

HOW FAITH AND DREAMS ARE CONNECTED

“Everything is possible for the person who has faith.” Mark 9:23 (GNT)

“According to your faith it will be done to you.” Matthew 9:29 (NIV)

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.” ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

How Does God Build My Faith?

PHASE 1: Dream

“God is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of – infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.” ~ Ephesians 3:20 (TLB)

Nothing happens in your life until you start dreaming.

How to Know If a Dream is from God:

1. God’s dream will always require faith.

If a dream comes from God, it’s going to be so big, you can’t do it on your own. You can only do it by faith.

2. God’s dream will never contradict God’s word.

PHASE 2: Decision

“You must believe and not doubt...a double-minded man is unstable in all he does.” ~ James 1:6,8 (GNT)

Nothing is going to happen to your dream until you wake up and put it into action.

The Decision Phase:

1. You must invest.
2. You must let go of security.

PHASE 3: Delay

"These things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled." ~ Habakkuk 2:3 (TLB)

PHASE 4: Difficulty

"At present you may be temporarily harassed by all kinds of trials. This is not accident-it happens to prove your faith, which is infinitely more valuable than gold." ~ 1 Peter 1:6-7

PHASE 5: Dead End

"At that time, we were completely overwhelmed, the burden was more than we could bear, in fact we told ourselves that this was the end. Yet we now believe that we had this sense of impending disaster so that we might learn to trust, not in ourselves, but in God who can raise the dead!" ~ 2 Corinthians 1:8-9

PHASE 6: Deliverances

"He has delivered...and he will deliver us again!" ~ 2 Corinthians 1:10

"I am expecting the Lord to rescue me again, so that once again I will see his goodness to me." ~ Psalms 27:13 (GNT)

GOD'S DREAM FOR YOUR LIFE

Nothing is more important, after coming to know Jesus Christ, than to get God's dream for your life.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." ~ Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

1. God's dream for you is personal.
2. God's dream for you is positive.

How to Discover God's Dream for You

Dedicate My Life to God

"Offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service Do not conform yourselves to the standards of his world, but let God transform you Then you will be able to know the will of God-what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect." ~ Romans 12:1-2 (GNT)

"A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work." ~ Colin Powell

Reserve Time Alone with God

"Pause a moment . . . and listen; consider the wonderful things God does." ~ Job 37:14 (GNT)

Evaluate My Abilities

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to devote ourselves to the good deeds for which God has designed us." ~ Ephesians 2:10 (NEB)

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other." ~ 1 Peter 4:10 (TLB)

Associate with Godly Dreamers

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend." Proverbs 27:17(NLT)

"Bad company corrupts good character." ~ 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

Make My Dream Public

Visualize the dream-and then verbalize the dream.

1. It gets you started.
2. It attracts other people.
3. It releases God's power.

"The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it." ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NIV)

"All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." ~ Walt Disney

Nothing happens in your life until you start dreaming.

This week's reflections:

1. Which phase of faith are you currently in?
2. In what ways do you want God to help you grow spiritually and emotionally while you are pursuing this dream for your life?
3. Review the D.R.E.A.M. steps in the lesson outline. Which of these steps do you need to take?

4. What distractions do you need to eliminate today so that you can be still and quiet with God?