

Imagination

PALM & PEN

School for Christian Artists



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Imagination



Say the word “Imagination” and all I can think of is “Give me more, I want more!”

I’d love to be more creative, to think new thoughts, dream and engage in flights of imagination that are exciting and different from my routine, boring approaches to life and art.

As an artist, the thought of focussing on a topic like imagination is exciting. What might I uncover? I know just spending time with such a topic will change me. Whatever we turn our focussed attention to can reveal secrets that were unknown to us before.

When I think about imagination, I can begin where I am right now to take flight to areas I may never have considered before!
Once I’ve left my safe place, my home of the familiar, even if only in my thoughts, there is no returning unchanged. I will be enriched.

Pursuing a study on Imagination, especially as it is revealed in the Bible, will change you.



New thoughts and ideas can be birthed from the act of exercising your imagination. Those new ideas can then be built upon and multiplied.

As a Christian artist, I am committed to align every bit of knowledge in the discipline of art and creativity with what God has revealed in the Bible, as I'm sure you are also. If you did not care, you would not be here in this School.

There is plenty to learn about art and creativity from the best artists in the field, without bothering to study about what might be revealed in the Bible.

However, if you are a frequent visitor to the School or have followed my work, you know that I am convinced that if you limit yourself to only worldly knowledge, then you are missing out.

You may never have heard the topic of Imagination taught in a Bible study, not because it can not be found in the Bible, but rather because it was never really sought for. It is unlikely to find something if you do not seek for it.

But when you turn to the Author of our Faith, Jesus, and seek the guidance of His Holy Spirit by looking in His Holy Word, then He will open to us ideas we never considered before.

He will do it because He is good, and He has good plans and purposes for your life on this earth.

Imagination

Be diligent (study)
to present yourself approved
to God,
a worker who does not need to be
ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.
2Ti 2:15



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It would terrify me to twist, stretch or attempt to squeeze what the Bible says to suit whatever ideas I may have in mind.

If I do not see it in the Bible, I will discard it, no matter how tantalizing a thought it might be. I must answer to God for my actions here on earth! So to be sloppy or dishonest with His word is something that I would never dare to do!

If I am in error, I will correct myself.

I am a seeker of truth just like you, and this journey is an act of faith for me, as it will be for you.

Notes



I commit to restraining myself to stay well within the boundaries of God's Holy Word. We will not be taking any unbiblical flights of fancy, which is to me a working of imagination contrary to His holy word.

But we will be stretching in our thinking, humbling ourselves to consider that we DO NOT know all there is to know about imagination, either in the Bible, or from the collective human wisdom of the ages.

How can I be sure?

Because the breadth of God's purposes have not yet been fully accomplished. His kingdom has yet to be spread to all the earth. The good news of the gospel of Jesus is yet to be shared everywhere. There is much work that must still be done.

Could it not be possible that we were created to engage our imaginations with the help of the Holy Spirit to express our unique and personal knowledge of Him to some part of our world hungry for the goodness of God?

I am convinced of it!

God has something waiting for each of us, something that He will impart, something specific—just for you, some knowledge of Him, some expression of His goodness you never saw before, something He will reveal in a manner consistent with who He is.

As long as His church is still on their earth, His plans and purposes have not yet been fully accomplished for us.

Grace and peace
be multiplied to you
in the knowledge of God
and of **Jesus** our Lord,

as His divine power
has given to us all things
that pertain to life and godliness,
through the knowledge of Him
who called us by glory and virtue,
2Pe 1:2-3



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In 2 Pet 1:3 I learn that getting to know God is the key for everything pertaining to living a life of godliness.

I learn from Peter that His divine power has, (in the past tense), already given me, or made available to me, ALL THINGS pertaining to my life here on earth. Everything I will ever need is connected with getting to know Him better.

The more I know Him and what He has called me to, the more I can receive and enjoy the things He has provided.

Receiving anything in God's Kingdom is only by faith.

So confidence in what He has said in the Bible, which I consider His legal document, is crucial for enjoying what He has provided. Like any legal document, knowing its contents is vital for availing of its clauses and privileges.

Ignorance is not bliss. Ignorance will rob us.

If ALL things are given to us, it stands to reason that creative ability and IMAGINATION is also given.

And like everything provided by Him, it is not dumped on us all at once—we grow in our ability to receive and enjoy.



As Christian artists, our objective is to please God. In this course we are going to understand how to develop and use our imagination, in a manner that pleases Him.

For it is the God
who commanded
light to shine out
of darkness,
who has **shone in our hearts**
to give
the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.
2Co 4:6



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God intends for us to know Him and He intends for us to share our knowledge.

He is the giver of the light of the knowledge of His glory. And from this verse we understand that that kind of knowledge is found “in the face of Jesus Christ.”

What does that really mean?

We will find out.



He created the flexible ability of our minds to think, dream, stretch, wonder and work out complex problems.

You will discover that it is indisputable that God endorses the use of our imaginations. What's more, you will learn that He makes Himself perfectly clear in a rather exciting manner!

What is exciting about embarking on a course like this one, is that none of us can know where this will lead us.

The Lord has promised to be our guide and the depths of His insight no one has ever fully grasped.

So to say that the possibilities are limitless is the absolute truth!

