

Dare To Dream Again!

“When I think of the wisdom and scope of His plan, I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father---from whom all the family in heaven and on earth receives its name—some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth—that out of His glorious, unlimited resources He will give you the mighty inner strengthening of His Holy Spirit...Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that only comes from God. Now glory be to God, who by His mighty power at work within us is able to do exceedingly abundantly---that is, far more than we would ever ask for dream of, or even dare to imagine—yes, infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.” Ephesians 3:14-20

I. Introduction

II. Common Dream Misconceptions

- I don't have a dream.
- I have to invent my dream.
- I have a dream, but it's not that important.
- I have a dream, but it's up to God to make it happen.
- I had a dream, but it's too late.
- Since I feel fear, my dream must not be from God.
- I can't go forward unless God takes my fear away.

III. Respecting and Learning From the Many Reasons That Dreams Generally Fail

- Wrong dream
- Mistaking desire for commission
- Lack of substantive successful living in traditional life-settings
- Failure to accurately discern timing
- Lack of personal or skill-oriented preparedness
- Lack of research and overall understanding of mission
- Lack of burning passion or a compelling reason
- Listening to or hanging out with the wrong people
- Failing to seek out or listen to wise counsel

IV. Three Vital Truths Concerning Dreams

1. Dreams are the most _____.

“I know that You can do all things, and no purpose of yours can be thwarted.” Job 42:2

“And so, King Agrippa, I (Paul) obeyed that vision from heaven (for me)...” Acts 26:19

2. Dreams don't just happen---_____.

“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest with the very little will also be dishonest in much.” Luke 16:10 (ESV)

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.” Matthew 25:21

Imaginative Thinking

NASA Test----A Study of 1600 children

<u>Age:</u>	<u>Imaginative:</u>
4-5 years	98%
10 years	30%
15 years	12%
Adults (avg. age--31)	2%

Key Finding: The key difference between these age groups—divergent vs. convergent thinking

"Therefore, **the promise comes by faith**...As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--**the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they already were. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations**...Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet **he did not stagger (waver) through unbelief regarding the promise** of God, but was strengthened in his faith...being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised..." **Romans 4:16-22**

"In the last days, God says, I will pour my Spirit on all people. Your **sons** and **daughters** will prophecy—they will speak what God has revealed to them. **Your young men will see visions. Your old men will dream dreams.**" Acts 2:17 (GW)

"Who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to ever teach Him?" But we understand these things, for **we have the mind of Christ.**" I Corinthians 2:16

3. Dreams Don't Happen Simply By Trying---_____! "Thus says the LORD who made it, the LORD who formed it to establish it (the LORD is His name): 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, **and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.**' Jer. 33:2-3

Parts of God's training process are things such as:

- o Delays
- o Problems
- o Difficulties
- o Challenges
- o Betrayals
- o Setbacks
- o Heartbreaks
- o Perseverance
- o Serving the vision of others

V. Absolute Necessities for Apprehending Your Dream

✓ You must _____ when the going gets tough

Quitting can be defined as making an emotionally charged permanent decision based upon temporary or misleading circumstances that will negatively affect and alter your destiny!

Fact: Not all quitting involves giving up. Some forms of quitting simply manifest in simply re-prioritizing your life around another pursuit.

People who quit in Scripture:

_____ (I Kings 19:14)

_____ (I Kings 17:12)

_____ (II Tim.4:10)

✓ You must be willing to be _____

"The servant given one talent said, 'Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways and that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I hid and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.' "**The master was furious. 'That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least?** The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest. 'Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And **get rid of this "play-it-safe" coward who won't go out on a limb.** Cast this unfaithful person out into utter darkness." **Matthew 25:24-30 (MSG)**

Consider this: "We would never trust a person who lied to us as much as our fears do!"

✓ You must _____ in the face of opposition to your dream

"Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and of good courage;** do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, **for the LORD your God is with you** wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 (NKJV)

✓ You are going to have to face and defeat a "bully" named _____

"**Fear not, for I am with you;** be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.' Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV)

"Then David said to Saul, "**Let no man's heart fail because of him;** your servant will go and fight with this Philistine...I used to keep my father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. **Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them**...Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me

from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine...So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David...Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand. So it was, **when the Philistine arose...that David ran quickly to meet the Philistine.**"
I Samuel 17:32-48 (NKJV)

✓ You are going to have to trust your _____ in all things and times
"...some mothers brought their babies to Him to touch and bless. But the disciples told them to go away. Then Jesus called the children over to him and said to the disciples, "Let the little children come to me! Never send them away! For **the Kingdom of God belongs to men who have hearts as trusting as these little children's.** And anyone who doesn't have their kind of faith will never get within the Kingdom's gates." Luke 18:15-16

"But **without faith it is impossible to please Him,** for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

✓ You have to choose to live in the "arena" of life---not _____
"And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. **Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?**" Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather all the Jews...and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days...my maids and I will fast likewise...**I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!**"
Esther 4:13-16 (NKJV)

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena..." – Theodore Roosevelt

Answer Key:

IV. Three Vital Truths Concerning Dreams

1. powerful force on earth
2. they have steps
3. but by training

V. Absolute Necessities for Apprehending Your Dream

1. refuse to quit
 1. Elijah
 2. The Widow
 3. Demas
2. brave with your life
3. act courageously
4. fear
5. Heavenly Father
6. on the sidelines