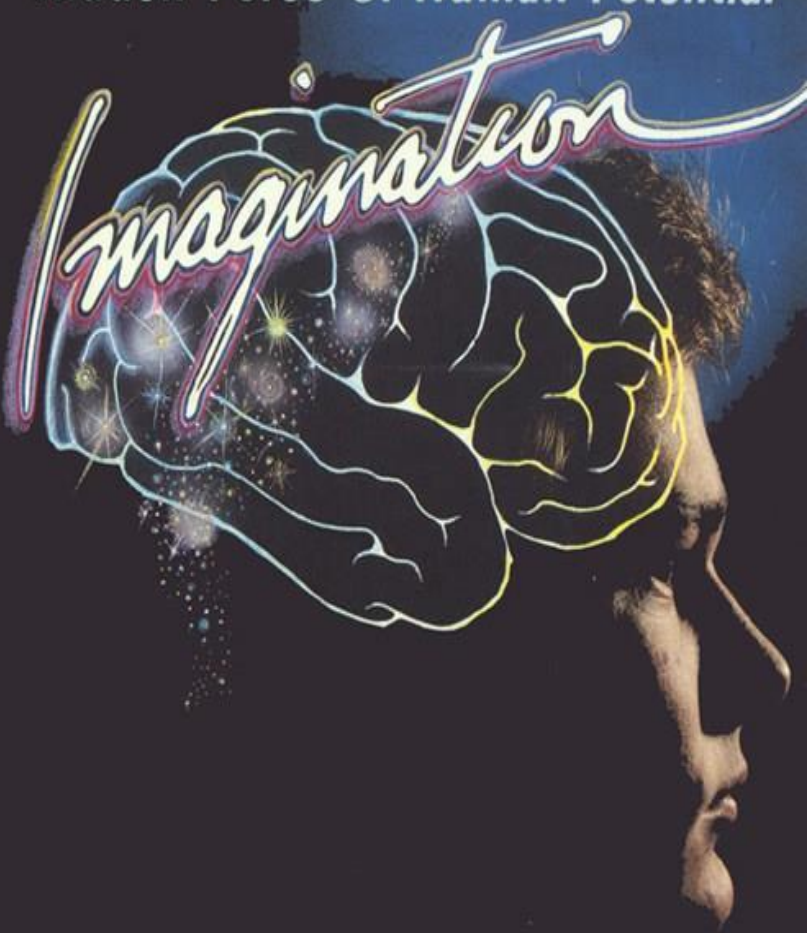


*Hidden Force Of Human Potential*



**LESTER SUMRALL**

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# 1

## THE HIDDEN FORCE OF HUMAN DESTINY

I was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and lived in Laurel, Mississippi; Mobile, Alabama; and Panama City, Florida. Almost everybody I knew was poor in those days, yet my father usually owned a car and we lived in an average house. He worked in the machine shops of shipyards and railroad yards.

Though we were poor, I was endowed with the wildest imagination. For example, a man named Mr. Gaddis in our city owned a select men's clothing store which catered to the well-to-do people of the city. He was a member of the Pines Country Club. I only got to know him by being his

golf caddy. I wasn't very big—about as tall as his golf bag—but he liked me. He would come to the club and say, “Is Lester here?”

Often I would fantasize: “One day I am going to own a store like Mr. Gaddis.” I could see my store, and myself standing and watching the people come in. I had imagination!

God redirected imagination in my life. Imagination was creating images within me of my future and my destiny and the destiny of anybody that I touched.

I would see men like Billy Sunday, the famous sawdust trail evangelist, who came to our city and built a wooden tabernacle seating several thousand people. Without a PA system he would speak to thousands.

At home I would take off my coat, lay it down, jump on a bed, then on to a chair—I was Billy Sunday!

Billy Sunday would leave his pulpit and platform and run down into the audience and preach. I never saw a preacher do this and I thought it was great. I could see myself doing it.

I do not remember hearing a sermon on imagination. Yet, imagination as a hidden force relates itself to human destiny.

Imagination is a creative ability that you should permit to function. However, do not let it become a time waster. You can imagine that you are rich, but you cannot buy goods at the store with imagination. You cannot buy a new automobile with imagination.

Imagination is a starter; it is a prompter; and if you use it for what God gave it to you for, it is very valuable and produces success.

Have imagination, but do not stop there. It is like a man who wants a house and the architect draws a picture of it. He says, "I like the house." He does not have the house; he has an imagination of what could be.

Today, harness your imagination, direct your imagination, and put it to work for your total life.

God wants you to use all the resources that He has put within you.

## 2

# I HAVE IMAGINATION

Imagination gives birth to empires, birth to fortunes, birth to beautiful buildings, lovely bridges across waters, beautiful automobiles. Imagination is a tremendous force—it is creative.

According to Jesus, every imagination of the heart will be revealed one day. That shows us the importance of imagination, when we consider all great events and all great achievements have their basis in imagination.

Imagination can grow; it can be fed; it can be taught; it can increase; and imagination can be guided. You have full control over your personal imagination.

In I Chronicles 28:9, David, a senior

statesman, is speaking to his son, "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: 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."

What awesome advice! David told Solomon, "I am an older man and getting ready to leave this earth. My son, I want you to know God, the God of your own father. I want you to serve Him with a perfect heart."

David said, "God knows the imaginations of the heart." Some people say, "As long as I just fantasize sin, it is not wrong." Jesus said He would judge man by what he desired to do. Jesus said when a man lusted after a woman he had already committed adultery.

