: Atonement, to appease. Something that testifies, or warning.

—Symbolic Actions—

Blood often indicates the blood of Christ.

Blood may mean a warning of danger.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION: Getting new life, rescuing situation.

—Symbolic Actions—

Receiving a pure blood transfusion: A rescuing process or getting new life in Christ.

Receiving any other intravenous infusion: May indicate the need for caution; to avoid dangerous indoctrination that could persist for a lifetime.

BLUE: Heaven-related or something related to the Holy Spirit. Spiritual. Depends on the shade of blue.

Types:

- ***Light blue:*** Usually of the Spirit.
- ***Ocean blue:*** Also of the Spirit, but huge/massive.
- ***Dark blue:*** Possible lowliness in mood or depression.

BOAT: A ministry that is capable of influencing many people. Depends on the type of boat.



Types:

- ***Rescue boat:*** Intercessory ministry.
- ***Fishing boat:*** Ministry involving evangelism; soul-saving mission.

- ***Rowing boat:*** Exercise in the Spirit (prayers).
- ***Speed boat:*** Acceleration phase is at hand; the need for acceleration.

BODY ODOR: Unclean spirit, after-effect of fleshly actions.

—Symbolic Actions—

Repulsive body odor: May indicate revelation of character defect that is unacceptable to others.

Sweat smell: May indicate action that will show efforts not of the Holy Spirit.

BONES: The substance or essence of something; power or importance of something. The main issue. Long-lasting. Something without flesh/substance. Something without details.



Types:

- ***Dry bone:*** Lack of Holy Spirit in life (see Ezek. 37).
- ***Crushed bones:*** To remove hope.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman' for she was taken out of man" (Genesis 2:23).

Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet (2 Kings 13:21).

Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the sons of Israel sear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place" (Exodus 13:19).

BOOK: Gaining understanding/knowledge. Scriptures. Revelation. Promise from God. Message based on the title of the book.



—Symbolic Actions—

Reading a book: Gaining knowledge/revelation and information.

The topic or title of the book: May indicate the main message.

Unable or difficulty in reading a book: Issues in the life of the person or circumstances around that are not conducive to gaining knowledge.

BOTTLE: Something relating to the body. As the container of anointing.



—Symbolic Actions—

A bottle of clear water: May be symbolic of the prophetic anointing; a certain move of the Holy Spirit.

A bottle of dirty water: Beware of wrong or contaminated doctrines.

Drinking from a bottle of dirty water: May be receiving from contaminated doctrine.

BOW: Source from which attacks come. The power of a nation or person. Verbal attacks. The tongue. Arrow or gun. A power source.



But his bow remained steady, his strong arms stayed limber, because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock

of Israel (Genesis 49:24).

"They make ready their tongue like a bow, to shoot lies; it is not by truth that they triumph in the land. They go from one sin to another; they do not acknowledge me," declares the Lord (Jeremiah 9:3).

This is what the Lord Almighty says: "See, I will break the bow of Elam, the mainstay of their might" (Jeremiah 49:35).

BOWL: A container; measure of something.

His offering was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering (Numbers 7:13).

You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph (Amos 6:6).

And the Lord Almighty will shield them. They will destroy and overcome with slingstones. They will drink and roar as with wine; they will be full like a bowl used for sprinkling the corners of the altar (Zechariah 9:15).

And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water (Judges 6:38).

BRACELET: Pertaining to pride. Valuable but of the world, means identity if it has a name.



BRANCHES: God's people, churches. Church split, or offshoot of something.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing (John 15:5).

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every

branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful (John 15:1-2).

BRASS: Hardness, hard covering. Judgment/captivity/hard to break out from. Strength. Negative stronghold. Resistance.

Do I have the strength of stone? Is my flesh bronze? (Job 6:12).

The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron (Deuteronomy 28:23).

They killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes. Then they put out his eyes, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon (2 Kings 25:7).

I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze (Leviticus 26:19).

BREAD: Jesus Christ; Bread of life; Word of God; source of nourishment; God's provision.



Types:

- ***Fresh:*** New word from God.
- ***Moldy:*** Something that is not new. Unclean.
- ***Yeast:*** Deceptive teaching.
- ***Unleavened:*** Showing lack of sin, something prepared in haste.

Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread (Ruth 1:6 NKJV).

At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven" (John 6:41).

Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees (Matthew 16:12).

Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup (1 Corinthians 11:28).

Give us today our daily bread (Matthew 6:11).

BREAST: Source of milk for new Christians. Object of enticement. Source of sustenance.

Because of your father's God, who helps you, because of the Almighty, who blesses you with blessings of the heavens above, blessings of the deep that lies below, blessings of the breast and womb (Genesis 49:25).

Why were there knees to receive me and breasts that I might be nursed? (Job 3:12).

A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love (Proverbs 5:19).

BREASTPLATE: God's protective shield. Covering or the anointing which covers one. Preparing to give judgment. Protective of vital human organs or issues.

He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak (Isaiah 59:17).

He placed the breastpiece on him and put the Urim and Thummim in the breastpiece (Leviticus 8:8).

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place (Ephesians 6:14).

BREATH: Means Spirit; spirit of man. Breath of life. Sign of life. Revive to life.

The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being

(Genesis 2:7).

Its breath sets coals ablaze, and flames dart from its mouth (Job 41:21).

Topheth has long been prepared; it has been made ready for the king. Its fire pit has been made deep and wide, with an abundance of fire and wood; the breath of the Lord, like a stream of burning sulphur, sets it ablaze (Isaiah 30:33).

Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live'" (Ezekiel 37:9).

BRICK: Something that is man-made or designed to be durable. Something used for personality building.

They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar (Genesis 11:3).

The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with dressed stone; the fig trees have been felled, but we will replace them with cedars (Isaiah 9:10).

A people who continually provoke me to my very face, offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on altars of brick (Isaiah 65:3).

BRIDE/BRIDEGROOM: The Church relationship to Jesus. Special to Jesus. Covenant or relationship.



—Symbolic Actions—

Bride: Special to Jesus.

Bridegroom: Christ, the actual standing of person from God's viewpoint.

Wedding: The beginning of fruitful union; new level of intimacy with Jesus Christ; end of certain things, such as dependence on earthly support and youthful exuberance; beginning of certain things, such as spiritual life responsibility; parenthood.

Wedding dress: The state of preparation for the union.

Stained wedding dress: Past issues that should be dealt with so as not to bring strain.

Holes in the dress: Faulty preparation, needs to be corrected.

Wedding Cake: God's provision for the new union; God's provision that will overflow to others. Means of joyous celebration.

Wedding Wine: Holy Spirit empowerment; God's miraculous provision. Drinks, avoid over-indulgence.

Absence of key people in wedding ceremony: Eager to grow in the Lord, but have not totally put key things in place; need to carry along some people.

"Lift up your eyes and look around; all your sons gather and come to you. As surely as I live," declares the Lord, "you will wear them all as ornaments; you will put them on, like a bride" (Isaiah 49:18).

The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete (John 3:29).

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb" (Revelation 21:9).

BRIDGE: Something that takes you across an obstacle, e.g., faith. The connection between two things/circumstances. Something that holds you up in times of difficulty.



Types:

- ***Broken bridge:*** Lack of faith, lack of communication, or obstacle to unity exists.
- ***Weak/shaking bridge:*** Weak faith, need for more trust in God. There is need to pray.

BRIDLE: Put control over, e.g., self-control over the use of the tongue. Something imposed by some higher authority to affect control.

A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back (Proverbs 26:3 KJV).

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless (James 1:26 NKJV).

I said, "I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence" (Psalm 39:1 NIV).

Because your rage against Me and your tumult have come up to My ears, Therefore I will put My hook in your nose and My bridle in your lips, and I will turn you back by the way which you came (Isaiah 37:29 NKJV).

BRIERS: Something "wild and thorny" that needs to be trimmed. Something uncultivated or false.

BRIGHTNESS: Presence of God. Revelation. Solution. End of difficult period.

—Symbolic Actions—

Sudden appearance of brightness: May indicate God's light to the situation; better understanding is imminent.

I looked, and I saw a figure like that of a man. From what appeared to be his waist down he was like fire, and from there up his appearance was as bright as glowing metal (Ezekiel 8:2).

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever (Daniel 12:3).

Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue –an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance (Daniel 2:31).

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven (Hebrews 1:3).

BRIMSTONE: Judgment of God. Punishment. Trial period. Burning stone.

BROKEN: Loss of strength, authority, or influence. Open. Heart; wounded. Watch out for any break in unity. Break in bond between people. Broken chain commonly indicates deliverance from evil, bondage, or curse.

Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control (Proverbs 25:28).

I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment (Ezekiel 34:16 NKJV).

BROOK: A provision of God. Something that brings refreshment, wisdom, prosperity from God. If dirty, means corrupted or contaminated. A source of defense.



The rivers will turn foul; the brooks of defense will be emptied and dried up; the reeds and rushes will wither (Isaiah 19:6 NKJV).

Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there (1 Kings 17:3-4 NKJV).

My brothers have dealt deceitfully like a brook, like the streams of the brooks that pass away (Job 6:15 NKJV).

BROOM: Something, or in the process of, getting rid of sins. Symbol of witchcraft.



—Symbolic Actions—

Sweeping: Get rid of sin/obstacles/weaknesses.

Flying on the broom: May be symbolic of spirit of control or manipulation.

"Though many people talk about spiritual warfare, only few people grasp the true concept of what it means. In simple terms, it is the process of handling invisible events and circumstances to achieve the desired results in the visible world. Spiritual warfare is a special form of prayers and intercession in which the believers pray, intercede, and set in motion that which will activate things in the spiritual realm to influence and determine the outcome of things in the natural realm." More information about spiritual warfare is found in my book, *The Final Frontiers.*

BROTHER: Christian brother (spiritual brother); biological brother. Someone with similar qualities.

Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother (Mark 3:35).

BROTHER-IN-LAW: Same as a brother, but under special obligation. Spiritual brother without in-depth love. A person of another church who is also Christian. Actual brother-in-law. Someone with similar qualities.

BROWN/TAN: Life; change of season; born again.

BRUISE: Event or circumstance that leaves a hurt feeling with one. In need for healing. Suffering of Jesus on our behalf. Inner hurting of spirit.

This is what the Lord says: "Your wound is incurable, your injury beyond healing" (Jeremiah 30:12).

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5 NKJV).

BUCKET: A measure of something. Used for service. Supplies life.



—Symbolic Actions—

A bucket of clear water: A certain move of the Holy Spirit, a measure of provision.

Difficulty in getting a bucket of water: Hindrances to obtaining a flow in the Holy Spirit, or receiving needed provision.

A bucket of dirty water: A certain move of the spirit, not of the Holy Spirit.

Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust (Isaiah 40:15).

Water will flow from their buckets; their seed will have abundant water. Their king will be greater than Agag; their kingdom will be exalted (Numbers 24:7).

BUILDING: Symbolic of the spiritual and emotional being of the place,

person, or church. Life of the person, church, or office.



—Symbolic Actions—

A building under construction: Undergoing some form of personality transformation.

A fallen building: Prayer for good health is needed.

A flooded building: Major challenges imminent.

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it (Matthew 16:18).

They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built (Luke 6:48).

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand (Matthew 7:24-26).

BULL: Threatening situation. Warfare. Opposition. May also mean a source of economy.



—Symbolic Actions—

Fighting with a bull: May indicate a major opposition or the need to do self-check to ascertain there are no inner issues (within the person) that may constitute opposition to the will of God in the person's life.

Bull's grazing in a field: A major source of wealth.

BUNDLE: Measure of harvest. Grouping for judgment or reward. Fullness.

Types:

- ***A bundle of flowers:*** Expression of love, appreciation, or a measure of God's glory is coming.
- ***A bundle of money:*** May mean wealth, or a move that will bring money, or a certain measure of favor.

Then it happened as they emptied their sacks, that surprisingly each man's bundle of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid (Genesis 42:35 NKJV).

Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my master will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the Lord your God. But the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling (1 Samuel 25:29).

BURIAL: Memorial to mark the end of something.

—Symbolic Action—

Attending a burial ceremony: At the end of certain phase/a final change.

Digging up burial place: Recovery of generational gifts or potentials, or bring up old issues.

