

God's Dream Within You

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2025 Aglow International Virtual Conference – Saturday PM

Thank you to all that are watching this online conference. What a pleasure and honor it truly is to get to come in and spend this time together in this way, but to speak into this moment. I truly count it an honor and a privilege to minister to you. And that is what I am trusting the Lord to do.

You know, this whole idea of gathering and conferencing is not a new one. They did this in ancient times. They did this throughout the Old Testament. They would gather for days at a time to hear what God is saying, to hear the Word of the Lord. In fact, there were recorded times of what we would define as “conferencing” in the Old Testament, where they would actually stand as families from morning until night to hear the Word of the Lord.

So, let's just say that this version is a little easier on our flesh of coming together and gathering, and hearing what God is saying. But, we know this. We know that His Word is still what we are living by, that His Word, every Word that is proceeding from His mouth, it is how we are living, and we have to have it. And so, I have just been praying into that and trusting Him that that is what we are about to step into in this time together.

You know, there are a lot of things that we could say, but what we want is what Paul prayed. He asked the New Testament church, he said, “pray that I would speak as I ought to speak.” One translation of that, that word “ought,” means “a reservoir of prophecy.” In other words, Paul was saying that there is a lot that we could say and it would be a benefit. But then, on the other hand, there are things that I ought to say. There is a reservoir of prophetic utterance that is going to open our eyes to see and help our ears to hear. And so, I just want to ask you to join with me in faith that that is what we are tapping into, a reservoir of prophecy, of prophetic utterance that is going to light us up on the inside and help us in the days ahead.

Before we pray over this, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to your President, Nancy McDaniel, and her team, for the invitation to me to come and to speak. I commend you all in your leadership. I commend you in the wise decisions that you have made, even with this conference, to set up this ministry for the days ahead and to set it up well. I know that your other speaker, Mr. Graham Cooke, Reverend Graham, he is going to bring a powerful word. I believe that God is going to layer upon layer, give everything that is needed so that we can follow Him.

Well, let's do this. Let's pray over this word. And, again, I invite you to lean in and lean in by faith. Lean in with ears to hear what God is saying. We are going to do this as a faith project together. We know

that there is no distance in time and space in the Spirit. And so, let's just pull on Heaven and say, "God, what You have ordained for this time, Lord, we are saying so be it. And, we are saying, so be it by faith."

Come on, let's pray over this together. Father, we do. We come and we gather right now in the Spirit under the banner of Heaven, the banner of the mighty Name of Jesus. Lord, we come, we gather right now in unity from so many places, so many nations. God, so many moments in life, moments in ministry, moments in business. But, Lord, You the Almighty hold all of us, and all of them, in the palm of Your hands. Father, we ask You to come into this moment and God, that You would speak to us. Lord, that You would rearrange whatever is necessary to put us into position for all that You have for us and all that You have for what You are wanting to do in this time. Lord, we trust You for it and we thank You for it. Lord, we ask for Your anointing that removes burdens and destroys yokes, the anointing of Your Word, the anointing of Your Spirit. Lord, we take hold of those things by faith, and we thank You for it, that we can participate with what You are saying and doing in our times. Lord, it is our greatest privilege, and we say that we are following You in that, in Jesus' Name. Amen, and amen.

I want to start off here and kind of set up with what God has deposited in my heart for you. I believe He has put a word in my heart for you. I want to set this up by making a brief comment upon something that I have admired and admire about this ministry, Aglow International. And that is something that I have seen, I have noticed in other strong leaders, especially national leaders in the Body of Christ, seems to be a common denominator for having longevity of ministry, and, that is this: how they have allowed **the old and the new to flow together**. I have noticed that this almost is a requirement for longevity of ministry. It is really something, it is actually pretty rare to come across. It is not normal that you find where a ministry, or an organization, or a leader is willing to, as things are massively shifting - as what God is doing is shifting, as the world is shifting - it is a rare thing to find a steadiness, and yet a progression.

What is usually the case is you find a leader, a ministry, a business, an organization sort of being dominant in one or the other. What you usually find is either a dominance of stability, of staying true, or you find a dominance of a progression, of a cutting edge, of a moving forward. But, really the sweet spot is when you find the two. And it is really interesting because it is quite a dichotomy, isn't it? It is really a dichotomy to say, "we are going to stand strong and yet we are going to progress. We are going to have stability and yet we are going to move ahead."

