

# MEN'S MINISTRY

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Proverbs 27:17

God-dreams By: Jeff Searcy

**W**ell, guys, welcome to December. Can you believe that 2011 is almost over? Wow, how fast it goes. Christmas is here. The sounds of bells and carols can be heard all around. Decorated trees have been erected and lights have been affixed (both with minimal injury, I hope) and they buzz with a holiday glow ... and massive amounts of electricity. The stockings are hung, and the college football bowl season begins only days from now ... which, for many of us, is really the most wonderful time of the year. I'm only half kidding.

Now, think back over the last eleven months. What kind of year was it? It was a challenging year, economically, for many individuals and for certain sectors of our economy. A large number of people spent much of the year out of work, while others prospered in their business and vocational endeavors. Life is certainly never dull. However, I also know people who, despite their circumstances — whether bad or good — set courses for adventure and stepped out in faith to do something ... something they felt called to do ... something God put on their heart. What about you? Did the year transpire the way you thought it would? If you set goals, did you end up doing what you set out to do back in January? What about this ... Did you act on a dream? I love the story of Joseph in the Old Testament. Man, you can carve up the events in his life in so many ways and see so many truths of God's sovereignty that it is astounding. Unfortunately, and I'm really bummed about it, time and magazine page space restraints won't let me dive into them all. I think I literally heard your sigh of relief. For now, I want to talk about dreams ... God-dreams.

I once heard someone say that **God-dreams are always met with opposition, always require greater than our current capabilities and character, and are always for a purpose much greater than ourselves.** In my experience, that is a dead-on assessment. And when we look in God's Word at the story of Joseph, these three characteristics fit his dreams perfectly. In Genesis 37, Joseph shares two of his dreams with his brothers and father. In both dreams, objects representing his brothers and family bowed down to him. That, of course, was met with significant opposition. Joseph's brothers, who already didn't like him because he was his dad's "favorite," essentially told him that he was sadly mistaken if he thought they would bow down to him.

They even plotted to kill him. That sounds like push back to me. Secondly, his dreams were certainly greater than his current ability and character, as he was just a young shepherd boy and not one who "the sun, moon, and eleven stars" would bow down to. And lastly, the reality of his dreams would end up for a purpose far greater than himself as he, through incredible circumstances and faith, would eventually become second in Egypt only to Pharaoh and save millions from starvation because of his plan to gather grain during prosperity in preparation for a seven-year famine. It's a great story and a must read.

While most of us will never have a life story like Joseph's, we are all given God-dreams. I will tell you that Servant Warrior Ministries was one ... still is. There are countless testimonies of people who stepped out in faith and followed a God-dream. From a vocational change, to a business venture, to something like teaching a Sunday school class, going back to school, even starting a new hobby, if it is a God-dream, the three characteristics will be clearly evident. We oftentimes place a level of expectation on a God-dream and think it has to be some earth-shattering, world changing endeavor. It doesn't. God-dreams are simply those things He places on our hearts that we cannot do ourselves in our power and abilities, things that require Him at the helm, and are for a purpose much greater than ourselves. They usually require us to leave a comfort zone and/or go where we feel wholly ill-equipped ... knowing we have no reason to be there ... but realizing it is exactly where we are supposed to be. "I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work.' God's Decree," Isaiah 55:8 (MSG)

Christmas is the time we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the greatest Gift ever given. "God showed us how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him." I John 4:9 (NLT) Just as we marvel at and celebrate the birth of a new life, we celebrate the blessing of a new life in Christ. "... anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun." II Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) It is in Christ that we receive the blessings that come with a life given to Him to use as He sees fit. It is through the dreams He places on our heart ... dreams that through Him alone can become a reality ... that we fulfill the purpose He has for us and receive our reward.

What dream has God put on your heart? If there is a question of which dream is from God and which one is the result of either bad pizza or a too-good-to-be-true infomercial ... a dream from God has nothing to do with us and everything to do with Him, is a major pride extractor and humbler, is the ultimate in risk/reward (with the reward not readily visible but the risk clearly evident), scares us to death but excites us to live, allows us to watch others be blessed and experience God right before our eyes, and, puts us right in the middle of the Almighty's will for our lives. Can you think of a better place to be in 2012 than smack in the middle of God's will? Me, either. If God has put a dream on your heart ... act. Take that step of faith. It's worth it. Until next year ... keep it real, Mighty Warrior ... and Armor Up!

From my family to you and yours, have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year. And please remember our military men and women, many in harm's way, who are away from their loved ones protecting our freedoms and our way of life. May God be with them and protect them. **PS**

*Jeff Searcy is a highly-energized and radical husband, dad, executive, speaker, strategist, minister of opportunity, outspoken and motivated servant of the Almighty, and an average golfer. For more go to [JeffSearcy.net](http://JeffSearcy.net).*