Uzziah rested with his fathers and was buried near them in a field for burial that belonged to the kings, for people said, "He had leprosy." And Jotham his son succeeded him as king" (2 Chronicles 26:23).

He will have the burial of a donkey—dragged away and thrown outside the gates of Jerusalem (Jeremiah 22:19).

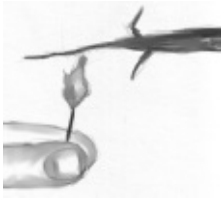
When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial (Matthew 26:12).

BURIED: A permanent end to something. To bring to final end.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life (Romans 6:4).

having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead (Colossians 2:12).

BURN: To consume. To heat up or stir up. To set aflame. To kindle. Sign of fervency. Total change of something by a drastic action.



Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp (Numbers 11:1).

I will enslave you to your enemies in a land you do not know, for My anger will kindle a fire that will burn against you (Jeremiah 15:14).

Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning (Exodus 27:20).

BUS: A big ministry.



—Symbolic Actions—

School bus: A teaching ministry.

To miss the bus: May indicate likelihood of missing divine appointment —a call for prayers.

To board the wrong bus: Watch out for misdirection/misplaced priorities.

To leave the bus at the wrong bus station: Watch against wrong timing or wrong decisions.

BUTTER: Something that brings soothing, smooth words. Encouragement.

—Symbolic Actions—

To butter a slice of bread: To make it easier, or to increase the comfort or joy, or to provide encouragement.

He will be eating curds [butter] *and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right* (Isaiah 7:15).

His talk is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart; his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords (Psalm 55:21).

BUY: To prepare, take, acquire, or obtain something good or bad.

"Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes," declares the Lord (Jeremiah 32:44).

Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding (Proverbs 23:23 NKJV).

For a hundred pieces of silver, he bought from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, the plot of ground where he pitched his tent (Genesis 33:19).

CAFETERIA: A place or period of spiritual nourishment—good or bad. A

church. Structural teaching of the Word of God. Celebration.

CAGE: To restrict. Limited mobility. Negatively—captivity. Positively— to guard or watch.



—Symbolic Actions—

To put something in a cage: To limit the freedom or to put in bondage.

To help get out of a cage: To break the bondage or remove limitations.

Like cages full of birds, their houses are full of deceit; they have become rich and powerful (Jeremiah 5:27).

CAKE: Provisions from Heaven. Nourishment from God.



—Symbolic Actions—

To bake a cake: To help bring about joy/celebration.

A birthday cake: Major celebration, an important day.

A wedding cake: Joy from fruitful relationship with Jesus Christ.

Baking a cake and running out of ingredients: Preparations are not adequate.

The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a hand mill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into cakes. And it tasted like something made with olive oil (Numbers 11:8).

CALF: A young cow or bull. Increase in prosperity. Suggestive of youthfulness, abounding in energy. Fatted calf indicates hospitality and celebrations.

And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast (Luke 15:23 NLT).

CAMEL: Having a servant heart. Capable of bearing other people's burdens. Intercessory spirit.

—Symbolic Actions—

A camel load: Abundance/plentiful.

CAMP: Temporary settlement; a transit situation. Something intended for traveling or for temporary residence, not permanent building.

—Symbolic Actions—

A camp of angels: Major divine encounter or help.

A camp of friends: Divinely appointed help on the way.

A camp of enemies: Major challenge or opposition.

Jacob also went on his way, and the angels of God met him. When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is the camp of God!" So he named that place Mahanaim (Genesis 32:1-2).

They left the Red Sea and camped in the Desert of Sin. They left the Desert of Sin and camped at Dophkah. They left Dophkah and camped at Alush. They left Alush and camped at Rephidim, where there was no water for the people to drink. They left Rephidim and camped in the Desert of Sinai. They left the Desert of Sinai and camped at Kibroth Hattaavah. They left Kibroth Hattaavah and camped at Hazeroth. They left Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah (Numbers 33:11-18).

CANDLE: Word of God. Symbolic of the human spirit. If not lit, could mean lack of God's presence. Jesus is also source of light. Conscience.



Types:

- Lamp
- Electricity

The human spirit is the lamp of the Lord that sheds light on one's inmost being (Proverbs 20:27).

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, "The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad" (Zephaniah 1:12).