Notes



As artists we are always on the prowl for something to trigger our imagination. We search for inspiration in order to find new directions for our work. We take classes, follow our favorite artists, take their workshops, or we spend hours feasting on visual sources like Pinterest and Instagram. Usually there is plenty of visual input to inspire us and motivate us to create our own work.

However, sometimes we can get stuck in a rut, repeating what has worked before. Or we can dry up, feeling like nothing we ever will do will be clever or imaginative enough!

I've had those seasons when I am convinced that whatever I create is just downright boring!

Breaking out of that rut can be difficult, but it need not be.

Whenever I apply faith to what God tells me in His word, then creativity flows unhindered.



I testify that when I first began exploring my purposes as an artist, I had neither the skill, nor the creativity! Most of you know my story.

But my story is not finished yet on earth. With each passing day, I grow in insight and knowledge. God gives me increase in every area of my artistic and spiritual growth as He will for you too.

My work is in places I never would have imagined when I first began. One of my sculptures is even in a Museum!

If it is any encouragement, watching me over the years should convince you that if any creative growth was possible for someone as limited in my abilities as I once was, then it is definitely possible for you!

I have not attained to the great heights of my longing for expression, but neither am I where I used to be just a few short years ago! My journey with Jesus has made all the difference in the world to my creativity.

But my simply telling you that may not necessarily convince you.

So let's take a look at Imagination as defined in the Dictionary and then compare it to what the Bible says. Seeing how contrary Biblical and natural perspectives are may, perhaps, persuade you as to why it is important to take this Bible study to build your foundation for your creative future.

If you don't understand or appreciate the difference, then you run the risk of being a skilled artist without the necessary biblical perspective on the purpose for your gift of art, imagination and creativity.

Imagination

Dictionary: The faculty or action of forming **NEW** ideas, or images or concepts of external objects not present to the senses.



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Let us look at the dictionary definition of imagination. According to the dictionary, Imagination is the faculty or action of forming NEW ideas or images or concepts not present to the senses.

The ideas, images and concepts have to be completely NEW, of external objects that we cannot see (when first conceived), before it is considered a legitimate work of the imagination.

Well, when I look at this definition I'd have to conclude that it sounds as if human imagination has the power to create something out of nothing.

That which has been
is what will be,
That which is done
is what will be done,
**And there is nothing
new under the sun.**
Ecc 1:9

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But we are fooling ourselves if we believe that our imagination can concoct anything that is completely new and original!

According to Ecc 1:9, "That which has been is what will be. That which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun."

This verse actually makes me feel relieved! I don't have to carry the burden of not being creative enough. The most creative person on the planet is still not creating anything that is truly unique and original.

As an artist, you don't have to struggle for complete originality, because according to the Bible, it is unattainable.

"Then," you might ask, "What purpose is there for our imagination?" What room is there for imagination to stretch, find wings and fly?"

Create

בָּרָא
bārā'

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In the Bible, the first power to create (the Hebrew word is Bara) is reserved for God alone;

He spoke and His words created the universe out of nothing.

I don't have to tell you that we do not have that ability! You are already aware of that.

Creating something out of nothing, as God does, is not the purpose for our imagination.

But don't let that discourage you because the real purpose for imagination is still very exciting, full of potential and has plenty of fuel to keep us busy creating for our lifetimes!



I am reminded of a Resale Store near me that sells USED designer clothing. I've always loved its name. The store is called, "NEW TO YOU!" How accurate!

The clothes are not new, but they could be "new to you," if you chose to purchase them.

There is a world of exploration ahead of us with the potential for the discovery of things that may not be radically new in the world, but they could be NEW to YOU.

Those discoveries are just as exciting!

In the process of discovery, you could be blessed to uncover something that truly is new in this world. Even so, it was definitely not new to God!



You might have heard of the familiar account of The VELCRO® brand of hook and loop, invented by a man named George de Mestral in the 1940's while hunting in the Jura mountains of Switzerland.

George, a Swiss engineer, entertained his curiosity about the cockle-burs that were stuck on his pants and in his dog's fur. His imagination translated his observation of the hook and loop of the cockle-burr into the radically new product that is now so familiar to us as VELCRO.

But despite how new it was in the world, it was not new to God.

George's imagination merely took God's creative power in the natural world and translated it into a useful discovery for mankind.

What similar discoveries could be waiting for you and me?

We will never know until we deliberately step beyond the obvious. Understanding some biblical guidelines, approaching the whole subject in faith and with the Lord's help, we could be blessed with interesting discoveries of our own.

Even if your discoveries are not entirely new in the world, God may intend that you share whatever He reveals to you with someone for whom they are entirely NEW ideas!



We are called to be light bearers. We do not initiate the light, but are merely reflections of His light to shine in a very dark world.

So don't discount serving Him by sharing your inspired moments with others in your pursuit for totally new ideas.

Even if some radically new discovery never comes to you, there is still much you can do to make your knowledge of God a reality in this world by using your imagination. And don't ever forget this is not a journey alone, but with the Holy Spirit.

He has purposes for you that are exceptional and immensely satisfying to walk out, YES, even for you, no matter how insignificant you feel!

So without further ado, let's jump in!

SARA JOSEPH



But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

that no flesh should glory in His presence.

1Co 1:27-29