

Living Your Dream Series:

“Get Out of Your Comfort Zone”

Pastor Rick Shelton

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- When we are children, we are dreamers and think outside the box. Hopes are bright and positive. We believe the best is yet to come.
- After a while, the dream gets knocked out of us and we stop dreaming and start surviving. We just exist.
- Pastor Rick has gone through many difficult things as well. But he can still say that he has not lost his dream. Life is still good. The best is yet to come. People are good, he still trusts them. He has high hopes about the world around him.
- If you don't live this way, your life will be miserable. You will simply exist. You will lose your joy and your faith.
- Look at Paul in the bible. He was motivated by vision.
Acts 26:19 (NKJV) *“Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,*
- We should want to be able to say this when we get to heaven.
- To fully grasp this message, the assumption is made that your life is already committed to Christ. You are already obedient to him and submitting your life to him. Therefore, this is not about things you “want”. It is not about your dreams for things.
- The dream is bigger than just getting what you want. It is the dream of living your life the way you always wanted to live. There is relational harmony in your life and you are making a difference in the world around you.
Psalms 37:4 (NKJV) *“Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”*
- When this is studied out, it says He will create in you desires. When you delight in God, He changes what you want!!!
- When you come into alignment with God, He begins to change what you want. What God wants for you is really what you are designed for in the first place.
- For Pastor Rick, he didn't want to preach. Yet when He called him, he obeyed. He found out that was what he was designed for.
- Pastor Rick went to speak at Bennettsville, NC and had such a terrible experience he left the city and shook the dust off his feet saying, “I will never go back!”
- Be careful what you say, because a short time later they called and asked Pastor Rick to be their pastor. If he didn't, they would have to close their doors. He did not want to go but God wouldn't let him get away without going.
- You don't need stuff to make you happy. Draw a circle around yourself and say, “everything I need to make me happy is inside this circle.”
- God is in you. His potential is in you. His power and wisdom are in you.
- Years ago, Pastor Rick's brother had a dream where he was driving down the road. While he was trying to steer, it was going all over the road. But when he let go of the steering wheel, everything straightened out and the car began to go straight.
- Quit trying to steer your own life and let go. Let God take hold of the steering wheel. He will begin to impress upon you what He wants for your life.
- There is one point you need to focus on to help you learn how to live your dream that God gives you for your life. It is: **GET OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE!**
Genesis 12:1-3 (NKJV) *“Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*
- Most people are willing to take versus two and three. But notice the prerequisite states four things. God says:
 1. Get out of your country: get away from your environment that is so familiar
 2. From your family: this does not mean remove yourself from your family but as long as you are with your family all of the time, you are too comfortable
 3. From your father's house: get away from all of the advantages given to you by what your father has done preceding you.

4. To a land that I will show you: God said, "I am not going to tell you where to go. You go, and then later I will tell you."

- All of this was prior to Abraham's vision. God had to first get him away from everything that was comfortable to him.

- Abraham had to be walking by faith. This is not walking by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) *"For we walk by faith, not by sight."*

- When walking by the familiarity of everything around you, you are not in an environment that is conducive to walking out new dreams and new progress in your life. You must be willing to step outside your comfort zone.
- In the end, it is not about your comfort but about the treasure God put in you for others. There is nothing like affecting someone's life!!!
- This is how Pastor Rick stays so enthused. He learned a long time ago that life is to be lived by trying to bless others. As Pastor Rick lives to do that, he becomes happier for it.
- Enthusiasm simply means to be infused with the very life and energy of God.
- John and Lisa Bevere are speakers well known around the world. Years ago, when Pastor Rick was speaking at a conference, John picked him up and hosted him. Lisa was with him and one day she asked about the call on her life to teach. She didn't want to abdicate the call but had four small boys. Pastor Rick said, "this is the season to be a mom to your boys and then God will give you the time to fulfill what He has called you to do in that teaching ministry." His words gave her the peace to stay home with her boys for that season. And now she speaks all over the world.

- The greatest thing in the world is to touch other people's lives!!!

Revelation 3:14-16 (NKJV) *"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 'I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.'"*

- God is not pleased whenever we are lukewarm.
- Luke warm means to be at room temperature. Hot and cold is relative. You are a thermometer, just reflecting the environment around you.
- Trying to "fit in" is being lukewarm.
- God wants you to be a thermostat, setting the temperature. We should determine what the atmosphere is to become.
- Pastor Rick is not saying that we should be extremely radical in our environment. But rather, we should be extraordinary people who function in ordinary ways.
- If on your job, people don't know about your faith, you are lukewarm. God has called you to change your environment, not reflect it.
- What does God say you are to be like? Look in His word to find where you are to be "set" and then go into the world and gracefully, lovingly try to live that way. That is setting the thermostat.
- When you set the thermostat, it takes a while to bring the room up to that temperature. It won't happen overnight.
- Gabe (Pastor Rick's son) is in the Navy. He has had a very difficult time with people because he didn't behave the way they did. He didn't preach at them, he just lived differently and they were hard on him because of it. One day, Pastor Rick told Gabe, "Maybe God has put you there to shine your light. I believe it will turn around. But if it never does, remember that Jesus died on the cross for His stand. All you have to do is endure some ridicule and criticism. Embrace it enthusiastically. Count it a badge of honor. God is calling you to stand for His life in you." The atmosphere has now changed around him. God has turned it around. Now he is respected. Promoted, and getting all kinds of favor.
- **IF YOU DO WHAT YOU HAVE ALWAYS DONE, YOU WILL GET WHAT YOU ALWAYS GOT!**
- You live your dream by changing things around you, not by reflecting the environment and the world around you. God has not called us to be chameleons as Christians. God has made us to make a difference in the world.