

Awesome services today. Can't wait for tonight! David Huff has still got it!  
Blessings!

## **Part 14: Build Your Dream**

### ***Live the Life You've Always Wanted!***

#### **Texts:**

**James 4:14 (NKJV)** - "For what is your life?"

**Jeremiah 24:6-7 (NKJV)** - "For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land; I will build them and not pull them down, and I will plant them and not pluck them up. [7] Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart."

**Philippians 3:13-15 (NKJV)** - "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. [15] Therefore let us, ***as many as are mature, have this mind***; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you."

- A. Notice how Paul refers to the Christian life in verse 14: the ***upward call!***
1. When you are connected to God and pursue Him, your life begins to move in an ***upward*** direction. I believe God does this so we can become living witnesses who testify of His goodness. When people see us, they should admire His greatness.
  2. Failing to understand this concept is more significant than we may have realized. Not only has it dramatically damaged the church's influence and

effectiveness, it has allowed the enemy to convince believers that we are here **only** for spiritual reasons.

3. Consequently, the world does not associate Christ with the church of our day. Instead, they only observe a set of religious rules with a strong emphasis on going to heaven when you die. But that's not what they are seeking. They desperately need a God with whom they can relate on a daily basis.

4. **Joke:** Where is Jesus Today?

As Christmas approached, a Sunday School teacher of preschoolers was concerned that his students may be a little confused about the strong emphasis on Jesus' birth. To be sure they understood that He was born a long time ago and that He became a Man who was victorious over the cross as our Lord and Savior, he asked the class, "Where is Jesus today?" Johnny raised his hand and said, "He's in heaven."

When Mary was called on for her answer, she replied, "He's in my heart." Waving his hand furiously, Robert blurted out, "I know! I know! He's in our bathroom!!"

The whole class became very quiet as they waited for the teacher's response. Completely at a loss for words, the teacher finally gathered his wits and asked Robert how he knew this was true.

He replied, "Well.....every morning my father gets up, bangs on the bathroom door and yells, 'Jesus Christ, are you still in there?'"

5. The world needs a Jesus who can help them succeed in **every** area of life—not just spiritual matters. Many who are unacquainted with the Gospel actually believe that serving God could even be detrimental.
  - a. If a Christian must always tell the truth and never lie to a customer, they can't be as successful as the person who doesn't mind stretching the truth.

- b. Since Christians aren't self-destructive, their lives could not possibly be as entertaining or fun-filled as the person who isn't hampered by Christianity.
  - c. If the church teaches that it's wrong to even **desire** to be financially successful, an authentic Christian must renounce every passion other than a passion for God.
6. Amazingly, many Christians also believe that God is only interested in our spiritual well-being. He has no concern about our finances, whether our business fails or succeeds, or if we're promoted on our job. In fact, He doesn't really care whether our marriage is happy and exciting or exhausting and miserable. His primary interest—as long as we perform those marriage vows—is that we just hang tough and struggle through, even if our home is a disaster!
7. Apostle Paul declares that such beliefs are evidence of spiritual maturity or immaturity (verse 15). Since he defines the call of God as an 'upward' call, mature Christians understand that a life connected to Jesus always leads **upward** in every dimension.

B. Everyone has dreams—even God!

1. Every person's dream does not come true. In fact, most people will **never** see their dreams become a reality. Either they do not understand the process or they simply fail to put it in action.
2. For a dream to become a reality, specific steps must be taken to make it happen. You must: **See It!** (have a clearly defined goal or vision); **Say It!** (speak positive things into your own life); **Pray It!** (enlist the help of Almighty God to become who and all He meant for you to be), and then **Pay It!, Play It!, Stay It!, and Sanctify It!** .
3. The next step in this process of making dreams come true involves paying the price, or:

