

WHEN YOUR DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT

CHAPTER 4 | TEACHING SEGMENT 1

(PLEASE WATCH THE STORY SEGMENTS CONNECTED TO THIS CHAPTER)

OUTLINE

WHEN GOD PUTS A DREAM IN YOUR HEART, HE WILL FULFILL IT.

PREMISE:

- Action and imagination bring our DREAMS to life
- Our RAS helps us create FOCUS to fulfill our dreams

1. HOW OUR DREAMS DEVELOP WINGS

A. Activating our dreams

- When our dreams are connected to the desire to serve God and others, they are like jet planes that soar.
- Having the dream or vision is not enough; we must be proactive.
- Our dreams develop wings to fly through our imagination. How high we go depends on our imagination and desire to put our abilities to work.
- Just as God saw, spoke, and created the world, we too need to see where we're going, then act, speak, and create.
- Concept of a dream defined, page 54.

B. Out of our comfort zone

- In Genesis 15:5, God called Abraham to a dream bigger than he could accomplish—he would be the father of many nations.
- God takes us out of our comfort zone to expand our vision.

- We think, God has gotten the wrong person! Yet, He already sees us at the final destination; it's now up to us to see ourselves there.
- Abraham had to look outside himself to the greatness of God

C. Every dream has a journey and timing

- When Abraham and Sarah acted on their own to fulfill the vision of a child, their action produced results but was not God's plan.
- Whatever we produce on our own will have life, but we will have to feed it.
- What is born of God produces eternal results, and He will be responsible for bringing the vision to pass in our lives.
- Be careful not to jump prematurely, thinking, it should have happened by now! It will be fulfilled at the right time, when we are ready.
- The right timing is not just about God being ready but about our own timing. Are you ready to take God's dream to its full execution? Wait for His perfect timing.

2. UNDERSTANDING OUR "RAS"

A. Value and threat

- Our RAS, or reticular activating system (explained on p. 56), causes us to focus on what is of value or what is a threat.
- When not functionally properly, we become overwhelmed and unable to concentrate.
- Christ redeems everything in our lives, including our brain and nervous system, allowing us to experience the same connection with God as Adam and Eve did before the Fall.

B. RAS and the Word of God

- Through the Word of God, our RAS can be activated to serve our purposes.
- We establish value to information according to the source and our current need.
- Our RAS can create strong focus in us so that when we set a goal, especially a God-given one, we can track the accomplishment of that dream on a daily basis.

C. RAS and threat

- When we perceive something as a threat, our RAS signals us: you need to run!
- We are preconditioned to respond faster to threats than to the value of the Word of God.
- If we believe that the vision God has given us is bigger than our ability to fulfill it, we begin to view it as a threat; we dismiss the value of what God has spoken to us.
- But...God is never our threat! He is *always* our value.
- Realize that your fears, past experiences, and discouraging words from others are no match for God's love and ability to fulfill the dreams He has put in your heart.

*** PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHAPTER 4 – TEACHING SEGMENT 2**