



Week 8: **Sowing Creativity...** *When we sow creativity, the fruit we get is **HOPE!***

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In the beginning God created... (Gen 1:1 NLT-SE)

**- The Creative Nature of God ~ Genesis 1**

- The **very essence** of who God is, and the first thing He reveals about Himself through His Word is, that He is a creator. Let's read all of Chapter 1, in context:

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God **created** the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

<sup>3</sup> Then God said, "**Let there be** light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness.

<sup>5</sup> God called the light "day" and the darkness "night." And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

<sup>6</sup> Then God said, "Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth." <sup>7</sup> And that is what happened. God **made** this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens.

<sup>8</sup> God called the space "sky." And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.

<sup>9</sup> Then God said, "Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear." And that is what happened. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry ground "land" and the waters "seas." And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup> Then God said, "Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came." And that is what happened. <sup>12</sup> The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>13</sup> And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.

<sup>14</sup> Then God said, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. <sup>15</sup> Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth." And that is what happened. <sup>16</sup> God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, <sup>18</sup> to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>19</sup> And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.” <sup>21</sup> So God **created** great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”

<sup>23</sup> And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.” And that is what happened. <sup>25</sup> God **made** all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us **make** human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup> So God **created** human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

<sup>29</sup> Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. <sup>30</sup> And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life.” And that is what happened.

<sup>31</sup> Then God looked over all he had **made**, and he saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day. (Gen 1:1–31 NLT-SE)

- There are **two very different Hebrew words** having to do with God’s actions that are used here:

- Create...<sup>H1254</sup>**bara**...to form from nothing.
- Made/Make...<sup>H6213</sup>**asah**...to form from something that was already created.
- “Everything was created before it was made. Creation is the act that started the process. **In order for something to be created, you have to start with nothing.** That is why creation is ascribed to no one but God. Only God could start with nothing and end up with something. This is why God has a problem with idol worship. Because when you worship and idol, you are worshipping something that is less than God.” Dr. Myles Munroe

- There are three significant problems that are addressed in verse 2:

- **Formless**...or without order. There was disorder, no order to the planet.
- **Empty**...other translations use chaos or confusion.
- **Darkness**...The absence of light.

- These three problems are NOT the result of God’s actions:

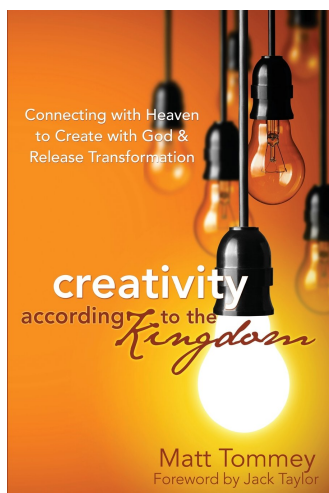


Dr. Myles Munroe (1954 - Nov. 9, 2014)

- **Formless...** "God is a God of order." (1 Cor 14:40) That means, if things are out of order, somebody else is at work.
  - **Empty...** "God is not the author of confusion" (1 Cor 14:33)...somebody else is at work!
  - **Darkness...** "God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all." (1 John 1:5) Wherever you see darkness (*the absence of light*) somebody else is at work. (*The Hebrew word for ignorance is the same word as for darkness.*)
- Here's an interesting question. **WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN VERSE ONE AND VERSE TWO?** Scholars believe that what happened between verse one and verse two is what is spoken about in Ezekiel 28.

<sup>12</sup> "Son of man, sing this funeral song for the king of Tyre. Give him this message from the Sovereign Lord: "You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and exquisite in beauty.

<sup>13</sup> You were in Eden, the garden of God. Your clothing was adorned with every precious stone—red carnelian, pale-green peridot, white moonstone, blue-green beryl, onyx, green jasper, blue lapis lazuli, turquoise, and emerald— all beautifully crafted for you and set in the finest gold. They were given to you on the day you were created.



"Many scholars believe that it was Lucifer's position in Heaven's Throne Room to literally reflect the Light of God as it came forth. What a magnificent display of beauty that must have been! And when the Wind of God blew through him, his body would have literally resonated as an instrument because the timbrels and pipes were not just something he played, they were actually a part of his being. Your design as a creative worshiper, artist, business executive or homemaker is the same as Lucifer's original design—to live in the presence of God, reflecting His Light and sounding forth His Sound in the earth through the unique way the Father has created you." ~ Matt Tommey, **Creativity**



**According to the Kingdom:** *Connecting with Heaven to Create with God and Release Transformation.*

<sup>14</sup> I ordained and anointed you as the mighty angelic guardian. You had access to the holy mountain of God and walked among the stones of fire.

