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THE POWER OF PRAYER AND DREAMS

MERVYN NAIDOO

'Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.' Matthew 26.41

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Introduction

Ever ask yourself why we dream. God is the creator of this ideal and being so dreams must have a purpose. Its purpose must be significant to His relationship with us. It is believed that we all dream and very clearly in the Bible we see that people dreamed. In fact research has discovered that a person may dream an average of two hours a night. In Hebrew the meaning to dream is **to *bind firmly***. God intends to firmly bind with us what He may have already begun in the natural. Yet at the same time the evil one wants to do the same. We have good, bad, fearful and frightening dreams.

THE POWER OF PRAYER AND DREAMS

For most part the battle against the children of God may begin and end in dreams whilst we are asleep.

– Prayer Watch –

‘..Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams’ Genesis 40.8


Dreams are God’s design and like Prayer it has a purpose. Unknown to many people we really do fight most of our major battles in dreams. The people of God must be ready for such battles or else they will be bound by agreement to do and accept that which is not of God. For most part the battle against the children of God may begin and end in dreams whilst we are asleep. Unaware of the schemes of the evil one many of us come into covenant with the enemy during our sleep. Though God has made dreams to be His way of speaking to us, the

enemy has also used it to speak to us. He comes and plants falsehood whilst we are asleep. It is here where he pounces on people to establish agreements with him. This we call covenants that he wants to make with them unknowingly.

In **Genesis 15** we see how God initiates His covenant with Abraham. It starts with the him being spoken to in the natural. Having put him to sleep God then speaks to him in order to conclude a covenant with him. **'Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold horror and great darkness fell upon him. verse12.**

'And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. On the same day the Lord made covenant with Abraham.....'vs18.

God may be pleased with our commitment and settles the matter with us in our dreams. Abraham cut a covenant with God in the natural and God confirmed it in the supernatural.



**Dreams may encourage, comfort
and warn us to continue in spite of
what's going on around us.**

– Prayer Watch –

Dreams may encourage, comfort and warn us to continue in spite of what's going on around us. This allows for a way for God to speak to us and importantly so allow for Him to confirm and establish things with us. This is God's way of getting our attention and completing what He may have begun in the natural.

Dreams are for most part also a true reflection of our thoughts. God may use a dream to tell us what is deeply hidden in our hearts. Our dream may be showing us something that God desires to establish with us in the supernatural. With our eyes

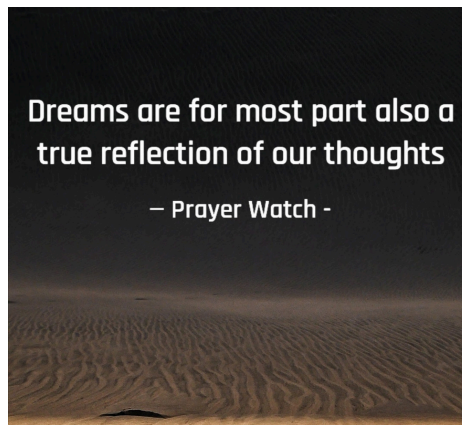
we see and with our ears we hear but with our hearts we understand and turn!

'For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing,

And their eyes they have closed,

Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,

Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them' Matthew 13.15.



The substance of the dream

In our dreams we cannot lie to ourselves because it reveals a true reflection of our hearts. ***In the we may assume a thought to be of no significance, yet in a dream it would reveal a covetous or lustful spirit that is hiding within us. Dreams reveal the spirit man in us.*** This is the Lord revealing something to us and through prayer He allows for us to confess it before Him. ***Prayer is God revealing to us, what He already knows which He may reveal to us in our dream. We then receive the substance of the dream and to Him we go.***

It is important that we write down the facts or substance of the dream so that we may go to Him with it as He gives us discernment. Remembering the substance of a dream helps us understand what God may be saying to us.

In **Daniel 7.1** we see that the prophet Daniel wrote down the substance of the dream. **‘.....He wrote down the substance of his dream’**

Some dreams may take years to be fulfilled. We may have dreams in which we may not have much detail, just a promise or a plan. Yet when the actual event arises we remember that God was making us aware or warning us of something about to take place. In times like this we must bring those dreams to the Lord and leave it there.

In **Genesis 37** we read that Joseph dreamed much in his father Jacob’s house. Many years after him being sold by his brothers, falsely accused, imprisoned and then made to rule over the land does he remember those dreams and sees the fulfillment of them. **Genesis 42.9 ‘Then he remembered his dreams about them...’**

Prayer is God revealing to us, what He already knows which He may then reveal to us in a dream. We then receive the substance of the dream and to Him we go!

