

Thoughts regarding the start of a new year...

Death of a dream... birth of a vision! 2 Samuel 7:1-29

David had a dream. It came as he looked at the luxury of his own kingly palace, and made his way to the stunning contrast of God's house. God's lowly Tent of Meeting with its dust covered shrouds, tattered curtains and blood soaked mud was a far cry from his own cedar paneled rooms. David's dream was to invest his energy and resources in a work that would exalt and glorify his God.

His dream had pure motivation. His dream would demand long years of investment. His dream would take every ounce of energy and creativity he possessed. His dream would demand the involvement and partnership of many to make it a reality. David even shared his dream with a wise and trusted advisor who told him to go for it! Know anybody with dreams and a history like that? ☺

**But sometimes what we dream in the night changes in the daylight.** It was not that the dream was bad. As a matter of fact, *God would bring the dream to pass one generation later.* But David would not see it. God had His reasons. The dream had to be postponed but not abandoned!! What would be *the death of his dream* (to build the temple himself) would result in *the birth of a vision* (to prepare for Solomon to build the temple.) **David would spend the rest of his life making preparation for the next generation to bring the dream to pass.** All the plans, all the relationships, all the preparatory work of investing so that when the time came, after he was gone, the dream would become reality. The next generation would see the dream realized. *1Ki 6:11-14 The word of the LORD came to Solomon: "As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, carry out my regulations and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel." So Solomon built the temple and completed it.*

**Wow! Is that like ministry, or what?** We desire more than anything else, to exalt the name of God and to see His glory among us. We want to see His people united around His worship, and see the nations running to Him. We live, we give, we labor, we long for this more than life itself. We dream about it. We pray about it. We work towards it. But some of us will invest a lifetime preparing for another generation to see the dream fulfilled. Is your vision greater than your dream? It must be!

I have known some bitter people who blame God for their unfulfilled dreams. But I have never met a bitter person who held their dreams loosely but His vision tightly, and was willing to work in hope and wait in confidence for the promised vision to come to pass.

Some of us may live to see our dreams fulfilled. God often does these very things for us. God be praised! And some of us will go to the grave having seen only glimpses of our dreams, but still certain of the vision yet to come. God be praised! Measure success, not by how closely it matches your dreams, but by how much it contributes to the fulfillment of His ultimate vision.

#### Self Check Questions:

1. What is your personal dream for the glory of God? Put it into words.
2. What is God's ultimate vision? See Ps 22, Eph 3:8-11, Rev 5
3. Define success as you consider the end of your journey on this earth.

**For further study:** Consider the many who have laid foundations for visions but never saw their dreams fully realized, but rejoiced in the God who led them every step. Joseph, Daniel, Paul. They handled imprisonment, reversals, opposition, and conflict because they were committed to a long term vision that would outlast them and was worth every ounce of energy and love they could invest in it.

Lord, you know my dream - my dream to see a church built, a congregation established, a community reached. I also know Your vision.. to see that Your Name is known, Your truth is believed, Your Son is exalted, Your will is done on earth, even as it is in heaven. I gladly give myself to the pursuit of Your vision and my dream that is but one small part of it. Give me the joyful energy of pursuit and the compassion-filled grace of endurance so that my life is well lived and well invested in this generation and for the next. Be Thou My Vision - Amen

**Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you continually. A Blessed 2009 be yours...  
Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val**

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.