

# Faith Listening: Discerning God's Presence

## Chapter 6 – The Body: Spiritual and the Symbol of Dreams

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*“For God speaks in one way, and in two...in a dream, in a vision of the night...and with pain<sup>i</sup>”*  
*Job 33:1-33*

What is the body: spiritual except the perceiver of God's Presence acting in creation and within the human being? The body: spiritual senses God's Breath living in and among us. It is here that each of us grasps God Who is Spirit when the wind sweeps over the face of the water...when life is being formed in the void<sup>ii</sup>...when the mystery of God's action prevails in the darkness of the womb or tomb. Psalm 139 refers to the fact that dark and light are both alike to God and that we are knit together in our mother's womb, fearfully and wonderfully made. It is here in the darkness that the meaning of a life lived in covenant relationship with God is recorded, before it is made manifest in the body: physically, emotionally, mentally or behaviorally. It is here at the very core of our existence that the intimacy of God's relationship with us is made known before words are formed and meaning is assigned.

Elihu imparts a similar understanding to Job when he speaks of Who God is and How God communicates with us. This conversation between Elihu and Job is filled with wisdom. It provides insight into the Mystery of God's Life unfolding through the body: spiritual in the form of “a dream or a vision of the night when deep sleep falls upon mortals, while they slumber in their beds.” (Job 33:15) Elihu stands on the very premise that “The Spirit of God has made me and the breath of the Almighty has given me life.” (Job 33:4) He states, “God is greater than any mortal. Why do you contend against God saying, “God will answer none of my words?” (Job 33:12c-13) Some of us might even ask, “Where is God? Or Why me?” It is God who “opens our ears, turns us from our despair and saves us from the Pit.” (Job 33:16-18) Elihu knows that through a dream we can be reconciled to God and returned to God's saving embrace.

Dreams come to us in familiar form. We dream in what is familiar to us based on our human experience. A person, object, place or action in a dream may be simply a literal representation, allowing you to process your daily life. Or, they may be a symbolic representation of a deeper connection with and communication from God. You may well wonder, “How is it possible to know the difference?” Let us begin to know the difference by reviewing the types of dreams found in Scripture and by practicing the ABC's of Faith Listening.

Dreams come in one of five forms: *revelatory, visitation, prophetic, predictive, interpretative or integrative*. All encourage us to experience a deeper connection with God. Some provide direction and guidance. Others confirm a call or mission in the world. Each type of dream contains within it the reality that God is speaking. The key is to unlock the mystery of God's voice and discern God's call to action through symbolic representations found in everyday life and informed by Scripture from

Genesis to Revelation. It is through dreams that come in the night or by day that God speaks. It is through dreams that the core of our being responds to the love of God working deep within us.

**.A revelatory dream** is an *ecstatic expression* or a mental sight in which something new is being revealed. Perhaps, it is a new understanding of God in picture form or auditory form such as an oracle, a divine utterance of words. It reveals God's character or nature.<sup>iii</sup>

“After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.’” [Genesis 15:1](#)

For example,

I was wrestling with a woman in a vast expanse of space. I saw myself duty bound to live out my role as a good wife and mother, but I was exhausted. I felt vocationally bound to live out my vow as an elder, but I was a failure. The woman pinned me to the ground and I looked up. There, above me, I saw a figure clothed in radiant white, saying in a loud voice “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

**A visitation dream** is a *vision* that occurs while asleep or awake. It is experienced as a glandular, visceral or tangible reaction embodied in physical and emotional reality. It leaves an impression and the mind wonders if it is real or not. Only as life unfolds does the dreamer realize that the dream was real.<sup>iv</sup>

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David... Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people? It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.” [1 Kings 3:4-15](#)

For example, Jody, a 71-year old woman, recalls a dream that is alive today as it was 63 years ago when at the age of 8 she heard her aunt say, “Your father is dead!” Jody replied, “No, he is not dead. He is alive!” Several days later she fell asleep and dreamed. “I sensed a strange presence hovering over me. Suddenly, a bright light opened my eyes. I was transported to the river, accompanied by this angelic creature. Although everything inside of me wanted to cross over the river, I was not allowed to cross over. There, standing on the river bank, I saw my daddy going about his business with others on the other side of the river. Although he had died a few days earlier, I knew in a flash that he was alive and well. He, like the others, were tasked with a purpose and absorbed in their mission.”