You must learn the source from which imagination comes, and the guidance that is available to your imaginative propensities.

Imagination changes lives, communities, families, and the world in which we live.

God understands all imaginations. He understands the functioning on the inside of your brain. That is where imagination originates, in thoughts. God sees not just the deed, as anybody can see. God sees the thought that produced the action.

Until a person can correct and control his thought life, he cannot correct his real life of actions. We must get inside to learn to discipline the thought life before we can discipline the hands and feet.

I do have imagination and imagination is a hidden force of human potential!



### 3

## **THE BIRTH OF HUMAN IMAGINATION**

The human person is so wonderfully and mysteriously made by God that science will never completely understand the intricacies inside the human personality.

Imagination is one of the sources of life that the creator God gave to humanity. In the birth of human imagination we witness the genius of the Almighty.

In the beginning of the Bible we observe the potential of imagination. Through Adam's rebellion, man turned imagination into a negative structure rather than a positive one. Man used his power and dignity of imagination in a destructive action.

The period before the flood is called the antedeluvian age. We discover in Genesis 6:5, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

After Noah is the postdiluvian period. The Bible says in Genesis 11:6, "And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do."

What an amazing situation!

God said that because of the unity of the people by language, the forces of imagination could bring into being anything they imagined to do. That means your powers of imagination are unlimited. Every intricate development in science first begins in imagination, then into reality.

That is powerful! If you can imagine it, you can do it! When you say, "I see it," then you can do it. Your abilities are really not according to your learning or your education. Your abilities are according to your imagination. If you can see it, you can bring it into being. In our daily inter-

course with people we often hear some say: "Just imagine!" They mean, "It is almost unbelievable, but evidently it is true."

You have heard people say, "Can you imagine that?" They mean, "Can your mind expand to receive and accept what seems to be impossible?"

On the inside a force goes into operation which creates an image that says, "I can do that, though I have not trained to do it, I can learn to do it."

Human imagination spans the past, crosses the present, predicts the future, and you live in the midst of the great world imagery.

### *WHAT IS IMAGINATION?*

Human imagination is a function of the conscious mind, your conscious mind. It is not from your subliminal mind, which is your unconscious mind, nor is it your nocturnal, nighttime, dream-world mind.

Imagination is a deliberate action. You call it into being. Oftentimes it is a fulfillment of hidden desires that want to come out, that want to be expressed, and you

imagine it. A little girl imagines that she is a mother, because she has a hidden desire that one day she will be a mother.

You reach into your world of imagination and bring to fruition the inner desires of the total human person. Imagination is deeply related to that which is inside of you looking for fulfillment, so imagination and fulfillment flow together. Imagination comes out of the world of hope, and out of the world of faith, a projected image waiting to come into the world of reality.

An evolutionist would say this power of imagination grew in man. I do not believe that. I believe God created imagination and gave it to man, and maybe people before the flood, like Adam and Enoch and Noah, had greater powers of imagination than anyone else has ever had. I believe imagination is on the decrease rather than on the increase. It was created for man to use here on planet Earth. There will be no imagination in heaven; there will be only fulfillment. Man's wildest imaginations cannot conceive what God has prepared for him.

God endowed man with creativity.

Everything that has been made by man that you can observe on the face of this earth was first in the world of imagery before it came into the world of reality.

Adam and Eve were the first to use their imaginal forces, just as they were conscious that they were responsible for the decisions they made. You, too, are responsible for the things you imagine, because it is a deliberate action of a human person. If you permit yourself to imagine wrong, the devil helps you to go deeper into wrong imaginations. If you wish to imagine right, the Bible and God and Jesus and the angels help you to move into the right and correct imaginal world.

Imagination is the power to conceive, to give expression to, images and dreams which can be moved from the imaginal world into the material, mundane world that you live in.

Imagination in itself has no real existence except in the mind. It has no evidence to produce. It is in a world that cannot be seen or heard. It has to come out of your heart, in order for you to understand all the things you have imagined.

This means that when Satan saw that man had this great power, and of course Satan had it too, he imagined himself to be equal with God.

What we are talking about is not new and novel; it has been with man always and needs to be taught clearly so that everyone will understand why they do certain things. Genesis 3:6 says, "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her: and he did eat."

Satan brought Eve close to the tree and said, "Eve, look at this tree." Eve saw the fruit of that tree. This was a natural, physical situation altogether. She had eye contact with it.

Then from the inside, Eve believed the fruit to be delicious. That takes imagination! You do not know apple pie is good until you bite into it. It might look good, but that does not make it good. If the cook used salt rather than sugar, as it happened in a home where I once visited, you would have a crazy-tasting mess instead of a delicious pie. It looked as good

as any other apple pie, except it had salt in it.

You can pass by the window of a store or a bakery, and see something that looks really good, like freshly made cakes. You can say, "Ummm, I'd like to have a bite of that." But in our modern world today they make display goods out of plastic. It only looks delicious!

Eve conceived within her mental powers that what she saw with her eyes would also be delicious to her taste. They are two different functions, seeing and tasting. Eve had no evidence that the fruit was delicious.

Eve said, "It is pleasant to my eyes. I am sure it will be pleasant to my taste." Then Eve went a step further. She believed Lucifer who was talking to her, that this tree also had a strange power. The fruit would make her wise.

That is another world. We leave the apple pie world and go into a world of intelligence—apple pie would make you wise.

