

I have always been a dreamer. I have many vivid, detailed dreams that are often comical in nature. As a child, I once dreamed that the sky was falling. I am sure it is from my mom reading the story of Henny Penny. In the dream, everyone was going around screaming “the sky is falling”. They seemed to be heading in one direction, so I quickly followed.

I soon found myself inside a huge auditorium with huge telescopes. Experts were watching the sky and declaring every once in a while, how far (in feet) the sky had fallen. They did not announce how long it would take before the sky collided with the ground. In my dream, I was hurriedly trying to calculate how much time was left, but when I tried, another announcement of the number of feet the sky had fallen would interrupt my thought process and I would have to start my calculations over.

I suddenly woke up, and sat at my bedroom window watching to see if the sky was really falling. Finally, I crawled back into bed and went to sleep.

Dreams are a strange beast, that is for sure. We all have dreams that often evoke deep emotions in us. Ask God to protect your mind while you sleep, so you do not have bad dreams. Trust Him to speak to you through your dreams.

I remember the first time I had a dream that I felt was from God. I had never heard a sermon on dreams. I had never had any teaching that would indicate that God still talked to people through dreams. All I had was the Bible stories I had heard as a kid.

This particular dream touched my soul and I questioned if it could possibly be God. For the next two nights, I had the same dream. I was in my late twenties at the time. God wanted me to know it truly was from Him. After the third time, there was no doubt in my mind. I wanted to know what it meant. Again, no teaching on dreams or interpretation of dreams. I just deeply wanted to know what God was telling me.

I never even thought about trying to find someone to interpret the dream for me. I belonged to a Baptist “church” at the time, and I didn’t know anyone who believed God spoke through dreams anymore. I didn’t know anyone who believed God spoke directly to people at all. Many of those I knew thought, and were taught, the only way God would speak anymore was through the Bible.

God gave Daniel, the prophet of old, many dreams as well as the ability to understand them. The king had a dream and it shook him so deeply that he had to know what it meant. When we have a dream from God, if we listen to our spirit we will know if it is from God and then there should be a strong desire to understand it.

And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream. Daniel 2:3 (KJV)

By this point, I had heard God speak to me several times, so I didn’t question that, but did He speak through dreams? Well, to me, it was pretty obvious, after dreaming the same dream for three nights in a row. The best thing to do was to ask Him what it meant. He showed me what it meant within a couple of days.

From that point on, I paid attention to my dreams. I have learned a lot over the years. One thing I know is no matter how God speaks to us, it gives us revelation and we

need to pay attention. The second thing I have learned, is God is unpredictable and He often uses pictures to illustrate truth. What this means, is a dream can seem very foolish, childish, and strange, and still be God. Never just dismiss a dream.

I almost did that once. It was the first time I had dreamed in cartoon form. I dreamed there was this turtle who ran a community variety store in this small desert town. He would open his store early in the morning and close it at the same time every afternoon at 2:00 PM. He would then walk out into the desert and would not return to town until after dark.

The town's people (animals) were curious as to why he went out into the desert every day. They would chatter about it among themselves, but no one would ask the turtle about his strange behavior. They would follow him to the edge of town but would go no further. They were afraid to follow him, so they just continued to wonder and think he was strange.

In my dream I followed this turtle into the desert. When he got some distance from the town, he went behind a big rock. I could not see behind the rock. I thought he was probably taking a nap. I waited for some time and suddenly, a road runner emerged from behind the rock.

This road runner ran all over the globe, from country to country. He would stop in certain places and be busy for a bit building something before he moved on to someplace else. He was never idle. I marveled at this and somehow knew that road runner was the turtle. When the turtle was the turtle, he was in disguise. To verify this fact, I went behind the rock to see if the turtle was there. He was not.

After it became dark and the stars came out, the road runner returned, went behind the rock and came out as the turtle. He then returned to the city and the store. When I woke up from the dream, I was sad because I wanted this turtle to be a road runner all the time. It seemed so exciting. I wondered why he was pretending to be a turtle.

After the initial thought to dismiss this dream as just plain weird, I realized I knew who this turtle/road runner was. Over the years I have understood the meaning of this dream more and more.

Never dismiss your dreams. Write them down and pray for insight from God. I bought a dream interpretation series once, but after listening to part of the first lesson, I felt something in my spirit and God would not allow me to finish the series. I don't read books on dream interpretation. This is not a game. Dreams cannot be interpreted by rules and regulations. They can only be interpreted accurately by Holy Spirit.

God speaks in many different ways and even though sometimes certain items in dreams mean the same thing in multiple dreams, we need to be flexible to the fact God may have something different in mind. Dreams are just another way God uses to get information and revelation to us. Be flexible and open to hear what He has to say. Do not automatically assume you know what He is saying. Spend quality time with your Father and let Him bring revelation deep in your spirit.

Often you may have a word from God, a dream or vision, where you think you understand it fully at the time, only to discover over time you grow to understand it better. Sometimes it takes years to unfold the revelation in a simple dream. This is also true of a prophetic word you might receive from someone. The saying "Future proves past" is so true. We often think we know how God is going to do something, only to find over time, He does it completely different from what we expected. Above, all we must remain flexible and teachable.

