

Visions, Promises, and Faith

I. Receiving visions and promises

- A. As soon as we are saved, God begins to use visions, dreams, and the Scriptures to guide us. We are “God’s handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works,” and we fulfill them by walking in faith (Ephesians 2:8-10).
 - 1. We do good works motivated by receiving God’s compassion (I John 4:7, 8, 19).
 - 2. We also walk in faith to fulfill dreams, visions, and prophecies the Lord gives. Dreams, visions, and prophecies are part of the language of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:14-18).
- B. Abraham believed the vision God showed him for his life. When “Abraham believed the Lord,” it was credited to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:1-6). This is where we start with God. We dare to believe all the good news God has for us.
- C. Slowness of heart, or laziness, can cause you to miss the promises God has for you (Hebrews 6:10-12). It is believing and persevering in the joy set before us that helps us endure until promises to come true (Hebrews 12:1-2).
- D. God brings vision to your life as an invitation to partner with Him. Everything starts with an invisible “Yes!” to His invitations and progresses with steps of faith (Genesis 15:1-6).

II. Cultivating the “Field of Dreams”

- A. Visions and dreams for your life grow best in the soil of being “others centered,” “Scripture centered,” and “Prayer centered.”
- B. A lifestyle of problem solving and giving to others causes the purposes and blessings God has for our lives to grow (Luke 6:38).
 - 1. Jesus, our greatest example
 - 2. Lessons from Joseph (Genesis 39:20-23)
- C. Vision is carried along by prayer. Keep on asking, seeking, and knocking (Luke 11:9-13) and showing compassion for other people.
 - 1. How Solomon got heaven’s attention (I Kings 3:5-15)
 - 2. God’s chosen fast (Isaiah 58:6-10)
 - 3. Cornelius’ memorial offering (Acts 10:30-33)
 - 4. Job praying for his negative friends (Job 42:10)
- D. Are you good news? We live to give and give to live (Luke 6:37-38).

III. Patience and promises

- A. Visions and promises from Scripture are invitations, but patience and faith are required to bring them to fruition (Hebrews 11:6-12; 10:35-39).
- B. God tests us with visions and promises. In the end, we receive our hopes and visions and are changed by the process (Genesis 22:1-2, 7-14; Hebrews 11:17-19).
- C. There comes a time when a promise is made more certain (Genesis 22:15-19).

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