Eve had gotten this fruit inside her world of imagination, and now it was not only good for her lips, but she was saying

from her brain that it was good. You see what imagination can do for you? Eve hit a whole world of unreality. You cannot eat fruit for brain food. In Eve's fanciful world she had gotten into what she said, "If I eat this fruit I'll be smarter than Adam. That's an achievement."

No doubt a great battle surged within Eve. Satan's deception went farther and said, "And you shall be like God!"

Eve had seen God walk in the Garden in the evening with Adam, and she knew Him. Her imagination was the key force that caused the situation to come into fruition.

We must remember that imagination was created for man. God wants you to turn that power, that force, into something big, something good, and something wonderful!



## 4

# CREATIVE IMAGINATION

Imagination is the hidden force of human destiny. Imagination is a tremendous power.

### *IMAGINATION UNLIMITED*

Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..."

As a man thinks!

In creative imagination you actually create your own destiny. You can create your own well-being; you can create whatever you are. For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. The Word of God specifically teaches us that as a person thinks or imagines, so is he!

In creative imagination there is the positive. Because there is a positive, there has to be a negative. Imagination can create good or it can create evil; the same instrument inside can work either way.

Imagination is one of the qualities that is unlimited. You can build upon it; you can excite it; it has so many remarkable areas in which it can more. Imagination is governed by set laws. If you abuse it, then it is a negative force; but if you support it and strengthen it in the things that are good, then imagination is a hidden force of human destiny.

### *THE LAW OF IMAGINATION*

I believe that within you, and within every human, there is the potential of whatever you can conceive in your mind or your imagination, it is also possible to bring it into fruition, or reality.

Humans imagined that they could fly. The Wright brothers brought it into being.

Humans imagined that they could see inside of a person. X-rays brought it into being.

If you are a spiritual person your potential in imagination is good, holy, and

creative; it is God-ordained. Your imagination is giving birth to new worlds to conquer and new blessings to receive.

Imagination can bring you into action—new buildings to build, new crusades for souls, new countries to reach, new gifts of the Holy Spirit to be directed toward you.

In the positive, one can observe that creative imagination is responsible for the masterpieces of humanity. Somebody had to imagine the Great Wall of China before there could be a Great Wall in China. Someone had to imagine the Colossus at Rhodes before there could be a Colossus at Rhodes. Someone had to imagine the glorious temple in Jerusalem before there could be the Temple of the Most High that Solomon built there worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Great imagination creates beautiful music. Music is the imagination of the soul. The great masters felt this and brought it from their inner being to their outer being, and made it come into the world of knowledge to the playing of the piano, the blowing of the horn, even sometimes to the clapping of the hands.

The same is true in literature. Before you can produce a book you have to visualize the material.

Maybe you never used your imagination, but within you there is a spirit and power of creating images, and that force creates the thing, then through your faculties and use of your hands, or mouth, or pen, you bring into being that which you have imagined.

Then there is art. Michaelangelo had to see the Last Judgment before he could put it on the Sistine Chapel walls and ceiling. He had to visualize the multicolors. He had to see how big God was going to be and how big the devil was going to be. He placed emperors, popes, and all kinds of people in the picture. He had to see the total before he could create it, and bring it into being.

Friend, your imagination is a force, a power of human destiny. Understand what it is, and guide it into channels where God intended and ordained it to be.

This is true in architecture. There are exquisite buildings on the face of this earth. I have been amazed to travel over the world and see the architecture of

Japan—it is beautiful. The architecture of China is marvelous. There is a wonderful variety in the architecture of Europe—France, Italy, England. The Tudor style is so beautiful and the Victorian style causes one to marvel.

All of this human delight began in a world of imagination. Then it emerged to be seen and appreciated.

Imagination in engineering brought into reality the wheel to get the burden off the human back and put it on a wheel. It brought into being the wagon which put a wheel here and a wheel there and something in between to allow you to carry more. First imagination, then reality.

The automobile, the airplane, the radio, and the television all came in my time—these were all born in imagination. Imagination is the mother of invention. First it is the dream of the imagination before it comes into the hard reality of metal and stone.

Yet imagination is almost, to this moment, totally in the world of the unknown. Most youth seem to believe that everything good has already been done, most inventions have been finished.

In the Silicon Valley in San Jose, California, they do not feel that way. They feel in the world of electronics that anything they give you today will be out-of-date tomorrow. They work day and night making it that way.

We live in a whole world of glory and wonder far beyond what is known today. Let us get our imaginations working! Human destiny will be influenced by imagination.

### *MEDITATION AND IMAGINATION*

Meditation is one of the greatest sources of bringing imagination into being.

There is a lot of imagination near a jet-powered 747 at its takeoff. You see over 200 tons gliding down the runway and then it goes up! You say, "How did that much metal, and those 600 suitcases ever get into the air?" Imagination! Men saw it before it could be done.

There is not much imagination in a group of people talking, laughing, and jesting. That is where imagination lies dead.

David said, "I meditate in thy word."

He was talking to God. This creates spiritual images such as David said, "I can run through a troop." He was speaking of armed soldiers. "I can jump over a wall," meaning that if the enemy put up a barrier, he would go over the top of it.

David, through imagination, slew a giant; he slew a bear; he slew a lion with his naked hands. Before David slew that giant he had already seen it. You might think that imagination is a little wild. It is supposed to be.

If a person does not have imagination, he makes no advances. There are people who live the same way all their lives. No, that is not God's way. Imagination creates bigger and better things everyday! Imagination is never satisfied. Imagination is always hungry. Imagination is always reaching out. God wants you to have creative imagination.

