

A Dream From God Has These 6 Clear Characteristics

I love dreams. I love the contours of God's voice, the creativity He puts into His relationship with each of us. I enjoy interpreting dreams because every dream from God is an expression of His heart to the dreamer, and I get to see one more facet of His love.

In my last post, I addressed this question: "How do I know if my dream is from God?" I explained that dreams can come from one of three sources—the enemy, the human soul or God—and I mentioned some of the ways we can recognize dreams from the enemy and dreams from the soul. In this post, I want to explore how to recognize dreams from God.

Dreams, being a form of revelation, hold to the same rules as revelation. To be from God, a dream needs to do the following:

- Agree with Scripture;
- Carry the character of God and fit His personality;
- Be truthful, accurate;
- Bear good fruit;
- Point to Jesus and
- Be full of color and light.

The Scripture Test

A dream from God will not violate what He has already revealed in Scripture. Like other forms of revelation, dreams are never intended to create doctrine or establish a rule of faith or practice for all people at all times—only the Bible can do such a thing.

It isn't a dream from God if it tells you to steal, commit adultery, murder or violate any other moral commandment. Similarly, it isn't a dream from God if it tells you not to

pray, that another god is God, that you shouldn't go to church or share your faith, that you shouldn't serve or give. Dreams from God will not change Scripture.

The Character Test

One of the keys to recognizing God's voice is knowing the difference between conviction and condemnation. Conviction is about activity, whereas condemnation is about identity. Conviction is specific, whereas condemnation is vague. Conviction cuts to the heart but leaves hope for change, while condemnation strips us of hope for change. When we are dealing with condemnation, we begin to believe the weight of our sin is so great that we will never be free.

The Holy Spirit shows us where we aren't living out the new life we have in Christ, so we can repent and come back to His heart. The enemy, meanwhile, slanders and accuses us until we are left hopeless and feeling defeated. When the Holy Spirit brings conviction, we can repent and turn back to His ways and the weight of the conviction lifts. But when the enemy is condemning us, it doesn't matter how much we repent—it won't feel like enough.

A dream that leaves you feeling hopeless, like you will never be good enough for God or like you've done something that forever marks you and holds you back from His purpose for you—that is not a dream from God. It is from the enemy. Rebuke such dreams and don't believe them. Instead, ask God to show you His heart for you.

The Accuracy Test

The word "revelation" refers to something you didn't know previously. Just because a "revelation" is accurate doesn't mean it is from God (see Matt. 7:21–23). At the same time, God doesn't lie, so all revelation from Him will be accurate.

Understanding the difference between what is from God and what

is not from God will keep us from chasing after deceptive signs, wonders and even deceptive revelation. Though the accuracy test is important when determining if a dream is from God, the other tests need to be employed as well.

The Fruit Test

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22–23). A dream from God will never direct you to hate someone, become fearful, lose control or accuse another person.

But if you have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, do not boast and do not lie against the truth. This wisdom descends not from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, and devilish. For where there is envying and strife, there is confusion and every evil work.

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy (James 3:14-17).

The Jesus Test

In Deuteronomy 13 and 18, God gives keys to recognizing true and false revelation. When discerning the source of a dream, this is the main question we should ask: “Does the revelation point us to a god other than Jesus?” The spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus (Rev. 19:10), which means that all true revelation will lead us to Him.

Did the dream tempt you to put your trust in anything other than Jesus? Or did it cause your heart to fall more in love with Him?

The Color Test

God is light, and around His throne is a rainbow of color. The Bible often uses “light” vs. “dark” and “day” vs. “night” as metaphors for good and evil, God and Satan. A dream from God will often be full of color and bright light.

The Main Thing to Remember

The foundation of discerning your dreams is relationship. As you draw closer to God, He will reveal what is from Him and what is not. If you approach dreams and supernatural experiences from a position of relationship, you will find yourself walking on safe, steady ground. Your Father is good and He wants to speak to you. When you ask Him for bread, He won't give you a stone (Luke 11:11–13). {eo}

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To learn more about dreams and dream interpretation, check out Dream Foundations as well as other resources from John E. Thomas and John Paul Jackson at .

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