

Get Your Dream Sword On!

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Most of my clients don't understand the power of dreaming. Most of us haven't been taught to dream about our future. An encounter a few months ago helped me understand the power of dreaming to cut through my fears. In that encounter God revealed his Dream Sword to me.

My coach was listening to me moaning and groaning about my fears of the future. She insightfully asked me to talk about my dreams for the coaching ministry into which God has called me. I don't know about you but it's easy for me to get into the wrong time-zone. And it's usually negative when I travel more than 30 days into the future. Mark Twain said "I have been through some terrible things in my life, some of which actually happened." That's the way fear works. It creates an unreal world. But an interesting insight was revealed in our conversation. As I started rehearsing my dreams, my countenance and posture changed. I became visually and vocally animated. She asked me if I noticed these changes and just like most of my clients, I wasn't able to discern this on my own. I needed a faithful listener. She paused and asked: "Have you ever thought about using your dreams as a weapon against fear?" I shifted excitedly in my seat and said, "You mean, like a Dream Sword?" Could dreams really be used as a sword? The very idea felt empowering.

As I reflected on our conversation I began to hear what I had been saying and the way I was speaking about my future. My negative self-talk was exposed like the dense forest floor under penetrating rays of light. My words of doubt and fear had been creating invisible obstacles in my path. But dreams of my coaching future became a double-edged sword of faith and hope to cut through the obstacles fear had birthed. The truths of two Proverbs slowly orbited into view: Proverbs 18:21: "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit." Prov. 23:7: "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." Our dreams of the future create the world in which we live.

Truth-filled dreaming cuts through the bars of fear and frees us to step into the future with joyful confidence. Gladys Hunt said, "Words create worlds for us to live in." Negative words create negative dreams and negative dreams create a negative world. Negative words imprison our dreams behind bars. The Dream Sword with its solid handle of truth has sharp edges of faith and hope. It requires a firm grip on the truth to wield the Dream Sword as it slices through fears founded upon crafty lies. Our thoughts and dreams are more powerful than we realize.

Do you think God really wants you to dream? If not, what do you think the apostle Paul was referring to in the following two verses? Eph. 3:20 "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding

abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." Phil 4:8 "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable. If anything is excellent or praiseworthy think about such things." Could "thinking about such things" be a form of dreaming about the future?

Do you think that "hoping" in the bible could be a form of dreaming? Look at the following Scriptures. Do you think they relate to dreaming?

- Psa. 42:5 "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation."
- Psa. 62:5 "My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him."
- Proverbs 10:28 "The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish."

Review your last 24 hours and assess how you have been thinking and speaking about your future. What are your dreams for the future? To what extent do your thoughts and words imprison you, or set you free? If they're not based on truth, where do you think they are coming from? How could you begin to speak differently (more in line with the truth) about the fears paralyzing you? If you could dream bigger, what would those dreams look like and sound like? Speak them out to a trusted friend. How do you feel when you talk about your big dreams?

The word "hope" in Psalm 62 is from a Hebrew root word that means "to wait for, to look eagerly for, expect." It seems to me this may be another way of saying that when we "hope" in God we're really dreaming about what the future could be. If Proverbs 10 says the wicked can have "expectations" about the future, can the righteous have "expectations" too? Are expectations like dreams of the future? Dreaming is an act of faith in God about our future. God has a hope and a future for us and it is good (Jeremiah 29:11). He wants us to expect it, dream about it, think about it, talk about it, wait for it and eagerly look for it. Dreaming can also be an effective antidote to fear. So, the next time you get into the wrong time-zone and your fears begin to cut you off from your good future, maybe it's time to get your Dream Sword on and cut off your fears! I'd love to hear your Dream Sword story. Email me:

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