## ***"Pay It!"***

### **You Will Get It, When You Go Get It!**

- C. To succeed in ***anything*** in life, there is always a price to pay.
1. For His dream to become a reality, even God had to be willing to pay the ultimate price for mankind to be saved: He had to give His only begotten Son.
  2. One of the most important lessons I've ever learned is that following Kingdom principles produces more than a successful ministry or a personal relationship with God. Of course, without the guidance of His Word, it would be impossible to know or be at peace with Him.
  3. Following Kingdom principles will bring success in every area of life. These principles govern all that ***cannot*** be seen in the universe and that science does ***not*** teach or understand, such as: how to find success instead of failure, happiness rather than misery, or inner fulfillment instead of emptiness.
  4. To help us live our dreams, we have access to the greatest success story ever recorded: Christ's victory over the enemy! (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV). For our dreams to become realities, we only have to look at Christ's extraordinary example!
  5. What a success story! Talk about overcoming tremendous odds—Jesus was born in a stable to a simple, common family. After living on the wrong side of the tracks, without the right connections or earning a degree from a top university, He proceeded to fulfill His dream of conquering death, hell and the grave, establishing a church, and redeeming you and me!
  6. **Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)** - "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

7. The Book of Hebrews tells us that when we look to Jesus, we see Him triumphantly standing for righteousness and paying the price for what He wanted to accomplish. For the joy set before Him, He endured ridicule and the humiliation of the cross. The reward for paying that huge price was total victory and being seated at the right hand of God. After accomplishing **everything** He chose to do, His dream was completed!
8. Inherent in our slogan, "Build Your Dream," is the idea that the life we desire will not just 'happen' while we do nothing. Building a dream implies that much effort and time is required!

D. What is the **cost** of building a dream?

1. Dreams are cheap. It costs nothing to merely dream, especially if you don't intend for it to become a reality. Most people enjoy the luxury of dreaming without doing anything to make it happen. For some, their dream serves no purpose but to anesthetize their emptiness. Unfortunately, it does little to change their future.
2. Building a dream not only costs you something, if it's God's dream for you that hasn't been compromised for a lesser one, **it will cost you everything!**
3. What is really amazing is that when your dream becomes a reality, you will gain **everything!** You'll be overjoyed for having paid the price!
4. For a dream to become a reality, you can't just be **willing** to pay the price—you must actually **pay** the price! And if you want an exciting, fulfilling life, let me caution against settling for an average dream. Make it so large, it will require all your energies to obtain it.
5. May I also offer this word of caution: the bigger the dream, the greater the price to be paid—but also, the greater the reward! The more costly the treasure, the higher the cost to purchase the field. If your dream is worth pursuing, let me warn up front that it will cost you **everything!**

6. That word of advice should also be an encouragement and challenge. Yes, you must pay the price, but you'll also enjoy a "God-sized" dream and vision.

E. Preparation is part of the price to be paid.

1. The future belongs to those who prepare! How are you preparing for your dream?
2. Christ spent 33 years preparing for the day He would encounter the cross.
3. Our new church facility also requires much preparation. While I've been giving regular updates, I'm sure some of you are wondering why the construction hasn't already begun. But the preparation involves approval for construction financing, which was begun months ago.
  - a. Since banks require current appraisals, the bank's appraiser hasn't completed the assignment, which has caused another delay.
  - b. We have also been negotiating to sell one of the corner pads which will provide a percentage of cash on hand that lending institutions require to begin a construction project.
  - c. Our commitments for the Build the Dream Campaign are continuing to come in—which will help us raise the required upfront capital.
  - d. All of this preparation is necessary for the building of our dream. While no one enjoys waiting on appraisals or negotiations for the sale of a corner plot, it's just part of the process. And we are getting there, praise God!
  - e. Some of our people may want us to apply every dollar of our budget toward the building fund. After all, most churches have omitted missions giving and only donate two-tenths of one percent toward the very purpose for which the church exists!
  - f. They fail to consider that what we're doing is Christ's non-negotiable purpose for His church. The moment we stop caring about missions, we will ignore our mandate to reach the world,

dishonor Christ, and invite His disapproval. As for me, I never want to live a single day without God's divine favor!

g. It may also be argued that other churches seem to be blessed who do not support missions as C.T. does. Really? How can you know God's opinion and whether they are truly blessed? When we stand before Him to be judged, what others call success may prove to be "wood, hay, and stubble."

4. Preparation! For our dreams to become a reality, each of us must walk through this process.
5. Joseph spent 13 years as a slave or imprisoned to prepare himself for ruling Egypt.
6. Moses spent 80 years in preparation for the dream God birthed in his heart: 40 years of education in the wisdom and sciences of Egypt, and 40 years learning humility so God could use him.
7. To prepare for being king of Israel, David spent 17 years hiding in caves, living in the wilderness, and running for his life.

