

Great services today! God is good and we are already off to an incredible year.  
Love and blessings!

## **Part 5: Build Your Dream**

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

#### **Texts:**

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

What a great question to help position yourself for the future! Socrates said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." That could mean several things, but it definitely means that we should at least compare where we are right now with where we hope to be someday.

**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. These incredible promises are about ***your*** life.

1. God has set His eyes upon you for good and wants to build you up and not tear you down. He wants to bless you, to 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. When the two strategies in the above verse are combined, every opposition from the enemy can be overcome for what God has planned for us.

- a. First, we must have God's help—which is the blood of the Lamb.
  - b. Second, we must do our part—which is the word of our testimony.
4. The Greek word for “testimony” is: evidence; a report given by a witness, as in a judicial case; to swear or affirm what is the truth. Your testimony declares what God has spoken about your life.
  5. The truth is, you can't overcome the enemy without God's help, which is Jesus' blood, or **your** part—which is your testimony. Both are required.
  6. The steps for making your dream become a reality are: **See It! Say It! Pray It! Pay It! Play It! Stay It!** and then **Sanctify It!**
  7. To **See It** involves a clearly defined goal or dream; your **Vision**.
  8. But after you clearly **See It**, you must also learn to **Say It**, and continue to say or declare it until your dream becomes a reality.

## **Part 2 - “Say It”**

- B. Since dreams are often disguised as a great challenge, you must keep talking to yourself about your destiny, even when you're distracted or tempted to give up your dream.
  1. Those who succeed in life have this in common: they have learned to change their self-talk and to understand the purpose for every challenge. Those who fail can be easily identified by their negative comments and self-talk.
  2. For your dream to become a reality, you not only have to **Say It**, but you must keep repeating your dream over and over again until your self-talk has completely changed—no matter how many times or how long it takes.
  3. **Joke:** Boudreaux's Blonde Joke  
 Unfortunately, Boudreaux temporarily lost his eyesight in an oilfield accident. So, he asked his close friend Thibodeaux to drive him to his doctor's appointment early the next day at the Medical Center here in Houston. The evening before, they checked into a hotel in the Med

Center. Boudreaux was very hungry, but the restaurant wasn't open yet and the desk clerk said the only place to be served was at the bar.

Since there was a convention in town, the bar was filled with some lively people who were waiting for the restaurant to open.

Boudreaux and Thibodeaux walk in and Thib helps Boudreaux take a seat at the bar. While they are waiting to order, Boudreaux says to the waiter, "Wanna hear a blonde joke?"

In a hushed tone, the guy next to him says, "Before you tell that joke, you should know something. The waiter at the bar is blonde, the bouncer is blonde, and I'm a 6 ft. tall, 200 lb. black belt. The guy sitting next to me is 6'4", weighs 245, and plays football for the Texans. The fella to your right is 6'5", pushing 300 and he's a wrestler. Each one of us is blonde. That's five blondes! Think about it, Mister. Do you still wanna tell that joke?"

Boudreaux says, "Nah, not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times."

4. Some people believe that 80% of what happens in life is the result of your self-talk.

C. You must have some conversations with yourself.

1. Notice this familiar passage in **Exodus 14:10-16 (NKJV)** - "And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. [11] Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? [12] Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."

[13] And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.

[14] The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." [15] And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. [16] But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea."

3. For believers, the story of Israel fleeing from Egypt and approaching the Red Sea is very familiar. But we also know that when Moses stretched forth his rod, God caused an east wind to roll back the waters so that Israel could cross over on dry ground.
4. Once Israel had safely reached the other side, God caused the waters to return to their former position and drown Pharaoh's army. However, very few of us have been told of Nahshon's role in this miracle.
5. But if you should ask a Jewish person about Nahshon, they would quickly recall other details from Numbers 1:7.
  - a. Nahshon was a direct descendant of Jacob's son, Judah. Many of Israel's kings were his direct descendants, or great-great-great grandsons.
  - b. He was also one of Israel's faithful leaders when they departed from Egypt for the Promised Land.
  - c. **Numbers 2:3 (NKJV)** - "On the east side, toward the rising of the sun, those of the standard of the forces with Judah shall camp according to their armies; and Nahshon the son of Amminadab shall be the leader of the children of Judah."
  - d. Another bit of background information was that Nahshon's sister, Elisheba, was married to Moses' brother, Aaron, the first High Priest of Israel.
6. Here is Nahshon's story:

