

## New Hope Global Sermon | I Had A Dream November 20 20

“I had a dream.” Martin Luther King made those words immortal in the 1960’s. His dream was to see equality and joyful collegiality among blacks and whites in the US. That dream birthed the non-violent civil rights movement in the South and changed history in the US. Americans are still grappling with the wise fulfillment of King’s prophetic words.

Centuries earlier, Joseph, Mary’s intended in the New Testament, could have used the same phrase. His obedience to God’s instructions in two dreams gave him understanding of Mary’s pregnancy by the Holy Spirit and then saved his little family, after Jesus’ birth, from Herod’s murderous intent (Mt. 1:20-25, 2:13-15).

Scripture has many examples of God’s communication through dreams. The prophecy in Joel 2 was even quoted by Peter at Pentecost:

‘This is what I will do in the last days<sup>[a]</sup>—I will pour out<sup>[b]</sup> my Spirit on everybody and cause your sons and daughters to prophesy, and your young men will see visions,<sup>[c]</sup> and your old men will experience dreams *from God*.<sup>[d]</sup>’<sup>18</sup> The Holy Spirit will come upon all my servants, men and women alike, and they will prophesy.” (Passion Translation).

Globally, God is speaking to Muslims around the world through revelations about Jesus, who is appearing to them in dreams. This has led to many coming to Christ in faith. (See video: More Than Dreams” ([You Tube link](#)) and the chapter “dreams, visions and miracles among Muslims” in *Miraculous Movements* by Jerry Trousdale (2012 City Team). So, if God speaks to you in the night in a dream, have a notepad and pen ready to write down what God says. (My dream came in Atlanta when we were staying at Grete’s house and visiting Rayna. The morning before that dream Rayna had even given me a notepad to put by my bed, so I could write down the dreams God gave me! Wonderful!)

This dream in Atlanta was so vivid, I awoke immediately and was able to immediately record what God was saying. I share this dream because it has both local and global implications for all of us.

The dream started with a scripture verse from Matthew 11: 7: “What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed shaken by the wind?” In the dream I recognized this verse was Jesus’ words to the crowds about John the Baptist. He was the prophet sent by God to prepare people’s hearts for the revelation of God’s Messiah – King Jesus. It seemed to fit because in my dream I was a new pastor of a small church. There were bigger congregations around us. But a small group had gathered in our spot. This was the quote God prompted me to ask those who came: “In the midst of these bigger, more prestigious, well-known churches were we like reeds shaking in the wind? In Jesus’ words the metaphor was about “tall grasses waving among the shores of the Jordan. It suggested weakness and vacillation with every changing wind or opportunity or challenge” (NIV Application Commentary, Matthew, Michael Wilkes, Zondervan, 2004, p. 415). Did we seem weak and vulnerable as grasses in comparison to the other more established churches around us? What were people’s expectations as they came to this small gathering?” John thundered for repentance and change; his methodology and presentation threatened the religious establishment. “Were they coming in search of a prophetic word, like John gave those who came out to him? And were they willing to make the changes necessary for God’s Messiah to rule among them?”

And that led to the second question God prompted me to ask those attending our new small church: “What are your deepest longings? Can you please speak these outloud?”

It is these two sets of questions that God wanted to build our new small church around. Particularly, the second set of questions are what I want to challenge each of us with today: “What are your deepest longings?” Beloved, my sense of church is that we exist as a community under Jesus Christ to attend to these deepest longings.

Here are the deepest longings I gave to the Lord in my dream:

For evident Spirit anointing and power among us  
For Spirit-based love that is genuine, caring, humble and empowering for each member and for the group as a whole – a love that would spill over to those around us.  
Healings and deliverances from the grip of Satan and the lies he inserts in our minds  
For God-inspired community with His sense of belonging, safety and support  
For God-directed mission, that we know how to live out God’s purposes in our context and in the world

What are each of your deepest longings? Can you share them in our weekly church zoom time? And then can we discover God’s guidance to know how to meet those longings? When Marti, Keith and I went to Atlanta last week, it was with the desire to help Rayna find Christ’s answer to her deep longings for peace and healing and hope. We all shared and prayed and sang and then anointed her with healing oil. As the Spirit directed I prayed over and anointed her forehead, her hands, her ears, and her feet. We together proclaimed Christ as her Healer, her Good Shepherd and her Lord. I want us to be able to give this kind of help and hope to each of us on zoom.

When I returned to Atlanta with the dream still fresh, I asked God “how is it fulfilled in this city?” (When I told Marti my dream, she said, if and when God gives you that gathering in Orlando, then New Hope Global can be a sister church!). Amen, but I also want each of us to ask these questions of the Lord where we are, as well as what He wants to do among us internationally by computer. God knows all our deepest longings. And He gives us His Spirit, His Word and His people to forge His local bodies all over the world – bodies of healing and hope that will reach out in mission to others. May it be so, Lord.

The song in response God gave as my dream finished was the old chorus:

Faith, mighty faith the promise sees and looks to God alone.  
Laughs at impossibilities and shouts “It shall be done!”  
And shouts it shall be, shall be done! And shouts “It shall be, shall be done!”  
Laughs at impossibilities and shouts ‘It shall be done!’

Amen. Dr. Mary Lou Codman-Wilson  
Pastor New Hope Global Fellowship  
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