

# Overcoming By Faith Ministries

SERMON NOTES

with Pastor Greg Formey

## How Dreams Are Fulfilled

### Proverbs 13:12

Saturday and Sunday, December 14 & 15, 2019

Someone once said, "A man can live three weeks without food, three days without water, and three minutes without air, but he cannot live three seconds without hope."

You have, no doubt, witnessed those who have lost all belief that things will ever work out for them. They drop their shoulders; they have a cast down look; and they walk away from their dreams. Or at best, they just go through the motions. Is that you?

As was mentioned in a previous message, "**Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.**" Proverbs 13:12 NLT

**"Not getting what you want can break your heart, but a wish that comes true is a life-giving tree."** CEV

**"When hope is crushed, the heart is crushed, but a wish come true fills you with joy."** GNT

Your mission is to find out what it takes to see your godly dreams come true and to do everything required of you to see the journey through to their fulfillment.

### DREAMS AND THE WILL OF GOD

We have all regularly heard that we must "find God's will for our lives." While it is indeed true that God has a major theme in mind for every person, it is not so certain that the way we get to it is to "find" it.

Could it be that God's dream for you is already programmed inside you and what you need to do is to position yourself properly to allow it to unfold on its own?

Certainly, an acorn is not sitting around trying to figure itself out. If it "dreams," it dreams of being planted in the right spot and at the proper depth to take advantage of sunshine, temperature, and rain. (All this is, by the way, beyond its control.)

#### Mark 4:27

**The farmer sleeps at night and is up and around during the day. Yet the seeds keep sprouting and growing, and he doesn't understand how.** NLT

### DREAMS AND WHAT IT TAKES

There are many things we cannot control, but, thankfully, there is one critical area in which we are in the driver's seat - the condition of our hearts.

Is this not what Jesus was explaining to His disciples when He gave them the parable of the sower and the seed in **Mark 4:14-20**?

As we move forward, we must avoid three attitudes of heart and embrace a fourth:

1. Lack of interest

**<sup>14</sup>The farmer plants seed by taking God's word to others. <sup>15</sup>The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away.**

2. Shallow engagement

**<sup>16</sup>The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup>But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.**

3. Distracted attention

**<sup>18</sup>The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, <sup>19</sup>but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.**

4. Committed attitude

**<sup>20</sup>And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" NLT**

\*Personal reference regarding a focused, committed family culture - I was born into a family that valued education. It was embedded into the culture. I learned to read at 3 1/2 years old, being taught (believe it or not) by my 4 1/2-year-old brother! It was a culture of cooperation and non-competition. In fact, our parents moved us to Savannah for no other reason than that we could be near a college. This, admittedly, was one advantage for which I am thankful.

## THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT YOUR DREAMS

You may ask, "But according to this parable, there is little to no hope for me, right? I did not have the advantage of parents who created such a culture and atmosphere around me. What if I was not born into a household that nurtured me like yours did?"

### 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. KJV**

The Weymouth New Testament has an interesting way of saying it: "**So that if any one is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old state of things has passed away; a new state of things has come into existence.**"

When God designed you, He created a platform on which you could reach your goals from precisely where you are right now!

You can choose to pray, to dream, to think, to prepare, and to schedule. You can also choose good soil in which to be planted.

## Conclusion

So what should you do to position yourself for success?

- Expose yourself to those who are successfully doing what you want to do.
- Ask for help (Ask and you shall receive...)
- Get started - Establish a rhythm
- Expect challenge. (How successful would a movie be with no struggles and challenges?)
- Keep reminding yourself of who you really are.
- Believe that the Lord has your back

**"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1 KJV**