

SEEING THE VOICE OF GOD

*What God Is Telling You
through Dreams and Visions*

LAURA HARRIS SMITH



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For Sheila, who smiled and listened
to everything I first saw.

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Foreword

I am constantly on the search for next-generation voices that carry content full of the Word of God, walk in the present-day anointing of the Holy Spirit and have character to carry the gift. One of these leaders is Laura Harris Smith. She is a godly woman with her priorities straight.

Living in the Nashville region now for the past several years, I have become a friend and adviser to Eastgate Creative Christian Fellowship, which Chris and Laura Smith co-lead. It is a passionate, Spirit-filled church cultivating the arts as an expression of the faith. I shout a loud AMEN to that!

Balance with an Edge

Seeing the Voice of God is a prophetic, progressive book with a cutting edge of truth, yet filled with so much Scripture and life experience that it is uniquely balanced as well. So I call this book “balance with an edge.”

Looking for a source that is biblically centered? Looking for an author who lives her message? Looking to be stretched out of your present comfort zone into new light of the Holy Spirit?

Then look no further. You are holding a balanced book with a sharp edge.

Impartation

If you want to grow in the area of dreams and visions, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and especially discerning of spirits, then your wait is over. Listening, waiting and watching are keys to growth in the things of the Holy Spirit.

The following Scripture exemplifies the content in this book:

For from days of old they *have not heard* or perceived by ear, nor has the eye seen a God besides You, who acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him.

Isaiah 64:4 NASB,
emphasis added

Notice the emphasis in this great Word. Eyes . . . ears . . . are all filled with the revelation of the Holy Spirit. After all, God acts on behalf of the one who waits for Him! Impartation happens when we cooperate with His ways! God acts on behalf of the one. . . . Who is that one?

God is an equal opportunity employer. That one He acts on behalf of can be you. Yes, you can come into a new level of activity of the Holy Spirit!

Fruit That Remains!

The thing I know for sure is that Laura Harris Smith wants to see fruit that remains to the glory of God! Learn the hindrances and move forward with keys to greater growth.

From a deep place of esteem, it is my great honor to commend to you the life, ministry and now writings of Laura Harris

Foreword

Smith. May your eyes see and may your ears hear the Word of the Lord for such a time as this.

Dr. James W. Goll, director,
Encounters Network and Prayer Storm;
author, *The Seer*, *Dream Language*, *The Lifestyle of a Prophet*,
The Coming Israel Awakening and many others

Is God Ever Silent?

It was early 1997, and I had a choice to make and about ten seconds in which to make it. I was in North Carolina at Chimney Rock State Park near Asheville, and my hike up to the top of Hickory Nut Falls had temporarily separated me from the rest of the pack when I had decided to dart into a small, recessed, craggy cave. But it was not just any cave. It was the famous cave behind the 404-foot waterfall featured in the final minutes of the 1992 epic film *The Last of the Mohicans*, the cave that the entire all-star cast filed into to hide, resulting in a heart-stopping escape that required jumping through the falls from the backside and plummeting into the river below.

I stood there looking at the backside of the waterfall, which was about 15 feet in front of me, and within seconds I was damped from the deafening mist. There was no guard rail, no attendant and most dangerously, none of my family standing there telling me not to go for it (the way they do when I express my desire to go skydiving). I could not believe the peace and fearlessness I felt. It was not as if I did not know where

I would land, because just before heading up the mountain, I passed right by it.

All of a sudden, it was not 404 feet in my mind, but just 5 seconds. Tops. So that I could get a running start, I backed up a few feet, and without a moment's hesitation, I was off. I do not even remember hitting the wall of water. Just the fall. Arms and legs flailing, it felt like 5 minutes of free fall, not 5 seconds, but the rush was indescribable! And then it happened. What I wish had not. I woke up.

But just before I did, on the way down in the dream, I had heard a booming voice say, "You are going to have a great fall." It is actually what jolted me awake, not the cold river itself, which I never reached. I sat up in bed with a gasp and immediately shook Chris, my levelheaded husband. Foregoing the cinematic details, I told him about the booming voice in the waterfall, which gave new meaning to John the Revelator's words, "His voice was like the sound of many waters" (Revelation 1:15 NASB). Fearfully, I repeated what I had heard: "You are going to have a great fall."

