

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT CHARITY BOWMAN WEBB AND *CREATIVE FUSION*...

It has been a delight to see the journey described in this book unfold. Conversations, God moments, and opportunities to hear revelation pour forth have peppered the last decade, and I can say that I know no one who carries this message—the release of God’s creativity for societal transformation—like Charity does. There is a maturity and depth to what she shares, mixed with a childlike wonder at God’s secrets, that leads to very practical steps to enter into this creative revolution that is no longer coming, but now arising, in the church. It is time! This book is the right message at the right time, apples of gold in settings of silver, for the season we are in. The fact that it springs from the blood, sweat, and tears of one who has been willing to pay the price and clear the path for others to follow just increases the impact it can have on your life. May you hear His voice calling you in. The tabernacle awaits!

—*John E. Thomas*  
President, Streams Ministries International, USA

In these last few years, we are hearing more and more clearly the call for a restoration of the fullness of the embodied message of the gospel and the kingdom. *Creative Fusion* is offered as a catalyst that will release this message to a weary church and a hungry world. Blending strong prophetic insights with deeply insightful biblical teaching, Charity is able to bring to life the amazing kingdom adventure of *all* things being reconciled through Jesus. She offers each Christian huge encouragement to trust God for the missional task before us, knowing that all that is required for the task is already available. This book is an invitation to step into the most dynamic, creative era the church has ever known.

—*Alan McWilliam*  
CEO/team lead, Cairn Movement, Scotland & Ireland, UK

For the past ten years, I have journeyed with my friend Charity Bowman Webb, and I am amazed at the way she has masterfully woven together creativity and the tabernacle pattern. Her prismatic words illuminate the reader's imagination, empowering and inviting us into a personal discovery of our destined place in these adventurous times.

—Susan Card

Visual artist, South Carolina, USA

Dear reader, let me commend this book to you, written by my dear friend and sometime partner in ministry. Charity is probably the first person I know who uttered the word *creativity* in the context of God's desire to restore this quality back into His church and people so they would function more fully in His callings and giftings in their lives. Over the years, Charity has been diligent to unpack God's Word on this topic and seek Him out for greater understanding and revelation so she could help train His people. It has been my immense pleasure to see her grow into a great leader in this area, taking up what God has mandated her to do and train and release creativity in people and churches in several countries with great and joyful impact. Prepare for the same as you read *Creative Fusion*!

—Cindy Hayes

Streams Ministries International

Training manager, North Atlantic Dreams, Scotland, UK

The Bible is full of types, patterns, and shadows. Recognizing these builds understanding, but unpacking them builds wonder and draws us closer to God. *Creative Fusion* undertakes the momentous task of unpacking the biblical pattern of the tabernacle, creating a pioneering study. The journey for the reader is full of discovery and meaning that are both confirmatory and inspirational for the body of Christ.

—Hilary McNutt

CEO, Mustard Seed Thinking Ministry, Scotland, UK

**CHARITY BOWMAN WEBB**

*Creative*  
**FUSION**

**MERGING KINGDOM STRATEGIES TO IMPACT OUR WORLD**



**WHITAKER  
HOUSE**

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## **CREATIVE FUSION:** **Merging Kingdom Strategies to Impact Our World**

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# 1

## OUR GENESIS DESIGN

*Creativity is the evidence of the life inside you.*  
—Emily P. Freeman, bestselling author and podcast host<sup>1</sup>

**T**he creation is a meeting place between humanity and God. Another such meeting place is God’s Word. In the first chapter of Genesis, God introduces Himself to us, selecting one name from the 365 names in the Bible that depict parts of His character.

Genesis 1:1 says, *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* What part of His divine character did God choose to reveal first? You might guess that He revealed His love or His healing power, but it was actually His creativity that He first proclaimed. Yes, the opening line of the Bible unveils God as a creative Creator. Later on in the same chapter, we read:

*Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

(Genesis 1:26–27)

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1. Freeman, Emily. “A Creative Liturgy of Everyday Life.” Podcast. Makers and Mystics, January 25, 2018. <http://www.makersandmystics.com/makersandmystics/2018/1/25/s3-e8-a-creative-liturgy-for-the-everyday-with-emily-freeman>.

Up to this point in Genesis 1, God reveals little else about Himself besides His capacity for powerful, world-changing creativity—and his decision to make us *just like Him*. The act of creativity is not narrowed to that of a professional artist's expression. On the contrary, *all* people would be made in His image—and, therefore, *all* people would be called to create, just as He did. Yet countless Christians seem to embrace the rest of the Bible and its wisdom on what is needed for a life well lived in Christ, meanwhile missing or dismissing the importance of Genesis 1, as if creativity is an optional endeavor, an extra bonus reserved for “artistic individuals.” How could this misunderstanding have happened, when it is clear that the first revelation given about our nature as humans is our creativity?

