

# "I Have A Dream"

By Dr. Henry Harbuck—AEGA President

I have a dream that our AEGA fellowship will become a mighty force for the Lord, breaking down strongholds, and setting captives free. And that each of you will become a “dreamer,” because without a dream (that is, vision or revelation) you will die spiritually.

Joseph was known as a “dreamer.” In fact, like me, he got into trouble in his younger years for his unusual dreams. Nonetheless, he held on to his dreams. And in studying the life of Joseph, we can learn some excellent principles about dreams. For example . . .

### ***Do not let your dream die!***

If your dream is from God, then follow it. Keep it alive in your heart, and walk it out until it comes to fruition! In a way, a *dream* may also be termed a *vision*; that is, a revelation from God. I will admit, however, that it can be discouraging when your dream takes a long time to come to fruition. In such instances, many give up and say, “This must not be God, because it’s simply not coming to pass.” But remember what happened to Noah. He was sure God had spoken to him about building an ark. And he was willing to endure constant ridicule and criticism for 100 years until he had completed it (Genesis, Chapters 5, 6, and 7). Are you aware that “criticism” is one of the “seven fears of life?” If someone is criticized often, and over long periods of time, he or she will usually “give in,” thus giving up whatever he or she is doing in an effort to placate the one doing the criticizing. Noah was surely a righteous man, and had faith in what God said. Thus, he refused to give up his dream of saving his family and the various animals that were on the earth.

### ***Dream no small dreams!***

At first, Joseph had dreams that seemed insignificant; but over time God expanded his dreams, and he dreamed bigger and bigger dreams. With all the things that happened to Joseph, it goes without saying that he could have turned against God and the dreams He had given him – but he didn’t. Though he endured false testimonies brought against

him (Gen.39:17), prison time (Gen. 39:19-23), and other hardships, he stood firm in faith. Thus, he is one who might say with confidence, “I have gone from the pit (Gen.37:23-24), to the prison (Gen. 39:19-23), to the palace (Gen. 41: 38-45),” ultimately becoming second in command only to Pharaoh (Gen. 41:40-43). Remember that even when Joseph was in prison “the Lord made everything he did to prosper” (Gen. 39:23). That’s how it is when God is on your side. Although you may be suffering and experiencing doubt, you will eventually have deliverance from your struggles – if you don’t lose sight of the victory you will have when the struggles subside.

The story of Joseph is a real story. And as such, it should encourage each of us. We must remind ourselves what God did through Joseph’s steadfast faith, and through his determination to “hold on to his dreams.” Remember, it was only when his family came to Egypt in search of food that Joseph finally understood why things had happened as they did. He then knew, beyond doubt, that God had shaped his circumstances, allowing the trials he had endured. Why? Because had Joseph never experienced the pit, he would not have stood at the right side of Pharaoh with the authority to open the storehouses of Egypt to feed his hungry family. And having caught a glimpse of God’s plan – from the pit to the palace – he was filled with joy, not bitterness.

Are you discouraged today? If so, remember: “Don’t give up on your dream! Your miracle is on its way!”

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