

“The Dream Within”

By McKade Marshall

Every great feat in life begins in the form of a small seed. This seed could be an idea, a dream, or an unplanned event that redirects the course of your life in some way. When you gave your life to Christ, a seed was deposited into the depths of your soul. The Bible says this seed is the Holy Spirit, which is His presence, and your soul is like fertile soil in which this seed grows and works itself out in your life. You cannot force this seed of God to grow, but you can cultivate it by feeding your spirit with Scriptures, praise music, going to church, and monitoring what you allow in your life.

You were created by the Creator on purpose.

Before you were born God knew what His purpose was for bringing you into this world. In order to fulfill the plans God has for your life, you must take hold of the dream God has placed within you. Where does this dream start and what is the source of its power? How can you bring your dreams alive and live them out as God has purposed? The Bible describes the source of all our ideas, dreams, and His power abiding within as springs of water. Jesus tells His disciples in John 7:38 (NIV), “Whoever believes in Me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” **The way you turn on God’s power is by believing in Jesus.** When you call on God in His Son Jesus’ name, the fountains of the deep in your heart are going to break open! Streams of creativity, ideas, inventions, dreams, peace, life, restoration, and healing are going to break forth. Areas of your soul that were dry and weary are going to be restored and made whole.

Right now you may not feel like anything happening. The key is to begin stirring your heart, fanning the flame within, by reading God’s Word and releasing your faith. God’s Spirit is like a small flame that is ignited inside your heart. Think of starting a camp fire. You must first catch a piece of the wood or burning material on fire. Once the wood is lit, you next begin to fan the small flame so that the wind of air will begin to cause the flame to grow and grow. In the same way, Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 1:6 (NIV), “For this reason I remind you to **fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you...**”

The Scripture compares this fire used in the analogy above as being like the Spirit of God. Hebrews 12:29 (referring to Deuteronomy 4:24) says our God is a consuming fire! Consuming fires start with a small flame. Likewise, your dreams start in the form of a small flame. Whatever is on your heart - starting a new business, going back to school, having a child, paying off debt, purchasing a new home - remember large fires begin with small flames. Develop a plan, take the first step, and stick with it over the long haul. Solomon shares his wisdom in Proverbs 16:3 (NLT), stating, “Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed.” When you make a personal commit and take your first step, you are kindling that first flame. When you take another step, committing your actions to the Lord, you are fanning the flame. Over time, with patience and consistent perseverance, your dream will translate from the small flame of taking action into a consuming fire of seeing success and seeing the dream come to pass!

The purpose of your dreams is to be a blessing to others.

The Scriptures are full of wonderful promises for every believer that we can take hold of when we are believing for a dream to come to pass. The Apostle Paul encourages us, saying, “God will generously

provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others." (2 Corinthians 9:8 NLT) One of the primary purposes of God blessing you into overflow in your life is in order to be a blessing to others around you. God desires some of us to start businesses so we can provide not only for our own families, but also to provide employment for others who are trying to help their families. God desires to bless us in various ways to meet the different needs of people around us. In school and at work, you are there not only to learn or make a living but to be a witness of God's goodness and the gospel. At home, you are there to not only reside but to create an atmosphere for a household to serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15). In public, as you shop and grab a cup of coffee or food, God has set people in your path for you to be a blessing to, which gives you purpose beyond just meeting your own needs. Colossians 4:5 (NLT) tells us, "Live wisely among those who are not believers, and **make the most of every opportunity.**"

Opportunities are like the wind. They come and go. No matter how much careful planning we make there are some things in life that are absolutely out of our control and unplanned. Whether or not something that comes into our life seems good or bad, the Scriptures encourage us to make the most of it. As a matter of fact, the change of events could be the Spirit of God causing something to happen. Jesus actually compares the Spirit of God to the wind of change. Jesus tells His disciples in John 3:8 (ESV), "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." In other words, some things in life are unexplainable.

Your job is not to figure everything out but to believe God is in control.

When you place your trust in God, you are rendering control of your heart and giving it to Him. The Bible tells us that God is perfect Light and there is nothing dark or evil about Him at all (1 John 1:5). God's Spirit is like a flashlight to your soul. When you invite Him in, Christ's light begins to shine on your heart and your dreams are made visible, ready to awaken from within! The Bible says, "When anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible... Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'" (Ephesians 5:13-14 ESV) I believe right now that God's Spirit is lighting up your soul and making visible the plans and thoughts He has about your life. Where you have felt empty or without purpose in the past, God is filling that void with His riches and the knowledge of who HE says you are! God says you are destined for greatness. God says you are His child and nothing is impossible for you to accomplish with His help. God says your dreams and plans He has for your life are alive and still right out in front of you.

Pursuing a dream is something most of us are already doing everyday. It's what motivates us to get out of bed and go to work or to show up to class on time. We know that being responsible will pay off in the long run. We all have goals and a list of accomplishments we desire to achieve. Some of us write these things down. Others have it already in their subconscious. One of the best lessons I have learned in my walk with God is this: God rewards hard work and faithfulness. There are days when you don't feel like working hard or going the extra mile. The times when we feel sluggish and like nothing is happening is where the rubber meets the road. It's a test. Will you be faithful regardless of how you feel and what is going on?

