

I have never had a dream that I remembered so vividly and as real as this dream. I woke from this dream and typed it out as fast as I could, because I was worried that I would forget it like every other dream I've had. Strangely, I still remember this dream just as good today as when I first woke up from it. So, here's my dream...

David Allen Collinsworth's Dream
March 5th, 2012

On the early morning of March 5th, 2012, I had a dream. I dreamed that I was in this church--a beautiful church with gold painted walls, carved columns and theater seating. It was an amazing building but I noticed that there were very few people in there. Hardly anyone was in the seats. I looked and on the stage was a very small puppet stage. A couple of hand-puppets were doing a little song and dance act, but the small crowd was not reacting at all to the show being put on by the puppets. The people were not clapping or laughing or singing along and some people were even getting up and leaving because the show was so boring.

Then I remember that time went by. I'm not sure how much time, but I remember hearing that the leaders of the church had wanted to make changes to the church service in order to get more people to come in. They had wanted to make the service more exciting, more modernized. So after some time had passed I remember I went back into the church again and now the church was filled with hundreds of people laughing and cheering and singing along. As I looked at the stage, there was now a bigger puppet stage and it had a lot more puppets (maybe about fifty or more), and all the puppets were singing and dancing along with one big exciting praise song. I remember that I was so amazed at the transformation of the church service. It was so exciting and moving. They had gone from having a small puppet show and a few people watching in the pews to (now) an amazingly large puppet show with hundreds of people in the audience all excited about coming to church now.

I remember that as I watched this amazing service (show), that I was so curious about the puppets because they were so good at dancing together in perfect choreographed dance routines, singing in harmony and leading the crowds in cheers and chants. I really wanted to look behind the puppet stage to see who was controlling the puppets and getting everybody excited with their new song and dance. So I passed through the curtains of the stage and finally I saw the truth. I was so surprised, to see that the puppets were actually people with big puppet faces on their heads. I remember wondering why they were hiding their faces with those fake smiling puppet heads. One of the man-puppets, seeing me come back, looked over at me and told me I was *not* allowed to be behind the stage, so I left. I remember thinking as I went back outside the curtain and saw all the people in the pews that these people were so excited about this new show... but they did not know that it was all fake.

Upset, I turned and as I went to walk out the door of the stage, I suddenly heard a loud noise like a huge explosion and then crackling of flames, and then the blare of emergency sirens coming from back within the church sanctuary. I turned around and was about to run back on the stage to see what

had happened, but there was a guy now standing there who tried to stop me. He told me I couldn't go back in but, I didn't listen to him. I pushed passed him and ran back on the stage. I was shocked at what I saw; the whole inside of the church had been torched to a dark, charred look. There was smoke in the air everywhere and black soot covered the once gold-painted walls, which was now all burnt and weakened and in danger of falling. It was as if the building had suddenly combusted into flames and then quickly the flames had gone out leaving only smoke and ash behind. It was so intense that I could smell the smoke in my dream. I looked over and saw that all the fake puppets had already left the building, but a lot of the people in the pews were still singing and dancing as if nothing had happened. They had not realized that the building was fatally damaged and in danger of collapsing. The guy, who stood at the door, and I both knew that the building was about to collapse. So, we worked to quickly hurry the people out of the door of the building. But it was very hard because no one really wanted to leave the building and those that did leave moved very slowly. And the people that we were able to get to leave, still fought with us, telling us that there was nothing wrong with the building and that everything was still the same. Sadly, so many others that chose to stay behind, we never saw them again.

Almost outside, I suddenly remembered that I had to go back and get my stuff before the building collapsed. The guy once again tried to stop me, telling me to leave my stuff behind, not to worry about it and get out of the building! But I didn't listen. I ran back on the stage and over to the side where I knew there was a small wooden ladder standing. I quickly climbed that ladder into a small attic area just below the roof of the church. On the side, I saw a little thin mattress where I knew that I had been sleeping all this time, and beside the mattress there were some papers. I knew these were my papers. I jumped up into the attic and I crawled over to get the papers from beside the mattress. All the time I could hear the guy down below telling me to leave the papers because we had to get out of the building before it collapsed. I remembered that I stopped and looked down at those papers and realized that they were important to me because they were all my ideas. They were my ideas I had for saving churches from closing down. It was at this point I realized that though I thought that these papers (or ideas) had been important to me ...I knew that they weren't important enough to risk my life to save them. I then understood that it was foolish of me to try to save something that was about to fall.

