

THE STRUGGLE BEHIND EVERY DREAM

Week 3: Time to Dream: Trusting God to Open Doors,
Part 3

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Due to the COVID-19 virus many people have lost their desire to think BIG, even dream BIG. We believe that God is looking for people who want to dream **BIG dreams** - so big that you and I cannot accomplish the on our own. **GOD says**, “Think of the **GREATEST DREAM** for your life and I can **TOP THAT**. I can beat your dream, it's bigger than you can think, request, guess, dream, imagine, and I don't do it by pushing you. I'm not driving you, I'm pulling you and I'm working gently within you.” God's dream for your life is always bigger - always bigger than your dream for your life. Not only that, but when you line up with God's dream for your life, **HE ARRANGES THE CIRCUMSTANCES SO THE DREAM HAPPENS**. He does it in a way that you couldn't possibly arrange on your own!

AS with anything new, we all may need to re-adjust our thinking on dreams, so this series will include a **CONCENTRATED 40-DAY TIME TO DREAM CHALLENGE**.

WHY DO WE USE 40-DAYS? Why do we use about six weeks? Well, it takes six weeks to develop a new habit. If you're going to change your routine, if you're your going to change your thoughts, if you're going to grow, you

have to **DEVELOP NEW HABITS**. You have to do something every day for approximately three weeks for it to become comfortable, and then do it for another three weeks to actually turn it into a habit. JOIN us and find out if it is worth the challenge and see if God can make our **DREAMS COME TRUE!**

CROSSROADS' SPIRITUAL GROWTH CAMPAIGN is a concentrated 40-day spiritual boost to your life that we commit to doing together using multiple learning styles to equip & energize us for our future!

*“God can do anything -- far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request or dream in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working gently within us.”
Ephesians 3:20 (MSG)*

WHAT TO DO IN WEEK #3 OF TIME TO DREAM

1. Read the devotional sent each day.
2. Participate in the weekly encouragement and prayer.
3. Memorize this promise:
“If anyone belongs to Christ, he is a new creation.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

TIME TO DREAM – Day 15

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and your minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

QUIET CONFIDENCE

IN our culture, it seems there is always something we can worry about! Our finances, our relationships, job situations, and that never-ending to-do list to name a few. God knows every single detail and every thought that consumes our lives. He has a great plan for us no matter how overwhelming our situation might seem today.

All He asks is that we not worry and take a few minutes to talk to Him, through prayer, about our challenges and frustrations. Come to Him today with a thankful heart in calm and confidence knowing that nothing is too great for our God.

TODAY’S PRAYER

Father, I thank You that You know every detail that concerns my heart today. You have said I don’t have to carry these burdens and challenges alone. I am asking You to carry them with me. I thank You that You will give me the peace that is beyond human understanding as I trust in You!! In Jesus’ name, Amen.

You were created to make a difference.

TIME TO DREAM – Day 16

“For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.” Isaiah 43:19

SOMETHING NEW

AS you begin to prioritize your lives around what God sees as important, change is going to have to come because His ways are not our ways. So begin your day by asking God to show you what He prioritizes. So often we fill our schedule with things that we have always done or what others feel is important for us, but God wants us to seek Him first. He wants us to see things from His perspective.

Check your “to-do” list for this week. Is your schedule revolving around things that are eternally important, like your relationship with God, your family and people who need Jesus? Maybe it is time for God to begin something new in you! Jesus said He is the beginning and the end. Maybe it is time to allow Him to bring an end to something you no longer need to be doing so He can begin something new in you.

TODAY’S PRAYER

Father, today I thank You for Your word that says if I seek You first then all these other things will be taken care of in my life. I pray today that You will begin to show me what You want me to prioritize in my life. Help me to see my schedule from an eternal perspective. If it is time for me to end something, I pray You will strengthen me to do it so that You can begin something new in me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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TIME TO DREAM – Day 17

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” John 10:10

GOOD VS. BEST

IT is wonderful to know that God’s purpose and plan for us is to give us a rich and satisfying life! In our culture, we become so easily distracted and drawn away by the hundreds of good options available to us. We can quickly become drained by our fast paced, overcrowded lives. But that is not God’s plan for us. He created us for so much more.

Sometimes it is hard to stay focused on what God has purposed and planned for our lives and for those we lead. As you make choices throughout your day today, ask yourself “is this just a good thing for me to do or is it the best thing for me?” And ask yourself, “Is this going to drain me or is this decision going to bring out the best in me so that I can be blessed and, in return, be a blessing to those around me?” Then ask God for wisdom to make the right choice between what is good and what is best. He stands ready to give us wisdom if we just take the time to ask.

