

The background of the entire image is a vibrant blue sky filled with soft, white, and light blue clouds. The clouds are more concentrated at the top and bottom, framing a central white rectangular area where the title is located.

TOUCH *Your* DREAM

BY: BILLY EPPERHART

Introduction: God Made You to Dream

In the beginning, God sat on the edge of nothingness. With a word, He created the universe. Chaos turned into order, and darkness became light. Genesis 1:27 affirms that you are made in the image of this same God. You are full of creative potential. You can turn empty spaces into something incredible.

Because you are made in the image of God, you are created to dream. Dreaming with God is about aligning yourself with eternal purpose. It involves partnering with a Kingdom vision that will last generations and show you new layers of God's infinite goodness. You never arrive in the things of God. There is always a new land to explore and a new venture to build together.

You are also created to desire. Psalm 37:4 (NIV) says, “Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” As long as your desires do not contradict the Bible, you have a green light to go after them until God stops you. God is a Father, and fathers love giving their children good gifts! Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8 NKJV) Of course, if you start to worship your desires or become covetous, let go of them immediately. In time, you will learn how to dream with contentment!

Maybe you feel like you don’t have a dream. Or, perhaps you’ve been dreaming with God about something for a while, but your hope has been deferred. Regardless of where you find yourself, this

mini-book will serve as a guide to help you find, follow, and fulfill your God-given dreams. So, let's get started!

Chapter 1: What Does it Mean to Touch Your Dream?

Touching your dream means taking steps to experience the vision you have on the inside and connecting it to something physical. Oftentimes, it takes the shape of experiencing something you have never experienced before. Hosea 4:6 says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” I like to say it this way: you don’t know what you don’t know. Touching your dream gives you fresh insight so you know the right questions to ask. It involves getting outside your current environment to gain a new perspective on what’s possible.

I’ll use a material example to explain how simple touching your dream can be. I have a pickup truck with massage seats, but there was a time when I didn’t realize they made trucks with features like that. One

day, I got into my friend's truck, and the seat started buzzing. Right then and there in the seat of that truck, I had a spiritual experience. Before I knew it, I was touching my dream! This isn't about covetousness or hoarding more toys for yourself. It is, however, about expanding your paradigm of what's possible and attaching your faith to something tangible. Touching your dream helps you:

- Figure out more about what you don't know
- Start to know the right questions to ask
- Make sure your dream really is the dream
- Get motivated!

Now, even though you can touch your dream in material ways, it's crucial to understand that we are talking about dreaming with God. That means we're looking for the sweet spot of His plans and purposes

for our lives. Psalm 139:13-16 (NKJV) clearly outlines how God has dreams for us:

“For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother’s womb.
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.
My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts
of the earth.
Your eyes saw my substance, being yet
unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.”

Revelation 20:12 (NKJV) gives us more insight into the book God wrote about our lives. It says, “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.” This gives us insight into how God carefully planned out lives. According to these passages, all of our days have been scripted in a book. Now, God is outside of time, which is how things can already be written and come to pass at the same time. So, Revelation is not just talking about the Book of Life that records salvation. This book includes the unique purposes, callings, and assignments God orchestrated for you. The good news is that God created us so that we can go as far and as high as His will and purpose. Yet, many times, we stop short of the dreams He has for us. So, the first practical step we are

going to discuss when it comes to touching your dream is connecting with a bigger vision.

Chapter 2: Connect with a Bigger Vision

God's plans are always bigger than you can imagine. They are beyond what you can fathom in your natural mind. The first thing you need to understand about connecting to a bigger vision is that your purpose is always connected to somebody else's purpose.

Jesus said, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?" (Luke 16:10-12 , NKJV)

This passage tells us two things: first, the pathway

to accomplishing God's vision for your life is through serving others. Secondly, God's purposes for you do not exist in a vacuum—they are connected to the larger purpose and intent of God's work in the world. When Esther came and stood before the king of Israel, her uncle, Mordecai, said, "Esther, who knows if you've come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14, NKJV) In other words, Esther had a purpose, but her purpose was connected to God's plans to redeem Israel from persecution.

Most of us truly underestimate what God has called us to do. We think way smaller than God does. So, we must get a revelation of His plans and purposes for our lives. The main way we discover that is from His revealed will in scripture. The Holy Spirit will speak to you and through others as well, but it always has to align with scripture.

