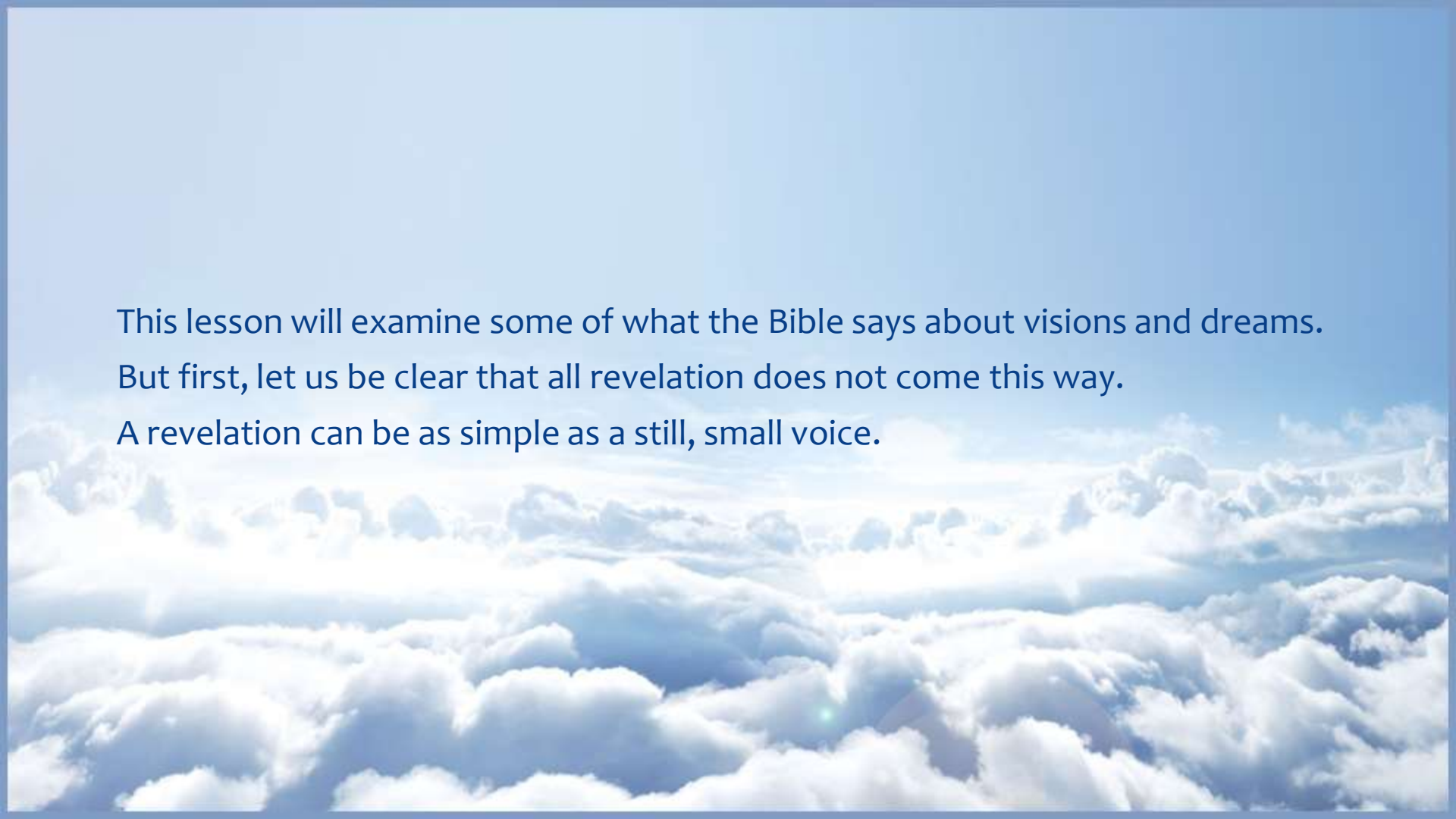


# **Understanding and Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

**Lesson 10: Visions and Dreams**



This lesson will examine some of what the Bible says about visions and dreams.  
But first, let us be clear that all revelation does not come this way.  
A revelation can be as simple as a still, small voice.



