

✦ The Power of Your Imagination

1. The Law of First Mention – Genesis 1:26

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion...’”

The Hebrew word for **image** — תְּצַלֵּם (*tselem*) — carries the idea of an image, representation, or likeness.

Creation began with what existed in God before it appeared in the visible world. God spoke what He had purposed, and the invisible became visible.

This gives us a foundational principle:

The visible is preceded by the invisible.

Before a hand moves, something has already happened within. Before a person acts, there is thought, intention, desire, and decision.

Scripture repeatedly shows that God does not judge only what appears outwardly:

“Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” — 1 Samuel 16:7

The biblical **heart** is much more than emotion. It is the inward center of:

- thoughts
- intentions
- desires
- motives
- imagination
- will
- decisions

Long before something becomes an outward action, it may already have existed inwardly.

This is why the imagination is so important. It is part of the unseen realm in which thoughts, intentions, desires, and pictures are formed.

The outward life is often the manifestation of an inward world.

2. The Imagination of Man's Heart

Genesis 6:5

"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

Genesis 8:21

"...the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth."

Scripture takes the imagination seriously because what is cultivated inwardly eventually influences what is expressed outwardly.

But we must distinguish between a **thought that enters the mind** and a **thought that is embraced by the heart**.

Not every thought is your intention.

A temptation may enter your mind without your choosing it. The danger comes when the thought is welcomed, believed, cherished, and allowed to develop.

The biblical progression can be understood as:

Thought → Agreement → Intention → Desire → Belief → Word → Action → Habit → Character

James describes this inward process:

"Each person is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desire... then desire gives birth to sin..." — **James 1:14–15**

Sin is therefore born inwardly before it becomes visible outwardly.

This is why the battle of the imagination is so important. The enemy seeks not merely to control actions, but to introduce thoughts, suggestions, fears, desires, and false pictures that the heart may eventually agree with.

Thoughts have weight

Hebrews 4:12 says:

“For the word of God is living and active... discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Notice that Scripture distinguishes between **thoughts** and **intentions**.

God sees both.

A thought can arrive unexpectedly. An intention is something the heart begins to embrace.

This means the believer should not live in fear of every passing thought. Rather, the mind must be continually brought under the government of God.

Jesus moved sin into the heart

Jesus revealed that outward sin can have an inward beginning.

Hatred reveals the root of murder. Lust reveals the root of adultery. The outward act is not the entire story. God sees what is happening within. Heaven recognizes inward realities before earthly realities.

God searches the hidden man

David prayed:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts.” — **Psalm 139:23**

He did not merely ask God to examine his actions.

He asked God to examine his **thoughts**.

Why?

Because thoughts reveal spiritual direction.

Psalm 139:2 says:

“You understand my thought afar off.”

Nothing in the inner world is hidden from God.

The imagination therefore needs direction

The imagination itself must be yielded to God.

It can be filled with fear, lust, pride, unbelief, bitterness, or worldly desire—or it can be brought under the truth of God's Word.

The question is not merely:

“What am I thinking?”

but:

“What am I allowing my heart to continually imagine, believe, and cultivate?”

3. Faith and Imagination

Proverbs 23:7

“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”

Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:3

“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”

Faith deals with what is **not yet visible**.

God's people therefore must learn to see spiritually before they see physically.

Faith looks beyond present circumstances and lays hold of what God has spoken.

This does not mean that imagination independently creates reality. God remains sovereign. Rather, imagination can become the **mental picture through which faith perceives, hopes, anticipates, and moves toward what God has said**.

Faith begins in the heart

Romans 10:10 says:

“With the heart one believes...”

Faith is not merely intellectual agreement.

It begins inwardly.

And unbelief can also begin inwardly.

Israel's wilderness failure was not fundamentally a failure of physical strength. Scripture repeatedly warns about their **unbelieving and hardened hearts**.

“Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...”

What happens inside eventually affects what happens outside.

Faith requires something unseen to be apprehended

Hope gives faith something to look toward.

The imagination can help the believer mentally apprehend what the heart is trusting God for, but the **foundation is God's Word**, not human fantasy.

