

Prayer that Gets Results (Part 4)

9. Embrace the power of your imagination

Heb 11:3

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.

Our imagination is our capacity to visualise. It's confident and hopeful of a reality that contradicts our experience. Vision is the mental image produced by our imagination.

We use our imagination everyday e.g. remembering where you parked your car, or giving directions. Having a Godly imagination is a central aspect of mind renewal. I am often visualising the next part of my day. I can respond calmly because I am just pressing the replay button of something I have already seen.

Your imagination can only work with the information you give it. That's why we need to build our imagination based on God's information and not the devil's. If you have had negative abusive situations in your life, the result is often a distorted picture of reality. We see the world as we are not as it is. How sanctified is your imagination.

John 20:29

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Thomas needed to develop his capacity to imagine what he could not see in the natural.

John 5:19

Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."

Jesus saw first then acted. We must see first then pray. What is influencing your seeing? What are you seeing on a daily basis? Let your prayers stem from this seeing. Jesus said we must pray "Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven", therefore we must have a vision of heaven. God wants our imagination to be redeemed. **God is calling us to dream with Him.**

What image do you have of yourself in relation to others?

Numbers 13:33

We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

People will treat you how you treat yourself. They will see you how you see yourself.

What you vividly imagine, ardently desire, sincerely believe and enthusiastically act upon must inevitably come to pass. ... Paul J Meyer.

Gen 11: 1-9

¹ Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ² As people moved eastward,^[a] they found a plain in Shinar^[b] and settled there. ³ They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."⁵ But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶ The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they **plan to do** will be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."⁸ So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why it was called Babel^[c]—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

This is the raw material God gives us to create things in our lives. Our words, our unity and our vision. Human beings can aspire. It's one thing to dream, it's another thing to dream together.

Yazemu = consider, purpose or devise. They had a vision. You have to see it first. We are always visualizing but we tend to do so in the context of worry and anxiety. If you say, "I am afraid of what my boss will say", I know you are visualising something.

Gen 6:5

The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil.

God wants to sanctify our imagination.

Prov 6:18

An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief.

It's highlighted as one of the things that are an abomination to the Lord.

Romans 1:21 KJV

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Some translations say "futile in their thinking or speculations"

When you do not actively include God in your imaginations your imagination can begin to work against you.

Prayer becomes more powerful when we involve the imagination. Someone once said, "faith is an act of the imagination".

Eph 3:20

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

God needs something to work with if He is going to multiply what you give Him. Your raw materials include your imagination not just your prayers. **"Imagination is not the opposite of reality or the enemy of the truth" Brandon O'Brien.**

Summary:

See it and say it, believe it and receive it.

10. Embrace the power of agreement

Mt 18:19 – 20

¹⁹ Again, I tell you truly that if two of you on the earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather together in My name, there am I with them."...

The enemy loves to get us out of agreement with each other so that our prayers are not powerful. A large part of leading prayer that gets results is making sure we are praying in agreement. We must be aligned with leadership. God honours authority. **This means our prayers and prayer meeting agendas must be legitimate. God gives leaders vision and we pray in alignment with that vision.**

Be careful of charismatic witchcraft.

Is your whole family seeing the same thing? Is the whole church seeing the same thing? Do we all want to make disciples?

Your horizontal relationships with man will always have an impact on your vertical covenantal relationship with God.

Embracing the power of agreement is not some mere formula, but rather it's to do with heart oneness with those around us.

It's one thing to dream, it's another thing to dream together.

Spousal Relationships

1 Pet 3:7 NIV

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

(NLT) In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

Neighbourly relationships

Mt 5:22 – 24

²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' will be subject to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be subject to the fire of hell.

²³ Therefore if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,

²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift....

Judgements

Mt 7:1-3

¹ Do not judge, or you will be judged. ² For with the same judgment you pronounce, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ³ Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but fail to notice the beam in your own eye?...

Our self-righteous judgments of others often short circuit the grace of God from functioning in our lives. You can pray wonderful prayers asking God to release His grace and work on your behalf but as long as you are not extending grace to your brothers and sisters you will limit what God wants to do in your life.

James 1:19 – 20

¹⁹ My beloved brothers, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, ²⁰ for man's anger does not bring about the righteousness that God desires.

Release people who have wronged you and see what God does.