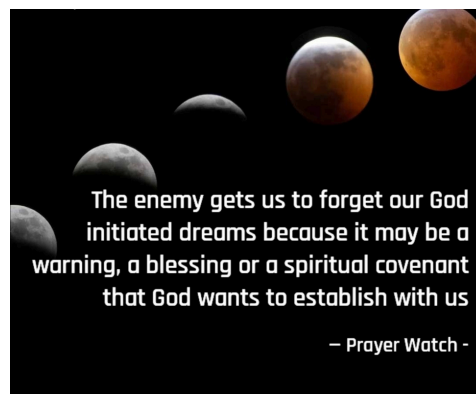
- Prayer Watch -



Dreams initiated from the Lord are not meant to deceive us unless the enemy has stepped in. They indicate the true feeling

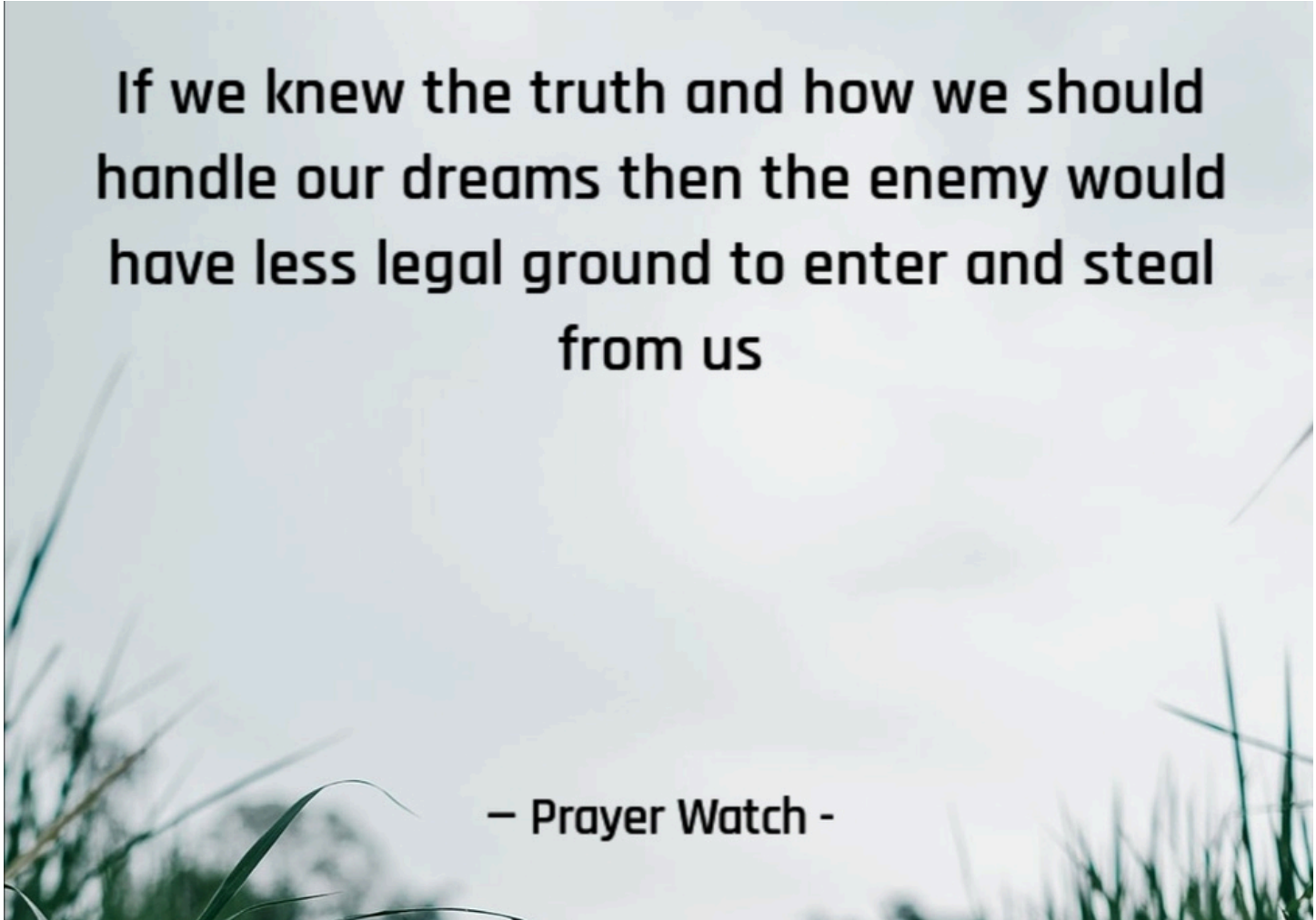
in our hearts at that time. It truly relates our decision and the choices we would have made in the reality of things. We may pretend in the natural but a true reflection is given in the spirit when God is busy with us. Even though we may try to impress others, it holds no weight with our true conscience revealed to us in our dreams. Normally our dreams are a true reflection of how our hearts would respond in a given situation.

