

OPTIMISTIC TRUST



Exhilarating Anticipation
that Foresees and Receives
God's Best

Jim Croft

with Mark Williams

The Lord has given every person of faith a choice about what kind of life they will lead: blessed enjoyment of people, provision, and health or endless crisis management of those realms. This work is a manual for facilitating concepts of blessings by employing unfailing, optimistic trust in God.

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ISBN: 978-1-63263-645-4

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Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida.

Printed on acid-free paper.

BookLocker.com, Inc.
2018

First Edition

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Chapter 5

Speech that Foresees the Invisible

The Scriptures teach that whatever we're believing for as we pray we're to receive as already in-hand. Those who see an obstacle in their path blocking a desired prize are to *tell* it to move before they actually *pray* that it be removed. These will have whatever they say. The principle is this:

The more that you say that it's happening as you foresee it happening, the more likely it is that it will happen which you pray that it will happen. (Mark 11:22-24)

All of the inventions, innovations, and concepts that have benefited man were first seen, while yet materially invisible, within the human soul. Concentrated discussions combined with revised mental imagery brought them from the invisible realm into practical use. Optimistic trust is inextricably tied to foresight of soul coupled with affirmations that the good seen is on the way. The biblical expression of this is to speak of things that don't yet exist as though they do. Abraham's name is defined as, "father of many nations". He introduced himself in that way years before begetting the promised child, Isaac. (Romans 4:17-21; 2 Corinthians 4:12)

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Prior to Jesus' crucifixion, He foresaw and spoke of a glorious futuristic event, though His immediate situation was misery ridden. Before His sentencing by Pilate, He was beaten and ridiculed by the guards of the High Priest. He was asked if He was the Son of God. His answer was, "Yes and hereafter you'll see me coming on the clouds of heaven seated beside my Father." (Matthew 26:63-64; 1 Timothy 6:12-13) The biblical term for verbal affirmations of that which we foresee and desire to receive is "good confessions". The same practice is routinely employed in all realms of human accomplishment. Olympic athletes envision gold medals and are encouraged by self-talk and coaches that what they foresee will come to pass. Scientific innovations, inventions, successful new businesses were foreseen and frequently discussed before coming to fruition. Whether secular or spiritually supernatural, both require combining positive prophetic vision and speech. For clarity, I need to explain a little about visions and the context of our focus.

Visions

Generally speaking in our culture, the term vision is an attitudinal term used in the context of dynamic aspirations for the future. (Proverbs 29:18) However, the Scriptures imply that useful visions come in a broader spectrum of variety. The capacity to have visions is God-given and all types have purpose.

First, there are Spirit-inspired thought pictures that come spontaneously when one is fully awake. Next are spiritual dreams, which are visions in which God speaks to people while they're asleep. Most of the prophetic books of the Bible came to their authors in the form of visions; these were written down and proclaimed verbally. The third type of biblical vision is that which optimistic trust utilizes. These might be called "creative visions." This genre of vision is important to understand for the development of optimistic trust. To do so, we'll begin with an outline about how visions in general come to awareness.

Mechanics of Visions

To understand the variety of visions, it'll be helpful to understand how they're birthed. As members of the human species, we are comprised of spirit, soul, and body. Your spirit is the core of your personhood and is located in your abdominal area. (Daniel 7:15; John 7:38) Synonyms for spirit are 'heart' and 'innermost being'. Your spirit is the communication center of your interaction with the Godhead. It's the mechanism from which you receive spiritual revelation; insights and feelings about what lies ahead. Your spirit emits an unmistakable gratifying sensation when God is sending incoming understanding. It's those episodes where planned thoughts and prayers have connectivity with God and His approval.

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Your soul includes your mind, but also contains your will, emotions, intellect, memories and imagination. There's indication that the soul circulates through the body's blood. The Hebrew for life is "nephesh" which is also translated as "soul". Life/soul resides in blood and on the cross Jesus poured out His soul/blood unto death. (Leviticus 17:14; Isaiah 53:12) As your blood circulates through your brain, whatever is in your universal psyche is available to register in your mind. So, it could be said that you're a spirit that has a soul that lives in a body.

The Bible instructs that God has set eternity in our hearts/spirits. (Ecclesiastes 3:11; Proverbs 20:27) The spirit is compared to a lamp that's always lit, never sleeps and that makes diligent search of all within us. Eternity is all that has been, is, and all that will ever exist. It's not possible for us to know everything in the eternal dimension. Nevertheless, our spirits illuminate whatever information God wants emphasized in our experience. Those sound bites and clips pass through our psyches in what I term a 'sea of information'. Its' currents are continually flowing through the spirits and souls of each one of us. The spirit and soul processes information in conjunction with cognitive reasoning.

Consider all that represents you and all that comprises who others recognize you to be. Think of that as a unique iceberg formation floating in eternity's sea. The tip of the triangle that's above water is all that you've learned intellectually, experienced in life, and all

that you've been exposed to via your 5 senses. The larger part of the iceberg that's beneath the waterline is your spirit and soul. Its' uniqueness is that sea water passes through it as well as around it. Due to eternity's currents, the psyche is potentially privy to infinitely more information than could ever be processed by academics and a lifetime of experience.