### *CREATIVE IMAGINATION*

In II Corinthians 11:3, the apostle Paul, speaking to the church in Corinth through the power of the Holy Spirit, said, "I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty,

so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

Here Paul was talking straight to their imagination. The devil who deceived Eve would also corrupt their imagining powers—their minds. Paul was dealing with things like adultery, lying, murders, robbery. He said in your creative imagination not to let it go the wrong direction. The serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, deceiving her mind, that her mind be corrupted from the simplicity that is in God.

### *THE FOUR ELEMENTS OF MIND*

In your mind you have at least four primary elements.

- A. Thought, which means that you create, or make things.
- B. Learning, which means training. Keep doing the same thing until you can do it easily.
- C. Understanding, that is an area of education, comprehension. Some people have facts but do not understand them.
- D. Imagination—the capacity to form mental pictures.



These are all wrapped up in the human brain. The human brain has thought, where you can create. The brain has learning potential. A mother can cook because she cooks three times a day. The father may not be able to cook at all; he may know only his own daily work. Learning is a training power—of knowing how to do certain things. Understanding means that you have comprehension of the thing, not only knowing there is a job to do.

Today, man's imagination is under demonic attack. Satan would like to destroy men's imagination and especially in the direction of God.

## 5

# PASSIVE IMAGINATION

In this chapter we shall explore passive imagination.

In II Corinthians 10:5, the Word of God says, "Casting down imaginations." Isn't that amazing? That means you have the power and the authority to do whatever you want to with imaginations. You are not circumscribed to being a victim of imaginations. It says, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God..."

Anything that brings itself against God, cast it down, "...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

It could be that this is one of the greatest verses in the whole Bible. If you are going to imagine evil things, passive things, your imagination will never be positive; it will never be creative.

When you walk in the Spirit you do not fulfill the lusts of the flesh, so rather than leaving your mind as an idle shop, put something constructive in there. In passive imagination you do not have to face the real issues of life, but you dream about things beyond reality.

### *MENTAL DEPRESSION*

Passive imagination can bring you to a state of mental depression. You realize you are not getting anywhere, and you are sad about it.

Finally, or ultimately, a passive imagination could result in suicide, by the devil saying to your mind, "You are not wanted; nobody cares for you. You are worthless."

This is Satan's lie. Maybe you are loved by many and maybe you are wealthy and everybody wants you. The truth is that your imagination is being manipulated by the devil. That is why God says to cast

down imaginations and anything that exalts itself against knowledge, reality, and truth. Anything that is not relative to truth ought to be cast down. You should not permit it to exist in any form whatsoever.

### *IMAGINATION AND FEAR*

Sometimes fear injects itself into imagination. Job, one of the famous men of the Bible said in Job 3:25, "For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me."

Job's mind was functioning with imagination, conjuring up a picture of desolation. Isn't that amazing and incredible?

Job had no apparent reason for believing that dark things lay ahead of him and that evil times were coming, but he imagined that they would come.

It's like the man who said, "I've got enough meat in my house for this winter and I have enough young hogs for next winter, and I have enough sows to bring forth enough for the following winter, but what am I going to do the winter

thereafter?" The devil would like for you to have stupid thinking like that. What am I going to do when I get old? Well, you are going to enjoy what you have made when you were young, of course. If you wasted it, then you are a waster, and you will go where the government takes care of you, which is never a very happy place to be. You must prepare for the future. You start preparing for the future the day you are born, and you keep preparing for it. There are people 40 and 50 years old who wasted their lives, thinking they would never have any future. Then they hit 65 years of age and say, "I have wasted my money, I have wasted my life, I have hated my friends, I have abused my family, and now I am alone." You have been alone all the time. If you imagine right things, correct things, holy things, good things, you will have a good ending to your life.

Fear originates in the mind area—not just the brain, but the mind, which includes the brain.

God desires the human mind to be under divine subjection—not cooking up something that is not real or saying, "Oh, I have plenty now, but I am afraid of

tomorrow.” Do you know there are millionaires who believe they are going to have to beg for bread before they die?

God demands the human mind to be directed inside of him by his human spirit and not his soulical parts. This is very important. The agency of the Holy Spirit comes in and works with the human spirit.

The devil wants above all to capture the human mind with every aspect of it, including its imagination. Because the mind is so important, it becomes a battlefield. The devil wants your mind and God wants it. Your decision makes the difference.

### *IMAGINATION AND BLINDNESS*

Imagination can be related to blindness. In II Corinthians 4:4, God says, “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not...” If your mind is blinded, then your imagination is blinded. How can it bring beautiful pictures of yourself as being great or successful? If your mind is blinded, you cannot see deliverance. The Bible says the god of the world—that’s the devil—has blinded your mind, your imagination, lest

the light of the glorious gospel of Christ should shine unto them. God can increase your powers of imagination, and bring illumination where you can imagine great things, new things, better things for your future.

Romans 1:28 says that all the heathen in the world become so by imagination. "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind (a mind that could not think straight) to do those things which are not convenient."

The sinner is in an imaginative state that does not produce joy, happiness, goodness. It produces pain, hurt, sorrow, and death. Your imagination can be blinded by sin, by the devil, and by evil, so that you cannot imagine good things. God does not want you to have such a life.

### *IMAGINATION AND IMPRESSION*

As you know, we are primarily creatures of thought. Without thought the human is nothing. Your mind is your organ of thought. By your mind you know and you think and you imagine and understand. Those are the functions of

the mind. Man's mind has power to reason, to decide, to imagine the unborn things and to bring them into being. The human mind occupies a large part of the total life of the human person. In a large way it determines the actions that it performs. That is the reason we call imagination the hidden force of human destiny.