Without even opening his eyes, Chris calmly said, "Autumn, Laura. You're going to have a great autumn." Then he rolled over and went back to sleep. That precise interpretation instantly took me back to the misty peace and fearlessness I had felt just before my leap of faith about 5 seconds and 404 feet before.

It was indeed a great fall that year, and knowing it was coming made the hard summer more tolerable as autumn began to unfold play-by-play following that riveting dream. The adrenalized leap of faith I had experienced at the waterfall (which I later discovered integrated a man-made set in the movie for internal cutaway shots to the cave scenes) perfectly mirrored the plunge we had taken about a month before the dream, when Chris had made the decision to leave his corporate job after a successful, nearly two-decade music career in the Christian record industry. The emotions of the jump were the same as in the dream: peace and fearlessness on the front end and giddy terror immediately following. God had told us to trust Him and jump, but counting all the additional perks and public opportunities (like TV

appearances) that came with his job, it meant going from a six-digit income to zero overnight.

Not to mention that we had five children, the sixth being born during our free fall.

I start with that waterfall dream because it is a classic prophetic dream. Vivid during, stirring afterward and just plain ole pesky. Whether it is an encouragement, a warning, apocalyptic in nature or just giving practical life direction, a prophetic dream has a “gnawing drawing.” You cannot shake it. We will discuss the various types of prophetic dreams in chapters 2 and 3, but the most important thing to remember is that they are invitations. The Holy Spirit Himself is handing you a written invitation to seek Him. For interpretation. For application. For motivation.

Just as light can eventually
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during the night will talk
to you all day long.

Just as light can eventually produce sound,¹ a true prophetic illumination during the night will talk to you all day long.

I call my waterfall dream a prophetic dream, but before we delve further into exactly what that means, let me just say this about personal dreaming: One of the standard definitions when discussing prophecy or prophets in the Hebrew language is the word *nabi*, whose Arabic root word, *naba*, means “to announce.” Thus, a personal prophetic dream is merely God announcing something He is hoping to do through, for or to you.

After trudging through a financially trying summer, I decided to start my “great fall” (the autumn of 1997) off right in anticipation of God’s promise in my waterfall dream. We felt He had directed us to start a Christian management company with a vast artisan roster. Not just musicians, but also actors, artists, dancers and more, and while we already had one solid artist generating revenue, it was not enough to feed our huge family. We wondered why God was not speaking and telling us what else to do. Were our ears clogged? Was He playing hide-and-seek?

I started noticing swarms of Christian books being published on what to do when God is silent. It really started the wheels turning in my head. Was God truly ever silent? Who wants to serve a God who will not talk to them? Did He really see me down here begging for answers and just turn His head and ignore me? If so, I had to figure out why. If not, then all these books on a muted God had to deeply sadden Him. I had to know.

Five Days

More than 5 percent of the world's population is deaf or has disabling hearing loss—an estimated 360 million people.² But ask any Christian, and 100 percent of us will admit to experiencing disabling spiritual deafness, a much more startling figure. Undoubtedly, you have experienced seasons when the heavens were bronze and God seemed silent. These seasons are dangerous to the heart because they can cause it to wander and waver. That is exactly where I was headed. Proverbs 13:12 (NIV) says it best: “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.” Finally, while praying one day, I heard God's voice! But He spoke the most random phrase that had nothing to do with the answers I needed. I heard, “Five days.”

All at once—and I do mean all at once—this plan just laid itself out in front of me, accompanying the random phrase. I felt God saying that I was somehow going to read the Bible in five days, and that I was going to do it with one question in mind: “Is God ever silent?” I would do it not to study any doctrinal or historical context along the way, but just to see if God ever took an uncommunicative posture with mankind. It was as though He was going to settle this in my mind once and for all by taking me through the totality of Scripture to see how He interacted with every now-famous Bible character. When the answers you need are big, no self-help book will do. You have to go to the Author of authors.

But aside from wondering how on earth a mom of then five could steal away for that long, and aside from wondering how on earth a person could read the Bible in five days, there was the other question of where I could go to do this. For free. My father had just built a tiny prayer cabin in the woods on his 250-acre farm, and he agreed that I could be his first guest.

