

Let's pray our dreams into existence. That's what God is waiting for us to do!

Love and blessings!

Part 9: 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 those 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, 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 learning through relationship.

4. God wants us to achieve great exploits in all seven components of life that make us who we are. Because He really loves us, He not only wants to bless us spiritually, but bless our finances, our minds, emotions, physical bodies, health, families and social lives.

B. Christians who fail to understand what Christ came to accomplish often get hung up on what He will bless and how much.

1. For years, the church has taught that God is only interested in blessing us spiritually. Nothing else in life is as important as the spiritual.
2. When the "prosperity message" came along, they taught that God's primary blessings are financial and material. Both messages are ineffective because they neglect other components of life that are just as important.
3. The gospel of Jesus is holistic; it addresses the areas that can be out of alignment. Those who have been blessed spiritually but are struggling financially will readily agree that this is not the abundant life Jesus promised in John 10:10.

4. **Joke:** The Bank

Boudreaux's bank called to discuss his accounts. "Your finances are in terrible shape," the banker began. "Your checking account is way overdrawn, and your loans are past due."

"Yeh, I know." said Boudreaux. "It's my wife, Marie. She's out of control." The banker then asked, "So, why do you allow your wife to spend more money than you have?"

"Mais, to tell de truth, Mr. Banker," replied Boudreaux with a deep sigh, "it's because I'd rather argue wid you than wid her!"

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 continue to speak positive words into your own life.
8. To **Pray It** enlists the help of Almighty God to become who He meant you to be.
9. Some question why we should pray for the good things God already wants to have. After all, if that's what **He** desires, won't it just *happen*?

Part 2 - "Pray It!"

How to Manifest Your Destiny Now!

- C. Ever so often, a movie is produced that is really worth seeing.
 1. In 2012, "The Vow" was one of those excellent movies based on the true story of Kim and Krickitt Carpenter.
 2. The book from which the movie was created clearly states that the Carpenters were committed Christians. But to bypass the "Politically Correct" police, the writers removed all references to their faith and added details to make it appear as though they were not believers. But still, the move is worth seeing.
 3. It's about a wife who has severe amnesia resulting from a car accident. In the last five year period, she doesn't remember who she is, her marriage, or any details about her life. Still worse, those memories were never recovered.
 4. Even though his wife remembers nothing about him, because of his love for her and a strong commitment to their marriage vows, the husband sets out to win her love all over again. And he does! By loving her so deeply, he pursues and wins her heart twice!
 5. Hollywood has been filming movies since the 1890s. During those 120 years, "The Vow," starring Channing Tatum and Rachel McAdams, is considered one of the top six romantic movies of all time!

6. The storyline intrigues me because I see something redemptive in this true story (<http://youtu.be/PcL24s-S6ns>).

D. As we mentioned a few weeks ago, Jewish theologians teach that our souls were fully aware of God's presence and existed in heaven with Him before we were born.

1. This came as a shock to those of you who had never studied or heard this teaching.
2. They also believe that at birth, God removed all memory of being with Him so that we could choose whether or not we would love and serve Him. Just as Krickitt forgot who her husband Kim was, they believe that we forgot who God was.
3. Writings and commentaries by the rabbis and a few early church fathers give more detail, but the Bible records very little about this subject. Other than God telling Jeremiah that He knew him before his body was formed in his mother's womb, not much is recorded in the Holy Book.
4. Scripture teaches that in six days, God created everything. The rabbis say that during this time period, the souls were created of all who would ever live. Then on the seventh day, He entered into His Sabbath rest.
5. Clearly, this subject is not essential to salvation or it would have been discussed more thoroughly. While some early Christians held to this teaching, such as Origen in the second century, others disagreed.
6. While I do not know if this teaching is true or not, it's one of those mysteries that intrigue me. If true, like Kim and Krickitt Carpenter in the "The Vow," after our physical birth, Jesus sought to win our love all over again and to make us His Bride.
7. How amazing that God, the Creator of everything in heaven and earth, would love us so much—but He does!

8. I'm also contending that because of Adam's fall, like Krickitt Carpenter, all mankind forgot who we were and how powerful we were created to be. Our present lives are but a shell of what God intended us to be.
9. In the question asked in **Genesis 3:9 (NKJV)** - "Adam where are you?", I believe this was God's cry for the return of the Adam who had been made in His image.
10. I also believe that **Christ**, the second Adam, came to restore all the enemy had stolen from us in Adam's transgression.

E. Prayer has a vitally important role in helping us recover our lost identity.

1. How important is **Pray It?** Scripture teaches that some of the things God wants for us will never be accomplished **unless** we pray!
2. **Ezekiel 22:30-31 (NKJV)** - "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. [31] Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord God."
3. Prayer is not necessarily what we have always been taught. Rather than being boring or painful, it can be the adventure of a lifetime!
4. Neither is the purpose for prayer to change God's mind or force Him to meet our demands. He wants to bless us more than we desire it.

F. When God chooses to do something, His pattern is often to first declare His intentions.

1. Then He waits for someone to **pray it** so His promise can be manifested.
2. Since He is sovereign and can act without any help from us, why would He require us to pray? Comparing God's sovereignty with the importance of prayer is often very confusing.

3. A simple explanation is to understand the role of a king or monarch. Kings do not perform everything themselves.
 - a. If a king announces that he's going to build a highway stretching from one city to another, no one expects him to show up on Monday morning with a hard hat, shovel and work boots. The king declares his intentions and his subjects make it happen.
 - b. I believe God has chosen to involve us in the same way. Once our King expresses His will, His subjects must act on that authority to accomplish it.
4. Remember: a monarch doesn't do everything himself. His role is to govern while the citizens or servants fulfill his wishes. Should there be any resistance, the king will lead his army to destroy the opposition.
5. Whatever our King declares, we follow His plans by **praying** it into existence.