Your mind is impressive. The mind of man has always been a place of challenge. What are you going to imagine? What are you going to be?

In Noah's day the people imagined evil, and after Noah's day they imagined that God would again send water upon the earth to cover it, even after God had promised He would never do it. Man, in his imagination against God, built the Tower of Babel as his security.

God's desire is that man's mind function by the power of his spirit. Otherwise, he is unregenerated. The unregenerated man, of course, does not function by his spirit. If he has one it is not in functioning operation. Satan wants you to think adultery and not marriage. He wants you to always think that which will destroy you and he makes you think, "Oh, that's fun." Just go to the hospitals and talk to



the people with AIDS. See how much fun sin is. Go to the prostitute in jail and ask her how much fun sin is. Proverbs 14:34 says, "...sin is a reproach to any people."

Ephesians 2:3 says, "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." Paul spoke this to the church of Ephesus. I have been to Ephesus and have seen some of the things that were there when Paul was there. I have seen some of the buildings and some of the streets. As I walked through that ancient city it was amazing to me how Paul talked to these people.

In Ephesians 4:22-23, Paul said, "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind."

Your imaginations come out of your mind and God says He can renew those things, make them all over again, change the color of them, take off the old paint and put on new. He can make it all new on the inside; you do not have to live with passive imaginations.

In Colossians 1:21, Paul further said, "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled."

One time in their minds they were enemies of God. It was changed by the power of God. Romans 8:7 says, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God..."

If any person incorporates evil into their imagination, God says you cannot bring the two together.

### *PASSIVE IMAGINATION IS EMPTY*

If your mind is empty the devil will activate it. If you do not know what to think about, the devil will give you something to think about. Passive imagination means that you have an imagination waiting for some power to activate it. It requires having a blank mind. The danger of ESP practicers and gurus is that they tell you to throw your mind into neutral. A blank mind is a great danger because when it is blank the devil can put any evil in it.

Your imagination must never go blank! It must forever be bringing in new things,

new beauties, and new wonders. A Christian must exercise his imaginative power.

### *IMAGINATION AND INACTIVITY*

Imaginative inactivity is when you cease to use your full measure of creativity. During your older years it will grow stronger than in your younger years. Your powers of imagination should be stronger at the end of your life than at the beginning of your life.

God never desires inertia at any time, whether you are young or old. When the mind ceases to create, and to comprehend, then actually the mind is sick. Your mental process should never be under bondage of any kind. The inactive mind deserves to do things; it desires to do things, but it never does them.

Paul was strong in his instruction to the Ephesians who needed direction, just as we do today. In Ephesians 4:17, it says, "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind."

Your powers of imagination must be used to imagine new things. Before you

can have a new church building you have to imagine it; you have to see it in the power of your imagination. Before you can have a great crowd of people you must see them in the power of your spiritual imagination.

In Colossians 2:18, the same great apostle said, "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind."

We are warned time and again that your imagination cannot run loose; it must be harnessed. Otherwise, you will be vainly puffed up in a fleshly mind, displeasing to God, and not a blessing to your own self.

Paul had an insight into imagination like you could not believe. In Titus 1:15 he said, "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." If a person has wrong imagination, everything is ugly. Unto these, Paul said, nothing is pure.

Your imagination can go against God

not only in terribly bad things, but also in the area of worry. Worry can be a type of inactivity in that you just do not take time to work; you just worry. The mind becomes weakened to a point where it cannot function because all you do is worry. What we need in our power of imagination is concentration. The devil interferes with anybody's concentration, especially a Christian's concentration. He does not want them to have the powers of direction, whether it be in their mind, or in their mental abilities. Some people are totally powerless to concentrate. For you to be great in your imagination, you must have powers of concentration.

In others, their power of concentration is flighty. To keep a person's attention over five minutes is a big job—television and other mass media cause the mind to go quickly from one thing to another, until human concentration is flighty. You can never be a great person until your imagination gets into an area of concentration where you can direct it to God.

Another situation to consider is vacillation. The devil likes any of us to take opposite views of the same thing. The devil would like for us to generate one kind of

thought and then immediately shift it to another kind of thought. Shifting admits the work of the adversary working in us. A vacillation of the mind is the devil's tool. If you are going to vacillate between right and wrong, good and bad, then you will not ever get anything done. In order for your powers of imagination to operate, vacillation must go.

I urge you to use your powers that God has granted unto you in the force and strength of imagination, because in imagination you will find the hidden force and power of human potential.

## 6

# IMAGINATION OF THE UNGODLY

We have studied imagination from several aspects—the birth of human imagination, creative imagination, and passive imagination. A very essential aspect is the imagination of the ungodly.

Adam's power of imagination was one of the most tremendous faculties that he had at the time God created him. This power of imagination was divine.

God has imagination. The mighty galaxies in the heavens reveal the imagination of God. He created these mighty dimensions of glory and light moving in their galaxies.

Jesus said He was going to build man-

sions for His people. That is imagination!

Before Adam rebelled against God and his faculties were tarnished by sin, he possessed resplendent forces of imagination. For example, in his amazing reserve of imaginative powers, Adam had the ability to name every creature on the earth. The little creature grunted and he said, "You're a pig." Another little creature growled, and he said, "You're a dog." Another little creature meowed, and he said, "You're a cat." What an imagination! Adam named all the creatures of the earth and even remembered their names. Nobody else has been able to remember the names!

