

What wonderful church we had today! I love watching God work!

Blessings and favor as you build your dream!

Part 4: Build Your Dream

Live the Life You've Always Wanted!

Texts:

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

Until you've asked yourself this question, you can't know what you would like your life to be.

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."

A. God has made these incredible promises about your life.

1. He has *set His eyes upon you for good* and wants to build you up and not tear you down; He wants to bless you and give you a heart to know Him and to be your God.
2. **Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)** - " And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."
3. The Greek word for 'testimony': *evidence*, or a report given by a witness, as in a judicial case.

4. We have been teaching about the steps to make your dream become a reality. You must: See it! Say It! Pray It! Pay It! Play It! Stay It!, and then Sanctify It!
5. The dream of living the life you have always wanted is more about the quality of your life than anything else.
6. The promises God spoke over you in the Book of Jeremiah are more like *your dream come true!* God is promising to make everything in life you could possibly want, become a reality.
7. But to have those promises, **you** must **say it!** You will overcome the enemy by the word of your testimony.

Say It!

B. Dreams often come disguised as a challenge. That's why you shouldn't panic when challenges arise. **Everyone** faces challenges.

1. **Joke:** The Lodge Meeting

Thibodeaux left home to attend his and Boudreaux's monthly Royal Order of the Racoon Lodge meeting. But about twenty minutes after leaving, he walked back in the door. Clotile asked, "Thib, I thought you was goin' to your lodge meeting. What you doin' back home already?"

Thibodeaux replied sadly, "Mais, it's like dis. We had to cancel de meeting, 'cause Boudreaux is our lodge's Grand Exalted Maximum Invincible Supreme Emperor and Potentate. But his wife, Marie, wouldn't let him out of de house tonight."

2. As I said, *everyone* faces challenges. The question is, how do you respond to them? Do you cave in? ...get stuck? ...quit?...become discouraged? ...blame others? ...or find a solution?
3. Over 95% of us see only the negative side of a challenge. That's when most people give up, and for the remainder of their life have a colorless, drab existence.

- a. Many turn to anything that gives meaning to their life, such as: drugs, alcohol, an affair, possessions, an obsession with sports, or endless hours of TV. Some even choose to end their lives.
 - b. What they all share in common is seeing only the negatives in challenges that demotivate a person.
4. A challenge actually contains more than just negatives. But you must train yourself to find the positives.
 - a. That's why 95% of people never see the positives. Only 5% have taught themselves to see the other things I've mentioned.
 - b. Consequently, this 5% not only masters the problem, but becomes successful, and even wealthy! They use the problem to help build their dream!
5. So, what happens to the 95%? Robert Martinez sent me a quote that I really love: "If you don't build your dream, someone will hire you to build theirs." - Tony Gaskins

C. This incredible principle of a challenge becoming your dream in disguise can be found throughout scripture.

1. **Judges 14:10-14 (NKJV)** - "So his father went down to the woman. And Samson gave a feast there, for young men used to do so. [11] And it happened, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him. [12] Then Samson said to them, "Let me pose a riddle to you. If you can correctly solve and explain it to me within the seven days of the feast, then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing. [13] But if you cannot explain it to me, then you shall give me thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing." And they said to him, "Pose your riddle, that we may hear it." [14] So he said to them: "Out of the eater came something to eat, And out of the strong came something sweet."

2. I love this guy's name. Do you know what Samson means? In the Hebrew, it means "sunshine." Either his parents were the most inconsiderate people you've ever heard of, or they had some real insights about raising a child!
 - a. Just think of the many fights Samson must have had on the school grounds when the kids said, "Hey, Sunshine! Come over here a minute and shed some light on what we're talking about. Who's gonna win the Super Bowl today?"
 - b. But then I realize that, like Stevie Wonder's song, this boy was the sunshine of his parent's life! By constantly telling him how special he was whenever they called his name, he began to believe that he **was** special—and every child deserves to feel that way!
3. When Samson encountered a lion, his perception was much different than that of most people.
 - a. Rather than seeing a problem, Samson saw an opportunity. When God's Spirit came upon him, he killed the lion. Thus, he saw his problem as a miracle in disguise.
 - b. Later, when he passed that way, he was amazed to see that a swarm of bees had absolutely filled the lion's dried-out carcass with honey.
 - c. At Samson's wedding feast, he posed a riddle to the other young men. The reason for failing to answer the riddle was that their perception was the same as the 95% who encounter a lion. They would have seen only the pain associated with the problem.
 - d. Because the young men would never have associated sweetness with fighting a lion, they could not solve the riddle. But Samson found honey where others saw only pain!
 - e. If you view it in the right way, honey will always be in the lion, and out of the eater will come something to eat!

