

Think Bigger Pastor Lynn Peterson June 17, 2007

Today is Father's day. For those of you who have fathers still living have you all wished your fathers "Happy Father's day?"

What about your Heavenly Father? Have you wished Him "Happy Father's day?" He is our Father. Hello. He is a good Father. He is a good father and He wants us to expand our thinking. That is the title of my sermon today—Think Bigger! Your heavenly Father wants you to succeed and to prosper. He wants you to achieve what you go after. He wants you to expand your tent pegs.

We have talked about the desires of our hearts before. What are you believing for? Think about what you believe God for. I want you to think about what you dream about doing for the Lord. Every dream no matter how impossible it seems, think about it as I continue.

In April I talked about having a different spirit. Last month I talked about waiting on God is good. Today I want to talk about thinking bigger. There is a saying I found on a box of organic mints that said,

"Whatever you can conceive and believe, you can achieve"

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What does conceive mean?

1. Think of or image something. To form an idea or concept of something in your mind.
2. Invent devise or originate something.
3. Start to experience, to produce something from the mind such as an emotion.
4. Understand.

For those people who have seen heaven some of them describe a room they have seen that is full of body parts. And as they have been praying healing over people they have seen in their mind the body part needed and God has sent an angel with it. That is conceiving. That is visualizing. That is coming into agreement with Father God and then we need to add the ingredient of believing Him for it. I am not there yet. But that is where I would like to be. Wouldn't you? Someone once said, "Preach it until you produce it". So that is what I plan to do.

So do you understand what it means to conceive? Simply put it is to imagine in your mind—or being able to see or visualize a possibility.

What happened to the children of Israel? They checked out the promise land. What did they conceive? They didn't see any possibilities. All they saw was failure. They imagined failure. They believed failure. They saw themselves as grasshoppers. They couldn't conceive or imagine beating giants or taking on a bigger army than them. They weren't looking at God as their heavenly father who had the power and desire to intervene on their behalf. They didn't believe that God would intervene. They focused on their circumstances and they lost the battle before it even started. They conceived or imagined failure, and they believed failure and they achieved failure. See we can take this the wrong way.

Or we can take it the positive way. "Whatever you can conceive and believe, you can achieve" They achieved exactly what they conceived and believed but it wasn't good. They were unable to see victory because they couldn't conceive it or believe it was possible. That is grasshopper mentality. Don't you think there are enough grasshoppers out there? God has enough grasshoppers. God does not want us to see ourselves as grasshoppers. He wants His children to dare to believe for more. What did Caleb conceive?

God said Caleb had a different spirit. See Caleb was able to conceive and imagine the possibility of defeating the enemy and he believed that God would help him do it. And because he had to wait so long he thought bigger. After 40 some years of waiting he was no longer satisfied with a little portion of land along with everybody else. Because he had to wait, he asked for a mountain. He was able to conceive personally killing the giants and he believed God for it. Caleb expanded his thinking. He thought bigger. He conceived and believed and achieved.

We are to be a "can do" people, people who are willing ready and well able to do what God commands us to do. [Hebrews 11:6 So, you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.](#)

To be able to conceive and believe is what faith is all about.

Do you have faith for your dream? Can you imagine it? Can you visualize it? Do you believe that God will help you achieve it? If you do then you have faith for it and God will be faithful. Conceiving and believing are another way to explain faith.

What is God putting on your heart? Move forward on it. What if you are wrong? What if you didn't hear God right? Steve and I are constantly wondering how God wants us to achieve what he has laid on our hearts to do. What do we do with that? Do we wait for God to give us a blueprint? No. God doesn't usually give us the

details. He expects us to be constantly moving forward. When God said we would build him a Prayer Center we started looking at land. A number of years ago we found the land we think that we will eventually build the Prayer Center on. And we met with the man that wants to sell the land. But he wanted over a million dollars for it and we didn't have the resources to buy it so God shut the door for the time being. Then we started looking for property downtown to start a temporary Prayer Center but none of the places felt right. And God shut that door. We ask the people at a downtown church if we could start a Prayer Center in their church, but the door shut there as well. Then when the Kroc Center came along we said, hmmm maybe we could start a Prayer Center there. But that door got shut too. We have looked into the possibility of buying several churches but so far those doors have shut.

So the doors to the Prayer Center have remained shut but many other doors have opened to us. God told Steve to leave the nest and fly like an eagle so we left our church and started a ministry in our home in the year 2000. Then God told us to also meet at the Radisson and He opened the doors and the Radisson said we could have this room almost every Sunday each year and they would be able to provide another room on the few times when there was conflict. We have been faithfully meeting here since March 2003. God has opened the doors for us to do various events. He opened the door wide for us to do the tent meeting at Bay Front this summer. But the Prayer Center doors have remained closed so we assume that the Prayer Center is a future thing but we keep testing the waters. As we test the waters for the Prayer Center it occurs to us that maybe we are not thinking big enough for our ministry. We have been told through prophecy that our ministry will be so different people will not know what to call it. Maybe we won't ever have a church building, but maybe we are suppose to have ministry centers all over. So we right now we are praying about the possibility of starting a ministry center.

