Cultivating Kingdom Creativity

Curating the Heart for Divine Outflow

The Overflow of a Heart Being Transformed by Christ.

Welcome & Overview:

What if the process of expressing an inner-powered work in our life and creativity, is not about working harder or relying solely on practice and discipline—but about cultivating what is happening inside us?

Today, we are going to look at two passages of scripture with different approaches on how to curate our heart.

Mark 4: Parable of the Sower: Poke in the dirt as a way to assess our hearts.

Ephesians 3:14-20: (7P's): Prescription for what God makes available to us. **Power, Presence, Planted, Perception, Perennial, Provision** and **Possibilities.**

Core Truth:

What happens in the deepest, innermost part of the human heart determines everything that flows out of it.
[Artist: Teresa Jannsens]

The emphasis in this workshop is about curating our heart **in** our everyday life.

Assumptions:

1. **Creativity is part of our identity:**
   We ALL have creative capacity because we are made in the image of God.

2. **Creativity is a process:** A continuous work of Grace where God is reshaping our internal landscape to reflect Christ.

(2 Corinthians 3:18: But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.)

3. **Creativity is Elastic:** Expressed in many ways:
   It is an an everyday mindset expressed through things like: problem-solving, decision-making, hospitality, leadership, and idea generation.

4. **The Nature of Divine Creativity is Regenerative:** As evidenced in the account of Creation and how God works in us.

(2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:10, Romans 12:2, Titus 3:5, Ezekiel 37:4–6, 10, Isaiah 61:3–4, Psalm 104:30, Isaiah 43:18–19, John 7:38).

Working Definition of Creativity:

Creativity is part of the natural outflow of what is in our hearts.

Diversity.

Manage our lives.

Divine Fullness rather than method.

Core: We all carry Heart.

Working Definition of the Heart:

The Heart is the essence of who we are.

Section 1
The Heart as a Wellspring, Canvas & Unfinished Masterpiece.

1. The Heart is like a Wellspring

Treating the heart like a cistern.

(John 4:14: "...but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life, John 7:38: "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.")

Our hearts as a reservoir (depth).

Choices.
(Proverbs 4:23: "Guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it flow the springs of life.", Luke 6:45: "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks., John 7:38: —a spring that continually bubbles up from within, sustained by the Spirit.)

2. Heart is like a Canvas: Adorned with Divine Beauty.

God writes the law of the new covenant upon the canvas of our hearts
We are marked with His character, truth, and desires.

A treasure worth protecting.

3. The Unfinished Masterpiece.

A work in progress.

It is an **in-between state:** **Part** who we are **today**,… **part** of what God is shaping in us **right now**, and **who** we are in **heaven**.

✍️ **Reflection for Home:**
Of these ways to look at the heart, which one resonates the most with you? Why?

Brokenness vs. Longing.

We must not confuse brokenness with longing.

That in God's hands, brokenness is never the final work.

Paul writes in **Romans 8:22**, "the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now."
2 Corinthians 5:2.

Eternity is placed in a temporal heart.

Internal Gaps.

Knowledge Trap

Self reliant mindset: "*No one is coming to help you, so you have to fix yourself…"*

Information is not bad.

Human logic cannot solve a query of the spiritual heart.

Tension of being redeemed but not complete, or in the **"**Already but not Yet."

✍️ **Reflection for Home:**
In moments of internal discomfort, what is your default reaction: to stack on more knowledge or willpower or other?

Where might you be experiencing "Already but not Yet" reality of God shaping things in you at this very moment?

** Clarification: that what we are exploring today applies to our everyday spiritual walk. Those seasons when we need counselling, professional or spiritual care are valuable and important.

🗣️ **Group Discussion:**
In what ways does self reliance dominate in todays culture? And in what ways can we counter it?

Grace is a Sanctuary
If you only remember one thing from this workshop, I hope you remember this:

Even when we are not OK with ourselves, God is at peace with us.
[Artist: Teresa Jannsens]

A safe place to steward our heart.

Section 2
Curating & Tending the Inner Landscape.

What Does It Mean to Curate?

1. Select and Preserve:
Active Guardians in choosing what we keep, deny and remove.

Boundaries: What we allow inside of us - not keeping others out.

