



TODD LEVIN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

A monthly teaching publication to our partners and friends

KEEPING YOUR DREAMS ALIVE

Dear Partners and Friends,

On August 28, 1963, one of the most remarkable speeches that our nation has ever heard went down in history as Martin Luther King Jr. expressed his dream for freedom and racial harmony on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. Throughout the history of mankind there have been those whose visions and dreams fueled them to go beyond the boundaries and to achieve greatness, recognition and accomplishment. As an Olympic gold champion rises to victory, it is by no accident that he or she stands in that place. It was a vision and dream that began long ago from within, which propelled them to where they are today.

There is a dream inside of each man, woman, boy and girl that has been placed there by Almighty God. Some have already realized it but for others, it has not yet been discovered. Allow me to define two terms - *visions* and *dreams* - as I may be using them interchangeably throughout today's teaching since they are closely related.

A ***dream*** according to the Merriam-Webster's dictionary means: a series of thoughts, images, or emotions occurring during sleep; an experience of waking life having the characteristics of a dream: as a visionary creation of the imagination. A ***vision*** on the other hand according to the Merriam-Webster's dictionary means: something seen in a dream; the act or power of imagination; the act or power of seeing. In other words, a dream is what fuels the vision and the vision is what creates the picture of what we want to achieve.

Our Heavenly Father had a dream – He wanted a family. In order to achieve this He made man in His image and in His likeness. (**Genesis 1:26**) He stopped at nothing in order to bring it to pass. He knew that before this was all over, sacrifice would be involved and the cost would be immeasurable. “***For God so love the world that He gave His one and only Son.***” (John 3:16) He looked beyond all this and guess what He saw? He saw Christ in you! (**Colossians 1:27**) In the end, God would be glorified, others would be blessed and your life would be enriched that much more.

Jesus had a dream. “***Who (Jesus) for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.***” (Hebrews 12:2) He saw you and me long before we were ever born. He looked down the road of eternity and there you were. He saw your face and knew within Himself that you were worth dying for!

Who can forget Joseph the dreamer, as his brothers called him. He had a glimpse and preview of a future event in his life, long before it ever came to pass. Though he did not understand the full meaning of it at the time, still he expressed his dreams and visions to those around him, particularly to his brothers.

Realize that people around you will not always understand your dreams. One reason is that they don't share the same dream that you have. Joseph's brothers certainly didn't understand his dreams nor appreciated the meaning of them when they were explained. Nevertheless, it was for an appointed time. Your dream is also for an appointed time! Don't be discouraged if your dream hasn't come to pass yet. We must not get the cart before the horse. Preparation time is never wasted time. Some things must be set in order and in place before God can move you closer to that dream becoming a reality. Both circumstantially as well as relationally, the Lord must also work on the hearts and position others, for there are those who are called to be a part of that dream that God has placed within you. They will be there for you as Arron and Hur were there for Moses, and held up his arms before the Red Sea as it was miraculously divided. They helped bring the victory to pass that day when the Israelites were delivered from their enemies.

As you are sitting down reading this, ask yourself some questions: "Do I know what my dream is? Am I moving in the path of my dream? Do I have direction for my life?" If not and you haven't figured out what God is wanting to say and wanting to do with your life, then I strongly suggest that you get alone somewhere where you can think straight and listen to your heart. You might know it as, "*conscience*" or that "*still small voice down on the inside of you.*" In either case, it is the voice of your human spirit. You were created with a purpose in mind. There is something that God wants you to do that will bring Him glory and bless humanity. There is a blueprint for your life and the Holy Spirit has possession of it.

Let me illustrate it for you: the Heavenly Father is the architect – He's the one who designed your life; Jesus is the one who finances the entire operation (with His own blood) and the Holy Spirit is the builder or contractor. He looks at the blueprint and knows where everything's supposed to be **AND** when it's supposed to be there. He understands the timing and He understands the Architect's design and works with the blueprint in order to achieve the ultimate goal in mind – the Father's will! Consider the following scriptures:

"Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

Psalms 139:16 (NIV)

"And He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the [Holy] Spirit [what His intent is], because the Spirit intercedes and pleads [before God] in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's will."

Romans 8:27 (AMP)

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

The Holy Spirit, your Helper, is praying you into the will of God and simply needs your cooperation. He will be your onboard navigator and guide you into all truth if you allow Him.

When God placed a dream in your heart, it was with the intention that you will need His hand in order to bring it to pass, because God's dreams are bigger than we could ever imagine! He is the one who announced that, "***He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above, or far beyond all that we can ask or even imagine.***" (Ephesians 3:20) With a God-dream in our hearts, it most certainly will require our dependence upon the Lord. We need His help, wisdom, resources and strength – in order for the dreams to come to pass. Thank God that all the help we need has been made available to us by the Holy Spirit who lives in us. Remember what Jesus said,

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

John 16: 7 (KJV)

Can a dream be lost? Unfortunately yes. Maybe you've been living your dream, but you must guard and protect it for the devil will try and steal it. He is a thief who comes to steal our dreams and hopes from within us. (**I Peter 5:8**) But thank God, for the Lord comes to **empower** us and bring the dream to pass. I am here to encourage you today. Keep dreaming. Set your sights high. Don't underestimate what God can do or what God wants to do. The potential and possibility for that dream to come to pass that's within you is not unrealistic; it is reachable and it is possible. As you delight yourself in the Lord, what does He promise to do?

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Psalms 37:4 (KJV)

There's a two-fold meaning here. Not only will you enjoy the desires of your heart as they come to pass, but also He is the one who placed the desires within you to begin with. And if the Lord is responsible for giving you the desire, the dream, the vision in the first place, then not only is He **wanting** it to come to pass in your life, but He is also **working** in your behalf to bring it to pass!

