

## 10: Guided By Visions And Dreams

There are seven great Bible facts to be considered as we probe our subject. Will you notice them with me?

1. Jesus is coming again! Joel 3:16 - "The Lord shall roar out of Zion. . ."

2. Just before Jesus comes again, there will be a great out-pouring of His Holy Spirit. Joel 2:28-30, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."

3. One of the reasons for the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit is to guide people into all truth. John 16:1; "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth:...."

4. The Holy Spirit comes to guide people into commandment-keeping. John 14:15 says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Acts 5:32 says that God gives the Holy Spirit "to them that obey him."

5. We are to ask for His Holy Spirit. In Luke 11:1-13, Jesus says that fathers are willing to give their children those things for which they ask, He says that the heavenly Father is much more willing to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is the greatest gift Jesus promised His children this side of glory land. That is why He is so anxious that we ask for it. It brings all of the other blessings in its train.

6. Then we are to believe and claim the presence of His Holy Spirit. Galatians 3:14 says that the blessing comes through Jesus Christ, "That we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

7. We are to give Him our bodies as His temple. I Corinthians 6:19. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price:...."

I have made it a practise in my ministry never to preach a sermon; never to make a visit in a home or give a Bible study, without asking the Holy Spirit to guide me. There have been a few occasions when I failed to ask Him to guide me, and I noticed a great difference in the results. I am unable, in my own strength, to accomplish what I might otherwise accomplish when baptized by the Holy Spirit.

As the special music is rendered, I pray for an infilling of the Holy Spirit so I might present a message that will be of help to those that listen. As I wait for an answer at the door of a home after I have rung the door-bell, I pray for the Holy Spirit to be with me. We have a right to do that, because Jesus is coming again, and He wants us to be ready and to help others get ready. A part of getting ready is accomplished only by the Holy Spirit. This is the work of guidance, and the Holy Spirit will guide us only in response to a request for His guidance. Oh, that we might see the wisdom and need for asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I have not a question in my mind as to the difference His presence makes.

The Holy Spirit wants our bodies in which to dwell. As we allow Him entrance, He takes up His abode within us and then it is possible for Him to guide us and direct us in all our activities. Once we have asked for His presence, then we are to believe and to claim it. It has been my experience to see some marvelous things happen when men and women have asked for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

A while back my wife and I were asked to come to one of the churches in California to conduct some revival services. The pastor and I made a number of visits together. Among the people we visited was a lovely Roman Catholic lady. During the course of our visit, I asked her how she happened to be visiting the Seventh-day Adventist church. Then she told us this story: It seems that about a year earlier she had

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become very dissatisfied with her church. In her dissatisfaction, in her own way, she asked God to lead her to the true church, if there was such a church. After having asked for guidance, she set out to visit a different church each Sunday morning. Each week she came home feeling that there must yet be more; she had not satisfied her desire for the true church, and so she kept searching and praying for guidance. She kept up this program for a year.

Finally, one Sunday morning, she came home still feeling the void in her heart and in her desperation fell on her knees and poured out her heart to God. With tears streaming down her face she pled with God to direct her to His people, the true church. There in the quietness of her room as she waited for an answer from the Lord, she said that she heard a voice speak to her. She didn't recognize the words as a name of a church, for she said, "I had never heard a church by that name, and I thought I had been to them all." The voice said, 'Seventh-day Adventist'. I was somewhat confused about that name, but when my husband came home from work later that day I asked him if there was a church called, Seventh-day Adventist." He had heard of that church and confirmed the fact that there was such a church.

"There is?" she asked with a feeling of surprise and shock.

"Why yes," he said, "why do you ask, and why are you so surprised?"

Then she told him of her frustration and her attempt to find the true church and how she had prayed and what she had heard.

"Now it's my turn to tell you something, honey," he said. "You have never heard this before, but it's time for me to own up to it. My father was a Seventh-day Adventist minister, and I used to be a member but have become a back-slider."

Well, this was news to this lady! Then she told us how she asked her husband if he would mind if she went to that church the next Sunday

"Well, you might have trouble finding one open next Sunday, for you see they go to church on Saturday!"

"Saturday" That's unusual," she said. "Well then, would you mind if I went to church next Saturday?" she asked.

"No, honey," he said, "not at all. Sabbath School begins at 9:30 and the preaching service starts at 11:00 o'clock. I'd be happy to have you go."

