

The Rebirth of a Dream

I was recently watching an interview with one of my favorite preachers Tommy Barnett. In the interview Pastor Tommy was talking about the dreams that people have. Not the dreams we have at night, but the dreams we all have of doing something great for God. The person who was interviewing him asked Pastor Tommy this; *“What are the signs that your dream is not dead.”* Pastor Tommy gave three keys, but I want to focus on just one. He said the one key factor to realizing your dream is not dead is this: *“When it looks like everything and anything is **‘NEVER’ GOING TO HAPPEN** we often times throw it away or discard it, only to find it comes right back every time.”* It immediately shot through my heart like an arrow would penetrate armor. If you are wondering if your dream is from God then you can throw it away a thousand times, but like a boomerang it will come right back to you, consuming your entire being morning, noon and night.

I don't care who you are or what you are called to do, ALL OF US at one time or another have looked at our God given dreams and appeared to have lost all hope - NOT TRUE! For every season there is a life and a death, a pruning that occurs in our life where God strips us and prunes us. **Why? Simple - SO WE CAN BEAR MORE FRUIT THAT REMAINS.** At the end of the season, an experienced gardener will prune every rose bush in their garden. When finished, the once vibrant, colorful roses now APPEAR to be dead on arrival. Sap is oozing from the main artery of the bush; it looks cold, wounded and dying. However, the opposite is true. This process is needed to strip away the dead limbs so next season it will bear unbelievable beauty and come back stronger than its previous season.

The same is true in our lives as Christians. In fact, Jesus promised this would happen. In John 15:1-2 Jesus says, *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.” “Every branch in Me that does not bear*

fruit He takes away; and EVERY BRANCH THAT BEARS FRUIT HE PRUNES, THAT IT MAY BEAR 'MORE FRUIT.'” Simply put; in your walk with God, at the end of each season He will come into your life and prune you as much as you will allow Him to so you can **BEAR MORE FRUIT NEXT SEASON**. It is never fun! It hurts! It never seems to happen quickly and it is never a onetime process! It is a continual lifetime course of action that is necessary for our further development in the shedding of self so Christ may be made manifest in our lives. That is why the Apostle Paul said it is not I who lives but Christ who lives in me. If Paul was pruned, **WE WILL BE TOO!**

This brings me to my next point. At this transition stage of our walk with God it is vital that you surround yourself with **TRUE FRIENDS!** People, who are strong, rooted and most of all will be there when you need a hand. Did you notice I said **“TRUE FRIENDS?”** True friends are mature enough to know the season you are in and secondly; they understand God’s **“Method of Operation.”** I have experienced many seasons in my life where I felt I was on the mountain top one day and seemed to drift into the valley of decision the next. People are fickle. They often look at outward circumstances and never see God’s inner workings. They assume a person must be in willful sin rather than understand it’s a season of pruning. I had a person walk up to me in the not too distant past and say, *“Jason, why have you not come back to our country and when are you going back to the Middle East?”* I laughed and said, *“Hey you moron, I have made 26 trips to your country and over 50 into the Middle East! I’m stepping into something new and I’m waiting on God for my next set of instructions because the anointing is in His instructions!”* Then I said, *“Hey, how many times have you come to America to see me?”* **NOT ONE TIME! I REST MY CASE.** As I was leaving I said, *“Oh, by the way I’m going through a tough time, please pray for me.”* Like many times before, I never **heard or saw them again.** The miracle in all this was it did not move me a bit. I said in my heart, *“Watch was God does through me next.”*

True friends are the most important thing a person can be blessed with. If you find **ONE TRUE FRIEND, JUST ONE**, in this lifetime, who sticks with you in the good the bad and the ugly, than you have found the best this world, has to offer. I have just come out of a major pruning of my own. There were times that I could not see two feet in front of me. Every time I prayed it felt like my prayers never made it passed my nose. When I would worship God it was like eating cardboard; dry as dry could be. In the beginning I fought it tooth and nail, but as I yielded to the Holy Spirit there was joy for the battle. I had friends who **LITERALLY LIVED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD, BOUGHT AN INTERNATIONAL TICKET, PAID ALL THEIR OWN EXPENSES, FLEW 24+ HOURS TO GET TO ME, SAT DOWN AT MY DINNER TABLE AND SAID, "JASON WHAT CAN I DO, HOW CAN I HELP?"** I was blown away! Then I had others who would not even cross a city or a state line to lend an ear; **GO FIGURE!**

Today, I'm stronger, wiser and have more joy than ever. I am soon to release my first two books, move into a house and get a massive warehouse to feed the hungry and do the work of the ministry. When God moves in your life there is nothing this side of Hell that people can do to stop it! I have learned who my true friends are and those who are acquaintances. Many who were once in my inner circle, people I trusted, have now been spiritually drop kicked to the outer circle. Not only did God prune me as a person, but He also pruned my relationships and friends. I have never been more content in my life! At each new level that we attain with God many people will leave your life, but that's ok! When those people leave your life and you go higher in Him, He will bring others to take the place of those who left! However, the higher you go **THE LESS FRIENDS YOU WILL HAVE; REMEMBER THAT ALWAYS!**

Faithfully,

Jason