2. A Holy Appointment.

A Curate is: Someone who is entrusted with the care of a parish and its people.
It is sacred stewardship of caring for a holy place (our hearts).

✍️ **Reflection for Home:**
If you view curating as a way of setting boundaries for what you allow to adorn the walls of your heart, how could that affect your daily habits or thoughts?

Write out your thoughts the sacred stewardship of caring for our hearts.

Greenhouse

Facilitates a climate designed for growth, protection, and divine potential.

Curating becomes part of soil management: by tending the environment.

Essential for Creativity to flourish.

(Hosea 10:12: "Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you, 1 Peter 1:23, James 1:21, Psalm 1:2–3).

✍️ **Reflection for Home:**
How could viewing your heart as a greenhouse, foster creativity?

Section 3
Seeds, Prowess & Outflow

Seeds are designed to grow in a favourable environment.

Two Kinds of Seeds:

1. You Are the Seed: You are of **divine design and have a Kingdom purpose and are being transformed to maturity.**

(Romans 8:29, Ephesians 2:10), (Colossians 3:10, Ephesians 4:13 & 15, 2 Corinthians 3:18 and Romans 12:2, Jeremiah 18:1–6), (Ephesians 2:10, 1 Peter 2:9, 2 Timothy 1:9, Matthew 5:14–16, John 15:8 & 16), Ephesians 2:10, 1 Peter 2:9, 2 Timothy 1:9, Matthew 5:14–16, John 15:8 & 16).

2. The Creative Seed in You:

God has **deposited** His living Word, heaven-inspired ideas, problem-solving wisdom, and creative expressions.

Divine Potential:
(Ephesians 2:10, Ecclesiastes 3:11).

Waiting to Break Ground:
(Galatians 6:9).

✍️ **Reflection for Home:**
In what ways are these two kinds of seeds concepts connected? How could they be expressed in you?

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What do you think of, when you think of the word Prowess?

Prowess & Outflow

Prowess has two distinct definitions, and both describe what must happen for the seeds inside of us to break ground.

1. Courage, Valour, and Fearlessness:

   The spiritual bravery to acknowledge and admit that your creative gift is a valid, an intentional part of how God designed you.

2. Skill, and Ability:

As dedicated creative stewards we practice, explore and play. What we are happens when we do this is that we honour the **giver** of the gift.

Prowess is an active state of stepping out to break the surface.

Expressing this active state is also called **obedience.**

Expressions of Creative Outflow

OUTFLOW

- **Personal & Private:** (journaling, prayer, personal writing, spiritual songs, crafted prayers…etc)
- **Community & Care:** (Meals, hospitality, encouragement, card giving…etc)
- **Sphere of Influence:** (Carrying Christ into the broader culture: public events, developing connections with unsaved… etc.)

✍️ **Reflection for Home:**

What other examples of creative expression could you add to this list list? Which one(s) related to you?

Is God calling you to take any steps that require spiritual bravery?

Section 4

Poking in the Dirt - (*Mark 4:14–20*) Working out the truth

14 The sower sows the word. **15** And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. **16** These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; **17** and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. **18** Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, **19** and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. **20** But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.

Seed is the Word

Matt 13:3-9 & 18-23 | Mark 4:3-8 & 13-20 | Luke 8:4-8 & 11-15

The Hardened Path Truth is stolen	**The Rocky Ground** No depth, lacks moisture	**The Thorny Soil** Lack of fruit or maturity	**The Good Soil** Bears fruit & maturity
-Seed lies exposed	-Unable to take the heat	-slow (long term) death of the plant and future seeds. -Desire for worldly things predominant	-Increase and growth
On the wayside	-Short term endurance	-desire for worldly things predominant	-Noble & good heart (other accounts)
Packed	**Pebbles**	**Preoccupation**	**Productive**

🗣️ **Group Discussion:**

In what ways can these soil conditions (beliefs, conclusions…etc) affect our personal growth and creativity?

✍️ **Reflection for Home:**

Read Mark 4:14–20. Consider a specific situation, worry, or belief you are encountering in your life right now. Consider it in terms of a soil condition. Ask him what he wants you to do about it and invite the Lord to cultivate His deep richness within you in this area of your life.