God's Pattern for Building

When we follow God's pattern for building, we actually walk right into these two powerful traits. God's pattern for building is really encapsulated in the phrase that Paul used in the New Testament when he talked about there being Grace upon Grace. In other words, sort of like I could print a word picture, wave upon wave. So, a wave comes in and you have the strength of that wave. Paul's point is to take the strength of the wave that is there, but know this, God has more waves that are coming. God has more Grace that is coming because He is always perpetually moving forward. Really, the strategy of walking with God, of building with God, is **to walk in the strength of what has been but be positioned and be prepared to move into what is next**.

So, we are constantly working with God in His building pattern of taking strength and yet moving forward. And, this is really the dance of working with God, isn't it? It is sort of living in the tension of finding the expression that you are right now in, of that place.

I like to liken it to the combination, or the synergy, of working with the logos (written) word of God, but also the rhema (spoken) word of God. Now, we all know this right? We have the strength of that. But, then we also have the rhema word of God. It is what He is uttering to our hearts today. It is what He is speaking right now. And that is really a beautiful picture of living in the tension and finding the 'right now' expression of the two.

Habakkuk Two

I find in this prophetic passage of scripture that many of us are familiar with out of the book of **Habakkuk, in chapter 2**, is really a picture of the dichotomy of these two things, of embracing the stability and strength of what is, what has been, and yet knowing we must move forward. So, I want to read this portion of Scripture to you. Habakkuk 2. I would love for you to read it with me.

I am going to read it first out of the **King James Version**, verses 1-4. Habakkuk writes, "I will stand upon my watch." Notice that word "stand." "And, set me upon the tower and I will watch to see what He, God, will say to me and what I shall answer when I am reproved, and the Lord answered me and He said, 'Write the vision and make it plain upon tablets that he may run, that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak and not lie; though it tarry, wait for it because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just they shall live by faith.'"

Now, I want to read this to you out of the Voice Translation. It says it so beautifully, "I will take my place at the watchtower and I will stand at my post and watch. I will watch and see for what He says to me." Then the Lord speaks, "write down this vision, write it clearly on tablets so that anyone who reads it may run, for the vision points ahead to a time I have appointed. It testifies regarding the end. And it will not lie. if there is a delay, wait for it." He says, "for it is coming."

Run with Fresh Vision

Captured in this prophetic portion of Scripture is this dichotomy that I am talking about of standing strong, of standing at your post, of waiting. But, then here comes His rhema word. Here comes fresh vision. And, so when it comes, we have to run with it. We are loosed to move ahead. Why? Because when **God speaks, He sets us in motion**. When God speaks, we are lit up on the inside, we are lit a fire on the inside with vision. And so, we run.

Vision: A Piece of a Dream Set on Fire

So, for quite a while now, I have had just sort of this favorite quote of mine, and it has been almost on repeat on the inside of me, in my heart, in my spirit. Here is the quote, "**a vision is a piece of a dream within us that has been set on fire.**" Oh, I love this so much. A vision is a piece of a dream that has been set on fire.

Here's the deal. Many of us come to a place in life, and if you have been walking with God certainly if you have been serving Him any amount of time, you have come to multiple versions of this, where

what happens is you are standing your watch, you are standing your post, and it is what I call “when a knowing starts growing,” and you do not know what it is. You cannot quite wrap words around it yet, but something is coming and it starts growing.

I remember when I hit this particular place in my ministry quite a few years ago, and I had this sense that there was this knowing. I did not know what I needed to know, but a knowing was growing and it made no sense to me. I had no idea what it was. And it was tough because I was in this place of stability. I was in this place of being at my post.

See, I was spending my time and my energy doing the last thing God had told me to do. I was at my post, I was at the place, I was in the place, the last place where God told me to do it. And, honestly, life was working. Ministry was fine. It was manageable. Everybody knew their spots.

In the middle of this, this “knowing starts growing” and I was living in this place as this knowing was growing, this tension of stability and yet feeling that this knowing that was growing was **a press to progress**. I was living in the tension of these two things, sort of side by side and neck by neck. I did not really know what to do with it. And, God began to speak, but He began to speak sort of piece by piece. That is why I say it was a knowing that started growing, understanding started coming to me. And, I know what it is to experience that quote, a vision, a piece of a vision on the inside of me was a dream that was catching on fire. What I realized is, God was calling me to progress forward, and I had to follow Him in what He was lighting up within me.

The Dream Inside You

So, I want to talk to you about the dream that is on the inside of you.

For the past couple of months, I have really felt compelled of the Lord to sort of do this deep dive study on studying throughout the Word of God the history of God working with His people, and how He went about moving them forward. And, so specifically, this has brought me into a place of re-reading through the books of 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, and 1 & 2 Chronicles.

