

Sunday, March 19, 2023
LEADING OF THE SPIRIT
PART 4: SIGNS, DREAMS, VISIONS

Today, we finish a series called, “The Leading of the Spirit” by looking at the final teaching, “Signs, Dreams, and Visions”. In NT times, God leads His people through the Holy Spirit. The Father is in heaven. Jesus sits at His right hand. The Holy Spirit is the agent of the Godhead whose ministry is to lead us. We will live or die based upon our ability to hear God.

The primary ways that God leads people in NT times:

1. **Scripture**
2. **Spirit to spirit communication**
3. **Impressions**
4. **Communication through others**
5. **Signs**
6. **Dreams/Visions**

Scripture is the highest revelation of God to man. Every other spiritual communication is to be judged by it.

Jeremiah 23:28 (NASB)
Isaiah 8:20 (NKJV)

Previously, we have spoken about communications 1-4. Now, signs, dreams, and visions. What is a sign? ***A sign is a nonverbal form of communication that directs your way.*** The Bible contains instances of signs used as guidance – a fleece, a star, a staff that became a snake. The Bible tells us of signs that will come to tell us the end is near – the reestablishment of the nation of Israel, natural and celestial phenomenon, wars, and rumors of wars.

1 Samuel 14:8-10 (NKJV)

The use of signs will direct into biblical truth. While signs are used by God, the Bible is still that which determines direction. Satan can use signs just like he can hijack all other forms of spiritual communication. Signs can serve as confirmation. If a sign causes you unease, check it out before following to be sure the sign and the direction of the Spirit coincide. God also leads through dreams and visions. ***A dream is communication from the Spirit while you are asleep.***

Matthew 2:13 (NLT)

The use of dreams to speak to people can be found in the Bible. Spiritual dreams can be simple in message or more complex due to the use of symbols – which is one thing being used to describe another. Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar's dreams are examples of symbolism used in a dream. Dream interpretation can be tricky. To interpret a spiritual dream, let the biblical use of symbols guide you. Be sure that the message is biblical. If you are not sure, don't act until you are. Your pastors are always available to pray with you over a dream. *Visions are dreams you have when you are awake.* God shows you something in the form of a picture which can be accompanied by words.

Acts 10:9-16 (NKJV)

Visions follow the same interpretive pattern as dreams. Sometimes, in a vision you will see yourself doing something. This can be a direction from the Spirit for you to do it. Scripture always determines your response to a sign, dream, or vision. The Holy Spirit is here to guide you. It is very exciting to hear from God! You will not be misled if you use the safeguards God has given you: Scripture and godly counsel.

Today's Scriptures:

- Jeremiah 23:28 (NASB)
- Isaiah 8:20 (NKJV)
- 1 Samuel 14:8-10 (NKJV)
- Matthew 2:13 (NLT)
- Acts 10:9-16 (NKJV)