

## **AWAKEN THE DREAM!**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This past Tuesday was the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. I actually dated it 1<sup>st</sup> July in my quiet time book. Every year seems to go too quickly. What I think was a recent event may have taken place 2 years ago! Life is like that. The Psalmist writes that our life is like a mist that passes as the sun heats the day, or like grass that shrivels.

The risk of getting into a dull routine and allowing our lives to waste away is great!

What about the hopes and dreams we have? When we were young we were going to conquer the world, drive a fancy car and be rich. As the years pass so it seems, do our dreams.

On Tuesday morning the Lord spoke to me about my dreams. It's too easy to let them fade away. I'm sure many of us face the same thing, and today I want to speak to us and encourage us to "awake the dream".

### **MESSAGE**

#### **THE DULL ROUTINE**

My morning routine consists of waking up (or being awake) when the alarm goes off, hitting the snooze button, finally getting up, putting on my slippers and gown, having my blood pressure tablet and then brushing my teeth. I then head to the kitchen to make something to drink and head up into the study to start my quiet time. Same thing day in and day out except for the weekend when the approach may be slightly different.

We all need some kind of routine, but if this is all life consists of, we will live a very mundane life and end it without having achieved our purpose.

Why is it that some people achieve so much in their lives while others, live it out, wasting the days that the Lord has blessed us with?

***Challenge: Is this your life? Don't you want more? Are you willing to do something about it?***

#### **GOD HAS A DREAM FOR OUR LIFE!**

**Jeremiah 29:11** (NLT) For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

**Ephesians 2:10** (NKJV) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

God knew each one of us beforehand **and He put in our hearts, even before we were born, a dream, a mission and a desire to achieve something for His Kingdom!**

## **THE HEAVENLY VISION**

**Acts 26:19-20** "Therefore, King Agrippa, **I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision**, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

Just as God gives us each a vision and a dream for our own lives, so there is also a heavenly vision – God has a dream...that none will be lost.

Paul was carrying out the heavenly vision given by Jesus in **Matthew 28:19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

**The heavenly vision must always come first!**

**Matthew 6:33** (NKJV) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

The heavenly vision should be behind our every dream in one way or another – everything else will come if we have the correct order of priorities! In fact, our very first dream and vision and goal must be to spend eternity in heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ!

**Challenge: Does our dream and vision have anything to do with the heavenly vision? Do we need to do some re-prioritising?**

## **TO HAVE A DREAM MEANS WE NEED AMBITION AND A PLAN**

**Paul had ambition!**

As Christians, we are scared of the word "ambition"! Surely if I am ambitious, it has its roots in pride? Yes, that can be the case when it's selfish ambition, but when it's got to do with our God-given calling, go ahead, have some ambition, in fact, have great ambition!

**Romans 15:20** (NLT) My **ambition** has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else

"Paul was fully focused and set on the work God had prepared for him. **"I have made it my ambition to preach the Gospel"**.

**Paul had a plan** – that which was given in the scriptures!

**Romans 15:21** (NLT) I have been **following the plan** spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says, "Those who have never been told about Him will see, and those who have never heard of him will understand.

- Achieving a dream also requires a plan. Paul was clear about it – he followed the Gospel plan.
- Paul was very focused, on achieving his dream and vision:
  - He knew what he had to do, where he had to do it and when he was going to do it.
  - He also knew what he had already completed!
  - He made priorities – sometimes he would not go to a place, or he would put off a visit to later.

### **Challenge:**

- ***Have we been waiting about, living out our dull, goalless life and waiting for something to happen – have we been expecting God to do something and we are just waiting for it to miraculously happen?***
- ***Where is our purpose in life? Where is our ambition? Where is the fire? Have we put it out while waiting for it to happen?***
- ***What about a plan. Have we got a plan? Do we prioritise correctly?***

The Lord spoke to me about writing down my dreams, to be specific about them, to pray over them and to visualize them. Last week we heard prophetically that we must keep asking, knocking and seeking. If we do this we will see our dreams become reality!

### **GOD WILL ENABLE OUR DREAM**

**Proverbs 16:3** (NLT) Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.

**Ephesians 3:20** (NKJV) Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

- We must never limit our dreams to our own abilities, resources or even our own thinking. God can go far beyond what we ever expect, so our dreams will be big if they are God-given.
- We need some S T R E T C H goals and dreams!
- Remember, we can do ALL things through Christ!

### **OUR DREAM WILL LED US TO OUR PURPOSE**

Our God-given dream will identify our purpose for being born!

**John 1:31** (ESV) I myself did not know him, **but for this purpose I came** baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."

John had not yet met Jesus, but he knew he had a purpose. His purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus arrival by saying, "repent and be baptized".

- We all have a purpose – God has prepared good works for us to do too.
- Our main purpose will always be, like John's, to point people toward Jesus.
- We find our purpose when we discover how God wants us to point people towards Him.
- Our purpose will align with the dream and vision we have.
- God may put in our heart to be a business man – His purpose could be for us to finance the work of the kingdom.
- Maybe our dream is to be a nurse – our purpose would be to comfort and help the sick and infirm.

We need to ask the Lord to reveal the purpose for which he placed us on this earth, but we can be sure that the dream and vision within us is already God's leading!

**Challenge:**

- ***Do we believe we are achieving God's purpose for your life?***
- ***Have we done anything about making sure you achieve your purpose in life?***
- ***What will be our legacy?***

**ACHIEVING OUR GOD-GIVEN DREAM AND VISION WILL REQUIRE US TO COUNT THE COST!**

**Luke 14:28-29** (NLT) "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? 29 Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you.

Kathryn Kuhlman had a powerful healing evangelism ministry. She said this: "This thing of living a Christian life costs plenty. It has cost me everything. But it's worth the cost".

She also said, "anyone can wish for success, but it takes gumption to do the things that make success possible". Gumption is another word for "strength of character", or being willing to "do what it takes" to get the job done.

She then said, "It will take more than ambition, gumption and enthusiasm, it will take determination!"

***Challenge: Are you and I willing to count the cost? Achieving our God-given dream and vision is going to come at a price!***

- ***It may be fasting and prayer.***
- ***It may be our time and resources including our money.***
- ***It may be going way beyond our personal comfort zone!***

I had a dream about becoming a pastor, but I had to count the cost in terms of salary, a prestigious high powered job, a fancy car, lovely bonuses and even a less comfortable retirement.

I also had to make a choice, and until the day came that I said, "I'm ready to trust you now", and I applied for voluntary retrenchment, God could not take me any further!

On 1 August I was in full time ministry for 2 years. I have never looked back and regretted my decision!

## **CONCLUSION**

Have you given up on your dream? Have you possibly put it on the shelf, waiting for the sweet bye and bye when somehow miraculously it will just happen? Are you tired of the dull routine of life?

- It's time to awaken your vision and dream!
- It's time to write out the vision, stir up your ambition and start to plan to achieve it.
- It's time to count the cost and say yes!

Here is Christian Heritage's dream and vision:

- To love God.
- To love people.
- To make disciples.
- To be a church of irresistible influence.
- To grow and thrive.

Achieving a dream requires action! We have to start somewhere! Ecclesiastes **11:1**(NKJV) Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days.

Our heavenly Father is so focused on His dream that He gave His only Son to die in the place of sinners so that none will be lost. It's time to do something and awaken our dream!

Let's not live out our lives and miss our purpose! It's never too late to start dreaming, God created us to be dreamers, so let us become what He created us to be!