



"Keep Dreaming"

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

In this standalone message, Pastor Ron Carpenter emphasized the importance of mental focus and imagination in overcoming life's setbacks. When we dwell on past hurts, imagining a different future can be challenging. Thankfully, our mind has two functions: to remember and to imagine. When we shift our mental focus away from the "closet" of our memory to the infinite possibilities of our imaginations, God can exceed our wildest expectations. Get ready to be freed in your mind and Dream Again. Let's get started!

I. The Two Functions of the Mind

- The brain is an organ. The mind is our consciousness.
- I can love the lord with MY MEMORY - (It is limited, like a closet)
- I can love the lord with MY IMAGINATION - (it is INFINITE, like the galaxies)
- My mind is powerful. Everything I see/hear is interpreted through my mind.
- If I give my mind nothing to imagine, it will default to my memory.

Scripture: Matthew 22:26-28

Reflection Question:

1. Have you felt "stuck" in the closet of your memories? How might knowing the two functions of the mind help you to become "unstuck" in your mind?
2. Loving the Lord has a direct correlation with the health of our minds. How does this truth challenge your current faith practices?

II. Forgetting the Past & Pressing Towards the Future

- I cannot remember and press at the same time. I must make a conscious choice not to dwell on the past and move forward.
- We never truly forget, but we must choose not to dwell on past hurts and instead remember the lessons learned.
- Choose to Release the PAIN and Remember the VICTORIES!

Scripture: Philippians 3:13-14**Reflection Question:**

1. What pain, disappointments, etc., are you finding it most difficult to release? Why?
2. Instead of focusing on the pain, what victories or lessons learned can you use as fuel to “press upward” to the mark of Christ?

III. Dreaming Again

- We must stop reliving past hurt, trauma, disappointments, and DREAM AGAIN.
- When Israel came out of our captivity, they were like those who dreamed again!
- We serve the Lord with our minds (Rom. 7:32), so our minds must be healthy to effectively serve Him and bring His kingdom to our areas of influence.

Scripture: Psalm 126:1; Rom. 7:32**Reflection Questions:**

1. Instead of dwelling on the past, what area of life do I need to activate my imagination and DREAM AGAIN? (What NEW IMAGE of myself do I need?)
2. What am I not declaring that I need to BEGIN to declare over my life?

CONCLUSION & CHALLENGE

What happens in our minds, happens in time: “As a man thinketh, so is he” (Prov. 23:7). To move forward in our lives, we must change what we speak and think so that we have the energy to pursue something different. (Ex: My mouth tells me what I see, which impacts my mind, which impacts my life!) God can do EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY ABOVE what we can ask or imagine, but we must give him something to work with. The creator of the universe lives with us. So, stop being held hostage to our past and start living in the fullness and creativity of the God who uniquely fashioned us! Let’s DREAM AGAIN!

SCRIPTURE: Eph. 3:20-21

- **CHALLENGE:** This is your opportunity to DREAM AGAIN. Start by consecrating your past hurts and challenges to Him. Then, ask the Holy Spirit to help you imagine a better future. He has no choice but to EXCEED your biggest dreams (Eph. 3:20)!
- **DECLARATION:** In the name of Jesus, I will be unstuck. There are dreams I haven’t dreamed, there are prayers I haven’t prayed, and things that I am meant to do that have yet to be done. Lord, help me move my mind from what WAS to what CAN BE!