

Watch the videos. They are incredible!

Love and blessings!

Part 7: Build Your Dream

Live the Life You've Always Wanted!

Texts:

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

This is one of life's most important questions! Because you were created in God's image and likeness, you will best reflect His glory and praise when you look most like Him. How does God look? He is sufficient in all things; He is full of grace and love.

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 made these incredible promises about ***your*** life!

1. He has set His eyes upon you for good and wants to build you up and never tear you down. He wants to bless you, 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. We have been teaching about two strategies—the blood of the Lamb and your personal testimony. When the two are combined, all the enemy's opposing forces against God's plan for your life can be overcome.

4. In the Greek, 'testimony' means: evidence; the report of a witness, as in a judicial case; to swear or to affirm what is truth. Your testimony must declare what God is speaking about your life. The word 'overcome' literally means: to conquer.
5. The steps to make your dream become a reality are: **See It! Say It! Pray It! Pay It! Play It! Stay It!** and **Sanctify It!**
6. The first step, **See It**, refers to a clearly defined goal or dream—which is your **vision**.
7. After you clearly **See It**, you must then learn to **Say It**, and keep saying or declaring it over and over until your dream becomes a reality!
8. I had planned to speak on another subject this weekend, but there has been such a huge response about putting these teachings into practice, I must spend one more Sunday on this. So let's talk one final time about.....

Part 4 - "Say It!"

Conversations You Must have With Yourself

B. What you say, and even **how** you say it is very important.

1. **Joke:** Nine Out of Ten Survive

Boudreaux went to see Dr. Thibodeaux about running some tests. He finally concluded that Boudreaux had a very serious disease. "Is it bad?" asked Boudreaux.

"Yeah... but you got nuttin to worry about," the doctor answered.

"Medical studies show nine-outta-ten people die from dis disease you got."

Boudreaux was stunned! Standing to his feet, he said, "Nothin' to worry about, and nine outta ten die wit dis disease?"

"Dat's right," Dr. Thibodeaux explained. "Coz I done treated nine folks wit dis disease... and dey all died, so dat means you gonna make it."

2. Let me begin with the song, "Speak Life," by TobyMac that covers this subject really well (see <http://youtu.be/ZeBv9r92VQ0>).
3. **Ezekiel 37:1-3 (NKJV)** - "The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. [2] Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. [3] And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know, " or as other translations say, "Only you know the answer to that."
4. Israel was in captivity. For all practical purposes, their nation had died and ceased to exist. They didn't believe the nation could live again any more than a valley of dry bones could be restored to life—even if God declared that it would happen. In this passage of scripture, God needed a prophet who would speak life and testify on earth what God was speaking in the heavens. But before God could instruct Ezekiel to do this, the prophet's "filter" had to first be examined to determine if he could believe for something so impossible. I'll explain in a moment.
5. Last week, we taught how life can program us to accept lids, or limitations that hold us back—and how to remove those lids that prevent elevation or success.
6. We also referred to savants, or geniuses, such as Leslie Lempke. Though born blind and severely brain damaged, he didn't take his first step until the age of 15. But at 16, without one lesson or ever seeing a piano, he could flawlessly play complex masterpieces after hearing them only one time!
His first piece was Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 after hearing it just once several days earlier on TV. To give you an idea of his amazing story, listen for a few moments to what he was playing when May, his adoptive mother, heard music that she thought was coming from the TV in the sitting room.

Since I couldn't find a recording by Leslie, let's listen to Lang Lang perform a portion of that same concerto at a Memorial Day Concert with the National Symphony Orchestra. (See <http://youtu.be/ZN7XO5pYXqM>. Begin at 1:45 and end at 3:00).

7. There's still more to this story. Leslie also learned to sing! After May developed Alzheimer's many years later, a family doctor recorded what happened when he sat May beside Leslie to hear him play "The Lord's Prayer." The only recording that exists is very poor quality, but I think you will want to see it. (See <http://youtu.be/d4fFYJFcMN4>).
8. As you can see, May really loved God. But even more amazing is the fact that after helping her son discover his miraculous gift, that same gift reached deep into her troubled mind, and for a few moments restored the terrible effects of that dreaded disease.