**A prophetic dream** calls a people or a person into a right relationship with God. It recognizes that a covenant has been broken or that idols are being worshiped. It points to the fact that the people have gone astray and sets the crooked path straight.<sup>v</sup>

Thus the LORD God showed me, and behold, He was forming a locust-swarm when the spring crop began to sprout. And behold, the spring crop was after the king's mowing. And it came about, when it had finished eating the vegetation of the land, that I said, "LORD God, please pardon! How can Jacob stand, for he is small?" The LORD changed His mind about this. "It shall not be," said the LORD. **Amos 7:1-9**

For example, Beatrice, a 60-year old woman, read from her journal a dream that had haunted her for several years. "I felt myself sinking into the mire of quick sand. It was dark all around me and the landscape was barren. Struggling, I attempted to save myself. But, the more I struggled, the more I sank. Then, I heard a voice say, "Be Still!" I ceased to move, looked around and there above me was a figure holding out a hand. I grasped the hand and was lifted up onto a high place and was set on solid ground."

Together we read the passage from Ps 46:10: "Be still, and know that I am God." In a flash, she realized that in her willful independence and determination to make things right she had relied on her own strength and become her own god. The dream restored her faith to live into a dynamic relationship with God.

**A predictive dream** may *point to* something in the future or to someone beyond our human experience. It provides a warning or gives a new direction.<sup>vi</sup>

Jacob came to a certain place and stayed the night. He dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top approaching heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place – and I did not know it." And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place. This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven" Genesis 28:12-15

For example, Frank, a 37-year old man was diagnosed with kidney failure. He had been sick for over a year and had tried a variety of traditional and non-traditional treatments. During this time, Frank was filled with anxiety about his future and those of his family. He and his wife had one child and another on the way. One night he had a dream.

"I saw myself lying on a dirt floor in Africa. It was dark and nothing was familiar. There was a woman sitting beside me, chanting and spreading ointment on my body. A tingling sensation came over me and I was healed."

Prior to his diagnosis, Frank was instrumental in establishing a non-profit to support a Church ministry in Africa. During one of his trips to Africa, elders of the Church prayed for his healing. A year after his dream, he received a kidney transplant and is living a robust life in Church ministry with his wife and two children.

**An *interpretive dream*** assigns meaning to people, places or things based on a symbolic understanding. It looks at the dream from three perspectives: as a projection of the self, as a perception of an other and as a representation of a common topic.<sup>vii</sup>

Now it's Daniel's turn to have dreams. In this dream, Daniel sees a lion, a bear, a leopard, and another strange, ten-horned beast come out of the sea. The Ancient of Days judges the beasts, and the Son of Man is given dominion over all the earth. The four beasts represent human empires.

Daniel 7:15

For example,

There was a mystic woman in black, sitting on a gravesite. A little boy was digging to get close to his parents. He wanted to follow his parents, but could only write a name on the tombstone. It was St. Francis.

**An *integrative dream*** takes fragments from every day events or activities and puzzles them into a whole picture. It process information from a person's daily life so as to give clarity and to find meaning.<sup>viii</sup>

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry. He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O LORD God, You know." Ezekiel 37:1-10

For example,

Integrative... I dreamed that the Patriarch was dying. I started praying immediately. I ran upstairs and found him dead. A figure appeared on a cloud and I strummed my guitar. Then, the Patriarchs left toe started to wiggle and I woke up.

Some dreams are a specific form: *revelatory, visitation, prophetic, predictive, interpretative or integrative*. Other dreams are a combination of forms such as those in Zechariah.<sup>ix</sup> In other words, they can be understood from more than one perspective. The forms are not cast in concrete. Rather, they are to be explore from the perspective of Who God is and What God is doing.