RECALLING THE DREAM



I have a friend who dreams as soon as lays his head to rest. Yet if he takes his medication at night he never dreams. We can see how our health can be related to us dreaming. I have another friend who is awoken in the middle of his sleep because of the battles that he has to go through in his dreams. When we are unusually awakened at night after a normal sleep we must immediately try to remember as much as we can of our dreams for two reasons. The first is for us to be able to cancel the plans of the evil one and his attempts to bind us whilst we were

asleep. The other is to receive and confirm that which God has given. In so doing we bind firmly what God desires for us. Remember the enemy wants us to forget so that whatever he has bound us to will set the stage for it to materialize in the physical.



**If we knew the truth and how we should
handle our dreams then the enemy would
have less legal ground to enter and steal
from us**

- Prayer Watch -

Ever notice how you battle to remember the rest of the dream as you gain consciousness. You may even want to go back to sleep just to continue the feeling in the dream yet it seems impossible. It seems as if someone is snatching it away. We may dream much at night but just do not remember any of it by the time we get up. The enemy tries his utmost to make sure we forget our dreams. He gets us to forget our God initiated dreams because it may be a warning, a blessing or a spiritual

covenant that God wants to establish with us. On the other hand as we have mentioned we are forgetful because he does not want us to know of the covenants he may have made with us during the course of the night. If we knew what they were, we may cancel them before they materialized in the natural. ***Many times in our dreams we may find ourselves in evil and frightening circumstances. By not bringing it to the Lord and cancelling them, we actually give the enemy legal ground to bring to pass what he began in the spirit world through the dream. If we knew the truth and how we should handle our dreams then the enemy would have less legal ground to enter and steal from us.*** Discernment is of utmost importance. When we go to God in prayer He is faithful to let us know the things we should.

Much of us awaking tired in the morning is as a result of our warfare during the night

- Prayer Watch -



WARFARE IN DREAMS

Ever noticed how tired we are when we arise sometimes. Many of us put it down to over sleeping. Well ever wondered why we overslept in the first place? This is because we have actually gone through deep spiritual battles during the night. And the first thing the enemy does is to get you to forget your dreams. Many of us will still have some unction of a battle of some sort. Sometimes we miss out on appointments and relevant issues

for the day ahead because we over slept. Yet we never put it down to the battles we may have had during the night in the spirit realm. Much of us awaking tired in the morning is as a result of our warfare during the night. The attacks of the evil one during the night is unknown because we forget the battle by the time we awake.

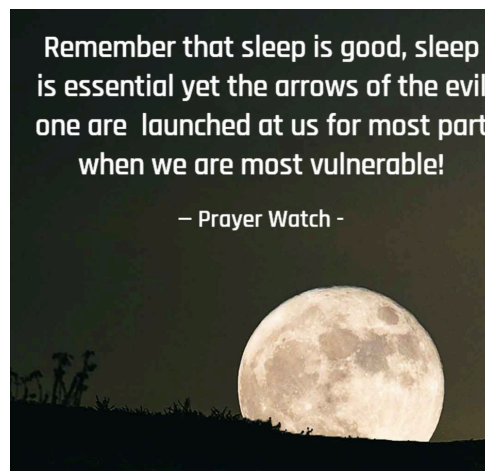
For many though, our dreams have opened a door for the evil one to have his way instead. Our wrong motives and decisions in dreams allows for him to confirm is evil covenant with us. By our actions in our dreams we open the door and give him legal rights to whatever he may want. Many of us are ignorant of this. Prayer every night before falling of to sleep is of vital importance.



Prayer and Dreams

Prayer and your dreams are very closely related. The more faithful we are in our prayers the more we are aware of the enemy's tactics at night. In fact the lack of prayer allows for the enemy to establish and confirm whatever he may wish with us while we are asleep. This happens all the time yet we are ignorant of it!

Faithful prayers helps us cancel any covenant that we made or accepted in our dreams. The evil one appears to us through our dreams and unknown to us disguises and woe us away. We arise only to discover that we have had a bad dream and so we leave it at that. Little do we realize that through the dream we may have just given him the authority he was looking for. The Holy Spirit has been given to each believer to help us in this regard. Our dreams are unique in the sense that the covenant that God establishes with each individual may come with a related event that took place in the natural.