What is clear to me as I have been studying this quite meticulously in reading is that God had a dream. There is a piece of Scripture that is found in 1 Kings 8, and it is an account of King Solomon speaking to the children of Israel. He is actually re-telling a significant moment when the Word of the Lord had come to his father, David.

I am going to read just the Scripture. Solomon makes the statement, he says, “The Lord God of Israel who spoke to my father David saying, since the day that I brought My people out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house for Me, that My Name might be there, but I chose,” He said, “David.”

God’s Dream Within You

I love what Pastor Bill Johnson says about this scripture. He has a profound commentary on this. His statement is this, **“God did not dream of a city. He did not dream of a house. He dreamed of David. The dream of a house for God was in the heart of His man, David. God’s dream was to co-labor with His man, David. God’s dream was to build together, with His people, with His children of Israel. His**

dream was to be their God, to be their King, to lead and guide them and to establish His Goodness through His Kingdom being built in the earth.” That was God’s dream.

God’s dream is still the same today that it was back in the very beginning. All throughout history, you see God’s dream was David. **God’s dream is you and me.** And, within the heart of you, and within the heart of me, is a dream.

I want you to think of it this way. **Your dream, the vision that you carry, is really a piece of an installation of God’s desire coming to pass and being actualized in the earth.** This follows the pattern we know of how God does things. It follows a pattern of how God gives.

We could say it this way, when God gives, He gives incarnated. (Incarnated means embodied.) I want you to just hold space for what we are talking about. This powerful dream, this vision that is on the inside of you and in the context of that, think about when God gives something, He gives incarnated. So, when Jesus gave gifts to humanity, those gifts were of Himself. When it talks about the gifts God gave in the book of Ephesians, it says that He gave some apostles, some prophets, some pastors, some teachers, some evangelists. Those gifts were incarnated within Jesus, the Son of God. And so, those gifts that were in Him, He gave those gifts to men, and inside those gifts was the ministry of Himself.

We are painting a picture here of how, when God gives, He gives incarnated.

Okay, here is another example. Think about this. When Jesus went to the Cross, when He paid the price for mankind, when He died, was buried, and when He was resurrected again, the Word tells us that in giving the gift of salvation, He brought many sons to Glory. He gave the gift of Himself, incarnated, so that when we received His gift of salvation that did not mean that we were just meant to put on His robe. We are not dressing up like Jesus. We are not now, as receivers of salvation walking around going, “how do we act like Jesus?” What would Jesus do? No, we were redeemed and we were incarnated with the seed of the righteous Jesus. It is now Christ **in** us, the hope of glory.

What that means is that **we are now the anointed ones carrying His anointing.** When God gave the gift of Jesus, He gave Him incarnated. So, when you think about this, when you think about the fact that we are His dream, we understand that we are carrying a piece of something of the Creator of the Universe that must come forth.

The significance that this holds for you and I today is really connected to the time that we are living in, right now. And, I know I am not the only one that is speaking to this. This has been prophesied by many proven gifts that one of the ways that we could help to understand the time that we are living in is to say that this time is sort of best understood by painting a word picture of it, by using a time from times past. And, that is that we are living in, a time that is like the time of a renaissance. And, if we look closely to understand the time that we are in, then we are going to see that **the time we are in makes a requirement of you and I as the Church of Jesus Christ,** that are living in such a time as this.

Renaissance Time

So, we understand this time gone by - a time passed - when we call this time a time of Renaissance. Most of us know this from the pages of history that in the Renaissance time through the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries, so much came forth in that time of brand-new artistic expression, scientific discoveries,

intellectual advances, from those and by those that dared to dream that the time that they were living in demanded the title it was given by the sheer force of how much their dreams were being fulfilled. In other words, **that time was called the Renaissance time because of the force of how much was being produced at that time.** The profuseness of the vision and the dreamed dreams finally materializing, of all the vision and the dreams finally sort of clicking into place and finding their necessary pieces to come together, by all that was morphing into just the right shape, all of this set a whole era ablaze with dream fulfillment.

I believe this is so key that we understand this about our times. That when God is saying, this is My time of renaissance, this is like a Holy renaissance time. What He is saying is, “you know those dreams you carry, you know the vision you carry? This is My time for fulfillment.”

Understanding the Power of the Time We are In

I want you to listen to this. So, this is again, to understand the power of the moment we are in.