The form or type of dream may be insightful when determining the meaning of the dream, but it is not essential. Rather, it is essential to discern God's Name and grasp Who God is and What God is doing before assigning meaning to the dream. All too often, as we awaken to God's Life, we experience a sense of fear. That is, we stand on the cusp of awe and terror at the reality of God's power and majesty. When we bless God's Name and Celebrate God's Presence

we discover that God has been with us all along. No matter how terrifying or exhilarating the dream experience is, we can be assured that God, Emmanuel, is with us.

## **Awaken to God's Life**

We awaken to God's Life through our senses. Likewise we awaken from a dream with sensory information that is coded in words, pictures and sensations. Sometimes, we may have an emotional reaction<sup>x</sup> or be moved to action<sup>xi</sup> because of a dream. Other times, the sense of smell and taste are triggered. These may be linked to experiential memories through the mind's eye.<sup>xii</sup> In any case, following are examples of how to find Who God is and What God is doing through your dream by applying the ABC's of Faith Listening.

### **1. Recall the Dream**

Gloria, age 36, had a dream that haunted her. When she told me her dream she was visibly shaken. This is what she said, "Last night I woke up screaming. The dream was a dark one. There was a black ominous shape sucking my soul out of me. I saw myself standing there in my pajamas with grey bottoms and a blue top. I also saw myself from above, looking down."

Gloria informed me of the events that led up to her dream. She stated, "I am troubled by this dream because now I am in a loving relationship and plan to be married in 8 months. Yesterday, I had several difficult conversations regarding my past. I spent the last several years in a relationship in which I was unhappy and draining the life from me. It came to an end last month through a divorce and I share joint custody for my 6-year old daughter with her father. These interactions bring up the past and I end up exhausted from the conversations."

### **2. Describe your Dream**

At this point, I asked Gloria to think about the dream as if it were a plot, a story line or a play. We began to unpack her dream by exploring several questions. Below are her responses.

- a. What type of dream is it? visitation and integrative
- b. Who is in it? Me
- c. What is in it ... what are the objects/things in it? a shape
- d. How did it happened ... what is the *action*? screaming, sucking, standing, looking
- e. Where did it happen? earth and air
- f. When did it occur? In the present

### **3. Represent the Dream**

Now, it was time to explore her dream non-verbally by representing her dream on a blank piece of paper. She selected colored chalk as her medium of choice and then followed two simple instructions:

First, she took a blank sheet of blank paper. I asked her to represent her understanding of God. I instructed her to choose colors, shapes textures, movements and symbols that best represents her image of God. I said, "Don't over think it. Use your imagination. Trust your first response." I posed the following questions and she created her God Picture.

- ❖ If God had a color, what color would God be for you?

- ❖ If God had a shape, what shape would God be for you?
- ❖ If God had a texture, what texture would God be for you?
- ❖ If God had a movement, what movement would God be for you?
- ❖ If God had a symbol, what symbol would that be for you?

Second, on a separate sheet of blank paper, I asked her to represent her dream. In fact, through her imagination, she used colors, shapes, textures and symbols to draw her dream. I informed her that the representation may be concrete and recognizable or it may be abstract with swashes of colors and shapes and with no recognizable figures or landscapes. This is what she drew.



God Picture



Dream Picture

### Bless God's Name

It is important to remember that human life is set in the context of God's Life. No matter what the dream, it can point us to God's Name and draw us into God's amazing relationship with us. Gloria set out to discover how the dream was revealing an aspect of God that she had missed in her human description of the dream. Gloria became her own art critic as she unpacked her dream no longer from a human point of view but from God's Life<sup>xiii</sup> working through her. These are the discoveries she made.

