

No theme... just random thoughts for 10 weeks!

Week 9 – Imagination

And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they will begin to do and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Genesis 11:6 (KJV)

All of God's human creatures are capable of imagining, and that's how I can understand that there is no accident with God. God is purpose and objectivity. It is important for all of humankind to understand that when you see it in your imagination all materials and creative potential are readily made available.

Our imagination is a gift to us from God, and once imaginings are established in thought, they will manifest. If you are in my age range, you likely will no longer dream of academic, marriage, children, or professional goals in your life? However, if you are teenage to college and beyond, these are the questions you are likely asking yourself. Once you capture the image in your head, it will be established. With that thought in mind, be careful what you imagine.

"Imagination is more important than knowledge", said Dr. Albert Einstein. Who could argue the credibility of the author of that quote? And, more importantly, who among us cannot see that each "new" piece of knowledge is still being stirred by the imaginings of the human mind.

Several years ago, I learned about imagination from a five year old boy. Early in my speaking career, I used the title *Put Your Stars in a Row* for all of my motivational presentations. The idea came from the son of our best friends at the time. The little five year old is now a professional with a great family, but his message that cold January night warmed my heart and is an impetus for imagination in all human beings. Steven was a student at the local Museum School, a pre-kindergarten program for children. His assignment? "Make a picture of the night sky."

He was provided a piece of black construction paper, a yellow paper circle, and ten lick and stick stars. Steven was to place the moon and stars on the paper in the image of the sky. He glued the moon in the upper left corner of the paper. His stars were in a straight row from the left edge of the paper with each star strategically placed.

Steven's mother showed the picture pinned on the hall wall and asked if I had any idea why Steven would put his stars in a row. I said, "I don't know. Did you ask him?" She said, "No, but you are the behaviorist, you ask him."

When he returned from a visit to "Grandpa's house", I asked Steven to show me his room. We entered the marvel of a little boy's private world. There was Garfield the Cat pictures and toys, story books, a rocking horse, match box car race tracks, and fairy tale

character curtains with a bedspread to match. He showed me all his newest toys and talked about games and cartoon videos.

Finally, we went into the hall to see his Museum School art. When we came to the sky picture, he quickly pointed and said, "*That's the sky*".

I said, "*Steven is that the way the sky really looks?*" "*Oh no*", he said with some irritation. "*Then why does your sky have all of the stars in a row?*" was my curious inquiry. With all the wisdom and vision of a person who has not been affected by Madison Avenues desire for everyone to look and act alike he said, "*Because that's the way I want it.*"

For the first time in my adult life I realized that many of my childhood dreams had vanished for the sake of what others people wanted. As much as my family had encouraged me to be creative and dream, negative messages had slipped in to remove those desires. It took the deliberate words of a five year old to put my dreams in motion.

My personal visions of being on stage as a public speaker, teacher, and preacher became more vivid and ultimately reality. Some naysayers may try to steal your dreams by telling you "who or what you are not" rather than allowing you to dream "WHO YOU ARE."

It is OK for your stars to shine in a row just as you "have imagined to do" or be.

Peace always,
Ted