



I CAN ONLY **IMAGINE**

IMAGINATION DEFINED

- the faculty or action of forming new ideas, or images or concepts of external objects not **[yet]** present to the senses.
- the ability of the mind to be **creative** or resourceful.
- Genuine **creativity** comes from The **Creator**.
- Christians should be the most **creative**!

“

What is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

- Hebrews 11:3

FAITH TAKES IMAGINATION

- Notice what this verse is sandwiched between.
- “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about **what we do not see**. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”
- Hebrews 11:1-3

FAITH TAKES IMAGINATION

- Verse 4 launches into the Great Hall of Faith!!!
- What is faith if it is not dreaming with God and **daring to imagine a future that is more glorious than the present?**
- Faith claims a promise from God then imagines a future in which it is fulfilled.

“

Whatever you ask for in prayer,
believe that you have received it,
and it will be yours.

- Mark 11:24

FAITH TAKES IMAGINATION

- Literally: *have already received*
- That takes imagination!
- Our mind's **Reticular Activating System** then goes to work, bringing to our attention the resources we need to turn imagination into reality

RANDOM THOUGHT FROM DONNA ALERT

- Angels are assigned to SERVE us.
- But servants wait for instruction!
- Clear instructions flow from a clear image in your mind of what you want the final result to look like. (Think of wedding planners!)
- Commission angels to carry out what we **have dared to imagine** and prayed for in faith.

“

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he.

- Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

“

Where there is no vision, the
people are **unrestrained**.

- Proverbs 29:18 (NASB)

OBEDIENCE TAKES IMAGINATION

- What does unrestrained look like?
- Avoiding pain.
- Pursuing pleasure.
- In Christians, it manifests in subconscious drives to *comfort, cope and escape* in socially acceptable ways like over-eating, internet surfing, idle conversation, etc.

OBEDIENCE TAKES IMAGINATION

- The eternal question of every child and everyone's inner child: *Why should I?!?*
- It's a reminder of the way humans are wired.
- Before taking any action, our brain looks for a compelling reason to go to the bother of overcoming the laws of inertia.

OBEDIENCE TAKES IMAGINATION

- *Why will always find a way.*
- That's why Vision Boards are powerful.
- Vision precedes and fuels sustained action.

OBEDIENCE TAKES IMAGINATION

- The Bible says people who lack imagination — who cannot envision a better future — tend toward DISOBEDIENCE.
- Those who **can imagine** better days ahead will find the internal motivation to obey, even when they don't 'feel' like it.

OBEDIENCE TAKES IMAGINATION

- Vision [imagination] gives us the motivation to ‘restrain’ our impulsive behaviors in order to obtain the outcome God has promised can be ours.
- Whether that’s a good-looking husband, an international ministry or a promotion at work.

OBEDIENCE TAKES IMAGINATION

- Whatever God promises you (from his Word, through a sermon, a prophetic word or your own time in prayer) requires a journey of obedience.
- It will not drop out of heaven upon you.
- You will need to *co-labor* with God in order to **become the person you will need to be** to see the fulfillment.

“

No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
and no mind has **imagined** what
God has prepared for those who
love him.

- 1 Cor. 2:9

“

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or **imagine**, according to his power that is at work within us.

- Ephesians 3:20

YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT COMES NEXT

- Are you ready?!?!?
- “As a prisoner for the Lord, **then**, I urge you to **live a life worthy of the calling you have received.**” (Ephesians 4:1)
- Why is the “then” there?
- Because God wants to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine!!!

GOT IT?

- If you want to see God do immeasurably more than you can ask or imagine...
- Then “live a life worthy of the calling.”
- But the FUEL required to “live a life worthy of the calling” is daring to **imagine what it might look like** when God does more than you can imagine!

“

Got Imagination?

- Donna Partow

OBEDIENCE TAKES IMAGINATION

- Imagination is the invisible motivation to self-restraint and the power to do what we know we ought to do, when, where and how we ought to do it, whether or not we feel like it. [A Life WORTHY of the call!]
- Only vision can kill procrastination, which is just an insidious form of disobedience.

OBEDIENCE TAKES IMAGINATION

- When you “catch the vision,” all of a sudden you will do whatever it takes to make it happen!
- What keeps Olympic athletes training 8 hours a day for years on end? Vision.
- What keeps writers, artists, inventors and entrepreneurs laboring at their task? Vision!

OBEDIENCE TAKES IMAGINATION

- If you lack self-discipline [unrestrained], the real problem may not be lack of will-power.
- **It may be a lack of imagination.**
- The answer may not be ‘trying harder.’
- The answer may be improving your imagination [more on that in the next session!]

“

“I saw the angel in the marble and
carved until I set him free.”

- Michelangelo

FULFILLING YOUR MISSION TAKES IMAGINATION

- Corporations, churches and other organizations call it “Vision Casting” and understand that imagining a new destination is key to daily motivation.
- The same is true for us.
- What keeps people ‘burning the midnight oil’? *Imagining the finished work.*

“

Whether you think you can or
whether you think you can't,
you're right.

- Henry Ford

FULFILLING YOUR MISSION TAKES IMAGINATION

- Is that just New Age mumbo-jumbo?
- No, it's common sense and a clear description of neuroscience. It's human behavior 101.
- **Living a Worthy Life...**requires belief that your obedience, diligence and hard work will pay off by creating a better future (the one you have imagined).

YOUR FUTURE REQUIRES IMAGINATION

- If you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always got and be who you've always been.
- To have a new experience, you must have a new approach.
- To **have** and **do** something different, you have to **become** something different.

YOUR FUTURE REQUIRES IMAGINATION

- Most of us spend all our time trying to “figure stuff out.” That’s not faith. It’s the opposite of faith.
- What if we let go of “figuring stuff out” and dared to have the faith simply to imagine a glorious future that **ONLY GOD** can create - *and create out of nothing?*

YOUR FUTURE REQUIRES IMAGINATION

- Everything you see around you began as a thought in someone's mind.
- The chair you're sitting on.
- The computer you're watching on.
- The bed you climbed out of this morning.
- The world began as God's idea.



RESOURCES FROM WEU

*Personal & Professional Development
from a Distinctively Biblical Perspective*

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

- ▶ **Make This Your Best Year Ever: 21-Day Class**

Although most people take it at the beginning of the year, it's a powerful program that can be taken any time:
www.bestyear.co (not .com)

RECOMMENDED TRAINING

- Lifestyle Freedom Event in Costa Rica
- Come to a place where you are free to
IMAGINE the life you were born to live!
- www.7daystofreedom.com



PRAYER

What Can You Imagine?