

Encounter Church
Sunday January 05, 2025

Dreaming.....Again
“Faith and Believing”

INTRODUCTION: You were created to dream. There is an important connection in your life between dreaming and believing!

Last week we closed out 2024 talking about “Believing for Better!”

“You get what you get because you choose what you choose. You choose what you choose because you think what you think. You think what you think because you believe what you believe.”

“You believe what you believe because of who or what you put your faith in.”

Mark 11:22 “Then Jesus said to the disciples, “Have faith in God.”

You and I have faith in something or someone. An atheist has faith!

It's who or what we have faith in that determines what we believe. And our belief determines what we think and what we think determines our choices!

Acts 27:25- “So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said.”

Dreaming has a very important role in developing your faith and you becoming the person God has called you to be!

You and I have been created in the image of God and I can prove to you that God is a DREAMER.”

Genesis 1:1- “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Jeremiah 29:11- “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 1:5 – “I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born, I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.”

Acts 2:17- “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.”

YOUR FAITH AND DREAMING ARE CONNECTED!

A great God-Given dream is a statement of faith!

Figuring out and following God's dream for your life is a walk off faith!

The Greek word for Faith, *pistis*, meaning, belief, trust, confidence.

The Bible uses the word “faith” or “believing” 485 times in the New Testament.

WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT FAITH?

1. Faith is How to Please God

Hebrews 11:6- “And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.”

2. Faith is the Key to Answered Prayer

Matthew 21:21-22- “Then Jesus told them, “I tell you the truth, if you have faith and don't doubt, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it.”

“The positive lesson to be learned from the withered fig tree is the incredible power of believing prayer authoritatively spoken in accordance with God's will and purposes.”
Dr. Jack Hayford

Matthew 7:7-8- “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”

While you're praying, seeking and knocking, God is working on your character!

3. Faith Opens the Door for What God Can Do in My Life

The Story of Jairus and the woman with the issue of blood.

Luke 8:48- “Daughter,” he said to her, “your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

Luke 8:50- “But when Jesus heard what had happened, he said to Jairus, “Don't be afraid. Just have faith, and she will be healed.”

4. Faith Helps Me Win Life's Battles

1 John 5:4- “Every God-born person conquers the world’s ways. The conquering power that brings the world to its knees is our faith. The person who wins out over the world’s ways is simply the one who believes Jesus is the Son of God.”

WHAT DOES FAITH DO FOR ME

1. Faith Helps Me Obey God

Hebrews 11:8- “It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.”

2. Faith Helps Me Take a Step

Mark 5:27-29- “She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. For she thought to herself, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.” Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition.”

3. Faith Helps Me Finish

Hebrews 12:1-3- “Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we’d better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he’s there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!”

4. Faith Helps Me Dream God-Sized Dreams

Ephesians 3:20- “Never doubt God’s mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, your most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination! He will outdo them all, for his miraculous power constantly energizes you.”

CONCLUSION: Ephesians 2:8- “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves;”

God’s dream for your life begins with knowing Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
Let’s pray