TODAY’S PRAYER

Father, Today I thank You that Your greatest desire for me, as Your child, is to have a rich, satisfying, and abundant life. I ask You to give me the wisdom to know how to say “no” to the good things that come my way so that I can say “yes” to the best things You have for me. I ask You to give to me Your wisdom that is beyond human understanding to help me make the choices that will ultimately bring out the best in me as well as bring out the best in those around me for Your glory and honor. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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TIME TO DREAM – Day 18

“So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.” James 4:7-8

CHECK YOUR COMMITMENTS

SO often, our priorities can say one thing but our commitments say something different. We say our time with family is important, but how much time do we actually spend connecting with each other? We say our marriage is important, but how often do we have date nights or time alone connecting with our spouse? We say giving and generosity is important, but do we actually give? We say reading our Bible and prayer is important, but how much time do we actually spend in prayer and Bible study throughout the week?

God’s priorities *must* become our priorities because if they don’t, we will live double-minded. When we submit ourselves to God, we position ourselves to be in alignment with what He desires for us. This allows us to say “no” to the good and “yes” to the best, allowing us to make the right commitments at the right time so we can rest knowing that we are doing what God has planned for us to do.

TODAY’S PRAYER

Dear Father, as I come into Your presence today, give me the strength and power to resist the devil and everything he will use to distract me. Today, I will humbly walk in Your presence and allow Your thoughts, Your passions and Your priorities to be my own. Thank you for allowing me to experience Your best for my life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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TIME TO DREAM – Day 19

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

WHERE'S YOUR FOCUS?

DID you know, everyone is given the same 10,080 minutes in a week? Time is one of life's most precious commodities, and it is a gift from our loving Father. The problem with time, however, is that it quickly passes by. We've all said to ourselves or to someone else, "Where did the day go?" or "This week flew by!" James 4:14 says "Life is like a vapor, it's here one day, gone the next." In today's fast-paced culture, we have become masters at multitasking in order to get everything done and squeeze everything that we can into a day. As a result, one of the biggest temptations we face is to confuse *activity* with *accomplishment*.

Perhaps you've heard it said that many people major on ways to make a living and forget to make a life. In Matthew 6:33, our verse for today, the "everything" Jesus was referring to is the "everything" that usually takes precedence in our lives. When we make those "things" our focus, that focus often robs us from or crowds out the most important things in life - our relationship with Christ, our family, and serving others. Jesus said, when you put first things first, He will take care of all other "things" in life. So today, ask God to help you keep your focus where *He* wants it to be.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Father, forgive me for those moments when I do not make the most of my time in a way that I could or should. Thank you for giving me Your gift of time, and help me to re-prioritize the "things" in my life so that I can place You first in my life. Give me wisdom to know ways that I can restructure my schedule and finances in order to better serve You and others in my life. Help me to put first things first in my life and learn to trust You to make up the differences in the other areas of my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

TIME TO DREAM – Day 20

“So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.” Ephesians 5:15-17

BE CAREFUL

OUR culture is constantly pumping into our lives and minds the things it says we need and the things it says we should prioritize. God, on the other hand, tells us through His word that we should be careful how we live. He says we shouldn't just thoughtlessly follow whatever is put before us, but instead we need to know and understand that God's will and priorities are for our lives. The best way you do that is by reading God's word, hearing God's word, and "hanging around" people who have a close relationship with God.

Life is not a dress rehearsal! We only have this one life to live so let's make the most of this day. Let's choose to live out God's priorities in all that we do!

TODAY'S PRAYER

Father, Today I thank You for Your word, the Bible, given to me! Thank You that You have laid out in Your word incredible principles for me to live by that are the priorities of Your heart. Help me to spend more time reading Your word and hearing Your word so that I can build my life around those priorities. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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TIME TO DREAM – Day 21

“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.” Matthew 7:13-14

WATCH WHERE YOU WALK

THERE is an old saying – Just because everyone else is doing it doesn’t make it right. We live in a world where everyone seems to do what is right in his or her own eyes. In fact, far too many people are doing what the world or popular culture calls “normal.” Jesus spoke about living in a way that is different from what popular culture says. He said the way that appears to be normal isn’t necessarily the right way to live. In fact, Jesus calls believers to live differently from the norm, and while living differently than everyone else might cost us popularity, friendships, or advancement in certain areas of life - no one ever said swimming upstream against the cultural current would be easy - but it’s the way Jesus said would bring true life, fulfillment, and the hope of eternal life.

So here are today's questions to ponder. Check where you are walking. What path are you on? Check your friendships. What crowd are you associating with? More importantly, check those behind you. Who is following you and where are you leading them?

TODAY’S PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for providing a better way and a different road for us to follow. Thank You for showing us how to have a life that is worth living. Help me today to choose the right path in everything I do and to influence others to do the same. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

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