

## Refined by Fire: Pursuing Your Dreams

Are you living out your dream? Most people aren't. Most people had dreams and ambitions at one time in their life or another but because of the worries, stresses, pressures, and struggles of life, those dreams were beaten out of or pushed so deep inside of them that they can hardly identify with that dream anymore. Too many people are living drab lives because they're living a nightmare instead of living their dream. You owe it to yourself, to this world, and mostly to God to recover your lost dreams and pursue them with all of your heart. If you used to have dreams and are afraid to pursue them because people have let you down, sneered at you, broken promises they made to you, and have rejected your dream, then this series is for you.

"Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. v. 28 "Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. Genesis 37: 5, 28

Joseph is the famous dreamer of the bible who had a great dream but experienced so much unjust pain in the process of achieving it that it's a miracle that he reached it. The first and most important thing that we see with Joseph is that God gave him the dreams that he had. You know if God has given you your dream if your dream is too big for you to even imagine. You know that God gave you your dream if you can't even understand the dream yourself. Joseph was too young to truly understand the magnitude and ramifications of his own dreams. Joseph was the youngest member in his family and yet had dreams that his family would bow down before him. If you want to pursue your dream and actually achieve it regardless of what ever struggles you may have in the process, you must pursue your God-given dream.

So Joseph was pursuing a dream in life that God had given him. So many of us have vain ambitions and want to rule the world for our own glory, but if you possess a dream that is bigger than you, one that you couldn't achieve on your own, and one that involves helping others, then you know that you've got a dream that has been given by God. So then, the next thing that you need to do to get on track to pursuing your dream is to awaken the dream inside of you. Some of us have been through the pits of life and have lost the courage to dream at all, let alone pursue that dream. It hurts to dream about doing something great or being someone significant. People try to hurt you when you pursue dreams just like Joseph's own blood brothers did to him. So many people have trashed their dreams and settled for whatever career opportunity or job came to them.

You don't want to be a person who's been defined by your circumstances. You've got one life to live, you better gain the courage, the backbone, and the passion to go after your dreams with the time you have on earth! Don't you want to be useful to God? Don't you want God's best for your life? I've found out that Peter experienced a part of God that none of the other disciples experienced when he stepped out of the boat and walked on water. You need to awaken your dream from the dead like Jesus did Lazarus, pick it up out of the trash can of lofty memories, piece it back together with the super glue of hope, and go after it with determination in your eyes! Awaken your dream.

Once you've awakened your dream from the dead and revived it in your heart you need to start proclaiming it to people. Joseph proclaimed his dream to his family. This was actually a weakness in Joseph and he was probably being boastful or naive by telling his dream to the people that he did, in the way that he did. You certainly don't want to go around flaunting your ambitions to people, making them look bad in the process. But you can share your desires and the passions of your heart to certain people you know who will encourage you to pursue it and hold you accountable to it. You don't want to be a 'show off' or a 'goody two shoes' but you do want to confide in a select few people who most likely won't get jealous of your dream. These are people who are successful themselves and who are confident in their own lives.

My wife and I share a dream together so we confide in each other every day. We only share certain things with other people so we don't provoke people to jealousy or doubt of us.

If you do these things you will be well on your way to achieving those once lost dreams in life. You need to at least be on the road to achieving your dreams if you want to live a fulfilling life, give the world the best of you, and maximize the gifts that God has given you in life.

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### About the Author

Anthony Obey is the publisher and co-compiler of the women's inspirational book series entitled Refined by Fire with his wife, Crystal Obey. There are currently 3 books within the women's series which includes inspirational testimonies and messages from 61 leading women around the nation. Learn how you can contribute to a future book and order books at <http://www.RefinedbyFireWomen.com>. Anthony also owns GMA Publishing and is

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