And so the next Saturday morning found her in a Seventh-day Adventist church. She with her two children arrived just on time for Sabbath School. Two very gracious ladies met her at the door and welcomed her. Then they asked if she would like for the children to attend their Sabbath School and offered her assistance in showing them just where the department was. She said, "When we got there, there were many children the age of my own, and I was introduced to the ladies in charge. They seemed more like angels to me than humans. I knew the moment I stepped into that church that this was it! This was God's church and He had guided me to it!"

When we visited in her home that day, she was in the process of preparing herself for baptism into the church. She was studying the Bible, which Peter says, was written by men who were led by the Holy Ghost. No wonder she was learning truth, for not only was the Holy Spirit guiding her, but she was exposing herself to a Book that the Holy Spirit had inspired. The Holy Spirit always only guides people in harmony with the Book that He inspired; never in opposition to it.

The work of the Holy Spirit is to guide people into all truth. What is truth? The Bible says, "Thy word is truth." John 17:17. This is the vehicle of truth. As this lady studied the Bible she became more and more

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impressed with truth and saw the consistency of it; the beauty and joy of truth. She had no question about this being the True Church. The pastor had shared with her that this was not a people who claimed to be perfect, but rather a church where the people were endeavoring to follow the Word of God without compromise; a people endeavoring to prepare for the greatest event this world has ever seen, the second coming of Jesus. The more she learned, the more determined she was to live in harmony with the Bible and become a part of this people.

Years ago, I became acquainted with another man who had a thrilling experience. He lived in the eastern part of the United States. He, too, had determined that he would pray for guidance. He had no knowledge of God's church, but he knew there must be something better than what he had known. One day he said to his wife, "I am going to fast and pray most earnestly that God will guide me to His church, if there really is such a church."

This man began right, didn't he? He placed himself in a position where God could hardly do anything else. He asked for the very thing the Holy Spirit was sent to perform - guiding honest souls into truth. No other promise is so bountifully promised as is the promise of the Holy Spirit. It was promised to any who will ask and believe and claim it. It is promised for but one reason: to prepare a people for the soon return of Jesus. When a soul humbly asks for guidance and for understanding, God cannot do anything but respond. This promise is for each of us!

"On the third day of my fast," he said, "I was lying on my bed resting and praying. I was thinking about my request to God, when suddenly I heard an audible voice say, 'Exodus twenty'. Then as my eyes focused on the wall at the foot of the bed, I saw, in glowing light, the words: Exodus 20. I didn't know what the twentieth chapter of Exodus said, but I sprang from my bed and got my Bible and turned to it and read it.

"There," he said, "I found the ten commandments. I had heard of them before, but never had I read them with my own eyes. I was impressed with the fact that God Himself had given them from Mt. Sinai, and they must be very important. As I came to the fourth commandment, to my amazement I found that the Bible commands us to keep the seventh day of the week! Here the Creator of heaven and earth had plainly requested us to keep the Seventh day - the day that He had set apart as special and upon which He had placed His blessing!

"I don't know how I could have missed it all these years," he said. "I knew most of the other commandments and had tried to keep them, but the one commanding us to keep the seventh day was new to me. Now I knew why the voice had directed me to the twentieth chapter of Exodus, and why the words appeared on the wall of my bedroom.

"How I thanked God for this revelation," he said. "I hunted the town for the church that kept the seventh day of the week, and found that it was called The Seventh-day Adventist Church. I started attending that church immediately, for I believed that God had led me to it."

Jesus is coming again. He is going to "roar out of Zion." Not everyone is going to be pleased to see Him come. But before He comes He will pour out His Holy Spirit to prepare a people for this great event. He accomplishes this preparation by guiding His people into a study of His Holy Word, the fountain of truth. God is preparing a group of commandment-keepers. Revelation 22:14 says, "Blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." John is speaking of the City of God - the Capitol City!

My wife and I spent several years as missionaries in South America as well as in Trinidad and Granada. While in South America we heard of a thrilling experience that took place in British Guiana, very close to the border. There was an Indian chief who had never seen a Bible. He, with his people, might be called

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half-civilized, living in a remote region, seeing very few civilized people. This chief claimed to have visions and dreams, just like Joel said men would have. He related these visions and dreams to his people. He told them things that you and I recognize as Bible doctrines. His only authority was the vision or the dream, whichever it was. But they so impressed this man that he taught them to his people with real conviction. Many believed and many changes were made among the people.

"Now," he said, "when I die, you will go back to your old ways and you will forget what I have taught you. But in a few years a white man will come to you. He will carry a book and he will read to you out of this book the very things I have taught you; the things I have seen in my dreams and visions. It must agree. And when you hear it you will turn from your back-sliding and believe the book." What do you suppose he saw in his vision and dreams? He saw that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord God.

