Filled with Wonder
A vessel of unlimited creativity
7 DAY DEVOTIONAL
ReThinkCreativity.org
"In God's presence, a mere idea can become a miracle"

- Michele Okimura

Thank you for joining us on a 7-day journey as we reconnect with our wonderful Creator - the source of all creation. He is the potter who has made each of us fearfully and wonderfully, in His image.

The goal of this 7-day devotional is to reawaken a sense of wonder that is found only in the presence of our Heavenly Father. It is from this wellspring of devotion and communion that God’s unlimited creativity is poured into our earthen vessels where it will overflow to those around us.

You see, creativity is far more than art and entertainment. In fact, creativity is the very expression of our God, who breathed life into clay and called us children. When we engage our God-given creativity, we allow Him to take our finite abilities and multiply them for His glory. Our willingness to participate in His creation will ultimately lead others to the truth, the way, and the life – Jesus Christ.
The first thing God wanted us to know about Him in His Word was that... He is Creator. Our God is a wild dreamer with a wild imagination!

“O Lord, what an amazing variety of all you have created!
Wild and wonderful is this world you have made...
This world is full of so many creatures, yet each belongs to you!
And then there is the sea! So vast! So wide and deep—
swarming with countless forms of sea life, both small and great.”
Psalm 104:24–25 TPT

Reflect on just some of these interesting facts:

- God created electric glowing fish and sea life that live in the depths of the deep ocean where for thousands of years, no human being knew such creatures existed. Yet God enjoyed watching them since the moment He created them.

- God is a Creative Healer (recall the variety of ways Jesus healed people – one time he even spit into dirt to create mud. He then put the mud on a blind man’s eyes and told him to wash it off in the Pool of Siloam for his healing! See John 9:6–7)

- Think about the various planets in our solar system and the creative intelligence our God has in the way he set them in a system of orbits all in a sensitive balance and order that makes our planet earth livable.
There are about 400,000 species of flowers. I live in Hawaii where the plumeria flower is found in abundance on trees throughout the islands. I discovered that there are actually 400 varieties of just plumeria flower!

There are approximately 2000 kinds of fruits.

Meditate on the variety of ethnic groups of people in the world. There is wide variety of skin tones, colors and shapes of eyes, a variety of hair colors and textures, and more!

Do you get the idea that God REALLY, REALLY, REALLY LOVES to create? And perhaps he even has some fun doing it – maybe some animals reflect God’s sense of humor!

Just think of many funny looking, even weird animals and insects there are in the world! Some creatures even make us chuckle when we look at them – while others make us wide-eyed with amazement!

“God had a dream and wrapped your body around it.”

God put so much effort and intention in creating every part of your body with the many intricate systems and networks so every part functions.

“You formed my innermost being, shaping my delicate inside and my intricate outside, and wove them all together in my mother’s womb. I thank you, God, for making me so mysteriously complex! Everything you do is marvelously breathtaking. It simply amazes me to think about it!” Psalm 139:13-14

God’s creation reveals His glory and reflects His majesty. A rainbow on a rainy day, a snow-capped mountain, a waterfall, the vast sparkling sea, a comet racing through our night sky, and a wild horse galloping speak of the wonder and awe of our Creator God.

“For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature...” Romans 1:20

REFLECT: What in creation do you find especially beautiful? Reflect on the various scenic places you have had the opportunity to see.

RESPOND: Make a list of 3 of your favorite nature scenes and ask God how each scene reflects His nature and glory. Take time to praise God for His limitless, amazing creativity.

PRAY: “Lord, I praise you as my Creator God! Your creation from the most magnificent mountain to the tiniest ladybug reflects your limitless beauty, glory, and creativity. You amaze me with the wonder of your colorful imagination and the work of your hands!”
Day Two - Image Bearers
By: Joshua Kaina

“The widest thing in the universe is not space; it is the potential capacity of the human heart. Being made in the image of God, it is capable of almost unlimited extension in all directions. And one of the world’s greatest tragedies is that we allow our hearts to shrink until there is room in them for little besides ourselves.” - A.W. Tozer

Proverbs 4:23 reminds us,

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

I believe that we all want to contribute to the world around us. As followers of Jesus Christ, we really want to fulfill the great commission and serve the hungry, lost or hurting.

