

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord.
“They are plans for good and not for disaster,
to give you a future and a hope.”*

— Jeremiah 29:11, NLT

It is pleasant to see dreams come true . . .



— *Proverbs 13:19, NLT*



HOW TO FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS

Dreams begin with anticipation. Life is built on hope. We hope to have a date for the prom. We hope to have enough money for a dress or to rent a tux. Then we start hoping for bigger things. We hope to get married someday. We hope to have a great job. But hope must have action. Goals must be set. Dreams have to be planned. And the way Noah planned his happiness was by accepting God's dream. God's dream was to have an ark that would sail above the stormy waters of a flood. And Noah built the ark in the middle of the desert. The nearest body of water was over a hundred miles away. And Noah kept hammering his eye-teeth out, even when people laughed. His goal was to fulfill God's dream. And true happiness takes place when we say, "God, here's my life. Give me your dreams." You do this and you will save yourself from drowning in an aimless sea.

Naming what you truly want means that you can begin to guide your life like a ship toward the harbor light, because you now have a goal that is exactly, precisely, and specifically identified.

— *Dr. Phil McGraw*

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.



— 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NIV



Why does love hurt so badly sometimes? It hurts because we confuse love with self-respect. When someone breaks up with us, we feel rejection. And breakups are only painful when we focus on what has been taken away. And usually it is something that we have been getting from this person, such as attention or popularity. And what we mourn is really the absence of these things, not lost love.

You will know when you truly fall in love. You will become selfless. You will be more concerned with giving love, than receiving. You will give of your joy, of your understanding, of what it means to be alive. You will give rather than take. You will discover true love one day, just not yet. And when you do, it will never leave you. It will always protect. It will rejoice in the truth. It will always persevere if you let it.

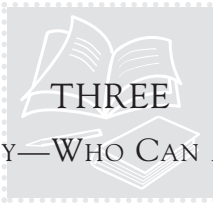
Nobody has ever measured, not even poets,
how much the heart can hold.

— *Zelda Fitzgerald*

Obviously, I'm not trying to be a people pleaser! No, I am trying to please God. If I were still trying to please people, I would not be Christ's servant.



— *Galatians 1:10, NLT*



POPULARITY—WHO CAN AFFORD IT?

Popularity is the false belief that you have been chosen. Now you are safe from being seen as a loser. But what is popularity, anyway? Being in the right crowd? Wearing the in-clothes? Being more daring than the rest? Don't fall for this shallowness. Popularity contests are not truth contests. Ask the Apostle Peter. He tried to turn every encounter with Christ into a competition. He cut off a man's ear. He stepped out of the boat onto the shifting sea. He walked to Jesus only to sink. He wanted to show Christ that he was more willing, more daring than the rest. But anytime you walk on water to impress the crowd it does not last. You sink. You do not discover the acceptance you so desire.

So try to be honest with yourself and God.

Fame is vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings.

Only one thing endures and that is character.

— *Horace Greely*