Therefore:

Faith is not imagination by itself.

Faith is trusting God concerning what He has spoken, even before it is visible.

That distinction keeps biblical imagination anchored in God rather than turning it into a formula for manufacturing reality.

4. The Law of Focus – Joshua 1:8

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it...”

God tells Joshua to **meditate** day and night.

Biblical meditation is not emptying the mind.

It is filling the mind with the truth of God until that truth becomes deeply established within the heart.

What is repeatedly considered becomes deeply rooted.

What is repeatedly imagined can become familiar.

What becomes familiar can influence belief, expectation, speech, and behavior.

That is why the renewal of the mind is essential.

Romans 12:2

“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

The Christian life is not merely an attempt to modify outward behavior while leaving the inner person untouched.

God transforms the person from within.

Ezekiel 36 presents the same pattern:

“I will give you a new heart...”

God does not merely promise better behavior.

He promises a transformed inner person.

When the heart changes:

thoughts change, desires change, perceptions change, speech changes, and actions begin to follow.

Focus determines what occupies the inner world

What you continually give attention to can shape what dominates your thinking.

This is why Scripture calls believers to think on things that are true, pure, lovely, and worthy of praise.

The mind must have an object.

The question is:

What has your attention?

If your imagination is continually occupied by fear, failure, lack, lust, offense, and hopelessness, those things begin to influence the inner world.

But when the mind is continually brought back to the Word of God, perception begins to change.

Sanctified imagination begins with sanctified attention.

5. The Tower of Babel – Genesis 11:6

“Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose [imagine] to do will be withheld from them.”

The remarkable thing about Babel is that **God addressed what existed before its full manifestation**. They had:

- One language
- One agreement
- One purpose
- One unified intention

Their inward agreement produced coordinated outward action. This illustrates the **power of agreement** — a spiritual law that governs manifestation.

The Power of Agreement

Jesus said:

“If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.” — Matthew 18:19

Agreement is not merely verbal; it is **spiritual synchronization**. When hearts, minds, and intentions align, heaven responds. At Babel, human agreement produced earthly power — but in Christ, divine agreement produces **kingdom power**.

Agreement with Christ

Through salvation, we have entered the **highest form of agreement** — union with Jesus Himself.

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” — 2 Corinthians 5:21

We are in agreement with Jesus because we are **His righteousness**. Our spirit bears witness with His Spirit (*Romans 8:16*), meaning we now operate from the same nature and authority. This agreement is not based on effort but on identity — we are one with Him.

Spiritual Implication

- Babel shows the **power of unified imagination**.
- Christ reveals the **power of divine agreement**.
- When we align our imagination with His Word, we manifest His will on earth.
- Agreement with Jesus means our thoughts, words, and actions echo heaven's design.

Thoughts become spiritual agreement

Satan does not need to physically force a person into obedience.

He seeks agreement.

Consider Eve.

The process began with a suggestion.

Then came belief.

Then desire.

Then action.

The pattern was:

Suggestion → Agreement → Desire → Action

This is why the mind is a battlefield.

The enemy seeks to introduce a thought that contradicts God's Word and persuade the heart to make peace with it.

The battle is therefore often won or lost before the action occurs.

The power of collective imagination

Babel also demonstrates how powerful shared vision can become.

When people imagine, agree, speak, and act in the same direction, their actions become coordinated.

This principle can operate for good or evil.

Agreement around God's purposes can produce faith-filled obedience.

Agreement around rebellion can produce collective destruction.

The question therefore becomes:

What are you agreeing with in your heart?

6. Vision and Perception

Genesis 13:14–15

“Lift your eyes now and look... for all the land which you see I give to you.”

God told Abraham to **look**.

Vision matters.

What Abraham could perceive became connected to what God was calling him to possess and walk toward.

The real limit is therefore not always circumstance.

Sometimes it is **capacity to see**.

A person may be physically surrounded by possibility while mentally seeing only impossibility.

The invisible world comes before the visible

Again, the principle appears:

Perception influences expectation.

Expectation influences decisions.