Yet, somewhere along the way many of us have experienced the very thing A.W. mentioned. Our hearts shrunk, not because we are selfish or greedy but because so many of us are battle weary and tired. We didn’t guard our hearts and experienced a spiritual atrophy in this sense.

We have become focused on our inabilities, insecurities, and the impossibilities – losing sight of the image we bear and the inheritance we have as heirs to a Kingdom.

But these are a few things that the word of God says about you and I:

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” - 1 Peter 2:9

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17
“For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:5

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.” – 2 Corinthians 5:20

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” – Matthew 5:14

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well.” – Psalm 139:14

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” – Ephesians 2:10

We were created for good works and not by our own strength and abilities. We are a new creation, alive in Christ Jesus. The image that was marred by sin has been restored and we can call ourselves children of God with confidence.

Just as the Good Shepherd was in pursuit of us when we wondered from the 99, so he is also in pursuit of others and friend – he wants to use you. God wants to use your gifts, talents, abilities, and He even wants to use the areas of pain in your past to set others free.

So, give Him your whole heart today and reflect His image to a world that is looking for answers.

REFLECT: What does it mean for you be made in the image of God, knowing that He crafted you with such intention and love?

RESPOND: Invite God into those areas of your life where shame and pain have overwhelmed you. Meditate on Matthew 11:28-30 and ask Jesus to help you release the burdensome yoke you have carried for far too long. He wants to disciple you and give you rest in Himself.

PRAYER: “Dear Father, I thank you for loving me so much that even while I was in sin, you sent your son, Jesus to give his life for mine. Just as he rose from the dead, so am I reborn and renewed as your child. Please restore the years that the enemy has stolen from me and create in me a clean heart again. Here I am, use me oh Lord to do your will and fulfill the plans you have for me. In Jesus name, amen.”
In Matthew 18:2-4, Jesus said:

“Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

The original word translated as change means “to turn around”. In essence, Jesus is saying that we must repent and become like children. He is not telling us to be childish in the sense of immaturity but to be reborn. Nicodemus struggled with this idea when he conversed with Jesus, asking him, “how can someone be born when they are old?”.

We know that Jesus was not talking about a physical rebirth but a spiritual one.

It’s impossible to reawaken the child-like wonder and innocence without repentance. There must be a letting go of baggage, such as: unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment, rebellion and all the things we have accumulated in our soul since childhood (somethings go beyond the womb). There must also be a turning away from the things that cause us to stumble and sin. The Lord is so gracious that He even sent us a helper in the person of the Holy Spirit, so we don’t have to do it alone.

There are many people who struggle with self-worth, image and even creative expressions because of experiences and words spoken over them as children. These experiences stifle, if not destroy our God-given creativity and hold us back from making a difference in the world around us. Consider then, how wonderful it is that we can all enjoy the rebirth experience through Jesus Christ!

“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” – 1 Peter 2:1-3
Repentance is a gift, an opportunity that was paid for in full and available to all who will receive Jesus as Lord. It’s a chance to hit the spiritual reset button, be washed clean and set free from the curse of sin, the wages of which is death. When we believe by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, we are invited to lay all the old things behind.

I am so grateful to be a new creation in Christ, aren’t you?

So, what happens next?

We have turned to Jesus, leaving the old behind and our hearts of stone have become hearts of flesh. This is where we get to create with God and write a brand-new story. We are a living letter (epistle) of Christ, not written in words but by the spirit! (2 Corinthians 3:2–3)

It doesn’t matter what lifestyle, abilities, or lack of abilities we had before Christ because we now have a helper in the person of the Holy Spirit.

It was the Spirit of God who came upon David and used his skills with a sling shot to take down a giant. The same Spirit that lighted upon Jesus as a dove when he was baptized.

The same Spirit that transformed a group of simple fishermen into some of the most powerful preachers and healers.

The same Spirit that will stand with the bride of Christ, saying “come” before the revealing of the bridegroom (Revelations 22:17).

We are no longer limited by our finite existence or abilities. There is now one who is much greater at work in us, and we can stand wide-eyed in amazement at the limitless possibilities of our God.

What a gift it is to repent and be born again.

REFLECT: Read John 1:12–13 (ESV) and meditate on the right that has been given to you who received Jesus as Lord.

RESPOND: Take some quiet time and just sit in God’s presence today. Grab some pens, crayons or colored pencils and draw something for him. Don’t judge yourself and think critically, just enjoy His presence and draw something that you would want hanging on a heavenly refrigerator if there was one.