The enemy has a plan. Well aware of God's intentions for co-creation with humankind and the battle-winning potential of such collaboration, he will stop at nothing to make sure we remain unaware of the creative possibilities we are capable of. We live in a world jam-packed with creativity and the arts; it seeps into most areas of daily life through the media, music, design, television, sports, and many other arenas, with the regularly using it to megaphone his message and influence millions of minds. When it dawned on me that, according to Genesis 1, every one of God's children is meant to be creative, I began to recognize just how distorted our definition of “creativity” has become.

**ACCORDING TO GENESIS 1, EVERY ONE OF GOD'S CHILDREN IS MEANT TO BE CREATIVE.**

## **RIGHTING WRONG PERSPECTIVES ON CREATIVITY**

I have asked many Christians what comes to mind when I say the word “creativity.” The most common response was that creativity involved being “artistic.” Right there is the clincher, the place where

people count themselves out of the potential powerhouse of creativity that is their birthright. The majority of Christian artists are not exempt from believing creativity to be a unique and rare trait reserved for a few. This stance is one that our adversary wants us to adopt, so that we remain ignorant, having limited potential. He has tried to disguise the door to the arsenal of our creative weaponry as something irrelevant or pretty, at best.

The dictionary definitions for *creativity* and *creative* are especially illuminating:

*Creativity*: “the ability to transcend traditional ideas, rules, patterns, relationships, or the like, and to create meaningful new ideas, forms, methods, interpretations, etc.; originality, progressiveness, or imagination.”

*Create*: “to cause to come into being, as something unique that would not naturally evolve or that is not made by ordinary processes.”

Words associated with *creativity* include “original,” “ingenious,” “innovative,” “inventive,” “productive,” “clever,” “inspired,” and “leading-edge.”<sup>2</sup> Antonyms expressing the opposite include “fruitless,” “inept,” “unproductive,” and “uninspired.”

If, like many Christians, we don’t consider ourselves to be creative, then do we classify ourselves according to those antithetical terms? Who of us wants to be unimaginative or untalented?! Just the same, many believers feel lacking and inadequate when facing the breadth of problems before them, both in their immediate circle and in the wider world.

Let’s believe for a moment we are all “made in God’s likeness” and creative, by definition. Now we Christians become gifted, innovative, leading-edge, and visionary! In our current culture, would you say that these terms correspond with the way the world sees the church right now? When a need arises that demands a groundbreaking solution, are

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2. “Creative,” Dictionary.com, accessed August 5, 2021, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/creative>.

people pounding on the church doors for answers because they know God's people are mighty problem solvers equipped with otherworldly wisdom?

Perhaps you would agree that a little change in perspective is yet needed. Step one in this change is to find the door to the dynamo, ignore the sign marked *Irrelevant* that the enemy has set in place, and open it up. What's in there? It does belong to you, after all. It's the first truth God wanted you to understand about your nature as a co-creator with Him.

## **CALLED TO CREATE**

*All* God's people possess divine creativity in their spiritual DNA. When we connect our built-in potential for creativity to the source of divinity, we remove the limits from our ability to fulfill that which He calls us to accomplish. This creativity is not intended just for "the arts"; it is for every call, profession, community, and believer. This is a decisive key in connecting the activity of heaven to the earthly realm.

There are new ideas, strategies, solutions, and innovations yet to come that will bring leaps in science and medicine, life-giving policies in government, and artistic creations of all kinds that will release the imprint of heaven with their beauty and message. The list of possibilities is endless; it reaches into where you are and where God has asked you to stand. If we begin the shift now, I believe future generations of Christians will access the "dynamo door" early, when life is brimming with opportunities and possibilities in vocation and in life. The result will be profoundly changed individuals and a transformed church.



***ALL GOD'S PEOPLE CARRY HIS CREATIVE DNA.***

## MODELING OUR CREATOR

*O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, who stretch out the heavens like a curtain. He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, who makes the clouds His chariot, who walks on the wings of the wind, who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire. You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever, You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled; at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, to the place which You founded for them. (Psalm 104:1–8)*

God's act of creating is the first thing He illustrates to us in the Bible, building a foundation for all His subsequent actions. He formed the world—the whole of creation—and then He shaped us, His children. As we have said, it is significant that God would disclose, before any other details, that creativity is part of the nucleus of His very nature, and that we share the same desire and ability to bring into being things that did not exist before.

Creation is an astonishing system that not only nurtures life in millions of complex ways but also displays spectacular beauty, from the jewellike colors of a dragonfly's fragile wings to the bewildering expanse of light and form in a single landscape. The complexities of the world around us continually lead scientists to discover a never-ending stream of marvels. Yet we live in an age where many scientists are battling to undo the damage people have wrought on this planet. Perhaps, had we consulted the Maker of our planet more diligently on how to live, our world would not be such a mess. The good news is that there is still time for change. When heaven connects with earth, anything can be transformed and healed. It's time to ask the Maker for solutions.

