

**Pursuing
Your
God-given
Dream**

Sam Hollis

Introduction:

God has placed in the heart of every Christian a dream of spiritual greatness. A dream that their life will not be wasted and they will not live and die in vain. A dream their life will mightily impact their world for God, making a significant contribution to the kingdom of God. Truly God creates His children for greatness, designs them for success, places a vision of spiritual conquest in their heart, and empowers them for victory.

1. **Your God is Looking** for Someone To Show Himself Mighty Through II Chronicles 16:9a

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him.

2. **Your God Invites You To Call Upon Him.**

Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Jeremiah 33:3

- a. **A Request** – “Call unto Me”
 - b. **A Response** – “and I will answer thee”
 - c. **A Revelation** – “and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not”
3. Your God Now Indwells You with **His Precious Presence** and **His Powerful Potential**
 - a. **His Precious Presence**
 - (1) Ephesians 2:22 – *In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*
 - (2) Colossians 1:27 – *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

b. His Powerful Potential

(1) Ephesians 3:20 – *Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us;*

(2) Philippians 4:13 – *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

We can go anywhere Jesus wants to go; we can become anything Jesus wants us to become; we can do anything Jesus wants us to do. We must simply know where He wants us to go, what He wants us to become, what He wants us to do, and then go for it with all our might in full dependence upon God. We are powerful, victorious conquerors through Jesus Christ.

Although our body is an earthen vessel, we are indwelt by the awesome God of the universe. The pearl of great price lives within us. The ruling, reigning, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, King of kings and Lord of all lives in our clay pot. We are truly a habitation of God.

I. Joseph had a God-given Dream

A. The Dream Revealed – see Genesis 37:1-11

B. The Dream Preserved

1. **Endured the pit of persecution** without becoming bitter, taking revenge, or allowing the dream to die. See Genesis 37:18-28

2. **Pursued purity** against all pressure. He was constantly enticed by Potiphar's wife to commit adultery, being alone with her in the house, but he ran to escape her evil advances. He did not allow immoral behavior to sabotage his dream. See Genesis 39:1-12

3. **He passed the prison test.** He was slandered, falsely accused, and unjustly sentenced to prison for a crime he did

not commit. He still clung to the dream and the God of the dream when all circumstances around seemed to indicate the dream would never come true.

C. **The Dream Fulfilled**

1. He was elevated to the palace (Genesis 41:37-46) A place of power and authority.
2. His brothers bowed down to him (Genesis 41:37-46, 42:1-9) Just as he had seen them do in his dream.

II. **Caleb had a God-given Dream**

A. **The Dream Revealed** - Numbers 14:24

B. **The Dream Preserved** – Joshua 14:7-11

C. **The Dream Fulfilled**

And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance. Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel. Joshua 14:13-14

Four reasons why Caleb's dream became reality:

1. He had **a word** from God that was **unforgettable**. If God ever promises you a mountain, you will never forget it. Caleb remembered God's promise for 45 years.
2. He had **a walk** with God that was **undeniable**. He wholly followed God. God...Caleb...Moses...Joshua...knew it.
3. He had **a want-to** from God that was **inextinguishable**. The desire to possess his dream roared like a raging fire in his heart. It grew in intensity. If the desire to fulfill your dream never goes away, you can be assured it is from God.

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:13

4. He had a **war** for God that was **unavoidable**. There comes that decisive, climatic moment in one’s spiritual life when an individual must risk all, even death itself, to possess one’s mountain. Caleb had come to that point in his life. He realized there was no winning without warfare. He knew there were battles to fight and sacrifices to make. He knew he could no longer endure anything less than God’s ultimate for his life. He would not settle for less. His mind was made up. There was no turning back.

He was joining that elite group of spiritual leaders who valued the will of God for their life more precious than life itself.

III. Peter had a God-given Dream

A. The Dream Revealed

And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. Matthew 14:28

B. The Dream Fulfilled

And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

IV. Paul had a God-given Dream

A. The Dream Revealed

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12

B. The Dream Preserved and Fulfilled

I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. II Timothy 4:7

V. You have a God-given Dream

A. Your Dream Revealed

How does this God-given dream reveal itself in your life? How may you begin to get a grip on that thing God has laid hold on your life for?

