



God, Art, Creativity, Faith

Purpose, flow and expressions of art and creativity

Sunday April 07, 2024

The past weekend (Mar 30-31) we saw a wonderful Easter musical theatre production. Through that creative expression the message of the death and resurrection of Jesus was brought to us in a fresh, powerful, and engaging manner. Today, we would like to think about art and creativity, and how the purpose, flow and expressions of art and creativity relate to God and our faith in God. Our objective today is to encourage all of us to open up to creative expressions in areas of life relevant to us.

GOD THE CREATOR-ARTIST

When we look at God's creation, we not only see the **power** of God displayed by its size, magnitude and grandeur, the **wisdom** of God displayed in the design, but also the **creative artistry** of God.

Psalm 8:1,3-4

1 O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?

Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

God's excellence, glory, invisible attributes, and His eternal power are revealed in His creation.

God is the Master Creator-Artist.

God is the greatest Creator-Arist.

In one sense we can see creation as God's artwork.



Creation as God's artwork **glorifies** God.

Creation as God's artwork **reveals** God.

We are in His image, created to be creative.
All of us can be creative in one or more ways.

PURPOSE - ART AND CREATIVITY

Psalm 33:2-3

2 Praise the LORD with the harp; Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings.

3 Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.

We see how art and related skills can be used to praise, make melody, sing to Him and glorify Him.

We use the terms "art and creativity" in a very broad sense to refer to all varied expressions of art and creativity, e.g. music, painting, poetry, drama, dance, writing, engineering design, and other forms of design, etc. etc. Almost endless expressions.

Let's consider a few spiritual purposes of art and creativity.

#1, ADORATION

Art as an expression of worship toward God.

We can use art to worship God. In the Bible we note that people worshipped God with song, dance, music, etc. (Psalm 149:3; Psalm 150:4).

Our focus is on God, and what we express through art, is an expression of our worship of God.

#2, REVELATION

Art as an expression of the glory of God.

We noted earlier in Psalm 8, Psalm 19 and Romans 1:20, how creation (an expression of God's artwork) glorifies God and reveals aspects of God's attributes.

Psalm 90:17

**And let the beauty (splendor, grace, delightfulness) of the LORD our God be upon us,
And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.**



The Psalmist is asking for God's beauty, splendor, pleasantness to be upon us and consequently be expressed through the work of our hands.

#3, RESTORATION

Art to receive personal healing and wholeness.

God can use art and creative expressions to work healing in us. As we sing, paint, or write or engage in other forms of artistic expressions, our spirits, souls and even bodies are restored.

#4, COMMUNICATION

Art as a medium of communication for God.

In Scripture we observe God using songs, music, poetry, drama (action), etc. to communicate to people.

#5, DEMONSTRATION

Art as a channel of God's power to people.

In Scripture we observe the power of God being released through song and music, as well as prophetic action.

When David played on his harp, Saul was relieved of his demonic oppression.

THE CREATIVE FLOW

Several ways we receive inspiration or the "creative flow".

Some common practical ways we can posture ourselves to receive inspiration:

- Reflection
- Benchmarking – looking at what others have done.
- Lateral thinking – considering how something you see in one area (domain) can be applied in another area (domain).
- Random thinking – letting your thoughts flow freely.
- Change of environment.
- Reading, listening, conversation.

Etc. etc.

God also inspires us and gives us the creative flow by His Spirit.

Consider as an example, how God inspired the people who crafted and built the tabernacle:



Exodus 31:1-5

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

2 "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.

3 And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,

4 to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze,

5 in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.

Another example we could look at is David receiving by inspiration the design for the Temple:

1 Chronicles 28:12,19

12 and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things;

19 "All this," said David, "the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans."

The psalmist writing Psalm 45, which has in it a powerful prophecy of Jesus, said:

Psalm 45:1

My heart is overflowing (bubbling over, moving, stirring) **with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.**

(See also Job 32:8,18-20)

The psalmist recognized something overflowing from within and expressed it in words.

Our goal should be to learn how to RECOGNIZE the creative flow (inspiration), how to STIR UP (or tap into) the creative flow, how to CAPTURE AND EXPRESS the creative flow and how to NURTURE the creative flow in our lives. For the sake of brevity, we will not be covering these today. Perhaps in the future, we will.

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

Here is a short list of some of the many ways in which art and creativity can be expressed to make a difference in everyday life:

#1, CREATIVITY IN VISION



You are able to “see” in your mind’s eye where an organization can be, where your team can be, etc. etc. You are able to see what is not there and then bring that into existence. For instance, leadership requires vision.

#2, CREATIVITY IN INNOVATION

creating new ideas, methods, products, services, or solutions that have a significant positive impact and value.

#3, CREATIVITY IN DESIGN

the process of imagining and planning the creation of something, e.g. designing products, objects, systems, buildings, vehicles, etc.

#4, CREATIVITY IN PRODUCTS

Coming with ideas for new products

#5, CREATIVITY IN SOLUTIONS

Coming up with ideas for new solutions

#6, CREATIVITY IN COMMUNICATION

New ways to communicate a message.

#7, CREATIVITY IN RELATIONSHIPS

New ways to build people, inspire people, resolve problems, etc.

SUMMARY

We are in His image, created to be creative.

All of us can be creative in one or more ways.

Creative expressions can serve many purposes including adoration, revelation, restoration, communication, and demonstration.

We must desire, recognize, stir up, capture and express inspiration (or the creative flow) that comes from God.

Desire the creative flow that comes from God to make a meaningful difference in whatever you do or are engaged in.

Let the glory of God be revealed through creative expressions through the work you do.

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Psalms 8:1,3-4; Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Reflect on God being the Master Creator-Artist? What are some creative artistic aspects of God do we observe in His creation? (e.g. variety, color, beauty, music,)

2, God inspired the workers to design artistic elements for the tabernacle (Exodus 31:1-5). God even inspired David to come up with the design and plans for building the Temple (1 Chronicles 28:12,19). Consider some ways in which God can inspire creativity in our work and experiences in today's world.



3, *The psalmist in Psalm 45:1, experienced words "bubbling up" or "overflowing" from within, which he then expressed in psalm, and it indeed was a prophetic word about Jesus. Consider the flow of inspired words - words just coming up from inside you, inspired by the Holy Spirit. What are the many ways God can use this inspired flow of words to make a meaningful difference in the world - in life, at work, etc. (e.g. solve problems, resolve conflicts, etc. etc.)*

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, *families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, *a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, *for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we purchase land and build our facility to serve the Lord and people.*

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

In this sermon we encourage people to desire and express the creative flow that comes from God. God is the Master Creative-Artist. We learn that we are created in God's image, created to be creative. All of us can be creative in one or more ways. Creative expressions can serve many purposes including adoration, revelation, restoration, communication, and demonstration. We must desire, recognize, stir up, capture and express inspiration (or the creative flow) that comes from God. Desire the creative flow that comes from God to make a meaningful difference in whatever you do or are engaged in. Let the glory of God be revealed through creative expressions through the work you do.

KEYWORDS

Art, creativity, faith, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

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