### **1 Kings 19:11a**

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:*



**1 Kings 19:11b**

...and after the wind an earthquake;

*but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake:



**1 Kings 19:12a**

And after the earthquake a fire;

*but the LORD was not in the fire:*



**1 Kings 19:12b**  
and after the fire a still small voice.

Christian or not – people have  
visions on a regular basis.

Christian or not – people have visions on a regular basis.

We call these visions *dreams*.





Most dreams are the product of a restless mind.

**Ecclesiastes 5:3a**

For a dream cometh through  
the multitude of business ...



But *some* dreams come from God.

**Job 33:14-16**

- <sup>14</sup> For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet *man* perceiveth it not.
- <sup>15</sup> In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed;
- <sup>16</sup> Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction,



But some dreams come from God.

A dream from God is “a vision of the night.”

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We already read about Solomon's amazing dream.



God called Paul to Macedonia in a dream, a vision in the night.



### **Acts 16:9**

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.



It was also through a dream that God encouraged Paul to stay in Corinth.



### **Acts 18:9-11**

- <sup>9</sup> Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:
- <sup>10</sup> For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.
- <sup>11</sup> And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.



Another kind of vision occurs while you are still awake.

Many Christians get this kind of vision  
five minutes after church begins.



We call these visions “daydreams.”

When someone is daydreaming,  
their mind is a million miles away.



Sometimes God speaks to his people through day dreams.



God spoke to Peter in a day vision.  
(The King James Bible calls it a “trance.”)



## Acts 10:9-12

- <sup>9</sup> On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:
- <sup>10</sup> And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,
- <sup>11</sup> And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:
- <sup>12</sup> Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.



## Acts 10:17

<sup>17</sup> Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,



God makes himself known in visions and dreams.

**Numbers 12:6**

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.





If you ever have a vision or dream, don't try to untangle its meaning yourself. Messages from God must be interpreted by God.



Once God sent the angel Gabriel to Daniel to explain a vision he saw.

### Daniel 8:1-2

- <sup>1</sup> In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, *even unto me Daniel*, after that which appeared unto me at the first.
- <sup>2</sup> **And I saw in a vision;** and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan *in the palace, which is in the province of Elam;* and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai.



Once God sent the angel Gabriel to Daniel to explain a vision he saw.

**Daniel 8:15-16**

- <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man.
- <sup>16</sup> And I heard a man's voice between *the banks of Ulai*, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this *man* to understand the vision.



This was clearly a night vision.

**Daniel 8:18**

Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright.



But even Daniel was not given the interpretation to all the visions he saw.

**Daniel 12:4**

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.



We live in an time when holy AND unholy knowledge are increasing.

**Daniel 12:4**

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, **and knowledge shall be increased.**



We also live in a time of much running  
to and fro.

**Daniel 12:4**

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the  
words, and seal the book, even to  
the time of the end: **many shall run  
to and fro**, and knowledge shall be  
increased.



This verse reminds me of people spending hours on the internet looking for a new prophet to tickle their ears.

**Amos 8:12**

And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, **they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.**





The time we live in now is a time of increased visions and dreams.

**Acts 2:17**

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:



We need God's help to separate the true from the false.

**Proverbs 2:11**

Discretion shall preserve thee,  
understanding shall keep thee:



## An Authentic Vision from God



is not an imagination

## An Authentic Vision from God



is not an imagination



or a hallucination

## An Authentic Vision from God



is not an imagination



or a hallucination



or an apparition

## An Authentic Vision from God



is not an imagination



or a hallucination



“And no marvel;  
for Satan himself is  
transformed into an  
angel of light.”  
(2 Corinthians 11:14)

or an apparition

The only way to be sure is to stay close to God.

**Isaiah 28:26**

For his God doth instruct him to discretion, *and* doth teach him.



Don't expect the Holy Spirit to give you a new book of the Bible.







But you CAN expect to receive the help you need to serve the LORD.

In the next lesson, we will begin our study of the third category of the spiritual gifts – THE SPIRIT MOVES!

## Questions to help you understand the lesson:

1. Does all revelation come by visions?
2. What are the two kinds of holy visions?
3. What kind of vision was the Macedonian call?
4. What kind of vision did Peter have on the rooftop?
5. Who holds the key to the interpretation of visions?

Each question is worth 20 points.



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