

1. Introduction

- A. Pastor Tim's message on Sunday, July 3rd, "America Please, Invite God In", one of the things he said that stood out most was, "God is not finished with America" and "believe that once again God will come and heal our land". That awoken my spirit man.
- B. There have been quite a few words spoken lately about awakening the dreams and going after your dreams. Even the sign outside has on it, "Dream Big".
- C. Within the last few years, there have been some hard times and some long days. It may seem as if "my dreams" will not come to pass with things being as "bad" as they are and seem to be getting worse.
- D. I pray that our faith would arise and see that God is calling us to not only dream big but to expect the promises He's given us to come to pass.

2. What is a promise?

- A. Definition - a declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen.
 - i. For example, Jesus says to His disciples in Acts 1: 8, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*
 - ii. Two promises
 - 1. The Holy Spirit will come upon you.
 - 2. When He does, you will receive power.

3. Ways a promise is given (by God)

- A. Dream/vision
 - i. Genesis 37:5, "Joseph had a dream..."
- B. Prophetic word
 - i. 2 Samuel 7, A promise was given to David by the prophet Nathan.
- C. Spoken directly
 - i. Genesis 12:1-3, God spoke a promise to Abram of a great nation.
- D. Heart's desire
 - i. Ruth 1:16 -17, Ruth had it down in her heart that she would not leave Naomi.
- E. Written word of God
 - i. Healing, deliverance, salvation, freedom, peace, protection
 - ii. John 6:40; Psalms 103:3, Mark 11:24, Philippians 4:19
- F. The combination (combo/bundle)
 - i. Starts with a heart's desire, dreams, prophetic words and the written word to confirm the promise.

4. What promises have you received from God?

- A. Prophetic words, spoken words, dreams, things you are holding in your heart
- B. 2 Corinthians 1:20 Paul says, For no matter how many promises God has made, they

are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

5. What to do while waiting on the promise

A. The promise

- i. Mark 4:35 *"That day when evening came, he (Jesus) said to his disciples, **"Let us go over to the other side."***
 1. Jesus said, "Let us...", meaning Him and ALL of the disciples were going over to the other side.
 2. I call this - The Promise!
 3. A word was spoken and a destination was given.

B. The storm

- i. Most of these men were experienced fishermen.
- ii. They had been traveling throughout the area with Jesus for about a year. They had seen many miracles and been taught by Jesus.
- iii. As they began this particular journey, everything seemed calm and peaceful, a normal day at sea.
- iv. Suddenly, the wind began to increase in speed and strength. The wind blew in many different directions and the water fought from the lake as well as the sky.
- v. In other words, it doesn't look like we are going to the other side.
- vi. According to Mark 4:38, Jesus had retreated to the stern (the rearmost part of the ship or boat) and went to sleep.
- vii. The disciples, feeling they were about to perish went to Jesus frantically, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"
- viii. How many of us feel this after we're given a promise?
 1. "It looks as if there is no way this is going to happen, Jesus, don't you care?"

C. The preparation - are we ready for what God has for us on the other side?

- i. Jesus already had a plan.
 1. Mark 4:40, Jesus said, ***"Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"***
 2. Jesus knew, there would be a day when these men would receive the promise, and the same faith that is needed to get to the promise is the same faith they will need when they get there.
 3. These men were gifted, anointed for the task, but there were still some things they needed to learn before they got to the other side.
- ii. Joseph had a promise, he received his promise through a dream.
 1. This young man had a lot to learn about being a ruler.
 2. He was gifted, anointed for the task, but his character was not up to par.
 - a. Genesis 37:6 *"Listen to this," he **proudly** announced.*
 - b. Genesis 37:9 *Then he had another dream and told it to his brothers.*

*"Listen to my latest dream," he **boasted**.*

3. God had a plan for Joseph to provide for His chosen people. But He wasn't ready yet.
- 4. Here comes the storm.**
5. He had gone through a series of challenges, situations that allowed him to grow into maturity in order for him to be able to rule with compassion, humility and wisdom.
- iii. While waiting for the promise it will look like this will never happen.
 1. Storms will rage, opportunities will go by, answers will not be given, and you will not know what to do.
 2. Sometimes it will even look like you're being looked over
 - a. Worship Team testimony - learning new songs
- iv. My promise (prophetic word)
 1. Storms came
 2. Don't say, "NO"!
- v. Character
 1. Pastor Tim was talking about being judged by what you say as a minister to the people. Always walk in and show love.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 13: 13 *"There are three things that remain—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love."*
 - b. The promise is not the goal, it's our heart.**
- vi. Trust
 1. I believe Jesus was saying to the disciples was "I'm still in the boat". We are going to the other side. Believe.
 - a. Psalm 46:1-4,7 *"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea. Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!", "The LORD of Heaven's Armies is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress."*
 2. These men who had been with Jesus for some time, some who knew the seas, were afraid. I just imagine every type of word being whispered by the enemy...
 - a. You're not good enough.
 - b. You're going to perish.
 - c. Jesus doesn't care about you.
 3. But, There is voice that is more powerful than that of the enemy and even our own voice.
 - a. Mark 4:39 He (Jesus) got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

4. This is the time to get the word of God concerning the situation. Pull out those dreams, pray over the prophetic words, declare the word of the Lord over your life. Stir up your faith. Speak louder than any whisper of the enemy or any rage of wind in the storm.
 - a. John 10:10 ***"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."***
 - b. What are some of the lies of the enemy?
 - i. I'm too old – didn't stop Sarah/Abraham
 - ii. I'm too young – didn't stop David or Josiah
 - iii. I'm barren – didn't stop Hannah
 - iv. It's a famine – didn't stop Joseph
 - c. Seek the Word, grab testimonies of how others overcame.
 - d. Whatever the lie is...ask God for the truth.
 - e. The enemy comes to rob by speaking lies—let truth reign.
- vii. My Testimony
 1. Mark 5: 5 **They went across the lake** to the region of the Gerasenes.
 - a. The disciples made it to the other side
 - b. Don't give up, Jesus is still in the boat. We will get to the other side.

6. Closing (Why is the promise so important?)

- A. What dream are you waiting for? What desire? What promise?
- B. **All promises** of God lead to bringing "freedom to people and glory to God".
- C. There are bound, broken people who are waiting on us to obtain the promise.
 - i. Ephesians 2:10 It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.
- D. Stir up the dreams again, He is faithful.

Declarations: *[taken from Angel Armies: Releasing the Warriors of Heaven by Tim Sheets]*

- We declare our destiny is Holy Spirit empowered.
- We decree angels who are sent to assist our destiny – be loosed in Jesus' name.
- We decree angels sent to reveal and draw out our God-given potential – be loosed in Jesus' name.
- We decree angels assigned to us the day we were born have been briefed concerning our purpose, and they are partnering with us to accomplish God's will for our lives.
- We decree God has placed a future hope before us and it is all good.
- We decree He who has begun a good work in us will complete it.