Before leaving for the farm, I did an experiment and timed myself by reading one average-sized Bible chapter to see if this goal was even feasible, because it sure seemed impossible to me. It took a little over two minutes for one chapter. Of course, some chapters are longer, but others are shorter, like Psalm 117, which is 2 verses long and contains fewer than 30 words. I then multiplied that 2¼ minutes by 1,189—the number of chapters within the 66 Bible books. The time came out to only 44¾ hours. That meant only a 9-hour reading day over 5 days, which was really no different from working a 40-hour workweek! I was thrilled at this attainable goal. Here was how it panned out in the end:

Day 1: Read Genesis through Numbers, 153 chapters @ approximately 2¼ minutes each = 5¾ hours.

Day 2: Read Deuteronomy through Esther, 283 chapters @ approximately 2¼ minutes each = 10½ hours.

Day 3: Read Job through Ezekiel, 414 chapters @ approximately 2¼ minutes each = 15½ hours.

Day 4: Read Daniel through Acts, 196 chapters @ approximately 2¼ minutes each = 7½ hours.

Day 5: Read Romans through Revelation, 143 chapters @ approximately 2¼ minutes each = 5½ hours

Total: 66 books (1,189 chapters) in 44¾ hours within 5 days.

I did not “chew” on each verse, but read continuously, stopping only to write in a journal about any passages related to God’s mouth or man’s ears. God had given me this insatiable desire to read through the Bible with one question in mind: “Is God ever silent?” The books dealing with this topic were

selling like hotcakes, and it seemed to me that they were putting words in God's mouth out of desperation in a hearing drought. I wondered if God was frustrated at the assumption that He would zip His lip and withhold direction from us. I found that contradictory to His benevolent nature. My hopeful hunch was that these authors were using

Surely no author would waste two hundred pages defending the argument that God has a mute button.

such titles as a tease, and then leading their readers through steps on rest and perhaps repentance that would unclog their ears.

Surely no author would waste two hundred pages defending the argument that God has a mute button.

Those five days changed my life. In a prayer cabin with only a wood stove, chopped wood and an oil lamp, I read through the entire Bible and answered my question without

a doubt: "No—God is *never* silent." I found plenty of verses that put the burden back on the shoulders of mankind, such as, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the LORD will not hear me" (Psalm 66:18 KJV). But I found nothing to imply that God becomes deaf and mute and withholds His counsel when we are walking uprightly in Him. Psalm 50:3 (NIV) even says, "Our God comes and will not be silent." That was answer enough for me. God will *not* be silent.

There was a period referred to as the "400 years of silence" that took place between Malachi (the very last of the Old Testament prophets) and Jesus' birth. But both Jews and many Christian groups view this period as one in which the prophets were silent nationally, but not as a time when God Himself was silent. Luke 2:36 mentions that the prophetess Anna was very old at the time of Jesus' birth, so clearly God was still speaking and prophets and prophetesses were still prophesying during those 400 years. God did not speak Scripture during this time, but He spoke individually and congregationally. Likewise, God did not speak Scripture during the time humankind was in the Garden of Eden, but He was still speaking. In fact, He has not

spoken Scripture for more than nineteen centuries, but He has still been speaking. He will not be silent.

So then, if God is never silent, why did it seem as though God was not speaking to my family and me lately? We had scraped the sides of our hearts clean a hundred times, humbly seeking Him. And then it hit me. If you have done the last thing God told you to do and are hearing nothing new, then you are perfectly within His will and can relax until the next step comes. We had, and we did.

To this day I hold that cabin journal in my hands and marvel at what God did during that “great fall.” A quote from my journal says, “I believe these five days in God’s Word are key days in this fall saga. I am expectant at what God will do during this season, at who He will be for me for the first time and who I will become in Him that will affect my lifetime.” That woman was right. Through a dream, He had used her eyes to open her ears.

He wants to do the same for you.

Four Eyes and Four Ears

Every Christian has four eyes and four ears. You are given one set when you are born and another set when you are born again. Through prophetic dreaming, God can communicate direction to you that perhaps you would not be able to hear while awake in your distracting environment. This is the entire basis behind the idea of this book about *seeing* the voice of God, because it involves communication without speech. We all know it is possible to communicate without words. Baseball players do it. Participants in a game of charades do it. Animals do it. Even babies do it.