More than this; he saw that dead men are really dead, and that they do not go on living when they die. He saw also that people should pay one-tenth of their income to God. When finally our brother Davis, after whom these Indians are named, came, he found straw-houses full of produce that these people had been saving up for the white man that was to come to them. The Indian chief even saw the Bible picture of the marriage supper of the Lamb. He saw, too, that the ten commandments were God's set of rules for living; that adultery was evil and that they should be pure and clean. In vision this chief saw every one of the doctrines that God's Sabbath-keeping church is preaching in the world today.

When Brother Davis came from America to these Indians, now known as the Davis Indians, they recognized him as the one whom their chief had promised would come. He came with the Book and read to them the very things they had heard from their chief. They knew that this man was from the God of the heavens, and they believed his message and what a work was accomplished there. Yes, God had used visions and dreams to bring the message of truth to these half-civilized people to prepare them for the event that all of us are waiting for - the Second Coming of Jesus!

Among another group of Indians there was a nine-year-old boy who had had visions and dreams. His experience was almost a parallel to that of the Indian chief. This lad had seen the doctrines of the Bible, although he had never heard of a Bible, in clear, unmistakable clarity - just as the sabbath-keeping church is preaching around the world. I say, Thank God for the great gift of His Holy Spirit to lead and to guide mankind.

The Holy Spirit is not merely a Guide; He is also a Comforter. And He is even more than this. The Bible speaks of the "fruit of the Spirit," in Galatians 5:22. These fruits are: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness and faith, along with meekness and temperance. These are the fruit of the Spirit. When the Holy Spirit really comes into a man's life, it changes him - it perfects his character so he will be ready to meet His Creator. It changes him to become loving, because it is the God of love that has taken up His abode in the heart. No wonder this is stressed in II Corinthians 6:16, "...ye are the temple of the living God...."

God has said, "...I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." Then the seventh chapter of Galatians verse one says, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." God's promise of the Holy Spirit not merely guides us, but it gives us the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit for one express purpose: that we might be cleansed from all filthiness of the flesh! God wants a clean people and He has sent His Holy Spirit to make this possible. God wants a people who are pure, even as He is pure. This is the people who will be glad and rejoice when Jesus comes; these are the people to whom Jesus will say, when He comes, "These are My People!"

Perhaps one of the most thrilling experiences that has come to me happened while we were in the West Indies. My wife and I were in charge of ten churches and doing evangelistic work on the different

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islands. I was the only ordained minister in a large section of territory and I was expected to stay on the island to which I was assigned, and not go on vacation or make other trips without first receiving permission from my superior in Trinidad. I was the only one qualified to conduct funerals and weddings and the like. It was rather important, then, that we stay rather close by. But one Friday morning I had a very strong impression that I should leave the Island of Grenada, where we lived and go over to the Island of Trinidad. This would necessitate our taking a boat. There was no other means of transportation. I know now, that it was the Holy Spirit that was guiding me.

My wife suggested that she might stay with a friend in St. George, the capitol of the island, while I went on. But by the time we drove to St. George, she had changed her mind and wanted to come with me. I was glad for this, and so we both went to Trinidad and docked at Port of Spain, the capitol city. When we arrived at the conference headquarters, they looked at us and said, "What are you doing here?" Which meant, 'what are you doing here without permission?' I said, "I don't know!" Have you ever gone somewhere and not known why you went there? That was my predicament!

The pastor of the large church in Port of Spain came to me and asked me to preach for him for the Sunday night evangelistic service. I told him I hadn't brought any notes with me, but he insisted that I preach that which the Lord would impress me. Another conference official stepped up and invited us to spend the week-end with them as their guests. We were grateful for that. It seemed that our needs were being taken care of as well as perhaps the fulfilling of a mission.

On Sunday afternoon I was in the bedroom studying. I had placed the Bible on the bed and knelt down to pray for wisdom and guidance as to what I should preach. I had turned to the promise of John 16:13, "I will guide you into all truth...." and was now asking God for Him to show me His will. I said, "Lord, I don't know what I should preach, but as I turn the pages of Your Book, guide me so that I'll know what You want me to preach." As I was turning the pages, I was confident that He would guide me. I knew He would, but didn't know what it would be. I had come to the very end of the Bible. In fact I was in the nineteenth chapter of the book of Revelation and my eyes fell on the ninth verse: "And he said unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said unto me, These are the true sayings of God."