God has designed you in a fashion that prompts your spirit's lamp to conduct perpetual searches of the eternity within you. It shines upon sounds and scenes pertinent to your welfare, delights, interests and responsibilities. It's very much like a slide or movie projection on the canvas of your imagination. I'll give examples we've all experienced.

A favorite chum from the past comes to mind whom you've not thought of in years. Within a day or so, you hear from them out of the blue. The blue was the eternity that God's placed in your heart. Or, you've had a tune passing through you mind and suddenly a companion begins to spontaneously whistle it. This is the same mechanism that God uses in spiritual visions and dreams by which He often guides us. The fact that it's Him might be hardly perceptible. Nonetheless, whatever is authored by the Lord will have His distinctive flavor when pondered.

Creative Visions for Inner Art Gallery

Optimistic trust relies heavily on what I call creative visions. With this type of vision, the believer uses his own initiative as a paintbrush that is dipped into his understanding of the Word of God and the Lord's revealed will for his life. He then paints strokes of visualization on the canvas of his imagination of his perception of God's highest will for a specific situation or desire. He holds onto this thought picture in faith until what he sees in the inner realm is duplicated in his live-time circumstances.

The following is an example of how a creative vision served to bless a lady in Northern Ireland. Dr. John Kelly of Bangor Christian Fellowship had a wife and mother in his church who had been institutionalized with a nervous breakdown. During a pastoral counseling session subsequent to her release, he asked her what activity she had most missed during her time at the hospital. Her response was that above all things she missed cooking for her family and watching them enjoy eating their favorite foods. She quickly added that she did not feel that she had the mental or emotional capacity to prepare a full meal for them. Dr. Kelly encouraged her to choose optimism and gave her a cassette of my teaching. For the next week, she envisioned every step from her cooking of each dish through her family's smiles as they sat relishing the supper. She spoke to herself as she painted each stroke of the scene. On the appointed day, she cooked all day.

When it came time for the seasoning of the main dish, she discovered that she did not have two of the spices essential for its flavor. It was late, and she had no transportation for a trip to the market. Just as she found herself swimming in a sea of paralyzing confusion, her husband walked in the door. He greeted her saying that he had decided to come home early. Then, in a “by the way” manner, he added that he had felt a compulsion to stop by the grocers. He said he didn’t know why he stopped or what he wanted to buy, so he had just picked up a few “odds and ends.” When she took the grocery bag from him, she only found two items in it—the two obscure spices she was missing for her main dish.

The Psalms are resplendent with examples of David’s creative visualizations and corresponding verbalizations. In Psalms 91:4, his meditation was that he could find refuge under the feathers of the Lord’s wings. But God is not Big Bird. We are created in God’s image: We do not have feathers, and neither does He. In Psalms 52:8, David envisioned himself like a green olive tree flourishing in the house of the Lord. The symbols of the feathered wings and the olive tree, which he painted on the canvas of his imagination, helped David build his faith to flow in the protection and righteousness of God.

Visualization Self-Talk Heals

Several years back, I began to have soreness in my bladder area. I paid it no mind and it graduated into

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severe pain. The Doctor's examination found that I was bleeding. The concern in his eyes and his furrowed brow indicated that he feared the worst. A cystoscopy bladder exam was setup for ten days later. I immediately went to the Lord for a plan to bring his healing power into my dilemma. As I thought about the plumbing of my urinary track, two Bible passages came to mind. They were John 7:38 and Exodus 23:25. They speak of how the Holy Spirit's rivers of living waters flow from within believers. And that God will bless/heal our bread and our water and will take sickness from our midst. A mental picture was reflected on the canvass of my soul. I envisioned that each time that I would drink beverages the liquid would mix with the water of the Holy Spirit. It would pass through my urinary track bringing healing to my bladder which was in the midst/middle of my body. I took this like medication every time that I drank. I'd say to myself and to anyone nearby: While I drink this liquid it's combining with the Holy Spirit that flows from my belly. It will pass through the hidden places of my body bringing healing to my bladder. Any variety of cancer, any infection is hereby flushed from me. I didn't just say this, I described what I saw happening in the spiritual realm as I spoke. The pains stopped almost instantly. The bladder scope showed that I had no evidence of sickness. Other than sharing as a testimony of the value of optimistic trust put into action, I've had no reason to give the matter a thought since.

Moving Forward

I feel that this next Chapter is strategic as it has dual purpose. It will tie many of the principles previously covered together by practical application. It also introduces other steps necessary for full activation of optimistic trust in God. Chapter 6 is a rendition of a pamphlet that I wrote years ago for those suffering from cancer and other wasting diseases. It was an encouragement to unite prayer therapy and medical treatment in overcoming sickness. It was exceptionally well received with many sufferers putting it's principles into use. Receptionists and nurses who worked in cancer clinics and wards have passed it on to patients. It is my hope that you'll pass the teaching in this book on to any who are afflicted and need to cultivate optimistic trust in God. The principles outlined in this chapter can be applied to any of life's challenges and opportunities.

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