

CHIEF MINISTRIES

July 2022

Greetings in the name of the Lord.

Many believe we are in the last days and scripture supports that in many ways. This month I want to look at some of the “personal” things that we as Christians will be experiencing and what/how we are to expand the kingdom with it. Acts 2:17 says; *“In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.”*

So are there any dreamers in the house?

God’s dream for your life will always be far bigger than your dream. How do I know that? Because God promises it: *“God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us” (Ephesians 3:20 The Message).*

Think of the greatest dream for your life, and God will top it. He can beat your dream with one that’s bigger than you could ever think up! But he doesn’t give you your dream by pushing you around. In fact, he draws you to him and works in you with great gentleness and care.

God doesn’t only give you a big dream for your life. After he gives you the dream, he then arranges the circumstances to make it happen. Things will happen in your life that make you think; “There’s no way that could have happened without God’s help.” “No way that you could have met that person at just the right time, or that the money could have come just as you needed it, or that an opportunity opened up at the perfect moment.” But God, works in detail, just look around wherever you are at and think of the details that had to go into the things, and people around you. All things are created by God, some thru His use of people but still ALL things come from Him.

When you get in line with God’s will, you can’t miss it, because God doesn’t sponsor flops. Success is inevitable! It won’t always look like you think, because God knows better, but it will always be for your good and for God’s glory. God says in Revelation 3:8, *“I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut” (NIV).* When God gives you a dream, then he circumstantially provides the open doors for you to make that dream come true. Then you just need the courage to walk through that open door. That’s where faith comes in. Many people understand God’s dream for their life but are scared to death to walk through the door.

When you surrender your plans and dreams to God so that He can give you His plans and dreams for your life, you need to be prepared to walk through a door when He opens it. So choose to get ready today. Following God through that door will lead to the best dream you could ever imagine for your life. You don’t want to miss it. You shape your dreams, and then your dreams shape you. If you don’t have a dream for your life, then you don’t have any definition for your life.

So many people today are confused about their identity. In fact, our society is having a collective identity crisis. People are asking: “Who am I?” “Where did I come from?” “Where am I going?” “What am I supposed to be doing?” “Does my life matter?” “What gives my life significance?” “Is there any reason for it all?” Those questions shape their dreams, and those dreams just feed into the identity confusion.

The only way to have clear definition for your life is to have God’s dream for your life. If you don’t, you won’t know who you are or who God wants you to be. You’ll always be asking yourself these questions. You’ll doubt what you’re doing and why you’re doing it; you’ll wonder if what you do has any meaning.

Your dreams define you—so you’ve got to make sure you’ve got the right dream! And the only way to know you have the right dream is to find out what God’s dream is for your life. Jesus said, *“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness” (Matthew 6:22-23 NIV).*

When you have great vision, you see past what is in front of you to the long-term—even to eternity. A great dream is born of an eternal perspective and faith in God’s good plan for your life. A short vision will define a small dream. But a long vision will define an impactful, meaningful dream. Choose your dream wisely. A dream based on God’s vision for your life will make a difference in how well you live out your purpose. And it will also point others to God and His plan, the only way to find fullness of life.

The right dream focuses your energy. By now you’ve learned that you can’t do everything. But not everything is worth doing; some things are more important than others. God doesn’t expect you to do everything. So you shouldn’t expect yourself to be able to do everything.

Smart selection is key. You have to decide what matters and what doesn’t, what dream is worth your life and what dream is not worth one second of your life. Did you ever dream about being famous? Or maybe the best in the world at something? Or the richest person you know? Those dreams are not worth a moment of your life, because they are fleeting. One minute you could be a hero, and the next minute, you’re a zero. One minute you’re on the cover of some magazine, and the next week it’s in the trash. Going after trophies is a foolish goal. Why? Because, given enough time, all your trophies are going to be thrown away by someone in this generation or the next.

Don’t live your life for trophies and world records and fame. Those are not big enough dreams! You need a dream that impacts eternity. That kind of dream focuses your energy and helps you endure. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 9:25-26, *“An athlete goes to all this trouble just to win a blue ribbon or a silver cup, but we do it for a heavenly reward that never disappears. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I fight to win” (TLB).*

When you choose God’s dream for your life, you become purpose driven. You’re not like a boxer practicing by punching the air. When you punch, you do it to score. You’re not just playing around with your life. God’s dream focuses your energy so that you can run straight to the goal He has set for you. When you run with that kind of effort, you won’t waste a second of your life.

God has a call for each person’s life. He has called you to a certain dream and purpose. He has given you gifts to fulfill that calling—and they are given unconditionally. If you had to work for them, they wouldn’t be called gifts. God’s dream for your life is still in full force. It doesn’t matter if you’ve been working on it for years, or you’re getting started on it a little later in life.

