

Daring Faith - Part 2
I Can Only Imagine
02/28/2021

- Your Imagination
- Your Ability to Dream
- One of the greatest gifts that God has given you is the gift of imagination
- You can use it in a positive way or a negative way
- Fear comes from misuse of imagination
- Faith comes from proper use of imagination
- Your imagination is a gift from God
- God imagines
- God's foreknowledge.
- Everything starts with imagination

3 Categories in the Bible

A) There are some things we should **NOT** imagine.

- Evil imaginations or vain imaginations or empty imaginations
- Worry is a misuse of your imagination
- Lust is a misuse of imagination
- Revenge is a misuse of imagination

B) There are some things we **CANNOT** imagine.

- We can't imagine how great God is
- We can't imagine how much God loves you
- We can't imagine what heaven is going to be like

1 John 3:2 (NLT) "Yes, dear friends, we are already God's children, and we can't even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is."

C) There are some things that we **SHOULD** imagine.

Philippians 4:8 (NLT) Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

1st) My imagination **SHAPES** my life.

- My thoughts shape my life
- The way I think affects the way I feel
- The Way I feel affects the way I act
- If I want to change the way I act I simply change my thoughts

- It's too simple!

Proverb 23:7 (KJV) For as a man thinks in his heart, so he is

Proverb 4:23 (TEV) "Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts."

Albert Einstein - "Imagination is more important than knowledge. Logic will get you from A to B; imagination will take you everywhere. There's no limit to imagination. The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination."

George Bernard Shaw -: Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire. You will what you imagine. Then you create what you will.

Napoleon Bonaparte - "Imagination rules the world."

William Arthur Ward - "If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it!"

George Lucas - "You can't do it unless you imagine it."

Walt Disney - "Disneyland will never be completed. It will continue to grow as long as there is imagination left in the world."

2nd) Imagination is **IMPORTANT** to living by faith.

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT) "What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see."

- Faith is a way of seeing
- When you can't see something physically you have to imagine it in your mind
- Here's the problem - Storms of life have a way of marginalizing our faith
- We don't get what we prayed for so we stop praying

Psalms 92:12 (NLT) But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon

3rd) Great lives are built around great **DREAMS**.

- You become great by attaching your life to a great cause, a great purpose or a great dream.

Ephesians 1:18 (NJB) "May God enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see the hope that his calling holds for you."

- They're following *their* dream instead of *God's* dream
- That's your calling
- That's your assignment

Proverb 28:18 (KJV) “Where there is no vision, the people perish. . .”

4th) God’s dream for my life is **BIGGER** than my dream.

Eph. 3:20 (MSG) “God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!” He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us – his Spirit working deeply and gently within us.”

God wants me to dream **BIG**.

Let the size of my God determine **THE SIZE OF MY GOAL!**

5th) Doubt is the **ENEMY** of imagination.

- Doubt and fear neutralize what God wants to do in your life
- It takes courage to imagine
- *Status quo* - the mess we’re in
- I’m not about to let fear dominate my life.
- God will show up in your life
- Courage is when you do the thing while you are afraid

James 1:5-7 (NIV) “If you need wisdom, just ask God for it, because He is generous and enjoys giving to everyone. But when you ask God, you must believe in faith and not doubt. For a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven back and forth, and tossed about by the wind. Such doubters cannot decide about anything they do, so they should not imagine receiving anything from the Lord.”

6th) God’s **SPIRIT** and God’s **WORD** fuel my imagination.

John 14:16-17 (GW) “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper who will be with you forever. That helper is the Spirit of Truth. You’ll know him, because he lives with you and will be IN you!”

Psalms 119:27 (NLT) “Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your law. Help me understand the meaning of your commandments, and I will meditate on your wonderful miracles.”

The key to stronger, healthier biblical imagination is a **DAILY QUIET TIME**.

- It’s actually easier to hear from God when you’re relaxed than when you’re stressed out
- Living by faith doesn’t mean a problem free life, it actually means the opposite

Job 33:14-16 (NLT) “God speaks again and again, though people often do not recognize it. He speaks in dreams, and in visions of the night when deep sleep falls on people as they lie in bed.”

7th) Growing my character will **CLARIFY** my vision.

- You need to focus on growing up spiritually
- The more mature you become the clearer the vision will be

2 Peter 1:5-9 (NIV) For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

- God is not going to give a dream if you're not ready to handle it