

Living Your Dream Series:

“Four Keys to Living Outside Your Comfort Zone”

Pastor Rick Shelton

April 18, 2010

- This is not just about living any dream you come up with. This is not to fulfill something you crave.
- You were made and designed by God to fulfill a specific purpose during your life that God has given you.
- God has a purpose for you. God doesn't make people to take up space and to exist. Whatever you do, do it with purpose.
- We were born to dream. As children and teens we would dream. But people and circumstances have knocked the dreaming out of us. Life is not fair. Life is tough. This is true, but **So what!** This is the mess the devil has created. God's DNA is in you and he has dreaming DNA.
- **Say, “I am a dreamer because God made me and His DNA is in me. He has dreaming DNA.”**
- When you lose the dream for life and begin to survive – you are not living the life God designed for you.
- To live your dream, you must get outside and live outside your comfort zone!!! You are wired to live outside your comfort zone. This is what faith is in the first place.
- **Hebrews 11:6** tells us God is pleased by our faith. He responds to our faith. And the essence of faith is living outside of your comfort zone. It is living, not by what you see, but what you believe!
- There are four keys to living outside your comfort zone:

1. **BE YOURSELF:**

- All of us are man pleasers if we don't walk according to God's word and the way He has designed us. Don't be a “man pleaser”. God made you. And He likes you the way you are.
- **Say, “God made me, me. That must mean He likes me just the way I am. God didn't make a mistake when He made me.”**
- Don't live and do things all the time to be “accepted” and to be a part of the crowd. We are all different. Don't live to fit in. God has designed all of us to be different in our own ways.
- In the garden, God made man to walk with Him and He filled them with His glory. Everything they needed was completed in God and in that relationship. Then they sinned. After the sin, man was afraid, naked, and hid.

Genesis 3:10 (NKJV) *“So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”*

- First thing man experienced after he sinned was nakedness, a sense of something missing, and an incompleteness. This made him hide.
- This feeling plays out in all of our lives every day if we don't walk with all of our identity and security being obtained through God. We must have a vital relationship with God.
- When we don't have that completeness in God we have defense mechanisms that we use to “cover” our sense of “nakedness”. We have a pseudo self. One made up to get approval.
- The flip side of needing approval, are the people that become tough, bold, and arrogant. They have false aggression to cover the insecurity they feel.
- So many people don't have their security in their relationship with Christ. You must tear down your walls. You are never truly free until you are just yourself.

2. **FACE YOUR FEARS:**

Joshua 1:2 (NKJV) *“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.”*

- In this verse, God was giving Joshua His dream.

Joshua 1:9 (NKJV) *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”*

- God told Joshua “do not be afraid”. He didn't say “try not to be afraid”. **Do Not** was a command.
- You cannot stop fear in the flesh. Your flesh gets out of control and your mind goes crazy. But we are not to listen to that. Don't let fear dictate what you do or influence the decisions you make.

- Joyce Meyer coined the phrase “**Do it afraid!**” If you never learn to do it afraid, you will never do anything.
- Pastor Rick’s boys wanted to go jump off the cliffs at the lake. They asked Pastor Rick to jump with them. He didn’t want to but did it because they taunted him. When he got to the top of the cliff, it seemed so much higher than it did from below. When he got to the edge and looked down, his knees had fellowship with each other. He was so afraid. And the longer he waited the more terrified he became. He finally realized there was only two ways down; to jump and be a hero, or to walk down and never live it down. Against all fear, he closed his eyes and jumped. And when he came out of the water, he was so pumped.
- You have to decide whether you want to be a hero or stay safe. This is exactly the way it is on the other side of acting in faith.
- The experience at the top of the cliff is a lot different than the experience at the bottom. A lot of Christians live this way. They talk about what the church is doing. They say, “oh we are doing this or that”. But the question is, are **you** doing it? Are you at the top of the cliff, or are you just looking on from the bottom?
- Engaging yourself in faith releases the grace of God. The fear will leave you once you step out in faith and out of your comfort zone. This is how we get a testimony at the end that every one admires.

3. **BECOME COMFORTABLE TAKING RISKS:**

Mathew 14: 22-27 (NKJV) *“Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”*

- In this story, the disciples were terrified! Jesus said, “be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”.
- To be of good cheer means change the way you are thinking about the situation you are in.
- Peter took a risk because he had a “word from the Lord.”
- You need to pray. And when God drops something in your spirit, step out and take a risk! But the key is to step out on what God has spoken to you.

4. **EMBRACE THE UNKNOWN:**

- **Mark 8: 22-26** is about the blind man of Bethsaida. Jesus took the man by the hand and led him outside of the city. Then and only then, did Jesus lay hands on him and healed him.
- Jesus said, “don’t go back to town.” Why? Because as a blind man, he learned to memorize and become familiar with where everything was in order to live comfortably. That is like us.
- If you are ever to get healed and stay healed, you are going to have to get out of your comfort zone and go into situations you don’t know. If you always stay where you’ve always been, your faith will never engage to take you anywhere, where you are not.
- People in St. Louis are stable people. We love security and don’t like change. To Pastor Rick, it is different than Dallas, TX, where there is an entrepreneurial spirit. They are not afraid to take risks.
- God has designed you for new things; to see new things, do new things, and experience new things. We need to meet new people and go to new places. Don’t just live inside of a box. Be willing to step out into the unknown.
- God told Abraham to step out into the unknown and then He told Abram where to go.
- **Say, “God designed me. I am a dreamer. So dust off my dreams and get with the program. Step out of my comfort zone. I need to take some risks. Face my fears. Embrace the unknown. Stop being a man pleaser. Be a God pleaser. I am strong because God made me strong. I am powerful because God made you powerful. I am creative because God made you creative. Wow, I am something else because God made me and He’s got a plan for me. He’s going to fulfill my dreams. But I’ve got to step out. So I need to get up on the cliff today and jump off. God will catch me.”**