"The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me."

Psalms 138:8 (KJV)

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

"The desire of the righteous will be granted."

Proverbs 10:24 (NKJV)

God wants to bring your dreams to pass in your life! He is the one who placed them in your heart to begin with. (I'm talking about desires from within that are in line with God's word. Not some ungodly, selfish, wild carnal desires that violate the word and will of God.) The work that He's started in you, He wants to finish!

In order to enjoy the reality of your dream, it will require faith. For this is the one and only ingredient that pleases God; that is the one which He rewards. Faith is the one ingredient that He works with. (**Hebrews 11:6**) It is the one ingredient, which framed the world that we live in (**Hebrews 11:3**) and the same ingredient that will see your dream become a reality!

So what must we do from our side to position ourselves for a God dream to come to pass? Let me point out a few things to remember. If you follow these, then I believe the Lord will lead you to where you're supposed to go.

Things to remember:

1. Recognize, discover, and identify the dream that is within your heart.
 - This is important. We need to identify what God has placed within us. Once we discover and recognize that dream within us, it will create purpose and drive; It will move you forward to accomplishing the vision and seeing a dream come to pass.
 - One way that clarity, vision and direction come to those who dream is by praying in the Holy Spirit.

“For he who is speaking in an [unknown] tongue -- to men he doth not speak, but to God, for no one doth hearken, and in spirit he doth speak secrets.” (KJV – ‘mysteries’)

I Corinthians 14:2 (YLT)

- Notice that when we pray in other tongues, we're actually speaking mysteries or divine secrets. Realize that what we're praying in the spirit is not a “mystery or secret” to the Lord. There is nothing hidden from Him. So then who is that information or divine secret for? It's for you friend. Remember what the Holy Spirit said earlier on in chapter two? God wants you to be in the know!

‘But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth (or literally - *communicates*), ***but which the Holy Ghost teacheth*** (or literally *communicates*); ***comparing spiritual things with spiritual.***”

I Corinthians 2:9,10,12,13 (KJV)

- Notice that last part in verse 13, “***which things we speak not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but...the Holy Ghost.***” As we pray in the spirit, we are speaking at a higher level than man's wisdom. Revelation comes forth. Paul understood this and later in chapter 13 instructed us to not only pray in the spirit but also, “***Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.***” There are divine secrets and revelation available for you. This “*inside information*” will help you to run with the vision and enable your dreams come to pass.

2. Be willing to accept the dream that God has placed in your heart. Say, “Yes Lord, okay I’ll do that,” with no reservations or skepticism in your mind.
3. Remember the reality of your dream coming to pass is **not** dependent on your ability but it is directly related to your faith and your willingness for God to have His way in your life and situation. (**Galatians 2:20**)
4. Timing is of the essence. There are different seasons in our lives. Seasons when we plant; seasons of watering; seasons where we harvest and our dreams become realities. So don’t be discouraged. Don’t grow weary, for in due season **you will reap** if you faint not. (**Galatians 6:9**)
5. Do not entertain doubt and unbelief. This will stop a dream from coming to pass. Unbelief limits God. Don’t put the brakes on.

“And he (Jesus) could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief.”

Mark 6:5,6 (KJV)

“How oft did they (Israelites) provoke him (Lord) in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. They remembered not his hand, nor the day when he delivered them from the enemy.”

Psalms 78:40-42 (KJV)

6. Do not yield to discouragement. The devil is a liar. When the dream seems impossible and likely to never come to pass, ask yourself this question: Is there anything too hard for the Lord? After you figure out the answer to that question, then start meditating on the following two verses:

“Everything is possible for the person who believes.” - Mark 9:23 (ISV)

“With God all things are possible.” - Mark 10:27 (KJV)

7. Walk in love and forgiveness. Forgive your debtor; shake it off and go on. Don’t let the past hold you back. Paul said, *“I’m letting go of my past, and I’m not looking back!”* (**Philippians 3:13**) You can’t move forward if you’re living your life out of a rear view mirror. Your dream is in **front** of you, not **behind** you. You will only move toward the reality of your dream coming to pass to the degree that you’re willing to walk in love and forgiveness.
8. Don’t lose sight of your dream! Write it down; pin it up; post it some place where you can often be reminded of it. Keep that vision and dream always before you. If you can envision it coming to pass, then guess what? It won’t be long!

As you’ve been reading this letter today, if the devil has come and robbed you of a dream, then stand up on the inside and take back what the enemy has stolen! Lay hold of the dream

again by faith, and watch God bring it to pass. That which seemingly looked impossible in the natural, now becomes possible through faith in God.

Dream big brothers and sisters! The sky is the limit. God is a dreamer. He has empowered you by his Spirit. You are a dreamer! Whether it's for a job, a home, a healing, a mate or a miracle, the Lord said, "*the desire of the righteous shall be granted!*" (Proverbs 10:24)

My prayer for you today is that the Lord would give you clarity to not only identify and accept the dream that He's placed in your heart, but also the vision and faith to see it coming to pass in your life! I pray that the Lord would remind you that He is capable of bringing the dream to pass in your life as you let Him complete the work that He has begun in you!

You are a blessing friend. Thank you once again for taking time out of your busy schedule to read this. I trust that today's teaching has encouraged you. I'd love to hear from you. When you have a minute, please write me and let me know how I can pray for you!

Your Friends and Partners,

Todd + Eva

P.S. I would like to make you aware that my **webcasts** are **available** for you to view. All you need to do is visit my website at www.toddlevintoday.com and signup today on my **Home page** to start receiving my monthly teaching publication through email as well as webcasts. I know they will be a blessing to you. Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