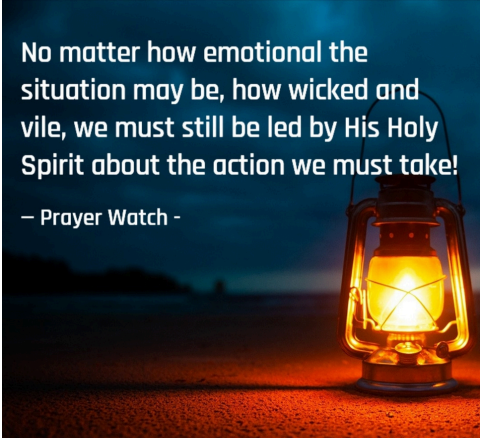
Dreams and attacks at midnight

It is believed that during the night the enemy is most prevalent during the hours of 11pm and 3am and it is when he and his demons are most active. The enemy is very prevalent and is most prone to release his attacks on God's people during the night. Many intercessors are known to arise at midnight and pray. Many of the attacks on our lives are started by the demonic forces while we are asleep. Remember that sleep is good, sleep is essential yet the arrows of the evil are launched at us for most part when we are most vulnerable! If you are being called to pray at midnight then I suggest you respond and work out your sleep schedule as such.

God allows us to see these attacks in the midnight hour and it is ours to cancel. Prayer is important during this time of the night but what we are discussing here are those battles and revelations known to us in dreams. **'You shall not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.' Psalm 91.5-6**

Jesus said that it is during the night while men slept that the enemy comes to sow tares among the good seed sown. The tares are the bad seed the enemy plants whilst we are asleep. Tares were very common in Palestine and looked very much like wheat. It was best distinguished after it had sprouted with the rest of the good harvest. Therefore the owner of the field did not want his crop destroyed by mistake. God has given us His Holy Spirit today and we are able to distinguish the tares from the good wheat. We are therefore able to gather the tares and burn them in the spiritual realm before they take root.

Matthew 13. 24- 30 "Another parable He put to them saying: ' the kingdom of heaven is like a good man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servant of the owner came and said to him 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, an enemy has done this. The servants then said to him 'do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?" but he said, No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn'"



No matter how emotional the situation may be, how wicked and vile, we must still be led by His Holy Spirit about the action we must take!

- Prayer Watch -

Recently I had a dream that disturbed me. At the time I was concerned about a government entity and had some personal encounters with the service that was being delivered to the many already oppressed by it. I had decided to take the matter further by informing the Heads of that Department about the matter. Not long after I had a dream where I had pulled up to garage and I tried to repair a wheel on my own. The vehicle suddenly tilted to one side and was now standing on just two wheels. People around began to laugh and make fun of me. Here I was in fear when someone ran to my aid and helped me get the vehicle back on all four wheels. I remember asking the person who was busy helping me a vehicle mechanic, the reason for the vehicle turning on two wheels. His reply was that it was a rare problem that exists called 'Rohil.'

I got up and searched the word 'Rohil' and to my surprised found that there is such a word in the English vocabulary. It means to mix or interfere with muddy waters. More or less to disturb water that is already dirty. I knew the Lord was speaking to me to leave the matter with that government entity and not pursue it any longer. There are many things that may seem wrong but we are only called to pursue that which God tells us to. No matter how emotional the situation may be, how

wicked and vile, we must still be led by His Holy Spirit about our actions. The contrary may see us being hurt, mocked and fruitless in our endeavors to make something right.

Revelation 22.11 ‘ He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.



GOD USES OUR DREAMS AS WARNINGS

Job 33.14-18 ‘For God does speak - now one way, now another – though no one perceives it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber in their beds, he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, to turn from wrong doings and keep them from pride, to preserve them from the pit, their lives from perishing by the sword.’

God uses our dreams to warn and instruct us. In **Genesis 20** God appears to Abimelech in a dream saying to him ‘..... **You are indeed a dead man because of the woman you have**

taken, for she is a man's wife.' verse 3. Abimelech then pleaded with God for he had not known what he had done and God accepted his plea. God knew he was ignorant of this and therefore did not allow him to touch Sarah. Abimelech then arose early in the morning with much fear and told all of this in the hearing of his men and then restored Sarah to Abraham.

God may also use our dreams to warn us of impending dangers. We should pay careful attention. In **Matthew 2.13** we see how an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream warning him of danger as King Herod was to seek Jesus the Child in order to destroy Him. Joseph heeded the warning and took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt. In **Matthew 2.19** we see an angel again appearing to Joseph instructing him to go back to the land of Israel as those who sought the young Child's life was now dead. We can see from this passage of scriptures that Joseph clearly heeded to the angel's message in a dream.