4. Peter compared our enemy to a roaring lion. Every battle meant to harm can only release "honey" in your life if you'll believe and then confront the lion.
5. To achieve your dream, you must first resist the lion. The honey will be found in what was meant to destroy you. To do that, you must **say it!** You must **speak** your dream into existence.
6. The honey David discovered from killing Goliath was that Israel loved and promoted him to be their king.
7. The honey Jesus found in the problem of the cross was salvation for mankind and a restored relationship with our Heavenly Father!
8. The honey that resulted from Paul's affliction and the thorn in his side that Christ refused to remove was abundant revelations about God and His Kingdom.

D. Every challenge you face will always contain these eight parts. Since "eight" is the number of new beginnings, this is how to turn a challenge that was meant to stop you into a fresh start:

1. **The Pain in the Problem:** This is all 95% of the people will ever see. And it's true—pain will always be involved in a problem. Samson had scars on his arm to prove it!
2. **Your Perception of the Problem:** Everyone has their own perception of the problem they're facing. But most people base their perception on the pain of the problem. You have to look **beyond** the pain.
3. **The Potential hidden in the Problem:** Only 5% or less see the potential. These are the ones who face the same challenges as those around them, but with a very different perspective. They have taught themselves to see **potential** and **opportunity**.
4. **The Promise in the Potential:** If you have the right perspective and can see the potential in the challenge, you'll find that what others view as insurmountable, actually holds great promise—if you can solve it.

5. **The Process to the Promise:** If your perspective allows you to see the potential in the problem and the promise it contains, look closely and you'll more than likely discover a process that allows you to solve the problem. Find out what works and what doesn't and then build your plan.
 - a. "If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you will fall into someone else's. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much!" - Jim Rohn
6. **The Payoff at the end of the Process:** This is what you receive after walking through the process, confronting the challenge, and fixing it. The payoff is the short term, immediate benefit, such as a raise or promotion.
7. **The Position in the Payoff:** Your position will then change. You'll not only receive the prize for solving the problem, but it will forever impact, change, and elevate your life. Solving the problem gives you the long term benefit of a new position. You've learned something you'll never forget.
 - a. "If someone is going down the wrong road, he doesn't need motivation to speed him up. He needs education to turn him around." - Jim Rohn
8. **The new Platform that accompanies your new Position** also creates a new dimension of Potential.
 - a. Samson faced the pain of being challenged by a lion with a different perspective. After walking through the process of addressing the challenge, solving it, and receiving the prize, he found honey in what was meant to destroy him.
 - b. After solving the problem, the real enjoyment of the payoff is something most people never achieve. He repositioned himself!
 - c. You'll never look at life the same once you conquer what was supposed to conquer you. The reason? You're not the same man or woman as you were before.

- d. Never again would Samson look at a lion as before. Neither will you view your problem the same, once you've conquered it.
- e. Samson could never look at himself in the same way, nor would other people. This became his new platform.
- f. More importantly, you'll be able to teach others how to kill a lion.
- g. After killing Goliath, David's new platform was to be son-in-law to King Saul and eventually, king of Israel.
- h. From that time forward, David inspired Israel to believe in God. After he proved that giants were not invincible, other Israelites began to kill giants.

E. For your dream to become a reality, you have to ***say it!***

1. There is nothing wrong with talking to yourself. There is nothing wrong with answering yourself. The problem with talking to yourself is when you find yourself saying, "Huh?" to the answer.
2. Because you are made in the image of Almighty God, your word, like His, has creative power.
3. Self-talk determines the quality of your life. If it's correct, you become successful. If it's wrong, self-talk can be destructive.
4. Jesus was so moved by what the Syrophenician mother said about her daughter who was tormented by evil spirits, He delivered the girl, even though God was working exclusively among the Jewish people. As a Gentile worshipper of false gods, her people would not be visited by God for another ten years!
 - a. Jesus ignored the mother's first request. Then He tested her desire to receive help from the true God by saying it was not proper to take bread that belonged to His children, the descendants of Abraham, and give it to idol worshippers, whose practices were more like the dogs.

