

SHORTCUT FAILS

By Diane Scalchunes

I gave a missionary a word based on a dream I had about him. In the dream he was looking for a larger ministry to help him. He wasn't to do that. Unbeknownst to me he was questioning his relationship with this ministry precisely at that time. God gave him this dream to confirm the word:

I was taking American Airlines Flight #99. We were going along quite smoothly. Suddenly the pilot decided he could get us to our destination quicker if he flew much higher. Evidently, without proper preparation, he took the plane up very quickly. Everyone on the plane was shaken. Then something went terribly wrong. Red lights and an alarm went off. Within seconds we were falling downward, and I knew the plane was about to crash. As we were heading down, I saw a red sign flash "Shortcut Fails."

I woke up just then and was very shaken, as if my dream were real.

I believe there are no shortcuts to being like Jesus and for preparing for the end-time ministry. Like Joseph, who had to become like Jesus through suffering before he could fulfill his call, so are we called. There are no shortcuts.

The Lord has a destiny for each of us. In order to walk it out, we have to give up the idea that we can get from point A to point Z, bypassing points B, C, D, etc. Many are running to and fro, from conference to conference, hoping to have a prophet pick them out and tell them they are going to be the next big signs-and-wonders man (or woman) thrust onto the world stage.

Of course God can do anything He likes; He can instantly anoint someone and that person may immediately have an international ministry. But for the most part, life doesn't work like that.

It is true that we can pick up some transferable anointing on a person's life at a conference or a meeting. But if God has not prepared us to walk in that anointing, I can guarantee the devil will steal it from you within days, maybe weeks if you are blessed. Why? Because we walk by faith.

For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he

**who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
(Romans 12:3-8 NASB)**

We have to grow in the gift that God has given us and we do that by exercising it through faith. After 25 years of walking in the miraculous, the apostle Paul had faith to walk in special miracles. We all want shortcuts, and I do believe God can expedite the process, but for the most part we walk by faith, from glory to glory.

WHITE HOUSE

This spring I took a trip to Washington DC. A week or so before, I had a discussion with my nephew, a federal marshal, about getting a secret service tour of the White House. The Lord used this conversation to communicate His thoughts to me through a dream.

In my dream I was about to enter the White House. My nephew (who represented Jesus in the dream) was going in with a SWAT team because there was a sniper inside. I went in with them.

Once in the White House, I found myself gazing out a window at a long line of people waiting to go on the tour.

Someone cut the line and told the guard erroneous information about my nephew, trying to use his name to get in. He barely knew my nephew and didn't have a clue as to what was going on with the sniper. In a loud voice from my position at the window, I told him he had to get back on line and wait his turn; there were no shortcuts.

HIS WAYS

Many people in the body of Christ run to and fro looking for a word from God. I know some people who have been called out in conferences, and the word they were given they surely needed. The floodgates of adversity hit and they had to swim holding on to that word. Sometimes God, in His loving-kindness, will give us a word in a dramatic fashion because we are going to need it to stand against the winds of difficulty.

We do not have to run here and there. God tells us how we are to know Him: **“Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10 KJV).**

I recently had a dream in which I was with my boss, Jesus; I was His assistant. I went over to someone who represents conference-hopping to me. She stood up went over to Jesus and, to my astonishment, said, “Hi, my name is so-and-so. I never met you before.”

The next morning, when I was praying about my dream, Jesus said to me, *People who refuse to do the workings of the cross, which are My ways, go after My acts.*

“He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel” (Psalm 103:7 NASB).

BEARS FRUIT

God sometimes sends us to places to train us for serving. One time a pastor I knew was going to visit a large church to observe one of their ministries known as Harp and Bowl. I had a dream before he left that he was to go alone. This trip wasn't for the other pastors he wanted to go with. I told him to bring back the anointing, which he did. That was at least five years ago. To this day his ministry is moving in that anointing; it still bears fruit.

If we go to a place Jesus hasn't sent us, and if we try to bring back what we learned to our local church, it is just going to interrupt and contradict what God is trying to do there.

Time and time again I've seen the "conference high" fizzle out on people and they are left spiritually below where they were before they left. You have to dig your own well; you have to grab hold of what God wants you to do where you are planted.

AIRLIFTED

I had a dream in which I was in the region of a church my friend attends. A demon that looked like a well-known Christian worship leader came over to me. She also looked like someone I know who is crippled. I understood that those who align themselves with her would have their walks severely crippled. I also knew what she represented: selfish ambition. She told me she had been attending my friend's church regularly.

One of her cohorts saw me and acted nervous that I was there. He said to me, "Are you going to prophesy like your friend?" I said, "I have been prophesying against selfish ambition and I will continue to do so with unction."

I called my friend the next day and said, "I know what you prophesied last Sunday." I told her my dream. She said it was true, and she hadn't hit that area in a long time. This, to the best of my recollection, is what the Lord gave her:

Many want to be airlifted onto the mountain of glory, but I tell you, Moses had to tend to someone else's flock in the wilderness, he had to become a servant, before he could even approach My holy mountain. Moses had to learn what being a shepherd was about first; shepherding someone else's sheep at that! There are no shortcuts.

May we find our divinely designated place in Jesus' body. May we dig our own wells, cultivate our own gardens, and bear fruit that lasts for the glory of our King. ■