1. List the color, shape, texture, movement and symbols you find in each picture.

Composition	God Picture	God's Name "Blessed are You, LORD God..."	Dream Picture
Color	blue white	The Creator The Light The Shadow The Void ... The Womb The Life Blood The Earth-bound One The Sweet One	blue white grey black <sup>xiv</sup> red brown peach
Shape	curve circular	The Curve ... The Embracer The Grandmother The Road ... The Path	curve

		The Alpha and Omega The Trinity The Supporter	circle triangle column
Texture	soft	The Soft One The Hard One	hard
Movement	flowing around	The One Who Flows The One Who moves up and down ... The Incarnate One ...The Ascended One The Bridge ... The Underpass The One Who Goes Between	up/down  over/under between
Symbol	heart	The Heart The Wave ... The Ocean	wave
OT			
NT			

2. Circle those that are common to your God picture and to your Dream picture.
3. Identify a Name of God suggested by the ones you circled. For example, red may signify blood ... Savior, Redeemer or Jesus, The Lamb of God; a circle may signify the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end; soft may signify the Comforter; and a tree may signify the Creator...God's Life. Place those names in the middle column above.
4. Sometimes the color, shape, texture and symbol leads you to a Scripture passage. The symbol of a tree may suggest the tree to the Tree of Life in Genesis (OT) or to the Tree of Life (born-again) in which Nicodemus sits (NT). Use your "internal concordance" and make a note of your Biblical references. Place your Scriptural references in the rows marked above.

### **Celebrate God's Presence**

Gloria indicated that she was surprised that she could come up with so many names of God. She experienced her dream in a different way after completing the following steps.

1. Gloria created a Blessing Litany. She used the center column as her guide to Name God by saying with each Name, "Blessed are You, LORD GOD, \_\_\_\_\_." She prayed the Blessing Litany out loud and then silently experienced it within.
2. Gloria selected one Blessing statement that vibrated within. She chose the one that spoke to her ... one that caused her to take a deep breath and relax her tension.
3. Gloria turned her Blessing Litany into a Blessing Prayer. She repeated the prayer through her breath by inhaling to "Blessed are You Lord God," and exhaling to "The Curve." She repeated this blessing three times out loud and three times silently.
4. Gloria enjoyed being embraced by God as she reflected on her original dream. She reported that she could look at her dream and find new meaning. The shape was no longer dark and ominous, but rather it was a black curve out of which she had come. She realized that it was not her soul that was being sucked out of her, but rather past

memories that had attached to her soul. Gloria breathed a sigh of relief as she embraced God's Presence, setting her free from her past and relocating her on her path of love.

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## Practical Application -- The Body: Spiritual and the Symbols of Dreams

### A – Awaken to God’s Life

1. Recall a dream. It may be a current one. It may be one that occurs on a regular basis as an adult or one that you had as a child and you labeled it a nightmare. Write a few statements about the dream. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe your dream. Think about it as a plot of a story line or play. Specify the following:
  - a. What type of dream is it? \_\_\_\_\_  
 revelatory  visitation  prophetic  predictive  interpretative  integrative
  - b. Who is in it? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What is in it ... what are the objects/things in it? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. How did it happened ... what is the *action*? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Where did it happen?  earth  water  air  fire  other \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. When did it occur?  past  present  future  other \_\_\_\_\_
3. Represent your dream to remember God.
  - ✓ Become familiar with your understanding of God as you currently represent it. On a separate piece of blank paper, draw your picture of God. Use crayons, colored pencils, chalk, or oil pastel. Choose colors, shapes textures and symbols that best represents your image of God or your God picture.
  - ✓ Become familiar with your dream without words. On a separate piece of blank paper, draw your dream. Use crayons, colored pencils, chalk, or oil pastel. Choose colors, shapes textures and symbols that best represents your dream.

### B – Bless God’s Name

- ✓ Create a **Blessing Litany** from the color, shape, texture and symbols. Become a critique. Identify in the chart below the specifics of your God picture and dream drawing.
  1. List the color, shape, texture, movement and symbols you find in each.
  2. Circle those that are common to your God picture and to your dream drawing.
  3. Identify a Name of God suggested by the ones you circled. For example, red may signify blood ... Savior, Redeemer or Jesus, The Lamb of God; a circle may signify the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end; soft may signify the Comforter; and a tree may signify the Life of God.
  4. Sometimes the color, shape, texture and symbol leads you to a Scripture passage. The symbol of a tree may suggest the tree to the Tree of Life in Genesis (OT) or to the Tree of Life (born-again) in which Nicodemus sits (NT). Use your “internal concordance” and make a note of your Biblical references.