Why, then, should God be limited to using only our ears to communicate with us? Did He not also give us four other senses with which to experience Him? He can speak to us through touch, taste, smell and, most certainly, sight. He created them

all, and everything He created is intended to help us comprehend Him. And besides, just as in my waterfall dream, oftentimes dreams do contain spoken words, so the spiritual ears are engaged. It is as if through dreams, the person who claims to have a hard time hearing God's voice suddenly hears with undistracted precision. Job 33:14–18 confirms this:

For God may speak in one way, or in another,
Yet man does not perceive it.
In a dream, in a vision of the night,
When deep sleep falls upon men,
While slumbering on their beds,
Then He opens the ears of men,
And seals their instruction.
In order to turn man from his deed,
And conceal pride from man,
He keeps back his soul from the Pit,
And his life from perishing by the sword.

“In a dream . . . He opens the ears. . . .” There you have it. We can hear with our eyes! Thus, dreams are an essential tool for people who question their ability to hear the voice of God. Visions, too. I often find that when people say they cannot hear God's voice, they are actually seers in training and do not know it. It is as though God is bypassing their ears and going straight to their eyes, which may become their strongest line of communication with Him. They have an enhanced prophetic eye through dreams and visions, and God wants to grow them in that.

As you can tell by now, I believe that God wants to speak to you at night. (If you are someone who works at night and sleeps by day, these promises are still just as much yours.) If we spend a third of our day in bed, and thus a third of our life in bed, then that means a 60-year-old woman has been asleep for 20 years of her life. With this math, it means that you yourself are asleep about 122 days out of every year. Why would God waste so much of your lifetime by being out of touch with you during those precious hours?

If God wants to speak with you during the day, then of course He wants to speak with you at night.

Does God sleep at night? No. Psalm 121:3 (NIV) says, “He who watches over you will not slumber.” And the first chapter of Genesis records God saying, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness” (verse 26 NIV). Notice the wording: *our* image and *our* likeness. He is already referring to the Trinity in the first chapter of the Bible. We see that just as God is made up of three parts, then we, being made in His image, are, too. We have a body and a mind, and they both slow down at night and rest. But we also have a spirit, and it never sleeps. It is the part of us that is like the One who, as we established, “will not slumber.” Our spirit is awake all night, longing to convene with God.

If we spend a third of our day in bed, and thus a third of our life in bed, then that means a 60-year-old woman has been asleep for 20 years of her life.

I like to think of it like a fulfillment of Song of Solomon 5:2 (KJV), “I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, ‘Open to me.’” I often pray that verse over myself when I go to bed: “Lord, You are my Beloved. I am going to sleep, but my heart is awake, listening for Your voice.” I expect God to speak and minister to my spirit each and every night in some creative way. Why would He just tuck you in at bedtime and move on to ministering to people who are awake in other time zones? Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV) says, “He will never leave you nor forsake you.” Doesn’t that pretty much mean “never”? Not even when you sleep? On the fourth day of creation, why didn’t He just skip over the invention of nighttime and never make a moon? Or stars?

I tell you, nighttime is God’s idea. It belongs to Him, and He is busy during it. The problem may be that many of us are dismissing our dreams, in which case the dreams will begin to cease coming. But look at the first part of the Job 33 passage again: “For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man

does not perceive it” (verse 14). We see here that God does speak through dreams and visions, but many people do not perceive it.

Perceive is a verb that means “discern, appreciate, consider, realize, recognize, become aware of, see, distinguish, grasp, understand, take in, make out, find, comprehend, apprehend, sense, figure out; regard, view.”³ Let it never be said of you that God speaks but that you do not discern, appreciate, consider or realize it! What a shame that would be for the Creator of the universe to have something to say to you and say it, only to have you disregard it as a “pizza dream.” With that mindset, the entire mysterious book of Ezekiel and all of its illogical, disorderly symbols could easily have been attributed to too much pizza. The Lord often chooses to speak obscurely, with seemingly unintelligible symbols, so that we must seek Him for interpretation. (We will discuss that further in chapter 7.)

