

Psalm 145 (NLT)

- 1 I will exalt you, my God and King, and praise your name forever and ever.
- 2 I will praise you every day; yes, I will praise you forever.
- 3 Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness.
- 4 Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power.
- 5 I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles.
- 6 Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness.
- 7 Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness; they will sing with joy about your righteousness.

- 8 The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
- 9 The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation.
- 10 All of your works will thank you, Lord, and your faithful followers will praise you.
- 11 They will speak of the glory of your kingdom; they will give examples of your power.
- 12 They will tell about your mighty deeds and about the majesty and glory of your reign.
- 13 For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations.

The Lord always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does.

- 14 The Lord helps the fallen and lifts those bent beneath their loads.
- 15 The eyes of all look to you in hope; you give them their food as they need it.
- 16 When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.
- 17 The Lord is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness.
- 18 The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.
- 19 He grants the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cries for help and rescues them.
- 20 The Lord protects all those who love him, but he destroys the wicked.

21 I will praise the Lord, and may everyone on earth bless his holy name forever and ever.

Surviving Dream Killers (Part 2)

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Last week we started this series about Joseph and the dreams God gave him. But Joseph didn't have it easy and there were a lot of things he had to go through before he saw those dreams come to complete fulfillment. - He had to survive the Dream Killers

Now I want to remind you that when I'm talking about dreams I'm talking about God's purposes, His plans, His promises, His callings and His giftings for your life.

Your dream may be being used of God in ministry. Your dream may be developing and using the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Your dream may be having an intimate relationship with God. Your dream might be a miraculous answer to prayer. Your dream may be healing. Your dream may be an open womb. Your dream might be provision for you and your family. Your dream may be restored relationships. Your dream may be to have a Godly family. Your dream may be the Salvation of loved ones.

Remember what we read Joseph's initial dreams last week. He had more than one. Now I know that both of those dreams had the same meaning, and that God was using the repetition to firmly establish the certainty of the dream (don't forget that later on Joseph would tell Pharaoh the same thing about his two dreams); but I also see this as a reminder that God has multiple dreams for our lives.

Regardless of our dreams, I know that the enemy wants to destroy the purposes, plans, promises, callings and giftings that God has for you.

John 10:10

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy...

So how do we survive the attempts of the enemy to Kill our dreams?

Last week we talked about three battlefronts.

- Ourselves
- Others
- Circumstances

We said that we might face dream killers on more than one battle front at a time... Sometimes all three at the same time

OURSELVES

- **Having a relationship with The Dream Giver**

The dream always begins in relationship with God... God is the dream giver so without a relationship with God, there is no dream. God loves you and has plans, purposes, promises, callings and giftings, but if you are not willing to be "born to Him" (born again) you kill the dream before it can even start

- **Believing we are worthy of a dream**

The first challenge of faith is the unbelief of our own hearts...

- **Interpreting The Dream**

We don't always know how to make sense of the dreams that God has placed in our lives...

OTHERS

- **Those who have no relationship with God**

That's why it is important to surround ourselves with those who have a relationship with God

- **Those who are jealous of the dream**

Sometimes when people cannot see the dreams in their own lives they tear down the dreams that they see in other people's lives.

We all need at least one Barnabas (son of encouragement) in our lives to encourage us in the development of the plans, purposes, promises, callings and giftings that God has put on our lives

Not only do we need a Barnabas to come along side of us, we need to be a Barnabas to others

- Those who don't understand the dream

People aren't always going to understand... It doesn't always mean they are evil people intent of killing your dreams; however their lack of understanding and faith can still be a dream killer.

Keep the dream close, talk to God about it and if people don't understand don't let their lack of faith kill yours

Today, I want to continue Joseph's story and talk about three more Dream Killers we may have to face and how to survive them

Genesis 37:12-28

12 Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, 13 and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them."

"Very well," he replied.

14 So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.

When Joseph arrived at Shechem, 15 a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

16 He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?"

17 "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. 18 But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

19 "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. 20 "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

21 When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. 22 "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing— 24 and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

25 As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

26 Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? 27 Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed.

28 So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

Genesis 39:1-2

39 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

2 The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.

1. Personal attacks - Stay In Agreement With God

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Personal attacks can come in many forms.

Physical sickness and Infirmity

People coming against you

Financial needs and problems

They can be vicious, and they can kill our dreams

Regardless, Satan uses them to strip us of our identity and self-worth and then propagate his lies of defeat and destruction.

*Joseph was stripped of his coat

*Joseph was thrown into a cistern

During these attacks it is important that we **do not come into agreement with the enemy**. The enemy knows that the only way he can really defeat you is to get you to believe His lies rather than the truth of God's purposes, plans, promises, callings and giftings - God's dreams for your life.

We begin to question the purposes, plans, promises, callings and giftings of God

What did I do wrong?

I must not have heard God right.

God must be angry with me.

They're right.

Things will never change.

It is at these moments that we must continue to remain in agreement with God's truth and resist coming into agreement with the Enemies lies.

Isaiah 54:17

17 no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord.

We need to continue to agree with God.

2 Kings 4:8-36

The Shunammite's Son Restored to Life

8 One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. 9 She said to her husband, "I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. 10 Let's make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us."