God Picture	God's Name Blessed are You ... LORD God	Dream Picture
Color:		Color:
Color:		Color:
Color:		Color:
Color:		Color:
Shape:		Shape:
Shape:		Shape:
Shape:		Shape:
Shape:		Shape:
Texture:		Texture:
Texture:		Texture:
Movement:		Movement:
Movement:		Movement:
Symbol:		Symbol:
Symbol:		Symbol:
Symbol:		Symbol:
Symbol:		Symbol:
OT Scripture:		OT Scripture:
NT Scripture:		NT Scripture:

*Options to creating a Blessing Litany*

1. Once you have completed your Blessing Litany from the common elements in your God picture and your dream drawing, create two more Blessing Litanies. Use separate pieces of paper for each. Select your Names of God from the elements not circled.
2. Remember, if this seems too confusing, return to the description of your dream. Practice Faith Listening through the action words in the dream description, through the physical signal of pain experienced, through the purpose of the emotions felt or through the behaviors generated.

**☐ C – Celebrate God’s Presence**

- ✓ Read the Blessing Litany out loud.
- ✓ Select one Blessing statement that most affect you. Select one that creates a physiological response such as a deep breath or causes a muscle to relax. If there are none in this list, then brainstorm more.
- ✓ Say a Blessing Prayer with the one you selected. Using your breath, inhale to “Blessed are You Lord God,” and exhale to the Name of God \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ Enjoy being in God’s Presence. Reflect on the original dream. What is different? What is similar? What new discoveries have you gleaned from exploring how a dream symbolizes God’s active Presence in your life from the past, to the present and on into the future? Make a few notes about your reflection and discoveries.

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## Chapter 2 - ENDNOTES

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<sup>i</sup> Pain – Please refer to Chapter 2 – The Body: Physical and the Signal of Pain which explores God speaking through pain.

<sup>ii</sup> Void – The void in Hebrew means without form, where space is dark and black. Like the deepest space of the cosmos or the creative space of the womb, life is hidden from view. Life is unseen, unheard and unknown. God’s mystery of creation is yet to be revealed. Dark and black take on new meaning in light of God’s action. Some of us have equated dark and black to ominous and evil forces and live in fear and terror. Others of us have embraced dark and black as the place of awe and wonder to await the discovery of God’s re:creation, forming us anew. *Learning to Walk in the Darkness* by Barbara Taylor Brown (Harper One: 2015) provides further insight into this spiritual practice.

<sup>iii</sup> Revelatory Dreams in Scripture

**Isaiah 6:1-8** In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory."

**Daniel 2:19** Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven; **Acts 7:30-32** "After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning thorn bush." When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look more closely, there came the voice of the Lord: 'I AM the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.' Moses shook with fear and would not venture to look.<sup>iii</sup>

**Acts 9:3-6** As he was traveling, it happened that he (Saul) was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

<sup>iv</sup> Visitation Dreams in Scripture

**Genesis 32:23-32:26** Jacob wrestles with the Angel

**Genesis 46:2** God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am."

**Exodus 3:2-3** The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. So Moses said, "I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up."

**Job 4:13-16** "Amid disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, Dread came upon me, and trembling, And made all my bones shake." Then a spirit passed by my face; the hair of my flesh bristled up.

**Luke 24 1-51** Road to Emmaus

**2 Corinthians 12:1-4** Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago--whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows--such a man was caught up to the third heaven. And I know how such a man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows.

**Acts 10:3** About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, "Cornelius!"

<sup>v</sup> Prophetic Dreams in Scripture

**Amos 8:1-6** Thus the LORD God showed me, and behold, there was a basket of summer fruit. He said, "What do you see, Amos?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me, "The end has come for My people Israel I will spare them no longer." The songs of the palace will turn to wailing in that day," declares the LORD God "Many will be the corpses; in every place they will cast them forth in silence."