Think about this. A man by the name of Leonardo da Vinci who is really often considered sort of the quintessential renaissance man of that era. He was an inventor, he was a scientist, he was a musician, a painter, and an architect. During that time, his dreaming produced sketches for flying machines, prototypes for submarines, and so many other devices that were ahead of his time. When they started reading into the journals of Leonardo da Vinci from that time period, they found out that so much of the vision for the paintings he did of the Last Supper, and even the Mona Lisa came out of dreams and daydreams that he had, and he would just sketch them down.

Alright, how about this? Out of that time, there was a man named Christopher Columbus who finally began to take daring voyages that he had only previously dreamed about until then. He started voyages that he dreamed about of sailing across the Atlantic of establishing a westward passage to Asia, which he did. And, when he did, that dramatically altered the European perception of the world at that time.

Here is the thing I am wanting to highlight about this. **These men and women that lived in that time that produced so much dream fulfillment, they had those dreams and visions long before that period ever came to pass.** They carried these abilities for years, many of them decades way beyond the Renaissance time.

There was a period known as the Dark Ages and, **it was in that time (the Dark Ages) that their individual foundations had been laid for the dreams and visions that they carried.** And, through the Dark Age time, I am sure that they thought, “well surely these things are going to start coming to pass. Surely these dreams and visions are going to start working and it is going to start happening.” But, really **what they went into was a great time of *contending* for the dream and the vision that they carried.**

There was so much contending around these dreamers that were called to produce in the Renaissance period that many of **them were so brutally criticized.** They were pointed out. They were told they should leave their respective professions. Many of them were told, “you need to just leave this city. You need to just get out and go to another place.” There was so much contending over the dreams and

the visions that they carried. But then, a time came and when they came into that time appointed, the innovative spirit of that age allowed their dreams and their visions to flourish.

I do not know about you, but that sounds a lot to me like the prophetic word of Habakkuk, chapter 2. I want to just read those verses to you again. This time I am going to read it out of The Passion Translation. It says, “though the vision still awaits an appointed time, it speaks of the end. It will not prove to be false. When the appointed time comes it will happen with breathless haste. Although it may seem slow, just be patient and wait for it, for it will surely come right on time.”

See, this is powerful for us to know because I know that sometimes we let the battering of life numb us out to what we are carrying on the inside. These dreams and these visions that are so powerful. Sometimes, it is just the day-to-day responsibility of life that has a tendency to woo us into chasing whatever will make us efficient in our own effort. As if that is what will help us to progress or move us forward. If we just do it more perfect, if we just get it perfect. But, that is not what is going to tap into the potential of bringing these things about.

In actuality, **our potential for bringing these dreams and visions forward comes out of the fact that we have the heart of God**, and, number two, **that we can hear the voice of God**. We can hear vision speak. We can allow His voice to light up a piece of the dream on the inside of us. That is what gives us the potential to move forward.

We need to remember that though the vision has tarried, though the dream has tarried, this does not mean that the dream has missed its moment.

The Prophet Samuel

You know, in studying throughout history, I come to a powerful point in the life of the prophet Samuel. Samuel was charged with running with this dream that he carried. It was a dream of God to lead the people of God in co-laboring with Him. God’s dream was to be their God, to be their King, to have no in-between, no middleman. But the people abandoned that dream. They came to Samuel, and they said, “you know what? We want to be like every other nation. Give us a King.” And God said, “Samuel, I want you to give it to them. This was not My original idea but give it to them. I have anointed, I have appointed this man, this young man, Saul. So, I want you to go.”

God gives Samuel a word and He says, “go to this tribe, to this family. Call out Saul, give him this national word, anoint him, and install him as King, and help him set up a government for the nation of Israel.” So, Samuel does this quite publicly. He gives this word to Saul. It is obviously national. And Samuel and Saul set out working in tandem to carry forth the dream.

Well, Saul does not last so long. The Bible tells us that he turns to wickedness. He actually cuts off Samuel’s counsel. He cuts off Samuel’s advice. He stops listening to the Lord. He starts going to war when God says not to - he starts doing the opposite. And this breaks Samuel’s heart.

I believe that Samuel saw it as a personal failure of his. I believe that Samuel was so grieved about it because he felt like he had failed to get Saul to the finish line. Maybe, quite possibly the prophet Samuel was grieving this as well because it pulled up some past disappointment and grief of another dream that had died - that was of his own sons following in his footsteps. Here he had raised up his two sons

to be his proteges in prophetic ministry to the people of God but they were known in that time as being crooked and perverse. So, Samuel's dream of his sons had died. And now, quite publicly there is what seems to be the failure of yet another dream.

And, in the book of 1 Samuel, chapter 16, in verse one, the Lord says to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul since I have rejected him as King of Israel? Get up, Samuel, fill your horn with oil and be on your way. For I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen one of his sons to be King."