Through creation, by means of general revelation, God has consistently endeavored to communicate to us His nature and to help us understand just what we possess as His heirs. But understanding and revelation come only through relationship. (See, for example, John

15:15.) As the most supremely creative being, God often speaks to us in innovative ways; His messages are not limited to sequences of words. For us as humans, to learn from Him is to grow; to close ourselves off from His communications is to wither in a life of limitation. We are the branches of the all-powerful Vine—live limbs that are meant to keep growing and bear creative fruit. (See John 15:1–17; 2 Timothy 2:15.)

### **THE COMMUNICATION OF CO-CREATION**

Co-creation with God enables us to become personally involved in the process of stretching spiritual capacity as the Holy Spirit multiplies our skill and magnifies our understanding. Our willingness to learn from God can open a kaleidoscope of communication. The more we open ourselves to the limitless methods by which God converses with His children, the more we will come to realize that God is rarely silent! Why live as if fumbling around in the dark, searching for a door, when you can turn on the light switch because you know where it is?

*He who forms the mountains, who creates the wind, and who reveals his thoughts to mankind...the LORD God Almighty is his name.*

(Amos 4:13 NIV)

A panorama of communication lies before us. God's voice, in whatever way it speaks to us, brings comfort, healing, and direction in the continual flow of communication that transforms us "from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18). The Father may speak to us through any number of ways: His astonishing creation, our fellow humans, the arts, works of literature, mathematical theorems, astronomical discoveries, or our very circumstances. He may use visions and dreams like mini-movies, with layers of meaning, giving us guidance for the present and the future, for personal or corporate application. He may send us snapshot pictures capable of expressing a thousand words. This marvelous diversity of communication methods can draw us into areas of the divine that we would otherwise struggle to reach for tripping over human logic.

God also speaks to us through the Bible, but we need the Holy Spirit to illuminate our understanding of His Word, or we will be subject to

the passion killer of human-fueled religion. Treasures await us, buried in the symbols and mystery of God's divine language, if we will only develop the spiritual maturity required to handle this costly cache.

***GOD'S CHOSEN FORM OF COMMUNICATION IS OFTEN METAPHORICAL;  
THE QUEST IS FOR US TO LEARN HIS LANGUAGE.***

He often speaks through metaphors and other literary devices—not designed to confuse us but to be cleverly devised invitations to enter into a relationship by which we uncover a wealth of wisdom. Our quest is to learn His language. When we desire a relationship with this God of creative communication, our prayers come alive, and become conversations far removed from the dry, distant repetitions of meaningless words. We begin a deepening journey of incomprehensible friendship with the Creator of the universe.

## **THE NATURE AND AIM OF CO-CREATION**

We were never meant to create alone. All the education in the world could never be enough to equip anyone to form anything of eternal value. Many people have strived with excessive effort to produce something of unique worth. Yet when such endeavors are pursued by people disconnected from God, their efforts can be their undoing. A revival of even the most beautiful of materialism cannot transform darkness into light. But when we learn to co-create in collaboration with the Creator, the journey becomes excitingly personal. Being “[seated] *together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*” (Ephesians 2:6), we were designed to create from heaven to earth, not the other way around. When we create from an earthly foundation, the product's value is merely temporal. Yet when we create from the basis of our divine identity, with heaven as our starting point, something completely different happens. Whether we have advanced gifting or simply the courage of a novice, God can use us

to create magnificent products of eternal value because He looks at the heart, not at natural aptitudes or talent. (See, for example, 1 Samuel 16:7.) The nature of our character and our cultivation of the fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22–23) are the stabilizing forces of excellence.

As God seeks to reclaim territory on earth, He calls us to use our spiritual gifts and ministries—not only in the church environment but in the world at large, a spiritually polluted landscape in desperate need of healing and redemption. When we yield to His guidance and respond to His Spirit, He will position us strategically, according to our individualized mix of traits. Any job in any arena can be a sacred work of creativity when yielded to the Lord. If we mistakenly believe that we can fulfill a sacred duty only by training to be a pastor or traveling to foreign lands as a missionary, then we may miss our calling if God intends us to advance His kingdom in a different way. That is one reason why it is crucial to keep a keen ear to His communications, whatever form they may take.

The combinations of a person's callings, gifts, and skills can result in many unexpected outcomes that God uses for His glory. As we correct the misperception of what constitutes secular versus sacred pursuits, we will rediscover our God-given gifting and unleash our potential. A little further still, and we will recognize and access the powerful weapons already present in our arsenal against the enemy.

Creativity can make us uncomfortable when it brings up questions and issues we would rather not think about. Creativity requires taking risks and is rarely satisfied with the status quo, ever probing new possibilities and unprecedented outcomes. It is seldom an explosion of instantaneous genius. More often than not, it is the result of methodical process and unflagging effort. It's time to ask God for a more extensive perspective. What has He given you in terms of gifts, skills, and experiences? How might God want you to combine these personalized elements in a powerful, productive pursuit of something you may never have thought possible? If all your options are open, how might He wish to partner with you in a life well lived in His kingdom?