

Imaginations of the Heart

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

The human mind is a marvelous creation of God. The “darkroom of the soul,” it contains a great capacity to generate powerful visual impressions and what we call ‘imagination’. Satan desires to manipulate our imagination by projecting ungodly images to subvert our thought processes. For this reason, the mind is also a battleground.

Christians must understand the power of imaginations and learn how to bring them under the Holy Spirit’s control through the Word of God. He is challenging us to enter into godly discipline so we will have discernment.

Remember, we are living in the last days. Make sure that this doctrine is as clear as a bell in your mind. This is *divine* psychology—a study of the mind from God’s viewpoint. Do not live in projections, intimidation, or old-sin-nature condemnation. Rather, receive divine healing for your soul and divine inspiration that

produces health to your bones, stability for your mind, and soundness in your heart (2 Timothy 1:7).

Chapter One

REFLECTED IMAGES IN THE SOUL

“For though we walk [live] in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh and using mere human weapons. For the weapons of our warfare are not physical (weapons of flesh and blood), but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds,

“[Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the (true) knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One,

“Being in readiness to punish every [insubordinate for his] disobedience, when your own submission and obedience [as a church] are fully secured and complete” (2 Corinthians 10:3-6, Amplified translation).

Every day, the average person is exposed to millions of images that are processed in the mind. Each is a pictorial representation of something reflected from God's Kingdom of light or projected from Satan's kingdom of darkness. What we receive in the darkroom of the soul is the beginning of imagination.

In this process, mental images are formed in the unconscious and subconscious mind and released by the conscious mind. For example, in the world of literary arts, poets envision "pictures" in their mind. By cultivating their gift through the skillful expression of their thoughts, they create poems from these mental impressions by putting them into words. This is a power and function of imagination.

The nature of imagination is based upon the source of the images that form it. When the image is related to Adam, it will produce Adam's likeness as a picture in the soul. This brings to reality images of the past and connects them to those of the present. The result, a composite image from the flesh, directly contributes to some form of demonic injury, human failure, or relationship problem.

How Images Influence Worship

We live in an erotic age. When *eros*, one of the Greek words for “love” was used in the Old Testament, it often had a good meaning. But today we live in an erotic age in which sex has become a practice of pleasure, resulting in idolatry for some. *Eros* has triumphed over our civilization through the madness of women who seem to be good yet are, in reality, seducers of the flesh because of the wickedness of their souls, and by men who allow their libido to overrule godly restraint.

But beyond that, this erotic age has produced a “romance” in the emotions that is evident even in some church services. Often, in fact, “worship” becomes a romance, engaged to calm the soul. It allows people to occupy themselves without actually worshipping God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). Indeed, it is very possible to go to the house of God and have a romantic experience with *eros* love stimulating and stirring up emotions and arousing the conscience to honor God. But when it is over, the experience did not allow categories of doctrine to be transferred to the right lobe of the brain, which would enable the Christian to be victorious in the meditations

of his heart.*

People may feel fine during church services, but once they leave, the problems reappear because the service was only a time of romantic security and a temporary diversion from what is going on outside. This is not what God wants.

God wants His church to be a place where the communicator (the pastor-teacher) communicates the Word, and the Holy Spirit transfers the Truth deep into believers' hearts. Then we meditate through reflection and constant reiteration of specific truth for divine guidance in specific areas of life.

The believer's meditation with the Father, Son, and Spirit (1 John 1:1-3) is just as powerful as any church service. Of course, church services are essential. But through a personal vertical with God, complemented by the church services, we have a profound ability to enjoy fellowship with the Source of our ammunition for the spiritual weapons we handle in life. And regardless of the situation by sight, we are never alone in the battle.

Demonic Manipulations

Satan knows how to manipulate the process of imaginations. Evil images come in through

wrong reflections, misrepresentation of truth, and impressions, as well as direct satanic stimulation. The shame of the hour among Christians is that many cannot discern the spirit world.

As these pictorial representations enter the natural mind, the images develop as forthcoming thoughts. It all happens in the mind, in the darkroom of the soul, where all sensuality comes from in this sexually charged age of *eros*.

“Thou understandest my thought afar off” (Psalm 139: 2*b*). This means that God knows the imaginations of the unconscious mind. We don’t know them, we can’t define them, but they are in there, in various stages of formation. For example, God’s Word says, “Think no evil.” If I get upset at someone, except for righteous indignation, that is an imagination from hell.