PRAYER: “Dear Father, I thank you for being my provider and protector. I repent of my unbelief and (anything else the Lord is highlighting). I confess that Jesus is Lord of my life and I ask that you would be enthroned in my heart. Thank you for giving me the right to be a child of God. I know that I can fully rely on your promises as you are faithful to keep them. In Jesus name, amen.
Have you ever ‘heard’ God’s voice speak to you?

In 1 Samuel 3:10, young Samuel is a great model for us as someone who was attentive to God’s voice:

**And the Lord came and called as before. “Samuel! Samuel!”**
**And Samuel replied, “Speak, your servant is listening.”**

Our King, Creator of the universe, Father and Friend, wants to communicate with YOU!

Prayer is talking to God and listening to what He wants to share. God is not distant, although truth be told, sometimes it may feel like He is. He wants to be actively involved in your life and wants to help, guide, encourage, inspire you, and much more!

A relationship with God involves two-way interactions. A relationship that only involves a one-way conversation is not a close one. God desires an intimate relationship with you, His Delight!

Learning to hear God’s voice takes practice, knowing that we won’t get it perfectly right each time - so have patience. We all make mistakes as we grow! I believe God is thrilled when we seek to know Him and His voice.

Begin each day with an expectation that God will speak to you. God is full of surprises – even if it is a whisper from His heart to yours!
SOME WAYS THAT GOD SPEAKS

The Holy Spirit can speak to us through a variety of creative ways! Here are just some of those ways:

- **Through the Bible:** Let His word speak to your heart and mind. The Lord can bring to mind a bible verse that could literally be a creative solution to a problem!
- **A thought that enters your mind:** Sometimes God’s voice is experienced like a thought or thoughts in your mind that can easily be mistaken for your own thoughts. Pay attention to those thoughts – even the faint impressions! Pray about those ideas and sensings, and if possible, check them out!
- **A picture or vision:** God has blessed you with the ability to ‘see’ pictures or a ‘video’ in your mind. Ask the Lord what He is trying to communicate to you.
- **Through nature:** If something catches your attention, take a moment and ask the Lord, “Is there anything you want to speak to me through this scene (or object)?” You may get creative inspiration from creation.
- **Through a song:** God can speak and inspire you through music or a song
- **Through a movie:** Sometimes God can speak to you through a movie scene.
- **Through people:** God can speak through people. For example, He could inspire you as you listen to a sermon, a podcast, or through a conversation.
- **Through circumstances:** You can ask God questions as, “What are you trying to tell me or teach me through this? How are you trying to grow me?”

Take time each day to be in solitude with God and wait on Him to speak to you. Open your heart and mind to Him. He can speak to you creatively through divine imagination as you pray! Journal what comes to you. Just know that God will never speak to you about something that contradicts His Word, His ways, or His character! He may surprise you with an out of the box idea. Be expectant and receive!

**REFLECT:** What is a common way that God speaks to you? What is a favorite experience you had when the Lord gave you inspiration and you acted upon this idea?

**RESPOND:** Spend 5-10 minutes or more in silence. Relax in a comfortable position. Ask God to speak to you. Quiet your mind to be in a place of listening to God. Be open to thoughts, words, pictures or visions. Journal what comes to you.

**PRAYER:** “Heavenly Father, speak to me! I want to hear you more! Give me spiritual ears to hear your voice clearly and spiritual eyes to see what you want me to see. Help me to be aware and recognize when you are creatively speaking to me. I desire to have an ever-growing intimate, thriving relationship with you!”
God can drop a creative idea or a miracle solution into your mind – sometimes in the most unlikely moments like when you are walking the dog, in the shower, or washing dishes.

The following occurrences are true stories:

A surgeon needed to operate on a patient with an ailment he had never come across before. He prayed to God for a solution. Somehow during the surgery, an innovative idea came to mind, and he performed a procedure he had never done before! The surgery is a success! A life was saved through an innovative idea inspired by God. An idea became a miracle,

One day, a young woman had a vision that involved Father God dancing with her, healing her from rejection and trauma, giving her a new identity. She wrote a poem about it – a 5-minute quick read. Ten years after she wrote the poem, she had an idea. She decided to self-publish her poem as a thin book entitled Dancing with Father. But who would buy a book with only one poem in it? This author prayed God would use the book to touch lives. To her surprise, 100s of copies were sold reaching various nations around the world.

