

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

A weekly study to strengthen families

Awake O Sleeper

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Life has a way of coming and derailing our plans or dreams. If 2020 has taught us anything it is to expect the unexpected. This begs the question, how do we respond to set back or roadblocks as a Christian? It's safe to say you may have had some hopes and dreams in January that seem impossible now in August. If you have felt hopeless in 2020, you are not alone. I know it may look hopeless, but there is hope for you today!

Hebrews 6 tells us of the attitude Abraham had that made him an inheritor of God's promise: faith and patience. In other words, the promise still stands. COVID-19 has not canceled the promises of God. You still by faith and patience can be an inheritor of the promise! Only believe! Against hope, believe in hope! Sometimes it seems like your dreams are crushed or snuffed out by the circumstances of life. God wants to revive the old dreams and promises He gave you. He wants to breathe new life and hope into your walk with Him.

Joseph had a unique relationship with the Lord. He had GOD GIVEN dreams and promises for his life and future. Things didn't pan out well at first for Joseph though, and he found himself in the middle of an Egyptian prison. Through all this, Joseph never lost his faith in God. Perhaps at some point, Joseph began to understand that his suffering wasn't a curse but, in fact, a blessing. The dreams God gave Joseph never died, but in order for them to manifest, Joseph had to die. All the pain you've experienced over the course of this year, all the testing and suffering, was not meant to snuff out the flame of your dreams. Instead it's been a process of burial and germination for true fruit to be birthed.

Even when Jesus was crucified, all hope seemed to be lost. But, thanks be to God, He rose again on the third day and is forever more our living hope! God's promises still stand. There is still hope for your deliverance. Your breakthrough is still possible. Revival is still possible. The harvest is still white and ready! Awake, O sleeper. It's time to dream again. It's time to believe in your breakthrough again. It's time to stand on the promises again. It's time for revival again!

Application

We all have promises that are given to us by God. It's up to us to revive old dreams and believe again for God to do the miraculous. Whatever your dream is, God will be faithful to perform it and "complete the good work" that He has started in you.

Scriptures

So it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." EPHESIANS 5:14

We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. Then you will not be sluggish, but will imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. HEBREWS 6:11-12

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless the grain of wheat, having fallen into the ground, should die, it abides alone; but if it should die, it bears much fruit. JOHN 12:24

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the One according to His great mercy having begotten us again to a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ out from the dead. 1 PETER 1:3

Discussion

1. What are some dreams or promises God has given you?
2. What is it that has caused you to lose hope in these dreams?
3. What are some steps you plan to take to breathe new life into them?
4. How do you plan to guard each dream and promise God gives you going forward?

Prayer Focus

Pray that God would give you grace to awaken and revive the dreams and promises He has given you.

Pray for faith and patience to stand firm and inherit the promises of God.

Ask God to speak to you and give you eyes to see His purpose and "expected end" in your life.