If I cannot trust a person’s heart to be pure, godly, and loving when he knows the truth, lives in the truth, communicates the truth, and appropriates the truth, then I am living in an unsanctified imagination about that person. And even if there is a factual basis for the accusation, I am to annihilate it, because we are commanded not to know anyone after the flesh, but only after who they are in Christ.

A Tour of the Darkroom

As mentioned, an imagination begins with a pictorial representation or reflected image in the unconscious mind. That image is derived either from the image of Adam or from the image of Christ with the Holy Spirit and categorical doctrine. At this point, the image has not been defined in the subconscious or conscious mind.

From the image of Christ, we derive a new conversation, a new way of living, by the impartation of Truth. An ungodly image, however, is conceived either through ignorance (because of a lack of teaching) or through weariness and being overwhelmed with life, though we may be well taught.

To understand the process, try to picture the mind as the 'darkroom' of the soul with its three parts in layers. The outermost and thinnest layer is the *conscious* where we experience thoughts, sensations, emotions, and spiritual awareness. Just beneath consciousness is the *subconscious* where images take on greater definition as they are developed. The subconscious mind is where we begin to 'sense' something, but we do not yet fully understand it. The deepest layer where images are initially received is the *unconscious*. The

unconscious and subconscious mind together make up the subjective mind.

The principle is not unlike the process that takes place in an old fashioned photographic darkroom. By light reflecting off an object onto a prepared surface through the 'eye' of the camera, in a millisecond of time the image is received. To 'bring up' the image, the film must be *activated* by a catalyst or developer. Once the image reaches its optimum clarity with precision of detail, the process is *stopped*—development of that image is *finished*. But then, to maintain the definition so the image can safely be brought to the light and handled, the image must be *fixed*. Finally, it is *bathed* in water to removed any traces of the corrosive elements used in the process. The result is a picture that represents precisely the image that was initially reflected.

Appreciate the Savor of God's Knowledge

Knowledge must have the spices and fruit of the Holy Spirit, or it isn't godly knowledge (Song of Solomon 4:11-16). Even if it is God's truth, it produces merely a form of godliness that lacks the power and the savor of His spices (see 2 Corinthians 2:14-17).

Vain and impure imaginations come from

many different demons. There are imaginations from drug demons, from unclean spirits, from religious demons, from demons that influence a poor self-image, from demons that make us defensive, and from pleasure demons. They may appear in the form of human good and self-righteousness.

Some imaginations bring spiritual poverty and bankruptcy to the unconscious mind of a man so that he doesn't even know he has been robbed. That person is left with knowledge without power in his conscious mind. Then, in the darkroom of the soul, a forceful, supernatural, communicative power goes to work in the subjective subconscious mind. Just beneath the conscious mind, it is enough to begin to define something. The picture begins to be developed, activated by something someone says, by a circumstance, or by a projection from hell. As the picture develops, the image takes on verbal form. In the end, he has an idea, a comprehension of something that stands against the savor of God's knowledge. It must be cast down.

**As an excellent resource on the subject of how God has ordered the spirit, soul, and body of man to function through a renewed mind, we highly recommend reading The Hearing Heart, by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1996.*

Chapter Two

SANCTIFIED IMAGES THAT COME AGAINST HIGH THINGS

God wants His people to have sanctified images, Spirit-controlled imaginations. He wants us to be released from imaginations that come from the prisons of the satanic kingdom, the world system, and demon armies.

If I trust you and I know your heart, you can say or do anything and it will not offend me. No imagination could make me change what I think about you. I refuse to receive anything against you, including a projection. How is that possible? I cast down the vain imagination. I bring any thought that is against the savor of divine knowledge into obedience to Jesus Christ, punishing wrong imaginations with obedience to doctrine.

Demons That Attack the Body

There is a class of demons called *Eloces*.

These demons have a system of putting physical marks on our bodies, just as they put impressions into the mind. They are able to introduce infections through bacteria and viruses in the air we breathe as well as through insect bites.

“The Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils” (1 Timothy 4:1). When Paul brought up the subject of food, he said that nothing is to be refused for food if it’s sanctified with thanksgiving and prayer (1 Timothy 4:4-5). Why do we have to sanctify our food? Because there is a class of demons that infect food beyond the damage already done through the environment and the soil. But when we pray over the food we eat, we are protected from possible infection that can cause illness.

