

Time To Dream - Part 5
How to Keep Your Dream Alive
03/29/2020

- The Hand of God is missing
- Have you ever felt like the hand of God was missing in your life?
- In the midst of what we're going through, are you wondering where is God?
- Yes, Jesus. I believe you can heal him. Lord, help me with my unbelief.
- Faith is a gift from God

2 Peter 2:1 (TLB) All of you who have our kind of faith. The faith I speak of is the kind that Jesus Christ our God and Savior gives to us. How precious it is, and how just and good he is to give this same faith to each of us.

- Faith is also a choice.

Luke 22:67 (NASB) "If You are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe;

Romans 15:4 (NIV) "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

2 Chron. 14:1 (NIV) And Abijah rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. Asa his son succeeded him as king, and in his days the country was at peace for ten years.

2 Chron. 14:8-10 (ESV) And Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah, armed with large shields and spears, and 280,000 men from Benjamin that carried shields and drew bows. All these were mighty men of valor. 9 Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and came as far as Mareshah. 10 And Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up their lines of battle in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

How To Keep Your Dream Alive:

1st) Expect The **UNEXPECTED**.

2 Chron. 14:9 (ESV) Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and came as far as Mareshah.

- Don't be surprised by adversity.

1 Peter 4:12 (GNT) My dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful test you are suffering, as though something unusual were happening to you.

- He's saying shake ups are a normal part of life in a broken world

John 16:33 (ESV) I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

- The first thing we do is try to figure out who’s to blame
- As long as you’re fixing the blame you can’t fix the problem
- Instead of asking whose fault it is you need to be asking what should I do?

4 Sources of Problems:

A) My own HUMAN Nature.

B) The Nature of WORLD.

- Your nature is within you, the nature of the world is around you and wants to pull you down

C) The Nature of EVIL.

D) The Nature of GOD.

- God will use every one of them for your good if you will trust him.

2nd) RISK Following God.

2 Chronicles 14:2 (ESV) “Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God.”

- At some point in his life he got to know God
- At some point in his life he decided and he chose to follow God and to risk everything.

Luke 5:4 (ESV) "When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch"

3rd) REMOVE What Weakens My Faith.

2 Chronicles 14:3-4 (NIV) He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He commanded Judah to seek the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and to obey his laws and commands.

- I choose Faith Over Fear

How to Choose Faith:

A) IDENTIFY what needs to be removed.

- Fear is going to come at you from every angle, just don’t feed it
- Every time you open your phone or your computer or turn on the news, your brain is walking onto a battleground.

- They are all attempting to capture your most scarce resource — your attention — and take it hostage for money.
- You will lose this battle. You have already. The average person loses it dozens of times per day.

B) **COMMAND** your attention to God's Word.

- Fill your life with the truth
- Fill your life with love
- Fill your life with faith

4th) **ADJUST** as you go.

1 Chron. 15:3-4 (ESV) For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a priest to teach and without the law. But in their distress they turned to the Lord, the God of Israel, and sought him, and he was found by them.

- Adjust your attention to Jesus.
- Sometimes God shakes things up in my life to inspect me.
- Sometimes God shakes things up in your life not to inspect you but to correct you.

For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a priest to teach and without the law.

- Sometimes God shakes things up in my life to direct me.