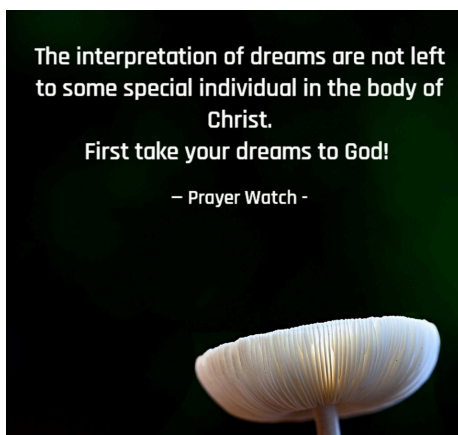
The Lord may also reveal to us about impending danger towards others only because we may pray for them and may

also warn them. If we are obedient to stand in the gap for others then the Lord will reveal to us so.

God also spoke in Old Testament times to the prophets and their duty was to interpret correctly what God was saying. They could not just rely on their gifting but on their relationship with the Lord. In **1 Samuel 28.15** King Saul reminds us that God had forsaken him and no longer spoke to him by dreams. True prophets were surely men and women who spoke to God all the time. **Numbers 12.6** '.....**When there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams.**'

Different dreams can also mean the same thing. In fact Joseph understood how to interpret dreams so well that he not only helped Pharaoh understand the meaning thereof but also explained to him that the reason the dream was given in two forms is because the matter has been firmly established by God. **Genesis 41.32** 'The reason the dream is given to Pharaoh in two forms is the matter has been firmly decided by God and God will do it soon.'

Another interesting aspect of this dream being twice is because whatever God was going to do, He was going to do it soon. We see here that **time** is also relevant to the dream and together with **how** it is given.



THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR DREAMS AND THEIR INTERPRETATIONS

The Church as a whole today lacks for correct interpretations of dreams. This is evidence that we may not be walking in the Spirit of God. It was never meant for someone else to *always* interpret our dreams yet we have through the years made this into a ministry and a special gifting reserved to certain people only. This is wrong! All believers have the Holy Spirit to help them interpret their dreams. It is important that we allow the Holy Spirit to help us interpret our dreams as they are relative to what we have experienced. Dreams are often personal and the one who will best understand the meaning of the dream is the one to whom it is spoken. We may receive confirmation from another believer but the empathy of the dream is for the one dreaming. Now this different if God is speaking to one in a dream and the message is for the corporate body of Christ. This is where God has called for another in the body to understand the dream. This is bodily ministry and God works so!

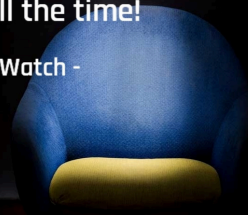
Ever noticed how God may use an experience that we may have had during the course of the day to speak to us in our dreams. And many of us immediately discard such dreams because the

message is given through a situation or circumstance related to our experience during the day. We must be very careful here because God will speak to us using situations and experiences that are personal and familiar only to us. ***The purpose of this chapter is so that we come to ask the Lord to reveal to us the meaning of our dreams and not forever run to man. Also that we not take for granted and come to our own conclusions about something God is saying to us. For this we need to be prayerful. Because our purpose with God is unique, He uses unique experiences to relate to us in our dreams. Therefore any given person, object or situation in a dream cannot be categorized as common to all. For a person to interpret a dream he must have the leading of the Holy Spirit. Many of us rely on man to interpret our dreams based just on the substance of the dream and this is wrong.*** Two people may have the same warning from the Lord yet the one experiences the substance of the dream through his work as a farmer with his animals and the measure of his land. The other being a businessman may experience the substance of the dream whilst he is transacting with people in a business environment and has nothing to do with farming. These may be totally different substances yet the message and the warning is the same. If we had to use just the substance of each dream we would then arrive at a wrong conclusion. Joseph interpreted dreams because ***God helped him*** interpret them.

The world interprets dreams by different substances. In other words every object represents something in a dream for them. There is no room for discernment – no need for God. The result is that many are confused. We must never use the world system to make sense of our dreams.

