

12

MEDITATION— YOUR MOMENT OF CREATION

Bringing Forth From Your Mind

Now let's talk about how to bring forth what you've seen or envisioned with the eyes of your mind. Creation doesn't end with you just simply imagining a thing and leaving it at that. After you've seen it, you've got to create it and form it.

Let's take our cue from God Himself. The Bible says,

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:26-27).

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7).

Understand what God did here: first, in Genesis 1:26-27, He created man from within, and then in Genesis 2:7, He formed man from the dust of the ground, according to what He had created from within Himself.

I'd suppose this would have taken some time. You say, “But God created man on the sixth day.” Yes, but don't forget that one day with the Lord is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day (2 Peter 3:8). That's because He lives in eternity. So God created and formed—in His own image and after His likeness —this excellent creature that He called man.

Now, you have an image, a vision you want to bring forth. Remember, your imaginative power is

your creative ability; whatever you can imagine, you can create. So, it's important that you imagine. It's something you've got to learn to do for yourself.

But here's where many have misunderstood vision: they're waiting on God to give them one when they should be creating it. There're visions God shows you in your spirit, which you don't have any influence over (remember the eyes of your spirit), and there're those you must create with your mind. When God has given you a Word concerning anything, then you have the right to produce it, and its creation begins in your mind.

Your Times Alone

This is why it's so important that you have times of privacy to work on and with your mind. I call these times "moments of creation." How we need to have such moments alone, where we're not imagining how we're going to get back at those

who offended us. Some people use their moments alone to bring up such unpleasant images, and end up creating all the wrong things in their lives. Then they turn around and wonder where their problems are coming from.

You ought to spend your moments alone creating what you want. When a negative picture comes to your mind, stop it and replace it with the right one.

True Meditation Is Creation

Isaac, the son of promise, had learned something from Abraham his father. The Scriptures show him as a deeply spiritual man who meditated often. On one occasion, Abraham asked his head servant to go get Isaac a wife, and when he returned with Isaac's wife, they found him meditating (Genesis 24:63-64). He had learnt the power of meditation, knowing that your moments of meditation are your

moments of creation.

True meditation is creation, but not too many people have learnt to use their moments of meditation to create.

In the general sense, “to meditate” means “to focus one’s thoughts on; reflect on or ponder over; to plan or project in the mind.” However, in Scripture (Joshua 1:8), the Hebrew word translated “meditate” is “hagah,” and it means “to ponder, to mutter, to roar.” This reveals the three stages or levels of meditation. Meditation therefore refers not only to pondering, ruminating, or reflecting on something; it also implies muttering that thought under your voice, speaking it out, and roaring it to yourself. In other words, you’re saying something with your mind focused on it. You’re getting your whole system to accept a certain truth.

YOUR MOMENTS
OF MEDITATION
ARE YOUR
MOMENTS OF
CREATION.

We can see that Isaac had learnt the same lesson God taught his father. He knew what to do with his mind and his times of meditation.

SPEND YOUR MOMENTS ALONE CREATING WHAT YOU WANT. WHEN A NEGATIVE PICTURE COMES TO YOUR MIND, STOP IT AND REPLACE IT WITH THE RIGHT ONE.

When everyone was fleeing from Gerar and running to Egypt because the economy was bad, the Lord appeared to him in one of his times of meditation and told him, *“Don’t pack up and run off like everybody else; stay in this land and I’ll give you everything”* (Genesis 26:2-3).

Isaac stayed put and, even though there was a severe drought in the land, everywhere he dug, his wells sprang water. When others’ crops failed, his flourished (Genesis 26:12-25). The Bible says he prospered, and continued to prosper, until he became so great and prominent in the land that the Philistines envied him (Genesis 26:12-14). He was

a man of great prosperity, but he created it through meditation on God's promise.

Jacob's Creative Imagination

Jacob also learnt the same thing from Isaac his father. He had discovered the power of meditation and how to use his mind to create what he wanted. This was why, even though he suffered many things under his uncle Laban for many years, he came out very prosperous in the end.

Before we see how Jacob did it, let's first establish the backdrop for his extraordinary story. He loved Rachel, Laban's younger daughter, and wanted to marry her. Laban said it was fine with him, but Jacob must serve him for seven years before he could have Rachel as his wife. Jacob served the seven years, and at the end of the period, Laban reneged on their agreement, and tricked him into marrying Leah, the older daughter, instead.

But Jacob wanted Rachel so much, and Laban knew this and took advantage of it. He presented Jacob with another offer: “Serve me seven more years and Rachel would be yours” (Genesis 29:27). Jacob agreed and served Laban for another seven years, making a total of fourteen years before he eventually had Rachel as his wife.

Jacob continued serving Laban, who had over the period reviewed his salary, not upward but downward, on ten different occasions! I mean, the man was just a mean, dishonest boss! Well, one day, Jacob went to Laban and said, “Uncle, it’s time for me to leave. My wives are having kids and our family is growing larger. Better for us to leave now before we become a nuisance to you and to this place.”

Read Laban’s response: *“...If I have found favor in your sight, please stay here, for I have learned...that the Lord has blessed me on account of you...Just name*

your wages – I'll pay whatever you want" (Genesis 30:27-28 NET).

Jacob agreed to stay a while longer and serve Laban, and now Laban tells him, "I'll pay whatever you want." But Jacob saw through the smokescreen; this was the same man who'd changed his wages ten times now asking him to name his price. He'd had enough of Laban's dishonesty, so he replied, "*I don't want you to pay me anything. Just do one thing, and I'll take care of your sheep and goats*" (Genesis 30:31 CEV).

