

Lifelines

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Topic: dreams

It is Time to Dream!

By Ed Jordan

There are few things as powerful as a dream. Dreams help us visualize the impossible, and help move us from where we are to where we need to be, or where we could be.

Sometimes we escape life's pain by dreaming. When things seem dismal, we can escape to a better place, where things are less hectic and more rewarding. It is a good thing to dream new dreams and open ourselves up to new possibilities, or new ways forward. Sometimes our dreams give us the impetus to make changes in our lives. But dreams without corresponding action are merely coping mechanisms or pain-killers. But when we embrace a dream, and commit ourselves to help make it a reality, dreams help us move beyond what is normally possible, motivating us to reach our dreams.

Proverbs 13:19 (NLT) confirms this by saying: "It is pleasant to see dreams come true, but fools refuse to turn from evil to attain them." Proverbs 13:19 (NIV84) reads: "A longing (dream) fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but fools detest turning from evil." Dreams give us something to move towards, and focus upon until it becomes tangible reality. It is a motivator. Those who long to be better, to reach their full potential, to contribute something worthwhile to God and to our world, dream.

So the person who dreams of how to become better, or make life better, and then plans how to make the dream become a reality, and in that reality finds rich satisfaction and fulfillment.

On the other hand, there are those who are too busy doing destructive things to dream of making life better for others. Whenever we spend our life merely reclining, we are declining.

There is an interesting word play in the English language. To "live" is good; to go the opposite direction from God's good life is to give ourselves over to do evil. "Evil" is "live" spelled backwards. So when we don't live as God defines the good life, we choose to go the opposite direction, which is evil. Evil is so self-absorbed, and so destructive, that it is anti-live. Proverbs 13:19 says that fools will not turn away from evil in order to fulfill dreams. In fact, evil people love to destroy dreamers, and dreams. Evil is all about destroying: morals, healthy living, truth, relationships, peace, prosperity, dreams of becoming better, and dreams of making life better for others. Evil is bent on going the opposite direction that God designed us to live.

So evil people do not embrace dreams, they embrace nightmares. They don't embrace good, but rather evil. Evil prefers to tear down the good in others life, to make it harder to live the life that is good. A friend of mine in Hungary explained to me how communism worked in daily life. She said it reduces everyone to equivalent status, because no one has anything because the government owns everything. Those who want to rise above this are punished. She said that it is like everyone being in a swimming pool, and whenever he or she tries to climb out of the pool, all their comrades grab them, pull them back into the pool, where everyone is equal. You aren't allowed to have a better life. This is an illustration of evil, an attitude which does not encourage people to be better, but rather to become worse.

Life is full of evil. Destruction is on a rampage, trying to negate law and order, the constitution, a person's right to pray in public, etc. That is why it is so important that we commit

ourselves to dream of becoming better each day rather than sliding into becoming worse. We need to dream of a country where God is God, right is right and wrong is wrong. We need to be able to live where it is possible for dreams to become real.

Countries are made up of people. Each of us must meet with God and ask Him to reveal His dream for our own life, for our family, for our church, and for our community. Dare to dream of a better life tomorrow than you have today, and then put plans and feet to your dreams. Where there is no dream, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18). Ask God what He wants you to become and do in the next year. Plan how to make that dream a reality, ask God to help you become that person and accomplish that dream! Then delight and celebrate when the dream becomes reality. After some celebration, it will be time to dream again, for as long as we are still here, God has more dreams for us to achieve. It is always time to dream!

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