

GROW: DREAM AGAIN!

Scripture used: [Luke 24:20-21 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Today we are blessed to celebrate the seven year anniversary of our founding as a church. Pastor Hurmon wanted to remind everyone of the dream that started our church family. This same dream helps us bless so many people around the Bay Area and the world. This dream has also helped us be a blessing to others during the pandemic, and spread a message of faith and grace during divisive times. Finally, this dream drew over 60,000 to watch the Easter Celebration last Sunday!

We were fortunate to have Cathedral of Faith's Lead Pastor Ken Foreman speak to us this week about the importance of dreams. 2020 was "the graveyard of dreams." Many of us gave up on hopes for a better life. We stopped trying to thrive and focused on trying to survive. Each new trauma hit us a little harder, and we weren't able to catch our breath. Even months into 2021, we are still gasping for air. We need to breathe! Breathe in encouragement, and breathe out discouragement; breathe in hope and breathe out despair; and finally breathe in the Holy Spirit. Starting today, we can catch our breath and step out in faith to begin working again on God-given dreams.

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Everything starts with a dream.** Every new product, every new company, every new church. These visible things all begin in the invisible: the mind of a person. This is also true for us, as Paul explains in [Ephesians 1:4 \(MSG\)](#). God conceived of us in His mind so He could "adopt us into His family through Jesus Christ." The same is even in the universe! [Hebrews 11:3 \(NIV\)](#) reminds us that all of creation began in the mind of God.
- 2) **It takes courage to dream.** Dreams begin with inspiration, but there is a lot of perspiration after that. We must work incredibly hard, and we will suffer setbacks. It is tempting to give up on our dreams during those difficult times. But we cannot give in to that temptation. God called us to live great lives, not easy lives. We must keep a firm grip on our dreams so they aren't taken away from us.
- 3) **God works on us through our dreams.** We are transformed as we work on our dreams. Faith rises up in us, powering us through the difficult times. As we persevere, we develop the fruit of the Spirit, a refined character shaped by God, including attributes such as grit, discipline, and grace. That is one reason why God calls us to dreams that seem too big for us to achieve. We stretch ourselves in pursuit of His redemptive plan for the world.
- 4) **We must never stop dreaming.** [Proverbs 29:18 \(KJV\)](#) tells us "where there is no vision, the people perish." God built us to dream. It doesn't matter who we are, how much money we have, whether we are healthy, or any other circumstances. Even the "old men will dream dreams" as it says in [Acts 2:17 \(ESV\)](#). The day we stop dreaming is the day we start dying!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - When the risen Jesus appeared to two of His disciples in [Luke 24 \(NIV\)](#), they did not recognize him. They were so deep in despair they could not even recognize their own teacher. But Jesus did not give up on them. He walked patiently with them, speaking with them until they finally realized who He was. Jesus does not give up on us in our darkest times. He wants us to start dreaming again. What is one dream you have had at some point in your life? Did it come to pass?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - 2020 was an incredibly difficult year. Many of us stopped dreaming because we were just trying to survive from day to day. Now we must make a huge effort and muster the courage to begin dreaming again. That could mean resurrecting an old dream or starting a new one. Ask yourself "Where in my life is God asking me to dream again?" Consider [Luke 24:20-21 \(NIV\)](#). How might Jesus be present in your life right now and unrecognized? How might he be changing your perspective on present circumstances and giving you an invitation to greater things of God's kingdom?
- 3) **DO** - Pray to God to reveal an answer to the question above. Commit to taking action by affirming "I will take a step of faith toward that dream!" Read scripture for clues, and talk to other people who know and love you. Once you think you've heard from God about the dream, take that first step! Join us next Sunday as we continue in our new series, "Grow".