

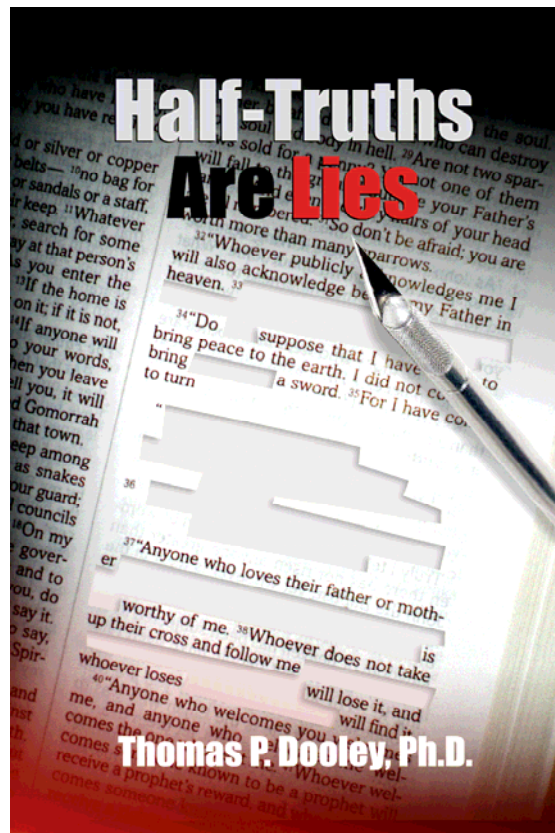
Path Clearer Newsletter

August 2009 – Issue #21

Influencing Nations with Truth

A voice of one calling in the desert: "Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out." (Isaiah 40:3-6)

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS:



Half-Truths are Lies is now available! This provocative work articulates the need to embrace the *Whole Counsel of the Lord*. It poignantly addresses several common errors of theology and practices of ministries in our times. This work drills down on *Prosperity Theology*, self-serving ministries, and ear-tickling messages, exposing them as half-truths. It also presents a compelling case for recognizing the hidden faces of God, and in particular the *God of Adversity*.

Please support Path Clearer ministries by purchasing this very timely prophetic clarion call for your family and friends! To purchase copies of this new book or the prior works please mail checks payable to Path Clearer Inc. for \$19.00 each (including shipping) or for volume discounts on 5 copies for \$15.00 each (including shipping). Please enquire for larger quantities. You may pay online via PayPal, provided that you send an e-mail confirmation of your payment with your

order information (info@pathclearer.com). Designate if you want any copies signed. *Mail requests with checks to:* Path Clearer Inc., PO Box 661466, Birmingham, AL 35266-1466.



(L) Opening the shipment of the new book; (R) Shaun Alexander at the Dooley home for an evening of ministry in July, and joined by Brad Lindsey, PC Board member.

Launch of THE PATH™ Discipleship Ministry in September 2009: For the past decade I have noted a serious need to raise up and equip genuine *disciples* of Jesus. There are plenty of so-called *believers* or *Christians*. However, few of them are obedient and are confident of “*the path*” that they are to walk in life as a yielded disciple. Therefore, we are launching a new discipleship ministry called **THE PATH™**, and in large part because the disciples of the 1st Century referred to themselves as “The Way”. It will initially start in the Birmingham, Alabama area by the “home team” of Path Clearer. This prototype is being designed as a ministry model that can be “franchised” elsewhere later. It will emphasize the following **PILLARS**:

- *Relational Mentoring* (mature or maturing disciples leading others)
- *Learning to Learn* (e.g., using the Hebraic Beit Midrash style of Bible study)
- *Hearing from God* (logos + rhema training)
- *Influencing Nations with Truth* (e.g., travel with ministry teams)
- *Bi-vocational Ministry in the Marketplace 24/7*

The over-arching goal is the transformation of *believers* into bi-vocational *disciples* through a *Threshing Floor* environment that will emphasize growing up, obedience, following the Spirit, and commitment. The initial weekly meetings (e.g., *Learning to Learn*) will commence on Saturday evenings, and the first meeting is scheduled for **September 5th** in Birmingham. THE PATH will also host monthly weekend mentoring sessions, typically with invited guest mentors.

If you are located in North Central Alabama and desire to seriously pursue a relationship with Yahweh and have a teachable spirit, then you are invited to participate in THE PATH. Note that we are not particularly interested in passive pew sitters. Rather, we are looking for folks who are

serious about their relationship with the Lord. Just send an e-mail message to – info@pathclearer.com and indicate “THE PATH” in the subject heading, in order to be included within the e-mail list for notices. Please send a paragraph or two describing your personal, spiritual, and professional life journey.

