

Pursuing Your Dreams

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We will explore together the difference between setting a goal and fulfilling your destiny. We'll also see how the "dream" impacts the life of the dreamer and his family. How do you leave the comfort zone, only to create a new comfort zone, and how does that affect your pursuit? How do you know when you are fulfilling your destiny? I believe in destiny. I believe God is a master strategist who uses the acts of individuals, from their mother's womb and before, to create the collisions of the right people in the right place at the right time to make something permanent and to make something special come out of it (Eccl. 9:11). These and many other areas will be explored.

I. Goal Setting and Destiny

- A. Here is the test to see if your purpose is finished ... IF YOU ARE ALIVE - IT ISN'T!
- B. Definitions
 1. Dreams: a visionary creation of the imagination - a strongly desired goal or purpose
 2. Purpose: something set up as an object or an end to be attained
 3. Vision: object of the imagination - mode of seeing or conceiving
 4. Destiny: something to which a person or thing is destined - a pre-determined course of events
 5. Genes: the technique by which recombinant DNA is produced and made to function in an organism

II. Spiritual DNA/Genes

- A. DNA - the molecule of heredity
- B. God sets in motion what He wants to accomplish
 1. Ephesians 1:3 - "who blessed us with all spiritual blessings"
 2. 1 Peter 2:24 - "by whose stripes we were healed"
 3. Jeremiah 3:3 - "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee."

III. Comfort Zone

- A. You know you have lost the ability to leave the comfort zone:
 - 1. When tradition and history become paramount.
 - 2. When experimentation and change are resisted.
 - 3. When conformity and security are valued highly.
 - 4. When creativity is surrendered to franchised uniformity and inordinate loyalty.

- B. Barriers that keep us inside the comfort zone and keep us from finding our destiny
 - 1. Fear is one of the great jokes of existence; when you have the courage to journey into the center of your fear, usually you will find nothing.
 - 2. Guilt is the anger we feel toward ourselves. Fear is before we do something and guilt is afterward.
 - 3. Unworthiness - we are not good enough, inadequate, fundamentally deficient - *"I grew up to have my father's looks; my father's speech patterns; my father's posture; my father's opinions; my mother's contempt for my father."* (Jules Feiffier)
 - 4. Hurt feelings and anger
 - 5. All this leads to discouragement and to inactivity. Feelings are hurt, we feel unworthy, fear paralyzes and so we give up.

*"Come to the edge" he said
They said, "We are afraid"
"Come to the edge" he said
They came -
He pushed them -
And they flew.*

IV. The New Comfort Zone

- A. Fear is the energy to do your best in a new situation.
- B. Guilt is the energy for personal change.
- C. Unworthiness keeps us on track (balances humility).
- D. Hurt feelings are a reminder of how much we care.

- E. Discouragement reveals our courage.
Deut. 32:11,12,13; John 15:4,5

V. Things You Need to Know

- A. You are responsible for your dream.
- B. Big dreams take a long-term strategy.
- C. Big dreams require obsessions.
- D. Big dreams must be connected to small incremental steps.
- E. The difference between fantasy and dreams
Hebrews 11:24-27
- F. Fulfilling your destiny will: (How do you know?)
 1. Leave something permanent
 2. Enlarge your life (What if Moses had not answered?)
 3. Provide total fulfillment

- NOTES -