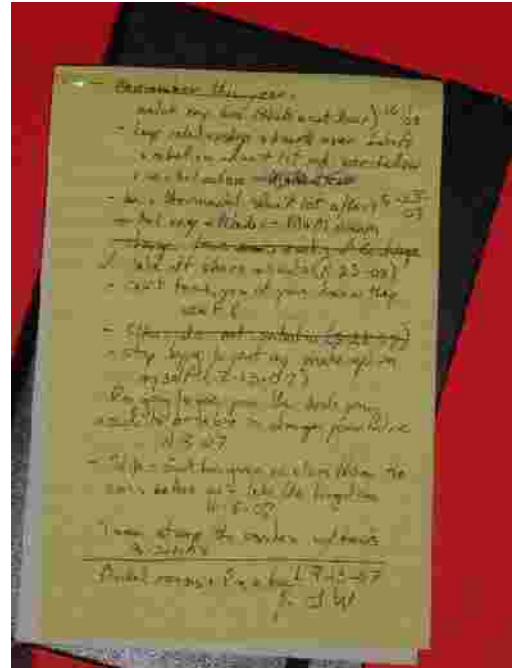


DREAMSCHOOL LESSONS FOR LIFE

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I love the beginning of a new year! I know, this is June, but that doesn't change how much I love New Year's Day. So, anyway, I was looking for something the other day and came across two small legal pad pages stapled together (one yellow and one white) where several years ago I'd written a list of dreams from the past year and what lessons I could take from them for the new year. After reading through them I thought, "Hey! These are good!"



Yep, dreams. God uses the time when our active mind, with its strong opinions, doubt, and cynicism is off guard. That way He can speak to us without our head getting in the way. Many times we think that we don't dream, but our brain has just decided that our dreams aren't important and tosses them out. However, you can teach your mind to value and remember them, the first and most important thing being to have paper and pen by your bed and WRITE THEM DOWN before you forget them.

Here are some of my dream lessons:

1) Watch my bus

Loretta LaRoche¹ tells us, "Most people never realize that even when they're alone, they have a group traveling with them. I call it the Committee. ... This group consists of your parents, other family members, children, and others who have meant something to you in your life—teachers, coaches, ex-lovers, and former spouses, for instance. ... Committee members provided you with powerful messages about yourself and the world. Some messages are positive, rational, and protective ... Other messages are negative, irrational, and hurtful."

In my dream I am driving a huge touring bus (beautiful, sleek, dark-tinted windows), and not only is my extended family riding on it but there are strangers

and some oriental women I've known from the past. I am trying to get everyone where they're going on time by attempting to get people seated in the order of their stop. At one point I am actually trying to get a small dog on my bus.

I do not WANT to be driving this bus, especially downtown, and as I'm stressing someone points out to me that no one ELSE is stressed (thank you very much for that insight). "But," I think to myself, "they're just riding the bus, I'm the one responsible for driving it!"

We're each driving a bus carrying our Committee. They fill our heads with everything from "God isn't going to help you because you haven't paid Him much attention lately" to "If you don't make your bed every day people will judge you" to "You'll never support yourself as an artist." My personal Committee includes my Home Economics teacher who told me I was a good example of a long neck. Yep, Brenda the giraffe neck. I think of that when I see myself in the mirror. It's always a wrestling match to get her off my bus but I generally win. Our bus often has an open-door policy. This dream reminds me to SHUT THE DOOR! Start noticing who is on your bus, and be choosy about who you're willing to give a ride.

2) The demonic can't touch me as long as I KNOW they can't.

I dream that I am on an island, along with others. Mingling with us are demons, harassing and tormenting everyone they can. Yet I know that they can't touch me because I belong to God. However, the key here is that I have to KNOW that, because if I believe that they can hurt me then my fear gives them the ability to. The knowing is what protects me. It doesn't mean that I'm not afraid or don't flinch when they pretended to hit me, but I have to stand on my knowledge and confidence that they can't touch me. They pretend to hit at me, get in my face, and do everything to harass me, but I make the effort to ignore them in my knowledge that they can't touch me.

This is a big one for me, because I can be fearful if I let go of my trust in God. This dream reminds me that if I don't make the effort to stay in His presence and walk in my confidence of His protection I give Satan an inroad where he can get to me.

3) Stop trying to put your make-up on yourself.

When Esther² was in the King's harem, Hegai, who was in charge of the harem, taught her how to apply cosmetics that would make her beautiful for the king. If

she had tried to do it herself she would probably have just jumped right into the make-up box instead of going through the arduous process of getting her skin healthy and beautiful first, in order to have the right foundation for her make-up. Hegai represents Holy Spirit, and only He can prepare us for our King Jesus.