The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness in less than desirable conditions. The Bible says the LORD waited to take Israel into the Promised Land in order to test their hearts. Unfortunately, the first generation to come out of Egypt did not make it into the Promised Land because they failed to believe God and pass the test. The only two to pass the test were Joshua and Caleb because they believed God and gave a good report when spying out the Promised Land. Today, God is allowing you to go through various trials to prepare your heart for what's next. As you

spy out the Promised Land, which in this case is the dreams God has given you, will you believe Him? Are you willing to believe God, wait on Him, trust His Word, and obey Him when the time comes for you to take the next step?

I believe as we continue to pursue God during this fall season that He is causing events to take place we have not seen before. He is stirring up your heart to do a new thing. The world around you may seem like a large ocean, and it is easy to get lost in the chaos around you. Fix your eyes on Jesus! Grab hold of His Word. I believe God desires us to rise above circumstances, to not be drowned by the crashing waves of this world. It is time to grab our surfboards, so to speak, and ride the waves God begins to send our way! The tide is rising. There are new waves coming to carry you to a higher level in your walk with God! *Waves of promotion. Waves of resources. Waves of creativity. Waves of healing. Waves of restoration. Waves of ministry. Waves of accomplishment. Waves of success.*

If you have fallen off, given in to a temptation or made a mistake, don't stay down and let the waves of defeat crash over you. Get back up and go again! Learn from the past, embrace wisdom, and keep moving forward. **The Bible says that every single morning God has a fresh clean slate of grace for you** (Lamentations 3:21-23). Every day is an opportunity to start over and get right with God. The Lord teaches us to renew our minds *daily*. The way we renew and wash our minds is by spending time reading the Word (Ephesians 5:26). As you get your mind going the right direction, filling it with instruction from the Lord found in the Scriptures, the things which God has purposed you to accomplish will start to become more clear!

Several years ago God put it in my heart to reach more people with the gospel through media. I would have dreams of being on television, dreams of writing books, and dreams of sharing my story in magazines and other publications. At the time, it was difficult to believe these dreams were even possible. Building a platform to share God's goodness through media seemed too far out. Years later, after trials, mistakes, and patiently waiting for the Lord to bring these dreams to pass, I have seen God show up and accomplish things I dreamed about years before in ways I have not expected!

Today I believe God is doing the same for you. The Lord has given you dreams that He desires to fulfill. There are things going as far back as early childhood I believe God wants to make a reality in your life. As you dig within and seek God, the seeds already planted years before are rooted and growing. The flame is being fanned, and a fire is growing. I encourage you to pray this prayer aloud, as you believe in faith God is taking the dream within and making it a reality:

Lord Jesus,

I praise You today for making me with a purpose! I know before time began You already had a plan for me to fulfill. I ask that You help me to spend more time in Your Word. Wash me in the water of Your Truth. Teach me what is good and right. As You kindle the Holy Spirit within me, I believe You are transforming my life and the lives of those around me! Give me a clean heart, and a fresh vision for my life. By faith, I know the dreams You have already given me are coming to pass. Thank You for setting me free from any condemnation or chains of the past so that I can run forward into the glorious future You have stored up for me!

Amen

In closing, I am really excited to share some upcoming events starting January 1st:

Word of the Week - Sundays @ 6pm on Facebook Live

God has put it on my heart to transition for producing monthly **Word of the Month** YouTube videos to hosting a weekly live broadcast on Facebook Live called **Word of the Week** in 2017. **Word of the Week** is going to be similar to **Word of the Month**, except it will be aired live using the Facebook Live newsfeed. Word of the Week will be filmed live every Sunday at 6pm starting Sunday, January 1st, on Facebook.com!

#31DayChallenge

Simultaneously, I will also be hosting the 3rd ANNUAL **#31DayChallenge** for readers of my first book *Tasting the Goodness of God*. This yearly event challenges participants to read one devotional every day through the month of January. **#31DayChallenge** is designed to help you get your 2017 New Year started off right by spending time every day in the month of January with the Lord. If you have not participated before, or you know someone who might greatly benefit from **#31DayChallenge**, I encourage you to sign up! You can sign up on my website www.McKadeMarshall.com/31daychallenge .

Please stay in pray with me as God continues to open new doors of opportunity to minister to more people. I am so thankful for all your prayers and ongoing support as we work together to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world! This fall I am praying for you and believing for God's best in your life. **I declare God is breathing new life into your dreams, and every day you are growing more and more into exactly who God made you to be!** Receive all that God has for you today and always.

Living out the dream within,



McKade "Levi" Marshall

Author of "BREATHE" and "Tasting the Goodness of God"

To order my new book

"BREATHE", go to

www.McKadeMarshall.com.

If you have any questions or ever need someone to pray for you, feel free to visit my website.

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