INSIGHTS ON THE CURRENT SEASON:

Intercessory Alert – Obama & Conscription: Near the beginning of this year I heard The Voice of the Lord say to me: “*In the third quarter of 2009 Obama will consider a policy of reinstating conscription!*” I have prayed about this serious rhema “word” for months and have shared it on occasions with other disciples to solicit intercession. I was particularly drawn to the term “conscription”, which I knew was commonly referred to as the draft. But, I looked up the definition in Webster’s and was surprised that it has two meanings: (1) *compulsory enrollment of persons, especially for military service (draft);* and (2) *a forced contribution (as of money) imposed by a government in time of emergency (as war).*

If you are breathing today and even slightly aware of what has been happening on Capitol Hill, you will note a clear connection between the Obama Administration and what has already begun to play out during the 3rd Quarter (July - September). I urge you therefore to pray and intercede. There are many dangerous policies being considered at this juncture on Capitol Hill, and the Lord has warned in advance. In Ezekiel 21:4, we are also warned that when God pronounced judgment on Judah, even the “innocent” *Righteous* would suffer along with the *Wicked*.

A “Dream” is not a Dream! A “Vision” is not a Vision! -- We have frequently heard the terms dream(s) and vision(s) in these days. Yet, I have observed plenty of blurring of the meanings of both of these terms, whether intentionally or inadvertently. There are two fundamental issues that need clarification. The first regards *precise use of terminology!* The second regards the *source of information!*

Let’s go back to the basics -- In the Bible these two words have specific historic meanings, and in both cases relate to prophetic information or revelation delivered from God to a recipient. The terms used in the Hebrew Scriptures for “**vision**” are *hazon* and *mar’eh* (and their derivatives) and *mahazeh*. In the New Testament Greek language the terms are *horama* (and its derivative) or *optasia*. All of these Biblical terms for “vision” denote receiving divine or special revelation from the Holy Spirit, except wherever the text explicitly or implicitly states it is a false vision (e.g., from a false prophet).

A vision is typically received *while awake*. As the name implies, it is graphic in nature, but can also include other verbal (e.g., voices, songs, etc.) and nonverbal information (e.g., perceptions, physical sensations, sounds, imparted knowledge, etc.). Visions can have many forms, such as a still image, or moving picture, or a “trance” in which the recipient’s natural surroundings seem to entirely disappear momentarily and he/she appears to be in an entirely different setting. Yet, each type of vision is happening while the recipient is consciously awake. It is as if one’s spirit pierces through and overrides one’s mind and sensory apparatus.

Many people often declare the following Scripture, “*Where there is no vision, the people perish.*” (Proverbs 29:18; KJV). When I hear this phrase and the person’s explanation, it is almost always misinterpreted as the plans or strategy from someone’s cerebral mind. In this

Scripture, “vision” is *hazon* and means a literal graphic revelation from the Holy Spirit that was “seen” by the recipient, rather than a manmade plan or strategy!

The term “**dream**” in Scripture is *halom* (and its derivatives) in the Hebrew and *onar* (with one exception) in the New Testament Greek. These terms denote a literal dream *while asleep* and almost always denote receiving divine or special revelation from the Holy Spirit.

Furthermore, to round out the definitions of words used in the Bible, the term for “**revelation**” is also *hazon* (and its derivative) in Hebrew, which is the same term used for “vision” (above). In the New Testament the word “revelation” is the Greek term *apokalypsis*.

Therefore, the words “dream, vision, and revelation” in the Bible relate to God revealing information to us through the various means available to the Holy Spirit. This *language of the Spirit* typically extends beyond a recipient’s natural thoughts or logic or plans. I earnestly caution you -- genuine revelatory visions and dreams often have very little to do with rational logic! The *language of the Spirit* often defies our natural understanding within the cerebral mind, and the revelatory information can be either symbolic or literal in meaning.

Note the irony of a PhD scientist-entrepreneur writing this! I am not merely writing about Biblical terminology and insights, for I have also had many personal experiences as a recipient of revelatory information, and most often in dreams.

So from a Biblical context, the terms vision(s) and dream(s) are NOT about us having a desire or a goal or conceiving of a plan. However, I’ve observed that most folks in the West have the opposite impression. They confuse, “I have a dream” (i.e., a desire, a goal, or a plan) with “I had a dream” (i.e., a literal dream -- an unconscious revelation while asleep). They also confuse, “I have a vision” with “I had a vision” in a similar fashion. They are not the same thing. In these common cases what they really mean is that they have their own personal goal or plan to achieve some objective.

