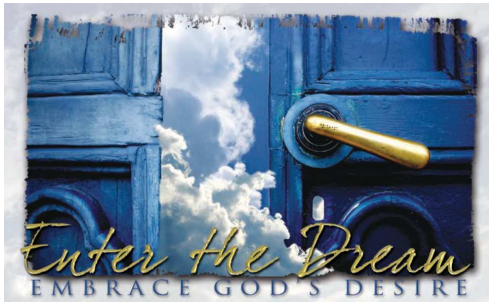


## Read Acts 2:14-21



In this passage, a crowd has gathered as a result of the commotion created by the disciples. Peter explains to those who are hearing the word of God in their own language that this is part of God’s plan- God plan for everyone to call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

In the explanation, Peter quotes the prophet Joel who speaks of this day; the day when God would pour out his Spirit on men and women so that they could be the instruments through which God could transform the world. And that transformation would come as disciples of Jesus would dream God’s dream.

Dreams are wonderful experiences where we can see and imagine the impossible becoming possible. The problem is that too many people only dream and never experience the reality of those dreams. It’s like they live in childhood, always dreaming of what could be, but never growing up and stepping out by faith to make the dream a reality.



God gives us dreams and visions to inspire us to not only think about the impossible, but by faith to accomplish the seemingly impossible. Well after nearly two years of dreaming we are ready to push back the door and take a step into God’s desire for Linglestown Life! That’s why we are here today!

But pursuing a dream is never easy. Pursuing a dream means leaving the familiar for the unfamiliar. It means accepting the challenge inherent in the dream and being willing to risk everything to make the dream a reality. But too many people settle for the comfortable and known when God calls us to live out our purpose in ways that are often risky and require us to live by faith.

If God’s dream- God’s desire- for Linglestown Life is to be a place where people connect with God and connect with one another, then we must step out of the familiar and set out into the unfamiliar armed with nothing more than faith. Faith that knows when God calls He also provides with each step that we take.



I’ve been amazed over the last two years how God has spoken consistently through his people at Linglestown Life. And that message has a similarity to the one God spoke on the day of Pentecost. The message; God gives us dreams and visions not for ourselves, but for others.

On Pentecost the Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in languages that allowed people from foreign lands to hear the good news. The purpose of the Spirit’s coming was to enable the disciples to dream God’s dream and see God’s vision so that others could have the same benefit of knowing Jesus.

That’s the message we are trying to convey in the plans that you have before you! This building isn’t for us to use, it’s for God to use to reach out and connect with others through us.

I’ve heard people express that what we are building is really a legacy for the next generation. That’s true, just as those faithful people who came before you built a place for you and your family to worship, learn and fellowship; you are helping to make that possible for the next generation.

When I look in the faces of the new families and the babies that have come to call Linglestown Life home, I’m thankful for the people like you who made it possible- and so are they. You should be overjoyed with the increases that God is providing to the ministry of Linglestown Life- you’ve helped to make it possible!

In the first few days following the resurrection, the disciples were still uncertain about what the future held. They huddled together behind closed doors, afraid of what the future held. But with each of Jesus appearances their faith grew; and their understanding of all the things that had transpired gave them confidence. All the while, they were praying! Praying, worshipping, studying the scriptures and talking with one another about the role that they were to play in God’s grand design.

But just think what it would have been like had they allowed the fear to overwhelm their faith? This band of brothers- fishermen, zealots and a tax-collector- would have scattered across the region. Separated from one another by fear and the distance they would have simply gone back to their old way of life. The world would not have been turned upside down and the spread of the Gospel would have stopped. That’s what happens when fear binds the hearts and hands of God’s people; when fear clouds the eyes of faith and stops the ears that hear the call of God.

Thank God the disciples waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Without that infusion of the Spirit of God you and I would not be here. And thank God that men and women of subsequent generations who came before us had the inspiration of God’s Spirit to dream dreams and see visions inspired by God, and most importantly to act upon those dreams.

In 1843 they built a church on this piece of property overlooking a



little village. As the community grew so too did the church. And with each passing generation a new vision led to a new opportunity for the people of God to live by faith and facilitate the spread of the Gospel by building new facilities.

In the 1930’s men and women dug out the foundation of the church and added classrooms. In the 1950’s someone had a vision that enlarged this property to its current 16 plus acres. I wonder if they saw the

fields full of children who would practice t-ball and soccer under the watchful eyes of their parents.



In the 1960’s the dream of new ministries and the need for more space to reach a growing community and church led to doubling the size of the church with the addition of the education wing and fellowship hall. Could they have envisioned then a Christian Nursery School that would be the biggest and best on the East Shore- ministering to 170 children and their families? By faith they stepped up and made it happen because they saw the vision and dreamed God’s dream!

A generation from now, people gathered here on this location will say that in 2009 the followers of Jesus entered the dream and embraced God’s desire for Linglestown Life. I believe that is possible if the



people of God react the way the disciples did 2000 years ago, if they react the way our Linglestown Life brothers and sisters did in the 1930’s, 50’s and 60’s.

There was a couple looking out the window one day watching their neighbor hang her wash. The wife said to her husband, “Look at that lady’s wash, it’s still dirty. Obviously she doesn’t know how to clean clothes.”

Well every time this neighbor lady hung up the wash, and this went on for weeks; she would say to her husband, “She still doesn’t know how to get her clothes clean. Maybe someone should teach her.”

Then one day, about a month into this, she got up and looked out her window. She was amazed and said to her husband, “Hey, look, her clothes are clean. I wonder who finally taught her how to wash clothes?” The husband looked at his wife and said, “Actually honey, I got up early this morning and washed the window!”

What we see in other people or circumstances usually depends on the condition of the window through which we’re looking.

The circumstances that you and I are going to be going through in the next year or so are really uncertain. Some would even say, “Now is not the time to ask people to sacrifice. Now is not the time to enter the dream.”



As we look to the future we can’t see it perfectly, but we don’t need to because we know who holds the future. We can rest in the fact that God will honor our obedience to Him and enable us to fulfill by faith the commitments we make. The question now is how are you going to look at the circumstances. Through what window are you going to be looking?

Are you looking through the window of fear or the window of faith?  
If it is through the window of Fear- I expect the worst.  
If it is through the window of Faith – I expect God to show up and I expect God to go to work!  
If it is through the window of Fear – I will risk nothing and do nothing.  
If it is through the window of Faith – I will trust God and step out in faith!

On the day of Pentecost, when God inspired the disciples to dream dreams and see visions so that people could be connected to Jesus, the Holy Spirit broke the window of fear that had held back the disciples. They were now able to look through the window of faith-expecting God to show up and expecting God to work!

You and I need to do the same thing that the disciples did in anticipation of Pentecost. We need to pray. We need to study the scriptures. We need to talk with one another about the role that we are to play in God’s desire for Linglestown Life. And we need to pray for the power of God to show up and transform our lives so that we can enter the dream that God has given us and live out God’s desire that people can get connected to God.

May God send his Spirit to clean the fear from the window through which we look at this great opportunity and leave behind the gleam of faith so that together we can see the dream and vision God has for Linglestown Life.