

# KEEPING YOUR DREAMS ALIVE

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## WHAT IS A DREAM?

A dream is a vision of the future of what you want to become, or how you want your life, business, home or family to be. It could be within a given time period, or an indefinite time period.

A dream could also be described as a goal which is object of effort or ambition. A goal is an aim.

A vision is something which you imagine to become, or imagine will happen. A vision is a dream

A dream is a picture painted and carried in the mind until it is fulfilled. A dream could be given by God without the one to whom the dream is given desiring it. – It is not a product of the dreamer's desires.

A dream could be one's aim in life without it being a direct revelation from heaven – In this case, a product of one's personal; desires.

A dream–seed is the invisible photograph of a desired miracle, goal, and dream or vision e.g.

(a) Abraham – nurtured that inner picture of many generations or children through his promised son, Isaac.

*Gen 15:5-6*

*5 He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.*

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(b) The woman of the issue of blood.

*Mark 5:28*

*28 because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."*

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(c) Christ – who for the joy (resurrection and reconciliation of man to God) that was set before him endured the cross.

*Heb 12:2*

*2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

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## **HAVE A DREAM**

1. Have a dream and pursue it.
2. Have a dream, a big dream. You will never go any higher than you can dream. But you can go as high as you dream if you work at it, believe it, and stick to it.
3. Decide what you want to do, what you want to be, and what you want to own.
4. Write it down.

*Hab 2:2*

*2 Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.*

## **MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE**

To fulfill a dream, you need to be focused and committed to its actualization. There will definitely be obstacles on your way, but you must keep your eyes on the dream believing against all odds that it will come to pass.

## **LESSONS FROM JOSEPH AND HIS DREAM**

*Gen 37:2-9*

*2 This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. 4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. 5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. 6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: 7 We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." 8 His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. 9 Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."*

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Joseph was seventeen years when he was sold into slavery by his brothers who sold him to the Ishmaelites to kill his dream of ruling them thinking probably that their Father may make him their leader to actualize his dream. They thought that selling him into slavery will end his dream. They didn't know that they were sending him to the land where he will be exalted to the position of Prime Minister many years later. Joseph suffered a lot in Egypt. The Ishmaelites sold him to Potiphar whom he served as a slave for many years. His righteousness in refusing to defile himself with Potiphar's wife and dishonour his master, resulted in him being sent to prison. In prison he interpreted dreams for Pharaoh's cupbearer and chief baker who forgot him for two years only to remember him when Pharaoh had a dream that could not be interpreted. He was called upon to interpret Pharaoh's dream, which he did and gave counsel on how to take advantage of the revelation and save the nation and the world from starvation in the years of famine to come. He became Prime Minister at the age of thirty. About nine years later he saw his dream come to pass when his brothers came and bowed to him wanting to buy food for their family. It took twenty two years from the time he shared his dream and was sold to slavery to the

time his brothers actually bowed to him. His dream came to pass as it was shown him, not by his plan and acts, but by God's divine act and providence.

There are many lessons to learn from Joseph's dream for all of us worth learning and working with to attain success and be fulfilled in life.

**1. Joseph couldn't contain the dream within himself.**

He voiced out his dream to his family. Any dream you can contain is not big enough to produce partnership.

*Prov 18:20-21*

*20 From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. 21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*  
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**2. Dreams bring jealousy and envy which can produce troubles.**

Joseph's brothers hated Joseph for three main reasons:-

(a) He brought a bad report to their father about the sons of Bilha and Zilpha (Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher) about what happened at the fields.

*Gen 37:2*

*2 This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.*  
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(b) His father loved him more than all his brothers and made him a coat of many colours.

*Gen 37:3-4*

*3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. 4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.*  
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(c) He had a dream that made him head over his brothers.

*Gen 37:5-9*

*5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. 6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: 7 We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." 8 His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. 9 Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."*  
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**3. Always remember, "all things work for good to them who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).**

*Isa. 14:24*

*24 The LORD Almighty has sworn, 'surely as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand ....'*  
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*1 Thes. 5:18*

*18 Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.  
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No one can hinder the plan of God for your life.

**4. Joseph was sold to the Ishmaelites to become a slave all his life.**

"That will quench his dream for life", they thought not knowing that they were helping to fulfill his dream.

- Do not worry or fear what the enemy will do or say concerning your dream. No one can slow or fasten the plan of God for your life.
- The obstacles the enemy will place in your way will be used by God as a stepping stone to the actualization of His plan for your life.

**5. If it appears that there is a delay, do not despair or fret.**

The vision is for an appointed time. When that time comes, it will come to pass.

*Hab 2:1-3*

*I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. 2 Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. 3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.*

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**6. If God gives you a vision or dream, he gives you what it takes to bring it to pass.**

God gave Joseph administrative skill, wisdom, insight into matters and ability to interpret dreams. God gave him favour also.