Decisions influence actions.

Actions influence outcomes.

This does not mean that human perception overrides God's sovereignty.

It means that the way a person sees determines how that person responds.

A fearful person can see danger everywhere.

A person consumed by lack can interpret everything through lack.

A person who knows God's promises can look at the same circumstance and perceive an opportunity for obedience, faith, or divine intervention.

Ephesians 1:18

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened...”

Paul speaks about **eyes** that are not physical.

There is an inward capacity to perceive spiritual realities.

This is why renewal is so important.

God does not merely change what you do.

He teaches you to **see differently**.

You will struggle to walk toward what you cannot perceive.

7. Energy Follows Attention

Ephesians 4:18

“Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God...”

The mind can become darkened.

Attention can become trapped in fear, bitterness, lust, unbelief, resentment, or hopelessness.

This is why spiritual warfare often involves the mind.

2 Corinthians 10:5

“Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity...”

Notice what Paul attacks.

He does not begin with outward behavior.

He attacks **imaginations** and **thoughts** that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God.

The battlefield is mental before it becomes behavioral.

Fear must be confronted

David said:

“I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.” — Psalm 34:4

Fear can create pictures of what might happen.

The mind rehearses disasters that have not occurred.

A person can suffer internally from something that does not yet exist externally.

This is why Scripture continually calls believers to trust God rather than surrender their imagination to fear.

Take thoughts captive

The goal is not to pretend negative thoughts never come.

The goal is to refuse to enthrone them.

A thought may knock on the door.

Agreement opens it.

The believer must therefore learn to ask:

Does this thought agree with the knowledge of God?

If it does not, it must be brought into captivity to Christ.

8. Prophetic Imagination – Ezekiel 37:4

“Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!’”

God brings Ezekiel into a valley of dry bones and gives him something to **see**, something to **hear**, and something to **speak**.

The bones are dry.

The visible circumstances contradict the promise of restoration.

Yet God gives His prophet a Word.

Ezekiel does not create life by his own imagination.

He **responds to what God has spoken**.

That distinction is critical.

Biblical prophetic imagination is not inventing a future and commanding God to fulfill it.

It is allowing God's Word to govern the way you see the seemingly impossible.

Then the Word is spoken in obedience.

The word shapes

This connects to Ephesians 5:26:

“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”

The Word cleanses and sanctifies.

Scripture also says:

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...” — 2 Timothy 3:16

The Word therefore shapes a person.

It corrects the mind.

It cleanses the heart.

It reforms perception.

It instructs behavior.

It prepares the believer for good works.

The Word does not give us permission to manipulate people through speech. Rather, God's Word transforms the inward person and then governs what comes out of that person.

9. Renewal of the Mind

Romans 8:5–7

Paul contrasts the mind set on the flesh with the mind set on the Spirit.

Romans 12:2

“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

Ephesians 1:18

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened...”

The imagination can be understood as part of the mind's capacity to picture, perceive, anticipate, and internally rehearse.

Therefore, renewal of the mind affects imagination.

God changes the inner person

Ezekiel 36:

“I will give you a new heart...”

God begins on the inside.

The Christian transformation process is not simply:

Behavior → try harder → behavior

It is:

Heart → Mind → Thought → Desire → Speech → Action → Character

The Holy Spirit transforms the hidden person.

Every idle word begins somewhere

Jesus said:

“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” — **Matthew 12:34**

Words reveal what has accumulated within.

This makes speech an important window into the imagination and the heart.

What fills the heart eventually overflows through the mouth.

Therefore the transformation of speech begins deeper than speech.

Change the heart, and the overflow begins to change.

The mind must be renewed continuously

The believer is not called to obsess over every thought.

The believer is called to continually bring the mind back under truth.

This is why Scripture gives commands concerning what we think about, what we meditate upon, what we love, what we set our minds on, and what we allow to occupy our hearts.

Renewed imagination produces renewed perception.

Renewed perception produces renewed responses.

10. Intention and Expectation

Mark 11:24

“Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”

Intention gives direction to imagination.

Expectation gives endurance to faith.