**Amos 9:1** I saw the LORD standing beside the altar, and He said, "Smite the capitals so that the thresholds will shake and break them on the heads of them all! Then I will slay the rest of them with the sword; they will not have a fugitive who will flee, or a refugee who will escape.

<sup>vi</sup> Predictive Dreams in Scripture

**Daniel 2:28** "However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed.

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**Daniel 4:5** "I saw a dream and it made me fearful; and these fantasies as I lay on my bed and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.

**Matthew 2:12-13** And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way. Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him."

**Matthew 27:19** While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message, saying, "Have nothing to do with that righteous Man; for last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of Him."

**Acts 9:10-11** Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying,

**Acts 16:9** A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

**Acts 18:9** And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent;

**Acts 22:18** ...and I saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste, and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about Me.'

**Acts 27:23** "For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me,

<sup>vii</sup> Interpretive Dreams in Scripture

**Genesis 41:1-7** Now it happened at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream, and behold, he was standing by the Nile. And lo, from the Nile there came up seven cows, sleek and fat; and they grazed in the marsh grass. Then behold, seven other cows came up after them from the Nile, ugly and gaunt, and they stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile.

**Judges 7:13-15** When Gideon came, behold, a man was relating a dream to his friend. And he said, "Behold, I had a dream; a loaf of barley bread was tumbling into the camp of Midian, and it came to the tent and struck it so that it fell, and turned it upside down so that the tent lay flat." His friend replied, "This is nothing less than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given Midian and all the camp into his hand." When Gideon heard the account of the dream and its interpretation, he bowed in worship. He returned to the camp of Israel and said, Arise, for the LORD has given the camp of Midian into your hands."

**Acts 10:9-17** On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground.

**Revelation 1:12** Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;

<sup>viii</sup> Integrative Dreams in Scripture

**Ezekiel 1:4-14** As I looked, behold, a storm wind was coming from the north, a great cloud with fire flashing forth continually and a bright light around it, and in its midst something like glowing metal in the midst of the fire. Within it there were figures resembling four living beings and this was their appearance: they had human form. Each of them had four faces and four wings.

**Ezekiel 8:2** Then I looked, and behold, a likeness as the appearance of a man; from His loins and downward there was the appearance of fire, and from His loins and upward the appearance of brightness, like the appearance of glowing metal.

<sup>ix</sup> Combination of different forms in Scripture

**Zechariah 1:8** I saw at night, and behold, a man was riding on a red horse, and he was standing among the myrtle trees which were in the ravine, with red, sorrel and white horses behind him.

**Zechariah 3:1** Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.

**Zechariah 4:2** He said to me, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it

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**Zechariah 5:2** And he said to me, "What do you see?" And I answered, "I see a flying scroll; its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits."

**Zechariah 6:1** Now I lifted up my eyes again and looked, and behold, four chariots were coming forth from between the two mountains; and the mountains were bronze mountains.

<sup>x</sup> Please refer to Chapter 4 on Emotions as a way to process your emotions.

<sup>xi</sup> Please refer to Chapter 5 on Behaviors as a way to process your behaviors.

<sup>xii</sup> The sense of smell and taste can trigger associated memory experiences. For example, the smell of roses may remind you of your grandmother because she used rose-perfume. The scent of roses enveloped you each time she hugged you. The dream may or may not be understood as the Wisdom of God coming forth or speaking to you in the familiar form of your grandmother.

<sup>xiii</sup> I Cor .....

<sup>xiv</sup> Black ... see footnote ii ibid ii the artistic eye sees black as all colors or the complete absorption of visible light. That is, when light penetrates black various hues or colors are revealed. Black is the darkest color, the result of the absence or complete absorption of visible light. It is an achromatic color, literally a color without hue, like white and gray. It is often used symbolically or figuratively to represent darkness, while white represents light. In the mind's eye, black is associated often with darkness, death or evil. But, Scripture tells a different story. Black is associated with the Void, Darkness, in the womb and in the tomb. All are linked to the Creative powers of God ... creating life

Void .... Formless and darkness \ black

Where the mystery of God is at work to create life such is the environment of the void, the womb and the tomb.