CANDLESTICK: People who carry the light of God. The lamp stand, Spirit of God. Church.

CARPENTER: Jesus. Someone who makes or amends things. A preacher.

CAT: Deceptive situation/person. Something or a person who is self-willed. Not a teachable spirit. A sneaky, crafty, and deceptive spirit. Witchcraft, waiting to attack. A personal pet. A precious habit that could be dangerous.



CAVE: Safe hiding place. Secret place of encountering God.

—Symbolic Actions—

Hiding in a cave: Fear, lack of faith.

Putting valuables in a cave: A place that may not be easily seen by enemies.

CHAIN: Bondage or captivity. To be bound in the spirit or in the natural.



CHAIR: Authority over something; coming to position of authority or a place of respite; throne of God.



—Symbolic Actions—

Difficulty in finding one's chair: Hindrances to obtaining one's place of authority.

Sitting on a chair: A place of authority/power/respite.

Stolen chair: Watchfulness needed to maintain one's authority; designated place or position.

CHANNEL: A way out. A process of time. Difficult period leading to the next stage.

—Symbolic Actions—

Passing through channel: The dreamer is the process of going through something.

Dark channel: Difficult period.

CHASE: Cause to flee. Get rid of something. To pursue. To go after something.

—Symbolic Actions—

To be chased by a mad person: A great challenge to mental stability;

prayers should be offered against insanity or insane decisions.

To be chased by dangerous animals: Major challenges or attacks, but also requires self-examination to resist tendency to go toward the spirit represented by the animal during waking hours, e.g., excessive anger or violence (may be symbolized by a tiger).

CHECK/CHEQUE: The seal of promise. Promise that is guaranteed.

—Symbolic Actions—

To cash a check: Time of maturity of divine promise has come.

A bounced check: Fake promises.

To be given a check: A promise for a future date.

CHEEK: Vulnerable part, beauty.

CHEESE: To comfort. To soothe.



CHEETAH: A spirit that is capable of quick overcoming. Unclean spirit.



CHEW: To meditate. To ruminate. To cut off.

—Symbolic Actions—

To be chewing something: In the process of gaining better understanding.

Difficult to chew: Hard to comprehend, lacking in detail.

CHICKEN: An evangelist. Gifting, caring spirit. Gathering.

—Symbolic Actions—

Rooster: Boasting.

Chick: Defenseless.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing (Matthew 23:37; Luke 13:34).

CHILDHOOD HOME: Influence from the distant past, whether good or bad.

CHOKING: Biting more than you can chew. Too fast, too much in the wrong way.

—Symbolic Actions—

Choking: Action that will drain one of spiritual strength.

CHRISTMAS: New thing in Christ. Tradition of men. Spiritual gift. Season of gifts/love. A period of joy and humanitarianism. Celebration of Christ. False or pretend celebration or hypocrisy.

CIRCLE: Something endless signifies agreement or covenant. Hunting, if making a circle. Relating to the universe. Ring, round.

—Symbolic Actions—

Something in circles: May indicate something that will seemingly continue without end.

He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in (Isaiah 40:22).

CIRCUMCISION: Cutting off fleshly things/coming to liberty.

Covenanting with God. Blood relationship. New levels of spiritual walk, born again. New level of maturity.

You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you (Genesis 17:11).

Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, circumcise your hearts, you people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, or my wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done—burn with no one to quench it (Jeremiah 4:4).

Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs (Acts 7:8).

CITY: The makeup of the person. All that has been inputted in the person or people. The city or what the city is known for. Group or church.



Types:

- ***Las Vegas:*** Gambling.
- ***Los Angeles:*** Hollywood, immorality.
- ***Paris:*** Love.

CLASSROOM: A time of spiritual preparation. A person with a gifting to teach others.

—Symbolic Actions—

Difficulty in finding one's classroom: May mean hindrances to getting proper training.

In a childhood classroom: New foundational teaching/knowledge imminent.

CLAY: Something that refers to frailty of humans; delicate and fragile; not secure.

—Symbolic Actions—

To mold a pot with clay: God's power of restoration or creation.

I am just like you before God; I too have been taken from clay (Job 33:6 NIV).

Its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. … As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle (Daniel 2:33-34,42).

