

Dream & Experience God

Genesis Chapter 28

Good morning church family and Happy St. Patrick's day! I am wearing my green today. Are you? I think I've seen more green when the Eagles were in the super bowl! Sorry St Patrick.

I am blessed and happy to be sharing another message that is very close to my heart today. Before I do, you know I need to update you on the Kulikowski photo album. I actually have my own little leprechaun!





The title of the message today is “Dream & Experience God.”

It’s one thing to know about God, to even know God in a personal way, but do we experience God? We see the miracles of those who have experienced God in the Old and New Testament.

I would read these stories as a young girl and I would always think how cool it would be to live in such a time when God spoke out loud to Moses, Noah, and even Job with all he went through . . . They still heard the voice of God.

Can we actually experience God at the same level they did? The bible tells me we can; especially now we have the Holy Spirit who is always among us!

I know we can experience God every single day at whatever level we want too. I remember Pastor Bruce saying we can get as close to God as WE want to. So if you aren’t experiencing God, by that I mean God speaking to you through His Word, doing amazing God things in your life, and just showing up

throughout your day. . .where you say WOW that was GOD!

My prayer for you is to walk in the identity of who God created you to be... His child who is highly favored and blessed by His presence throughout your day! Even in the midst of heartaches we can still Experience God. Sometimes even more so.

Is that something you would want? Do you want to experience God every day all day and know His presence? Ok then, lets pray for that right now.

(pray)

So what does that look like today in our world; to live our life everyday experiencing God?

Many years ago I did this bible study called Experiencing God by Henry T Blackaby. One of things he said was this...

“God is always working every day all around us. Our job is to join God at his work.” Henry T. Blackaby

The best way to experience God is to join him in what he's already doing. So what is God doing? What is God up to these days?

The same thing he's been up to for thousands of years!

Today we are continuing our study in the book of Genesis and we are going to see what God has been up to in Genesis Chapter 28. We will be reading about Jacob, the son of Isaac.

As you know Jacob isn't exactly one of the great Bible saints. He isn't like Joseph or Joshua or Daniel. Jacob, as PB said last week, was a liar and a cheater, and I am not sure he really trusted God with His life. Sound familiar, do we know people like this, maybe we have been like this or we still are.

I love this because it shows me that even when we mess up God loves us and will use us in amazing ways. He did for Jacob! Wait till you see.

Genesis 28:1

“So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him.”

Genesis 28:3-5

“3)May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of people 4) May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now reside as a foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham. 5)Then Isaac sent Jacob on his way.”

So what do we see here? We see Isaac speaking a blessing over his son Jacob, speaking it out loud!

To experience God every day we need to read and speak God’s Word over ourselves and over our children, our families, and friends.

I have a God story about speaking God's word over your circumstances. I call it the Teapot story and my Sunday school class and our youth group love this story! They ask me to share it with new kids who come in. They say can you share the teapot story?

It is a promise from God's Word. Let's say this promise together:

Philippians 4:19

"For my God shall supply all of my needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

(share Teapot story)

I experienced God by declaring His word over our life. Like Isaac declared the blessing over Jacob. Let's get back to Jacob and see how he experienced God and what we can learn from his experience.

Genesis 28:10-14

Jacob's Dream at Bethel

“Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. 11) When He reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. 12)He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13)There above it stood the Lord and he said “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.

14)Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north, and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.”

Genesis 28:15-17

“15)I am with you and I will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this

land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you”

16)When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought ‘Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it’ 17) He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God this is the gate of heaven.”

Genesis 28-18-22

“18)Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. 19)He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.”

“20)Then Jacob made a vow, saying “If God will be with me and watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear 21) so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the Lord will be my God 22)and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

Wow! God spoke to Jacob in this dream in such a personal way. It was everything his father Isaac had prayed over him for as he was declaring the blessing He gave Jacob. You see Isaac could pray this blessing over His son Jacob with confidence because Isaac knew that God was his God, God was his father. He knew the authority He had because of who his father was. And God spoke to Jacob and gave him exactly what his father Isaac prayed and declared over him!

Do you pray with that confidence? Are you walking in the Authority of God?

Jacob ends this passage with saying “The Lord will be my God.” Jacob wasn’t sure what God wanted for him before this dream. God was telling Jacob, there is a stairway that connects Heaven to Earth, that reminds me of the prayer Jesus taught us to pray: “Thy Kingdom come, they will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.”

God told Jacob that all the peoples on earth will be blessed through him and their offspring.

Is there any greater purpose than to Experience God in that way in that God would use Him to bless all the people on earth? Isn't that what God wants to do through you and me? To use us and to bless others every day and join God in his work? To make a difference that lasts throughout eternity?

God spoke to me in a powerful dream a few years ago. It was truly a light bulb moment in my life that changed me forever.

STORY...(Dream of the boy in the wheelchair and the girl at Olive Garden)

Do you want to experience God?

It actually is quite simple...

- #1. Read God's word
- #2. Declare God's word over your life.
- #3. Obedience...Do it...Go out and do what He tells you to do.

Read God's Word; declare it and obey it!

God is a Spirit...He wants to go places through your legs.

He wants to love people through your arms!

Say Yes! SAY GOD I will join you in your work!

My daughter sent me this music video that speaks what my heart feels about this message. I would like to share it with you. I believe it's from God. Let the words take root in your heart too. It's called "Take Courage!"

(play song Take Courage)

There's a YES in our hearts and it carries through eternity. Simple obedience - it changes HISTORY. Jesus is alive. But the blood stains remind us of the price he paid for us.

Speak about The Cross

The ABCs

If you want to Experience God everyday, It has to start with a relationship with His Son Jesus. Jesus wants to be the best friend you've ever had. And it's so easy to start that relationship, Its as easy a A B C.

- A. Admit you are a sinner, we've all done things wrong and that sin separates us from a Holy God.

- B. Believe God did something about our sin by sending his precious son Jesus to die on cross for our sin. Jesus took all of our sin, past present and even future sin on the cross and paid the penalty for us. Because he loves us!

- C. Commit our lives to him. Jesus died for you, he's asking you to live for him.

D. Do it today. We may not have tomorrow! Experience GOD today!

Would you pray this prayer with me today.

“Dear God, thank you for loving me, thanking you for sending your son to this earth to die on a cross for my sin. I ask you to forgive me for all of my sins. Dear Jesus please come inside my heart and be my Lord and personal savior. I commit my life to you! Holy Spirit fill me and help me live my life for Jesus. In Jesus name I pray. AMEN!

I gave you the 3 practical steps to experience God.
1. Read God’s word. 2. Speak it over your life. 3. Obey God in what he tells you to do through HIS word!

But there is one more thing.

Walk in your identity.

You are a child of God. Chosen not forsaken, forgiven, cleansed, filled with the power of the Holy

Spirit to bring light to a dark world. You must believe this to be true and walk in that light. The world needs you. You need to hear from God because others need to hear from you!

As we close the worship team is going to sing the chorus of "I am who you say I am " As you sing this I want you to declare it in your heart and believe God is going to use you in a powerful way as you join him in his work and Experience God every day!