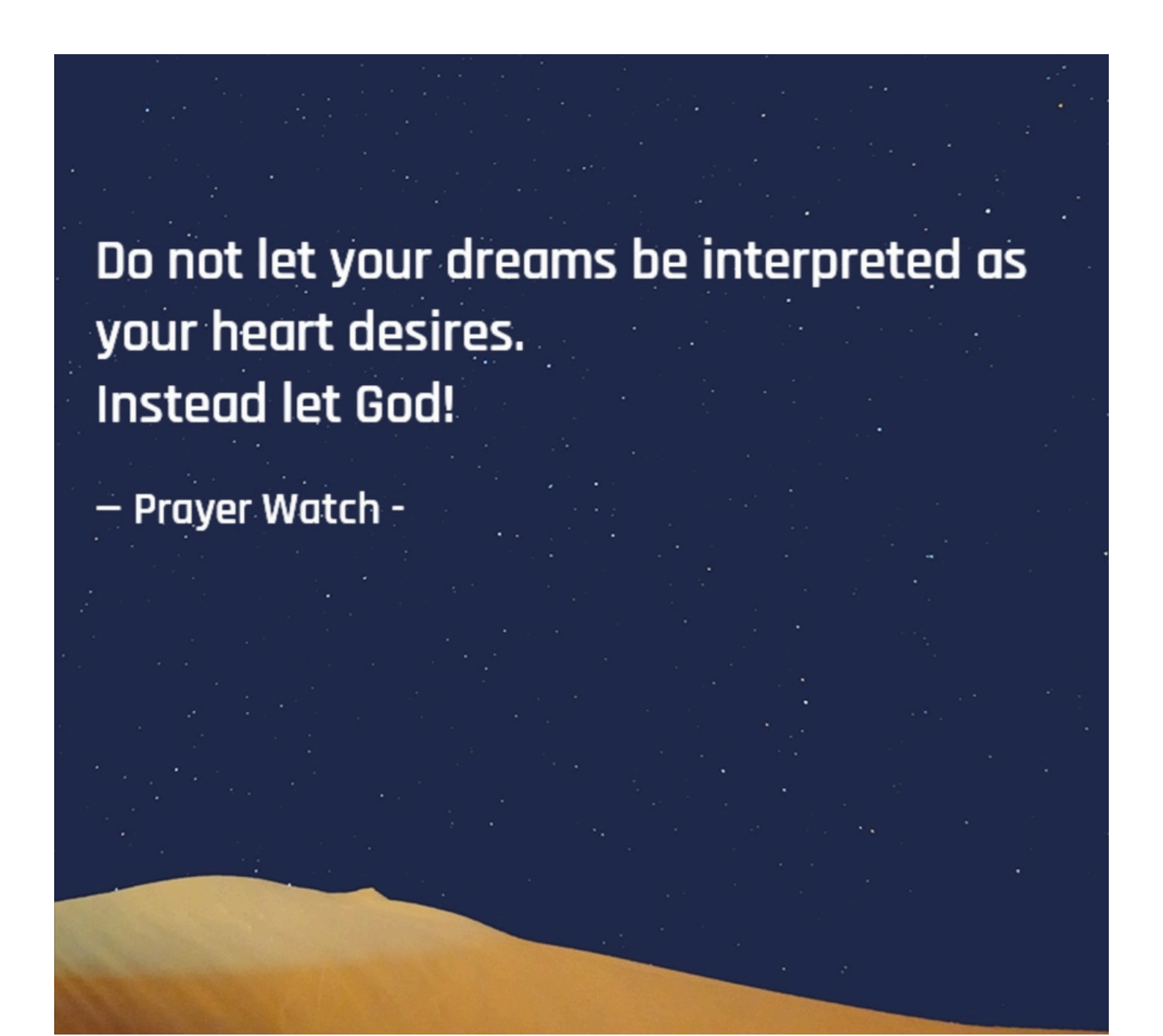
Psychology does not always need help from the Holy Spirit . Yet the believer needs help from the Holy Spirit all the time!

- Prayer Watch -



Psychology is the study of the conscious and unconscious state of the human mind. This includes feelings and thoughts. Though Psychology is often applied to understanding how the brain works and should help the brain physically it nevertheless has been directed to understanding human activity in all spheres. So much so that most people practicing Psychology are involved in some kind of therapeutic role for those who want it. The result is no need for the help of the Holy Spirit and our conclusion of the matter is firmly established and not the Lord's

The Bible tells us that God hates those who prophesy false dreams. In **Jeremiah 23** we see how God has heard of the prophets and their false interpretation of the dreams. The result was that they were prophesying lies to the people in the Name of the Lord.

A night sky filled with stars, with a silhouette of a desert dune in the foreground.

Do not let your dreams be interpreted as
your heart desires.
Instead let God!