Two Streams

Bestselling author James Goll makes a brilliant comparison between the Nile River and the prophetic flow of God on earth in his book *The Seer: The Prophetic Power of Visions, Dreams, and Open Heavens*. Although the mighty Nile is the longest river in the world at about 4,100 miles long, it begins its life as two separate rivers: the White Nile, which flows from Tanzania, and the Blue Nile, which springs from Ethiopia. Goll likens this to how God’s prophetic ministry overall on earth is fueled by two streams: the stream of the prophet and the stream of the seer.

What is the difference? In a multifaceted answer, Goll writes, “All true seers are prophets but not all prophets are seers.”⁴ He adds, “When it comes to prophetic revelation, a prophet is primarily an inspired hearer and then speaker while a seer is primarily visual. In other words, the prophet is the *communicative* dimension and the seer is the *receptive* dimension.”⁵

Hence, one stream involves the ears, and the other the eyes. I include Goll's river parallel here because it undergirds my sole ambition for this book, *Seeing the Voice of God*. His analogy applies to the offices and ministries of prophet and seer church-wide, however, whereas my points are more applicable to your individual life. You have the ability to both see and hear spiritually. Those are two streams flowing back and forth between your spirit man and God. But in seasons when we feel God is silent, or we are in geographical regions where hearing God's voice is difficult due to territorial strongholds of evil that seek to hinder His full reign, we can still *see* the voice of God through dreams and visions. We all sleep. We all dream. Science proves this, and we will explore medically in chapters 4 and 5 how to improve our dream recall so that we can better steward what God might be trying to communicate to us.

When your ears fail you, the eyes have it. When one stream temporarily dries up, the other still flows—and oftentimes floods. This is my personal testimony. When I found myself in the greatest hearing war of my life by day, my eyes opened at night through dreams, so much so that I began to “see” not only for myself but for other people, and then ministry was birthed.

While God was healing the dry spell in my other stream, my seeing stream began to gush. Even the physically hearing impaired will tell you that their eyesight becomes sharper to

Even the physically hearing impaired will tell you that their eyesight becomes sharper to compensate for their deafness.

compensate for their deafness. Not that they have better vision than hearing people per se, but they learn to use and rely on their other senses better to compensate.

Likewise, a hearing drought is the perfect time to ask God to open your eyes. Many times, those dreams and visions that come forth lead right back to open ears. Remember Job 33:15–16: “In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men.”

The Sixth Sense?

The *New Oxford American Dictionary* defines *sixth sense* as “a power of perception like but not one of the five senses: a keen intuitive power.”⁶ I guess I disagree that we even need a sixth sense. Are not the five senses that God gave us amazing enough? Can we not use them for constant communication with Him if we are seeking Him? In chapter 10, we will explore how God sharpens these senses further with the gifts of His Holy Spirit as we mature in Him. But even now, as that maturity is in the process of developing, your natural five senses are longing to experience Him. What are you waiting for?

Here are some examples of God Himself using these remarkable five senses in His relationship with humankind (the italics are mine):

Sight: “*God saw* all that He had made, and behold, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31 NASB).

Sound: “*God heard* their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob” (Exodus 2:24 NIV).

Smell: “*The Lord smelled* the soothing aroma” (Genesis 8:21 NASB).

Taste: “When *Jesus had tasted* it [the vinegar], he said, ‘It is finished!’” (John 19:30 NLT).

Touch: “*God touched* the hearts of certain brave men who went along with him” (1 Samuel 10:26 NCV).

Here are some examples of humankind using these five senses in relationship with God (again, the italics are mine):

Sight: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for *they will see* God” (Matthew 5:8 NIV).

Sound: “*My sheep hear* My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me” (John 10:27).

Smell: “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests *through us the sweet aroma* of the knowledge of Him in every place” (2 Corinthians 2:14 NASB).

Taste: “*Taste* and see that the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8 NLT).

Touch: “And all the *people were trying to touch* Him, for power was coming from Him and healing them all” (Luke 6:19 NASB).