Abram is another great biblical example of the power of getting a bigger vision. God gave Abram a glimpse of a much greater plan, one that would impact not just his life but generations to come. Genesis 12:1-3 (NKJV) says,

“Get out of your country,
From your family
And from your father’s house,
To a land that I will show you.
I will make you a great nation;
I will bless you
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
And I will curse him who curses you;
And in you all the families of the earth shall
be blessed.”

So, Abram obediently took a step in the direction of the dream to the land of Canaan. After he touched his dream, God downloaded an even bigger vision. I like to paint a picture of Abram reclining in his tent, flipping through the channels on his flat screen T.V., complaining to God that he didn't have an heir. So, God brought Abram outside. I don't know how he did that— if he grabbed him by the neck and dragged him out or what, but God himself brought him outside and showed him a picture:

“Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!” (Genesis 15:5, NLT).

He used the countless stars in the night sky to show Abram something he didn't have the insight to see before. God called Abraham a righteous man

because he believed in the dream (Genesis 15:6). God will give you a bigger vision, too, but it is your job to say yes!

Chapter 3: Write the Vision Down

Once you connect with a bigger vision, it is time to write the vision down. Habakkuk 2:1-2 (NKJV) says,

“I will stand my watch
And set myself on the rampart,
And watch to see what He will say to me,
And what I will answer when I am corrected.
Write the vision
And make it plain on tablets,
That he may run who reads it.”

For context, the prophet Habakkuk said this after complaining to God about violence, corruption, and injustice among the people of Judah. The Lord told him to station himself and keep watch—not to listen, but to look. Often, God talks to us in pictures. My wife

Becky always says that God thinks in murals. He sees how our lives will connect to future generations and affect eternity. When we dream, we see a snapshot of the bigger picture. The point is that in order to touch your dream, you have to start seeing where God wants you to go.

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Your hope is connected to the pictures you see in your mind’s eye regarding your future. Pay attention to these pictures, and write the vision down in a clear, easy-to-understand way. When I was 23, I wrote down a list titled “Everything I’ve Ever Wanted” with 50 items on the list. The first half of the list came easily, but the second portion required more thought. It’s harder to dream specifically than we think it is! I encourage you to do this exercise as well. At first, what

comes out of you may be more surface level--material things, goals based on other's expectations, or what society regards as successful. As you continue to put your mind to it, you will create your own definition of success.

Writing down your dreams will help you stay motivated when disappointments and trials come your way. As Habakkuk 2:3 concludes, "For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry." God's timing is perfect, and your dream will come to pass!

Chapter 4: Touch Your Dream

Proverbs 16:9 (NLT) says, “We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.” You can’t turn a ship unless it’s moving. So, one of the best things you can do is move in the direction you believe God is leading you to go. You can’t change your destination overnight, but you can change your direction. Touching your dream involves taking one step in the direction of your dream.

One way to touch your dream is to get around people who have already been where you want to go. Find a mentor, attend conferences, and connect with people who have a kingdom mindset. We go faster and further together. It’s like Canadian geese who migrate south for the winter. They can travel as far as 1,500 miles in just 24 hours because every member of this

30-100 goose group takes turns flying at the front. This helps them conserve energy, go faster, and protect one another.

Something incredible happens when we get around other believers. As we share what God's been teaching us individually, it connects to a larger tapestry of what He's doing in the world. We begin to see a more complete picture and get stirred up to dream bigger. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) says, "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

2 Timothy 1:6 (ESV) says, "Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands." When we are together, we motivate, encourage, and stir up the gifts inside of one

another. Those gifts are crucial to activating our God-given dreams.

Another way to touch your dream is to name a desire and physically put yourself in an environment where the fulfillment of that desire exists. If you dream of opening a certain type of business, visit similar ones regularly. If you dream of investing in real estate in a certain area, travel to that area. If you dream about starting a ministry, volunteer and give to ministries who are doing similar work.