– Prayer Watch –

False interpretations are deceits that come from the heart of the false prophets. And when a dream is falsely interpreted it is to draw one away from the Lord and to forget His Name as we see in verse 27. ***We see that the people want their dreams interpreted the way their hearts desire.*** God sees their deceiving hearts though they inquire using the Name of the Lord. **“So when these people or the prophet or the priest ask you, saying ‘what is the oracle of the Lord?’ you shall then say to them ‘What oracle?’..... And as for the prophet, and the priest and the people who say, ‘The oracle of the**

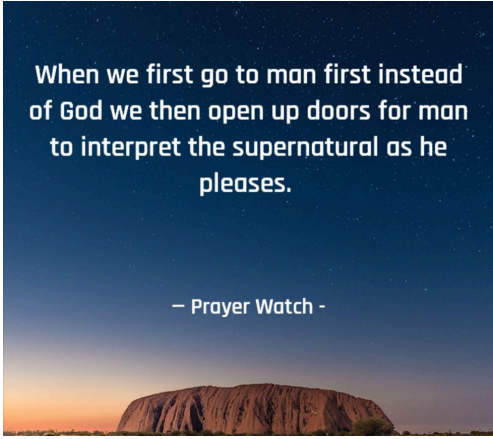
Lord! I will even punish that man and his house.”

Jeremiah 23.33-34 ‘

The Lord wants our words to be the oracle that is sent from Him. In other words ***we must be accountable for what we ourselves hear from God.*** This is why prayer is so important. For in prayer God reveals to us what He may be saying. **‘And the oracle of the Lord you shall mention no more. For every man’s word will be his own oracle, for you have perverted the words of the living God, the Lord of hosts our God.’**

Jeremiah 23.36

When we pray we ask God to show us what our dreams mean. We may go to man only if we know that he will first seek the Lord like Joseph, Daniel and other prophets of old did. Daniel the Prophet understood dreams of all kinds. In **Daniel 1.17** the wise men of the land relied on the king giving them the substance of the dream so that they could give him a common interpretation. However Daniel the Prophet relied on the Lord for the substance and the meaning thereof. The king had established that these wise men were speaking falsely until now and he had them all killed. Daniel blessed the God of Heaven, having had the substance of the dream and its revelation. Having heard Daniel make known the dream and correctly interpret it, the king then worshipped God. He answered **‘Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.’ Daniel 3.47** Daniel went to God first and enquired from Him. The Prophet Daniel was then promoted while all the false prophets were killed.

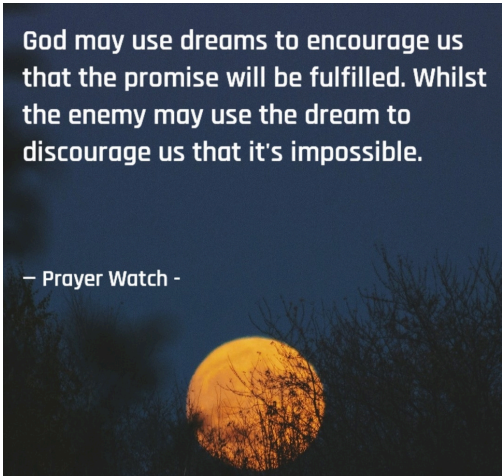


When we first go to man first instead
of God we then open up doors for man
to interpret the supernatural as he
pleases.

- Prayer Watch -

The enemy has used our dreams to make us wander like sheep oppressed because we do not know any better. When we first go to man first instead of God we then open up doors for man to interpret the supernatural as he pleases. We will also be punished knowing full well that we have the Holy Spirit to guide, teach and comfort us.

Many people interpret dreams wrongly only to give a word that comforts the itching ears of the people. And so they are given comfort in vain. **'.....they tell dreams that are false, they give comfort in vain therefore the people wander like sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd.'** Zechariah 10.2



