

## **God's Dream Your Reality**

Life's three greatest questions:

- 1) The question of existence – why am I alive?
- 2) The question of significance – does my life matter?
- 3) The question of intention – what is my purpose?

*It is important for us to have dreams for our lives. It is even more important to know that God has dreams for us?*

God's dream for our lives may be different than our dreams for our lives!

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT) "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. **9** For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT) That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10 (Amplified Bible) For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

Ephesians 2:10 (The Message) He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. We must believe it

We must believe God has a dream for us larger than the life we are living.

Jesus – others dream for Him to overthrow the government – God's dream his government would be everlasting.

Joseph – His dream was to rule over his brothers – God's dream was for him to rule over nations.

Saul's dream was to destroy the church – God's dream was to use Paul to build the church.

Several years ago I preached a series on *Continuing to Realize our Dreams*

*We said that in order to fulfill these dreams we need to:...*

*We need to REALIZE God has a dream for our lives*

*R - Reflect on Your Journey*

Where are we in our life's journey? Are we on the right path, are we pursuing God's dream for our life or our own?

How does my journey relate to God's dream for my life?

*E - Evaluate Your Progress*

*“Be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to understand what the Lord wants you to do.”*

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NLT)

Am I paying the price to get to the destination I have been created for? Am I moving closer or further away?

Am I doing what I know to do?

Philippians 3:16 (NKJV) Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

*A - Assess Where You Are*

We are somewhere between where we have been and where we need to be.

Where will you be in five years? In three years? Next year? Next 4 weeks?

Could we use this next 4 weeks to reaffirm if we are living out the dream God has for us?

Is the vision for the dream for my life still front and center? Was it ever?

Without vision, we can find ourselves and our organizations going nowhere fast. But a good vision can be the roadmap to a successful destination.

There's no doubt that vision is valuable to a leader. But how valuable is it to you?

Sometimes it's easy to underestimate the value of a personal vision until we are reminded of all that it can do for us.

The Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius put it this way, "A man's life is what his thoughts make of it."

William James said, "The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind."

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Proverbs 29:18 (NKJV) Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

"Dissatisfaction and discouragement are not caused by the absence of things but the absence of vision." – Anonymous

Moving forward do we need a Resolution or Revolution?

According to the American Heritage Dictionary:

Resolution - 1. The state or quality of being resolute, (characterized by firmness or determination; pursuing a fixed purpose; unwavering), firm determination. 2. The act of resolving to do something. 3. A course of action determined or decided upon.

Revolution - 3. A sudden political overthrow brought about from within a given system, especially a. A forcible substitution of rulers or of ruling cliques: a palace revolution.

## *L - Let Go of The Past*

Philippians 3:12-14 (NKJV) Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Past Failures – we need to learn from them and move on. Not be paralyzed by them. We all have them.

Past Successes – we need to celebrate and move on.

Past Disappointments – disappointments will come, as a matter of fact many, if not most things, will fall somewhat short of our expectations  
Past Relationships – sometimes we are trying to take somebody with us that simply has no desire to go.

## *I - Invest in Your Dream (Stewardship)*

To live out God's purposes for your life it will cost you, in varying degrees, your time, your talents, your treasure or financial resources, and your testimony or reputation.

Philosopher William James affirmed that the great use of one's life is to spend it for something that will outlast it, for the value of life is computed not by its duration but by its donation. Not how long we live but how fully and how well.

Leonard Ravenhill stated: "The opportunity of a lifetime must be seized within the lifetime of the opportunity!"

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

Thomas A. Edison

Is your life so busy, you don't have time to stop, even for 40 Days and focus on God? You will live an average of 25,550 days. That's what the average person lives. Don't you think it would be smart to take 40 of those days to figure out what you should do with the rest of them? I think so. I think that's pretty wise. You get distracted by tasks, but as you know, not every task is of equal value.

- Rick Warren

## *Z - Zero In (Set Faith Goals)*

Prayerfully “Chart our Course” with faith goals to continue walk out our purpose

In order to be able to walk in accountability, and fulfill our purpose we must not only have faith but we must have faith goals. A goal is a benchmark or a target. Goals are like a series of quantifiable steps toward our goal or realizing our God given dreams and vision.

James 2:20 (NKJV) But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

James 2:26 (NKJV) For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

So Is a Dream Without Goals and Perseverance Almost Certain to Die.

## *E - Expect (Mixing Faith and Works)*

God has placed and is placing in the hearts of each one of us, faith.

***Someone has said that faith is not "believing in spite of evidence, but obeying in spite of consequence."***

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