

Dream Folio

Introduction

1. What does the study of this topic show us about God Himself?

God is a loving Father who wants to give good gifts to his children. He cares about our hopes and dreams and wants our dreams to be his dreams.

2. Which scripture passages illustrate this aspect of God?

Jer 29:11 – ‘I know the plans that I have for you’, declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope.’

Psalm 37:3-5 - **Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit you way unto the Lord, trust also in Him and He will do it.**
These verses do not mean that if we delight in the Lord He will give us whatever we want. The real meaning is that if we make Jesus Lord of our life, He will mould and shape us so that our desires are His desires.

Prov 29:18 - **Where there is no vision, the people perish, but he that keeps the law is happy.**

This verse refers to prophetic vision. It is important to hear God's voice and hear what His plans are for our future.

Luke 11:5-13 - **Ask and it shall be given and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you.**

For everyone who asks receives; and he who seeks, finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.

This passage refers to the most important gift we can ever have from God – the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit's help, we can do great things for God.

Acts 1: 17 – ‘**And it shall be in the last days,**’ God says, **that I will pour forth my Spirit upon all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.**’

This verse implies that no one is too young or old to receive a vision or dream from the Lord. Sometimes our dreams are not fulfilled for some time. We have to be patient to see the vision or dream fulfilled in God's time. For some, the fulfillment has come after their death. But if it's God's dream in will be fulfilled.

Matthew 6:31-33 - Seek first God's kingdom and all these things will be added to you.

This passage focuses on trusting God to provide our needs. In terms of our dreams, the primary focus must be to put God first. Then, if our dreams are His will for us, He will bring them into being.

1 John 5:14 - This is the confidence that we can have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

When we hear God's voice and are in tune with Him, like a loving Father, He will bring to pass everything that is in accordance with His special plan for our lives.

3. How does understanding God in this way change our lives, or make us more like Jesus?

Presenting my hopes and dreams to God will help me develop in my ability to hear God's voice. As I listen to him, he will show me the dreams that he intends to be achieved in my life for his glory.

As God gives me hopes and dreams that are the right hopes and dreams for me, I will become passionate about doing His work.

4. How does a Christian understanding of achieving our dreams different from a secular one?

There are many courses and seminars available in the secular world on making your dreams come true. The secular, (or new Age), approach is to develop a technique of visualization, so that the "universe" will make your dreams a reality. The belief is, "if you want it, you can have it!" There is no room for asking God whether that is what He wants for us.

A Christian believes that God is in charge of his/her life and by working together with God, our dreams are His dreams, and as He opens doors for us we come closer to Him and help advance His kingdom.

A Christian's motive for reaching a dream is God-serving, not self serving. A Christian works together with God in fulfilling the plan He has for their life.

Without God, dreams for material goods, or to become rich, famous and happy, do not give God a place.

Matthew 19:24 says, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God." This verse is referring to the love of money for selfish purposes.

5. Quotes from Walt Disney

"It's kind of fun to do the impossible".

"All your dreams can come true if you have the courage to pursue them"

"A person should set his goals early as he can and devote his energy to getting there. With enough effort, he may achieve it. Or he may find something that is even more rewarding. But in the end, no matter what the outcome, he will know he has been alive."

and from Walt Disney's brother, Roy Disney:

One of Walt Disney's dreams was to create "Disneyland" but he died two years before its completion. A person once said to Walt Disney's brother, "If only Walt could have seen this!" The reply was, "He did".

Note: Walt Disney was born into and raised in a family of devout Congregationalists. Walt was named after the preacher at his family's Congregationalist church: Walter Parr, a close friend of his father's.

6. A Quote from Martin Luther King

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed - "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal.

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, and rough places will be made plains, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

Create a Dream Folio

The folio is private, for your eyes only and parts of it for your Mentor. You are able to modify it easily as you achieve goals and sharpen your thinking. It is important that you view it every day if possible. Just spend 5 minutes looking at dimensions of it intently as would an elite athlete. It doesn't stand alone. The entire revelation of the Bible is paramount and Covey's Eight Habits of Effective Leaders are other vital documents, to name but two. This folio contains the mental tools to help you realize your dreams. Obviously wise and consistent action is needed to realize your dreams. Wishful thinking and a positive disposition of themselves are quite insufficient to deliver your preferred future. You can use the folio to rewire your brain altering its biochemistry and creating new dominant thought patterns.