- b. **Mark 7:28-29 (NKJV)** gives her response: "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs."
 - c. Jesus was so moved by her reply, "Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter." And when she hurried home, she found that the girl was completely delivered!"
- 5. On the other hand, wrong self-talk is always very destructive.
 - a. Talk about ruining a setup! Satan had the most enviable position in the universe and was second only to God. But his self-talk destroyed everything he had going for him.
 - b. We read in **Isaiah 14:12-17 (NKJV)**, "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! [13] For YOU have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' [16] "Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: ' Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, [17] Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?'
 - c. Five times Satan said to himself, "I will....I will....I will....I will.... I will." The problem wasn't talking to himself. It was the wrong things he said. He used the perpendicular pronoun too often.

F. **"Say it" or *declare your dream to yourself.***

- 1. Many lives are unfulfilled simply because of wrong self-talk.
- 2. By changing his self-talk, the Prodigal Son saved his life.
 - a. **Luke 15:17-18 (NKJV)** - "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to

spare, and I perish with hunger! [18] I will arise and go to my father."

- b. Since no one else was there, he had to be speaking to himself!
3. You must discipline yourself not to submit to wrong self-talk.
4. I love the way **Psalm 91:2 (NKJV)** reads: "I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God in Him will I trust!"
 - a. Who made this declaration about trusting God? The psalmist! When you read the verse, you realize it was in a time of great challenge!

G. You must ***say it to others!***

1. Other people may try to talk you out of your dream, but you can't allow them to shake your faith in what you know you're supposed to do.
2. That doesn't mean that real friends won't correct you. They will. Someone said, "Real friends will talk bad about you to your face and good about you behind your back." That's true!
3. False friends say good things to your face, but bad behind your back!
4. Today at the Super Bowl. America's two greatest football teams will compete. The quarterbacks for both teams had to overcome the doubts of others and continue to pursue their dream. You must persevere even when others don't believe in you.
5. Tom Brady video:

https://video.search.yahoo.com/video/play;_ylt=A2KLqIUjcb1U_xMAUbj7w8QF;_ylu=X3oDMTByZ2N0cmxpBHNIYwNzcgRzbGsDdmlkBHZ0aWQDBGdwb3MMDMg--

?p=tom+brady+6th+round&vid=2a67fccebd40ab318240cad10cc9d7c2&l=2%3A48&turl=http%3A%2F%2Fts1.mm.bing.net%2Fth%3Fid%3D15.1&rurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3Dtyi5T7hlcbM&tit=6th+Round+Draft+Choice-Tom+Brady&c=0&sigr=11b1afnnc&sigt=110n9ha3f&sigi=11rr6tj7l&age%

5B0%5D=1327532765&fr2=p%3As%2Cv%3Av%2Cm%3Asa&fr=iphone&tt=b

H. You must ***say it to the problem!***

1. Jesus taught us to speak to the problem itself.
2. **Mark 11:23 (NKJV)** - "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."
3. The Greek word translated as 'mountain' actually means: a thing that rears up and towers above you.
4. You must speak to your mountain, whatever that mountain may be!

I. You must ***say it to God!***

1. Today, Superbowl 49 will be played between the New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks. This sport competition is as good as you can get.
2. As a side note, I like the fact that a half-time performer is Lenny Kravitz.
 - a. I admire him that in this time of declining convictions and morality, and after almost allowing success to destroy him, he found God. For years, he has maintained a vow of celibacy that will not be broken until he is married.
 - b. He even has this tattoo on his back, "My Heart Belongs to Jesus!"
3. The other headliner for the half-time show is Katy Perry.
 - a. Her mom and dad are Spirit-filled pastors. Though she hasn't represented people of faith very well, she was reared as a believer in a Spirit-filled, Christian home.
 - b. What has happened to her faith is one reason I want to speak in this series, "Building Your Dream," on the need to "Survive It."

- c. Too many believers depend upon God for success, but when they achieve it, they forget Who brought them there and fail to represent Him or use their influence to build His Kingdom.
- 4. Since today is Super Bowl, I especially like the Seattle quarterback, Russell Wilson.
 - a. I make no apologies for where I stand on matters of faith. With all else equal, whenever possible, I've decided to cheer for my fellow believers, whatever their profession.
 - b. Russell is an outspoken, committed Christian. At the age of 14, he became a devout believer when Jesus appeared to him in a dream. That encounter with God changed his life.
 - c. Russell Wilson video (1:16):
<https://screen.yahoo.com/wilson-im-going-back-super-225340018.html>
 - d. What should you do when you're down and you've thrown four interceptions, with two minutes left to play? You heard Russell say it: "You don't give up. You keep making running plays." And that's what you must do when facing a challenge! Keep believing and don't give up!