I do not think we need a “sixth sense” as the world defines it. I think the Holy Spirit can make our five senses naturally supernatural all day long and communicate with us enough to draw us to Himself. Of course, we not only want to communicate with Him, but *for* Him, and that is where our spiritual senses come into play, which we will discuss in chapter 10 (prophecy, words of knowledge, words of wisdom and others). But even when we are walking in the Spirit and fully employing those spiritual senses, God still can use the five natural senses He has given us, with which we experience Him.

One Angle

I have no idea where you are in your walk with God, or if you even believe in Him. I have no way of knowing if you eagerly bought this book or if an insightful friend gave it to you. When authors write, they first establish an audience in their heads that they then easily speak to—a specific population of people they have in mind. But in this case, even after writing a full chapter, I still cannot discern who that demographic is for this book. It is as if I cannot narrow it down. I see the faces of some of you who have spent a lifetime loving God, yet I see others who revere Him at a distance but need persuading that He really wants to say anything specific to them—or they are scared that He might. Then I see even others who are intrigued by the theme but put off by all the Scripture.

What we all have in common—and therefore, the angle from which I will write—is that we all want to know and be known. And whether this book is too churchy for you or not churchy enough is secondary to what we might accomplish together by the end of it.

I find myself in a risky position writing this book, because while I know that it is going to bring purpose and revelation to countless fledgling seers all over the world, I also run the risk of being crucified by all those whose eyes are shut. I am in danger of upsetting any Christians who do not believe that seers still exist, and in danger of upsetting the lost who do not believe that Christ exists. It is my prayer that both camps will listen and learn, because by the end of this book, I believe they both will see undeniably that not only is Christ still alive, and not only is He desiring to communicate with us, but that He is raising up a generation of sharp-eyed seers in a spiritually deaf world.

The prophet Joel foresaw this generation, prophesying,

“And it shall come to pass in the last days,” says God,
“That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.
And on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;
And they shall prophesy.”

Acts 2:17–18 (see also Joel 2:28–29)

The apostle Peter, familiar with Joel’s prophecy, reiterated it as he saw its budding fulfillment in Jerusalem almost two thousand years ago.

The pouring out has begun. The stewardship of it has not begun in full, although some in the prophetic community are doing a great job of teaching their hearts out in an attempt to see the outpouring governed well. If overmanaged by those who view dreams and visions as a messy threat to a tidy gospel, the outpouring is quenched. But if undermanaged by sloppy,

self-appointed prophets, dreams and visions are left up to the seer's own interpretation and quickly become confusing, unedifying and even psychic in nature.

Let me state forthrightly that you do not need a dream or a vision to believe the Bible. If you feel you do, something is missing in your heart toward God, and it might just be His Son. If Jesus *is* in your heart as a result of a definitive invitation to Him, but you still feel the Word of God is not illuminated when you read it, then your issue is not with Christ but with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not just seal you on the day of your salvation and retire. He wants constant communication with you. That includes dreams and visions, yes, but should the content of one ever stray from what God's Word teaches, it is not from Him.

You were made in the image and likeness of God—the all-powerful One and Creator of all things supernatural—so it is perfectly normal for you to desire powerful, supernatural encounters. Sadly, though, people equate communication with God as a supernatural encounter, when really it is just your birthright as His child. As we move forward, please lay aside all preconceived mysticism relating to dreams and visions. Also lay aside any critical thoughts suggesting that teaching such as you will find in these pages seeks to replace God's Word with supernatural encounters. Encounters like dreams and visions do not compete with God's Word; they complement it.

In this book you will find biblical teaching on how to hear God's voice, and also on how to *see* God's voice through dreams and visions—which comes in particularly handy when you feel your spiritual ears are failing you. You will read information from doctors about sleep and dream cycles, and also learn which vitamins and minerals are beneficial for improving your dream recall. You will learn what a prophetic dream is and what it is not, as well as how to classify it from one of ten biblical categories so that you know what to do with one when it comes. You will study dozens of dreams in Scripture and hear modern testimonies of vivid dreams that were fulfilled with utmost accuracy. You will

get to scan a dream dictionary that will help make sense of the symbols in your visions and dreams, since revelation without interpretation hinders application.