CLEAN: To make holy, pure; to make righteous; to make ready and acceptable.

CLEANSE: To put right something. To put away what is bad.

CLEAR: To bring light to the situation; to bring understanding. To be set free from something.

—Symbolic Actions—

Something becoming clear: The end of confusion; to bring enlightenment or clarification to a situation.

CLOCK: Timing is important in the situation. Time to do something is revealed. May refer to Bible passages. Running out of time.

CLOSE: To shut up, to keep silent, or to be hedged or walled up.

For the Lord has poured out on you the spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; and He has covered your heads, namely, the seers (Isaiah 29:10 NKJV).

For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their

eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them (Matthew 13:15).

CLOSET: Hidden, confidential, personal, or exclusive. A place of prayer. A place of fellowship with God.

Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet (Joel 2:16 KJV).

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly (Matthew 6:6 KJV).

Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops (Luke 12:3 KJV).

CLOTHING: Covering whether pure or impure. Your standing or authority in a situation. Covering God is providing to us.

—Symbolic Actions—

Wearing national clothing: Indicates special anointing to teach the people.

Wearing rich clothing: Moving in rich anointing/mantle.

Wearing torn clothing: Defects in the manifestation of the anointing.

Tearing cloths: Signifies grief, sorrow.

On the third day a man arrived from Saul's army camp, with his clothes torn and with dust on his head… (2 Samuel 1:2).

Torn on one's body: Mourning.

Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them. They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the Lord and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword (2 Samuel 1:11-12).

CLOUDS: Heavenly manifestation; glory, presence of God. Dark time of travel, fear, trouble, or storms of life. Hiddenness of God.



Types:

- ***Dark clouds:*** A time of storm or difficulty.
- ***White clouds:*** Glory of God; time of joy/abundance.

By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night (Exodus 13:21).

The Lord said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud over the atonement cover" (Leviticus 16:2).

At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory (Matthew 24:30 NIV).

CLOWN: Not a serious person. Not taking God seriously. Childish.

—Symbolic Actions—

To be in the presence of a clown: May indicate the presence of a person or surrounding not to be taken seriously; a need to put away childish tendencies.

COAT: Protective, covering, mantle.

—Symbolic Actions—

Clean: Righteousness.

Dirty: Not righteous, unclean.

The Lord God made garments [coat] *of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them* (Genesis 3:21).

He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash around him and put on the linen turban. These are sacred garments [coats]; *so he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on* (Leviticus 16:4).

Take the garments [coats] *and dress Aaron with the tunic, the robe of the ephod, the ephod itself and the breastpiece. Fasten the ephod on him by its skillfully woven waistband* (Exodus 29:5).

COLLEGE: Promotion in the Spirit. Pertaining to the equipping season.

COLUMNS: Spirit of control and manipulation; obsessive or orderliness.

—Symbolic Actions—

To run into a column of people: Challenge may be at hand that will be obsessive or manipulative.

To run into a column of soldiers: A well-organized opposition likely.

CONCEIVE: In process of preparation. To add. To multiply.

CONGREGATION: An appointed meeting. An assembly. Called together.

—Symbolic Actions—

Preaching to a congregation: A manifestation of one's gift is imminent.

Talking to a large congregation: Influence likely to affect many people.

CORD: Something that holds things together. Enhances unity/love.

COUCH: Rest, relaxation, peace.



—Symbolic Actions—

To be seated on a couch: A place of rest or comfort; one's place of authority.

To be seduced on a couch: Watch out for challenges from the spirit of Jezebel.

COUNTRYSIDE: A time of peace/tranquillity. A potential that is yet unexplored. A place of fertility and abundance. A place or privacy or escape from noise. A place or spiritual retreat or romance.

COURTHOUSE: Time of being judged or persecuted; trial.

COW: Food/source of enrichment; potential source of sin.

CRAB: Moving sideways; potential to hurt; self-centered.

CRAWLING: Humility or to be humiliated; sign of judgment.

So both of them showed themselves to the Philistine outpost. "Look!" said the Philistines. "The Hebrews are crawling out of the holes they were hiding in" (1 Samuel 14:11).

So I went in and looked, and I saw portrayed all over the walls all kinds of crawling things and unclean animals… (Ezekiel 8:10).