Structure

Page one – Start with a current photo of yourself and your birth date. This personalizes it and locks the content exclusively to you alone.

Page two – Create a compelling and detailed photo of you in your ministry/career when in your late 20s. As you look at this often you will build a narrative and feed emotions around it that will give you the resilience to say “No” to attractive and good alternatives that will draw energy and resources away from your one supreme goal. This fixated visualization is very powerful, it enables you to feel, and smell and sense your goal and emotional laden neural paths are laid down in your brain. As a person thinks, so they become, (Prov 23:7).

Page three – Select images of your other goals which might be to overcome a weakness, improve your spiritual life, grow relationships or break free from experiences and thought patterns that place you in the position of a victim. To do this choose pictures of heroes who are inspirational e.g. Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Rev John Flynn, Margaret Court or Caroline Chisholm.

Page four - Add images of your family and friends. You need a reminder to invest in these relationships and to live in a way that honours them and makes them proud of you. In fact a whole gallery that contains a vast audience is cheering you on as you grow in integrity and pursue the destiny God has gifted you to realize, (Heb 12:1). When you travel you will take the folio with you so you also carry these vital supporters and prayer partners as mementoes.

Page five - List your greatest strengths and gifting e.g. health, and list some areas where you are challenged. Put them in a positive way however, e.g. “I am progressively becoming more accurate in reporting my successes “, compared with, “I tend to boast

and exaggerate". "I am developing my capacity to talk without being debilitated by stage fright to audiences" is preferable to," I have been humiliated in the past when I speak up and freeze when talking to groups of strangers or in class"

Page six - Display photos of your material goals, house, boat, new clothes, car etc

Page seven - Put together photos and phrases that list what you are grateful to God about, these will encourage you on hard and testing days and put some steel in your resilience. Then when a setback occurs or an initiative is in the doldrums you have strong and immediate, rehearsed memories to call upon. You may have photos of best friends, the countryside about you, your pet, your favourite sports team, the liberty afforded to you by your nation, special gifts you have received, answered prayers of a major nature....

Page eight - List in full your top 10 scriptures and any key prophetic messages that you have received. You might add a relevant photo to this page to make more memorable. You can alter a scripture from general to personal too e.g. Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence to, "I, (your name), will love the Lord my God with all my passion and prayer and intelligence". Reading this out several times each week feeds one's spirit with a personalized word.

Page nine - List in different colours and fonts, poems and quotes that inspire you, for example, "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the places and moments that take our breath away". Perhaps some of the lyrics of a meaningful song will also assist. All these key scriptures, quotes, emotionally meaningful music and gratitude lists could be loaded onto a special folder on your iPod to play regularly so there is further imprinting of your mind. You might read in part of a letter or card of appreciation to remind you that you are valued and appreciated. This is useful in times of rejection and setback.

Page ten - List and put up photos of what you want to be in terms of fitness. Your diet is the brain food you function on. Toxins affect mood and the capacity for sustained thinking/learning and concentration. Rest and recreation, and physical aerobic workouts on a regular basis plus a correct balance wholesome diet are not optional for champions. Concrete planning and a vision of what you are going to do to steward and maximize the 'temple of the Holy Spirit' that God has entrusted to you is vital. This includes both body and mind.

Page eleven - skills I need to learn. Put up photos and words of what you need to master in the short and medium to distant future. This might include cooking, more skill with computer software, management of people tips and techniques, driving a 4 wheel

drive vehicle in snow/mud, video editing, crafting effective business letters, reading more inspiring biographies each month.

Page twelve - *Bucket List, 1000 Places to Visit Before You Die*. What cities do you want to visit, what things do you want to do for fun? E.g. New York, Nile pyramids, Victoria Falls, Tasmanian wilderness or a hot air balloon trip, kayak the Grand Canyon, run the London Marathon for a charity? Put up some dream photos and ideas. They can happen if you plan for them and intentionally focus on getting there.

References

This plan is drawn principally from Spackman K. *The Winners Bible* Winners Institute 2009 www.winnersbible.com

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www.1000beforeyoudie.com

The Bucket List DVD www.thebucketlist.warnerbrothers.com

www.ultimatenutrition.com.au

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