Of course there are natural reasons for food infections, like salmonella bacteria. We need to use wisdom—this is not witch-hunting for demons. But we must recognize our enemy and understand his power. Food must be sanctified by prayer and thanksgiving to protect us from the demon army.

Next, *Valefor* is the demon responsible for

the production of medicines that cause side effects, and his army has an organized system that takes advantage of medical knowledge. Because they know how chemicals interact and can see through the complexities of the human body, they can influence the production of drugs that may cause more harm than good. While a certain drug may help to relieve a person somewhat, the side effects can be devastating because of the demon forces involved.

Certainly I'm not suggesting that anyone stop taking the medication their doctor has prescribed. Still, many people see more than one doctor, and vital information may not always be readily available to make informed decisions. Recent evidence proves that many people have become extremely ill and have even died because of inappropriate use of prescription drugs as well as over-the-counter medicine. Remember, Satan operates through an organized, invisible government. We need to use our heads, ask questions, and better yet, pray for protection as we take care of our physical bodies (as good stewards).

Again, this is not to cause fear. Only through prayer, objectivity, and divine guidance can a person tell when a sickness is caused by demons.

We thank God for the medical profession and their dedication to improve the quality of life. We are simply identifying—by name—the demons that are at work in these areas. They do not advertise their existence and would prefer that we would remain ignorant of their devices.

Demons That Attack Relationships

There are demons that cause people to violate relationships that start out well. They are called “relative demons” that open a gulf between people. For example, in a premarital relationship, one person will fail, then they will both begin to kiss and touch, violating purity because of natural desire. Then they have to break up. It happened because they did not cast down vain imaginations! They did not punish disobedience with obedience.

Song of Solomon 4:12 speaks of a “garden inclosed, a spring shut up and fountain sealed.” Sometimes you try to tell a young person, “Don’t go out into the world.” He or she will say, “Oh, you’re just trying to fence me in.” That’s right. The garden is enclosed, the spring is shut up, and the fountain is sealed. Actually, it is not fencing a person in, but fencing the devil out. Surely, we walk a narrow road, but on that

road we find joy, purity, laughter, power, godly imaginations, godly honor for parents and leaders, and godly respect toward people.

Demons That Attack the Mind

The Word of God refers to an army of demons under the headship of their chief, *Andres*, the lords of destruction that come in through the imagination. Their purpose is to use people who do not hear properly and who, therefore, miscommunicate. They use circumstances and situations to get us to domesticate Satan and get through the darkroom of the soul where they can establish premises for future thoughts.

Andres and his army of demons have orders to influence the psychological realm including the aesthetic quality of man, referring to our ability to appreciate the beauty of the natural world and what is pleasing to the senses. These demons work to control the imaginations. And if a Christian doesn't get his imaginations straight, he will be strange because he is being manipulated.

Many have succumbed to the plot of these armies of demons to make Jesus Christ less than their all and in all. They enter into programs that offer help, yet they remain anxious. They are

looking for a cure, something to calm the weary soul.

Many rely on “Doctor Feel Good” to give them something to quiet them down or pick them up. An alarming report just released indicates that in the United States, 10 percent of women over the age of fifty are dependent on mood altering drugs.

Believers often quote God’s Word with such familiarity. We have all heard it. Someone will confess all the negativity in their life, and *then* say “Laughter doeth good like a medicine!” or, “The joy of the Lord is my strength.” These are words of life. Yet when God’s provision is spoken carelessly, it reveals total ignorance of who God really is and His availability to do what He really can do in situations. But when we speak with the conviction that every word of God is pure and that every promise is yea and amen, then we can believe, relax, and see God move mountains.

Dare to Fail

Faith dares to fail and go on in the grace of God. After the most miserable failure, faith *dares* to get up and walk forth in the love of God and in His provision. Abraham failed. Lot failed.

Jacob. Moses. David. Solomon. Samson. Peter. John and James. *All* of them failed miserably. At the Cross, the disciples failed and fled. Saul of Tarsus—even after he was named Paul and became one of the greatest servants in history—failed (see Romans 7:14-25). But faith dares to risk failure because God meets the Christian in the midst of failure and holds him up. God supplies a process (defined in 2 Corinthians 10:4-6) that motivates us when we acknowledge the way we were made to think.

