

Wow! Great services today. We are onto something!

Love and blessings as you build **your** dream!

Part 8: Build Your Dream

Live the Life You've Always Wanted!

Texts:

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

How does your life align with God's plans for you? This is one of the most important questions you can ever ask! Because we were created in God's image and likeness, we reflect His glory and bring Him the highest praise when we most look 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 not tear you down. He wants to bless and give you a heart to know Him and to be your God.
2. **Daniel 11:32 (NKJV)** - "The people who **know** their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits."
3. In the Hebrew, to 'know' means: to learn by observation, experience and through relationship.
4. **I Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)** - "Pray without ceasing."

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 until your dream becomes a reality. Then you must....

“Pray It!”

B. Prayer has different meanings for different people.

1. In my mother's family, prayers were memorized, such as: "Hail Mary" and "Our Father." But in my dad's family, prayer was intense intercession. You could have heard my Grandmother praying throughout the neighborhood, like someone was being murdered. She **prayed!**
2. I want us to be on the same page about prayer. Like the weather, it can have different meanings. In the last few weeks, much of the U.S. has endured very cold temperatures. This morning in Houston, we think of this rainy day as bad weather. But in New York, they would say our weather is wonderful, compared to what they have been experiencing.
3. **Joke:** How to Unfreeze Windows

Early one morning before the last frost, with panic in her voice, Marie called her husband at work. "Boudreaux," she began, "I'm having a bad day! Kids missed da bus and I gotta pay da bills today. But da windows is all froze! What I'm supposed to do?"

Boudreaux answered calmly and patiently, "Chere, you just pour some warm water on dat. You'll see. I know you in a hurry but jus' wait a lil bit and dem windows will be all unfroze like dat." She said she would, so he went back to work to wrap up his night shift.

A minute or so later, Marie called back. "Boudreaux!" she exclaimed. "I poured water on dem windows just like you said and now da computer

don't work at all! And it shocked Tee John when he tried to unplug it! Now what?"

So let's make sure we are on the same page.

4. Today, let's begin the third stage of building your dream. After you **See It** and **Say It**, then you must **Pray It!**
5. This understanding of prayer that builds dreams is from a different perspective than may be imagined. I'm talking about prayer as it relates to who we are and who we were meant to be. My subject today is.....

The *Born* Identity!

- C. Matt Damon has confirmed that he will appear in a new Bourne movie to be released in 2016.
 1. The Bourne series of movies, based on the character Jason Bourne and played by Matt Damon, has been one of the most popular series of all time. It introduced Aaron Cross, played by Jeremy Renner, in the Bourne Legacy.
 2. The series made \$1,221,503,329 at the box office, not counting the DVD sales and rentals.
 3. Photo of movie poster:
http://www.imdb.com/media/rm602316544/tt0258463?ref=ttmd_md_p_v
 4. The storyline in this series is about an extraordinary man with exceptional skills as an agent, but who doesn't remember who he is. In the movie, he is trying to discover his true identity and learn who he is.
 5. He keeps having flashbacks that make him aware that he was created to be an extraordinary assassin with a mysterious and anonymous entity. He later discovers that his creator is the CIA.

D. While in the middle of this teaching series, I could not help but connect what God is saying to us at C.T., as well as every member of His church on earth.

1. I believe scripture teaches that you and I, like Jason Bourne, were also created to be something special. Instead of bringing death, we were created to be givers of life. Rather than a secretive department of the government, we were created by the Mighty God, who created heaven and earth.
2. Unfortunately, like the characters in Robert Ludlum's stories, the church has forgotten who we were designed to be. We have spiritual amnesia. And, like the Jason Bourne movie series, we too have a vague sense that we were created with exceptional abilities and for a purpose larger than ourselves.
3. But like Jason Bourne, we also have an enemy who wants to destroy us **before** we ever discover who we were meant to be.
4. Like the leaders of Treadstone in the Bourne series, leaders of the kingdom of darkness know what will happen if we ever discover our true identity: we will take the enemy down for all the pain and misery he has caused.

E. I am contending that since scripture declares that we were made in the likeness and image of God, we must rediscover who we were intended to be.

1. **Genesis 1:26-28 (NKJV)** - "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
 - a. In the Hebrew, 'image' (tselem) means: a resemblance or representative figure.
 - b. In the Hebrew, 'likeness' (dmuwth) means: resemblance; concretely, model, shape; adverbially, like:--fashion, like (-ness, as), manner, similitude. The root word means: to compare.

2. This is no small thing! We're like God? Wow! In His image, resemblance and fashion? That's how you are like God!
3. Think about it. God said He would make us in His fashion, comparable to Him—and then He did exactly what He had planned to do:
 - a. **Genesis 1:27 (NKJV)** - "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."
 - b. **Psalms 8:5 (NKJV)** - "For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor."
4. In the Hebrew, the word 'angel' is *Elohim*, or 'gods' in the ordinary sense, but specifically used (in the plural, especially with the article) of the supreme God.
5. While this Hebrew word is used over 2,500 times in the Bible, only in this one scripture is it translated 'angels.' In every other place, it is translated *God or gods*.

