

Maximum Dream Achievement

Presented by House of the Lord Fellowship Church

June 29 – July 1, 2014

Introduction

- When we talk about achieving a dream, we're talking about experiencing the vision, desire, goal or calling God has placed on the inside of you.
- God gave Joseph a dream (Genesis 37:1-11). Joseph saw God's plan for him, which included a plan for the masses.
- Paul had a goal (Philippians 3:8-15). There is a reason Christ laid hold of you. That reason has an individual expression that can only be fulfilled by you.
- Jesus had a vision set before Him (Hebrews 12:2).
- Every dream should be attached to the will of God, the Word of God, the Spirit of God and the character of God.
- Abraham's vision was initiated by God (Genesis 12:1-3).

Session 1

Maximum Dream Achievement

Goal Setting

- Write the vision and make it plain (Habakkuk 2:2).
- Where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18).
- Less than three percent of the world's population has written goals. More than eighty percent of the world's wealth is controlled by less than three percent of its population. Is there a correlation between the three percent who have written goals and the majority of wealth being controlled by such a small minority? There most assuredly is.
- People, companies, churches and nations suffer when there is a lack of direction and vision or goals.
- Some people don't set goals, because they aren't certain what it is that they really want. Until we know what we are here to achieve, we won't have a target to hit. No archer pulls back an arrow in his bow without first taking time to identify a target.
- Most success stories are a series of trials and errors. Don't worry about failing. Resetting.
- Standard setting. Your standards may not be other people's standards, even if they're close to you.
- **100% Responsibility.** Two common "diseases" that work against success are blame and entitlement. Decide you're going to be a victor, not a victim.
- What resonates with your spirit when you see or hear it?
- Goals for you. Goals for your household. Goals for your team.
- Take a moment to write down your goals.

Goal-Setting Exercise

Imagine that you have unlimited funds and you are free from any hindering responsibilities.

If you could have anything you want in the next three years, what would it be? Now list all things you want for yourself, for your family, your community, for your church. What income level would you like to achieve? What relationships would you want to have? What spiritual desires and goals would you like to meet?

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Desire, Decide, Commit

- Desire. Blind Bartameus (Mark 10:46-52). What do you want?
- For a goal to come to fruition, it should be something we truly want. We must not just casually want it. We must intensely passionately desire it! The biggest achievements are realized because of one's intense burning desire, and a "no quit" attitude. Faith is the substance of thing hoped for (Hebrews 11:1).
- The word sire is defined as "the male parent of a quadruped." For example, a horse sires (fathers) a colt. The prefix de means "of." So, the word desire means "of the father." God, our heavenly Father, has created us with built-in dreams and desires waiting to be revealed. (Why do you want what you want?) Like seeds He has planted in the good soil of our lives, they are waiting to burst forth with life in God's time. (But they must be nurtured.) Not all, of course, but much of what may have seemed to us as little more than our ideas or intuition are divine seeds waiting to bear fruit in our lives.
- Once we desire, we must decide. Take action.
- Once we take action, we must commit. Don't quit. Don't give up. (Galatians 6:9).
- Distractions, objections and conflicts will always appear to challenge us—to push us off the path (We need to chisel away everything that does not look like the goal). We must remain committed. We must give our goals the respect that we would give to a close family member. In fact, we've heard some people refer to their dream as their "baby." A dream worth living for is a goal worth fighting for; and yes, we may have to take a few bullets along the way.

Believe, Faith, Know

- The goals that we set, and expect to reach, must line up with our core values. For example, if you believe the kingdom of God – its life, abundance, peace, joy, health, order – should be manifest in every arena of your life and the world around you – if you value that at your core – you should set goals that align with that.
- Mark 9:23 ... all things are possible to him who believes. Henry Ford, "Whether you believe a thing or not, you're right." You have the right to have what you believe and what you say – good or bad, life or death.
- The moment we believe we can accomplish a thing; we are well on our way to achieving it.

- Faith skips over the “how?” Trying to figure out what means, methods or conduits God will use to bring the manifestation of the promise is not our department. Our is to receive the manifestation of the promise through faith and patience.
- Faith allows us the grace not to have everything all figured out in advance.
- Live in a constant state of expectancy that your dreams and goals are indeed coming true. Continue to say it and decree it. Stay in a state of unwavering faith and it will carry you through.
- Diligence and actions are also part of the equation. Be diligent and take actions toward your goals because as James 2:16 says, “faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
- Hebrews 11:7-10. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Write It, Speak It, Proclaim It

- Habakkuk 2:2 (The Message) we read, “Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what’s coming. It aches for the coming – it can hardly wait! And it doesn’t lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It’s on its way. It will come right on time.”
- Writing down your goals is a deeper level of investment than just thinking about them. It brings your goals alive and gives them a face. It makes them more real.
- If writing down your goals gives them a face, then speaking out your goals gives them a voice. When we speak our goals, our ears hear them from the voice with which we are most familiar – our own. It helps us become one with them. Being one with something can develop an unconscious expectancy in your spirit that attracts the things needed to fulfill it – good or bad.

