

# DARE TO DREAM

Who remembers the song, "Somewhere Over The Rainbow?" The lyric went something like this... *"Somewhere over the rainbow - way up high. In the land that I heard of once in a lullaby. Somewhere over the rainbow - skies are blue. And the dreams that you **dare to dream**, really do come true. Someday I'll wish upon a star and wake up where the clouds are far behind me. Where troubles melt like lemon drops, away above the chimney tops, that's where you'll find me. Somewhere over the rainbow - skies are blue. And the dreams that you **dare to dream**, really do come true."*

This wonderful song expresses the same sentiments that are in my sermon today. It talks of a place in the heavens where all the dreams that you **dare to dream** really do come true. Ephesians 3:20 says, *"Now to Him Who, by the action of His power that is at work within us, is able to carry out His purpose and do superabundantly, far above all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]"* (paraphrased).

Our God is able to do superabundantly, far above our wildest dreams! The problem with most of us is that we do not **dare to dream**. We are afraid that our dreams may not come true. But listen to this scripture again... *"He is able to do superabundantly, far above all that we **dare** ask for or dream about!"* Therefore, the mystical place that the song is taking about (where "the dreams that we **dare to dream**, really do come true"), is caught up in God. It is a real place, and it sits far above the limitations of your imagination. Yet, the human imagination is known to be a very powerful thing. It can work for you or work against you. If some of us were to direct our vivid imagination towards good things, instead of bad things, our lives would be full of joy, peace and prosperity.

Proverbs 13:12 says, ***“When dreams come true...there is life and joy.”***  
Proverbs 13:19 says, ***“It is pleasant to see dreams come true, but fools refuse to turn from evil to attain them.”*** Our God is in the business of making our dreams come true! To achieve this, He wants to put a great dream in each heart! Psalm 37:4 states, ***“Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires (dreams) of your heart.”*** Listen to God’s heart concerning your future... ***“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart”*** (Jeremiah 29:11–13).

Every believer should have a big dream, and every dream should be conceived in the heart by inspiration from the Holy Spirit. The divine seed that creates your dream is planted in your heart by God’s Spirit. Therefore, your dream should never be aborted. Your destiny in God depends on it. It doesn't matter how long it takes to give birth to your dream, you should not abort it. In my opinion, with regards dreams, there are too many abortions of the heart! Too many Christians have disposed of their dream because something has not happened quickly enough, because they are weary of carrying their dream.

Any woman will tell you that the joy isn't in giving birth but in the hope and expectancy that new life will be brought into the world. It's no different with our dreams. Like childbirth, giving birth to a dream may feel prolonged, it may be painful and even traumatic, but when you see the new life that your dream has brought about, you will think that it's all been worth it. Moses had a dream to deliver his people from domination and slavery. He even tried to bring it to pass early by killing an Egyptian. However, all that did was make him a fugitive for 40 years. Moses had definitely given up on his dream.

He was eighty years of age and was probably seeing out his twilight years (waiting to die), but one day, the bush burned and his dream was ignited. He **dared to dream** again! Like Moses, you may have once had great dreams, dreams that you would achieve great things for God. But you encountered a series of setbacks and aborted your dream. It's not too late to dream again. In fact, I **dare** you to dream again! I **dare** you to let your dream activate your faith, access God's power, adjust your thinking, and awaken you to action. I **dare** you to change direction and move toward your dream, your destiny and your greatest purpose in life.

A dream that has been conceived by the Holy Spirit in your heart, will do four things:

**1. It will activate your faith.**

Abraham (to birth a nation)

Gideon (to liberate Israel from the Midianites)

Nehemiah (to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem)

David (to build God a Temple)

Paul (to reach Macedonia with the gospel)

**2. It will access the Holy Spirit's power.**

The Holy Spirit doesn't empower us to do nothing, but rather, to work and achieve a dream or vision from God.

**3. I will adjust your thinking.**

A big dream creates big thoughts and big ideas.

A big dream will change your plans and adjust your priorities.

Proverbs 23:7 says, "As a man thinks in his heart so is he."

**4. It will propel you into action.**

All positive action begins with a positive hope or dream.

I **dare** you to dream! But if you do, don't expect a quick fix. God's dreamers have to be aware that there are many obstacles to overcome before dreams come true. This is true especially for Destiny Dreams. Destiny related dreams take time because we have much to learn before God can trust us with their fulfilment. The Bible is full of people who had big dreams and had many struggles and setbacks before their dreams were realised: Jacob - 14 years working for Rachel; Joseph - the pit, prison, and then the palace; Peter - leader, failure, leader again; Paul - Pharisee and then great apostle; John - only on Patmos did he finally see Jesus in His glory.

On the "up-side", our bodies contain approximately 100 million sensory receptors that allow us to see, hear, taste, touch and smell physical reality. But the brain contains 10 thousand billion synapses. This means we're roughly 100,000 times better equipped to experience a world that doesn't exist, than a world that does. (Roy H Williams) Therefore, we are wired to see in a realm that is beyond the natural. We are equipped to see "over the rainbow", where the dreams that we **dared to dream** do come true! So go ahead, and imagine possibilities that have never been imagined, then **dare** to believe and to see them fulfilled.

This is the way God has wired us. We are meant to abide in the same realm that He operates in - the supernatural! Ephesians 3:20-21, now makes perfect sense... ***"To Him Who, by the action of His power that is at work within us, is able to carry out His purpose and do superabundantly, far above all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]. To Him be the glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*** God is being glorified "in the church" (that's you and me) by doing exceedingly, abundantly above all what we **dare to dream**. All our fondest hopes and dreams are also on His priority list! God has a hope and a dream for you and me that goes far beyond our wildest imaginations.

Have you noticed that, when you are “dreaming,” you are ignorant of your current surroundings, circumstances and any limitations at that particular moment? A dream has got the power to take you from your current circumstances and propel you to places you never imagined you could go. It has the ability to transform any situation because you are in a realm where the dreams that you’ve **dared to dream** come true. You have **dared** to see things that other people are not seeing! It is therefore of importance to understand that a dream affects everything about you. For that reason, everything and everyone in your life is affected because you are carrying a dream.

To finish, I’d like to challenge you to greatness. But this will require you to be strong and courageous (like Joshua). The idea of being courageous has a certain appeal to all of us. I want to be courageous, which in a Christian context means that I’m trusting in God’s power so much that I’m not afraid to take risks, and face the daunting possibility of failure. But the truth is, most of us are often too reluctant to take a risk in case we do fail, so we don’t ever start anything. Not even to pursue our dreams! However, if we looked deep within ourselves, it would lead us to this revelation... “What we are really afraid of is trusting God. That’s right, the same God who has never let us down... EVER. We are afraid to trust!” Note, I’m not talking about being reckless and irresponsible, but about being unafraid enough to pursue a dream, and to **dare to dream** bigger than feels comfortable or even possible. Never downsized your dreams to fit your comfort level. This is not faith and is displeasing to God.

Is there a dream that you’ve discarded which needs to be resurrected? Is it time for you to begin dreaming again? If the answer is yes, then **dare to dream** again. It’s not too late to dream again. In fact, I **dare** you to dream again! I **dare** you to let your dream activate your faith, access God’s power, adjust your thinking, and awaken you to action. I **dare** you!!