<sup>15</sup> "You were blameless in all you did from the day you were created until the day evil was found in you.

<sup>16</sup> Your rich commerce led you to violence, and you sinned. So I banished you in disgrace from the mountain of God. I expelled you, O mighty guardian, from your place among the stones of fire.

<sup>17</sup> Your heart was filled with pride because of all your beauty. Your wisdom was corrupted by your love of splendor. So I threw you to the ground and exposed you to the curious gaze of kings.

<sup>18</sup> You defiled your sanctuaries with your many sins (*iniquities*) and your dishonest trade. So I brought fire out from within you, and it consumed you. I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching.

<sup>19</sup> All who knew you are appalled at your fate. You have come to a terrible end, and you will exist no more. (Ezek 28:12–19 NLT-SE)

- As a loincloth clings to a man's waist, so **I created Judah and Israel to cling to me**, says the Lord. They were to be my people, my pride, my glory—an honor to my name. But they would not listen to me. (Jer 13:11 NLT-SE)

## - “Who here today is creative?”

- **“Creativity is the ability to bring into reality** and speaks of origin and purpose. You are designed a sensing, feeling, creative being in order to easily think outside the box. You are able to dream, imagine and bring into tangible expression that which has not yet manifested in the earthly realm.” ~ Matt Tommey, **Creativity According to the Kingdom: Connecting with Heaven to Create with God and Release Transformation.**
- **Faith...**The currency of heaven. Faith is the way things get done in the kingdom!
  - <sup>1</sup> **Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen**; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see...<sup>6</sup> And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. (Heb 11:1, 6 NLT-SE)
- **Important: The essence of creativity** is our ability to see, hear and feel things in the Spirit realm that are yet unseen in the earthly realm.
  - That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, “I have made you the father of many nations.” This happened because **Abraham believed** in the God who brings the dead back to life and who **creates new things out of nothing**. (Rom 4:17 NLT-SE)
- **If the nature of the King is creative**, then the nature of His Kingdom is creative because the nature of the kingdom always **reflects** the nature of the king.
  - <sup>15</sup> Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, <sup>16</sup> for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. **Everything was created through him and for him**. (Col 1:15–16 NLT-SE)
  - God created **everything** through him, and nothing was created except through him. (John 1:3 NLT-SE)
  - “As creative people in the Kingdom, we are called to search out those things that are not yet in the earth realm but exist currently in the Spirit. It's just like Solomon said, “It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter” (Proverbs 25: 2 NKJV). **The role of creative people is that of searching**. We are the ones to search out the secrets that God is looking to reveal.” ~ Matt Tommey, **Creativity According to the Kingdom: Connecting with Heaven to Create with God and Release Transformation.**
    - It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. (Prov 25:2 NIV)
    - God conceals the revelation of his Word in the hiding place of his glory. But the honor of kings is revealed to all by how they thoroughly mine out the deeper meaning of all that God says. (Prov 25:2 PASSION)
  - In 1883 the religious writer George F. Pentecost (The Pentecostal Revival came in 1906) published the essay “**The Angel in the Marble**”. He described an episode from his childhood when he knew a down-and-out sculptor

who acquired a large rough piece of marble and placed it in his shed studio. In the following dialog the sculptor was speaking earnestly:

- Finally, I asked him: "Mr. M., what are you going to make out of that?" Looking up kindly into my face, he said: "My boy, I am not going to make anything out of it. I am going to find something in it." I did not quite comprehend, but said: "Why, what are you going to find in it?" He replied: "There is a beautiful angel in that block of marble, and I am going to find it? All I have to do is to knock off the outside pieces of marble, and be very careful not to cut into the angel with my chisel."