F. Part of the price you must pay is overcoming excuses. To build a dream, we must get off our "buts."

1. Excuses such as, "I would begin college classes...BUT...I have a job and family to think about." Or "I would invest in becoming a better person ...BUT...I'm probably as qualified as the next guy."
2. Or "I would be more diligent about improving my marriage and becoming a better wife or husband...BUT... I'm really too busy." Or how about this one: "I would attend church, read my Bible regularly, and strengthen my relationship with God...BUT...I work so hard all week, I deserve to relax on the weekend."
3. In Matthew, chapter 25, before leaving on a journey, the master gave his servants talents, or a certain amount of money. Upon his return, he called the servants to give a report of what they had earned.

- a. The one to whom he had given five talents had gained five more. The one who had been entrusted with two talents had earned two more. But the servant who had received only one talent, returned it to his master.
  - b. Instead of making an investment, he had wrapped the money in a cloth and buried it. When his master returned, the servant dug it up and presented it to him.
  - c. The master was shocked! "Why didn't you use this as an opportunity to earn something for yourself?" he asked. The servant replied, "Well, I really wanted to...BUT...I knew you were a pretty difficult person. I was going to invest it...BUT....you are such a tough boss, I didn't want to upset you. So, I decided to hide it."
  - d. The master became so angry, he took the talent from the slothful servant and gave it to the one with ten talents.
  - e. Your excuse may be that a difficult boss who lacks integrity has prevented you from doing your best. In this parable, Jesus made it clear that we should do our best—whether our boss is good or bad.
4. Stop making excuses and begin making plans to see your dream become a reality.

G. Part of the price you must pay is facing opposition.

1. Make no mistake, dreams are never easy. Included in the price you must pay will be opposition and resistance from those closest to you.
2. Expect to be misunderstood and your motives questioned. People will mistreat you, falsely accuse you, say bad things and even lie about you.
3. But I would rather endure hatred for doing something extraordinary with my life than to do nothing exceptional and be left with a dull, mediocre life, ignored and overlooked by all.
  - a. Because of his dreams, Joseph was hated by his brothers and sold into slavery.

- b. To fulfill David's dream, he was fiercely opposed by a jealous king who desperately sought to kill him.
  - c. Jesus faced opposition at every turn and in every way possible.
  - d. **Hebrews 12:3 (NKJV)** - "For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls."
4. I'm not referring to opposition or problems you've brought upon yourself by being rude, arrogant, or mistreating others. People will naturally be resentful if they're not treated with respect. But that has nothing to do with your dream.

H. Part of the price you must pay is letting go of what is good to obtain what is priceless.

- 1. To achieve your dream, your only choice is to let some things go to obtain what you can't afford to lose.
- 2. Jim Eliot made this statement: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."
  - a. At the age of 28, Jim was one of five missionaries martyred by the Auca Indians in Ecuador, South America. The Aucas were some of the most cruel, savage people who ever lived. Not only did they kill people they did not know or like, they killed their own families and children just because they were tired of caring for them.
  - b. Jim Eliot quote: <https://www.pinterest.com/patmgyoung/jim-elliott/>
  - c. Jim Eliot (photo) - <http://koinoniatexas.org/2010/06/test-worldview-forum-post/>
  - d. Although the five missionaries possessed guns, when the Aucas approached them with spears, they chose not to use their guns. If they shot the Indians, they could probably have saved their own lives. But then they would never be able to teach the Aucas about

Jesus! So they allowed themselves to be killed so the Aucas would have an opportunity to become Christians.

- e. The Aucas never forgot those five strange white men who had been kind enough to spare the natives' lives. When other missionaries came to speak about Jesus a year later, they were ready to listen.
- f. Several men who killed Jim and his friends with their spears became Christians. While giving his testimony, one of the men counted on his fingers as he said, "I have killed twelve people with my spear! But I did that when my heart was dark. Now that Jesus' blood has washed my heart clean, I don't live like that anymore." God's love had changed his life!
- g. A photo of an Indian who had killed the missionaries:  
<http://www.nogreaterjoydad.com/2011/12/lessons-to-me-in-remembering-jim-elliott.html?m=1>
- h. Jim Eliot truly made his life count!

#### I. Life Application Points:

1. Decide what you want.
2. Go get it!