C. Another example of a savant is that of Kim Peek, the real life "Rain Man."

1. You may remember the movie by that same name based on Kim Peek's life, starring Tom Cruise and Dustin Hoffman, for which Dustin won an Oscar. Kim Peek, known as a "mega-savant", died in 2009.
2. (See photo: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1237758/Kim-Peek-savant-inspired-Rain-Man-dies-age-58.html>).
3. Another photo with Kim Peek and Dustin Hoffman may be even better: (<http://neurosciencefundamentals.unsw.wikispaces.net/Superhuman+Savants>).
4. Like Leslie, Kim was also severely mentally handicapped at birth. When he was 9 months old, a doctor said that his retardation was so severe, he would never walk or talk and should be institutionalized.
5. At the age of 6, another doctor recommended a lobotomy. But by then, Kim had read and memorized the first eight volumes of a set of family encyclopedias. Unable to attend school, he was tutored four hours a week

at home. By the age of 14, he had completed high school four years ahead of schedule.

6. At age 18, he was hired to manage the payroll of a company with 160 employees, a task he performed in just a few hours a week—without a calculator. In his early 30's, he was laid off because the company management chose to computerize the payroll accounting. His replacement required two full-time accountants, plus the computer.
7. When reading a book, Kim's left eye read from the left page and his right eye simultaneously from the right page. His photographic memory could recall the contents of 12,000 books, yet he walked sideways and needed assistance to button his shirt.

D. People often wonder how a savant can possibly perform as they do.

1. I'm not a scientist, but I've read something on this subject that challenged my thinking. Jewish theologians and some Christian scholars teach that our spirits existed with God long before we were born and were both fully aware and intelligent.
 - a. They say that we have no memory of our existence before birth because God placed a veil over our memories of what heaven was like. Scriptures are also cited to support the idea.
 - b. Some early church fathers, such as Origen, who lived in the 2nd and 3rd centuries, believed and wrote about this, while others disagreed with the idea. It's one of the great mysteries of the Bible.
2. While I do not know if we actually existed and were fully aware before birth, it's interesting to consider that if true, perhaps savants continue to retain some of their God-like awareness and giftedness before being born into this present fallen world.
3. Since all savants have some type brain damage, I wonder if their physical impairedness, or pathology, prevents them from being programmed to believe or accept their limitations as quickly as we do.

4. Could this prevent the development of lids in certain areas of a savant's brain? Depending on the extent of brain damage, savants are not usually gifted in all areas. Some are musical savants, such as Leslie Lempke who can hear a composition one time and play it flawlessly. Others, like Jason Padgett are gifted in math, while those like Kim Peek are gifted in several areas.
5. The ramifications of this concept are staggering! Remember, we aren't born with lids; we develop and accept limitations as we grow, whether the limitations are real or not.
6. While we develop 'lids' as we grow, savants seem to never 'grow up.' Because of severe retardation or brain damage, their minds never develop beyond that of a small child with a very low IQ, often in the 30s or 40s.
7. On the other hand, programming or lids imposed upon us as we grow are accepted, like the jar of fleas shown in the video last week, or how Pavlov's dogs were trained to respond to the ringing of a bell at mealtime.
8. The savants who are the exceptions were perfectly normal until they received a head injury, such as Jason Padgett when he was mugged and left on a sidewalk. In these cases, something was 'awakened' in their brain that activated an ability that had apparently been there all along. When Jason regained consciousness, he had exceptional math abilities that weren't there before the injury. Was something in his brain jarred loose that allowed him to program and accept lids like the rest of us?
9. This is fascinating to me because of what it suggests. Since head injuries have resulted in many people becoming savants, some scientists believe that we all have abilities that could be unlocked by accepting lids or ceilings that we never thought could be mastered.
10. Scripture says we were made in the image and likeness of God, meaning we've been given dominion over everything! Psalm 8:5 says that we were made a little lower than the angels, but in the Hebrew, we were made a little lower than **God**. I believe that when Adam fell, mankind no longer

had the ability to reflect upon who God is—neither intellectually, spiritually, financially, physically, and any other way.

