

The Power of Visions, Dreams, Promises, and Faith

I. Receiving Vision

- A. When we are saved, sometimes even before, God begins to use visions, dreams, and promises to reveal the good works He has for us to do (Ephesians 2:8-10).
 - 1. He uses the inspiration of the stories, commands, and promises of the Scriptures to encourage and inform us.
 - 2. Visions and dreams are also part of the language of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:17-18).
- B. Abraham was shown a vision for his life. When he believed it, God credited it to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:1-6).
- C. God takes us on various faith journeys and assignments to fulfill the visions and promises He has for our lives. Slowness of heart can cause you to miss or delay the plans God has for you (Hebrews 6:10-12; Proverbs 13:12).
- D. Vision releases joy and holiness into a person's life (Hebrews 12:1-2).
- E. A dream or vision can be an invitation to partner with God. Abraham is a good example of how we should respond to God's invitations and promises for blessing (Genesis 15:1-6).

II. Cultivating the Field of Dreams, Visions, and Answered Prayers

- A. Visions grow in the soil of being "other-centered."
- B. A lifestyle of problem solving for others causes visions and promises to grow in our own lives.
 - 1. Jesus, our greatest example
 - 2. Lessons from Joseph—Potiphar's house (Genesis 39:1-6); prison (Genesis 39:20-23); master of Egypt (Genesis 41:33-40)
- C. Vision is carried along by answered prayer. Answered prayers are directly tied to a life of integrity toward other people and God (James 4:2-3).
 - 1. How Solomon got heaven's attention (I Kings 3:5-15)
 - 2. God's chosen fast (Isaiah 58:5-11); Cornelius' memorial offering (Acts 10:30-33); Job praying for his friends (Job 42:10)
- D. Am I "Good News?"
- E. We live to give; and we give to live.

III. Patience and Vision

- A. Visions, dreams, and promises are invitations; but faith is required to bring them to fruition (Hebrews 11:6).
- B. Patience is another word for faith (Hebrews 6:12; 10:35-39).
- C. God tests us with visions and promises. In the end, we receive our hopes and dreams and are changed by the process (Genesis 22:1-2, 7-8; Hebrews 11:17-19).
- D. There comes a time when a promise is made certain (Genesis 22:9-19; I Corinthians 10:11-13).

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