- a. The Midrash, which is a compilation of ancient writings of the rabbis and a Jewish commentary of scriptures, was written by those who had experienced scriptural events first-hand. In the Midrash, we are told that Nahshon had a fear of water and could not swim—which makes his role in the parting of the Red Sea even more compelling!
- b. When God told Israel to go forward, the people were so fearful, they stood on the banks of the Red Sea, waiting for the waters to part. According to the Midrash, when Moses stretched out his rod and nothing happened, the people began to weep and wail. While God waited for Israel to obey, the panic-stricken people stood frozen in their places--all except Nahshon.
- c. Bravely, he stated that if God had promised to part the waters when the people moved forward, then they should obey. Nahshon was confident that God would keep his Word.
- d. Even with his fear of water and inability to swim, Nahshon was the first to step into the sea. Nothing happened immediately, but he steadily moved forward. The sea did not part until he was in water up to his nose!
- e. The popular Yiddish saying, "to be a Nahshon," means: to be an *initiator*.

D. What makes Nahshon's story so compelling is his incredibly simple faith, while those around him reacted with fear and doubt.

1. **Exodus 14:10 (NKJV)** - "So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord."
2. Notice that they *cried out to the Lord....they prayed!* That's certainly a good thing to do—but it wasn't what God had instructed. Why pray about something they had been told to do? Instead of obeying, the people reacted in fear and unbelief.

3. **Exodus 14:11-12 (NKJV)** - "Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? [12] Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."
4. This is the reason for so many unanswered prayers. Many wonder why nothing happens when they pray; but in reality, the effectiveness of their prayers is negated if they allow fear and unbelief to grip their hearts.
5. The words you speak can nullify or cancel your prayers. As my grandmother used to say, "Sometimes you need to put **legs** on your prayers!"

E. The hidden truth of this story is that the Israelites had already engaged in negative self-talk before saying a word to Moses!

1. If you could have heard the conversations within their hearts, it would have been something like this: "Oh no! We can't cross this sea without a bridge! And now, Pharaoh is coming to capture and kill us! I should have stayed where I was. At least I would have been alive—even if I *was* a slave!"
2. Then someone in the crowd shouted, "We are all going to die!" And immediately, more than 2 million voices began to scream the same fears. It only took one person to vocalize what the others were already thinking. Like a broken dam, negativity began to spread throughout the camp. That's when the effectiveness of their prayers was canceled.
3. To put this in context, they were seeking to accomplish what they had longed for and talked about for 400 years. When their bodies ached from the cruel torture of taskmasters, this dream had kept them encouraged and alive.

4. After spending all those years in slavery, they were only 21 days from the fulfillment of their dreams. That is exactly how long it would have taken to walk to the Promised Land—at the pace of a small child.
5. But were they excited? ...full of faith? ...rejoicing? No! In fact, their unbelief changed the 21 day trip to a journey of 40 years. Why? Because they were having wrong conversations with themselves!
6. Their miracle had been disguised as a challenge; however, their 'problem' was about to become their greatest victory! All they had to do was to see the promise and the potential contained in their problem.
7. God's intention for this overwhelming Red Sea problem was to deliver and free His people from their enemies—once and for all. As He had promised, "These Egyptians you see today you shall see them no more forever!"
8. God was so cool, the plan He devised would not only transport Israel to their Promised Land, it would also prevent Pharaoh from ever following them. Your breakthrough is not only designed for you, but it will ensure that your children and grandchildren will never again have to deal with this painful treatment!

F. Israel had been enslaved for so long, it had affected their personal programming.

1. Your programming determines how you will view and then process what's happening in your life.
2. Most people do not realize that moving from their present circumstances to their Promised Land will require a change of programming.
3. While you are not permitted to choose where you came from or to control events, you **can** choose where you are going by addressing how you view and process what happens in your life.
4. The battle is not about your finances, your marriage, or your business. The battle is in your mind!

G. Personal programming begins at birth.

1. Babies are born with only two fears: the fear of noise and the fear of falling. Everything else will be programmed.
2. Programming controls everything we do in life. Since our personal command center directs our decisions, it also controls our successes or failures.
3. (See video with Dr. Shad Helmsetter: begin at 2:08 and end at "we all got programmed!"- <http://youtu.be/rvzfnm9uk-0>)

H. To change our lives and be successful, we must change our programming and our anchors.

1. **Romans 12:2 (NKJV)** - "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
2. This is the sequence:
  - a. Programming creates beliefs.
  - b. Beliefs create attitudes.
  - c. Attitudes create feelings.
  - d. Feelings determine actions.
  - e. Actions create results.
3. The good news is—you can change your programming!
4. How can this change be initiated? ***Change what you say to yourself!***

I. Things you should say to yourself:

1. I am special.
2. I am a creation of God.
3. He made me and placed me in this world for a purpose.
4. I was born to succeed.
5. God doesn't make junk or create failures!

6. Next week I'll give more declarations to speak in conversations with yourself that will change and reprogram your command center.