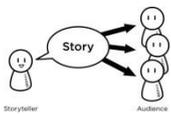


Wired to be Inspired

Wired to be Inspired

When I heard this phrase I thought, “Yep!” that’s exactly right! Why?

- Tour de France – all these riders come out.
- Grand prix – people start driving faster
- Australian Open – you think of taking up tennis
- You hear of adventures, and you want to travel
- You gaze at the stars, and you’re inspired to see the outer reaches of the galaxies



Inspired while attending a Policeman’s Funeral.

Elevation Principle

Psychologists call it “the Elevation Principle” – simply put we feel elevated (rather than depressed) when we see or hear something that inspires us.

And we saw it recently with the talk on kindness – the **little understood power and beauty** that moves us and changes us. When we see it, we’re **somehow inspired**. It’s us celebrating what we’re seeing – in each of us.

But if we stop there, we miss it – what we’re seeing actually emanates from God – as image bearers, we are seeing the characteristics and attributes of God himself. And the soul of man cannot help but lift in joy!

God Inspires

And that’s what God does – He inspires:

- Beauty
- Belief
- Kindness
- Community

- Growth
- Holiness
- Freedom
- Peace
- Goodness
- Triumph
- Victory over evil

We're Wired to be Inspired

I have seen it happen:

- people catch a vision
- hear a story
- receive a challenge
- witness something fantastic (kind gesture, a selfless act)

They lift, they respond, and something within them shifts. It's like our sails receive breathe, they fill and we are on our way again.

Jesus called His disciples – they walked away from their businesses, homes, lives.

He inspired his followers to follow!

Vision

A vision from God is a powerful force that works within a person:

- a vision will breed new life
- people even die for a vision

Where the Snake Whispers

God has made you and me to be receivers of His inspiration - it's a part of His design. And just as we can receive God's vision for our lives, so we can also reject God's vision.

It's the domain of the snake – to come and steal what God wants to do!

Joshua and Caleb

Story of Joshua and Caleb takes place after the exodus of the Jews from over 400 years of slavery in Egypt, at the hand of the Pharaohs.

Numbers 13:1-3

The Lord now said to Moses, “Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, **the land I am giving to the Israelites**. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes.” So Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He sent out twelve men, all tribal leaders of Israel, from their camp in the wilderness of Paran.

Moses gave them the command to:

- Study the land – fertile or poor, many trees
- Food
- water sources
- towns – fortified or not
- people – many or few

The Spies would travel 250 miles (from south to north) – over 40 days.

Numbers 13: 27-28

When they returned they reported the following:

This was their report to Moses: “We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country - a land flowing with milk and honey ... But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak! ...

Numbers 13: 30-33

But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. “Let’s go at once to take the land,” he said. “We can certainly conquer it!”

But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. “We can’t go up against them! They are stronger than we are!” So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: “The land we travelled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that’s what they thought, too!”

Only 2 of the spies had reports that showed faith in the words of God:

Numbers 14: 6-9

Two of the men who had explored the land, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, tore their clothing. They said to all the people of Israel, “The land we travelled through and explored is a wonderful land! And if the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey. Do not rebel against the Lord, and don’t be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the Lord is with us! Don’t be afraid of them!”

The mistake the 10 made was to doubt God’s ability to provide what they needed.

God had already said in Chapter 13:2 that He was **giving it to the Israelites**.

Grumbling and Complaining

Rather than inspire the people with faith in God, the 10 spies **cast seeds of doubt**, they **stimulated fear and anxiety**, and led the people into **complaining, grumbling**.

The force of doubt became stronger than the force of faith. And this **spiralled uncontrolled** until they even considered **murdering** people (as they considered stoning Caleb and Joshua).

These 10 spies changed the course of the futures of the entire Israelite nation. They would spend the next 40 years walking the desert.

They would never see the promise land – but would die in the desert. Only Caleb and Joshua would see the land that God had promised them.

What was the difference between the Spies?

They all saw the same things!

- Look past the obstacles
- Saw opportunities God was providing
- They were prepared to take risk – they knew God was with them
- Chose to believe God’s word over their own concerns
- They trusted God

The 10 spies – saw themselves as grasshoppers!

Jesus is still building his Church

 **Matthew 16:18b (NIV)**

“... I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.”

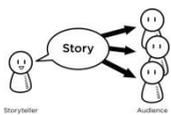
It's been said that “the church is the hope of the world.”

The church is the body of Christ – He is the head, and you and I make up the parts that come together as the body of Christ.

We have been tasked with the job to **advance the kingdom of God in the earth** – as Jesus builds His church we are to be radically devoted to that cause.

Our Unique Challenge

Here's an example of the elevation principle.



GtEM, a Christian organisation takes a \$1000 cheque – from Atheists.

When you stop and think about our situation today here in Carnegie – are you inspired to believe that God can provide for us?

Our challenges are:

- Our size – we're a very small congregation
- Resources – we have limited tools and people skills
- Finances – we have not much cash
- Facilities – part of our facilities are in use by a business

If we trust God, he is the **great enabler** and the **great provider**.

 **Hudson Taylor**

“God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply.”

Feeling like a Grasshopper?

Now, this relates to whatever your personal situation is:

1. Stop grumbling – you only give the enemy access to your future

Philippians 2:14 “Do everything without grumbling or complaining”

2. Start believing – without faith it is impossible to please God

Hebrews 11:6 “Without faith it is impossible to please God...”

3. Start praying – like you’ve never prayed before

1 Thess 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Some Ideas

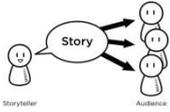
What if we let our sanctified imaginations run amok for a bit – and this can relate to any personal situation (ask God to guide our thoughts) :

- **Playgroup** – already offered a woman team leader & all the toys we need;
- Sunday afternoon Youth sports events in back hall
- **Alpha Course**
- **Free music lessons** for the community
- **English lessons** for migrants
- **Men’s Nights** – outreach to blokes, bring men together, share a message, build or break something, share a meal, a movie, a games night;
- **Women’s Nights** – outreach to women (doing women stuff);
- Apologetics Café Night
- Employment program for migrants
- Outreach Events
- Joining with other churches – prayer nights

Called to Build the Church

We are all called to pray for the church, plant new churches, strengthen existing churches

Why are Samantha and I here at Carnegie – simply that we feel called.



A friend shared a dream he had with us around 2 years ago.

In Summary

Radical obedience to Christ

Prepared to trust God and live risky, faith filled lives

Prepared to live Holy lives