



## Dreaming # 2

Hello everyone, welcome to "Notes From the Presence." In my last article, I started a mini series on dreaming. We talked about the dreams of our heart and how they don't come without effort. We then began to build a list of things that I have learned about developing the dreams of our heart.

First, God built us to dream. Second, dreams are like children in that they have to be birthed. Third, God is not intimidated by even the craziest of dreams. Fourth, dreamers are hated and contested by the devil. Fifth, dreams should not be broadcast carelessly for all to hear - at least not at first.

Today the list continues ...

Sixth, you are never too old to dream.

*Joel 2:28-29 It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."*

Notice how this passage states that old men will dream dreams. There is no age limit on dreaming. In fact, some dreams are even meant to be carried over to the next generation. You might start a dream and the next generation might finish it. One plants, one waters, and yet another reaps the harvest. Some dreams are ours alone, some span many people and time periods. These things being said, I have talked to many aging saints and there is one distinguishing factor that I have noticed. The ones that have a sparkle in their eye are the ones who still have the ability to dream. They are also the ones with a spring in their step, health, and vigour.

However, there is another scenario that I have noticed far too often. The ones who have no dream give up on life, have no spark or spring, and they complain about many things. These ones often die sooner and leave a wake of sadness when they leave. Many times I have noticed that people look forward to retirement. Then, when they retire, they suddenly realize that they have no more purpose and things begin to deteriorate. There is a direct correlation between the ability to dream and the gift of life we have been given. God never meant for us to enter a stage in life where we quit dreaming. Even if we don't have the ability to dream for ourselves anymore, there is still another generation that needs our ideas and the grace that has been added to our lives. God built us to dream until our last day on this earth. Then, when we enter eternity, we will find a whole new palette to begin dreaming all over again.

Seventh, children dream of significance in an environment of safety. Have you ever watched children play? For the most part, what they are doing is creating scenarios in their minds and acting them out. We are all built for significance and many of our childhood dreams carry these tendencies. As a child, I remember playing for hours, both by myself, and also with my cousins. We would dream of conquering the universe in some kind of makeshift Star Trek spacecraft (yes I am a Trekkie). In a safe and secure environment, children will often put on a superman cloak and begin to jump off furniture, pretending to save the known world. On the other hand, the first thing that happens in an environment of fear and insecurity is that the dreaming stops. The dreams of our hearts are much the same.

I remember the first time I was told that I could dream, that God loved a dreaming heart, and that I was built for significance and destiny. I began to dream up all kinds of scenarios that related to the call of God on my life. It was like I had been suddenly set free. My wife and I began to drive up and down the west coast and dream of starting churches in small towns. Some of these experiences were very real to us. We even went so far as to look at Real Estate in various locations. Every time we felt God's presence in a particular town, we would invest faith in that location, sometimes even sowing financial seed or doing other things that stretched our faith and scope. However, in the end, none of these dreams really amounted to very much. But what were we doing? We were putting on our capes and jumping off furniture. There was something very significant happening during those treasured road trips ... we were starting to dream again. God was never intimidated by even one of those dreams and He let us drive, riding right along side us, speaking to us, and honouring us with His presence. He gave us an environment of safety to live and dream in.

Like mentioned in last week's article, we always put every dream back in His hands, submitting them to Him as an offering and a sacrifice. Eventually, He would then give

the dream back to us but it would look different and each time it would take on an additional fragrance of maturity. What am I saying here? A child of 7 looks fine jumping off the couch with a superman cape; however, a 50 year old adult might very well break their leg doing the same thing. As time went on, the dreams began to mature and take on a practical side. God then began to give us favour with which to accomplish the dreams of our hearts. Today, our dreams look much different than they did a dozen years ago. They are saturated with the presence of God and founded upon a deep place of trust, rest, and hope.

In the end, I wouldn't trade one of those road trips for anything. They were essential to the purposes and directions of God being found in our lives. As we still love to drive up and down the coast, we stop and pray in every one of those towns for the churches and souls that are there, that God's presence would rock each location with His revival fires. I am not saying that your dream might not come to fulfilment immediately, and exactly how you saw it in the beginning. I am just trying to make the point that dreams often need refining, a process that may take months or years. The best dreams often take a long time to bring about, and we might not even understand what we see at first. It is a basic desire for significance in the kingdom of God that drives and fuels a dreaming heart, and God always gives us a safe place to develop these dreams.

I will end today again by recapping the words of Solomon that we started with last week: much effort goes into a dream, and when it comes to the sacred dreams of our heart, few words is often better than many words.

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real – and He is a great dreaming partner! Dream big everyone!!