Our weapons are not carnal; they are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down every pictorial representation that isn't from the heart of God, the mind of God, the Word of God, or the fellowship of God. We are to cast down the images that come from Adam and live in the image for which we were created.

Chapter Three

THE PROCESS OF IMAGINATIONS: STRATEGIES TO RENEW THE MIND

Before the Fall of Adam, God created us in His image; now, through the Word of God, we are renewed in that image every day (Ephesians 4:23). But if I don't meet God in freshness every morning, if I don't thank Him and consciously live with Him every day, then there is no way I can avoid being affected by some kind of vain imagination—imagination against self, against people who love me, and imaginations relating to fears about life. There is not a Christian who can avoid it, regardless of his position, if familiarity finds a place in his life.

There are, however, imaginations from heaven that motivate a vision, to give us a divine dream based upon a promise from God that comes true. Divine imaginations cause us to

overcome and allow us to see something wonderful happening before it is manifested because they come from God's promises, which produce faith. Divine imaginations envision marriages being restored.

Godly imaginations are formed with divine ingredients, namely, the power of God and the indwelling Spirit. They come to pass because their source is the image of God. These images, pictorial representations of a promise, are developed in the mind and are produced through the objectivity, substance, and evidence of faith in the reality of God's perfect timing for our lives.

Cast Down High Things

No one is perfect, but we can live in the process of casting down imaginations and every *high thing* (of the kingdom of darkness) that exalts itself in us against God's thoughts, God's presence, and God's love. The love of God never thinks evil.

When we are thinking God's thoughts and loving His Word, we cannot be offended! It is impossible to offend us. We don't live in the emotional imaginations of the subconscious mind that become a reality in the conscious mind. When they try to come against us, we cast

them down.

“Great peace have they which love thy [Word]: and nothing shall offend them” (Psalm 119:165). We think no evil. We bear all things, endure all things, hope all things, and believe all things (1 Corinthians 13:5-7). Why? Because when love sponsors our unconscious imaginations (the undeveloped images in the darkroom of the soul), then representational concepts are processed. A composite picture made up of godly images is transferred to the subconscious and is revealed in the conscious mind. It is a pictorial representation of who you are in your new image from God!

Pulling Down Strongholds

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds” (2 Corinthians 10:4). Our weapons are *spiritual*, not carnal or natural. They do not come out of human reasoning. Strongholds are fortresses, like powerful castles erected within the soul by Satan. And with powerful spiritual weapons from God, we are able to pull down or overthrow those strongholds by possessing our soul in patience, sanctification, and honor. (Luke 21:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:4).

To keep the strongholds from being rebuilt, 2 Corinthians 10:5 says we are to cast down imaginations. "Cast down" is a present active participle pointing to continuous and repeated linear action. Just as we build up the rooms of our soul by receiving categorical doctrine, we need to continually cast down the images of contention Satan tries to throw in.

Exaltation of Self

An imagination is derived from the reflection of something unknown, undefined, immaterial, and inaudible to the human consciousness. We would be shocked if we realized how many ungodly imaginations go through the development stage into the conscious mind. Our communication is based on these imaginations, and we are absolutely convinced that our viewpoint is proper because of the way we feel. Yet, we are not aware that our feelings are coming through inaudible, unknown sources which produce substantial effects.

"What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time" (Nahum 1:9). What are we imagining against grace? against submission? against divine love? What are we imagining

against the doctrine of covering or against purity? What are we imagining against the knowledge of God's wisdom?

Negative imaginations that come from Adam's image progress toward the conscious mind. The image that comes to the surface represents a reflection of a form of light, but it is an understanding through a *human* proposition, a reflection of the ego. These reflections influence the integrity of our motives.

Ungodly imaginations exalt self against truth. Through these imaginations come the blame game, self-defense mechanisms, and denial. Pride, negative reactions, marital separations, broken hearts, broken relationships, and accusations all stem from adamic imaginations.

Wicked Counselors

"There is one come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the LORD, a wicked counsellor" (Nahum 1:11). Imaginations can become our counselors. The word "wicked" speaks of infections from Satan's system. This means that from a satanic image expressed through Adam's image, a person can communicate a human proposition that is real in his soul. Yet, while it is communicated in sincerity, it is deception. (Re-

member, sincerity relates to temperament, never to character.) Suddenly, an evil imagination becomes a “sincere” but wicked counselor.