The Bible is full of people who got a second chance. God is the God of second chances—and hundredth and thousandth chances! Abraham, who is called the father of faith, pretended his wife was his sister because he didn’t have faith that God would protect him. Moses murdered someone. Jonah ran from his assignment. Rahab worked as a prostitute. David committed adultery and had the woman’s husband put to death. And yet every one of these people are in God’s “hall of fame” in Hebrews 11.

God loves to give second chances. If you had to be perfect to receive God’s grace, no one would stand a chance! Job got some of the best advice for recovering what has been lost in your life and returning to God’s original plan for you: *“Put your heart right, Job. Reach out to God. Put away evil and wrong from your home. Then face the world again, firm and courageous. Then all your troubles will fade from your memory, like floods that are past and remembered no more. Your life will be brighter than sunshine at noon, and life’s darkest hours will shine like the dawn. You will live secure and full of hope; God will protect you and give you rest” (Job 11:13-18 GNT).*

What an amazing promise! When you repent of your mistakes, God always offers another chance. You only have to reach out to him, and you will be able to face the world and your future again with courage and hope. If you want to move forward into God’s awesome dream for your life, then you’re going to have to shut the door on the past. You’re going to have to give up your grief, your guilt, and your grudges so that you can move forward in faith. *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland” (Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV).*

The darkest days of your past will shine like the dawn. Streams will spring up in the wasteland of your pain. Hallelujah! This is what Jesus offers to you today when you submit to him and his dream for your life.

Think of the biggest conflict or problem you're facing right now. Without even knowing what it is, you can boil that problem down to two basic issues. First, will you obey God and do the right thing in this situation? And, second, will you trust God to take care of this situation?

The root of so many problems is really your struggle with God. You want to be in control, you want to be God, you want to be the master of your faith, you want to be in charge, you want to call the shots. But you were never meant to be or do any of those things. So God uses a crisis in your life to force the issue, to bring you to a place where you have to lean on Him and it is at time of your weakness that He can bring you to the place of your greatest growth. Do you ever feel that dealing with your problems is like a wrestling match? The objective of wrestling is to pin the opponent down on the mat until they finally say, "I give up. I surrender! You're in control."

That's what God was doing in his wrestling match with Jacob in the Old Testament. He was going to pin Jacob down until he surrendered and gave up control. At one point in their wrestling match, God wounded Jacob's hip, an injury that would give him a lingering limp. Jacob was suddenly in a position of helplessness and in a situation where he couldn't win. Even in the midst of your no-win situation, God is there. In fact, he often uses a crisis to get your attention. God whispers to you in your pleasure, but he shouts to you in your pain.

The Bible says, "*Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways*" (Proverbs 20:30 GNT). In other words, you don't change when you see the light; you change when you feel the heat.

God loves you the way you are, but He loves you too much to let you stay that way. When He allows you to go through a wrestling match, He's making you into who you were meant to be—more like Jesus Christ. He makes you weak so that you learn to depend on Him for everything you need. You rarely change until your pain becomes greater than your fear of change. If you're wrestling with God right now, surrender to Him. Therein lies the only way forward on a path marked with spiritual growth and peace.

When God blessed Jacob, He promised to give him land, multiply his family, make him a mighty nation, and use him to bless the world. He made Jacob and his family God's chosen people. But just like He does with you today, God gave Jacob a promise and then tested his faith in that promise. In Genesis 32, Jacob struggled with God all night long in a wrestling match that tested his patience, faith, and trust. Then God injured Jacob at his hip and gave him a serious disadvantage. Jacob was hurt and tired, and yet, at dawn, he still said, "*I will not let you go unless you bless me*" (Genesis 32:26 NIV).

Isn't that an interesting thing to say to somebody you're wrestling with? Apparently sometime during this all-night struggle, Jacob became aware that the One he was wrestling with was no ordinary individual—but God. That meant God could bless him. And so, he refused to let go. Maybe you feel like you're wrestling with God right now, and the struggle is lasting way too long. Maybe you don't want to do the things God has told you to do, like tithe or obey his rules for sex or be kind to your enemies.

The very God you're wrestling with is the one who gives you your dream for your life. He's the one who will make it happen! God's not trying to thwart your dream. He's getting you ready for it. Your struggle will build your stamina, deepen your patience, and increase your resilience. Your wrestling match will also bring you to the point of commitment. Right at the moment when you think you've got to give up, you need to turn to God and say, "I'm in this struggle as long as it takes for you to do your good work in me and bless me."

That kind of response to God's test will show Him that you're ready for His dream for your life.

It's never too late to get God's dream. Reach for it and walk thru that door!

Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)

If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to www.chiefministries.com

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