I knew this was the verse upon which I should speak. Then I prayed for further guidance to know which other texts the Lord would have me use in preaching this sermon. As I continued turning the pages, I knew the Lord would guide me, for He had promised, and I was confident He would keep His promise. I saw one text after another that impressed me, and which I felt the Lord was impressing me to use. I jotted them down as I kept finding them. The sermon seemed to fall in place in my mind as I thought of how these texts blended to show forth a beautiful picture of truth. My heart was burning within me now! I could hardly wait for the evening service to start.

Finally the time came. The pastor, Dr. Millard, led the way up the aisle as we entered the lovely church, now filled with waiting worshippers. I followed the pastor and pastor Yip, a Chinese minister followed me. In the congregation sat a fine lady, not a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church, but a guest having come at the invitation of one of the members. As we walked up the aisle, this lady turned to her friend and said, "I have seen that man before. I recognize the clothes he's wearing. But I don't know where I've seen him." This was, however, the first time she had ever been in a Seventh-day Adventist church. In fact, as she entered the church that evening, she looked at the large choir that had assembled in the choir loft and said, "I've seen that choir before!" But she didn't know where she had seen it. When I stood up to preach, I turned to my opening text and began to read, "And he said unto me, Write." At that instant this lady put her hand over her friend's hand and said, "I know now where I've seen him. I saw him in a dream and he was writing he was writing texts of scripture that had come down from heaven on a ribbon. He was writing them out and giving them to the people."

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Every text I used that night, she had seen me write out and hand to the people - two years before - in a dream! In this same dream she had been invited by seven different people of different faiths to go to church with them. One of the seven was a Seventh-day Adventist. In the dream she had followed this Adventist lady to the church. In her dream she had seen herself in the church and had seen me walk in and preach on the very texts that I was using. She had seen me write them out and hand them to the people.

"Of all things," she said to her friend, "I have seen this whole service before! I recognize every single text. I saw this preacher hand these texts to the people in my dream!" When the meeting was over, this lady said to her Adventist friend, "If that young man had made a call to accept Christ tonight, I would have gone forward and made my decision." Usually, in my closing prayer I extend an invitation for those who would accept Jesus for the first time, or for those who have backslidden and want to return. At that service I failed to do this. I don't know why. But when I was later informed and the story was related to me how that I had followed through on everything with the exception of the call, I said, "Lord, forgive me for not extending an invitation at the close of that service. You used me as a mouthpiece to fulfill the dream the lady had - but I failed You. Please forgive me, and give me another chance! Let me meet her again, and I'll make up for it, somehow."

It wasn't very long until the leaders in Trinidad invited us to come to pastor the very church I had preached in that Sunday night. How I thanked God for this evidence of His leadership. I determined right then and there that just as soon as I could I would hold a series of meetings in Port of Spain and extend an invitation so this lady could respond and give her heart to God. We did just that, and this lady was there, night after night. She was in a terrible state of confusion. She had many problems among which were those connected with living out of wedlock. But the Holy Spirit came in and helped her straighten out every problem. What a glorious victory she experienced! When the call was extended, she was one of the first to come forward, and I later had the privilege of baptizing her. This was the last series of meetings I held in Trinidad before coming back to America. I have thanked the Lord many times for His wonderful leadership and for being able to be used of Him as an instrument for the salvation of a soul whom He was leading by visions and dreams. By the way, this lady had almost united with the Sabbath-keeping church eighteen years prior to this experience. How good the Lord is to us to extend His mercy over so many years!

Remember, dear one, Jesus is coming again! Before He comes He is going to pour out His Spirit on all flesh. The Holy Spirit will either harden or soften hearts, according to the choice of the individual. Those who receive Him, He will soften and guide them into all truth. He will make commandment-keepers of those who will follow Him. May we all be willing to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit and be ready when Jesus comes.

### **Come, Holy Spirit**

Come, Holy Spirit, save me from myself,  
And speak to me each day as friend to friend;  
My comfort be in sorrow, pain and woe,  
From hurtful, lurking foes defend.

Come, Holy Spirit, dwell within my heart;  
Guide Thou my feet to unscaled heights above,  
And every impulse of my being thrill  
With holy, pure, and matchless love.

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Come, Holy Spirit, with Thy power intrust,  
Else would my toil and labor be in vain;  
For whitening fields the reapers now invite,  
As lowly bends the ripening grain.

Come, Holy Spirit, fire my soul with zeal,  
Consuming every trace of selfish dross,  
That I may lead my brother lost in sin  
To Calvary's bleeding, cleansing cross.  
- B. M. Grandy.