Proverbs 6:16-18 says that God hates a heart that devises wicked, infectious imaginations. The infection is *devised*—conceived or imagined—because of a relationship to a human proposition and because of where your emotions are in relationship to your circumstances.

Sin, Iniquity, and Transgressions

“...For the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever” (1 Chronicles 28:9b).

God understands what’s going in our imaginations. For that reason, He will have nothing to do with them! But, “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile” (Psalm 32:1-2).

When we live in the provision of Psalm 32, we have victory over denial, over sins, over iniquities, and over transgressions. Instead of living in denial of the facts of life and the truth of

God, we start living in the Finished Work. We come out of denial by building ourselves up with God's divine provision, that we are indeed forgiven and that God desires to bless us. Notice it: The divine provision comes first, *then* we can enter into true repentance.

"I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin" (Psalm 32:5). True repentance involves acknowledging our *sin*, the times we fell short of obedience because of weakness, ignorance, and other natural tendencies. We acknowledge the *iniquity* of our sins, how we let sin affect our emotions, causing them to rebel against divine authority. We also confess our *transgressions*, referring to the times we willfully went outside of God's boundaries when we knew better.

Prior to his repentance, David, the author of Psalm 32, had tremendous anger. He couldn't sleep, his bones were drying up, and he was roaring in his natural human temperament. Then he got right. David acknowledged his sin, and after one year of living in denial, he came out of it.

Darkened Hearts

Romans 1:21 refers to people who “became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.” This is why it is difficult to win back someone who is involved in a conspiracy or satanic deception. This type of person communicates from Satan’s kingdom with sincerity based on a human proposition channeled through satanic and adamic images. The pictures in this person’s mind have been developed to the point of becoming reality in relation to his self-essence and his surroundings.

According to Genesis 6:5, God saw the wickedness of every human imagination, so He sent the Flood to destroy His own creation. (But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, verse 8.) Even after the Flood, God saw that the imaginations of the heart were evil from man’s youth (Genesis 8:21). Now He wants to deal with those imaginations because they are the first stages of the thought process. In Psalm 139:2, God says that He knows our imaginations “afar off”; He knows our subconscious thoughts and what’s behind them. He knows the images that enter our unconscious mind, and we don’t! That’s why we need the integrity of the Cross, the illu-

mination of the Spirit, the inspiration of the Word, and the revelation of Light to bring about the restitution of our souls and minds.

Chapter Four

MOTIVATION TO LIVE BY EVERY WORD OF GOD

“But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward” (Jeremiah 7:24).

“This evil people, which refuse to hear my words...walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them” (Jeremiah 13:10a).

These verses speak of the premise which motivates the soul life. The “heart” here refers to an evil heart, not the heart of the human spirit which the Christian has. If confronted with light while living in false (evil or infected) imaginations, many of us would become angry and say things against the Cross. In other words, we would take Satan’s side even while we were confessing something about God and Christianity.

Evil imaginations must be dealt with. God

told Israel, “You are walking in the imaginations of your fathers; you are devising ungodly imaginations” (see Jeremiah 16:12; 18:12). Some become proud in their imaginations (Luke 1:51), having received a proposition and reasoning power from the devil. And because the propositions seem so reasonable, those who are deceived become very proud.

Be Not Wise in Your Own Conceits

The Word of God tells us to cast down empty imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. The Psalmist said, “Neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me” (Psalm 131:1*b*). Romans 12:16 says, “mind not high things, but [be as] men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.” In other words, we must not allow ‘high thoughts’ (the demonic warfare that comes against the soul) to take us over. They are the substantiation of a human proposition designed to convince us that we are ‘right’ (according to Adam’s image), and we call it God’s truth!

You can’t tell a person that they are operating in high thoughts; you must simply give them time to realize it. Why? Because at that moment

they are *sincerely* walking by sight, confessing thoughts derived from an image in their unconscious mind that produces feelings. Those feelings enlarge their imagination that is *also* taking in God's doctrine. As a result of their confession, the images of high things exalt themselves above God's doctrine.