Please don’t get me wrong. Having a goal, a plan, or a strategy to achieve something is commendable, prudent, and practical. We’re admonished in the Scriptures about living wisely with ample counsel and adequate planning. But, just don’t use the wrong terminology to describe it. Simply use the more precise terminology and say “*I have a goal and a plan*”, or “*I have a strategy to achieve something.*” They are not the same thing as dream(s) or vision(s) in the Bible.

When using these two terms we need to also understand the *source of information*. To be concise we’re considering whether this dream or vision was from God or from another source (e.g., self). When speaking from the *Biblical perspective* with Biblical terminology about vision(s) and dream(s), we’re talking about divine revelation from God as the source, not merely as a good plan conceived by the cognition of men, women, or children. As disciples of Christ we should earnestly seek to be led by Yahweh’s revelation and not by our own opinions and ideas, be they ever so wonderful.

[One caveat to note is that some dreams and visions can come from sources other than God. So, training in the *gift of prophecy*, and being accountable, and remaining affiliated with discerning and/or prophetic individuals are also necessary. I have written a bit on this topic in my books.]

So why walk through this narrative about *terminology* and the *source of information*? Many ministries are led today by manmade “visions” and “dreams” that were not revelatory in nature. Many ministries and churches are built upon success-driven formulas and business models with limited Biblical precedent and often little or no divine or special revelation. The plans might be OK. They might even be better than the plans of other ministries. But, they are

still man's plans, not God's optimal plans based upon a Biblical paradigm and prophetic insight. These ministries were conceived in the minds of man, not via the Spirit of the Living God.

In contrast, according to Ephesians 2:20 the foundation of the genuine Church was (and still is) built upon Jesus as the Cornerstone along with prophets and apostles, and the latter of whom were (and still are) prophetic. *"For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."* (Revelation 19:10b). So, the *leadership foundation* of the genuine Church is entirely prophetic.

Yet, many local churches and ministries lack the prophetic (i.e., revelatory gifts and prophetic callings) in their leadership and functioning. Some folks even go so far as to quench it, reject it, renounce it, and curse it. Woe, be that man or woman. May God extend his long-suffering mercy to them. We need local churches and ministries to embrace the model of the 1st Century Church and to establish or re-establish the tripartite prophetic *leadership foundation*. It just isn't optimal to have a pastor with good intentions (who typically lacks a revelatory gift and prophetic calling) saying, *"Follow me! I have a dream! I have a vision!"* That is how the *kingdoms of men* are established, not the *Kingdom of God*.

In conclusion, a "dream" is not a dream! A "vision" is not a vision!

OTHER:

John Manwell – Candidate for European Parliamentary Elections: John was a candidate of the *Christian Party / Christian Peoples Alliance* from the Northwestern UK for the European Parliamentary elections on June 4th. We are grateful for his step of faith and public testimony for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Catherine Dooley married Patrick Cashio: On July 25th Catherine (a Board member) married Patrick Cashio. The couple met while they were undergraduate students at Birmingham Southern College. They now reside in Dayton, Ohio and share a passion for Christian social justice. Congratulation & Blessings!



Radio Interviews: A *Life Perspectives* radio interview by Jim Cress aired on June 22nd and August 3rd. For future broadcast schedules please see www.lifeperspectives.org for dates and station information or www.afr.net for live online broadcast (click “Listen Now”).

Bellingham, WA: On Wednesday August 12th I ministered at the Hope in Christ Church facility, at the invitation of Pastor Anthony Westbrook of the House of Wisdom Ministry.

FUTURE EVENTS & NEWS:

Future Trips & Events:

- Birmingham, AL – Launch of **THE PATH** – September 5th
- Chicago, IL – September 11-13th
- Birmingham, AL – Hosting Native American ministers, Dr. Suuqiina & Quamaniq, the co-authors of *Warfare by Honor* – September 18th (tentative)
- Salt Lake City, UT – September 23-24th
- Cloverdale, British Columbia – ?
- Bellingham, WA – ?

Recommended Resources:

- George Barna – *The Seven Faith Tribes*
- Rich Marshall – *God @ Work, Vol. 2*

The recommended materials are not necessary endorsed in whole or in part by Path Clearer. They are mentioned to stimulate and to provoke thoughtful meditation.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME:

We would appreciate your financial support of this ministry! We pledge to use it frugally for maximal return-on-investment in the Kingdom of God. Please send your tax-deductible donations to enable *Path Clearer* to continue *influencing nations with Judeo-Christian truth*. *Path Clearer* is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation:

**Path Clearer Inc.
PO Box 661466
Birmingham, Alabama
35266-1466**

www.pathclearer.com -- info@pathclearer.com

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