



“And the foolish said unto the wise, give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out”

Matthew 25:8

A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

A strong confirmation of a revelation to *The Church* was received at the April, 2006 General Church Conference. Two dreams were presented for the Quorum of Twelve Apostles to review, and although at first they seemed unrelated, they complemented each other in clarifying the message given: **The Saints need to be prepared for extended trials and tribulations from evil forces - we cannot allow our Spiritual lamps to go out!**

The first dream, submitted by the Midwest Region, was given in January, 2006:

I dreamed a man walked from the back of the auditorium at the General Church World Conference Center to the rostrum and up to the podium on the pulpit. As he stood at the podium, he looked out from side to side over the entire congregation and then he said, **“Many of God’s people don’t have enough oil in their lamps.”** As he finished saying this, Brother Ike Smith, Sr., spoke in the gift of tongues to confirm what the messenger had spoken to the congregation. The man turned and walked towards the steps on the side of the rostrum and then disappeared.

The second dream, submitted by the Great Lakes Region, was given on June 20, 2005:

While sleeping, I had a dream that I was sitting on a flat roof building. I saw what looked like a dog on a roof far away. I watched and I thought, “That’s too big to be a dog, it must be a wolf.” The animal was snarling and growling as he jumped from one roof, to another, and then another. Then I noticed out of the corner of my left eye that the wolf was running towards us. When it was near enough to attack, I rebuked it in the name of Jesus Christ. It stopped, turned around, and went back to where it came from. Again, very soon I could see it coming on the right side this time. Again, I rebuked it and it went back. After a very short time, it came at me again but this time it came at me from the front. Suddenly, it leaped at me. I quickly held up my left hand to stop it and felt my fingers go into its mouth. I thought, “I have to get my fingers out or I will lose them.” I pushed it back and said, “I rebuke you in the name of Jesus Christ” and it disappeared.

I awoke and immediately began to pray. I did not hear a voice, but felt God was speaking to my heart that the devil is running out of time. He does not have time to be subtle anymore. He is coming at us right in our face. He will come at us through our children, our families; any way he can to hurt us. We need to pray more and get closer to God. May God bless us, Amen.

As we were discussing the first dream the Lord blessed us with a manifestation of His Spirit. One brother suggested that the dream should be taken in a positive way, that God is alerting his

people on how we may find victory over Satan. Immediately, Brother John Griffith broke into singing a short chorus in the gift of tongues. The tongue, although not specifically identified, sounded remarkably Native American. The melody was clearly that of Hymn 86 in the *Saints Hymnal*, "Oh God, Give Strength."

After the gift of tongues and a prayer of thanksgiving we found ourselves united in understanding the dream to be an alert given to *The Church* by a loving God who wants His people to be better prepared for the present and future challenges we must face.

At the conclusion of our interpretation of the first dream, we reviewed the second dream. The consensus understanding of the second dream was immediate as it so complemented the first.

Following are the Apostles' comments regarding both dreams:

1. Both dreams serve as alerts to The Church. They reaffirm and remind us of the need to be prepared for the challenges we will encounter and the intensity of those challenges. While we know that we are in the latter days and have been taught to expect severe challenges by a desperate enemy, the dreams tell us that not all are sufficiently prepared, and some could be suddenly surprised and caught in a vulnerable state. Anticipation and Preparedness are key messages.
2. The meanings of the dreams are complementary:
 - The first dream is set at the World Conference Center, which indicates the message is to the entire Church. The message is short and aided by use of the oft quoted Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) which tells of wisdom in preparedness (having sufficient oil at the crucial moment) and foolishness of being unprepared (having NO OIL at the crucial moment). In the parable, the consequence of having no oil when the bridegroom arrives was to be unable to provide light and to be left out of the wedding celebration.
 - The interesting and important variance in the alert ("Many of God's people don't have ENOUGH OIL in their lamps") is critical to the meaning. We have not yet arrived at the crucial moment. In the dream, there is not a finding of NO OIL but a warning of insufficient oil. Some of God's people do not have enough oil to last until that moment when the lamps will really be needed. The oil is the Spirit of God, which enables us with faith, strength, understanding, knowledge, righteousness, and all of the gifts necessary to trust in God's promises and overcome challenges.
 - In the dream Brother Ike Smith's manifestation of tongues in confirmation serves to identify the man as God's messenger and erase any doubt of the truth in his message.
 - The second dream is set on a rooftop (The Church) where the dreamer has a broad and far-reaching perspective of other rooftops (the world). The dreamer believes he sees a dog and is unconcerned because dogs are generally friendly and not threatening. When he realized it was a wolf he should have been concerned.