If I were to approach someone who was living in that pattern of thinking and started talking to them from the Bible, their attitude would be, "Oh, the Scriptures. Now he's going to preach to me!" That's right, because we must live by *every* Word of God. But they don't see it because they are living by sight that promotes feelings through a human proposition of the natural, rationalistic mind.

Vain or empty imaginations are developed through ten steps: First, there is stress, which becomes pressure, then discontentment, need, anger, fault-finding, accusation, separation, division, and conspiracy. When we react against the Word of God, we exalt our feelings and opinions above the doctrine preached from the pulpit. In the end, there is a manifestation of an internal conspiracy that divides friendships, relationships, marriages, and churches.

This is why it is so vital that *every* thought is

brought into the captivity of Jesus Christ. That is God's method of sorting out the images once they enter the unconscious mind. But people who don't bring their thoughts into captivity use abstract, general knowledge taken out of context of the Scriptures in order to uphold their propositions.

The Way to Contentment

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

Arkeo is the word that means "to be content," to be possessed of sufficient strength, having a strong wall or barrier to defend yourself against demons, to ward them off and be totally satisfied because of meekness. Another word for contentment is *autarkes*, which refers to being totally sufficient in yourself with God's help as you are hid in the Body. You could go anywhere in the world and be possessed with godly self-sufficiency because of the indwelling impartation of God's image, God's imagination, and God's communication, developed God's way. You live in a divine proposition from the Word of God through the grace of Christ.

This kind of believer is content in any situation, any circumstance, and in any place. He does not get offended, nor does he judge people. He is not insecure. Life is just one great big time of contentment because his sufficiency is of God (2 Corinthians 3:5). He puts no confidence in the flesh (Philippians 3:3). Paul said, "I have learned to be content in whatever state I am in." He learned self-sufficiency from a derived life through godly imaginations that were processed through his unconscious, subconscious, and conscious mind.

The peace of God that passes understanding keeps or 'guards' the heart (Philippians 4:6-7). It comes from knowing truth, the reality of possessing truth, the fellowship of experiencing truth, and the result of appropriating truth by grace through faith. We guard our hearts with divine truth so there can be no stress, turmoil, or other disturbance springing up from undefined roots in the unconscious mind.

Guard Your Heart by Fixing It

"But take heed to yourselves and be on your guard lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed—weighed down—with the giddiness and headache and nausea of self-indulgence,

drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to (the business of) this life” (Luke 21:34a, Amplified translation).

As much as we are warned in Scripture not to be drunk with spirits, we are not to be drunk with worldly cares and worries about life. People and circumstances can actually make you drunk because of imaginations. The dictionary defines “cares” as suffering oppression in the mind, to be weighed down by responsibilities or disquieted over anticipated ill. It is characterized by an overwhelming sense of apprehension, fear, tension, and an increased pulse. All of this is brought about by doubt, concerning the reality of a situation and your own capacity to cope. And it is all because the wrong images are being allowed to develop in your mind.

Eventually, empty and ungodly imaginations will produce mental disorders. Incompatibility will enter into every area of life and contribute to failure. If the process goes unchecked, ultimately there comes a full-blown emotional and mental breakdown—all through the devices of the imaginations.

The devil’s plot is to rob, steal, kill, and destroy (see John 10:10). He uses interpersonal relationships as a tremendous source of fretting to

the anxious person who feels that the needs of his heart, mind, and emotions are not being met. This gives Satan opportunities to get in, feeding us more images that lead to sublimation, accusation, unhappiness, incompatibility in marriage, serious phobias toward people, and a frustrated capacity to believe the promises of God.

But, Colossians 3:2 instructs us to set our mind—conscious, subconscious, and unconscious—on things above. We need to have a mindset where not a single natural thought can take the place of the principles of truth we have received from the Scriptures. Our minds must be set; our hearts must be fixed (Psalm 57:7). It doesn't have to keep getting fixed—it *is* fixed. And our conversation or manner of living (Philippians 3:20) is from heaven because we do not cast away our confidence as we wait for God's promise. He will reward us for being patient (see Hebrews 10:35, 36).

Celebrate the Word

Can you see why God puts such an emphasis on receiving the Word daily and the importance of having a *continual* feast? The measure that I feast on categorical doctrine is the measure of my capacity to manifest Christ and destroy

the works of the devil.