Don't be afraid of being wrong. If you have a vision of doing something for the Lord, just ask God to shut doors if you are out of his timing or going the wrong direction. When God gives us a vision of what could be if we will conceive the vision, believe that God will do it and keep doing things to move us in that direction then we will achieve the vision. And I don't mean to say you can only have one vision. The more things you conceive and believe for the more things you will achieve.

We serve a mighty God. What does He say? [Jeremiah 32:27 \(NLT\)](#) "I am the Lord, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?"
[Luke 1:37 \(NLT\)](#) For nothing is impossible with God."

Joshua was able to conceive and believe that he could take the promise land. He conceived and believed that they could take Jericho. He obeyed God and he achieved it.

When the Lord came to Gideon his first response was “my tribe is the smallest and I am the least.” (Judges 6:15 "But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!")

But as God met the fleeces Gideon put out and encouraged him, Gideon went on to beat impossible odds with only 300 men. Why? He was able to achieve because God encouraged him in his faith so that he was able to conceive it and believe it. Sometimes we need a little encouragement. It is okay to ask God for it. It is okay to ask God to expand our faith. He loves to answer that prayer.

Deborah the judge was able to conceive success in attacking Sisera and his army. Barak said he wouldn't go without Deborah. Barak could conceive and believe as long as Deborah was beside him. He couldn't conceive it without Deborah. Some times we need a little help. God won't be mad at you if you need a little help. Because Deborah was willing to lead—because she was able to conceive and believe God would give them victory she was able to lead the Israelites into achieving victory.

When the Israelite army faced the Philistines and saw Goliath, there was only one who could conceive the possibility of beating him and believing that the Lord would be with him. David, the youngest and least likely slayed the giant. What did David say? I am going to cut off your head. He spoke it before he did it.

1 Samuel 17:45-47 (NLT) David shouted in reply, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord Almighty—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. [46] Today the Lord will conquer you, **and I will kill you and cut off your head.** And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! [47] And everyone will know that the Lord does not need weapons to rescue his people. It is his battle, not ours. The Lord will give you to us!"

David had so much conviction he was willing to say what he imagined or conceived. He visualized himself cutting off Goliath's head. He believed God for it. He spoke it out before it happened. Now that is faith. He conceived it, he believed it and he even declared it and then he achieved it.

When David's son Solomon was given the task to build the temple what was his response? He was able to conceive and believe and he achieved this incredible feat of building the massive project—the temple of God.

After Jehoshaphat fasted and prayed and he was able to conceive that God would help him and believe it. Do you remember that 3 armies who had come to destroy Jehoshaphat in II Chron 20 ended up destroying each other instead?

King Asa 2 Chron. 14:9-12 Once an Ethiopian named Zerah attacked Judah with an army of a million men and three hundred chariots. They advanced to the city of Mareshah, muh REE shuh [10] so Asa deployed his armies for battle in the valley north of Mareshah. muh REE shuh [11] Then Asa cried out to the Lord his God, "O Lord, no one but you can help the powerless against the mighty! Help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in you alone. It is in your name that we have come against this vast horde. O Lord, you are our God; do not let mere men prevail against you!" [12] So the Lord defeated the Ethiopians in the presence of Asa and the army of Judah, and the enemy fled.

Later when King Asa walked away from the Lord, he was reminded that the Lord had rescued him. 2 Chron. 16:7-8 At that time Hanani huh NAY nigh the seer came to King Asa and told him, "Because you have put your trust in the king of Aram instead of in the Lord your God, you missed your chance to destroy the army of the king of Aram. [8] Don't you remember what happened to the Ethiopians and Libyans and their vast army, with all of their chariots and horsemen? At that time you relied on the Lord, and he handed them all over to you.

When King Asa walked away from the Lord he could no longer conceive winning his battles supernaturally without getting help from other people.

Esther was afraid to go before the king but Mordecai got her to conceive that it was her destiny to try. So she believed that it was possible to succeed and she went before the king to plead for her people. The result was that she indeed did save her people. Esther fulfilled her purpose and destiny because she had her uncle Mordecai to encourage her. Maybe you need encouragement. Then hang around people who will give you encouragement. That is a good thing.

Nehemiah was able to conceive that the wall around Jerusalem could be rebuilt and he believed that God would help them. Did he have opposition? Yes! Neh. 2:18-19 Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Good! Let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work. [19] But when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab

heard of our plan, they scoffed contemptuously. "What are you doing, rebelling against the king like this?" they asked.

Neh. 4:7-9 But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites ASH dah thighs heard that the work was going ahead and that the gaps in the wall were being repaired, they became furious. [8] They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and to bring about confusion there. [9] But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.