- The wolf is our enemy (Satan), known for his attacks to devour. The wolf is fierce and freely dwells in the world observed by the dreamer. Oddly, although this fierce enemy is unchecked over the wide domain surrounding him, the dreamer is unimpressed as he does not set up a vigilant watch but only catches the wolf approaching us (the members of The Church) out of the corner of his eye. Only when the enemy is near enough to attack does the dreamer rebuke him in the name of Jesus Christ.
 - When rebuked the enemy retreats (“Resist the devil, and he will flee...”) but he comes back from another direction (in a different way.) Again, the dreamer rebukes, and the enemy retreats only to return in still another way.
 - With the third, straight-on attack, either the quickness of the enemy or the complacency of the dreamer is enough for the enemy to access the dreamer who instinctively uses his own physical means to thwart the attack but finds his hand in the mouth of the enemy and his fingers about to be lost. Only then does the dreamer push back while rebuking in the name of Jesus Christ to chase him off.
 - The dreamer was the focal point of the wolf’s attacks, rather than others among those he refers to as “us.” Also, the dreamer had control when he invoked the name of Jesus over the enemy. We can infer that the dream calls for examination of our vigilance at a very personal level. We can infer that the dream calls for preparedness among the leadership as well as the membership of The Church.
 - The dream tells us that: (1)The devil is freely roaming about us; (2)Although he is recognizable, we do not always think about whom we are seeing, so we mistake him for a friendly entity; (3)Even when we recognize him we do not always take a “ready” stance; (4)We have learned that the enemy will retreat when we rebuke him in the name of Jesus Christ; (5)The enemy will be relentless in both repetitiveness and resourcefulness; (6)Failing to prevail with side attacks, the enemy will risk desperate, frontal attacks; (7)We are vulnerable if we are fooled into fighting him on our own instead of remaining vigilant with the name of Jesus on our lips.
3. The dreams apply to the whole Church. They warn us to be more prepared with the Spirit of God and full reliance upon the name of Jesus Christ. They suggest that our preparedness will be tried and tried until we can be worn-down in Spirit and can be tricked into reliance upon the arm of flesh. These dreams place a burden on the leadership of the Church to upgrade the state of readiness.
4. The Priesthood and leadership of The Church must heed the alert given us by God and diligently prepare all members for the trials that will come. This should be done through teaching and by example. The dreams tell us we need MORE oil and greater preparedness:
- Make the kingdom of God our first priority. Practice making our daily choices prayerfully, through the Spirit of God rather than our casual thought processes (what we do, where we go, what we see and hear, who we spend our time with and what we seek to acquire - be constantly aware that the world around us - the media, movies, peer-pressure, social advocate groups, and more - is trying to weaken our beliefs and cunningly seeks to have

us accept unrighteous concepts and actions such as illicit sex, homosexuality, pornography, substance abuse and many other forms of immorality).

- Recognize all of our callings in the Gospel and fulfill them with diligence. Respect every calling as God's rather than measuring by any other means.
- Love all of the Saints of God with the love of God and maintain the love of God as our first and greatest love. Pray for the well-being of the Saints and do what we can for each other.
- Every day, rehearse personally within ourselves the Gospel story: how eternal Salvation was won for each of us by the sacrifice of our Lord. Realize that we have done nothing to earn it. Consider our fate if not for the merciful plan of God. Realize that this Gospel was once obliterated from the face of the earth and that we are the few among billions who rightly know of its Restoration. When considering this Salvation, compare its value against anything else on our agendas. Thank God accordingly. Spread the Good News.
- Study ourselves to be approved, consistently: in prosperity or in want, in health or in sickness, in peace or in strife.
- Never underestimate the desire of the evil one to diminish all of the above in our hearts and minds. Whether by trying to attract us with glitter or blow us off course with opposition or by distracting us through attacks on our loved ones, he is out there, and he wants us to think he does not care about us one way or the other.
- Stay united!

God has promised His people that He will always be with us. Jesus said to *"Watch and Pray that you enter not into temptation"* and warned us that the devil will always be there to tempt us. May we find understanding and comfort in the following scriptures and may God bless us all with a desire to make sure there is enough oil in our lamps:

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour - 1 Peter 5:8

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world - 1 John 4:4

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you - James 4:7

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me - Phillipians 4:13

And now, my sons, remember, remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation; that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, yea, his shafts in the whirlwind, yea, when all his hail and his mighty storm shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall - Helaman 5:12

This is the sixth of a series of messages to *The Church* to reinforce various topics of our *Faith and Doctrine* and *Vision for the Future*. For more understanding of *What We Believe* please visit our web site to obtain resource and contact information: www.thechurchofjesuschrist.com.