

Episode 024

Prophetic lifestyle - Death to self

Introduction

God loves us, and on many occasions, He gives us a personal vision for our lives. We could follow through with great enthusiasm and perseverance—through both good and difficult times. Or, we could even grow that vision much, much more.

Vision is important. It helps us live our lives purposefully for the Lord. Proverbs 29:18 (ESV) “Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.”

However, what would you do if God were to ask you to surrender the very vision you initially received from Him? Would you seek to die to self and trust in the unfailing love and wisdom of Papa God? Or would you become possessive of the vision, taking matters into your own hands because the vision has become your “baby,” and you just won’t let go? Instead of trusting God and His process, you may end up pursuing your own course—leaving God out of the vision subtly or in a big way.

Explore Two Bible Characters

Abraham

Abraham was 75 years old when he received the vision and promise from God. He was called to be the father of many nations (Genesis 12:2–3). But it took another 25 years before Isaac was born to Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 21:5). A vision fulfilled—a promise from God came to pass after a long, long time.

Genesis 22:1–2 (ESV) 1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2 He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”



Genesis 22:7–8 (ESV) 7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” 8 Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

Genesis 22:12–18 (ESV) 12 He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.” 15–18 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham again from heaven and reaffirmed God’s promise to bless and multiply Abraham’s offspring—because he obeyed God’s voice.

Abraham learned to surrender the vision he received by choosing to trust God. Yes, Isaac was his rightful, natural, and supernatural inheritance from the Lord—but Abraham chose to yield his will and needs to God’s preference. That’s why God credited Abraham with righteousness: he chose to trust God.

Hebrews 11:17–19 (ESV) 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.



Joseph

Joseph received dreams from God.

Genesis 37:6–9 (ESV) 6 “Hear this dream that I have dreamed: 7 Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.” 8 His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and his words. 9 Then he dreamed another dream... “Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

It took many years—through betrayal, slavery, and prison—for Joseph to be reunited with his father and siblings.

Genesis 44:14 (ESV) When Judah and his brothers came to Joseph’s house... they fell before him to the ground.

Genesis 50:15–18 (ESV) 15 After their father died, Joseph’s brothers feared revenge. 16–18 They pleaded for forgiveness. Joseph wept and reassured them.

Though it looked like Joseph’s dreams had come to nothing, and despite all the mishaps, Joseph exemplified godly attitudes: generosity, forgiveness, kindness, and deep trust in God’s process.

Genesis 50:20 (ESV) “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good—to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”





Three Key Things About Death to Self in a Prophetic Lifestyle:

1. Faith, trust, and obedience toward God. He is unfailingly faithful and loving to us all.
2. Hold fast by walking closely with God—live a continuous lifestyle of surrender, even without knowing all the answers.
3. It's not about you or your personal calling or agenda. When it's God's vision, choose to trust Him with His process.





Discussion Questions

These questions could be done personally or as part of a group discussion.

1. Share a dream or vision you initially received from the Lord. What has the progress been so far? What have you had to surrender to God along the way?
2. In what ways have you nourished yourself in the Lord during this time of waiting and learning to trust God's process in fulfilling what He has in store for you?





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