

Living Your Dream Series: “Pressing the Reset Button”

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April 4, 2010

- When we are kids, we are dreamers. Believing anything is possible and thinking outside the box. At the high school commencement speech, we talk about going out and changing the world.
- Then we go through college, get a job, go through a few hard knocks, disappointments, betrayals, and so on, and the commencement speech is a dim memory. Our idealism is gone and our dreamers shut down. We move from being a dreamer, to being a survivor.
- Through all of this, many become victims, empty, futile, confused. There is something missing in their lives.
- If you began as a dreamer from the time you were born, and you were a dreamer till it got knocked out of you, then that must be what you were designed for.
- We were born to be idealistic, positive, hold lofty ideals. This is not a negative thing, acting naive. But what God intended for us. But we become pessimistic.
- Even in our world today with fears, threats, and worries, we can still be idealistic and not focus so much on the negative.
- The Bible is very clear, that as a man thinks in his heart, so shall he become as his thoughts!
- Many things we can't change, but the one we can change is ourselves!
- Don't focus on the negativity in the world around you. Draw a circle around yourself and focus on that world. These are the things you can deal with and change. This is where you can bring the glory of Christ.
- We need to dust off old dreams or dream if we never have. This is where we will find our destiny in Christ.
- We have a dreaming God whose DNA is within us to be a dreamer.
- Pastor Rick will be speaking in weeks about; dusting off old dreams, how to discover what your real dream is that God has for you, and how to carry out that dream and keep the enemy away from it to stop it.

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) *“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*

- *Vision brings health to our lives.”*
- Vision and dreams are all about your future. But in order to move forward, you must first deal properly with our past!
- Life comes in cycles, in seasons. There must be an ending for another to begin.
- Today is about endings, conclusions, outcomes, finishes. But *we tend to deal better with beginnings than endings.*
- Here are two quotes that capture this thought:
 - **Seneca:** Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.
 - **TS Eliot:** What we call the beginning is often the end. To make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from.

Joshua 1:1-5 (NKJV) *“After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.”*

- God comes to Joshua to initiate a new season, full of promise. But God begins it by stating, “Moses, my servant is dead.”
- Deuteronomy (the book before Joshua) ends with death and mourning of Moses.
- In Joshua, it states “it came to pass”. This indicates a space of time.
- God didn't speak to Joshua right after the 30 days had ended, but time lapsed. Then God said to Joshua. “Stop camping out in the past and to let it go!” There is a time for endings, for conclusions, for finishes. This is the only way to begin a new season.
- Here are some examples of negative endings / beginnings:

- Loss of a loved one - we need to grieve properly and deal with it. Go through the processes so you can move forward. Then you can learn to live again.
- Divorce – many feel their life is over. Don't get stuck in a static state of turmoil where you cannot move forward in your life.
- Betrayal and offenses - we tend to carry these into our future. This causes us to stumble all of the time and we don't know why. We lose joy and enthusiasm for life. It is as if we really carry the person that we are offended with.
- Bankruptcy – many millionaires make, lose, and make it back again. Many lose and aren't able to let it go.
- Here is an example of a positive ending / beginning:
 - Moses – miracles everywhere he went. Who wants that season to end?
 - We look back and romanticize about the “good things”. We forget we were in a desert that whole time.
 - We must build on successes. Don't live on successes. They will hinder you from moving forward in your life.
- God told Joshua that Moses is dead. Now get up, go forward, and take the land.
- Living in the past traps us into passivity.
- The only reason God brings things to an end is so there can be a resurrection of a new life!
- When Jesus died on the cross, the disciples heard him say “**It is finished**”. They had hung all their hopes and trust on Him. They didn't understand there had to be an ending in order to have a new beginning.
- There has to be finishes before there can be resurrections. Endings have to come for there to be a new season.
- Jesus said, “**It**” is finished, not “**I**” am finished!!!
- Just because “it” finishes doesn't mean your life is over.
- The best example of this is Pastor Rick's mom losing her husband ten years ago. She mourned a short season. But she soon realized, “that” is over but “I” am not over.
- She is doing things she never did while he was alive.
- What happens when things come to an end that God has told you to do and has blessed?
- Look in Genesis 22 at the story of Abraham. God planned and initiated Isaac as the son of promise. But God told Abraham to sacrifice him. Abraham obeyed and God said, “**NOW** I know you fear God.”
- In March 1979, God gave Pastor Rick a vision and said, “I am calling you to build this house”. So Pastor Rick did this work for many years. Then Pastor Rick went through a season of sickness. During this season, God spoke to Pastor Rick and said in the early years you were a builder, now you are to be a father of builders. Pastor Rick struggled with not being the builder and God limited his strength so he couldn't build as before. Pastor Rick was healed and is now searching out and finding sons and daughters to mentor and to fulfill the vision. He is the father of builders.

• If we learn how to properly let things go, we prove what Abraham proved and that is we really do fear God.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NKJV) *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all.”*

- This is saying there are many conclusions in life but there is really one main conclusion. If we really trust that God is in control, seasons can come and go without difficulty because our identity is in God, not in us.
- The biggest hindrances to people being born again in Christ is giving up the right to control our own destiny. What we live grasping for, we will never get it.
- But In Christ, if we yield to His perfect plan, He makes life worthwhile.
- When Pastor Rick was younger, he didn't want to be a preacher. But he was miserable and fell across his bed praying. God showed him a blank piece of paper saying it was His will for his life. He told Pastor Rick to sign it. Pastor Rick said, “Fill it in and I will sign it.” God said, “No. You sign it and then I will fill it in.” Pastor Rick did, and the first thing on the paper was to preach!
- Pastor Rick thought he would be miserable, but God knew better than he did.
- Pastor Rick has been completely fulfilled, walking in the will of God.
- Nothing is worth hanging on to in life that will make you lose your soul.