

MY HELPER #21
THE HOLY SPIRIT IN DREAMS AND VISIONS

Joel 2²⁸ ‘And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. NIV

Acts 2¹⁵ These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:
¹⁷ ““In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. NIV

Vision: revelation, manifestation of unseen, the power of imagination, foresight, discernment,

Visual problems:

We have in the church today spiritual blindness. Today one is considered legally blind if they have 1/10 of normal vision.

Hyperopia --- far sightedness, can’t see today, but looks only to tomorrow;

Myopia, --- nearsightedness, --- can only see here right now;

Presbyopia, just plain short sightedness;

Amblyopia --- they can see with one eye, but the other eye is dim and they have trouble

judging distances.

Strabismus, which is an eye problem where the muscles of the eyes do not work together, we call this crosseye, what usually happens is one eye pulls toward the nose.

Then there is **tunnel vision** where the peripheral vision is lost and one sees in extreme narrowness.

Then there is spiritual vision. Joel states that in the last days church young and old will be seeing things! Dreams and visions.

I. Dreams a work of the Holy Spirit

A. Dreamers in the O.T.

*** Joseph dreams of his future destiny**

Gen. 37 2.. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers...

⁶He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: ⁷We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

⁹Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

He would be a dreamer and an interpreter of dreams.

He interprets the dreams of a butler and baker while in prison.

Because of this he is led before the king and interprets his dreams of famine and how to survive it. His dream comes true!

• Daniel

Daniel interprets the two dreams of kings. The first was Nebuchadnezzar. He had a dream of an image that when interpreted was a prophetic dream of the last days.

The second dream Daniel interpreted was of Nebuchadnezzar being humbled by losing his mind.

In Daniel 7 Daniel has a dream that is prophetic about the last days.

Daniel has dreams and is an interpreter of dreams.

His dreams were prophetic.

• Solomon

1Ki. 3:5-15 Solomon has a dream where God asked him what he wanted. He asked for wisdom and knowledge. God not only gave him wisdom and knowledge but wealth and honor.

This dream was also prophetic. God told him there would never be another like him!

¹² I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. NIV

B. Dreamers in the N.T.

*** Joseph the husband of Mary**

He is spoken to in dreams by angels directing him to marry Mary, accept the baby as the Messiah, go to Egypt because the king wants the babies life, return from Egypt because the king is dead.

All this was prophetic. It was futuristic.

- **Pilot's wife**

Matt. 27 19 It was a dream of Jesus being a just man. She warns her husband not to touch him.

- **Old men**

Acts 2 17.... your old men will dream dreams. NIV

Why are dreams given to old men?

Could it be that they dream of the great things God has done?

Could it be that they dream of the future being greater for the next generation?

Could it be that the pattern does not change, that they dream prophetically?

II. Visions a work of the Holy Spirit

Num. 12 ⁶ he said, "Listen to my words: "When a prophet of the Lord is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams. NIV

A. Visions in the O.T.

- * **Abraham**- son and a nation

- * **Samuel**- his calling

* **Isaiah**- the suffering of Christ and future prophetic events.

* **Ezekiel, Obadiah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zechariah** - prophetic events

B. Visions in the N.T.

* The disciples on the Mt. of Transfiguration

* Ananias and Saul of Tarsus share a vision and Paul is healed and called to preach.

* Peter and Cornelius are brought together for salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit to the first Gentiles.

* Acts 16 Paul is called to Macedonia

* John on the Isle of Patmos has visions of the seven churches, the Lord before the throne, and future events of the end time.

What does all this have to do with the Holy Spirit?

John 16¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes,... he will tell you what is yet to come.

One of the ways is dreams and visions.

What does this have to do with young men and old men?

Old men dream of what God has done.

Old men dream of what God can do.

Old men dream of what God is doing.

Young men see visions of what God wants to do.

Young men see visions of what can be.

Young men see visions of greater things to come.

Old men ask, why or how?

Young men ask, why not?

They have something in common they are SEEING SOMETHING
IN THE SPIRIT THAT HAS PROPHETIC VALUE.

Joel and Peter speak of the same thing happening in the latter
times. This is to be the work of the spirit in the last days!

Acts 2¹⁷ ““In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on
all people.