

## **Rebuttals to the falsehood entitled ‘Gospel and Church’ proclaimed by the Breakaways**

This is written in response to the deviant beliefs perpetrated by the breakaways from the True Jesus Church (TJC). The main purpose of these rebuttals is to help the believers of the True Jesus Church to be rooted in the beliefs of the church according to the Bible and to expose the fallacies of the beliefs of the breakaways:

The breakaways have come up with a series of strange teachings to promote what they believe in. Very clearly, they have crossed the parameters of the truth that they learnt before in the goodness of the Holy Spirit. They have deserted their faith, in pursuit of falsehood.

### **PART EIGHT OF TEN**

The following are what they have stated and believed in:

#### **The Breakaways’ Proposition eight: Concerning visions and dreams**

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.” (Acts 2:17-18 NIV)

The Bible emphasizes visions and dreams. Through the revelation from God in a vision, Peter preached the gospel to Cornelius. Paul was indicated by the Holy Spirit in a vision to preach to the people in Macedonia. There are altogether 28 chapters in the book of Acts from where we can find 17 visions and dreams of which 3 are repeats. On average, there are about 2 visions and dreams per every three chapters. Apostles looked upon visions and dreams greatly.

Regarding visions and dreams, we need to weigh carefully since not every spirit deserves to be believed. But it doesn't mean we should oppose and forbid visions and dreams. The Bible does not disregard visions and dreams nor is it against the will of God, since the Holy Spirit confirms that there are visions and dreams according to the Bible. God, in a vision, delivered the Ten Commandments to Israel through Moses; The Lord Jesus was revealed to Paul; By the visions from the Holy Spirit, Peter preached to Cornelius and family (gentiles) where the apostle started to realize the gospel of salvation was not only for the physical Israel alone but also for all nations; By the vision from the Holy Spirit, Philip brought the precious gospel of heaven to the nations in Africa. They were ever accursed because of law but now gained the favor of God through the blood of Jesus; The last but not the least, by the vision from God, Paul spread the truth of the gospel to Europe which laid the foundation of their faith today. We believe God never changes who will restore His holy temple by the truth throughout the universe.

May God grant us the spiritual wisdom to discern rather than denying, as we have the Bible, the only and accurate reference for us to distinguish visions and dreams.

#### **Our responses based on the Bible: Ultior Motives of the Breakaways**

1. One of the tricks the breakaways employ is to draw the attention of the church through visions and dreams they claim they have received. The intention here cannot be clearer – they want the church to believe that God abides with them in their work.

## **Ulterior Motives of the Breakaways (continued)**

2. They prey on the naivety of some members, instilling in their minds that since God always reveals to them matters concerning His church and their ministry work, it is unlikely that they could have done anything wrong, despite having broken away from the church.
3. The constantly mentioning of unverified dreams and visions will weaken the members' ability to discern. Members would drop their guards against them, becoming easily ensnared by their false teachings and would end up championing their cause.

## **Biblical Principles**

1. It is not biblical accurate to say that God emphasises on dreams and visions. They are given according to the needs of the church. The giver is God and He alone possesses the sole right to give to whomever He wishes. The sole reason is to benefit the church and not for self-exaltation and promotion.
2. According to Joel, prophecies, dreams and visions are given at the outpour of the Holy Spirit (Joel. 2:28-29). They are given within the frame of the functions of the Holy Spirit. Since the Holy Spirit and the truth are inseparable, dreams and visions will not be given contrary to the truth.
3. When someone always tells lies and goes against the church, naturally his dreams and visions are questionable. Since he willfully disobeys God, he becomes severed from God. Surely God will not abide with him let alone giving him dreams and visions.
4. When someone no longer preaches the truth that the church has received, it is unlikely that the visions and dreams he has received are from God (2 Thess. 2:10-11). Indeed they are false teachers of the deceit of their own hearts (Jer. 23:26). They try to make the brethren forget the truth by their dreams (cf. Jer. 23:27). In most cases, they prophesy false dreams (Jer. 23:32).
5. In the church, it is the truth that matters the most. We need to understand dreams and visions do not save but the truth does. They are given to support the truth that the church has received.

## In a Nutshell

There are 2 ways to go about discerning dreams and visions. First, it is needful to look at the behaviour of the person, who claims to have dreams and visions. If he is not of the truth then the source of his dreams and visions is not of God. Please be reminded that false teachers do have many dreams and visions but from the imagination and deceit of their hearts. The important thing is we have to root our faith in the word and not just miracles, signs and wonders.

Second, in time of confusion, we are required to purify our hearts, to see to it that there is nothing evil remaining in the inner being. We are to focus more diligently than ever before on the word of God. By doing so, we draw closer to the Lord. Advertently, God will guide us in all the things that we do, including giving us wisdom and the capacity to discern the truth from falsehood.