

DEVELOP PERSEVERANCE

PRECEPT

ROMANS 5:3-4

³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to be patient. ⁴ Patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until, finally, our hope and faith are strong and steady.

JEREMIAH 29:11

I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

PROMISE

The world is full of troubles and difficulties, but if we fix our eyes on Jesus, we will not go weary and lose heart. In striving to attain our dreams, we must determine if they are what God wants us to pursue. Our dreams must be connected to the heart of God. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us of God's promise, "*I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*" This reassures us that God's dream for us is personal, custom-made for each of us. He specifically tailored His plans for us and considered our past, present, and future. It is also prosperous, to make us successful, for us to thrive, grow, and to flourish. He wants us to maximize our potential and be the kind of person He has destined us to be. It will always be positive, giving us hope and a bright future. We can be confident that even in difficulties, everything will go well with us. His dreams for us will always be in our favour, giving us contentment and fulfilment in life, and bringing us peace, joy, and hope.

Another factor is if they are consistent to the Word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*" It is imperative for us to read the Bible, communicate to the Lord, and listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. God's dreams for us will never contradict His Word.

Lastly, we can know if our dreams are aligned to the will of God if they are conformed to His purpose for us. Romans 12:2 reminds us this, "*Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.*" His will for us is always good and pleasing, so we must allow God to transform us which begins by surrendering our lives to Him. We need to stay close to Him in order for us to know and experience His perfect dreams for us.

KEEP BELIEVING. In challenges, trials, or obstacles, we should know that "*Perseverance is the secret of all triumphs.*" —Victor Hugo. For us to develop perseverance in pursuing our dreams, let us remember what Mark 9:23 says, "*Everything is possible for the one who believes.*" Believe that you will achieve it for God has called you to it. He will equip you and strengthen you to attain it.

KEEP TRUSTING. Romans 5:3-4 tells us, "*We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to be patient. Patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until, finally, our hope and faith are strong and steady.*" We are to trust His heart and intentions for us, His Word, His promises, and His ways. Along with this, we are to turn away from evil and totally surrender our lives to Him. This is the only key for us to reach our dreams successfully.

KEEP GOING. Confucius says, "*It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.*" God is building our character along the way. With His help and guidance, we can make it through the year and achieve our dreams, all for His glory!

PRACTICE

1. God's Will. What dreams are you working on this year? Have you determined if they are aligned to the will of God? How can you say so?

2. Glory to God. How can your dreams, goals, and plans this year bring glory to God?

PRAYER

I. Nations

- Pray for revival and spiritual healing. Let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts of all nations.

II. World

- Pray that God may free our world from conflict. May He bring unity to troubled nations.

III. Peace

- May the Lord grant us peace, teach us peace, and guide our steps in the way of peace.

IV. Unity

- Pray that we will stay united despite our differences, that we will be one in accordance to God's will.

V. Obedience

- Pray that even in suffering, we will obey God just as Christ, in His suffering on the cross, obeyed the Father wholeheartedly.

VI. Thanksgiving

- Thank and praise God who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 1:3).

VII. Wisdom

- Pray for wisdom and direction, an understanding mind and hearing heart.