11. My point in saying all of this is to ask: could it be that God originally created man with no lids at all? If so, the sky really **was** the limit!
12. Perhaps we lost more than we ever realized when Adam ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

E. How to remove the 'lids' that hold us back.

1. We were meant to excel. Learning to remove a lid requires that we understand how it was first set in position. Lids become fixed in our minds because of our filters.
2. Filters can be good or bad. Without the two primary filtering systems in the human body, the liver and kidneys, we could not survive. These two organs process and filter all toxic wastes from the body.
3. Likewise, mind filters can be good or bad.
 - a. We are constantly being exposed to thousands of bits of data. Since we can't focus on them all, our minds must constantly filter the noises you hear, things you see, what you feel or smell, etc.
 - b. Similarly, the filters I'm referring to are in the subconscious mind.
 - c. Filters that prevent us from accepting harmful things are good; but if beneficial information is filtered out, that is not good!
4. ***A lid is anything you can never seem to rise above!***
 - a. A lid could be financial, spiritual or relational. It can exist in your career, marriage, or your ministry.
 - b. Lids can even include a physical workout or diet. It's the point that you can't seem to rise above, no matter how hard you try.
5. ***Filters are the premises that cause you to accept a lid as reality—even if the premise is false!***

6. ***From the moment a filter is accepted, it becomes a set-up for bouncing against a lid. After hitting it several times, you will accept the lid as a ceiling you can never advance beyond.***
- a. After being in captivity for so long, Israel had a problem believing that God could actually restore them as a nation. Serving idol gods had also affected their beliefs about what a false god could accomplish.
 - b. Of course, false gods could do nothing for them. Now that they needed a powerful god to do the impossible, serving false gods had made them believe that no god—not even Jehovah—could restore a nation that no longer existed.
 - c. Their filter was a belief in what false gods could do. Their lid was the limit they could receive from Jehovah.
7. To relate filters with the history of travel, in Christopher Columbus' day, sailors believed the earth was flat.
- a. After losing sight of shore, somewhere out there was the edge of the world. If you fell off the edge, evil monsters were waiting to devour you.
 - b. This theory caused them to accept a lid that determined how far they could venture from shore. One sailor may go no farther than 10 miles off shore, while another may go 25 or 50 miles.
 - c. The distance they dared to go was a lid that varied from sailor to sailor. That's why Christopher Columbus' story is so amazing!
8. Another filter is believing that God doesn't exist. That belief creates a lid that prevents God from performing the supernatural for you. While someone nearby may be blessed, God will pass you by because you don't believe in Him. Like Dawkins and many others, you then become bitter.
9. To become who God created us to be, not only must our lids be removed, we must also destroy the filters that prompted us to accept those lids.

Only then can He empower or enable us to venture past our present limitations.

F. The following passages describe those who put wrong filters in place. In each case, the filters produced lids they could never surpass.

1. **John 1:45-46 (NKJV)** - "Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote— Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." [46] And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."
2. Nathanael's filter was, "nothing good can ever come from Nazareth."
 - a. With such a filter, his lid would prevent him from receiving Jesus or becoming an apostle. Since Jesus was from Nazareth, Nathanael was locked in at his present level.
 - b. Since the Kingdom of God can only operate or function through faith, Nathanael had set himself up to be bypassed, simply because Jesus was from the town he thought was incapable of producing a person of value. Without even hearing Him, Nathanael was ready to reject Jesus.
 - c. Fortunately, Philip helped him recognize and remove his filter. That enabled Nathanael to not only receive from Jesus, but to move forward. Now he could boldly accept his destiny of becoming an apostle.
3. **Matthew 13:15 (NKJV)** - "For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'
 - a. This filter was the false premise that God was not speaking through Jesus. His words were considered to be just another sermon.