Many times, the reason revelation comes in small doses, is because we are not prepared to receive the totality of it yet. God may take us through other experiences in order for us to gain a full understanding of what He wants us to know. There may be some revelation for the current situation, yet hold truth for future revelation in events to come.

One winter day I was sitting at the dining room table, looking out the window at the pine trees heavy with snow. The wind was blowing and it looked like the trees were lifting their hands and waving them in praise to God. My heart was overwhelmed, and I cried out, "Look, God, those trees are praising you." His response to me was, "Those trees are just like so many of My people."

When God speaks to us, He has a tone of voice just like we do when we talk. He has emotions. I sensed that these words came out of a heart that was sad and I did not understand. God often speaks this way and leaves me hanging!

I think He does that sort of thing so we will hunger to know more. My prayer was "Lord, show me what you mean". I knew God would explain it to me in His time.

Later that afternoon while out for a drive in the country, the Lord revealed to me what He meant. The snow which had fallen that day was extremely heavy and wet and it had hurt the trees. I saw many pine trees lying on the ground with their roots exposed. Pine trees normally have very shallow roots. In places where pine trees grow there needs to be periods of draught in order to force their roots deeper into the ground. Otherwise, when winds come or heavy snow clings to them, they topple.

That is when the Lord spoke to me again. He said, "These trees are like many of My people. They praise me when things are going good, but when the winds of adversity come, their roots are not deep enough in Me to sustain them and they topple."

Hang on to your dreams. Determine to know what God is speaking. Write them down and visit them often. Many times, when you believe a dream is God giving you a glimpse of your destiny, things will begin to look the opposite. The enemy will tempt you to believe it was not from God, and just throw it away. Don't do it!

The enemy gets a sense of what God desires to do in your life and through you to touch the world and he decides to steal that dream. Do not let him have it. If you see it (even in a dream) it is yours if you believe and obey! God has declared it. Stand on it and declare it until you see it come to pass. Remember the story of Joseph. He was sold into slavery and thrown into prison before his dream was fulfilled. God works all things for our good.

Again, some times the full revelation comes in parts and some times so does the fulfillment. Never assume that when part of it is fulfilled, it is complete. It is true that your thoughts of how the dream would be fulfilled differ from God's thoughts. Over time you will come to understand. The key is not to assume but to always be in conversation with your Father. His heart is full of love for you and His desire is for you to have everything He has promised you.

I think more often what happens when a part of our dream is fulfilled, we are tempted to believe that is all it is and we do not stand and believe for the rest of it to come to pass in God's time and His way.

For years I lived in a beautiful land of hills and pine trees. Old railroad beds, long ago abandoned, had been turned into wonderful hiking and biking trails. One day, I was walking on this trail not too far from my home. I was praying and preparing for a message I was to preach in a few weeks at a gathering in North Dakota.

As I was walking, I thought, "I will walk for an hour and then sit down and rest for a few minutes before walking back". I began to pray for a rock to be in the right location at the right time, so I could sit and rest in the shade after I had walked an hour. It was a warm and humid day.

As the end of the hour approached, I began to think, "What a stupid prayer." What was God going to do, pick up a rock and move it just so I would have a place to sit in the shade? About that time, I came upon the perfect rock. It was the right height and flat on top. It would make an ideal rock on which to sit and rest. There was only one problem. It was completely out in the open with not a bit of shade. I thought to myself, "It is not entirely what I asked for, but it will do." Immediately, I heard the words in my spirit "Good is the enemy of best".

Suddenly, I was aware of God's presence and I felt His love surround me. I knew at that moment if I chose to stop at this rock, I would miss God's best. I knew that the rock for which I had prayed would be in the place where I had requested it to be. So, I kept on walking. Not too far from that spot there was not only one rock, but there were several rocks in the shade. I chose one and I sat down. I thanked the Lord for not only providing, but providing abundantly.

That is what our Heavenly Father is like! As I reflected on the events that had just taken place, I was suddenly aware of how much God cared for me and provided for me. I wondered how this is possible and yet I know it is. It is extremely possible if not probable that God heard my prayers back in time and decided to place those rocks in that place from the beginning and then build a railroad that would later become a trail where He knew I would some day walk. Before we pray, He has already heard and set things in motion. He knows the end from the beginning.

We all have dreams. We even have a form of dreams we call day dreaming. There is so much I could say on that topic, but we will do that another day.

Today, my desire for you is to repent if you have ignored your dreams and not taken seriously what God has spoken to you. Determine that you will treat your dreams, your visions, and the words God directly speaks to you as precious jewels given to you from

your Heavenly Father's heart. Set your heart on wisdom and understanding and do not let go of God until you see fulfilled what He has promised, but let Him do it in His way and His time. Set aside any preconceived ideas and let Him bring you truth and revelation.

God gives you the choice to cooperate with Him or not. Let God be God. He is full of surprises It is a joyful ride, better than a roller coaster and I do love roller coasters!