Power of Imagination

Today we continue our series on the 12 spiritual powers as described by Unity co-founder Charles Fillmore. We look at them one by one but we possess them all and they are all available at any moment. In Unity we declare there is only One Power and One Presence and so we think of the 12 powers as the colors that appear when you pass a beam of light through a crystal. Divine life is the beam of light and we are the crystal. As the individual powers are manifest in us, they also become subject to the influence of our humanity. What does that mean?

Each power is derived from that One Power, the Divinity that is our true nature. In mathematics there is a concept of an absolute number. It means it has no positive or negative nature. Each power exists in the absolute as a pure essence. When that power moves through us, it moves onto the relative or material plane. This plane is a land of duality. We seek to classify everything as positive or negative. And our powers then become subject to interpretations of use as positive or negative. Some people try to classify the powers as masculine or feminine. But these dualities cannot exist in the Absolute. So imagination in the Absolute is purely creative.

Charles Fillmore, in the Revealing Word defines “imagination” as: “The faculty of mind that images and forms; the power to shape and form thought. With our imagination we lay hold of ideas and clothe them with substance. In the communication of God with man, the imaging power of the mind plays an important part. It receives divine ideas and reflects their character to the consciousness.”

“The power to shape and form thought.” So ideas come to us from the divine ethers and it is through our imagination that we clothe it with the substance that makes it a thought. We control how we shape and form thoughts and images.

Now the free online dictionary says that imagination is: “The formation of a mental image of something that is neither perceived as real nor present to the senses.” Science would disagree with the first part of this definition. Clearly, things that we imagine are NOT present to the senses. What we imagine is not before us; we cannot touch it or smell or taste it. But our minds cannot tell the difference between what is real and what is vividly imagined.
Have you ever dreamed you were chased by a bear or something threatening? And did you wake breathless, with your heart pounding? Your imagination created something so vividly in your mind that your body responded as if it were real.

*Alice in Wonderland* was published in England in 1865. For those of you who think it was written by Lewis Carroll, you are only partially correct. That was the writing pseudonym for Charles Lutwidge Dodson. The book grew out of a story that Charles spun as he and a friend took the three daughters of Henry Liddell for a boat ride. One of the girls was named Alice. She asked Charles to write the story down for her. A second boat ride added to the story. And by the time he gave her a written copy for Christmas, he was finishing a longer manuscript for publication.

The story is rich with imagery and many have mined the story for meaning. Dodson was a mathematician at Christ Church in Oxford so there are articles about the mathematical plays in the language of the story. And while I wonder what a mathematician does at church, I admit I did use the mathematical theory of absolute numbers in explaining the powers. But I think what drew me to use Alice for the power of imagination is that dynamic in our brains in which we cannot reliably discern between vividly imagined and reality. Alice wonders if what she is experiencing is real or a dream. At the end of the story, Alice is being attacked by a pack of cards—which she calls out as being just that—a pack of cards. At that point her sister wakes her from the dreaming nap at the bank of the stream where they had been playing.

The other aspect of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland that drew me was the wild mélange of fun and frightening characters in the story. There is the mysterious Cheshire Cat, the distracted White Rabbit, and of course the murderous Queen of Hearts, “Off with their heads!” Manifesting in the realm of duality, imagination can turn in many directions. In its absolute, it is simply creating. It is shaping and forming thoughts.

During the early testing of atomic power, there were great concerns from the inventors and pioneers about how the information and the power would be used. And those concerns were justified.
Currently you may be aware of beliefs about the significance of December 21, 2012. It is the end of the Mayan long calendar and there are websites and articles and movies prophesying this will be the end of the world. Imagination has created many horrific scenarios. It may be some planetary event or solar event or something else entirely. But many firmly believe it will be the end of the world. And they have vividly imagined the end event.

Some of you may also be aware of Barbara Marx Hubbard. Marianne Williamson calls her our “undisputed planetary midwife”. Buckminster Fuller said, “There is no doubt in my mind that Barbara Marx Hubbard – who helped introduce the concept of futurism to society – is the best informed human now alive regarding futurism and the foresights it has produced.” She is the subject of a new biography by Neale Donald Walsh titled, The Mother of Invention. Most of her work arises from an experience she had in 1966. She was walking alone and meditating on what was humanities next journey and purpose. She describes what happened next in a video at the website: www.birth2012.com

Basically she becomes one with the cosmos. She is floating beyond the earth but feeling a part of the planet. She is overwhelmed by a feeling of pain as the waters are clouded, the air thin and the people gasping for air and food. Then there is a shift. There is a feeling of resonance as the people identify with their oneness. The air and water clear and people relax. This healing of the planet was the next journey revealed to her and she says it changed her work.

Barbara is an author and teacher with a focus on “conscious evolution”. She describes this as: “the evolution of evolution, from unconscious to conscious choice. While consciousness has been evolving for billions of years, conscious evolution is new. It is part of the trajectory of human evolution, the canvas of choice before us now as we recognize that we have come to possess the powers that we used to attribute to the gods.

We are poised in this critical moment, facing decisions that must be made consciously if we are to avoid destroying the world as we know it, if we are instead to co-create a future of immeasurable possibilities. Our conscious evolution is an invitation to ourselves, to open to that positive future, to see ourselves as one planet, and to learn to use our powers wisely and ethically for the enhancement of all life on Earth.”

Ginny and I had the opportunity to hear her speak passionately about her vision not for the end of the world but for the end of the world as we know it and then for the birth of a new order as we create it! So if the old world ends on December 21 then the new birth can be celebrated on December 22.
The question Barbara asks is, “Will humanity act in time to create a sustainable planetary civilization?”

We all have a stake in the answer to that question yet not everyone feels called to participate in the creative process. Many continue to use their powers of imagination to conjecture about the end process but do not apply those same powers to begin the change. The second definition for imagination at the Free Online Dictionary is [t]he ability to confront and deal with reality by using the creative power of the mind; resourcefulness. Imagination that sees the current situation and then entertains the possibilities that lie beyond the current situation AND a new path to get there.

Albert Einstein, the smart guy with the bad hair, said, “Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you anywhere.”

And George Bernard Shaw says, “You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say, 'Why not?'”

At the convention there was a resonance with what Barbara Marx Hubbard and Jean Houston spoke about in the Birth 2012 project. It was the idea that a million people would pool their imagination and their creative powers on December 22 and beyond. We would create an energy that would provide a tipping point so that conscious evolution could be on a new creative track. In addition to the birth2012.com website, there is also a birth 2012 Unity Facebook page. The ideas are flowing about what people are willing to commit to this December event and beyond. Unity churches across the country are participating. I’d like to know what you would like to create? Is this a project that Unity of Lehigh Valley would like to be a part of? In lieu of our regular “What’s UP” meeting after service on August 5th, I’d like to ask you to join me in a conversation about Birth 2012. We’ll view the videos then but you can also check out the information in advance at the birth2012.com website. We’ll see if this calls to us. Then we can look at some of the options available and if we want to participate, we can brainstorm about what ULV might want to do.

Imagination is a powerful tool. It can engage our bodies immune system in the healing process. It can raise and lower our blood pressure. It can enhance or limit the performance of our bodies and minds. It can convince us we are in prison or it can wing us soaring above the current realities. Imagination, like all the other powers, is a tool that it is up to us to utilize. Birth 2012 is a unique opportunity for us to use the power of imagination for the conscious evolution of our world. Are you ready? Unlike the white rabbit, we are not late! We are right on time!