

Walking on Water: What Does It Mean to Be a Christian Artist?

Author Madeleine L'Engle wrote, "In art we are once again able to do all the things we have forgotten; we are able to walk on water; we speak to the angels who call us; we move, unfettered, among the stars." For L'Engle, there was no distinction between her Christian faith and her art; the disciplines that strengthened one, strengthened the other, and the distractions and temptations that drew her away from one weakened her in the other. In this session, we will consider what it means to be a Christian artist – one called to love his neighbor and be a fruitful member of the Body of Christ – and glimpse a vision of a reality in which we may thrive as artists and as disciples of Christ.

Natalie Meeks, co-leader of the ELF Artists Network, is the Executive Director for Bridge Builders International, which ministers to artists in multiple countries in Europe and the US. As a freelance writer, she has penned articles about ministries all over the world. She is a lover of the classics (secular and spiritual) and enjoys reading and writing poetry. Her Christian faith and confidence in the Scriptures inform her understanding of, communication with, and ministry to artists of all kinds. She and her husband of 20 years reside in Greenville, South Carolina. They have six children, including an adopted son from Latvia.

I. Definition of the Christian Artist

- a. Image and Likeness of God
- b. Matthew 7:17

II. Nature of the Christian Artist

- a. Calling
- b. Sacrifice

III. The Artist as Truth Teller

- a. Imagination is the organ of meaning
- b. Ephesians 6:11

IV. The Artist as Shepherd

a. Generosity

b. Hebrews 11:16