What happens when we fellowship with God *while* we are under pressure? The stress cannot get through to affect us because of *agalliao*, which literally means to “jump for joy with exceeding gladness, rejoicing greatly.” There is a celebration of the Word of God going on. We are having a “party” in our souls, which establishes a wall of contentment to keep out the stress that is right in front of us.

What happens when a projection comes in against another believer? If doctrine is functioning in my soul, truth becomes a filter, discerning the images that try to get through to the subconscious and conscious mind. When the Word dwells in us richly, it defines each projection completely and refuses to accept the attack. We see it for what it is: an accusation from Satan. If we accept the accusation, it means that we have let down our guard and we are on Satan’s side. The projections we accept enter into a formation of thoughts afar off, from the imagination derived from Adam’s image (Genesis 5:3), which was derived from the Fall and originated in the iniquity of Satan (Ezekiel 28:15).

Knowing what these imaginations can do, we have to cast them down. We can’t allow a

single thought to exalt itself against the doctrine of God. Instead of getting angry at the preacher for communicating the Truth, don't allow a single thought to exalt itself. Notice that it's the *thought* that exalts itself. You don't have to exalt it. The thought gets in and starts developing. If the thought isn't stopped and cast down, it exalts itself against thinking precisely with categories in divine propositions.

When we allow these thoughts to exalt themselves, we reinforce strongholds that often come from our parents through our genetics in Adam. We end up strengthening the whole soul and body of Adam's development within us by the decisions we make every day.*

But the victorious Christian studies the Bible, meditates upon the Word of God day and night (Psalm 1:2-3), and hears from his pastor-teacher regularly. Wrong thoughts can't exalt themselves; instead, the Word of God is exalted by the Holy Spirit (John 14:26) who glorifies Christ (John 16:13-14).

As this process continues, we mature into giant Christians through our minds. Satanic imaginations are totally replaced, and we enter into a divine process with a divine proposition through God's divine will and His provision.

Our thoughts follow a scriptural pattern of divine power. We become people transformed into the image of God while we are on earth. Simply put, “as He is [in heaven], so are we in this world” (1 John 4:17).

Momentum for Right Thinking

Walk as Christ walked (Colossians 2:6). Enter into godly imaginations. God sees a thought in the unconscious, and that thought is from Him. Then the next thought comes from Him. These thoughts become established in the subconscious based upon our conscious decisions to function by the Book. God keeps feeding the unconscious mind, and through it we receive what we call ‘revelations’, the product of our unconscious submission to Bible doctrine.

The most wonderful result is that we receive healing in the unconscious, healing in the subconscious, and healing in the conscious mind. Then, by the grace of God, we experience healing in our nervous system and the bloodstream and in the bone marrow. Right thinking actually produces health in our bones (Proverbs 16:22-24). Proper sequences govern the body and chemical imbalances could be corrected. Amazing contentment comes in—spiritually, physio-

logically, and mentally—because the right images are developed, established in a fixed heart, and continually bathed by the washing of the water of the Word.

**Read Re-Gened, by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1995, for more about the importance of having a new mind and how to walk in it.*

CONCLUSION

It is vital that we enter into the divine blueprint of God's purpose for our success through our imaginations. Cast down any negative thought when times are rough. Cast them down all day and all night. Be kind to one another and tender hearted. Always speak faith into circumstances, no matter what happens. Always speak with praise and edification. Speak light into darkness, truth into the projections of lies, purity to impurity. Always confess God in the midst of the devil's dominion in the old sin nature, and go forward from a position of victory.

Bring *every* thought into submission and obedience to Jesus Christ's total, unparalleled Lordship. Then, because you are fellowshipping with the light, you will be ready to revenge any insubordination and disobedience lurking in your soul. How do you 'punish' disobedience? By being obedient. When obedience is fulfilled, you walk forward. The old sin nature is over-

ruled when you operate in the authority of your priesthood through the Kingdom of God within.

Precious Father, what can we say but we love You? We thank You. We worship Your presence and we desire to honor your declaration of absolutes. By faith and in meekness we receive Your thoughts about ourselves and the world where you have placed us. We trust your Holy Spirit to give us a heavenly vision infused with your goodness, grace, and mercy. As we learn to cast down vain imaginations, we will cast out our nets to find the lost and tell them the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus' name, Amen.