In my dream I am attending a conference, and I'm standing in a public restroom trying to put on my make-up. No matter how hard I try I can't get it right. First I get too much eye shadow, so I attempt to blend a different color in to subdue it. That makes it worse, so I grab the off-white that can fix any mistake. But it's a different shade of white that doesn't work. At this point I remember the guy I noticed earlier at the conference who has an awesome make-up case with tons of make-up and he knows all about how to apply it. I wish he were here to show me what to do.

"Holy Spirit, it's not that You put the make-up on for me, but You have to teach me how to apply it. You have to give me the tools to deal with my make-up issues. I'm using the wrong tools and applications and all I do is mess it up. In other words, my attempts (or lack of) to "fix" my cosmetic issues isn't working and doesn't look good. I need You to teach me how." (Earlier that day I'd decided to "fix" my fear issues myself by printing verses about fear and posting them on my wall, but how much better would it be to let Holy Spirit just take care of it His own way!)

- 4) Be bold! Also, Holy Spirit has given us clues from the ones before us, find them and learn from them.

In this dream Terry and I are going on a cruise. Getting there long before the ship is to leave we go ahead and walk on board. No one stops us or seems to care. The only ones on board besides us are the crew, busy doing their jobs. On the dock stands a long line of passengers waiting for time to board. They can't figure out why Terry and I are allowed to go ahead and board, and it has ticked them off.

We stand overlooking the swimming pool, excited over the prospect of swimming, and Terry is holding five or six sheets of paper with prose or poetry on them. Some past passengers have written them for future passengers to enjoy, and they are about being on the ship, for example, one is about diving in. I look over a couple of the poems and see that they're good.

We wander around the ship, exploring, while the people waiting on shore watch enviously frustrated, when all along nothing is stopping them from boarding.

This one has two good lessons for me, because for one, I prefer to fit into the societal mold, to follow the rules. I cringe when it comes to going against the crowd. This dream reminds me that too many times I let peer pressure hold me back from things God has for me. If I'd stop worrying about following the crowd and just boldly step out (however it may annoy the status quo) God has all kinds of treats for me. The other lesson is that others have gone before us and left wonderful hints and stories of what they've experienced, and it's important to learn from them and then to build off of that knowledge.

5) Allow Terry to stomp the snakes in my life.

I dream that I am in a child's room when suddenly a snake-like animal with bright colors jumps onto my arm. Terrified I grab it to pull it off before it sucks onto me. Now, as I'm taking care of the children, I begin to see others.

Then Terry is here with me, and as I see a big one he stomps it quickly before it can turn on him. Dead, it still holds its shape, just broken up into pieces. He's wearing hiking boots with a huge tread and he is the only one who will stomp on them. I try to get other people to stomp them but they just laugh. No one but Terry will help me.

Terry's heart for me physically represents Jesus' bridegroom's heart for me. Many husbands don't choose to represent that heart to their wives, or they mistakenly think that Jesus' heart uses judgment, control, and selfish motivation. Because of Terry's heart for me he has a spiritual power in our marriage that can cover me with protection. This isn't about "submission," it's about a husband's love and desire to bring his wife good all the days of his life³. I need to remember that Terry can stomp on the snakes in my life and destroy them.

6) Who you are isn't about what's on the outside.

I am in a large house or mansion with lots of people scattered around in other rooms, more a place of business than someone's home. I'm with Terry and several others in a medium-large room with a wooden parquet floor, hanging around the edge of the room because we're waiting to see the beautiful, famous dancer. She is going to dance for us since she knows how badly we want to see her. Here she is, wearing a straight, red, floor-length dress, and we're disappointed when she only dances for a short time, because she is stunningly beautiful. I'm surprised to see that she is in her sixties. The others wander off, until only Terry and I and maybe one other person are still hanging around.

Suddenly the dancer comes back into the room with us and begins to dance again, just for us. She's changed her clothes and is wearing something fitted like leotards except that it is in two pieces. As she dances, I notice quite a bit of her underwear showing around the legs and top of her fitted pants, and I'm embarrassed for her. Then I realize what it is—she's wearing a Depends under her pants! After a moment of horror I realize that she has done it on purpose, wanting it to be seen.

After her dance she comes over to me, looks me straight in the eye, and says, "Did you see?"

"Yes." I say. And she just looks me in the eye a moment, then seems satisfied that I get her point, and leaves the room.

The point is, she is a beautiful dancer whether she wears Depends or not, whether she's in her twenties or her sixties. She doesn't let the Depends change who she is, it is nothing more than something on her body, like the leotard. It doesn't create her persona or define her.