Here's another material example to help explain how simple touching your dream can be. At one time in my life, I owned a reasonably large real estate portfolio in a coastal area. I was spending a lot of money traveling and staying in hotels. So, to minimize my travel expenses, I had an idea to buy a boat that I

could stay in while investing. So, I touched my dream and went to a yacht show. The boat I set my eyes on was around a million dollars-- you had to fill out a financial statement just to tour it! After I filled out my information, the salesman showed me around the boat. It was comfortable, and I could see myself spending a couple of weeks at a time on it. Then, the salesman asked, "Would you like to see another boat?" I said sure, and he led me to a much bigger yacht that was beyond the context of anything I had seen before. There were three decks on the boat, and as we came down the stairs, I said, "This is really impressive. How much is this boat?" He replied, "Well, the first boat you looked at was new, and it cost 1.2 million. This boat is a used boat, and it's 6.2 million." I was shocked. I couldn't afford that price at the time, so I asked him, "Who in the world is buying these boats?" He didn't miss a lick. He looked at me and said, "Sir,

there's a lot of money in this world. The problem is you and I don't have any of it!"

He was making a point-- there were a lot of buyers in the yacht market. However, his statement made me think about far more than boats. There really is a lot of money in the world, but in order to get it, we have to shift the way we think and experience some things we have never experienced before. I touched my dream at the yacht show. As a result, I came away knowing some things I never knew before and a bigger context of what I could achieve. If you hear my testimony, you'll know that at that point in my life, I didn't understand the difference between a God-given desire and a spirit of mammon. I only use this illustration to show you there are things that you don't know—a whole world of possibilities and open doors. Touching your dream is a way to follow the breadcrumbs and

discover the adventures, opportunities, and blessings
God has stored up for you.

Chapter 5: Give God a New Wineskin

Now that you have touched your dream, you know a little more about what you don't know. In other words, you have a better idea of what it is going to take to make your dream a reality. That leaves you with a choice: are you going to move forward, or are you going to stay where you are? Dreaming with God requires constant change.

When the Pharisees, the dominant Jewish religious group at the time, asked Jesus why His disciples didn't fast, He gave them a lesson on change. Jesus responded:

“No one puts new wine into old wineskin. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored

**in new wineskins so that both are preserved.”
(Matthew 9:17, NLT)**

In Jesus' day, people fermented wine in animal skins. The new wineskins were filled with grape juice and left to age. New wineskins were flexible and could expand as the grapes released gasses in the fermentation process. However, if someone poured unfermented juice into an old wineskin, the forming gasses caused the stiff skin to burst.

The question is not whether or not God has new wine for you; it's whether or not you will give Him a new wineskin. Many Christians get this wrong. They want God to give them the new wine AND the new wineskin! New wine always represents more of God's presence. To give God a new wineskin, we must be flexible and willing to change. That's the only way

our capacity can grow to hold the new thing that God wants to bring into our lives.

Chapter 6: Smashing Strongholds

One of the biggest challenges in dreaming with God is taking the limits off. One major way to give God a new wineskin is through renewing your mind to scripture. So, I'm going to give you a lot of scripture to explain this point! Romans 12:2 (NKJV) says, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Renewing our minds involves exchanging our thoughts and beliefs for biblical truth and promises. This principle aligns with 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV):

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself

against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

The word stronghold translates as follows:

- A castle, fortress, fastness
- Anything on which one relies

Strongholds aren't just demonic things in The Heavenlies—in a sense, it would be easier to detach ourselves from those things. Nobody wants a demon on their back! Instead, strongholds are castles we build in our minds brick by brick and wrong belief by wrong belief. They keep the truth from getting into our minds and hearts. Strongholds are formed and reinforced when we lean on human reasoning rather than Godly wisdom. They are anything we have come to rely on other than God, such as material comforts or our abilities.

Dreaming with God requires demolishing strongholds. After all, it's called dreaming with God for a reason—he doesn't want us to rely on anything other than Him. We must learn how to destroy strongholds to receive His vision and follow it obediently.

3 John 1:2 (NKJV) says, “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” The word for soul is *psychē*, and it's where we get the English word “psychology.” John is praying for his fellow believers to prosper in their minds. It's the same in James 1:21 (KJV) — “receive with meekness the engrafted Word which is able to save your soul.” Meekness erodes pride, and it challenges wrong beliefs.

Without meekness and humility, we will hold on to strongholds and be stuck with our wrong beliefs. Our stinking thinking can keep us from receiving God's promises, just as it kept a generation of Israelites out of the Promised Land. That's why Hebrews 4:2 (NKJV) says, "For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it." We can hear really good preaching only to have our minds filter out the truth that God wants to deposit into our spirits. Or, God can try to give us a vision, but we don't receive it because of limiting beliefs. So, when a preacher says something that messes with your feelings or you read a passage in scripture that challenges you, don't reject it automatically. Instead, receive it with meekness and give the Holy Spirit room to do what He needs to do. Sometimes I wish we could take our brains out, stomp

on them, get the crust off, and put them back inside our heads. You need to ask yourself the following two questions:

- What is keeping me from seeing what God wants me to see?
- What do I need to become to do everything God has planned for me to do?

