I HAVE A DREAM

What's up Shiloh Church. I want to talk to you tonight about dreaming. I believe everyone has a dream, a goal they would like to achieve, a vision they would like to accomplish.

What is your dream?

- No one should dream bigger than God's people.
- What major goal do you want to accomplish in life?
- What do you think about all the time?
- How do you envision your life 10 years from now?
- What are you most passionate about?
- What's your dream?

So far, we've learned that when God gives you a dream, you see it like this (Show Cover of Puzzle), but it actually comes to you like this (hold up puzzle pieces).

When God gives you a dream, He gives you everything you need to accomplish it, but you have to work on your dream! Like every other puzzle, you always start with the end pieces, so in this series I'm going to give you the four corners of your dream, the key pieces you and I need to succeed.

1. We talked about the first one week one: Put it on paper. Habakkuk 2:2

It's not real and it's in writing.

2. Here's the second one: Get the wrong people out of your life.

Scripture likens God's people to an eagle.

Eagles fly higher than other birds.

That means you're not a common.

You go farther and higher than most people.

But you can't soar with eagles while running with turkeys.

3. Get the right people in your life and be teachable.

One of the greatest abilities you and I could possess is teachability.

Be hungry enough to seek help and humble enough to admit you don't have all the answers.

4. Hard work and God's timing.

- Only in the dictionary does success come before work. (repeat)
- You may have the faith to move mountains, but at some point, you will have to pick up a few rocks.
- Don't wait for your ship to come in, swim out to meet it.
- Rising above mediocrity never just happens. It's always the result of faith mixed with hard work.
- Faith without works is dead.
- Faith isn't faith until it's put in motion.

George Bernard Shaw said, "When I was young, I failed at nine out of every ten things I did. So, I worked ten times harder."

A few years ago I met a man who was let's say a little on the lazy side. His wife was a hard worker, working 50 60 hours a week. I asked him what he did for a living and he said, "I'm a go getter. I take her to work every day then I go get her."

1 Corinthians 15:10 NLT

But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out His special favor on me – and not without results. For I have **worked harder than any of the other apostles**... yet it was not I, but God who was working through me by His grace.

I'm sure you know the old saying, "Anything worth doing is worth doing... RIGHT!" And I understand and agree with the logic.

However, I would say that anything worth doing is worth doing wrong until you learn HOW to do it right. I don't know about you but every time I've started anything I didn't know how to do it right.

The truth is, we don't start off experts at anything.

But it you work hard and pray hard, in time God will take you to places beyond your wildest dreams.

A few months back, as I was reading the Scripture, I noticed how many times Paul referenced the **hard work** of those who ministered with him. I've often referenced the old saying, "Those who sweat the most get the most." Truth is, I like people who aren't afraid to work hard. Notice the passage below.

Romans 16:3-12 CSB

Give my greetings to Prisca and Aquila, my *coworkers in Christ Jesus*, ⁴ who risked their own necks for my life. Not only do I thank them, but so do all the Gentile churches. ⁵ Greet also the church that meets in their home. Greet my dear friend Epaenetus, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia. ⁶ Greet Mary, *who has worked very hard for you*.

Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews and fellow prisoners. They are noteworthy in the eyes of the apostles, and they were also in Christ before me. ⁸ Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord. ⁹ Greet Urbanus, *our coworker in Christ*, and my dear friend Stachys.

You cannot have success without sacrifice.		

I recently heard someone say that things are stored up long before they show up.

In other words, when someone successful emerges on the scene, we often say, "They showed up out of nowhere." But the truth is, that person has been working hard for decades; they've been storing up success long before success was realized. And when their hard work met the right opportunity, the rest was history.

The same is true for me and you.

I do not believe that God gives you a dream unless He first gives you the ability to accomplish it. If you have a dream, it's possible that that dream can become a reality.

Question:

What's your dream? Have you written it down?

What or who is holding you back? Who do you need to connect with?

Do you still trust God's timing?