

DREAMING THE FUTURE GOD WANTS FOR YOU

Time to Dream: Trusting God to Open Doors
Rick Warren

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

12 REASONS I MUST KNOW GOD'S DREAM FOR MY LIFE!

1. **GOD** _____
God: "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness."
Genesis 1:26 (NCV)
2. **WITHOUT A DREAM** _____
"Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)
3. **EVERYTHING** _____
"I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can see something of the future [God] has called you to share." Ephesians 1:18 (TLB)
4. **DREAMS** _____
"God has given you two dreams to let you know that he has definitely decided to do this and that he will do it soon." Genesis 41:32
5. **MY DREAMS** _____
"The eye is a light for the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are evil, your whole body will be full of darkness."
Matthew 6:22-23 (NCV)
6. **A DREAM** _____
"I do not mean that I am already as God wants me to be. I have not yet reached that goal, but I continue trying to reach it and to make it mine. Christ wants me to do that, which is the reason he made me his. Brothers and sisters, I know that I have not yet reached that goal, but there is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead, I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize for which God called me through Christ to the life above. All of us who are spiritually mature should think this way, too." Philipians 3:12-15 (NCV)

7. **A DREAM** _____
"I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I fight to win. I'm not just shadow-boxing or playing around." 1 Corinthians 9:26 (TLB)
8. **A DREAM** _____
"According to your faith will it be done to you." Matthew 9:29 (BSB)
9. **A DREAM** _____
"I don't have the strength to endure." Job 6:11 (NLT)
"What goal do I have that I would want to prolong my life?" Job 6:11 (GW)
10. **A GREAT DREAM** _____
"If your goals are good, you will be respected." Proverbs 11:27 (GNT)
11. **MY SELF-DISCIPLINE** _____
"All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize." 1 Corinthians 9:25 (NLT)
12. **GOD-GIVEN DREAMS** _____
"This is what I will do in the last days, God says: I will pour out my Spirit on everyone. Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message; your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams. Yes, even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will proclaim my message." Acts 2:17-18 (GNT)

Next Steps

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LIVING GOD'S DREAM DESPITE PAST POOR DECISIONS

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"We all stumble in many ways." James 3:2 (NIV)

RECOVERING GOD'S ORIGINAL DREAM FOR ME

1. HONESTLY _____

4 COMMON CAUSES

Seen in Peter's Betrayal of Jesus

- _____
Peter: "Everyone else may stumble in their faith, but I will not."
Mark 14:29 (NCV)
- _____
"Couldn't you stay awake with me for one hour?" Mark 14:37 (NCV)
- _____
"Peter followed [Jesus] at a distance. . . ." Mark 14:54 (NIV)
- _____
". . . There [Peter] sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire."
Mark 14:54 (NIV)

"Simon, Satan has asked to test . . . you." Luke 22:31 (NCV)

"But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."
Luke 22:31-32 (NLT)

2. HUMBLY _____

David: "Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion . . ." Psalm 51:1 (NLT)

" . . . wipe out my transgressions." Psalm 51:1 (BLB)

"Wash me thoroughly from my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin."
Psalm 51:2 (GW)

"For I admit my shameful deed—it haunts me day and night." Psalm 51:3 (TLB)

"But you want complete honesty, so teach me true wisdom." Psalm 51:6 (CEV)

"Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me."
Psalm 51:10 (NLT)

"Restore the joy of your salvation to me, and provide me with a spirit of willing obedience. [Then] I will teach your ways to those who are rebellious, and sinners will return to you." Psalm 51:12-13 (GW)

3. GRATEFULLY _____

"For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." Romans 11:29 (NIV)

"For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn." Romans 11:29 (NLT)

WHY DOES SIN NOT INVALIDATE GOD'S DREAM FOR ME? BECAUSE. . .

1. JESUS _____

"Yet if you devote your heart to him and stretch out your hands to him . . ."
Job 11:13 (NIV)

"Put away evil and wrong from your home." Job 11:14 (GNT)

"Then, free of fault, you will lift up your face; you will stand firm and without fear. You will surely forget your trouble, recalling it only as waters gone by. Life will be brighter than noonday, and darkness will become like morning."
Job 11:15-17 (NIV)

"You will have courage because you will have hope." Job 11:18 (TLB)

2. GOD'S GOODNESS _____

"He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." Titus 3:5 (NLT)

3. GOD'S CALLING & GIFTS _____

"For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." Romans 11:29 (NIV)

4. GENEROUSLY _____

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."
Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)

5. COURAGEOUSLY

"There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus."

Romans 8:1 (NLT)

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

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THE STRUGGLE BEHIND EVERY DREAM

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THE DREAM

"When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said: 'I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. . . . ' When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, 'Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.' He was afraid and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.' Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel . . . Then Jacob made a vow, saying, 'If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey . . . then the Lord will be my God . . . and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.'" Genesis 28:11-22 (NIV)

THE STRUGGLE: 4 PHASES GOD TAKES US THROUGH TO GET US READY FOR HIS DREAM! Genesis 32

1. THE CRISIS PHASE: _____

"During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two servant wives, and his eleven sons and crossed the Jabbok River with them. . . . This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break." Genesis 32:22, 24 (NLT)

"Even in the womb, Jacob struggled with his brother; when he became a man, he even fought with God." Hosea 12:3 (NLT)

2. THE COMMITMENT PHASE: _____

"A man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. Then the man said, 'Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go unless you bless me.'"

Genesis 32:24-26 (NLT)

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

3. THE CONFESSION PHASE: _____

"The man asked him, 'What is your name?' 'Jacob,' he answered." Genesis 32:27 (NIV)

Jacob = original: "deceiver/manipulator"

4. THE CONVERSION PHASE: _____

"Then the man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel. . . . Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.'" Genesis 32:28-30 (NIV)

Israel = "Prince with God"

"The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of the injury to his hip." Genesis 32:31 (NLT)

"If anyone belongs to Christ, there is a new creation. The old things have gone; everything is made new!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NCV)

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