F. Then God gave instructions to His creation:

1. **Genesis 1:28 (NKJV)** - "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
2. When God instructed His creatures to multiply, they were to become many, or to produce offspring like themselves. Just as a fish produces the same type fish, a tree will produce other trees like its parent. In the same manner that animals reproduce the same specie, man was instructed to reproduce others who would also bear the image of God.
3. You were born with an incredible identity. It is your **"born" identity**. When Adam sinned, he not only lost the image of who he was created to be, but all his offspring were affected.

4. **Romans 5:12 (NKJV)** - "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."
 - a. The word 'sin' is an archer's term, meaning: to miss the mark or the target.
5. **Romans 3:23 (NKJV)** - "For all have sinned and **fall short** of the glory of God."
6. Why do we fall short? ...We aim too low!
 - a. **Genesis 3:9 (NKJV)** - "Adam where are you?"
 - b. God, who knows all, knew that Adam was hiding behind a tree. This was God's cry for the return of the Adam who was made in God's image. He was asking, "Where is the Adam who was created to be like Me?"
7. Like Jason Bourne, deep inside Adam's children, we all know that we were created for a purpose. We might not yet understand who we really are or our "born" identity, but unlike Bourne, we know we were created to bring life rather than death.
8. Mankind has been so beaten down, we have lost the ability to believe we can be great. Should you ever begin to dream too much, someone is sure to say that it can't be done. Remember the Jante Law from last week—the "who do you think you are" law?
9. (See Jonathan and Charlotte's audition – from beginning through 5:40 – <http://youtu.be/ZsNlcr4frs4>).
 - a. Notice the reactions of Simon Cowell and the audience during the performance and Simon's remarks at the end. Watch for his statement as the duo comes on stage and the audience's body language before and after their performance, especially the guy who is so dumb-founded, his mouth drops open.
 - b. This is Jante's Law in action. Clearly, it had affected both Jonathan and Charlotte. Did you see his hands shaking and Charlotte's

- apologetic face when Simon asked if they sang well together? Or Jonathan's shrug when asked if he thought he could win the event?
- c. When Simon suggested that Jonathan and Charlotte split, I like the character and integrity in Jonathan's reply.
 - d. What was the outcome of their performance? Jonathan and Charlotte stayed together and each of them landed \$1,000,000 in contracts. They have since developed huge solo careers!
 - e. Even more importantly, notice the audience's response when the duo began to sing. Do you know why people began to weep? Because every person could identify with Jonathan. We have all been hurt by statements others have made about us.

G. God's Word promises that the day is coming when His people will rediscover their ***born identity!***

1. **Daniel 11:32 (NKJV)** - "Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits."
2. While the word 'exploit' may be inferred, it is not in the original text. The original simply says that those who know their God will do, or perform! In other words, whatever needs to be done, they will just do it—which suggests accomplishments without limitations.
3. What makes this really intriguing is the type partnership which achieves these accomplishments. Not everyone is included in this category of extraordinary achievers. This select group that does great exploits can be identified as those who ***know*** the Lord, their God.

H. Adam's sin created a genetic anomaly.

1. Like a pregnant woman who is exposed to radiation strong enough to affect her unborn child, we have all become mutants. But unlike the movies where mutants are all X-Men with extraordinary powers, such as

Wolverine or Storm, mutants in real life are a much weaker deviation than the original pattern. When Adam sinned, we **lost** something; we lost our God-likeness and became weaker.

2. This is why the second Adam came. In 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45, and 47, Paul refers to Christ as 'the second Adam.'
3. Christ, the second Adam, came to restore all the first Adam lost.
 - a. **1 John 3:8 (NKJV)** - "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."

I. How do we, as Adam's descendants, begin that process of recovering what we have been deprived of all these years?

1. Our first step is to be 'born again.'
 - a. **1 Peter 1:23 (NKJV)** - "Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever."
2. When we are born again, we receive a download of our Father's DNA.
 - a. **1 John 3:2 (NKJV)** - "Beloved, **now** we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."
 - b. I don't think this verse refers to the Rapture. It's about activating our God-like DNA.
 - c. It's about **seeing** God! When we see Him, we become **like** Him. That's our **born identity**. Seeing Him activates our new DNA.
3. It's much like the story of the farmer who placed the egg of an eagle in the chicken coop to be hatched. While living among the chickens, the young eagle believed it was a chicken, even though it clearly did not fit in. Then one day, a large eagle flew overhead and began to screech. Something awakened inside the young eagle's heart as the old eagle soared high above. For the first time, the bird realized that it was not

- supposed to spend the rest of its life cooped up in a barnyard with chickens. Instinctively, with outstretched wings, it began to soar high above the flock of chickens to join the other eagles.
4. Some people think of prayer as the act of presenting a need or request to God, or a "911" call for help. But it's so much more! It's all about developing a relationship with Him!
 5. This is why prayer is such an important part of Building Our Dream. When we connect with God, prayer doesn't just change *things*, it changes the "*pray-er*", or the one who is praying.

J. Life Application Points:

1. Pray, not just to make a request, but to communicate and form an intimate relationship with God. This is how you get to *know* Him!
2. Every time you think of God throughout your day, speak to Him, even if it's in your thoughts. Just say something like, "Lord, I love You. I'm so privileged to know You."
 - a. You don't have to kneel or create a big scene. In fact, no one else has to know what you're doing.
 - b. This is what Paul meant when he said, "Pray without ceasing."
3. After regularly speaking with Him on a daily basis, you're sure to discover that He's always there, close by.