

Dreamcoat Part 4: Thanks for Everything 11.06.11

Scripture: [Genesis 41:37-43 NIV84](#)

Video: ["In Everything" by Centerline New Media](#)

Intro: This is the month of November. That means that Thanksgiving is right around the corner. And yes, as this video tells us, we should give thanks in EVERYTHING, all day every day - every second of the day - 86,400 times a day! Today, though, I want to focus in on the conclusion of our Dreamcoat series. Being thankful for our God-dreams. Especially when they come true! How do we know they are God-dreams or our dreams? And what indicators can we find that when our dreams come true, that they really were God-dreams to begin with?

4 Ways To Know My Dreams Come From God

When my God-dreams come true...

1. Other people will say, " [YAY GOD!](#) "

You never have to worry about stealing credit from God. When you accomplish something really BIG, people will know! I love to say around here that we dream so big that if we accomplish half of what we want to do everyone will know it had to be God! 'Cause it sure couldn't have been us! When Joseph was given his job as second only to the king, the credit for his advancement was given to God, not to Joseph.

So Pharaoh asked his officials, ["Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?" Genesis 41:38 NLT](#)

Example - Stop and think about when we gave away those 100 turkey dinners last April. Did anyone sit around and say - Wow, CR - you did something awesome? No! Everyone knew we couldn't have possibly pulled that off on our own. God moved in people's lives. Same is true now. Let's dream big for Thanksgiving - only 3 weeks away. Who could we benefit with turkey dinners? Who does God want us to bless? Let's have a big heart and a big dream and know at the end of it that everyone will know it came from God - That everyone will say, "Yay God!"

2. I will know [WITHIN MYSELF](#) that it was because of God!

It's not just other people who see God at work in your life. You will know it too! Notice how Joseph named his two sons:

Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, ["It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household."](#) The second son he named Ephraim and said, ["It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."](#) Genesis 41:51-52 NIV84

When you see the good things happening to you - forgetting your troubles, being productive - you'll know it's because of God's power and not because of your own efforts. This is something that leads us to worship and thanksgiving. Yes, we should be thankful in all things. Even in down times. However, when we DO see God accomplish something in us and through us that we know we never could have done ourselves, it should send us even more to our knees. It causes us to change how we view everything around us. Joseph even looked at his sons differently because he knew how great was God's work in his life. God-dreams do that to you... cause you to see all of your life differently - and with greater appreciation!

3. My work WILL BENEFIT THE WORLD around me.

Often we think of our work as benefiting ourselves or our families. But when our dream work is accomplished - everyone wins! Joseph was working for the king of Egypt. But the benefits of Joseph's work benefited even more than Egypt - the whole world benefited!

As the famine got worse all over the country, Joseph opened the storehouses and sold emergency supplies to the Egyptians. The famine was very bad. Soon the whole world was coming to buy supplies from Joseph. The famine was bad all over.
Genesis 41:56-57 MSG

Example - I love to write about Church Requel and about the trials and successes that come from pastoring a new church. Why do I do this? I suppose part of it is my own way of thinking things through. However, there is also the sharing aspect of it. I like to think in terms of how the work that we do here with Church Requel will not only benefit us, but the community around us - and for that matter the world of churches and other leaders who read about what God is doing here.

One sign of a dream that is small is that the only one who can come out on top is me. When I begin to think of how what I'm doing will benefit everyone, of how everyone can come out ahead - then I know I'm on to something not man-made, but God-made!

4. My FAMILY WINS too!

Sometimes we can get so caught up in our dreams, in our careers, in our work lives, that our families suffer. Sometimes we become so focused on the dream that we can become isolated from our families. This is especially true for the primary bread winner in the family. **I'd to show you 3 ways Joseph's family won when a God-dream was involved.**

A. *Financial success.* Joseph's family was able to survive the famine - they could eat! - because of Joseph's work.

Jacob: I have heard there is grain in Egypt. Go down there, and buy enough grain to keep us alive. Otherwise we'll die. Genesis 42:2 NLT

B. *Spiritual success.* Our God-dreams allow us to see God at work in our family - even in the tough times, even in the unfair times! When God dreams come true, He brings good even out of evil!

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.
Genesis 50:20 ESV

You know there is something "God-originated" when your dreams come true and more than money is involved, right? Think about the tough - even unfair - times in your life, times when your dreams didn't come true. Sometimes it could even be God saying I've got something better for you. Sometimes it could be God saying, "not yet... hang in there!" Sometimes it could be "I've got something for you to learn." But if it does happen, and you see God at work, it will involve more than financial success. You'll see spiritual growth too!

C. *Relational Success*. Our God-dreams bring us together. They should not divide us or keep us apart. Joseph saw God's purposes even when things were done that were wrong. Ultimately he knew God's BIG dream brought his family together.

“Please, come closer,” he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives.” Genesis 45:4-5 NLT

This relational success is not always immediately apparent. Even Christ told us that if we had to make a choice between choosing him or our family, that our first choice must be Jesus. (Matt 10:37). But that’s not God’s first choice for us! God invented family. He loves family so much that he references Himself as Father, Christians as brothers and sisters. Family is His idea!

When He gives us a great God-dream to fulfill, one way we’ll know its from Him and not some hair-brained thought on our part is that it will ultimately bring our family together - not tear us apart.

Conclusion: Do you believe God can fulfill your wildest dreams? He can! He does! It may seem as if God-dreams coming true like in Joseph's case is a unique situation. It may seem impossible that one dream could give glory to God, benefit the world, and benefit your family in so many ways. Often our dreams seem to take us away from our God or away from our family. Not God-dreams though! The Bible tells us that God can do anything - *far beyond our wildest dreams!*

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.
Ephesians 3:20 MSG

God is a gentle God in that he does not make us do anything. We must surrender our wills, our dreams, our desires to His Spirit. But if we do that, then His power and by His Spirit, He will begin to work in us - even when we don't know it!

Joseph never saw or understood what God was doing until the end, but then he got it. His God-dreams came true because he allowed God to work out His dreams through Joseph's dreams, through his disappointments, and through his work. What about you? Will you allow God to work His dreams through you?

If so, then you’ll be able to THANK GOD IN EVERYTHING! Whether you are realizing your dreams right now OR whether you’re going through a tough time in your life. Because you know it’s not about you. It’s all about Him! It’s not about what you can do. It’s all about what He can do through you! It’s not about your plans, your dreams, but His.

RESPONSE SONG: “You Are My King (Amazing Love)”