

hearing the Voice of God

Dreams and Visions

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A quick review:

- “Hearing the voice of God through _____” looks like ...
- “Hearing the voice of God through _____” can be developed by ...
 - Circumstances
 - Prayer
 - Scripture
 - The Spirit
 - Dreams and Visions
 - Community

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Choose the correct definition:

- A dream is ...
 - ... a succession of images, thoughts, or emotions passing through the mind during sleep
 - ... an aspiration; goal; aim
 - ... something of an unreal beauty, charm, or excellence

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Choose the correct definition:

- A vision is ...
 - ... a scene, person, etc, of extraordinary beauty
 - ... an experience in which a person, thing, or event appears vividly or credibly to the mind, although not actually present
 - ... a vivid, imaginative conception or anticipation

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What is the same?

- Hearing the voice of God through dreams and visions is not about originality, it is about faithfulness and responsiveness.
- The unwritten word of God (dreams and visions) will never contradict the written word of God (the Bible).
- Personal sinfulness interferes with the discernment of dreams and visions.

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Dreams and visions can ...

1. Fuel transformation,
2. Initiate mission, and
3. Bring comfort

Remember that not every “spiritual” dream or vision is the voice of God

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1. Dreams and visions can fuel transformation

- Acts 10:1-48

Listen for transformation in Peter, Cornelius, and the “Gentiles”

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2. Dreams and visions can initiate mission

- Acts 16:6-10

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.

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3. Dreams and visions can bring comfort

- Acts 18:9-11

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."

So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

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How might my dream or vision help me ...

- ... become a more faithful follower of Jesus? (transformation)
- ... become a more effective witness for Jesus? (mission)
- ... find safety in the arms of Jesus? (comfort)