- b. Their imposed lid would not permit them to understand and receive the benefit of Jesus' teaching.
- 4. In **Mark 6:1-6 (NKJV)**, the people of Nazareth who could not accept Jesus' ministry said, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! [3] Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him. [4] But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." [5] Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. [6] And He marveled because of their unbelief."
 - a. To the people of Nazareth, Jesus was nothing more than a homeboy. Knowing Him from childhood and the members of his family was their filter.
 - b. Verse 5 tells us that while Jesus performed incredible miracles wherever He went, He could do no mighty works in Nazareth. Their lid prevented them from experiencing higher levels of the supernatural.
- 5. In **Luke 24: 25 (NKJV)**, the disciples traveling to Emmaus were unable to receive scriptural truths until Jesus removed their filter. Once their eyes were opened, they could move to a higher level of revelation of who Jesus really was.
- 6. In **Revelation 3:17**, the church at Laodicea considered themselves to be "rich and increased with goods" and having need of nothing.
 - a. They did not know how wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked they were until Jesus told them of higher levels and greater riches they had never known.
 - b. In **Revelation 3:18 (NKJV)**, He said, "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white

garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.”

- c. Their filter was believing they had “already arrived,” and that they were enjoying life at its fullest.
- d. Their lid kept them from going beyond their present level.

7. **1 Kings 22:8 (NKJV)** - “So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “There is still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord; but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.” And Jehoshaphat said, “Let not the king say such things!”

- a. Ahab's filter was believing the prophet Micaiah would never prophesy anything but bad concerning him.
- b. His lid was being unable to receive a Word from God that could have elevated him. Instead, he was left to slug it out on his own with no supernatural assistance, and he eventually lost his life.

8. During the famine in Samaria, the prophet of God had predicted that a great abundance would come at that same time the next day. But in **2 Kings 7:2 (NKJV)**, an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, “Look, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?” And he said, “In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it.”

- a. The officer's filter was believing that a challenge this big could not be solved, even by God Himself.
- b. His lid was that even if God would perform such an extraordinary miracle, all would experience and benefit from it—but him!

9. These are only a few examples. Scripture contains many others.

G. Let's look at some filters that cause us to unconsciously accept lids that should never have kept us from moving forward.

1. Jante's Law (pronounced yon'ta law) exists everywhere, but Scandinavian countries have given it a name. It's also called the "who do you think you are?" law. It's a reminder that you aren't anyone special—so don't dare attempt to rise above the rest of us. You'll hear these words, "Don't work so hard! You're making the rest of us look bad!" Or they may say, "We're all the same. You should accept this truth and act like us."
2. Get rid of the 'unbelief' filter that causes you to question everything. That lid is sure to keep you from experiencing the supernatural.
3. Eliminate the filter of small thinking. With God, we should think big!
4. Dispose of the 'works' filter that demands you to earn or merit God's favor. This lid will demand that you work hard to merit whatever you earn.

H. Life Application Points – Get rid of these harmful filters that will develop lids:

1. **The displacement method.** Negative filters exist in a vacuum. Rather than trying to remove them, replace them with good filters.
 - a. **Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)** - "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy— meditate on these things."
2. **The blame game.** When you blame others, you surrender control by transferring responsibility for your life to the person or system you are blaming. For the moment, it may make you feel better, but for the long term, you're unable to move forward. If you take no responsibility for your own life, you are powerless to fix the problem.
3. **The dissatisfaction habit.** Don't let it control your thoughts. Enjoy life! Don't be the one who never enjoys all the blessings God has already granted. Be hungry, but be happy!
4. **Don't weaken during times of stress.**

5. **Give God's grace time to work in your life.** It takes time to remove harmful filters and to replace them with positive ones.