You will learn how the life of every believer in Jesus must include a hunger for the constant filling of the Holy Spirit in order to accomplish holiness, without which no one will see the Lord. (This applies to seeing in dreams and visions, too.) You will also discover how that environment of hunger opens the communication lines between you and heaven, resulting in “20/20 hearing” and even fostering angelic visitations. But remember, seek the Giver and not the gifts, for if you seek the gifts themselves, the enemy will make sure to hand-deliver to you every counterfeit he can conjure. You will hear in chapter 10 from a former psychic who will describe his experiences in that lifestyle. He will explain what the prophetic flow of revelation feels like in comparison to the psychic flow and describe how the successes he had in spell-casting brought him a revelation of the power in his words—a biblical truth that remains with him today as he serves God and seeks to be His voice to the lost and dying.

As you read the words of this book, I pray the prayer of Elisha over you from 2 Kings 6:16–17 (NIV):

“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Life gets tough, but when God opens your eyes to the spirit realm it changes everything. Your courage in fearful situations increases, your ability to make wise choices increases, your tolerance of hard-to-get-along-with people increases and your ability to trust God and discern the spirits that oppose Him increases. And as these eye-opening experiences heighten with your reading of this book—including having more dreams and visions—I

urge you to begin keeping a Lookbook, which is a journal of all your seeing encounters, both sleeping and waking.

Finally, if this book is in your hands, it is not by chance. I have been praying for you and probably even did so this very morning. Yes, it is full of Scripture, because in the end, God's words will do more for you than my words. He is the Author of authors, so in my book, His book has final authority.

How did people in the Bible interpret their dreams without a Bible to guide them? In the end, it all came down to relationship. They knew and were known by the living God, with whom they had a relationship. They learned to hear and see His voice with the Holy Spirit's help. And most important, they applied faith to what they heard and saw and let it interrupt their lives. You will have to do the same when reading this book.

It is so very simple. God loves you. He is intimately concerned with the details of your life. If you will let Him, He wants to help you navigate through life and dodge the detours. When dodging a detour is impossible (due to the will of another person whose disobedience to God is affecting you adversely), He wants to help you navigate through the emotions of that situation and get back on course.

But it all begins with a relationship with Him. If you have wholeheartedly come to the Father through His Son, Jesus, you should expect to communicate with Him daily. And nightly. You should be hearing Him with your ears during the day and with your eyes at night. If you are not, then I truly believe that this book will provide both the diagnosis and the cure for your spiritual deafness and blindness, because within its pages are enough Scriptures and testimonies to convince even the greatest skeptics that God is never silent and that He is, in fact, unceasingly trying to communicate with us.

If you have wholeheartedly come to the Father through His Son, Jesus, you should expect to communicate with Him daily. And nightly.

“Common Senses”

You came into my heart that day, I knew it in my head
But now mere knowledge will not do, I need Your touch
instead

I want to see Your voice at night and hear it in the day
I want my feet to not retreat, but briskly to obey

I want to feel Your gentle touch; I want You to feel mine
I want Your personality to cause my face to shine

I want to see Your smiling face each time my faith's
been great
And taste and see how good You are whenever it's been
late

Where once I gave my heart to you and felt it come alive
Today I dedicate to You my senses, Lord, all five.

© Laura Harris Smith, July 23, 2012

PRAYER

Let's pray out loud together:

God, thank You for wanting to communicate with me. I want a deeper relationship with You, and I invite You into my heart for a 24/7 experience that allows me to hear Your voice by day and see it by night. Jesus, You say in John 10:27 that Your sheep know Your voice and follow You, so today I call myself Your sheep and call You my Shepherd. I vow to follow You whether waking or asleep. Lord, thank You for my four eyes and four ears, and for how You have equipped me to comprehend Your will for my life with all of the five senses You have given me. O God, open the eyes of my heart! Open the ears of my heart! Use both streams flowing from Your throne to hone my senses. Forgive me for where I have not perceived that You were speaking—especially in dreams and visions. I vow no longer to dismiss, despise or dread the prophetic gift. Ground me in

Is God Ever Silent?

*Your Word, Lord. I vow to also use my eyes to study it more.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

IMPARTATION

Right now, I release and impart to you the ability to perceive when God is communicating to you and the desire to seek Him quickly. (Now open your hands, shut your eyes and receive it.)