

## IMAGINATION “Capturing the Dream”

### Introduction

*Thus far, we have looked at the imagination, its being an issue of the heart, and our need to renew our minds. Now, I want to lay out some simple principles by which we can capture God’s vision for our lives.*

*This process begins with asking some pointed, crucial questions:*

*What is your purpose? Why are you alive? If life is simply a matter of waking up, eating, laboring, and sleeping again, it’s not that purposeful of a life. God had a reason for giving you life. What is it?*

*Do your dreams go beyond tomorrow? Do they go beyond the end of the week? Do they go beyond the end of the month? Do your dreams go beyond this year? Do your dreams go beyond this generation? Do your dreams encompass something that goes way beyond your lifetime?*

*These are things that we need to ask ourselves and then we need to get clear with God. What I want to share are just some simple things that we can do that will help us get clear with God in terms of what His purpose is for our lives, because once we determine that, we can then engage our faith. As we go through this study, you will see the connection between vision and purpose and faith. We will see that we are called to live in accordance to that purpose and calling of God.*

Joel 2:28-29

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.  
KJV<sup>1</sup>

*How is it that in our culture today the realm of prophecy is relegated mostly to charlatans and the occult? Make no mistake, tarot card readings, palm readings, and psychic hot lines are big business. They are big business because there is a hunger in man to know the future. And not just any general future of planet earth—people want to know **their** future. Prophecy was one of the mechanisms God designed to help people know their future and He meant it to be operated by His people. In this function, the Church has failed the culture. We are to be a prophetic people, in tune to the heart of God for ourselves and those around us.*

*His promise is that He is going to pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. And when the Spirit comes down prophecies, dreams, and visions break out. People gain direction. This is the Lord’s desire.*

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<sup>1</sup> All references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

*Recall when the Lord took of the Spirit that was upon Moses and placed it on the 70? The men had gathered around the tabernacle and when the Spirit of God came upon them, they prophesied. But two men missed the meeting. But the Spirit still came upon them. Isn't it nice to know that you can miss the meeting and God can still find you? They weren't in the right place at the right time. They missed their appointment—their appointed time, and yet God found them in the camp and placed the Holy Spirit upon them and they prophesied.*

*One of the young men ran and told Moses. When Joshua heard it, he got upset. “My lord, Moses, forbid them,” he said. Moses' reply revealed the heart of God. “Are you jealous for my sake? Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!”<sup>2</sup> It is a deep desire of God that His Spirit be on His people and that they would prophesy. We were not meant to live this life without the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit.*

*Prophecies, visions, and dreams all have portents of the future wrapped up in them. Even in prophetic words that are comforting, that simply tell us where we are give us direction and point to the future by the mere fact of letting us know where we stand. It's like the information board in a shopping mall. The most relevant piece of information on that map is the little star that says, “You Are Here.”*

*To have a valid dream and some real idea of the future requires the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.*

Matthew 22:36-38

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

*As we have seen in our previous studies, the “mind” of verse 37 really is our imaginations. We saw that these came from the heart and were worked out in the soul. God wants us to love Him with all of our imagination—that every dream we have, we think about furthering the purposes of the Kingdom on earth. Part of the problem with our current state in the church is that we are so enraptured with being raptured to heaven, we have forgotten to bring heaven to earth.*

*“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” That is our prayer and our job. We are to take part by our prayers and faith in bringing heaven down to earth. Our imaginations are to be engaged in the pursuit and love of God, capturing His dream for us and proving His will and purposes on the earth.*

*How do we capture that dream? We need to understand that dreams and imaginations are a function of the spirit realm. Things are dreamed, imagined, thought of in the spirit realm first and then given birth in the physical realm. An idea, an invention, a dream is not a tangible thing. It's a spiritual thing. Someone has to grab that reality that isn't tangible and makes it come to be in the material, earthly realm. There are evil inventions that are birthed by evil spirits and*

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<sup>2</sup> Num 11:24-29

*brought about by wicked or deceived people. There are wonderful inventions that are given birth through the ingenuity of the Holy Spirit.*

*Moses was given a vision of the tabernacle. He imparted that vision to the craftsmen who, under the leading hand of the Holy Spirit, manufactured it in the physical realm. It existed in the spirit realm first. They birthed the vision into the material realm by following it in faith with their work. This is how dreams become a reality in our world.*

*What's your vision? What's your purpose? What's your calling? And let's not pull a religious cop out by thinking that only "ministers" have a calling or that only "missionary" work qualifies. Be ye holy for I am holy, says the Lord. In the believer's life and in the kingdom of God there is no separation between sacred and secular. All we do is to be sacred for He has sanctified us. Any occupation He has called you to is noble. Someone who is called to be a carpenter has no less a calling than someone who is called to be a doctor or a pastor.*

*We need to understand that the callings and purposes of God are practical, they are real, they should carry us through life, and we should be able to impart them to the next generation because if our dreams are big enough, we should not be able to fulfill them in our lifetime should the Lord tarry. Abraham never saw his dream fulfilled. He saw the seed of that dream, Isaac. He walked through the land. But he never saw the vision fulfilled. But his faith in the promise of God was such that he bought a plot of ground to bury his dead and it was the only ground he owned. Vision gives faith.*

*Imagination is where we capture our vision. This vision is inspired by God through His Holy Spirit and is tied directly to our faith.*

Romans 1:17

For therein [the gospel of Christ] is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

*The just shall live by faith is a foundational tenant of the Reformation. But what is the context of this quotation of Scripture? Paul is quoting from Habakkuk chapter 2. It is from there that I hope to glean a process by which we can capture God's purpose for our lives; things we need to do to cooperate with His purposes so that we can know the direction we are going in so that we can engage our faith and actually accomplish that which God had ordained before the foundations of the earth that we should do.*

*There are things that you are destined and ordained to do. If you fail to do them, God will find somebody else to fulfill that purpose. But He had an intent for you to do that. He's got a plan and the plan is bigger than you are. His grace is that He wants to engage you in that plan. He wants to engage you in that function.<sup>3</sup> But God is not going to have His purposes thwarted. He has a purpose and He is going to accomplish it. The great wonder of this thing, the great mystery of this thing is that we get to be involved in His great work and plan.*

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<sup>3</sup> Esther 4:14

*People go and visit great monuments and they are impressive if only by their sheer size. The Great Wall of China, the pyramids of Egypt, and the Eiffel Tower come to mind. They are great works. But their construction required the labor of a lot of grunts. There were a lot of minions that were part of that vision. There were many people who were digging in the dirt. Others were stacking rocks or putting in bolts.*

*I remember that after 9/11 the iron workers declared that they were going to help clean up ground zero because they had put up the twin towers. They had been involved in a great work and shared a measure of the accomplishment. But over them presided foremen, general contractors, and architects. But all shared pride in the work. The point is that however low-level you might think you are, you aren't because every function in God's redemptive plan is essential. What is your dream? What generation are you raising? What are you imparting? What are you supposed to do? What are you supposed to take care of? How far does that dream carry you? We need to capture that.*

Habakkuk 2:1-4

- 1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.
- 2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.
- 3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.
- 4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

*These verses lay out for us a pattern by which we can capture God's dream for our lives.*

## **I. Watch and Pray – vs. 1**

## **II. Write the Vision, Make It Plain**

## **III. Read and Run with It (Obey)**

## **IV. Don't Be Proud, Be Faithful**

## **Conclusion**