Ask yourself these questions: If I could do anything in all the world, what would I do? **What brings** the greatest thrill and joy to my heart? What am I willing to get up early and stay up late for? **What is the one thing** most enduring in my life? The one thing I can never seem to get away from. **What do I** dream about, think about, meditate about, and plan about most? **What am I gifted for and good at?** Where have I achieved the greatest victories and accomplished the most results? What do my friends frequently compliment me for? What do they say I excel in? **As you anticipate the future,** what would you most like to spend the rest of your life doing? **What do you want to be remembered for?** What do you want written on your tombstone? If you could write your own job description, having the provisions and authority to do what you wanted to do, the rest of your life, what would that job description look like? **What do you most often sense** God is wanting you to do and leading you to do? What are you most willing to work for, sacrifice for, yes, even die for?

The answers to these questions may **help you clarify and may indicate** The Dream that God has placed in your heart.

B. **The Journey to Your Dream**

There is quite a journey from the *Revealing of the Dream* to the *Fulfilling of the Dream*. **In all probability**, it will take a lifetime to fully experience your dream in its totality.

This journey will be difficult, long, and painful. There will be many disappointments and discouragements. There will be many fierce foes and intense battles. **Frequently**, over the years of this journey, attempts will be made to rip your dream from your heart. **You will be greatly tempted** to allow someone or something to rob your dream.

Over and over again you will be called upon to leave your comfort zone, to face fears, to risk failure, to attempt things you feel inadequate to do, to keep growing, learning and maturing.

You will have to fight the giants of bitterness, revenge, anger, doubt, fear, failure and rejection. To be victorious, it will be necessary to trust God more than you fear the giants. Faith and faith alone will give you victory.

The bigger your dream the longer the journey and more thorough the preparation required for the fulfillment of the dream.

All along your journey you are going to be assaulted by Dream Robbers. They are:

1. Disappointments

You think you are on the threshold of accomplishing your dream. Everything appears to be moving in that direction. You are full of faith, hope, optimism, and excitement. Then totally unexpectedly your dream blows up in your face and lies shattered at your feet. Cruelly, that which you have so passionately desired, so earnestly sought, so fervently prayed for, worked for and had faith for is not going to be. Your heart

is broken. Your spirit is crushed. Your mind is confused as to why this has happened.

2. Repeated Disappointments

When you have encountered disappointment as severe as I have just described you will experience a time of sadness, sorrow and grief. You will slowly pick up the pieces and only by the grace of God begin to dream, to have hope, and believe again your dream will become reality.

Each time your dream is shattered it is more painful and more difficult to get over. Each time the challenge to pursue your dream becomes greater.

Most people give up their dream after several episodes of severe disappointment. Disappointment is a great robber of dreams.

3. Persons

Sometimes we allow a person or persons in our life to rob us of Our Dream. It may be a spouse, a parent, a best friend, a teacher, a coach, an employer, a brother or sister, a respected expert, or a long-time critic or enemy.

They may tell us Our Dream is unrealistic, that we do not have the time, ability, resources, or capabilities to fulfill The Dream. They may mock, ridicule, and make fun of us for having so great a dream. Someone that we have trusted in and depended upon to encourage us and to affirm us on our journey toward Our Dream may abandon and reject us after many years of faithful friendship. The one person who we thought would always be there for us may step out of our life.

4. Life Events

There are many life events we may allow to rob us of Our Dream. It may be sickness, death of a loved one, a financial reversal or hardship, a job loss, or some type of failure. The

end result is because of this event we conclude Our Dream is not obtainable.

C. Your Dream Fulfilled

When you are thoroughly prepared, tested and tried, God will fulfill your dream and all Heaven will break loose and all power, glory and honor will go to the Giver and Fulfiler of your dream, the Lord of Heaven.

Dream Fulfillment Brings:

1. Rejoicing and Praise
2. Rewards and payday for obedience and faithfulness
3. Supernatural results and fruit that count for eternity
4. Gratitude for doing God's will and no regrets
5. Inspiration and motivation for others to pursue their God-given dream