

Living Your Dream

Lessons from the life of Jacob

2 Timothy 4:7,8

Genesis Chapters 28 - 32

2 Timothy 4:7,8

I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.

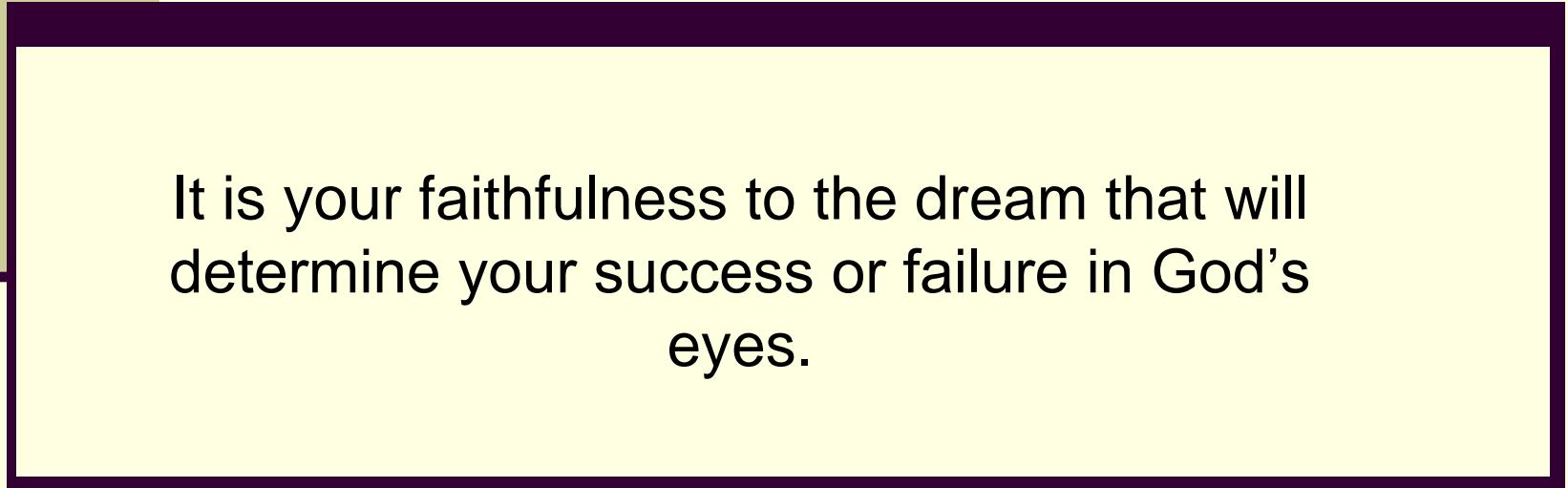
And now the prize awaits me...

OUR GOD GIVEN DREAM

- It has value to God.
- It has value to the world around us.
- It has value for our growth as individuals.



A Destiny To Embrace



It is your faithfulness to the dream that will determine your success or failure in God's eyes.

Jacob Receives A Dream

- a purpose and a call -

Genesis 28:10-17

Meanwhile , Jacob left Beersheba and traveled toward Haran. At sundown he arrived at a good place to set up camp and stopped there for the night. Jacob found a stone for a pillow and lay down to sleep.

As he slept, he dreamed of a stairway that reached from earth to heaven, And he saw the angels of God going up and down on it. At the top of the stairway stood the Lord, and he said, “I am the Lord, the God of your father Isaac. The ground you are laying on belongs to you. I will give it to you and your descendants. Your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth!

Jacob Receives a Purpose And Call

Gen. 28:10-17

“They will cover the land from east to west and from north to south. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants. What’s more, I will be with you, and I will protect you wherever you go.”

I will someday bring you safely back to this land. I will be with you constantly until I have finished giving you everything I have promised.”

Then Jacob woke up and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place and I wasn’t even aware of it. What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God – the gateway to heaven!”

Key Principle...

There is a divine connection between our seemingly unimportant daily life and God's eternal plan.

Jacob Wrestles With His Dream

Genesis 29: 17-25

Laban said to him, "You shouldn't work for me without pay just because we are relatives. How much do you want?"

Now Laban had two daughters: Leah, who was the oldest, and her younger sister, Rachel. Leah had pretty eyes, but Rachel was beautiful in every way, with a lovely face and shapely figure. Since Jacob was in love with Rachel, he told her father, "I'll work for you seven years if you'll give me Rachel, your younger daughter, as my wife."

"Agreed!" Laban replied. "I'd rather give her to you than to someone outside the family."

Wrestling With The Dream

Genesis 29: 17-25

So Jacob spent the next seven years working to pay for Rachel. But his love for her was so strong that it seemed to him but a few days. Finally, the time came for him to marry her. "I have fulfilled my contract," Jacob said to Laban. "Now give me my wife so we can be married."

So Laban invited everyone in the neighborhood to celebrate with Jacob at a wedding feast. That night, when it was dark, Laban took Leah to Jacob, and he slept with her. And Laban gave Leah a servant, Zilpah, to be her maid.

But when Jacob woke up in the morning--it was Leah! "What sort of trick is this?" Jacob raged at Laban. "I worked seven years for Rachel. What do you mean by this trickery?"

Wrestling with our Dream

Wrestling with our dream builds us into people who can effectively carry the dream to completion.

Prevailing Spiritually

If you and I are to effectively carry the vision from God, we must be people that are in touch with God.

Jacob Prevails Spiritually

Genesis 32:22-31

But during the night Jacob got up and sent his two wives, two concubines, and eleven sons across the Jabbok River. After they were on the other side, he sent over all his possessions. This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until dawn. When the man saw that he couldn't win the match, he struck Jacob's hip and knocked it out of joint at the socket. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is dawn." But Jacob panted, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

"What is your name?" the man asked.
He replied, "Jacob."

Spiritually Prevailing with our Dream

"Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "It is now Israel, because you have struggled with both God and men and have won."

"What is your name?" Jacob asked him.

"Why do you ask?" the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there.

Jacob named the place Peniel --"face of God"-- for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared." The sun rose as he left Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

There is a Spiritual Dimension to our Dream

- Strive with God – tirelessly seek to know his ways.
- Strive to understand the broader scope of God's kingdom.
- Understand your unique part in God's universal plan.

Key Truth...

Often we see adversity as an indication that we are going the wrong direction, or that we are out of God's will for our lives.

God validates all Jacobs struggles...

The angel says: "You have struggled with God and man and have won..."

Lessons From Jacob's Life

- Discover the dream God has for you.
- Take hold of that dream and wrestle with it.
- Prevail in the Spirit.