

The Magnificent Seven**Part 5 - Pen to Paper**

Today let's get down to the nitty-gritty of not only how to get dreams, goals, and vision, but how to get them to come to pass.

First things you need to realize:

- This will take you changing how you have done things in the past.
- You will have to develop some new habits.
- This will take time.
- You will have to learn how to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Let's address this last one first.

Hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit

Realizations through the years when it comes to hearing from God:

1. The world thinks you are a crazy person.
2. Most christians don't think they do hear Him or even can!

However, this is inconsistent with what the Word of God teaches.

Galatians 3:26 says, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

Romans 8:14 says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

John 14:26 says, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

John 16:13 says, "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

PEN TO PAPER (cont.)

Pastor's Version: "If you have made Jesus your Lord, then you are a son of God with the ability to be led by the Spirit of God. God's desire, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, is to teach you and guide you into everything you will ever need in order to fulfill every dream, goal, and vision that He has for you. No secrets with God, only revelations at the right time."

Bob Beaudine - "Once you meet with God, you'll discover something amazing. you'll find out He does more than just listen to you; He has a plan - plans to prosper you, give you hope, and always shed light on your great future. But to know those plans you have to stop and listen."

Major Keys to Learning How to Hear from God

- **Learn to get some alone time.**
- **Write down, or journal, your thoughts.**

1. Get some alone time:

One of the biggest enemies we face in this day and age is time clutter. Make a list here of the things that fill your week.

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These things are not bad unless they use up all of the time you would have alone with both God and yourself.

PEN TO PAPER (cont.)

Someone once said that the two main reasons we hate spending time alone is because we get bored easily or we want to avoid the reality of where our life has ended up.

Regardless of the “why,” we must learn to carve out alone time to hear from God.

Moses spent time alone.

David spent time alone.

Paul spent time alone.

Luke 5:16 (AMP) - “ But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray [in seclusion].”

Prayer is not just rushing and making our requests known to God and then rushing out. Prayer is also about listening!

Alone is where you receive direction, clarity, answers, and wisdom. It’s where you receive confidence that God has spoken to you.

Find your time – start with 20 minutes – set a timer.

Practice the art of doing nothing.

This goes against the modern American grain.

- Turn the TV off.
- Put your phone in the other room.
- Sit and learn to quiet the mind.
- Learn to listen.

2. Put pen to paper:

Why is this important?

God will begin to speak to you through your thoughts, and if you don’t write it down you will lose it.

PEN TO PAPER (cont.)

Deuteronomy 17:18-19 says, "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes."

Jeremiah 30:1-2 says, "The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, "Thus speaks the Lord God of Israel, saying: 'Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you.'"

*Habakkuk 2:2 says,
"Then the Lord answered me and said:
'Write the vision
And make it plain on tablets,
That he may run who reads it.'"*

In your alone time, begin to write down your thoughts.

Examples:

- What do I want my future to look like?
- Is my life going in the right direction?
- What is in my heart to do for God?
- Where would I like to be in 5 years?
- What sins are holding me back?
- What habits do I need to change?
- If money were not an issue, what would I do?

5 Things Successful People Write in Their Journals

1. Record Your Ideas

If you are serious about improving your life, reaching your potential, and completing your God given race, write it down.

- New ideas not captured within 37 seconds are likely never to be recalled.
- In 7 minutes, the ideas are gone forever.

PEN TO PAPER (cont.)

Many times ideas you get in your alone time are God ideas. Proverbs is a collection of God ideas that were written down and collected.

2. Identify Your Thoughts

Writing in a journal helps you express your thoughts and is a great tool for self-discovery and self-improvement.

As you begin to write down your thoughts, it's not just a goal setting tool. It helps you identify and come face to face with things in your life that need to be dealt with.

There is an answer in the Word of God for every problem in your life; however, you don't know where to focus the Word until you identify the problem.

Ask yourself the hard questions!

Writing helps you identify your strengths *AND* your weaknesses.

3. Find Clarity

Asking questions helps you find clarity.

Gary Keller - "Why focus on a question when what we really crave is an answer? It's simple. Answers come from questions, and the quality of any answer is directly determined by the quality of the question."

A number of the Psalms are not just David journaling his challenges, they are him coming up with the solution in the process of writing.

Read *Psalms 69* and *Psalms 142*

PEN TO PAPER (cont.)

Ask yourself these questions:

- What advice would you give to someone in this situation?
- What would make this situation better?
- What actions are needed to change things?
- What are you doing wrong?
- What are you doing right?

4. Plan Your Future

Remember Amy Purdy's story.

When was the last time you sat and wrote about your purpose, your dreams, your vision?

Never underestimate the power of a blank book!

5. Hear from the Lord in Prayer

Listening to messages and going to church is great, but nothing replaces hearing God for yourself.

The biggest question people have is, "how do I know if I'm hearing God or not?"

The quick answer is, "PRACTICE."

Quit overthinking your writing.

And don't be quick to only write down what you think is coming from your spirit when you start - slow down and *LISTEN!*

God created all of you, spirit, soul, and body!

1 Thessalonians 5:23, "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

PEN TO PAPER (cont.)

God will primarily speak to you through your spirit, but He can speak to your mind through thoughts and ideas as well.

1 Corinthians 2:16 states, "But we have the mind of Christ."

Trust John 10:4 where Jesus said, "His sheep would follow Him because they would know His voice."

The more you do this, the easier it will become to discern what is your own mind and what is God.

Quick things that help this process:

1. Study the Word
2. Pray in the Spirit

Yes, you will miss it some, but if it's not leading you to sin, then so what?

Learning to hear God's voice clearly is a PROCESS, not an event!