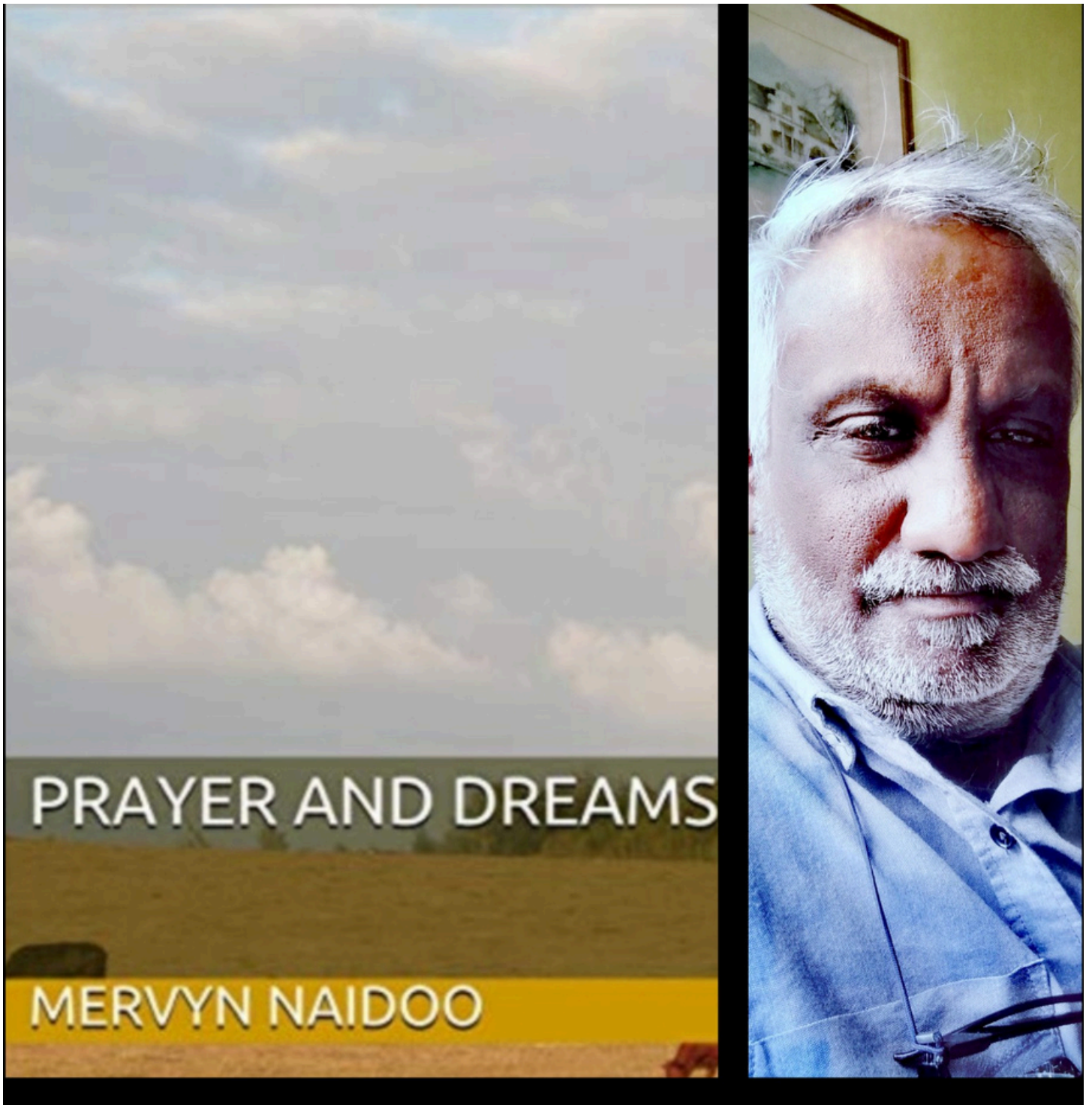
God may use dreams to encourage us
that the promise will be fulfilled. Whilst
the enemy may use the dream to
discourage us that it's impossible.

- Prayer Watch -

THE ENEMY AND COVENANTS

God had all our days fashioned before even one of them came to be. **Psalm 139** The enemy knows this and comes to destroy the days and plans that God already has for us. In this God has made a covenant that He will not renege on His side of fulfilling what He promised. Any agreement that the enemy has tried to make with us during the course of the night must be given to the Lord and rebuked. Many of us are unaware of the covenants we sign up with the evil one during the night. Many times we do not know whether the Lord is making a covenant with us or it is the evil one. Once the covenant is agreed upon in the dream it is only a matter of time for it to materialize in the physical. We often arise with memory of some bad encounter during the night and instead of immediately taking it to the Lord we become fearful and embrace the encounter in the dream by reminiscing about it. Nevertheless even in doubt we can still give it to the Lord and by His mercy He will direct us. God may use dreams to encourage us that the promise will be fulfilled. Whilst the enemy may use the dream to discourage us that it's impossible. Dreams may help us remain faithful to God in all we do. It keeps us from compromising when the pace of that which we expect is slow.

Father God you know all things. Even as we sleep you slumber not and nothing is hidden from you. If there has been any covenant that I may have made with the evil one during the night I ask you to forgive me. If there is any dream that I must remember I ask you to take charge and let your will be done. May all the covenants you have come to make with me during the night be established in Jesus Name I pray!



Mervyn Naidoo is an author of several books on Prayer and is based in Cape Town South Africa. His writings and teachings have been distributed all across the world for more than 35 years!

Other Books by Mervyn Naidoo

What is Prayer?

The Decision to Pray

The Dimensions of Prayer

A Changed Heart

Repair the Altar

Prayer : A Seeking After God

Holiness is Surrender!

I Desire you all Speak in Tongues

The Greatest Person Person on Earth

First Be Seated

On my Knees

After Death

Be Serious about Prayer

The Essentials to Heavenly Prayer

Prayer and Dreams

Religion : A Lie in Disguise

The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit

Prayer : A Burden From the Lord

The Prayer Workbook