However, in Adam's fallen state he became rebellious against the Creator who made him, and his perfection of godliness was tarnished and he became another person because of his corruption.

Now it is very possible, and probable, that only God has the innate ability of the full understanding of the mighty power of imagination. Modern science and psychology seek to understand. However, God said from the beginning that in Him imagination was good, and without Him it was bad.



For example, in Genesis 8:21, it says, "And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth. . ." Isn't that something? Without God and in a fallen state, the imagination of a man's heart is evil, even from his youth. Children think evil and conceive evil things.

The natural human, if his powers of choice are not yielded to the divine, to the holy, to the pure, they are yielded to evil.

This condition is prevalent in the world today. Sinners indulge in the world of fantasy—imagination. Some believe it to be a hidden world of self-enjoyment, which is not true. God's Word says in Mark 4:22 that every thought and intent of the heart will be made manifest and also that it will be judged. There is nothing hidden. Some people believe that ungodly and impure imaginations are only wrong when they become an act, that if they hate a person and want to kill him, but do not do it, it is all right to hate. However, you will be judged by what is on the inside of your heart, even though it has not been revealed or acted upon.

The imagination processes are moving now and if you do not turn them into a godly, truthful, holy perception, they will naturally go according to the Adamic nature which is in rebellion against God.

The universal truth is that man in sin demonstrates what he imagines in his mind and God will judge him for it.

How did all this ungodly imagination start when man was one time clean? God could have made him a zombie or an animal which has no imaginative powers. God created man to be an immortal creature and a reproductive creature who could produce another generation of persons like himself. In that creation you discover the powers of imagination.

How did man fall from this lofty and high perception of God through holy imaginations to a low, evil imagination? You have heard the cliché “the devil made me do it.” Well, I do not know about other times, but he did this time.

It was Lucifer’s imagination that led him to a state of revolt in heaven, causing him to turn against God and refrain from following God. Lucifer, the devil, began to see himself exalted—that’s imagination!

The prophet who gave us an insight to this was the great prophet Isaiah. In Isaiah 14:13, the Holy Spirit revealed that in heaven the archangel Lucifer said, “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...” This means that he had power and authority in some places, but not at the throne of God. At the throne he was a servant. His goal was to exalt his throne above others. This is self-exaltation. That is the power of imagination.

The devil determined he was not satisfied with his position even though he was great and beautiful.

Arrogantly, Satan said, “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.” He not only willed to ascend into heaven, but sought to exalt his throne above the stars of God. This means there are thrones in heaven, places of strength and power.

Why did God give the archangel Lucifer such power? It was because you cannot have a free moral agency without the power of choice. Intelligent people are either mentally competent or they are zombies. You possess the power of loving and following God or of not following Him. If you did not have a choice, you would be a slave. God wants no slaves.

## *VAIN IMAGINATION IS A YOKE*

Today, this imagination of rebellion, promoted by the devil, can be a yoke of bondage to humans. Evil imagination is a yoke; it is a burden and it is a sorrow.

In Isaiah 10:27, “And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.”

God will use the power of the Holy Spirit to destroy the vain imaginations of the devil and He will deliver us from all evil thinking, anything, everything, whatever—God will set us free by His mighty power!

The Bible states that evil imagination is a yoke, not something nice, not something easy, not something good.

Evil imaginations are a hindrance to a successful life. God says to you, “I can break the yoke, and the yoke shall be destroyed by My holy anointing.” God breaks the yoke of ungodly imaginations and sets you free by His mighty power. Receive it and walk in it!

Some church leaders talk to me about problems with morals, problems with

fear, problems with finances. They get discouraged and they want to quit. I assure them that God can break the yoke. Also, lay people, God can break your yoke. He can break evil communications, the power of evil imaginations and bring you into a place of deliverance! To you, God says the yoke will be broken and the yoke will be destroyed by the holy anointing. God is ready right now to cause your imaginations to be pure, clean and holy unto Himself.

The great and wise King Solomon spoke these words regarding imagination in Proverbs 6:18, "An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief." That is true. Ungodly imaginations will cause you to do evil and run, not just walk to it.

The imaginations of the righteous are righteousness—it runs the other direction.

The ungodly devise wicked imaginations or fantasies of evil. There are millions of men and women who fantasize evil and fantasize immoralities. Solomon said that they come up out of the heart, which is the emotional center of the human personality.

In Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." Your imaginations are what you think. If you think evil, you are evil. If you think good, then you will certainly be good.

### *IMAGINATION AND LUST*

I am sure that lust is an imagination. It is an image of human fantasy, and lust terminates in sins of moral and spiritual death. Lust will destroy any human that fantasizes with it. The imaginations of the lustful lead to spiritual poverty; they lead to destruction; they lead to hell. So God wants us to be free from strange lusts. I urge you in the name of Jesus to keep yourself free from them.

### *IMAGINATION AND HATE*

I find that the imaginations of hate are self-destroying. Hate imagines and visualizes how to get even with people, how to destroy people. These come from Satan; they do not come from God. Hate imagines revenge. Hate is a cancer of your imagination, mind, your emotions, and your will. It is a destroyer.

I urge you, do not let your imaginations on the inside of you be full of hate, desiring to get even with somebody, and wanting to hurt.

I can go a step further and speak of anger. Imaginations causing anger within you stirring up your passions are destructive. Many say they have been mistreated, so they retaliate. Do not let anger cause cancer of the spirit and soul. It will destroy the peace of the inner man. Hate is a monster. Get rid of it as quickly as you can, in Jesus' name.