Take note that the question is *what* you need to become, not *who*. Who is too subjective. Consider the practical things you need to do to achieve your dreams. What experiences do you need to have? What knowledge do you need to attain? Are there any certifications or degrees you need to set yourself up for success? For me, this looked like getting an MBA when I didn't want to go back to school. I was really good at multiplication, but I knew that I had to learn

how to add and subtract if I wanted to go to the next level in business.

You must be willing to invest in yourself. You don't measure your ROI on self-investment by the quantity of information you are learning; you measure it by how you are changing and who you are becoming. If you embrace change and continually God new wineskins, you can reach any dream!

Chapter 7: Keep Dreaming Despite Disappointment

There are many things that Satan will do to distract you from your dreams. One of the oldest tricks in the book is disappointment. Proverbs 13:12 (NLT) says, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.” Many people don’t recover from this heartsickness. Their hope gets deferred, and they let a series of disappointments turn into a spirit of disappointment.

You cannot let disappointment keep you from dreaming with God. The tree of life will come at the right time when you are faithful in the waiting. In the meantime, every season is pregnant with purpose! Joseph is a prime example of the blessings that come from remaining faithful in difficult circumstances. He

had every reason to let a spirit of disappointment and offense take over his life.

When he was just a teenager, his brothers sold him into slavery. He became a slave in Potiphar's house, who was the captain of Pharaoh's guard. Genesis 39:2 (NLT) says, "The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master." Potiphar noticed what a great job Joseph was doing, so he put him in charge of his entire household. Under Joseph's stewardship, "All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished. So, Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat!" (Genesis 39:5-6, NLT)

Several years later, Joseph is falsely accused of a crime and thrown into prison. Yet, his spirit of stewardship served him there as well. Genesis 39:22 says, “Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison.” I’m sensing a pattern here!

Joseph illustrates how you can be faithful in any situation—even a jail cell. He did not let a spirit of disappointment keep him from dreaming or diligence. Eventually, God empowers Joseph to interpret Pharaoh’s dream and correctly predict seven years of prosperity and seven years of famine. Based on this interpretation, Joseph advises Pharaoh to store one-fifth of the crops during the prosperous years. As a result, Joseph saved countless people from starvation, and the economy of Egypt prospered even more. Plus, Pharaoh elevated Joseph to second-in-command in his

kingdom:

“Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt.” Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his hand and placed it on Joseph’s finger. He dressed him in fine linen clothing and hung a gold chain around his neck. Then he had Joseph ride in the chariot reserved for his second-in-command. And wherever Joseph went, the command was shouted, “Kneel down!” So Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt. And Pharaoh said to him, “I am Pharaoh, but no one will lift a hand or foot in the entire land of Egypt without your approval.” (Genesis 41:41-44 NLT)

God always promotes good stewardship! Through being a good steward in Potiphar’s house and the prison, Joseph developed the ability and character required to steward the entire land of Egypt, a major

power in the region. Psalm 105:19 (NLT) says, “Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the LORD tested Joseph’s character.” If you are waiting on a dream, it could be that God is working on your character so you will have the capacity to carry the blessing when it comes your way.

Chapter 8: Repeat the Process at the Next Level

As we see with Joseph, your dreams today become tomorrow's reality. So, don't stop dreaming! Dreaming can be hard when you go through a cycle or two of getting what you want. You can become satisfied with where you are and stop growing. Here's why that's dangerous: if you stop dreaming, you will create dissonance between you and God as the fulfiller of your desires. In other words, it will be harder for you to understand Deuteronomy 8:18 (NLT): "But remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath."

God is the only one who gives you the power to get lasting wealth and success. He fulfills dreams— not

you. Sure, you can accomplish some things on your own. However, I've gotten to the point where I don't want to dream without God because my dreams are always too small. When we dream with God and see Him fulfill that dream, we experience His faithfulness. Our trust, and therefore our relationship with Him, grows. The most fulfilling feeling on this side of heaven is partnering with God for a purpose that is bigger than you.

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