God Needs Us to Dream Again

You see, I sense the Spirit of God speaking in this time of holy renaissance to His people. And, what I hear Him saying is, **He is calling His dreamers forward again**. And, He is saying, "Come on dreamers, I need you to dream, but I need you to come for It is time to dream afresh. Dream afresh. **It is time to dream again.**" In other words, He is saying, "I know that the version of what you thought it was going to look like did not happen and you thought the dream died." But God is saying, "that is not how My dreams work." You see, versions of dreams can die – iterations - the details of how a dream - you think how it is going to play out - can die. But God says, "even My dream has had to take different shape." God is saying **the point of the dream is the eternal value and the redemptive qualities of the dream coming to pass**. That is what matters. These details of the time and how you thought it was going to happen, and the people you thought it was going to happen with, and the place where you thought it was going to take shape and the time frame when you thought it was going to hit its moment, but **none of that matters**. It is all interchangeable. Why? Because, **I am the God of the universe and I redeem time**. Why? Because even if another one walks away, I have My anointing. I am going to bring the dream to pass.

God is saying to you today, **"men of God, women of God, leaders of God, it is time to dream afresh."**

I am going to close with this.

I am using that word "fresh" and I believe it is specific in what God is saying **instead of saying "new."** Even though I believe the new is present in this time and new is good. **New speaks of something sort of completely off the page and out of nowhere**. I do not believe so much that that is the case.

I believe that many men and women of God have been carrying dream seeds for quite some time and for years

- » There has been a contending for those seeds.
- » There has been a fighting off of a criticism.
- » There were iterations and versions where we thought this was it,

and for whatever reason, maybe things went off the rails. Maybe other people made some bad mistakes. Maybe we made some grave mistakes. We have all been there. **But God is speaking to you and He is saying, "come on, dream, work with Me. I want to catch this on fire in you and I want you to dream afresh."** That word **fresh means to be without pollution or without impurities**. It is sort of like when we talk about fresh air.

Can I minister this to you right now?

I believe God is saying to the Body of Christ, you are in fresh air, breathe deep. You are in fresh air, dream. Dream deep. Dream with Me for the vision is speaking. I am going to show you – I am going to reveal to you the eternal redemptive value of the dream and the vision you have carried. You and I are going to work together to bring it to pass.

I want to read this verse to you and then I am going to pray this word over you. **Psalm 92:10, 12-15 KJV**. It says, “but my horn shall You exalt like the horn of a unicorn. I shall be anointed with fresh oil. For those that be planted in the House of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing to show that the Lord is upright. He is my Rock, and there is no defeat in Him.”

I believe that God is speaking this word to you and He is saying, “I am anointing you dreamers with fresh oil. I believe when He is calling the dreamers to dream of fresh, He is speaking of the state of the dreamer and He is saying, “I am anointing you with fresh oil to bring forth the dream with fresh perspective, with mature hearts and with yielded lives before Him, that we would come to Him today and say, “God have Your way in me.” I believe that if we will lean into this, in this time we are in, that fresh dreams are going to come forth.

So, I want to pray this over you right now. I know that so many of us, so many leaders are a part of this incredible international organization. **And, I believe this word is necessary for you right now. I believe that God is taking you – He is taking His visions, His dreams, He is taking ministries and leaders. He is taking this organization into a new time, and He is saying, “I need to dust off the past disappointments, maybe even things that looked like they did not work out right. None of it matters because the eternal qualities of this vision and dream are perfectly intact. And, this is My time of dream fulfillment.”**

So, let’s join together. Let me pray this over you. Father, I just lift up every person within the sound of my voice. And, I thank You, Lord, that You are anointing your dreamers afresh. Lord, we call forth the refreshing of the dreamers with fresh oil, the refreshing of the visionaries with fresh oil. And, we say that fresh dreams and new beginnings in those dreams are coming to pass in this season we are right now in. In the Name of Jesus. I thank You, Father, that after places of disappointment and mourning have come and gone, we see and recognize, God, You already had a new day lined up.

Father, I thank You that right now You are giving us the capacity to dream and to dream with You. So, we receive the impartation of Your heart to dream afresh. To dream afresh in light of the vastness of Your Goodness, Father. We thank You, Lord, for giving us the stability and the ability to move ahead and to run in this time.

Father, we declare that from this place and out of this place, we are looking forward to something greater and even more fulfilling than we ever imagined, and we declare it so in the Mighty Name of Jesus. Amen, and amen.