



Imagination vs Responsibility

"The wicked run away when no one is chasing them, but the godly are as bold as lions." Proverbs 28:1 (NLT)

God has gifted us with tremendous imaginations. As kids we let our minds go, unbridled. Adults would come to us asking, "What do you want to do when you grow up?" Oh the responses! Astronaut, pilot, writer, movie star, baseball player... the sky was the limit! I wanted to be a marine biologist like Jacques Cousteau. (I loved fish and sea creatures and still do!) But, as we grew-up these dreams seemed to die with the onset of responsibility. How could we ignore it? After all, we had to provide for ourselves and families. Such are the realities of life.

Your responsibilities cannot be ignored.

Yet, at the same time, God calls you to be bold as a lion.

As soon as we embrace this, the battle of Imagination vs Responsibility begins. As our imagination leaps forward, our practical sense of responsibility reels it back.

I know this battle well both personally and as a coach. Here are some of our typical responses:

- Resigning to the status quo by failing to imagine at all: **"I'm not worth it" or "How could I ever...?"**
- Letting our imagination run to some wild extreme just to shoot it down: **"I don't want to become a missionary in Africa!"**
- Imagining a future only create excuse after excuse: **"It's not a good time right now, maybe later...."**

For most of us, the realities of responsibility end up demolishing our imaginations. On the other hand, I have seen (way too many times!) people leaping impulsively into some new venture saying "God told me to do this!" Shirking responsibility to end up in a big practical mess. Responding too quickly to our emotions usually leads to trouble. God does not want us to be reckless.

I have learned not to view this as a battle of Imagination vs Responsibility, but as a time for both to work together. Imagination and Responsibility are friends, not enemies. Let's be real: The practical is and should be firm. Yes, we need to understand the difference between "wants" and "needs" but the reality is that sudden and extreme changes are reckless and scare us...rightly so! Plan incremental changes away from "wants." **Lay out your practical "boundaries" as a framework. Then let the creative process begin.** This is when we need our imagination the most.

In my life as an engineer, I remember a division of my company developed a pioneering new technology that was to disrupt a whole industry. The new product launched with a splash; it made national news! There was talk of how the "Goliath's" of the industry would fall. Two years later, this pipe dream burst and we were fighting for our lives. We'd be out of this business in 6 months, huge

investment lost, unless something changed. That's when the engineers got creative. Pivoting, they redesigned the product for an industrial market. The technology flourished where there were no huge competitors.

Bottom line: The greatest creativity comes at a time of practical constraint.

We can learn from this! Our God is both responsible and full of bold imagination. **Constrain yourself, then imagine!** Then you can move ahead step by step, boldly for God.

Accept your responsibilities, then imagine the possibilities by following The Mission Curve™ process. Move step by step into the Adventure God Made You For. It will change your life.

Guaranteed.

Follow the link below to schedule a free consultation on how to start the process.

[Mission Curve™ Process - Guaranteed](#)

Spirit Talk

(Post this where you can see it regularly)

“God will help me meet my responsibilities as I believe in his possibilities for my life”

“What do you mean, ‘If I can’?” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.”

²⁴ The father instantly cried out, “I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!” Mark 9:23-24 (NLT)

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