

GOD'S FIVE PURPOSES FOR YOUR LIFE

Week 6: Time to Dream: Trusting God to Open Doors,
Part 6

Written by Pastor Steve Norman
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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 #6 OF TIME TO DREAM

1. Read the devotional sent each day.
2. Pray for everyone else participating in this 40-day spiritual campaign.
3. Memorize this promise:
"As God's fellow workers, we urge you not to Receive God's grace in vain."
2 Corinthians 6:1

TIME TO DREAM – Day 36

“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will be standing firm.” Eph. 6:10-13

STAND STRONG!

IT has been said, inviting Jesus into our lives to be our Savior will be one of the easiest things we’ll ever do. However, living for Him will be one of the most difficult things we will ever do. We are under constant pressure from the world, other people, and the culture around us to conform to its ways. The demands of life can easily defeat us. This is why it is so important to realize that we cannot be self-reliant in our Christian life.

We need God’s mighty power to help us remain strong in our faith. We must remember the devil is out to “kill, steal, and destroy.” He works overtime to design strategies that will trip us up when we least expect it. This is why we need to put on “all” of God’s armor so we can withstand the spiritual attacks of the devil. God’s purpose is that we live a life of victory and maximize our one and only life to its full potential. As believers, we are called to make an impact for God with our lives. However, in order to do that effectively, we must “stand firm” so that we can “stand out” for our Lord.

TODAY’S PRAYER

Father, Thank You that You have not given us a life of defeat but a life of victory. Today, I ask You to give me strength to stand firm against all of the devil’s ways that are designed to trip me up. Give me Your mighty power today to make an impact for You. Thank You that with Your help, I can stand strong! In Jesus’ name, Amen.

TIME TO DREAM – Day 37

“Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. But even if He does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” Daniel 3:16-18

AN AUDIENCE OF ONE

ONE of the greatest needs people have is to be accepted and to have a sense of belonging. Because that desire and need is so great, it is easy to allow ourselves to be manipulated by popular culture and other people around us. We give into the temptation of conforming to their ways. If we’re not careful, we can compromise our faith for the approval of others. And the approval of others easily changes and shifts as culture changes.

As Christians, we must remember that no matter how much pressure we face in life, God is always there to rescue us in our times of need. Rather than living our lives for the approval of others, we must live our lives for an audience of one. Remember, no matter how much the heat is turned up with the pressures to conform, God has given us everything we need to challenge the norm so that we can stand up and stand out for the Lord.

TODAY’S PRAYER

Father, Thank You that no matter what I face or how intense the trials and temptations may be in life, You have given me Your promise that You will never leave me or forsake me. I know You have placed me in a position to make an impact on others with my life. Regardless of what others may say, think, or choose to do, I will live my life for You and You alone. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

You were created to make a difference!

TIME TO DREAM – Day 38

“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13

GOD'S STRENGTH?

HAVE you ever had one of those days where it seemed like everything you did was done wrong? Paul, the Apostle, wrote the above scripture while sitting in a prison cell. If anyone deserved to feel defeated and discouraged in life, it would have been the Apostle Paul. Paul, however, learned the importance of keeping things in perspective and how to completely rely upon God's strength regardless of the circumstances.

As we strive to make a difference with our lives, there will always be people, situations, and circumstances that can zap our spiritual strength and energy. In fact, it is easy to feel overwhelmed with all of life's challenges and hardships. However, the same spiritual strength the Apostle Paul experienced in his life is available to us. Where did his strength come from? The answer from today's verse is “through Christ.” It is in Christ that we find the strength we need to do “everything” we need to get done in life. Today, fix your thoughts on Christ and move forward with confidence that “through Christ” you can accomplish anything you set your mind to do.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Father, Thank You that I do not have to go through life alone. Thank You that You have placed Your Spirit inside of me and through Your power, I can do all things. Today, I choose to live in victory rather than defeat. Give me the strength I need to do the things that need to get done so that I can glorify Your name in all things, and thank you that I can walk in victory today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

You were created to make a difference.

TIME TO DREAM – Day 39

“When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through the rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, Your God, the Holy One of Israel, Your Savior. I gave Egypt as a ransom for your freedom; I gave Ethiopia and Seba in your place.” Isaiah 43:2-3

CHALLENGING TIMES

CHALLENGES are a part of life. It's not a matter of “if” but rather a matter of “when” we will go through deep waters, rivers of difficulty, and fires of oppression. When we face difficulty in our work and finances, problems in our marriage, conflict with our kids, and pain through strained friendships and relationships, we may feel like we're drowning. During these times, however, we must remember that as believers, God promises He “will be with us”, and it's in those times that He wants to remind us “He is the Lord, our God.”

