

Put Your Dream to the Test Part 1

Dr. Martin Luther King had a dream. Unfortunately for him, he did not live very much longer to see his dream fulfilled, but today, in this great nation, his dream is continuing to be realized as a black man now holds the highest office in the land.

Today in America, little black boys and little black girls, in the same racially torn state of Alabama, play together with little white boys and little white girls.

Has racism been eradicated from our country? No. Racism is sin, and sin will not be eradicated from this earth until Jesus returns and remakes the earth, according to scripture, a fact that Dr. King knew as a gospel preacher. But that did not stop the pursuit of his dream.

That is the power of a God-inspired dream in the hands of a believer foolish enough to believe it.

The Bible is full of people with God-inspired dreams.

Abram, a childless idol worshipper in the land of Ur of the Chaldeans, was given a dream by God and was foolish enough to believe Him.

*** Gen 12 , it says this:

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you;
2 And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing;
3 And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

If you will leave everything you know, I will make you a blessing to the nations and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the grains of sand on the seashore.

***Notice that God asked Abraham to leave first!

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***Joseph, the son of Jacob, was given a dream by God that one day his entire family would bow down before him. While I'm not sure how wise he was in how he shared this dream with his family, none-the-less God inspired the dream in him and he continued to pursue God throughout terrible hardship until God brought about that dream in order to preserve the line of David, and eventually the messiah, Jesus Christ. He was foolish enough to believe the dream God had given him.

***Moses, a stammering Hebrew raised as an Egyptian in a life of privilege, was given a dream to lead the entire Hebrew nation out of the bondage of slavery. He was foolish enough to believe God, although it took him 40 years to come around to it. He eventually followed God and the dream that God had instilled in him to see the entire nation of Israel freed from slavery, and although because of sin, he was not able to see it, they entered the land of Canaan just as God had said they would.

***Saul of Tarsus, a religious zealot of the Jewish Pharisees, known for his persecution of the Christian church, was arrested by God almighty, and later given the God-inspired dream of reaching the Gentiles with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Foolishly he believed God and through that dream saw the Gospel spread throughout Asia and Europe. It's because of his following that dream that you and I know Jesus today and have the New Testament.

What is the dream that God has given you? And are you just foolish enough to believe Him in seeing it come to pass?

A God-inspired dream is a thing of power, and in the hands of someone foolish enough to believe in it, can NOT be stopped.

***Johannes Gutenberg, in 1455, finished the development of a mass printing press and completed the printing of 200 bibles, paving the way for a printing method that continued to be employed through the late 20th century, 500 years later. A God-inspired dream that changed the world.

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***Karl Benz, a German engineer, looked at what others had done, and in 1885 took the first steps in creating what is regarded as the first practical automobile.

***Henry Ford later developed a mass production assembly line, and began producing Automobiles at a rate that changed the course of history forever.



***Orville and Wilbur Wright foolishly believed that man could fly and in 1903 patented the “flying machine.” Nine months later in Dec of that same year, The Kitty Hawk took her maiden flight.

***Al Gore invented the internet!

***Dr. Cynthia Calla, in 1993 answered the call of God on her life to enter into medical missions in Cambodia, and later, after serving throughout the globe, was touched by God and foolish enough to believe in a dream to make a difference in the transmission of the HIV virus and the treatment of AIDS in Africa through the compassion of Christ. A God-inspired dream can NOT be stopped.

What has God inspired you to dream, because a God-inspired dream can NOT be stopped.

***As I have looked over Real World in 2010 and taken inventory, I began to dream.

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I see a church impacting a community for Christ.

I see a church influencing the leaders of the City of Newport News.

I see a church giving in such levels that it astounds those that see it.

I see a church giving to the poor, giving to missions, giving to the community sacrificially just as Jesus gave to us.

I see a church buying land for a worship center that nurtures the body, soul, and spirit of every man, woman and child that enters it.

I see a church foolish enough to believe in a God-inspired dream of planting other churches throughout the city, state, nation, and world.

What is the dream God has placed in you?

Over the next 2 weeks, we are going to dream together.

Together we are going to look at what God is inspiring us to do and then we're gonna go for it!

***This week I want you to do something for me. Homework Alert!!!

I want you to write down your dream and bring it with you next week.

But before you leave, let's define, first of all, what a dream is and what it is not.

In John Maxwell's recent book "Put Your Dream To The Test" he describes what a dream is not.

1. Daydreams – distractions for current work
2. Pie-in-the-sky dreams – wild ideas with no strategy or basis in reality
3. Bad dreams – worries that breed fear and paralysis
4. Idealistic Dreams - The way the world would be if you were in charge
5. Vicarious dreams – Dreams lived through others
6. Romantic Dreams – Belief that some person will make you happy
7. Career Dreams – Belief that Career Success will make you happy
8. Destination dreams – Belief that a position, title, or award will make you happy

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9. Material dreams – belief that wealth or possessions will make you happy

***His definition of what a truly God-inspired dream is

“A dream is an inspiring picture of the future that energizes your mind, will, and emotions, empowering you to do everything you can to achieve it.”

***Another definition is “A dream is the seed of possibility planted in the soul of a human being, which calls him to pursue a unique path to the realization of his purpose.”

A dream HAS to be bigger than you to be a God-inspired dream. All throughout scripture, you find people like you and me saying, “Why me Lord?” I’m not qualified, I’m not good enough, I’m not smart enough, I’m not articulate enough, etc. When God calls you to do something, it will be beyond your capabilities, beyond your natural talent, and beyond your spiritual state.

So what if you’re not a dreamer? What if you’ve never really thought about this? Or what if you used to dream but have given up hope?

Here’s some reasons according to our author that most people don’t dream.

1. They’ve been discouraged from dreaming by others

Monkey experiment

Joseph went through this

2. They’ve been hindered by past disappointments and hurts

Joseph is another great example on this one.

3. They’ve gotten into the habit of settling for average.

We don’t have bad organizations, we have people that settle for “good enough” in our organizations.

This is indicative of a lack of effective parenting in our culture. Parents are the instrument primarily used by God to call their children to excellence.

4. They lack the confidence needed to pursue their dreams

You need some successes to spur you on in your dreams

This is why it’s so important to break your dreams into bite-sized goals.

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5. They lack the imagination to dream.

“Imagination is the soil that brings a dream to life.”

It’s fun to sit and dream with your spouse. One of the fun conversations that Laurie have is if we didn’t have any limitation financially, what would we do?

A culture focused on escapism entertainment. A lack of reading. A lack of thinking. A lack of prayer and fasting.

Talk about the fast next week.

Practical tips on fasting:

If this is the first time you’ve fasted, start small.

Skip lunch or dinner for the week

Give up something this week.

NO CANDY or SWEETS

Daniel fast.

What to expect physically:

Headache from giving up caffeine

You’ll need more sleep.

Don’t get caught with nothing to do around dinner time!

Trim down your schedule and allow for time to pray, reflect and think.

Limit the amount of TV and internet you do.

Facebook updates are to be positive!

Step up how much you read the word of God

The church will be available for prayer each morning from 6:00am – 7:00am and each evening from 6:00pm – 7:00pm Monday through Saturday.