One night, due to hopelessness, a woman was about to kill herself. But just before she was about to commit suicide, she suddenly noticed this book on her coffee table – a gift someone had given to her. She felt an urge to read it, so as she was crumpled on the floor, she read the book, Dancing with Father for the first time. She wept aloud as she heard God speak to her through the book. She decided not to kill herself and instead went to church the next day, which set her on a path of restoration! The book saved her life. An idea became a miracle in someone’s life.
Miracles happen every day and can happen in a home or workplace – miracles of the heart, miracle answers, strategies, ideas, inventions, miracle moments through a movie, book, photo, painting, dance, or through a song, and more!

As a child of God, you have access to the mind of Christ and to God’s miracle working power! As you involve God when you create, innovate and problem solve, the extraordinary can happen.

Imagine the possibilities.

An idea you have could become your miracle or someone else’s miracle.

“Never doubt God’s mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, your most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination! He will outdo them all, for his miraculous power constantly energizes you.” Ephesians 3:20 TPT

**REFLECT:** Reflect upon a miracle that happened in your life or in the life of someone you know or heard of. Was someone getting an idea to do something, pray something, or say something part of the story? Was a creative idea involved in some way?

**RESPOND:** Ask God to help you connect to His heavenly way of thinking and to give you ideas that can be useful and helpful. The next time an idea pops into your mind that could be a solution to a problem, a way of blessing someone, or a way of improving your home, workplace or relationship – act upon it to see what happens. Stepping out in faith requires risk, but I believe God is pleased when we step out to do good works!

**PRAY:** “Lord, please help me to receive and recognize when a helpful creative idea drops into my mind. Help me to not be quick to analyze it away or discount it. Help me to act upon the idea if possible. Give me the courage to step out in faith and be open to the possibilities of making a positive difference! Use me to bless the people in my life and my spheres of influence! Help me to be faith-filled and obedient!”
Day Six - You Are Creative
By: Michele Okimura

The FIRST place in the bible that mentions when a person was filled with God’s Spirit, was when Bezalel, a craftsman, was given the task to design and decorate the Tent of Meetings, the Tabernacle of Moses, where God would meet with His people.

Then the Lord said to Moses. “See, I have chosen Bezalel ... I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts.   Exodus 31:1-5

Unlike Bezalel, as believers, we have the Holy Spirit living within us 24-7! We can be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit to create – yes through artistic expressions, but also through a multitude of ways in every industry and facet of life.

I understand that whenever our culture refers to the subject of creativity, it usually refers to artistic expressions (as in the fine arts or performing arts). However, no matter what you do, know that you ARE a Creative as well in your own right!

God wastes NOTHING in your life! He weaves together your skills, knowledge, education, experiences, creativity and more - together with His divine inspiration!

The theme of creativity is weaved throughout the Bible.

For example...some may wonder if God cares about the fashion industry. I say yes! God was the first clothing designer when he creatively made Adam and Eve’s clothes out of skins when He saw that their fig leaves just would... not ...do.
The Proverbs 31 Woman was not only a fashion designer, but a creative entrepreneur as she designed and sewed garments, selling them! She also did creative financial planning, as she invested in real estate (buying fields).

- Joseph was a creative economist and government leader.
- King David was a creative military strategist, songwriter, musician, and poet!
- Just think about Solomon’s creative wisdom and creative problem solving.

Creativity also touches every aspect of our modern-day culture – every industry, workplace, and home.

Let’s reflect on some of the creative activities you do regularly that you may not even be consciously aware of:

- You may craft emails, notes, sermons, ppts, or presentations.
- You pick out what to wear and may choose to accessorize your outfit.
- Communication involves crafting words.
- How you decorate a room creates ambiance.
- You may create various strategies for your sports team to win a game.
- Trying to fix something that broke takes resourceful creativity!

What if you partnered with the unlimited creative power of the Holy Spirit? Everything you do can go to the next level in bringing transformation for God’s glory!

You are a multifaceted person – you are not one dimensional!

- You can be a surgeon and at the same time a creative blogger.
- You can be a fireman, who loves to fix things and landscape gardens.
- You can be a professional athlete who makes furniture and cook.

Are you convinced yet? Being a Creative is a facet of who you are!

**REFLECT:** Reflect on the tasks you typically do in a day and how those tasks may have involved pulling on your creativity. Meditate on the fact that you are a Creative in God.