Neh. 4:21-23 (NLT) We worked early and late, from sunrise to sunset. And half the men were always on guard. [22] I also told everyone living outside the walls to move into Jerusalem. That way they and their servants could go on guard duty at night as well as work during the day.[23] During this time, none of us—not I, nor my relatives, nor my servants, nor the guards who were with me—ever took off our clothes. We carried our weapons with us at all times, even when we went for water.

He and the people slept with their clothes on. Half the people held weapons and half the people worked on the wall. Are we afraid sometimes when we do what we feel God is calling us to do? It is okay. Keep hanging onto the vision and conceive it and believe it even if it is hard, even if you have to be on constant guard.

Mary mother of Jesus was visited by an angel who told her she would be the mother of our Lord. She was able to conceive that and believed it and what was told to her by the angel came to pass.

If you want God to do the extraordinary, then you must start believing Him for bigger things. Don't limit God. Believe that He has more in store for you. God's dream for your life is so much bigger and greater than you can imagine. Go a bit further than you have gone before. Dare to dream a little bigger. Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait on the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

Many people settle for too little. You may think 'I've gone as far as my education will allow me to go'. I've gone as far as I can go. I will never make anymore money. Keep in mind that your job is not your source. The government is not your source. God is your source. God is not limited by your education. God can do anything if you believe Him. Don't limit him in your thinking. One idea from God can forever change the course of your life.

When you let God allow you to think big God's plans usually take money. What if

you don't have any money? Ask God for the resources that you need to fulfill the tasks he has called you to do. When God guides, he provides. He doesn't want you to barely get by. He's called El Shaddai, 'the God of more than enough' He's not El Cheapo, the God of barely enough. God is able. He is not having financial difficulties. He owns it all. Can you conceive and believe that God will provide the resources you need to accomplish what he has put into your heart to do?

Enlarge the place of your tent. God is saying get ready for more. God works by faith. You must conceive it and believe it first. God is waiting on you to stretch your faith. [Isaiah 54:2 "Enlarge your house; build an addition; spread out your home!](#) Steve thought that verse was pretty cool when I read it to him this morning because we just built an addition to our house. Start believing God for bigger and better things. Don't settle for mediocrity. Don't settle for the status quo. Dream bigger dreams. Enlarge your vision. Live with expectancy. Make room in your thinking for the great things God wants to do. Believe that your best days are ahead of you

Look at David. Did he focus on his faults and shortcomings? No he lived, believing for the goodness of God. He wrote the famous verse, [Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.](#)

David 's attitude was, 'I just can't get away from the good things of God. Let's not expect to get the short end of the stick. Let's not expect the other shoe to drop. Expect God's blessings instead. Expect God's blessings to chase you down.

Are you a child of God? Then conceive this attitude: I am a child of the most high God. My father created the whole universe. He has crowned me with favor. Blessings will chase me down; therefore, I can expect God will provide all that I need to do great things for him. Are you a child of God? Have you made His kingdom your primary concern? Then expect the favor of God. As God's children we can live with confidence and boldness, expecting good things. Keep an attitude of faith. Keep an attitude of gratitude. What we can conceive and believe we can achieve.

God is a progressive God. He wants you to go further than you parents. We affect generations to come with the decisions that we make today. Conceive and believe for more. God wants each generation to go further than the previous generation. He wants you to be more blessed. He doesn't want you to stay where you are.

I said that God is a progressive God. That is what mantles are about. What did Elisha ask for? He asked for a double portion. Did Elijah get mad at him for asking too much? No! He said, if you can see me when I am taken from you, it shall be done to you. In other words, if you can see it and conceive it then it is yours—you get it, you can achieve it.

When Elijah gave Elisha the mantle Elisha went on to do twice as many miracles as Elijah. The mantle is to give us a jump start. That is that progressive thing. God is a progressive God. Even Jesus said we would do greater things. That is why whenever there is an anointed man or woman of God praying for people I run up to get prayer. If someone gives you a mantle, plan to go on and do greater things than they have done. We can believe for more that our parents and our spiritual parents and those before us.

Reprogram your mind with God's word. Think bigger than you have dared to think before. Start conceiving and imaging yourself as succeeding in these big things. Believe God that He will help you succeed. Guard your mind, control your thought life, and begin to dwell on the good things of God.

Remember that God wants us to get our hopes up because then He can build our faith.

Summary:

We started with the phrase “Whatever you can conceive and believe, you can achieve” Essentially that is faith.

We have looked at the various people in Scripture who were willing to conceive and believe God for big things and how they achieved what God had for them.

We talked about dreaming bigger and not limiting God.

We talked about believing for resources. When God guides he provides.

We talked about remembering that each of us is a child of the most high God.

We talked about staying in his will and blessings will chase us down.

What is in your mind to do?

I hope for you is that what you thought possible at the beginning of this service is bigger now. Is it bigger? Can you make it bigger?

Let us pray.