

Resurrection and Life—Part 3: Dream Again!

April 15, 2018

Review the main idea:

Through this series, we have focused on Jesus' resurrection power that can bring life back into any area of our life that is dead or dying. He stressed that the resurrection is not just a past event that we celebrate—we can actually **experience** it today.

We don't just celebrate the resurrection...we experience it.

Imagine the power that it took for the Holy Spirit to overcome all the combined forces of death and darkness in order to resurrect Jesus from the dead.

Then consider the fact that the same Spirit and the same power now lives in you, if you are a Christian! (Romans 8:11)

There is nothing so dead or dying in your life that God is not able to bring it back to life.

This week, in part three, we saw how God is working in our dreams. Dreams are conceived long before they are achieved. This is such a difficult truth to walk in, because we often get impatient and want to see the fulfillment of our dreams right away. It is easy to get discouraged when we see doors closing on what we think is the path to our dreams. But God does not want us to give up!

Keep your eyes and your mind focused on the truth: He is with you.

Talk about it:

1. Have you ever had dreams of doing great things for God? Talk about those dreams. How are you going about fulfilling them?
2. What are you passionate about? What are your spiritual gifts? What would you attempt to do for God if you knew you wouldn't fail?
3. Talk about how you feel when you hear the phrase "God is not a God of events; He is a God of process." Are you encouraged? Why/why not?

(Genesis 50:15-21)

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" 16 So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 17 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Discuss how you deal with offense. Do you find it hard to let people off the hook when they offend you? What practical steps can you take this week to rid any resentment in your life?

(1 Timothy 1:12-13)

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me **trustworthy** and appointed me to serve him, 13 even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief.

Talk about how God has considered you trustworthy with something you do not deserve. Do you think He also considers you trustworthy with your God-dreams?

Prayer

Ask God to show you what He is trying to teach you in your current process. Ask for encouragement to stay the course and renew your trust that He will get you where you need to be. Ask the Lord to show you any remaining resentment in your life, and forgive those who hurt you, releasing them to the Lord. Pray that God would remind you of his presence in your life so that you will be able to stay the course and fight for your dreams, even when it's hard.