

## Are you a spiritual person? Series (8)

Visions and the Holy Spirit, Acts 10:1-17.

### What does the Bible teach us about DREAMS and VISIONS?

-**Dreams** are natural occurrences while sleeping. 6 are recorded in the New Testament (all in *Matthew*).

-**Visions**. *To see spiritually and mentally*. 11 are in Acts. Visions are about the advancement of the Gospel.

**Cornelius**, a God-fearing non-Jew has a **vision** to send for **Peter**. At the same time, Peter goes to pray and has a weird vision (**trance /extasis**). A sheet with animals, and a voice saying, “Arise and eat.”

#### 1. The Holy Spirit brings clarity. (for Cornelius, Peter & Church)

*Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean... Acts 10:17a* He doesn't know. He is waiting for clarity.

*So I (Cornelius) sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord. Acts 10:33*  
Be sensitive to the Spirit and quick to obedience. If you have a dream or vision, pray and ask the Spirit to bring clarity.

#### 2. The Holy Spirit challenges our cultural perspectives.

Peter was perplexed because the vision challenged what he understood about God.

*But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.” And the voice came to him again a second time, “What God has made clean, do not call common.” Acts 10:14-15*

When God speaks, he often challenges our biases, identities and belief systems. The Old Testament clearly says the Gospel is for all people – but the Jewish religious systems distorted the message.

*So Peter opened his mouth and said: Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. Acts 10:34-35*

What are YOUR cultural perspectives that do not align with God? Materialism; individualism; lack of accountability; not taking responsibility for others; not accepting God's mission.

Two weeks ago, in **Washington, D.C.**, a 7 ft, bronze, statue of Billy Graham was unveiled at the US Capital. Graham would be the last one to want a statue. In his Last public sermon, he said: *I have **one message**—that Jesus Christ came, He died on a cross, He rose again, and He asked us to repent of our sins and receive him by faith as Lord and Savior, and if we do, we have forgiveness of all our sins.*

God's message always points to the cross. Every way we hear from God – dreams, visions, creation, the Word, the Spirit – they all point to salvation in Christ.

Many people have heard the message but never acted on it. This sermon is not with a dream or a vision, but the Holy Spirit is still speaking clearly. What will you do with Jesus? Will you follow Him?