

# Living Your Dream Series: "Calming the Storm"

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May 9, 2010

Romans 4: 17-22 (NKJV) *"(as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."*

- Abraham was walking out his faith to believe God for what He had promised him.
- You have to take hold of God's promises. That is what is going to change your life. God's Word can change your life. This is what is going to cause you to live your life and fulfill your dreams that God has given you.
- God changed Abram's name and called him Abraham because this is what he wanted him to be.
- Many Christians today go through the motions of prayer and supposedly believing God but don't receive the promise that God has given to them or don't receive what they are asking for. This leads to futility and religiosity. Because now we just go through the motions.
- One of the most dangerous things you can do when you are trying to pursue God is to engage yourself in activities that are deemed spiritual but where you are only going through the motions. There is no faith, not spiritual passion, no real life engaged in those things.
- When Pastor Rick prays every morning, the first thing he does is to sit and make sure he is fully engaged before he ever says a word. This is how he makes sure his words aren't just filling the air, but are meaningful.
- Why is the landscape scattered with people who say "I prayed and went to church but nothing changed".
- There are distinct specific spiritual laws that govern everything concerning our relationship with God.
- These are not civil laws with punishment that have their own consequence for disobedience, but natural laws set in motion. Walking away from God and doing your own thing leads to its own type of destruction.
- There are definitive laws that govern prayer that are not hard to follow. The main ones are:
  1. God listens to your HEART not your head – you have to say it because you want His rulership in your life, not because you have your own selfish desires.
  2. Sometimes God will say no. God is a father, knowing what is best for you. He is not a CEO or Sergeant of a troop. Prayer is not a vending machine. When God says "no" you know it is good.
- There is nothing more important to your everyday life than spending time with God in prayer.
- Romans 4:17 (NKJV) *"(as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;"*
- Look at Genesis 17 - God changed his name from Abram which means "exalted father", to Abraham which means "father of many nations". God is having them speak it before it ever came to be. For example, Sarah would say; "Father of Many Nations, can you come here please?"
- This is brilliant. What better way to get them to speak what He had called him to be than to change his name.
- This is NOT a "Name it and Claim it" verse; saying things like "I want to have that expensive car" or "I want that new dress". It is not a frivolous shallow get rich quick scheme. But it must be applied correctly.

- First connect with God in fellowship and relationship - where you know you have obtained His presence in your day. Get close enough so that you can hear His heart and His voice. Then when you face the needs that you have, you will have a peace in your heart to what is right for you at this moment in your life.
- It is all about finding the heart of God!!!
- In Genesis 12, God came to Abram when he was still in his home and father's house and said, "Get up and go. Get out of your comfort zone". He was getting Abraham to a place where he was fully dependent on God for his life.
- How does it work to "call those things which do not exist as though they did"?
- You must understand that God is not asking you to speak things that are not real, but rather things that are real but exist in another realm.
- In Hebrews 11:3, the bible says that God - by His word - framed, shaped, fashioned all of the things you see today out of things you do not see that exist in His realm.
- The spirit world is more real than anything in the natural realm. Everything in this natural world was created from the spiritual world.
- All that we see in this realm will be gone one of these days, but that which gave birth to all that we see is going to last forever.
- The natural realm is viewed as complex, defined, and organized. But the spiritual realm is viewed as ethereal with angels and goblins. Yet the spiritual realm is more complex and has greater order - both angelic and demonic.
- Ephesians 6:12 tells us we don't wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness in high places. These are four different entities in the evil spirit world that are different levels of hierarchy that govern Satan's kingdom.
- Hell has a rank among its entities. But this is also true of Heaven.
- Daniel 9 tells us that Daniel hears a word from God about what He wants to do for Israel. So Daniel fasts and prays for three weeks. Then an angel comes and tells Daniel that God dispatched him on the first day into the heavens and that he (the angel) has been fighting against the evil spiritual ruler, the prince of Persia. This is an example of the hierarchy in the spirit world that attacks a nation. It is different from what attacks us as individuals.
- Many don't want to hear about the spirit world in the church. They don't want to hear how the spirit world impacts everything that happens in the physical world. But if you don't learn this, the devil will eat your lunch. The only reason this hasn't happened to many of us yet is because of God's grace and mercy protecting us.
- The devil always dresses himself up in perfume before he stabs you in the heart.
- Satan works like a fisherman, getting the right spinner bait to catch the fish. The fish thinks the bait is the desire of his life, not realizing there is a dangerous hook there.
- All sin looks good until the light of God shines on it.
- God is not a gimmick!!! He is the ruler of the whole world!!!
- The issue is that the devil is real. We must wake up and realize what is really going on.
- All of your problems are spiritual problems, either directly or indirectly. There is a spiritual attack behind every problem that you have. So you must realize that if you don't follow these spiritual laws, it is not just your spiritual life that won't work out, your physical life will not work out as well.
- We may hear this and think, "I can make it on my own". But sooner or later every man comes to the end of himself.