### *IMAGINATION AND SORROW*

A further imagination that can get within you is sorrow. Psychologists and psychiatrists tell us that if you are still mourning ninety days after a tragedy, it is self-interest and self-pity. You are feeling sorry for yourself.

It is so easy to permit your imagination to overwhelm you in sorrow. Your imagination fantasizes on how bad things are and how sad you are. You have reasons to be sad, and you ought to be sad. You proclaim planet Earth as a world of sorrow.

I must tell you sorrow will destroy you. In Romans 14:17, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

Whatever happens, we must live in the kingdom of peace, and of joy, as God wants us to live. Please rise above the abyss of sorrow!

### *IMAGINATION AND FAILURE*

You know that it is not what happens to you that counts; it is how you react to what happens to you that counts.

If your self-image is marked with hopelessness, then it originates in your powers of imagination. You must imagine success, victory and fulfillment.

When you are a believer, you are not a failure. Then do not imagine failure!

Of tremendous value is the fact that you can imagine an untruth. The situation is not true; you have imagined it. You can fantasize that someone does not like you, when in fact, he really does like you. You have not opened your heart to truth. An impaired imagination can lead you to believe untruth.



Your imagination can seek out a friend or relative and say this one did not like me and that one did not like me. Maybe they do! Now listen, even if they do not care for you, it is possible to teach them to like you by being nice to them.

### *CHAMBERS OF IMAGERY*

In Ezekiel 8:12, the Word of God says, "Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth." God said His people had chambers of imagery on the inside. In the chambers they teach "the LORD seeth us not." They continue, "the LORD hath forsaken the earth." What fatalism!

It is not true. God wants you to know that there are no secret places that He cannot look into. There are no conditions that He cannot understand.

I was in a missionary's home in South America. We were sitting in the living room talking and his little son came walking in. The lad looked to be about 5 to 6 years old. He said, "Daddy, can Jesus see?" The father replied, "Yes, He can."

Then we looked at the boy and he said, "Daddy, can Jesus see in the dark?" "Yes, Jesus can see in the dark." "Daddy, can Jesus see under our house?" The missionary said, "Yes, Jesus can see under our house." The son shook his head sadly and said, "I sure wish Jesus was blind."

I said to the father, "You had better have a look under the house! There's real business going on under there."

God wants all of us to know that He knows our hearts, He knows your thinking. God loves us!

God can erase all the devil has done and start you over from today with the right kind of imagery in your heart.

### *EMPTY IMAGINATIONS*

The apostle Paul said it this way in Romans 1:21, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain (empty) in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

They became empty in their imaginations. Isn't that an amazing situation? A lot of imaginations are scatterbrain or

nothing but foolishness. God can cause your imaginations to be strong, alive and pleasing to the Almighty God. You hold the reins. Do not blame it on somebody else. Do not say the devil talked in your ear. He is not on the inside if he is outside talking. You command, "Go" and he has to go!

I urge you not to let the devil conquer you in your imaginations and cause them to be empty and unfruitful. They can be fruitful in creating the beautiful things of life.

By the way of personal testimony, I would not have the beautiful home and family that I have today if I had not seen it when I was young. When I got married I knew what I wanted. With our three sons, Louise and I knew what we wanted. Today with our six grandchildren we know what we want. Our imaginations have come to beautiful fruition on the domestic level and the spiritual level.

I have been growing and maturing as of this moment in God. That is what I want you to do. I want your imaginations to be pure, holy and energized by the power of the Holy Ghost!

## **SPIRITUAL IMAGINATION**

I never imagined that I would be teaching on spiritual imagination. God awoke me from sleep and poured into my spirit the force, the power and the reality of imagination. God showed me it is the hidden force of human potential.

In I Corinthians 2:9 it says, “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”

It is your imagination which will bring out and understand the magnificent things which God has prepared for those who serve Him faithfully on the face of this earth.

You can involve yourself in spiritual imagination. God created man to imagine good things. Imagination is a spiritual and divine gift from the Most High God.

Everyone is not a Michaelangelo or Raphael. This means there are degrees of imagination. Whatever God has given you, you can use it. It is possible that no two persons in all of history have had the same amount of the gift of imagination. However, it is a shame not to use what you have. It could be that the greatest sources of imagination never came to fruition because it was not brought into the realm of reality.

The spiritual imagination can do many things for you. For example, some of you are sick. You must see yourself well. The source of this imagination is faith in God and the Bible. Some are depressed. You must see your depression gone. There is spiritual and physical healing in the area of your human spirit. You first see it on the inside, and then one day you realize it on the outside.

There are spiritual dimensions in imagination that we have never fathomed. Many have not been taught the greatness of imagination. For spiritual growth God

wants us to understand the faculties that He has given us. One of the greatest of these is imagination.

For sure, the devil knows this. He hates imagination, and puts his counterfeits in the human mind. For example, he entices you with alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic beverage is taken in order to hallucinate. That and other drugs create images and mental suggestions that are not normal or natural. That is the power of imagination, but it will destroy your future.

Isaiah 28:7 says, "But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink, they err in vision, they stumble in judgment."

Alcoholic beverage is not the right way to live. The reason you drink wine and liquor is to give you a new high. The men and women who drink alcohol for a high often lose their jobs, have automobile accidents, lose their children, lose their homes, lose their spouses, and finally lose their souls. So the devil has only a counter-

feit for high imagination. You must not follow the devil's counterfeit. You must follow the righteousness of God who created you with imagination. God made it; He put it there for you to use for good things.