I'm waaay too concerned about what others think of me. I have to learn that who I am to God is all that matters, what others see or judge me by doesn't define me.

7) The supernatural has certain principles that work—learn them and use them!

In my dream I am with an older man who is possibly Thai, and on our way somewhere we have ended up at the house of a man who wants to use us, or detain us for his purposes. We try to get away but can't, and I'm panicking. The next thing I know, my friend and I are sitting on two small magic carpets, on the beach in front of the bad man's house.

To make them fly we not only have to say "Show me now," but we have to say it CORRECTLY, meaning not too fast or too excitable and with the right tone of voice. Since we're frantically trying to escape, we're repeating it really fast, which only serves to get the carpets started, causing them to either give little jerks of starting to fly or they take off and then fall back onto the sand. Kind of like sitting on a bucking bronco. Realizing that this isn't going to work, I slow my words down, but how do you keep the excitement and panic out of your voice? We can't help but laugh as we frantically repeat "showmenow! showmenow! showmenow!" I wake still trying to get it right.

This is a good lesson in that the spiritual realm has principles that work, and unless we understand them, through Holy Spirit, we'll never walk victoriously and joyfully the way we're supposed to. We always want to know the "formula" for how the Kingdom works, but there's more to it than that. We must learn the principles of how God's Kingdom works, and practice using them until we can walk naturally supernatural.

- 8) Don't carry baggage around with you just because you're too distracted or busy to lay it down.

I'm dreaming that Terry and I live in one room of a large place, like a hotel. Getting up this morning we head out of our room and stay busy, moving from room to room and never stopping or sitting down. A while later I suddenly realize that I'm clutching two items I've carried all morning, and laughing I look at them. One is a dirty, child's flip flop and one is an old, off-white towel that doesn't belong to us. Laughing I say "I don't know why I'm still holding these, how crazy is that? I picked them up this morning to do something with them and now I'm still holding them, because we've never stopped anywhere long enough for me to put them down!"

As Christians we have a tendency to pick up doctrines and rules and law that God isn't putting on us, we just seem to collect them as we go along, through teaching, upbringing, and experience. We can only hold so much, and there are times that we need to stop and let go, laying the baggage we've collected down so that God can fill our arms with fresh, purposeful items. I need to stop and look at what I'm carrying.

- 9) God has given us clues to help us make it through life easier.

I'm in the ocean sitting on a rock that juts straight up out of the water. I'm quite close to shore but the water is full of demons (smaller, imp-like people) and if I can't swim to the island before they catch me, I'll die. Everyone has to do this once, even people who are already on the island, if they haven't before.

My rock isn't that far out of the water and the demons are hanging onto it, taunting me and making half-hearted grabs at me. Terrified I sit huddled in the middle where they can't reach me, knowing they're not allowed to get up on the rock.

I have been given a piece of paper with information on it about the swim to shore. Reading it, I notice there is a hint to help me make it safely and my hint is that if I will take them by surprise I have a better chance.

With a sudden lunge I dive into the water, plowing through it so fast they hardly have time to realize I'm gone, making it safely to shore.

Next, a black man has to get on the rock, and I see him with his paper ready for his turn. I tell him that there are hints on each paper on how to make it, and that if we all get together and compare notes we can figure out the best and safest way. He's very grateful to hear my hint.

Remember how I harp all the time on how God has given us a spiritual backpack to help us make it through life? Everyone has to travel the Adventure of Life, but as Christians we have a backpack of resources that will help us. He WANTS us to make it! He doesn't carry us across, but He does everything to make the trip safer and easier. If we'll share our "hints" we've been given with each other on how to walk in the spiritual realm, then we'll be much more successful in our journey to the other side.

10) "I'm going to give you the tools you need to be able to change your future."

I woke from a dream with these words from Holy Spirit ringing in my head. I believe that these words are for everyone. Remember, He WANTS you to walk joyfully and victoriously! He's on your side! He has the tools you need to be able to change your future. Ask Him for them, and then watch for them. He'll give them to you! Another one that I harp on a lot: don't let life happen to you out of default (reactive), step up and be PROactive. Don't sit there while the tool you need to change your life bonks you on the head and you think, "Gee God, why did you do that to me? That hurt!" Instead let Him know you're watching for the tools and plan on using them. We miss so much if we're not looking.

There is so much to learn: wonderful and fascinating things that Holy Spirit would love to show us. Never negate any way that He can speak to you, and then make sure you're listening. You'll be surprised at all the good things He'll tell you!

¹ Relax—You may only have a few minutes left by Loretta LaRoche

² Esther 2:8

³ Proverbs 31:12