Here was what Jacob asked, and this is where we begin to see his creative mind at work: Laban and his sons were to take away all the spotted, speckled, and striped animals from the herd, leaving only the pure-coloured ones. If those ones gave birth to any spotted, speckled, or striped young, they'd be Jacob's wages for his services as Laban's herdsman.

Both Jacob and Laban knew there was very little chance of that ever happening. But Laban, being the dishonest boss, was very happy with the deal. Now he didn't have to cheat Jacob anymore; he figured Jacob had cheated himself with this absurd deal he concocted.

Laban and his sons promptly took away the spotted, speckled, and striped animals and separated them from Jacob's herd by a distance of three days' journey, leaving him with the pure-coloured ones. Now they waited to see how Jacob would pull this off and have his own livestock and support his family.

Let's see how he did it.

How Jacob Created With His Imagination

“And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chesnut tree; and pilled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods. And he set the rods which he had pilled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink” (Genesis 30:37-38).

Observe closely what Jacob was doing here. He wasn't carrying out a ritual, as some have thought or suggested; he was helping his vision in the same way God helped Abraham's vision by getting him to count the stars.

Jacob got rods from poplar, hazel, and chestnut trees and made markings on them so they looked like the designs on the bodies of the striped,

spotted, and speckled animals.

Next, he placed these rods where the animals came to drink and mate, because he was trying to help his vision of them bringing forth spotted, speckled and striped young, and he thought it could happen if they'd mate in front of the rods. So he set his focus on this.

This is how to help your vision—you meditate until your whole mind is inundated with the idea of what you want to see. That's why sometimes, when you want to meditate and you're in your closet with nothing in front of you, it'll be difficult to see anything.

Start by reading Scripture or some other material in the direction of your vision. I tell people, "If you want to have a productive fast, get some books you'll study during the period, so your mind can be well-focused. If you say you're fasting or meditating, and you're not focusing on anything,

then your mind isn't creating any picture. This is something you've got to learn.

Jacob understood this; he knew that the things we see were not made of things that appear (Hebrews 11:3).

MEDITATE UNTIL
YOUR WHOLE MIND IS
INUNDATED WITH THE
IDEA OF WHAT YOU
WANT TO SEE.

Let's get back to his story now:

“And he set the rods which he had piled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink. AND THE FLOCKS CONCEIVED BEFORE THE RODS, AND BROUGHT FORTH CATTLE RINGSTRAKED, SPECKLED, AND SPOTTED” (Genesis 30:38-39).

It worked! Those pure-coloured cattle actually gave birth to ringstraked (striped), speckled, and spotted young!

Now watch what Jacob did next:

“And Jacob did separate the lambs, and set the faces of the flocks toward the ringstraked, and all the brown in the flock of Laban; and he put his own flocks by themselves, and put them not unto Laban’s cattle. And it came to pass, whensoever the stronger cattle did conceive, that Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the cattle in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods. But when the cattle were feeble, he put them not in: so the feebler were Laban’s, and the stronger Jacob’s” (Genesis 30:40-42).

Isn't this amazing? I told you Jacob wasn't performing a ritual. He had started out by placing his marked rods before the cattle, so that when they saw the rods while mating, they conceived their young with designs like those on the rods. But

now he no longer needed the rods. This time he put the spotted, speckled, and ringstraked calves and lambs before the adult ones so that as they mated, they'd conceive such as the ones they were seeing in front of them.

“And it came to pass, whensoever the stronger cattle did conceive, that Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the cattle in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods. But when the cattle were feeble, he put them not in: so the feebler were Laban’s, and the stronger Jacob’s” (Genesis 30:41-42).

Don't think Jacob was cheating Laban here; all he was doing was helping his vision and ensuring he had the best possible outcome. So each time the strong cattle mated at the watering trough, he put in the marked rods so they would conceive striped, spotted and speckled young, and when he noticed

it was the weaker cattle mating, he removed the rods so they produced their regular pure-coloured offspring.

What Jacob did was to use his imaginative power—his creative ability. You can create the vision you want in your mind. It's something you've got to consciously choose to do. Don't think, "Well, I can't see any vision until it appears to me." No, the vision that would appear to you without you working it is the one in your spirit; leave that to God. Truth is, you may never see a spiritual vision while on this earth, but that shouldn't stop you from being as successful as you choose to be, if you'll create the ones He gave you the ability to produce.

Not From Things That Appear

Laban and his sons couldn't figure out how Jacob came about having so many speckled, spotted, and ringstraked cattle when he wasn't even supposed to have any. They accused him of stealing from them, so he thought it necessary to open up to his wives—Laban's daughters—and show them how he made it happen.

IF YOU SAY YOU'RE...
MEDITATING, AND YOU'RE
NOT FOCUSING ON
ANYTHING, THEN YOUR
MIND ISN'T CREATING
ANY PICTURE

Genesis 31:10-12:

"And it came to pass at the time that the cattle conceived, that I lifted up mine eyes, and saw in a dream, and, behold, the rams which leaped upon the cattle were ringstraked, speckled, and grisled. And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I. And he said, Lift up now thine eyes,

and SEE, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee.”

Here, Jacob showed his wives the spiritual side of things. He told them how he kept seeing a vision of what should have been pure-coloured rams appearing ringstraked, speckled, and grisled as they mated. Notice, he didn't say, "I saw in a dream that I lifted up my eyes." That would have meant he was sleeping and then he had this dream. But he said, "I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream." That's talking about a vision of his mind that he created while he was fully awake. And when you see like this, God tells you, "Son, Daughter, you've got it!" The things we see were not made of things that appear (Hebrews 11:3).