So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life" (Genesis 3:14).

CROOKED: Distorted, not straight. Wickedness, not upright. Not of God. Crooked mind means a perverse mind.

Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground [crooked] *shall become level* [straight], *the rugged places a plain* (Isaiah 40:4).

But those who turn to crooked ways the Lord will banish with the evildoers. Peace be upon Israel (Psalm 125:5).

They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness (2 Peter 2:15).

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways (Psalm 25:8).

A man of perverse heart does not prosper; he whose tongue is deceitful falls into trouble (Proverbs 17:20).

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation" (Acts 2:40).

CROSSING STREET: Changing perspective.



CROSSROADS: Vital choice to make or change in position. Options.

—Symbolic Actions—

Coming to a crossroad: Will come to a place to make a choice, or there will be the need to make a decision.

CROWN: Symbol of authority. Seal of power. Jesus Christ. To reign. To be honored.



—Symbolic Actions—

To be crowned: To be rewarded; to come to a place of honor or a place of authority.

To be given a crown: To be given power.

A crown of thorns: Humiliation or ridicule.

CRYING: Actual crying. A period of grief, outburst of sadness. Intense emotional expression.

CULTURAL CLOTHES: A call to the people of that culture; call to nation or that cultural affiliation.

CUP: Your portion in life; provision or responsibility.



—Symbolic Actions—

To receive a cup: May mean to bear your portion; assume your responsibility.

CURTAIN: Separation. Concealed. Hidden. End of something.

—Symbolic Actions—

Separated by a curtain: Unrevealed; not exposed.

Torn curtain: Barrier broken; limitation removed; exposed; no longer hidden.

Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place (Hebrews 9:3).

CYMBALS: Instrument to praise God with. Could be used without genuine

love.

DAM: Deliberate hold to generate the power of unity or gathering resources. Obstacle to flow. Reserve sustenance. An obstacle to the move of God. Temporary or deliberate holding back of some moves of God. Stillness.



DANCING: Worshiping God or idol.

—Symbolic Actions—

Worshiping: A time of joy or rejoicing.

DARKNESS: Lack of light. Without spiritual direction.

—Symbolic Actions—

Appearance of darkness: A place without the revelation of God, or where evil is celebrated.

A place of darkness: Coming to difficult time or season.

DAUGHTER: Gift of God. Ministry that is your child in the Spirit. The child herself. Someone with similar qualities.

DAYTIME: The opportune time. A time of light. Season of good deeds. Season when things are revealed or understanding is gained.

Dawn: The beginning of good times; the beginning of enlightening period; the beginning of better understanding.

DEAF: Not spiritually attentive. Not paying attention.

—Symbolic Actions—

Difficulty in hearing: May indicate issues in the person or around the person that hinders hearing in the Spirit.

To be completely deaf: The loss of ability to hear in the Spirit.

DEATH: What the Bible says more frequently about death is dying to self. Some measure of dying to self in an area. Separation from things of evil; actual physical death. The end of life on earth. Death is also overcoming the work of the flesh to resume communion with God.

DEER: Spiritual longing; symbol of hunger for the things of God; ability to take great strides; grace. Divine enabling. Noted for swiftness, agility, and sure-footedness. Picture of graceful beauty.



As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? (Psalm 42:1-2).

A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love (Proverbs 5:19).

The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights. For the director of music. On my stringed instruments (Habakkuk 3:19).

DEN: Busy doing the wrong thing.

DESERT: Training; lack; testing. A place of reliance on God.



DEW: Blessings. Condensed, moisturized air formed in drops during still, cloudless night indicates divine blessing on the earth. The Word of God.

May God give you heaven's dew and earth's richness—an abundance of grain and new wine (Genesis 27:28).

It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore (Psalm 133:3).

Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants (Deuteronomy 32:2).

Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops (Haggai 1:10).

DIAMOND: Something to engrave with, something hard; stubbornness. Diamond as a pen nib. Valuable, precious, gift, majesty, beauty.

DIARY: A record of something or record of encounters with God.

DIFFICULT WALKING: Difficult times of life. Facing opposition.

DINING ROOM: Feeding on the Word of God. A place of spiritual food. Table of the Lord.