- Your words have power. Life and death can be released through the tongue. That's the power it has. And those who love to use it will experience what it produces (Proverbs 18:21). Kenn's account of his wife.
- Avoid words like "try" and "might" when it comes to your goals. Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no" (James 5:12). Learn to speak with certainty.
- For many people, writing, speaking and proclaiming is a great starting place for goals to become reality; especially when there are no resources in the natural to bring them to pass.

List Benefits, List Consequences, Motivations

- What are the benefits of achieving your goals? For you and for others. Sometimes the achievement of your goals is a release for someone else. Who knows but that your goal is a puzzle piece that needs to be put in the puzzle, before someone else can put their piece in.
- When we realize how many others will benefit from our efforts we'll have a higher sense of purpose, one beyond personal ambition alone. We are blessed to be a blessing.
- If earning a million dollars in one year is your goal, write down what accomplishing that will mean to you, to your family, your church, or other charities that you support. If owning a beautiful beach front condo in Hawaii is your goal, what benefits would that provide?
- What are the consequences of not achieving your goals? What would it cost you? What regrets would you have? This can help motivate you to continue doing the things that will lead to the fulfillment of your goals.
- How many times have we thought, "If I only understood the consequences of that decision before I made it, I would have made a different decision"?
- Being conscious of the benefits and consequences of achieving or not achieving our goals can be powerful motivators.

Benefits and Consequences Exercise

List ten to twenty benefits you or others will likely enjoy when you reach your goal. The first ten will be easy. It will get more difficult as you get to twenty. Push through. The more benefits you see, the more motivated you will be.

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List at least five serious consequences that will result if you fail to reach your goal.
Be real. These may be your catalyst for change.

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Session 2

Maximum Dream Achievement

Starting Point / Completion / Boundaries

- Analyze your starting point. Understanding your starting point allows you to understand what your next steps should be.
- Luke 14:28-32 – For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.
- Most of us start our journeys with limited resources and knowledge. Do not despise small beginnings.
- Defining completion and what success looks like, allow you to know when you’ve reached your goal and prevents you from making unnecessary efforts and pursuing things that don’t align with the vision. It also keeps us from complaining and being frustrated over the wrong thing.
- What sort of boundaries will keep you on track? Establish them up front. Expect the Holy Spirit to help keep you in bounds. Those who refuse to live within the boundaries are destined to live lives of mediocrity or even disaster.

Set a Deadline / Set a Starting Date / The Stopwatch

- Without deadlines we can easily succumb to any of a number of anti-goal achieving activities such as procrastination and distraction. It is easy for us to put off important things and trade our time for more menial and even unnecessary activities.
- Deadlines give us a sense of urgency. When it’s time to do something, we need to make haste. Do it as quickly as possible. Time is of the essence (Ephesians 5:16).
- It is easy for us to be busy and accomplish little or nothing. It’s necessary that we move from being busy to being effective.
- So what happens if we don’t meet the deadline? We simply set another deadline. Never stop progressing. There is no place to quit or give up in the kingdom (Galatians 6:9).

- We need to have a start date as well as a deadline. Which is harder? Starting or finishing? The enemy of starting is procrastination. The enemy of finishing is distraction.
- The clock is ticking. Time waits for no man. It keeps moving. We should do the same. Keep moving in the direction of our goals and dreams. Every second, every minute, every hour, every day, every week, every month, every year, every decade and every century counts.

List Obstacles / Identify Opportunities / Survey Territory

- "... let's not allow life's obstacles to prevent us from pursuing and ultimately reaching our dreams. Some will view the pursuit as being 'too hard' and stop."
- There will be obstacles to overcome. The devil and the world system will try to stop you. View them as an opportunity to demonstrate the victory of Christ. Not something to stop you.
- Take inventory of known obstacles for the sake of perspective. Every journey has a route. Sometimes that route includes going through the valley of the shadow of death and the fiery furnace. But the Lord is with you, at work in you, the whole way.
- "When we experience the doldrums, we should refrain from making any major decisions." The winds will blow again. Wait for the manifestation of the breakthrough.
- Identify opportunities. Make a list of the current opportunities of which you are aware that will help you meet your goal. The widow woman with the jar of oil What do you have in the house?
- OpPORTunities. A place of trade, commerce and activity, where things have the potential to "happen". "Ports" in our business lives include networking meetings, trade shows, industry business conferences, and office meetings.
- "I could do this, or I could do that." "I could go here, or I could go there." Take advantage of the right opportunities. The Spirit-inspired and Spirit-led opportunities.
- One of the most often overlooked opportunities we each have is to become really proficient at our current responsibilities. We call this principle: Being brilliant at the basics. What's in your hand? Being faithful with little.

