

Assurance of Salvation  
Part 89c

Prayer Example:

A special work  
of God among Muslims

**#3**

**TESTIMONIES, STORIES,  
ETC.**

[Presentations given on different weeks  
during our study on PRAYER.]

**A special work  
of God among  
Muslims.**



A special work of God  
among Muslims,  
answering prayers in a  
unique way:

COME,  
FOLLOW ME!

Dreams and visions  
that direct them toward  
Jesus and the Bible.



**ANSWERED PRAYER:  
A SPECIAL SITUATION  
OCCURRING AMONG MUSLIMS**

- All across the world, large numbers of Muslims are becoming dissatisfied with Islam.
- Many are beginning to see it as an increasingly violent and backwards religious political system.
- They are desperately searching for an answer, but often have no idea where to look.

- Many are praying, and begging God to show them the answer, and have a willingness to follow God wherever he may lead.

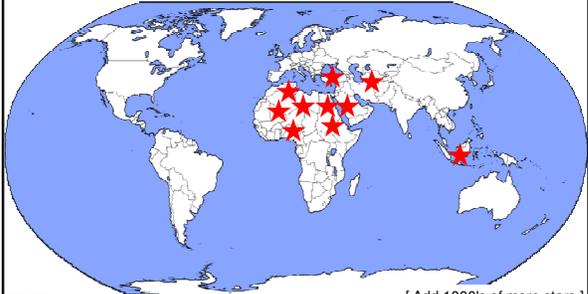
★ (We know that when this happens, God is already at work in their hearts.) ★

- In an apparent answer to their prayers, many are having dreams or visions that direct them to Jesus and the Bible.

God, I need you!

Look in the Bible!

It's happening in Islamic countries throughout the world... too many instances and too many places to be "explained away."



[ Add 1000's of more stars.]

## THE END RESULT?

- **They turn to the Bible**
  - and through the message of the Bible, *they are saved!*
- AFTERWARDS –
- **Their focus is NOT on the dream or vision**
  - but on the *Bible*, and on *Jesus* who saved them.

★ The dream or vision was just a *pointer* that directed them toward the actual source of salvation. ★

- **WE MUST NEVER FORGET:** It's NOT the dream or vision that saves. *It's Scripture, and Scripture alone, that the Holy Spirit uses to save people.*
  - Though he may use other things to direct them *toward* the Bible.\*

... *the holy Scriptures,*  
which are able to make you  
wise for salvation  
through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Tim. 3:15b (NIV)

\*(When it does *not* detract from his own glory.)

## Scriptural precedent

- Even in the New Testament, dreams and visions were only pointers. The people were to follow the *Scriptures!*
- **EXAMPLE: Cornelius (Acts 10)**
  - He was devout and God-fearing (v. 2), but did not know the way to salvation.
  - The vision merely *pointed* to the person (= Simon Peter) who would tell him the good news about salvation.

## IT'S AS SIMPLE AS "A, B, C"!

- A.** He **ACCEPTED** the instructions in the vision. (Here: The vision pointed him to Simon Peter.)

One day at about three in the afternoon *he had a vision.* He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"  
Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked.  
The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. *Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter.*"

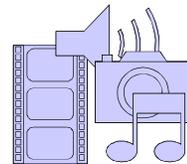
Acts 10:3-5 (NIV)

- B.** He **BELIEVED** the Scriptures. (Here: Simon Peter was the one who would tell him the good news about salvation, *as God commanded.*)

"So I sent you immediately, and it was good of you to come.  
*Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.*"

Acts 10:33 (NIV)

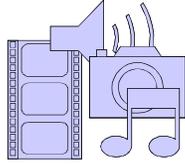
- C.** After this, he **CONFESSED** Jesus as Lord (through baptism), *based on the good news that Simon Peter had told them!*



- A video was played here

– an illustration of what God has been doing in the Muslim world.

## WHERE DID WE GET THIS VIDEO?



- It is available for free at a website called "More than Dreams" ([morethandreams.org](http://morethandreams.org)). The video was made to illustrate what God is doing in Muslim countries, and also as an evangelism tool.
- The authors carefully chose the person featured in the video. (The individual wasn't someone trying to get attention, fame or fortune!)
- They also point out that the important matter is following Jesus, not the dream or vision! (They do not want us to have a distorted focus.)

## > Scriptural warning <

- The **Devil** often uses dreams and visions... even ones that claim to come from God or an angel.
- This happened in both Old and New Testament eras, and many times since then.
- **What this shows us:** Having a dream or vision does not prove it's from God.  
(And those we normally have at night are just part of what happens when we sleep – or try to!)

## 2 Famous Examples

(False dreams/visions since the New Testament times)

- **Muhammad** (founder of Islam) had visions of someone who claimed to be the angel Gabriel.



- **Joseph Smith** (founder of the Mormons) also claimed to get his teachings from an angel.

## SO HOW DO WE KNOW IF IT'S FROM GOD?

### • IF IT'S FROM GOD:

- It will direct your attention to the Scriptures (the only genuine foundation for life) and then will fade into the background.
- You may even forget that it happened!

### • IF IT'S FROM ANOTHER SOURCE:

(This could be the a function of sleep deprivation, emotional instability, certain types of drugs, the devil, etc.)

- It may direct you away from the truth of Scripture.

**OR:**

- It may become the basis for your "faith"... the "proof" that you rely on – a "proof" that is as unreliable as standing on quicksand!

## Observations about the Muslims (who eventually become saved)

- These things happen to them for a specific purpose: to direct them to the Scriptures, which will prepare them...

1) for salvation and/or 2) for service to God.

- Once saved, it is likely that they will be persecuted or even killed.
- But God will strengthen them in the faith *through the Scriptures!*

For everything that was written in the past [in the Bible] was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the *encouragement of the Scriptures* we might have hope.

Romans 15:4 (NIV)

## Observations about us

- *We already have the Scriptures*, so we don't need a pointer to direct us to the Bible.
  - Besides, we'd be tempted to focus more on sharing our "experience," than in sharing God's word (perhaps even using it as a means of income).
- We can rejoice that God is pointing Muslims to the Scriptures!
  - Whatever way he may choose to do it.

## YOUR MISSION

- God has already introduced *you* to the Bible, so you no longer need something to "point" to it.
- Rather than pursuing something you don't need, follow the examples of the Muslims who have turned to Jesus:
  - *Look to Jesus*, who is the "author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).
  - *Rely on the Scriptures*, for the strength that is available through them!

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