Soil conditions can be changed.
[Artist: Shannon Dee Schultz]

Not meant to be in unproductive ground. There is always potential for internal growth.

Dirt needs structure, protection from erosion and added nutrients.

✍️ **Reflection for Home:**
Where might you need structure, protection from erosion, or add nutrients enrich your inner and creative life? Ask God to reveal these things to you.

Something every seed needs is a place of rest.

Like seeds we are created uniquely with different needs, different rates of growth and yield.

🗣️ **Group Discussion:**
When can hiddenness be an asset spiritual growth and an asset to creativity?

✍️ **Reflection for Home:**
What kind of hiddenness do you need to foster your inner life and your creativity?

Vital shift: We must move our emphasis off of constant self-assessment and step into an openness centred on **divine fullness.**

Section 5

The Prescription — Paul's Prayer for Depth (*Ephesians 3:14–21*).

Read the words in blue and red on the screen together. Note the 7 "P's" of Paul's prayer:

"16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might (**POWER**) through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell (in)(**PRESENCE**) in your hearts through faith; that you, being r(PLANTED) rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend (**GRASP** & **PERCEIVE**) with all the saints what is the (**PERENNIAL** or **INFINITE)** width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled (**PROVIDED)** with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all (**THE POSSIBILITIES**) that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. **AMEN.**

Paul prays for depth.

Ephesians 3, takes **curating** a step deeper.

Curating is no longer just about managing our own thoughts and beliefs; it's about making room for a Person.

Paul & Silas focus while in prison:

Prayer and worship: Focus beyond the temporary to what is eternally real (Acts 16, 2 Corinthians 4:16–18).

Paul shares what this inner provision looks like in his prayer.

The 7"P's"

- **Power (v. 16):** Supernatural strength targeted directly at our inner being, sourced in the Holy Spirit.

- **Presence of Christ (v. 17):** Christ making His permanent, settled home in our hearts.

- **Planted** (V17) Rooted in Christ.

- **Perceive (v. 18–19):** or to grasp and **know,** together in community, the infinite or **Perennial** dimensions of Christs love- something that is beyond human understanding. Romans 8: 37-39).

- **Provision (v. 19):** Being completely filled with all the fullness of God.

God offers us expansion through the same power that brought Jesus back to life with …because he can do so much more than we can imagine, he offers us:

- **Possibilities (V 20)** that exceed our expectations, our imagination (or creativity) through his powerful abundance.
  (Romans 8:11, Ephesians 1:19–20, Philippians 3:10).

Not rewards but gifts that are:

Relational, foundational, experiential, and communal. It takes us completely beyond our natural human limitations.
(Psalm 34:8, Peter 2:2–3, Hebrews 6:4–5, John 6:35, 56–57, Matthew 5:6, Revelation 3:20).

Personal and relational:

Think about it for a moment…
how deeply personal you are to God.

✍️ **Reflection for Home:**
How does seeing curating as making room for a person make a difference to you?

Infinity Graphic: The Beauty of Forever.

God doesn't get more loving over time—His love is perennial- complete, unshakeable.

What God does… is open our eyes to a greater revelation of him.

Cultivated in Community.

Art of Noticing and Seeing (gather, experience & appreciate.)

Holy Moments are not only solo events.

Express love together (Mark 12:28–31).

Dream of the Door and the Gifts.

✍️ **Reflection for Home:**
Where in your creative life—whether in making, writing, music, leadership, hospitality, or everyday problem-solving…etc., have you assumed a door was locked simply because it was closed?

What would it look like to step out and and push the door?

When the woman reached the end of her journey, in joy, she saw that she had offered her gifts back to the Father.

If using your gifts (spiritual & creative), is offering love back to God? What would change?
Matthew 25:14–15, 20–21, 1 Peter 4:10–11, Colossians 3:23–24).

As a Leader, how can you help those you serve to open doors they think might be locked?

Section 6
Summary & Takeaway

When we open and curate our inner landscape with the Master Craftsman, we open ourselves to a connection and reality that far exceeds our own limitations.

God operates beyond our wildest imaginations and release in us, more than we could ever ask, dream, or engineer on your own.

For what happens in the deepest, innermost part of the human heart determines everything that flows out of it.

Prayer & Group Prayer…