

## LIVE GUILT FREE

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## DON'T KEEP WHAT GOD GAVE YOU INSIDE By Tanya Curren

Everyone has dreams. What are yours? Everyone has passions and desires that they are longing to fulfill. Are you pursuing yours? The difference between someone living a fulfilled, passionate life and someone who is not is having a positive, fighter spirit that says, "I can do anything and will not give up – no matter what!" Henry David Thoreau said, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined." YOUR dreams, desires and passions are so important to God, because remember – He is the one who handcrafted you and planted them deep in the soil of your heart!

If you are on our email list, then you may have received an announcement about our newest book release, a Proverbs Devotion Guide book. What is so exciting about this book is that is shows how the God of the Universe can give you an idea for a Thursday night devotion in a shelter that you are giving for free, and then expand that idea into a book! It shows that if you don't make it about yourself, but make it about Him and helping others get to know Him and love their Bible, then He will give you the resources and ability to finish the task. God can spark a thought in your heart and mind that can go forth and touch so many people if you are open to hearing Him and disciplining yourself to do what He has told you to do.

I know quite a few people who say that they "have 5 books in them," yet they haven't written anything. They usually stay so busy doing so many things that they won't take the time to slow down, be still and set boundaries around their time and heart to get it from their heart and mind and then onto paper. These people are either very frustrated because it seems as if their dreams never come true, or they are just those who talk just to hear themselves talk – they always promise that things are coming, yet they don't. This saddens me because I have seen firsthand how exciting and powerful it is to create something and take an idea that you know directly came from God and "birth" it into this world. Too many dreams die because of the busy-ness and business of life getting in the way, and Rick and I passionately believe in following the dreams and desires that God has planted in your heart!

For everything there is a season. There are seasons like the one my husband and I are in right now, where we are working with all of our heart and might. There are seasons of preparation and production, and there are also seasons of rest, where we get to sit back and enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Proverbs 8:34-35 says, "Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord."

Listening to God and following Him brings Peace – true Peace! No matter what season you are in during this time in your life, listen to God and passionately follow what He has placed on your heart. You may be in a season that seems slow, where everything seems to be dragging along with nothing exciting happening. Use this time as a season of preparation, where you spend time studying God's Word or something new, like a new skill, so that you are ready for your next phase in life.

It has been so wonderful to watch men and women that we know over the last year get excited and follow through on a dream that they have held inside! Rick and I have seen a couple of our friends begin to volunteer and speak in shelters, a couple who took a huge leap of faith and opened their own business, a woman who started a mother/daughter support group, one who started writing, and another who started her own Christian company, just to name a few. It is as if something has been unlocked inside of them and God is moving through them in a new, powerful way...and I want this for YOU!!!

When we think of something being unlocked, you can visualize a key fitting perfectly into a lock, being turned and the lock being released. This is what happens when the power of God moves in your life and you allow Him to use you in whatever way He chooses! This is the essence of what our ministry believes in, and there is nothing better than watching men and women become so empowered through Christ as they allow Him to flow through and unlock all of the potential that He has placed there!

I love this imagery from Romans 5:5: "And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured our His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us." Don't you love the picture of God literally pouring His perfect, forgiving, pure love down over us and into our hearts?!? Isn't it such a beautiful gift to imagine God giving us both His love and the tender Holy Spirit?!? This love from God is ours to freely accept. It was paid with a very high price, but God gives it freely for us if we choose to accept Him. Once you accept His salvation, love and forgiveness, you have the right and power as a Christian to move forward into the fullness of all He designed you to be! Do not let Satan or any other negative voice in your life tell you that you aren't qualified or "good enough" to do the things that are in your heart!

I cannot encourage you enough today to refuse to listen to those voices or thoughts of doubt and speak His Word and life over yourself and your dreams! Speaking your dream aloud might not change your situation immediately, but what it does is change your mindset. It aligns your thoughts with God's and makes dreams seem more possible and allows you to turn them into reality. The more you speak something, the more you believe it. This is why it is so vital to speak Godly, positive words over yourself and your family!

Proverbs 13:3 says, "He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin." I want you to guard your life and YOUR dreams. They are YOURS – planted directly into YOUR heart by God. Not everyone in the world has to agree with your decisions. Whatever passions and purposes God has placed over your life, choose to follow those and you will be walking in His true peace. Give your plans to God and allow Him to guide your steps. Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." What an excellent confirmation of following His direction for your life!

I want this same thing to happen to you, and I'm excited because I know it can! I have seen firsthand that His Word does not return void. No matter what type of Bible study you choose, my prayer for you is that it is enjoyable, personal and that God comes alive to you and moves through your heart and thoughts in a powerful way.

I pray that your dreams and passions are unlocked today, in Jesus' Name!

In His Love

Tanya



Tanya Curren is the co-founder of Boundless Limits International, a ministry of encouragement and empowerment. In 2004 Tanya Curren was in a life threatening coma for 8 days as a deadly infection ravaged her body. Given two hours to live, she survived only to face the ordeal of a painful three year recovery. She is the author of Broken Places, The Proverbs Devotion Guide, Embracing Change & Conflict, and several other CD's. In her conferences and seminars, Tanya shares with others the life-lessons she learned through her journey to restoration. Tanya travels and speaks at local, regional and international venues, and is passionate about guiding others to have a personal, real relationship with Jesus Christ.