Identify Information / List Resources / Research

- What informational resources (books, articles, seminars, videos, people) are out there which will help you on your journey?
- Find people who have done what you plan to do. Hang around people who are or are going where you plan to be. Learn what you can from them. Learn from their failures and successes. Why go through the pain they went through, if you don't have to? Why reinvent the wheel?
- Proverbs 4:7 – Wisdom is supreme, therefore get wisdom. Wisdom and understanding are valuable. Surround yourself with as much of it as possible. Surround yourself with books. The wealthy have big libraries. The poor have big screen televisions.
- The greatest resource of wisdom is the Holy Spirit. Open yourself to His leading and expect to receive guidance from Him.

Information Exercise

Make a list of information that you will need to gather. What books will you need to read, or courses will you have to take? The list should include at least five resources that you are going to tap into to do your research. If you can come up with more that's great. But start with at least five.

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Session 3

Maximum Dream Achievement

Advocates

- We need help to reach our goals. We can't do it alone.
- Help as many people as you can on the way to your dream. Sow help as a seed and you will reap a harvest of help.
- Identify those people who are potential advocates for you. People you can trust. Spouse, boss, past client, coach, trusted advisor, etc.
- Expect God to give you favor with people of influence who can help position you (Joseph). Expect Him to put you on people's hearts.
- It is also important to identify those people you need to avoid and negative newscasts that have no benefit to your life whatsoever.
- Not everyone will be mindful of the dream God has put in your heart or the call of God on your life (Matthew 16:21-23).

Advocate Exercise

Make a list of the people you would consider to be advocates in your life.

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Make a Plan and Take Action

- “Poor planning and poor leadership are the top two reasons that most businesses fail in their first year.”
- Expect God not only to give you the vision, but to give you the plan as well. When God wanted the children of Israel to build Him a sanctuary, He gave them a detailed plan. When He wanted Noah to build the ark, He gave him a detailed plan. When God wanted Jesus to preach and display the kingdom, He gave him a detailed plan. Specifics are vital.
- The plan doesn’t have to be perfect or fully complete at first; but it does need to be solid, well thought out, and have a definite objective.
- Taking “the first step” is critical to launching a new goal. To achieve any big goal, one must establish a series of small goals. Learn how to “back out” goals.

Visualize / Emotionalize / Internalize

- You’ve got to see/visualize yourself accomplishing your goals. Visualization is to see with your heart. The eyes of your understanding (Ephesians 1:18).
- For us to believe that we have received what we are praying for is to visualize it as already accomplished (Mark 11:24).
- From a practical standpoint, if you can give yourself a physical picture, do so. But writing down the things God tells and shows you about your goals can also be a very powerful picture for your spirit. The picture inspires hope. And faith is the substance of things hoped for (Hebrews 11:1).
- Keep emotions in check and perspective. Emotions have a tendency to drive so much of what we do, so we want to put things in front of your eyes, mind and ears that stir up positive emotions.
- Philippians 4:8, “Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.”
- As you visualize, allow yourself to experience the emotion of your accomplished goal.
- Internalize your goals by thinking about them regularly. Visit your dreams in your thinking.

Persistence / Patience / Prayer

- “Throughout our journey toward reaching our goal, we must remain committed to it and persistently pursue it until it comes to fruition. It’s important that we maintain a ‘never give up’ attitude and press in to see it completed. Any worthwhile achievement will meet resistance, and resistance requires persistence. If achieving one’s goal were easy everyone would do it.”
- Hebrews 6:11, 12 – “And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”
- What is patience? Patience is waiting for the dream to manifest [not moving on from the dream, as if to settle for something less] while remaining diligent and faithful in the things God has told you to do concerning the dream.
- Patience is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22). Expect the Holy Spirit to produce patience in you and respond to His promptings of patience.
- Prayer is vital to achieving your dreams. Prayer speaks to relationship. Ask (put a demand on that which is due) and you shall receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be open. But when you ask, ask in faith, not doubting in our your heart, believing, knowing and understanding that the things you ask for will come to pass (Matthew 7:7-8, Mark 11:24, James 1:5-8).
- Dare to ask God. Dare to believe God. Ask with the right motives (James 4:2-3).
- “...when I mentioned this issue of answered prayer. The host said, ‘Do you mean that you can identify something that God did in direct response to your prayer?’ I replied, ‘Yes, indeed. Why would I spend a moment in prayer if I had no evidence or faith that God would answer? I can show you many direct answers to prayer.’ She said, ‘Eddie, I’ve been a Christian for 20 years and I couldn’t tell you any specific thing that I’ve seen God do in answer to my prayer.’”