The power of drugs and alcohol is to bring you into a nether world—or underworld—of hideous creatures. That is what is called delirium tremens. Have you seen a person suffering with delirium tremens? He sees demons all around him, running at him, piercing at him, poking at him, grinning at him. His imagination fell down to the bottom through using the devil's counterfeit of what God wants to do. The devil is the biggest counterfeiter the world ever knew. Do not follow the devil's counterfeit!

You may ask, "How strong is the power of imagination?" David desired to be king in Israel. He understood the power of imagination to accomplish this. A new nation was born when he stepped into office. He consolidated the unrelated tribes, some living miles apart, into a central government in Jerusalem. He further consolidated them with a religious power in Jerusalem. This unity had to be in his

brain first. No one can build a nation thoughtlessly or by accident. David understood the power of spiritual imagination. He directed it into fulfillment. David had success because he first imagined it and then achieved.

Many people ask, "How can you keep imagination running in the right avenue, where it is constructive, where it is a builder?" The Holy Spirit speaks to us in I Peter 1:13, "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind." Your loins are the strength you pull with. If you are pulling a heavy load you lower your head and your loins do the pulling.

The human mind has pulling power. When you gird it up it is like putting a harness on your mind. This is for guiding and controlling.

The apostle said, "Be sober." He is not talking about alcoholic beverage, but about excessive nonsense. Your imagination can go into stupidity and silliness. Peter said to be sober and then have hope. Hope is an area of imagination.

We can bring hope into focus and push it with faith and your imagination will become reality. The apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 2:16, "For who hath known



the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.” Now move that thought into imagination. We have the imaginations of Christ. Christ wanted to save the world. We as His disciples have the same imagination inside of us. Christ desires that all sick be healed. We have that imagination inside of us. We want to go to heaven. Christ is already there preparing a place for us, and we imagine ourselves to be there.

For me to tell you that when you are born again, and receive Christ as your Saviour, that harnessing your imagination is easy, would not be honest or true.

Remember, there is bitterness in the heart of the devil because he lost heaven. There is a hatred in his heart because God disciplined him and judged him. The devil will come against anyone whom God loves and you are the apex of His love. The strongest force you have is your mind, so Satan comes against your mind. He will seek to enter your world of imagination and cause you to imagine wrong things, unspiritual things, and evil things, rather than permitting your imagination to be what God ordained it to be: spiritual, clean, holy.

You resist Satan by directing your spirit by the Holy Spirit. Your imagination should flow from your spirit into your mind. Your spirit will let you know whether it is of God or not. When Christians filter their remarkable imaginations from their minds through their born-again experience with God, their soulical parts are integrated into their spiritual parts, and their Adamic natures have become part of their spiritual nature. That is when God can do His best. That is when we can create more than at any other time. That is when God can do something really good and great for you.

There is a spiritual battle. God knows it and you are going to find it out soon enough. The battle should be directed through your spirit. You can fight the devil in the spirit when you cannot fight him any other way. When Satan wants to capture your mind, move in the Spirit, and he is defeated and destroyed by God's power.

God foresees all imagination in its embryo stage, not just in its fullness of power.

How much Christian authority do we have in the realm of imagination. Read in II Corinthians 10:5 these words, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing

that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God..." If the devil puts a false imagination in your heart, knock it down. The Bible says to cast down every imagination that is not of God and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. Now, that is authority! God leaves the responsibility to you, not to Him. He tells YOU to cast down imaginations. He has already saved you; He has already given you the power; He has already given you the authority. God shouts, "You cast it down!" The Bible says that the devil is a liar and you cannot accept his imaginations. The devil exalts himself against the knowledge of God.

Our powers of thought are subservient and obedient to God, if we bring them into captivity. It is great for every thought to be obedient to Christ. This means that the human mind possesses unlimited activity, unlimited ability, and unlimited authority! The powers of imagination have never been fathomed on the face of this earth. The Christian has the authority for casting down any imagination that is not holy. God has called him to holiness in his thought life. We are what we imagine ourselves to be. If you are going

to imagine yourself a devastated failure, wrong every time you open your mouth, or if you are going to downgrade yourself, the devil is going to help you do it.

The word image comes from "imagination," or "imagery." God wants you to imagine prosperity, health and all the blessings which belong to you. God wants you to enjoy and have them, to move into them. They belong to you!

When you are born again God changes your total destiny, mind, thought life, creative life, powers of imagination, and your total complex area of mental powers. Christ changes your emotional powers and your willpower. When we are born again all of us must bring imaginations to God where they belong.

If we could get Christian imagination running high in this country, we could change the whole world. We need to imagine how to save the whole world. We need to imagine how to bring greater produce into the world. We have men working now on saving the world from starvation. I have a friend in California whose life is obsessed in learning how to feed the millions who are starving today. Let your imagination rise up! This is the moment for powerful imagination to be born in

our hearts, to realize the horizons are our limits, that we are reaching to the stars to do great things for God!

Let God bless your imagination with strength and power. Place your imagination under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, then you will not be imagining wrong things.

Do you realize the power of your own personal imagination? Do you see how you can make it work in your own spiritual growth?

Your imagination can create health and wealth. In the world that we live today, the devil wants to steal your spiritual imagination and push you into the abyss of moral filth.

We all need to become super productive in our imagination. There are a thousand ways for every one of us to make a living, not depending on the government. Let your spirit within you rise up in holy imagination to be something great in God. In your spiritual achievements, rise up in strength. Imagine yourself like Paul or Moses, a tremendous spiritual success. I urge you to do that in Jesus' name!