11 One day when Elisha came, he went up to his room and lay down there. 12 He said to his servant Gehazi, "Call the Shunammite." So he called her, and she stood before him. 13 Elisha said to him, "Tell her, 'You have gone to all this trouble for us. Now what can be done for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king or the commander of the army?'"

She replied, "I have a home among my own people."

14 "What can be done for her?" Elisha asked.

Gehazi said, "She has no son, and her husband is old."

15 Then Elisha said, "Call her." So he called her, and she stood in the doorway. 16 "About this time next year," Elisha said, "you will hold a son in your arms." (The Dream)

"No, my lord!" she objected. "Please, man of God, don't mislead your servant!" (Believing in the dream)

17 But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her.

18 The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. 19 He said to his father, "My head! My head!" (The personal attack)

His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother." 20 After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. (The Death of the Dream) 21 She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out.

22 She called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return."

23 "Why go to him today?" he asked. "It's not the New Moon or the Sabbath."
"That's all right," she said.

24 She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead on; don't slow down for me unless I tell you." 25 So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the Shunammite! 26 Run to meet her and ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?'"

"Everything is all right," she said. (Agreement with God not the enemy)

27 When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the Lord has hidden it from me and has not told me why."

28 "Did I ask you for a son, my lord?" she said. "Didn't I tell you, 'Don't raise my hopes?'"

29 Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. Don't greet anyone you meet, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face."

30 But the child's mother said, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So he got up and followed her.

31 Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, "The boy has not awakened."

32 When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. 33 He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the Lord. 34 Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy's body grew warm. 35 Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

36 Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son."

I know some are going to say... "You're telling us to ignore reality" "You're preaching positive confession"

I'm just saying that sometimes we have to fight for the dream... Don't be too quick to come into agreement with the enemy. Stay in agreement with God.

2. Dark Places - God is with you

24 and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

The cistern represents a place of isolation and darkness. "It had no water in it" - so again it is a place that speaks of failure to be used for the purposes which it was intended for

The enemy would like nothing more than to get us in a position of loneliness, isolation, darkness and despair. It is here (darkness and isolation) he likes to call into question our dreams, our worth, our relationship with God and the very existence of God.

How do we survive the Dream Killer of Dark Places

We remember that God is WITH US

Remember He is Emmanuel - GOD WITH US

Remember what the Holy Spirit promised us through the Apostle Paul (and he knew what it was to be in dark places)

Romans 8:31-39

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? **33** Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. **34** Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus said...

John 10:29

29 ..no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

Why because He is always with us...

Matthew 28:20

20 ..And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

He told Joshua (Joshua 1:5) "I will never leave you nor forsake you"

1 Chronicles 28:20

20 David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished.

HE WILL NEVER, NEVER, NEVER LEAVE ME!

Written by Dr. Larry Petton

Hebrews 13:5 is a rare verse. It has been simply translated by many as, "He will never leave you or forsake you." That is good English, but it is not good Greek in this instance.

This verse contains an unusual triple negative. That is not good English, but it is good Greek. It should be translated, "He will never, never, never leave us or forsake us."

David prayed in Psalm 143

Psalm 143:7

7 Answer me quickly, Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the pit.

Why? Because he was in a dark place, and he needed to know that God was with him.

Illus: *A story is told of a husband who had lost his wife and a daughter who had lost her mother. After the funeral some of the close relatives noticed the pain of the husband and asked him, "Do you want us to take your daughter away for a few days so that you can have some time to grieve?" The man replied, "No, we are going to face this together." So that night as the father was putting his daughter to bed she cried out, "Daddy, it is dark in here, may I sleep in your room?" His reply was, "Yes, you may sleep in my room."*

As they went into the father's room, he turned off the light, his little girl cried out again, "Daddy it is dark in here too." The father said, "Yes baby, I know it is dark." Then the little girl said, "Daddy it is darker than it has ever been." The father replied, "Yes baby, it is darker than it has ever been to me, too." In the darkness the little girl asked, "Daddy, is your face turned toward me?" The dad said, "Yes, my face is turned toward you." She said, "I can go to sleep now."

After the little girl went to sleep, the father who was in such despair at the loss of his wife fell down upon his knees and asked, "God is your face turned toward me?"

He heard a voice gently say, "Yes my face is turned toward you." The father said, "Okay, I can go to sleep now."

You can make it through any situation you may face because the Father's face is turned toward you.

It may be darker than it has ever been in your life, but guess what? The Father's face is turned toward you.

3. Difficult Journeys - Don't give up (Prosper on the journey)

28 So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

Genesis 39:1-2

39 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

2 The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.

Being sold as a slave and taken to Egypt could not have been an easy journey by any means. For 200 - 250 miles Joseph travelled, perhaps in bonds, perhaps treated poorly, long hot days, difficult terrain. Sometimes our difficulties are more journey's than events. Joseph's journey was just getting started. It would last for many years.

But what I see in Joseph is that he never gave up and he found ways to prosper along the way.

The Lord was with him (We've already seen how this describes the presence of our God; but what if it also was a testimony to Joseph's faithfulness to God?) Joseph didn't give up on God. He kept God with him in his heart and life.

Don't miss opportunities to serve God along the way

Katie Bailey's testimony