

Dream On

*“And afterward, it will come to pass that I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, **your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions**. Even on my servants, both men and women, **I will pour out my Spirit in those days**.” Joel 2:28-29*

I. Introduction

An extensive study in the U.S. by the New England Journal of Medicine found that the most productive age in human life is between 60 to 70 years of age. The 2nd most productive stage of the human life is from 70 to 80 years of age. The 3rd most productive stage is from 50 to 60 years of age.

The average age of NOBEL PRIZE winners is 62 years old. The average age of the presidents of prominent companies in the world is 63 years. The average age of the Pastors of the 100 largest churches in the U.S.A. is 71.

II. Four Things I Know About Dreams

1. As life comes at us, God will _____ us to determine if He can _____ us

*“I don’t want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground. In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses. All of them ate the same spiritual food, and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. **These things happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did, or worship idols as some of them did**. As the Scriptures say, “The people celebrated with feasting and drinking, and they indulged in pagan revelry.” And we must not engage in sexual immorality as some of them did, causing 23,000 of them to die in one day. Nor should we put Christ to the test, as some of them did and then died from snakebites. And don’t grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. **These things happened to them as examples for us. These things were written down to warn us who now live at the end of the ages. If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall**. The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.” I Corinthians 10:1-13*

2. God tests our _____ to determine at what level He can _____ us

*“The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but **the Lord tests hearts**.” Prov.17:3*

*“I, the Lord, search minds and **test hearts**. I will reward each person for what he has done. **I will reward him for the results of his actions**.” Jeremiah 17:10 (GW)*

“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life, as well.” **Matthew 19:29**

3. God allows tests to _____ our _____ “Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience and endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don’t try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then **you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete---lacking nothing.**” **James 1:2-4 (TLB)**

*“We come to God as sinners; but **He wants to transform our habits, attitudes, and practices into the ways of Jesus:** to live, forgive, and love as He did.”* **Ephesians 5:1 (Voice)**

*“An inheritance obtained **too early in life** is not a blessing in the end.”* **Proverbs 20:21 (NLT)**

Key thought: What can sometimes appear cruel is the precise thing that God most uses to prepare us for great success!

4. God tests our _____ so He can _____

*“It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God’s promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though **God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that you will have the descendants I promised you.”**” Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.”* **Hebrews 11:17-19 (NLT)**

*“Then the angel of the LORD called again to Abraham from heaven. “This is what the LORD says: **Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by My own name that I will certainly bless you.** I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed Me.”* **Genesis 22:15-18 (NLT)**

*“And we know that **God causes everything to work together for the good** of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”* **Romans 8:28 (NLT)**

ANSWER KEY:

1. TEST----PROMOTE

2. HEARTS----REWARD

3. DEVELOP AND DEEPEN-----CHARACTER

4. OBEDIENCE----FULFILL OUR DREAM