**RESPOND:** Pick one task you will do tomorrow and ask the Lord to fill you with His Spirit, and give you His heavenly, supernatural creativity to do that task.

**PRAY:** “Heavenly Father, you are filled with infinite imagination and innovation. Thank you for making me a creative child and giving me the ability to create every day. I thank you that together with you, I can reflect your heart and splendor from even the smallest tasks I do! Help me to create in a way that brings you honor and glory!”
In 2 Kings 4:1-7 is a story of a woman who just lost her husband and was on the verge of losing her two sons to a debt collector. Thankfully, there was a powerful prophet by the name of Elisha.

"Elisha replied to her, “How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?” “Your servant has nothing there at all,” she said, “except a small jar of olive oil.” Elisha said, “Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don’t ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.” She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. When all the jars were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another one.” But he replied, “There is not a jar left.” Then the oil stopped flowing. She went and told the man of God, and he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left.”

What a creative miracle! There are so many things that we can glean from this short story, but I want to focus on the oil.

The word, “oil” is used more than 200 times in the bible. The common uses of oil in the bible are for food, fuel, and healing. Yet, there is a very strong metaphor throughout the bible of the oil representing the Holy Spirit. The kings, priests and prophets were anointed with oil before they were given authority.

Jesus, quoted a verse from Isaiah 61:1 (NASB) when he said,

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted...”

Acts 10:38 (NASB) says, “You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power...”
When I look at this story of the widow with the oil, I see the overflow of the Holy Spirit from one vessel to another. When we read through the book of Acts, we see the disciples of Jesus sequestered in an upper room, behind closed doors. They are praying in unity as told by Jesus until the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came as a mighty rushing wind. They were anointed with the power of God and from that point on they continued to overflow, making disciples and baptizing people of all nations.

**We are the earthen vessels (2 Cor 4:7)** who were made by the potter himself, each one for different purposes.

**We are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19–20).**

When that widow, who trusted the word of God through Elijah, had faith to obey the word, her remaining oil overflowed into many empty vessels. Do we have the same faith as the widow? Do we trust God to multiply whatever anointing we have so that we can pour it out into others? If you read the verse again you will notice that the oil stopped once she ran out of vessels. How many people are in your community, your state, or your nation who are empty jars in need of the oil of anointing – the Holy Spirit?

Do you know that the Holy Spirit also anointed two men, Bezalel, and Oholiab in the book of Exodus? They were empowered with the gifting and ability of workmanship to create the furniture in the tabernacle and even the embroidered curtains. What gifts and abilities could the Holy Spirit anoint in you? It could seem like the most mundane or ordinary thing.

It could be a spreadsheet that frees up time for a co-worker struggling in her marriage. It could be a loaf of sourdough that reminds a stranger of joyful childhood memories. Or maybe an abstract painting that reveals Jesus to a lost sheep. You won't know, unless you start pouring out.

Creativity is not limited to your natural abilities, there is a power at work in you that wants to overflow into the lives of those around you. It’s time to shut the door and cultivate the oil of intimacy with the Lord through prayer and obedience.

**REFLECT:** What would life look like if you were living in a state of overflow? How would you pour out into people’s lives? How would you feel? How would that change the way you lived?

**RESPOND:** Schedule time alone with the Lord every day if you don’t already. Start with 5 minutes and work your way up to 10, 15, 30 and even an hour or more. Remember that we can’t pour anything from an empty vessel. Use the time to meditate on a verse, pray and seek the Lord for all who seek Him, will find Him.

**PRAYER:** “Dear Father, I thank you for the Holy Spirit, the one who searches your mind and speaks only what you release. Here I am, a willing vessel. Please mold me to your likeness, pour into me and overflow that I may be a witness to those around me. Have all the glory, in Jesus name, Amen.”
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A vessel of unlimited creativity

7 DAY DEVOTIONAL

This resource is provided to you from ReThink Creativity, subsidiary of Releasing Generations which is a non-profit organization based in Honolulu, Hawaii. At ReThink Creativity, our goal is to awaken creativity in the body of Christ to spur innovation and generate extraordinary ideas that make a difference. We know that everyone is creative, but many have limited their creativity to the arts. Creativity is SO much more. When we engage our God-given creativity we can make a difference in our families, churches, workplaces, in industry and our communities - all for God’s glory!

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