



The Christian Connection™



A Quarterly Newsletter from Christian Resource Network, Inc.

SOARING COMMUNICATION FOR CHRIST

WHEN GOD SPEAKS

By: Joan M. Blake



In the summer edition, we discussed how God speaks to us through dreams. In this edition, we will discuss how God speaks to us through visions.

In Job 33:16-17, the Bible explains the true nature and purpose of visions: "Then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction, that He may turn man aside from his conduct, and keep man from pride." Visions affirm one's calling, provide warnings, give understanding and instruction, help to change one's conduct, and keep one from pride.

Visions affirm one's calling and provide warnings

1 Samuel 3:3-18 continues with the story of Samuel, Hanna's son, who she dedicated to the Lord and left in the care of Eli, a priest in Shiloh. As Samuel lay in the temple, God called out to him in a vision affirming his prophetic calling and warned him that Eli's household would be judged because of his sons' wrongdoings.

Visions give understanding and seal instructions

In Acts Chapter 9, we read the story of Apostle Paul (previously named Saul) on his way to Damascus to arrest Christians and how Jesus called out to him in a vision and said: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" Paul was stricken blind and as he fell to the ground in awe, God instructed him to: "Rise, and enter the city, and it shall be told you what you must do." In a subsequent vision, the Lord gave special instructions to Ananias: "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for behold he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight. Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." Divine instructions to Paul and Ananias were authentic and sure to be followed just like a letter that was sealed. After his personal encounter with Jesus Christ, Paul understood that the risen Christ was the long awaited Messiah and Lord.

Visions change one's conduct

The vision changed Paul's conduct from a persecutor of Christians to a servant of Jesus Christ. He became the greatest Apostle of all time, carrying the gospel of Christ to the far ends of the earth.

Visions keep one from pride

In Acts Chapter 10, we read of Cornelius' vision where God gave Cornelius, a Centurion, instructions to send for Apostle Peter, who was staying at Simon, the tanner. While Apostle Peter was praying, he had a vision of a "sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air."

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The Christian Connection

The Christian Connection is published by the Christian Resource Network Inc., a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization whose main mission is to provide support to those who are experiencing emotional pain. Other related services include women's small group training and mentoring services.

If you would like to become a member of Christian Resource Network, Inc., make contributions, advertise in *The Christian Connection Newsletter*, or be on our email list, please contact the editor or visit our website.

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A voice came from heaven instructing Peter to: "Arise, Peter, kill and eat," but Peter said: "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." God replied: "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy."

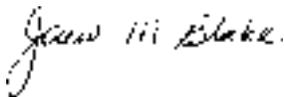
Apostle Peter preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Cornelius' household. After hearing the word, they received the gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues and Peter baptized them.

Peter turned from pride to humility as he understood that God was no respecter of persons, that everyone was equal in God's sight, and that God was calling all, not a selected few, to receive the free gift of salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The lessons we learned today are: when we have visions, God is speaking to us and giving us instructions which affirm our calling, provide warnings, and help us change some aspects of our lives.

May God supply you with abundant blessings.

In Christ,



Editor/Publisher

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DESCRIPTION OF BOOK

This book is a moving story of Joan Blake's journey from her island home of Trinidad and Tobago to attend college and work in America. She expresses the joys and challenges of being a wife and mother, and shows by her personal testimonies that even when life deals out times of sorrow, we can find comfort, hope and purpose by resting in God.

The prayer, scripture, and reflection sections at the end of each chapter enables one to use the book for personal as well as group study.

Letters To The Editor

If you were blessed by the articles published in this edition or previous editions, we want to hear from you.

Please email:

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