**7. The seed of what God wants you to be is planted in you, which will have to be developed and mastered within a period of time which only God determines.**

In the case of Joseph, the seed of leadership was planted in him. In Potiphar's house, he was the administrator. In the prison, every prisoner was under his charge (Gen. 39). Look inwards to discover the seed for greatness in you, release it and maximize it.

**8. The gifts, men, materials, money, anointing, wisdom, and the circumstances needed to make the dream come true will be given by God.** Joseph was given the gift of interpretation of dreams. The Chief Baker and Chief Cupbearer of Pharaoh had a dream same night. Joseph interpreted both dreams. It came to pass as he said it would. But the cupbearer forgot Joseph to help get him out of prison (because it was not yet time for the fulfillment of the dream). Two years later, Pharaoh had a dream, no one could interpret it. It was then the Chief Cupbearer remembered Joseph. It was God's time to use the gift He had showed and proven in his life many years back.

**9. When God gives you a dream, you may never know when and how the dream will come to pass.** All you need do is follow God faithfully as He leads you into His plan. Don't grumble. Keep thanking Him. Keep away from sin. Prove yourself loyal and faithful to God and to all, and in whatever you are doing. Put in your best. And keep focusing on the picture in your head of what God showed you or told you. Bear pain if it comes to you in your journey to glory. Faithfully follow and obey God so you can be raised by Him.

**10. Dreams will always come true.**

It was during the seven years of famine that the dream of Joseph was fulfilled when his brothers came and bowed to him so that he can sell grains to them (Gen. 42-46). Your dreams will definitely come through no matter what you go through in life.

**11. You may not know fully why God gave you the dream you had or are having, yet His commitment to the dream will not waver.**

Joseph never knew why God gave him the dream - why God decided to honour him in future. It was during the time of famine when his brothers came to buy grains that he understood the reason *Gen 45:1-13*

*45:1 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.*

*3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.*

*4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 5 And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. 6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. 7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.*

*8 "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. 9 Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. 10 You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me--you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. 11 I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'*

*12 "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. 13 Tell my father about the entire honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."*

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**12. Keep your dream alive.**

Focus on it and work hard towards it. It will not fail. Maintain a sweet fellowship with God and you will smile in the end.

**13. Never grumble or complain, keep your joy and refuse to submit to the adverse situation between you and your dream.**

Freedom from a negative attitude will enable you to make most of every opportunity that comes your way. Joseph was a very positive person. He never allowed what he suffered to make him angry with God or turn away from following Him. Joseph remained faithful and made up his mind to be happy and be at his best no matter what he suffered. He became the most excited slave and prisoner ever known in human history. This qualified him for continual favour and promotions from God and man. Potiphar made him Manager of all his estate, the Chief Prison

Warder made him to be in charge of the prisoner while he was in prison, for he saw he did a better job than himself; and finally Pharaoh made him Prime Minister in the whole of Egypt.

**14. Be willing to go the extra mile and be a problem solver.**

Joseph could have stopped at the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream, but he went beyond that to give a word of wisdom on how to benefit from the dream and save lives in future. This earned him the job of Prime Minister which was never on his mind when he was giving counsel on what to do. I don't think freedom was on his mind either. I believe he was just being his normal self, trying to help people though he is suffering. Always look out for opportunities to help and bless people, in the process, God will bless you through people. Your seeds of kindness will bring you favour. Sow favour and you will reap favour. Plant seeds that you will harvest tomorrow. Do more than you are asked or required to do if it is within your power. Your acts of kindness will open doors of favour to you.

**15. Never hold grudge against those who disappoint or cause you pain and problem in the pursuit of your dream.**

Joseph did not hold a grudge against his brothers, God, Potiphar and his wife, and pharaoh's chief bottler who forgot him in prison.

**SLAVERY TIME is:**

- A time of oppression.
- A time of self-denial.
- A time of trouble.
- A time of identity crisis.
- A time of confusion as to what exactly God wants for you or from you.
- It is the time you question your existence and the reality of the dream given to you.
- It is the time of intense purging, training and perfection by the Spirit of God.
- It is the school of suffering. And you must graduate from this school to enter into glory.
- It is a time when your faith and trust in God is really tested.
- It is a time when your abilities and skills are developed.

**PRISON TIME is:**

- A time of denial before honour.
- It is time for development of special and spiritual gifts that will pave way for your slowing forth and honour.
- It is the last battle before the victory.
- It is a time you forget about your personal problems and help others succeed.
- It is a time to sow into people's lives.
- It is a time to help others find joy and happiness.
- It is a time when hope in man is totally destroyed so you can trust only in God your helper.

Joseph went through both phases and came out victorious. He never allowed what he suffered to stop his dream and his commitment to following and obeying God. He kept

his heart and mind pure and loyal to his God and creator and he was greatly rewarded with freedom and the throne. If you will do the same, you will not only smile, but laugh and reign in life. It is your turn to see your dream come true. Don't give up on your dream; it will come to pass soon with the help of God.