

Living Your Dream Series: "Giving Birth to Vision"

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- This series is all about living the dream that God has designed you for. It is not just what you selfishly want. Many of us know that what we think we want does not make us happy and fulfilled.
- Luke 1:30-35 (NKJV) *"Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."*
- Mary became pregnant to give birth to the vision of redemption. There does not seem any way in the natural that this can be done.
- Having and giving birth to a vision or dream in your life is a lot like conceiving and giving birth to a child.
- Having a vision is like having something planted in you so you can bring life to it. It is dropped into your heart by God and you carry it inside you until it comes to pass.
- To give birth to a vision, you must first get it on the inside and then you will have it on the outside.
- God drops a dream into our hearts and we carry that embryo by faith and by hope until it is birthed outside of us.
- You must get it, hope it, dream it, and see it inside of you (i.e.: freedom from debt) before you can ever have it.
- Motivational speaking that sounds like this is simply principles that have been unhinged from their source. This is mind over matter. But what the bible speaks of is God over matter.
- Many motivational ideas use Proverbs 23:7 as their primary thought. This verse states that "as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he". This is not new thinking, but biblical thinking.
- The book "The Secret" is full of God's principles unhinged from the Word. These things are deadly because they make us the center of the universe instead of Him.
- It is a proven fact that your mind and body function better and you become healthier and more productive if you think positive thoughts. Do not divorce positive thinking from the gospel.
- Instead think, *"I am believing that things are going to turn out right and the best is going to happen to me. Not because my mind is a great force moving things into place but because I have humbled myself before the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He who has the power to make me, has the power to take care of me. If my life is in His hands, I can be positive about my future. I am not going to be negative about it because God is going to take me through to victory!"*
- Having a vision is a lot like being pregnant. It doesn't just put something in you, it changes you. You gain weight, skin stretches, back hurts, etc. You waddle and it is beautiful!
- Visions and dreams are Biblical. That is how He has designed you, to look into the future and to see something that God wants you to do, something you are to accomplish, or a need you are to meet.
- Wanting a car is not a vision. It is just something you want. A vision is something that changes you at the very essence of who you are.
- Let's look at the analogy of getting pregnant as the framework for a vision.
- HOPE IS THE WOMB:
 - To live with vision, you must have hope. This is where it all begins. Hope is a strong confident expectation of getting or receiving something. That it is going to turn out right.
 - Anyone who lives with hope lives with the picture inside.
 - Don't let your picture be framed with debt, sickness, and bad things in the world and nation. Don't let all these reports of all that is going on cause you to be hopeless or you will never be able to change your world.
 - If you live with hopelessness then you have lost the womb or capacity for God to work and change things in our world.
 - In Ezekiel 37:11, God gave Ezekiel a vision of the dry bones and asked, "Can these bones live?" Only when Ezekiel could see them living did God tell him to prophesy that they would!!
 - Before God used Ezekiel to bring about this vision, He had to make sure Ezekiel could see it happening.

- Some people “prophesy” and want to believe something will happen and then get disappointed when it doesn’t happen. They are skipping some very important steps.
- First you must find out if God has said this in His scripture. If it is not delineated in scripture, you must pray enough to know for certain that this something God wants.
- Then ask for it in prayer. Do not claim it yet. Pray, “God will you cause this to come to pass?”
- Somewhere along the way, a seed of faith will drop in you and all of a sudden your faith goes from asking God to do it to it being done! From that point, you can thank the Father for giving you what you have asked for.
- Don’t agree on something too quickly. The book of Ecclesiastes says, “don’t let your mouth be hasty before God”. Your mouth can cause your heart to sin.
- Many years ago, Pastor Rick got a call to go to the hospital. A young couple went to the hospital in premature labor. They were given no hope for the baby to be born alive. Two ministers were there before Pastor Rick and counseled them to prepare for the worst. However, when Pastor Rick spoke to them he asked, “What do you want?” They said they wanted the baby to be born. Pastor Rick did not pray too quickly. Instead he took his bible and started pumping the word of God into their souls until he saw the light come back on the inside of their eyes. He was not going to pray for a miracle until he knew the couple could see it happening. Then they prayed. About a half hour later, the baby was born alive. That was about 28 years ago.
- Just a few years ago, a young lady came up to Pastor Rick with a baby in her arms. She asked if he knew who she was. She told him she was the baby he prayed for 28 years ago. She said, you dedicated me all those years ago, I want to know if you will dedicate my baby too.
- Last night Joel Osteen was at the Dodger Stadium preaching to the crowd. He said there are people who would get onto him for being too hopeful. Don’t get onto people like this. God uses everyone in different ways.
- There are people that tell Pastor Rick that he shouldn’t tell people to get their hopes up. What if their hopes are dashed? But Pastor Rick says isn’t it better to live with hope for a little bit than with no hope at all? So it is better to live with hope!

Haggai 2:3 (NKJV) *“Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing?”*

- Haggai asked the people how they saw the temple “now”. It used to be glorious.
- If you were more successful in the past, how do you see yourself now? If you live in the past you can never move forward.
- You have to see God’s glory in it “now” and believe God still has better days before you. This is hope.
- Hope is the womb. But the womb is not enough. It must be filled with something in order to give birth. But what is it to be filled with?

• FAITH IS THE SEED:

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

- God doesn’t respond to hope. He responds to faith.
- Faith needs a vehicle or container and hope is the container.
- You cannot have faith without hope painting the picture of what faith wants to happen.

Romans 10:17 *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

- The Word of God is God’s seed. Faith needs to fill our womb of hope and the way faith comes is by the seed of God’s word being planted.
- There are two words in Greek for God’s Word; logos and rhema.
- Logos is the written word. Anyone can read it; Christian and sinner alike. But we are to take logos, pray and study over it until it comes alive and becomes Rhema. This is when God’s word comes alive in you.
- When God’s word becomes Rhema, there is something in the womb for God to work with. The Holy Ghost comes alive in you and it becomes a life producing seed. This is where you hear the voice of God.
- If you can ever learn what the voice of God sounds like, your life will never be the same.
- One way to hear it is through visions like the vision God gave Pastor Rick in March of 1979. This doesn’t happen often.
- Another example of someone hearing God is Pat Bradley. Pat heard from God while watching T.V. He saw the news of a desperate situation in Angatcha, Ethiopia. God dropped it into his heart to do something and ICA (International Crisis Aid) was born out of that.
- Having a burden for something is the “voice of God”.
- Mike and Shelly Wozniak saw a need and God spoke to them through it.
- God wants you to live with a vision. Seek God to live in hope from there.
- God has something for you - a plan bigger and better than you would ever have for yourself.
- You are to change the World!