

“For Dreams to Come True”

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(Matthew 24; Matthew 25:5; Genesis 3:13; Exodus 24:2; Corinthians 3; Ephesians 5:14)

[Paraphrased notes are from yet unpublished notes by F. Francis]

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The world has had numerous happenings that began on the now infamous 9/11, things that have happened in our time. But in spite of the reactions to the ongoing threat of terrorism and the news of such events around the world, perhaps we need to be shaken from our slumber to process the promises of God. Amazingly in spite of all the signs, wonders and warnings announcing that we are truly in the last days, Jesus also said there is a mysterious drowsiness that we have to overcome. Indeed, immediately after highlighting the various evidences at the end of Matthew 24, he compares the church to virgins, who, ... *all got drowsy and began to sleep.* (Matthew 25:5).

Virgins sleeping at the end of the age. This is quite a picture to draw upon. This seems quite incomprehensible with all the signs in the heavens and wonders upon the earth, not to mention the increasing presence of Christ. Yet this phenomena is something we each battle, the tendency to become spiritually drowsy and lose our *focus as we wait for the Lord’s return.*

There is a subtle activity of the enemy that dulls our perception and seduces our zeal. Our vision takes a backseat to other less important aspects of life. From the beginning, the voice of Satan has had this lulling effect on humanity. Eve is considered to be the inventor of the blame game. Her excuse for disobedience was, *the serpent caused me to forget* (Young’s Literal Translation). Or, in another translation, ...*The serpent tricked me...* (NRSV).

This sense of spiritual forgetfulness, the drowsiness, is the cloud of blindness that each of us must discern and overcome. It was in regard to this that the Holy Spirit spoke to Rev. Francis, who was so moved, he recorded his dream.

There was a temple standing in an open field. My view of the temple was from its side, about 200 yards away. I could not see its front, yet it must have been completely open, because a great light flashed out from the inside; it pulsed like lightning, yet was solid like sunlight. The block of light issued straight out and I knew this light was the glory of God.

The temple was so close, I knew that with little effort I could enter the glory of God. His holy presence was clearly within my reach. There were also others directly in front of me that I recognized as people from my church. Everyone seemed to be very, very, busy. And while the Temple and its light were visible and readily accessible to all, every head was bent downward and turned away from the light; each was occupied with other things.

I heard a voice say, "I have to do laundry". Another said, "I have to go to work". I could see the people reading newspapers, watching television and eating. I was sure that we all knew His glory was near.

There were a few people reading the Bible and praying, but everyone maintained the downward distance of their gaze; each had a barrier of some kind between themselves and the place of God's presence. No one seem capable of standing up, turning, and walking into the very near glory of God.

As I watched, suddenly my wife lifted her head and beheld the Temple in the field. She stood and walked without passing towards the open front. As she drew closer to the light, a garment of glory formed and thickened around her; the closer she went, the more dense the light surrounding her became until she stepped in front of the temple and turned completely toward the face to God.

Oh how jealous I felt! My wife had entered the glory of God before me! At the same time, I realized there was nothing stopping me from approaching God's presence, nothing except the pile of things to do and responsibilities that, in truth ruled my life more than the voice of God.

Pushing the weight of these pressures from me, I determined to rise and enter the temple myself. But, to my great regret, in my dream as I arose up, I suddenly woke up!

The longing and disappointment within me seemed unbearable. I had been so close to entering God's presence. How I wanted to enter the temple and be swallowed up in his glory! I cried, Lord, why did you let me wake up?

Instantly the Word of the Lord responded to my cry. He said, I will not have my servant's life fulfilled by a dream. If you want your dream to come true, you have to wake up.

Breaking passivity, setting priorities today, God is awakening us to the reality of his presence. The promises God gives us in the Scriptures must become more to us than a dream—like reality only reserved for the hereafter. Moses frequented the glory of God. Israel's 70 leaders ate and drank in God's resplendent glory (Exodus 24). Jesus unveiled God's glory on the mount of Transfiguration. Paul taught that we can all behold the glory of God and be transformed by it. (Corinthians 3).

For this reason, the Scripture says, *awake sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.* (Ephesians 5:14). If we truly want Christ to shine upon us, we must arise from the distractions that entomb us in lethargy and spiritual darkness.

Right at this moment, in this very place, the presence of the living God is near enough to hear the whisper of your heart. But if you want your dream of standing in the presence of God to come true, you must wake up. Amen.