No matter what we face in life, we can be encouraged to know that God is always there with us. He will not let us “drown” or be “burned up” by the trials of life. In fact, God wants us to use those trials as a platform for us to speak with others about His goodness, grace, and victory so they can be encouraged by what God is doing in our lives and what He can do in their lives, too. God can take our greatest misery and use it to become our greatest ministry to others who may be facing the same challenges we have or are facing. Thank Him today for using you!

TODAY'S PRAYER

Father, Thank You for Your comfort and assurance that no matter what I face, You will always be right there by my side. Help me, today, to remember that no matter what I face or what situation comes against me, You are present in my life and will be with me. Help to take my challenges and trials and leverage them to be an encouragement to someone else who may be facing familiar hardships. Use my life as a witness to others so I may glorify You in the good times as well as the bad, and thank You that, in You, no difficulty or challenge is ever wasted but can be used by You for Your glory! In Jesus' name, Amen.

TIME TO DREAM – Day 40

“So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honor.” 1 Peter 5:6 (NLT)

THE WAY UP

A great paradox in life is this statement, “The way down is up and the way up is down.” Too often in today’s self-centered, self-promoting society, people are looking to be one-up on someone else. However, in one’s quest to rise to the top in popularity or success, it’s easy to become self-reliant and prideful. That is why the scripture states “pride goes before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18)

In God’s economy, the way up is down. When we walk humbly before God as obedient and faithful servants, God will always take notice of it. His timing and His ways may be different from what we would choose, however, when God elevates us, His place of honor and promotion is far greater than anything we could do for ourselves. As believers, God has called us to lift up the name of Jesus in every area of our lives, and as we humble ourselves and rely upon the mighty power of God in our lives, God will elevate us so we can illuminate Him to the hurting world around us.

TODAY’S PRAYER

Father, Thank You for Your promises and the power of Your word. Today, I submit to Your authority in my life, and I confess that I cannot be successful apart from You. Help me to demonstrate Christ-like humility in all my ways so that people will see You in everything that I do. May whatever success You choose to bless me with be a stage to point people to Jesus and to glorify His name. Thank you for using me to touch others’ lives for Your glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

You were created to make a difference.

TIME TO DREAM – Day 41

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
1 John 5:14 (NIV)*

HAVE CONFIDENCE

YOU made it to the finish line! You just spent 40 days breaking old habits and beginning new habits. 40 days to receive encouragement and encourage others. 40 days to ask God to help you change, to help you begin to dream, and to learn what God’s dreams are for your life. Congratulations!

So what comes next? It all goes back to where we started in the beginning. You prayed when we started, so now you continue to pray. Now that God has begun to stir up your ability to dream, ask God to reveal ways to begin putting feet to your dream. There is power in prayer. In fact, prayer is what powers our day. The good news is that when we pray, we can have confidence that God hears us. He is not far off so we can’t reach Him. We don’t have to take a number, wait on hold, or stand in line. We don’t have to press 1 to have Him speak our language, and we will never get disconnected. No, we can have confidence that when we call to Him, He hears us. Take some time today to enjoy a conversation with God who is *always* willing to listen.

TODAY’S PRAYER

Father, Thank You for always being available and ready to listen to me. Thank You that You desire to talk with me, to have me share everything in my life with You, from the smallest, simplest need to the dream that is far greater than I could ever imagine. Your word says I can come boldly with confidence to talk to You so today, I want to thank You for trusting me enough to give me a dream. I’m not quite sure how to take the first steps toward making it a reality, but I know You know the steps I need to take. As we talk together today, continue to share with me about the dream You want to begin working on in my life and begin to show me Your plan to make it real. Thank you for being a God of new beginnings. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

TIME TO DREAM – Day 42

"For the Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright, He is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for He guards the course of the just and protects the way of His faithful ones." Proverbs 2:6-8

WISDOM STARTS HERE

YOU need to make a big decision. You need help with a choice. You need to know which way to turn. So how do you know what to do? The good news is that Proverbs tells us that the Lord gives wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. But here's the challenging part. God doesn't just give it to anyone.

God considers wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to be like jewels in a crown. They are something to be cherished, held in great honor, sought after like a prize. So God put a price on obtaining them. In order for God to be willing to share them with you, you must do your part by being upright, blameless, just, and faithful to God. Sounds tough, doesn't it? The good news is God has also given those who have a relationship with Him the Holy Spirit to help us live a life worthy of these precious gifts. If you've never asked Jesus into your heart, today is a great day to do so! If you already have a relationship with God, then ask the Holy Spirit today to remind you of ways you can walk worthy of His most precious gifts.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Father, Thank You that You sent Jesus to die for my sins so I could have a relationship with You. As your child, help me live a life that is pleasing to You - upright, blameless, just, and faithful in our relationship. Thank You for giving me an inheritance of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding when our relationship began and for sending Your Holy Spirit to teach me how to make wise choices and help me do my part in our relationship. Today, I choose to look to You first before making decisions because I know You will answer me when I ask for help. You are a wonderful Father! In Jesus' name, Amen.