But biblical expectation is not the same thing as demanding that reality conform to personal desire.

God remains sovereign.

The believer's confidence is therefore not:

“I imagined it, therefore it must happen.”

It is:

“God has spoken, therefore I can trust Him even before I see.”

Proverbs 23:7

“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”

Repeated inner beliefs begin to shape identity and behavior.

That is why what you continually meditate upon matters.

Words and expectation

Proverbs 18:21 says:

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.”

The imagery is agricultural.

There is fruit connected with what comes from the tongue.

This does not mean that every sentence spoken magically creates reality.

Rather, words have real consequences.

Words can:

- build or destroy
- bless or wound
- strengthen or discourage
- establish testimony
- shape expectation

- influence relationships
- direct conduct

Jesus said:

“For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”
— **Matthew 12:37**

Therefore speech must be taken seriously.

Words build and words destroy

Proverbs 12:18 says:

“There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.”

Ephesians 4:29 commands:

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying...”

The biblical command is not simply:

“Speak positively.”

It is:

Speak what is true, righteous, edifying, gracious, and consistent with God.

Words over people

This becomes especially important when speaking over children, a spouse, a family, a ministry, a business, or one's own future.

Repeated words can become part of a person's internal world.

When someone continually hears:

“You are foolish.”

“You are good for nothing.”

“You will never amount to anything.”

those words can influence identity, expectation, relationships, decisions, and behavior.

Conversely, Scripture commands God's people to teach His Word diligently:

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children...” — Deuteronomy 6:6–7

The Word shapes a person first by transforming the speaker, and then by what the transformed speaker teaches and speaks.

“Washing with water by the Word”

Ephesians 5:26 says:

“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”

The Word cleanses.

The Word sanctifies.

The Word shapes.

The Word corrects.

The Word renews.

But the power does not come from using words as a mystical formula to control another person.

The power belongs to God.

“Let no one in Zion say, I am sick”

Isaiah 33:24 says:

“And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.”

This belongs in the larger context of God's salvation and restoration of Zion.

The principle is therefore deeper than a mechanical rule that a believer must never acknowledge a physical condition.

The broader biblical lesson is that our speech should agree with God rather than continually magnify fear, unbelief, or destruction.

Intention and expectation meet

Psalms 42:5 says:

“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? ... hope thou in God...”

Hope keeps the heart looking toward God.

Expectation gives direction to the inner life.

Faith takes hold of what God has promised.

Speech gives expression to what the heart believes.

Action demonstrates what the heart has accepted.

Thus:

Thought shapes imagination.

Imagination influences expectation.

Expectation influences intention.

Intention influences desire.

Desire influences belief.

Belief influences speech.

Speech influences action.

Action becomes habit.

Habit shapes character.

Character shapes the direction of a life.

The process begins in the unseen person.

The Central Principle

The Bible does not teach that human imagination is an independent creative force equal to God's power.

Rather, Scripture reveals the tremendous importance of the **inner person**.

God examines the heart.

God knows thoughts.

God discerns intentions.

God commands the renewing of the mind.

God tells His people to meditate on His Word.

God calls believers to cast down imaginations that oppose His truth.

God teaches that words overflow from the heart.

God calls us to believe with the heart.

God transforms people from the inside out.

Therefore the battle is not merely over what you do.

It is over **what you believe, what you meditate on, what you imagine, what you agree with, what you desire, and what you ultimately speak and do.**

The biblical pattern can be summarized:

Thought → Agreement → Intention → Desire → Belief → Imagination → Word → Action → Habit → Character

And the answer is not to fear your own mind.

The answer is to **surrender the mind to God**.

“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” — Romans 12:2

“Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” — 2 Corinthians 10:5

“As he thinks in his heart, so is he.” — Proverbs 23:7

The transformation of the Christian life begins in the unseen person of the heart, where the Word of God renews the mind, the Holy Spirit reshapes desire, faith changes perception, and what is cultivated inwardly begins to govern what is expressed outwardly.

The visible life is often the overflow of an invisible world.

Therefore, guard what you allow to live in your heart.