## - Sowing Creativity...What does it look like?

- **We Sow Creativity when we are willing to do things differently...**God has a huge value for unity in diversity. He is a creator. If no two snowflakes are the same, yet He knows the number of hairs on your head. God sees no contradiction in unity and diversity. Because He is creative, He expects us to be creative. He has put His Spirit in each one of us to give us the power, wisdom and authority to have a glorious impact on the world around us. **Sowing creatively is simply allowing the Spirit of God to accomplish God's will through us...in any form He wants.**
- **We Sow Creativity when we say yes to divine problem-solving...**Even the most perplexing situations life can throw at us are not a problem for God. To Him, they are simply opportunities for Him to shine in us, around us, and through us. He is creative in the way He chooses to shine through us. If we need wisdom and ask Him for it, He is more than willing to give it to us (James 1:5). At the end of the age, Holy Spirit will give believers the solutions some of the most perplexing problems of our day. If we truly believe that nothing is impossible for Him, and that He longs to have us work with the Spirit to see the impossible become a reality, we are in for some exciting times! Remember, ***the essence of creativity is our ability to see, hear and feel things in the Spirit realm that are yet unseen in the earthly realm.***
- **We Sow Creativity by being unpredictable...**Allow me to introduce you to Jehovah Sneaky? Jehovah Jirah, Jehovah Nissi, Jehovah Rapha; Many hungry Christ-followers have learned the names of God because in them you see aspects of God's character made visible: He *is* our Provider, our Banner, our Healer. He has another name that is not so common, Jehovah Sneaky! The idea here is that, in spite of the depth of understanding of God's character revealed in the bible, it's often difficult to consistently predict what the great "I AM" will do next. He is definitely a God of surprises and suddenly's. He doesn't mind hiding things, just to see the joy in our hearts when we discover them! **Sowing creativity means that we probably won't have everything figured out ahead of time, but excitement will surly rise in our hearts when we realize God will move through our lives in the most unpredictable ways!**
  - "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. (Matt 13:44 NLT-SE)
  - At that same time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, and he said, "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. (Luke 10:21 NLT-SE)
  - To everyone who is victorious I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven. (Rev 2:17 NLT-SE)

- **We are sowing creativity when we partner with God's wisdom...** This is one of the main keys to operating in the *Issachar anointing*:

- From the **tribe of Issachar**, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take. (1 Chr 12:32 NLT-SE)
- **Wisdom and creativity** have been **linked from the beginning of time**.

<sup>22</sup> "The Lord formed me [Wisdom] from the beginning, before he created anything else. <sup>23</sup> I was appointed in ages past, at the very first, before the earth began. <sup>24</sup> I was born before the oceans were created, before the springs bubbled forth their waters. <sup>25</sup> Before the mountains were formed, before the hills, I was born—<sup>26</sup> before he had made the earth and fields and the first handfuls of soil. <sup>27</sup> I was there when he established the heavens, when he drew the horizon on the oceans. <sup>28</sup> I was there when he set the clouds above, when he established springs deep in the earth. <sup>29</sup> I was there when he set the limits of the seas, so they would not spread beyond their boundaries. And when he marked off the earth's foundations, <sup>30</sup> I was the architect at his side. I was his constant delight, rejoicing always in his presence. <sup>31</sup> And how happy I was with the world he created; how I rejoiced with the human family!

<sup>32</sup> "And so, my children, listen to me, for all who follow my ways are joyful. <sup>33</sup> Listen to my instruction and be wise. Don't ignore it. <sup>34</sup> Joyful are those who listen to me, watching for me daily at my gates, waiting for me outside my home! <sup>35</sup> For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord. <sup>36</sup> But those who miss me injure themselves. All who hate me love death." (Prov 8:22–36 NLT-SE)

- **Is "wisdom" here referring to Jesus?** Some scholars say that wisdom in verses 22-31 refers to Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:30 does say that Jesus reveals God's wisdom to believers and Col. 2:3 says that in Jesus we have all wisdom and knowledge, but Proverbs 8:22-31 does not come right out and say that wisdom is the person of Jesus. If the reference in Proverbs 8 were to Jesus, then all other references to wisdom in Proverbs should refer to Christ too, which is unlikely. It is much more likely that the wisdom spoken of here is a personification of God's attribute of wisdom.

## - If you sow CREATIVITY, you will reap a harvest of HOPE!

- **Hope, because you're on the winning team...**<sup>15</sup> He is the divine portrait, the true likeness of the invisible God, and the firstborn heir of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For the Son created everything, both in the heavenly realm and on the earth, all that is seen and all that is unseen. Every seat of power, realm of government, principality, and authority— **it was all created by Him and for His purpose!** <sup>17</sup> He existed before anything was made, so now everything finds completion in Him. (Col 1:15–16 PASSION)
- **Hope, because creative miracles are a real possibility...** For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. **I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.** (Is 43:19 NLT-SE)
- **Hope, because we are the investment's already been made...** We are **God's masterpiece**. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Eph 2:10 NLT-SE)