DINOSAUR: Something in the distant past. Something big and terrible, but it has been dealt with by God. What used to be a major issue or hindrance in the past generation, but which no longer exists.



DIRTY CLOTH: False doctrine. Of a sinful nature.

Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel.

The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you." Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by (Zechariah 3:3-5).

DIRTY/DRY: Not pure spiritual things.

DIRTY/NEGLECTED: A place in need of attention.

DISEASE: Emotional upset, or it may be literal; bondage from the devil.

DITCH: Deception, a trap; fleshly desire.

DOCTOR: Jesus the healer. A person with healing anointing. Someone with caring service, minister. Symbol of healing anointing.

DOG: A gift that could be harnessed to do good, but may not be trusted. Could be versatile in function, but unpredictable. Man's best friend. A pet sin.

DONKEY: An enduring spirit, usable by the Lord. A spirit that God could use if surrendered to Him.

DOOR: An opening. Jesus Christ. The way, a possibility, grace. Something to do with Jesus. Transition.



—Symbolic Actions—

Closed door: Hidden activities, or obstacle to progress.

Open door: Opportunity, grace for progress.

Door keys: Authority to create opportunity, power over the obstacle.

Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips (Psalm 141:3).

Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate [door] *for the sheep. All who ever came before Me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate* [door]; *whoever enters through Me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture"* (John 10:7-9).

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this" (Revelation 4:1).

DOWN: Spiritual descent/backslide. Falling away. Humiliation. Failure.

DRAGON: Satan. High demonic spirit. Great level of wickedness. Antichrist.



Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads (Revelation 12:3).

The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him (Revelation 12:9).

DRAWING: Conceptualization. A means or method of illustration. To be fluent in expression. Doctrine, truth; deception.

DREAMING: To dream of dreaming means receiving a deeply spiritual message, or a much more futuristic message.

DRINKING: Receiving from the spiritual realm, whether good or bad. Receiving your portion in life; bearing your cross.

DRIVER: The one in command or control. The one who makes the decisions.

DRIVING IN REVERSE: Not going in correct direction with anointing.

DROUGHT: A period of lack without God.

DROWNING: Overcome by situation leading to depression. Overwhelmed to the point of self-pity.

DRUGS: Medication. Illicit drugs may mean counterfeit anointing.



DRUNKARD: Influenced by counterfeit source of anointing. Self-indulgence or error. Uncontrolled lust.

DUST: Temporary nature of humankind. Frailty of human. Curse. Symbolically may refer to humiliation. Dust may often mean a large number of something.

—Symbolic Actions—

Dust on the head: Grief.

Sitting in dust: Repentance.

Lying in dust: Humiliation.

Lying down in dust: Death.

Enemies licking the dust: Defeat to the enemy.

Shaking dust off the feet: Rejection of a place.

Throwing dust in the air: Expression of shock.

The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being (Genesis 2:7).

Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring (Genesis 28:14).

Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck, Daughter Zion, now a captive (Isaiah 52:2).

DYNAMITE: Holy Spirit "dynamos." Power/great spiritual power, whether good or bad.



—Symbolic Actions—

Having dynamite in a car: Ministry with great potential.

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Dr. Joe Ibojie was the founder and senior pastor of The Father's House. He traveled worldwide as a Bible and prophetic teacher. Dr. Ibojie was the author of more than 15 books, including *Illustrated Bible-Based Dictionary of Dream Symbols.* He combined a unique prophetic gifting with rare insight into the mysteries of God and the ancient biblical methods of understanding dreams and visions.



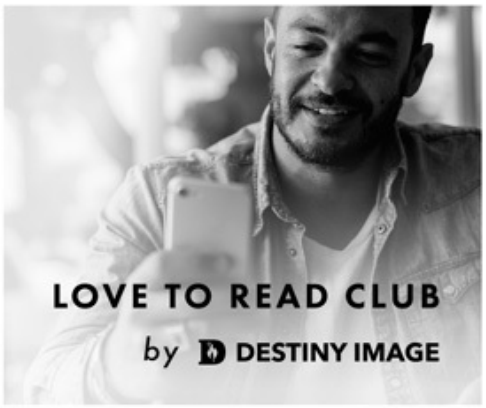
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