

Creative expression in prophecy and prayer

God is creative and we are made in His image, so it stands to reason we are created to be creative and to use that creativity! Whether in solving problems, deciding what to wear for the day, in the arts, at work, in our families, creativity is used in all aspects of life!

Throughout scripture we see multiple examples of creative expression – in expressing worship, prophecy, in ministry, and in prayer.

Creativity is also linked to being filled with the Holy Spirit. The first man reported in Scripture to be filled with the Spirit of God is Bezalel, a craftsman talented in all kinds of crafts, and he had the ability to teach others:

“Then the LORD said to Moses, “See I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts- (Exodus 31 NIV) And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. (Exodus 35:34 NIV) So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the LORD has commanded.” (Exodus 36:1 NIV)

In Scripture

Mime and drama is used over 40 times in Scripture. Over one third of the ministry of Ezekiel is done in Jewish mime.. The whole life of **Hosea** was a **living prophetic drama**.

Parables (a form of storytelling), The use of parables is seen over 250 times throughout the Old & New Testaments. Jesus used parables a lot to speak prophetically or to give understanding about things

Creative expression in the tabernacle – Ex 36:1 Bezalel, Oholiab, and others.

Prophetic musicians and singers– 1 Sam 10:5,6 1 Chron 25

Martin Luther said this about music - "Music is a fair and glorious gift of God. I am strongly persuaded that after theology, there is no art which can be placed on the level with music. The devil flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God."

Dance - (Ex 15:20-27) **Miriam** is described as a **prophetess** because of her **ability to arouse the people of Israel to ecstatic devotion to God through song & dance**. Oxford Annotated Bible)

Sculpture – Ezekiel 4:1- Jerusalem , Num 21 – Moses and brass serpent, Ex 36:1 – Tabernacle

Hosea 12:10 *I have also spoken [to you] by the prophets and I have multiplied visions [for you] and [have appealed to you] through **parables acted out by the prophets**.*

Why does this matter? This scripture brings out some important points about the arts:

- God chooses to speak to us in creative ways
- God calls his children to minister in creative ways
- Creativity is linked to prophetic revelation and prophecy.

Some creative expressions

Movement – Take notice of what you do with your body when you pray – it does not usually stay absolutely still, now begin to be deliberate in using movement to bring your body and words together as you pray –the following are just some ideas – you will come up with plenty yourself

1. “Lord, I praise you” – raise your hands in praise.”
2. “I come before you in worship – bow your body or kneel if you can.”
3. “My heart is heavy, but I give my worries to you – put your hand over your heart and then raise your hand as if handing your heart to the Lord”.
4. “I push back against the intimidation I feel and take authority over it – use a pushing movement and a capturing movement with your hand”.
5. “I stand in the authority you have given me – stamp your foot and plant your feet firmly on the ground”

Your senses

- **Visual prompts** – something you see in nature, around your home, in a photo, or on tv can be used to prompt prayer or you can use it as an expression of your heart or need.
- **Touch, Smell, Taste, Hearing** – these can all be used to prompt prayer and express thanks, needs, worship etc.

Nature

- Take prayer walks and use nature as prompts or to express your heart. Here are two examples
- Take a bush walk or tramp, allow the group to open up all their senses to the natural world. Use it as a thanksgiving prayer time.
- Take a trip to the beach, build sculptures or write words in the sand close to the shoreline that represent something you want forgiveness for. Watch as the tide washes away the sins.

Art

- Draw your needs and pray as you do so.
- Draw a passage of scripture you feel drawn to and pray as you do so, asking God to open the eyes of your heart to understand it more.
- Draw a prophetic picture for someone and write an accompanying explanation

Music and song

Use a song already written or write a song. Play prophetically musically.

Prayer journal

Use a journal to record your prayer, thoughts and revelations about what you’re praying for, you can include drawings, doodle designs, pasted pictures etc.

In prayer and intercession, we can also use creative expressions to further emphasise what we pray, and also to make our prayer a whole being expression not just a verbal one. There are many creative things we can include in our prayer and intercession.

Whether it is through the things above or others such as –

✨ flags, ✨ prayer jars, ✨ prayer walking, ✨ prayer flags, ✨ post-it notes, ✨ writing psalms, ✨ using a prayer app, ✨ vocalized prayer – Multiple expressions of worship, intercession and revelation are valid for expressing your heart before God.