This is where I woke from my dream...

Interpretation:

The Building

The Building represents the many churches in our world today that act more like "Social Clubs" than places of worship, fellowship or teaching of God's Word. "The Golden-Painted Walls" represents the idea that we spend more money on beautifying our church buildings than we do on reaching out to the lost and dying world around us. We forget that these buildings that we spend so much money on and

work so hard to build will be left behind here on earth and only those souls that we help save here on earth... will go to Heaven. Thus it is more important to focus on people's souls that can be saved... then on buildings that cannot be saved.

The Puppet Stage

The Puppet Stages represent our ways of attracting people into coming into our churches today, with our shows and our songs and our stage theatrics. "The Small Puppet Stage" represents the old outdated ideas that don't work anymore at drawing people into the church, while "The Larger Puppet Stage" represents the idea that when our shows start to become boring we always try to come up with the next new/big idea for enticing more people in to our churches. Both ideas are the same though; they are both just "Fake Puppet Shows" trying to get people to come into a church. I believe we should rely on God's Love to draw people into our churches and not rely on our "Shows", like how well we sing or how exciting our stage performances are. It is the Holy Spirit that draws men to God, not how well we can perform on stage.

The Man in the Puppet Mask

The Man in the Puppet Mask represents the leaders of our churches today. The idea that some leaders of the church hide behind fake smiles and do a "Song and Dance" to entertain their congregations, but (behind the mask) their hearts are not right and they don't want anyone looking behind their curtains to see who they really are. It is important that the leadership of the churches today be victorious in their own personal walks with God before stepping up on the stage and trying to lead others.

The Fire

I realize "The Fire", that so quickly engulfed the building, was God's Judgment on the churches themselves. I believe that God is growing tired of the fake worship and the meaningless stage performances and "The Fire" represents a purging of the church and its man-made traditions, setting everything back to ZERO, no more "Golden Walls", no more "Puppet Shows", no more "Song and Dance", no more "Fake smiles". God wants us to worship Him and only Him... and not the people or buildings or things of this world.

The People

The People represent God's lost sheep. When a church fails, some of these sheep will leave the church in anger and never return, while others will be blinded in their own beliefs... that there is nothing wrong with the churches today and everything is okay, these people will hang on to their worldly ideas and

keep to their own man-made traditions. But other people will see the problems with the churches and they will act to bring about change, putting the Will of God... before the Will of Man again. In the end, church buildings will pass away but the Body of Christ will survive. And the Body of Christ will be saved because of their obedience to God and not because of fundraising programs.

The Man at the Door

For me, the Man at the Door represents the Holy Spirit who, as you can see I didn't listen to very well. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit is always their guiding, protecting and speaking words of wisdom. He is our ever present help in our time of need. And although we make stupid decisions (Like I Did in This Dream) he will always be there to pull us out of the burning building.

The Thin Mattress and the Paper beside the Mattress

This part of the dream is very personal to me, but I will share what it means to me. "The Attic" is a small space that represents humble living. Note that the little attic was above the beautiful grand sanctuary. I have personally never tried to live beyond my means even while I watched money being spent in the church over frivolous and meaningless things. Still, in my dream, I could not let go of this space. The "Thin Mattress" represents my spiritual unrest. If you have ever tried to sleep on a thin mattress on a hard floor you'll know exactly what I mean. I wake up with a spiritual sense of tiredness every day, a feeling that I'm always fighting a losing battle. I realized in this dream that I was always losing my "Battles". But maybe the reason I was losing my battles was I was fight in the wrong war. See, I realized that I was always trying to save Church Buildings, working to keep the church doors open and the bills paid and keep everyone happy. But in the end, for God it's not about buildings, it about people's souls. Because... in the end buildings can't be saved... only souls can be saved. "The Papers" represent all my ideas. There is a scripture for this, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Proverbs 14:12. We can have all the best ideas in the world but, in the end, God want's it done His way and not our way.

This dream has effected me and change me in such a way that it is very hard to explain. I can tell you that I cannot walk into a church anymore without thinking about this dream. But in the end I know this dream was a blessing for me. I share this dream not to judge or condemn but to only present it as a word that you can freely take or freely leave.

Thank you and may the Lord our God Bless you,
David Allen Collinsworth