

2. We All Use Our Imagination

- We don't have a choice whether our imagination works or not, we only get to choose whether it's working for us, or against us.

3. Imagination Causes Creativity

- Genesis 6:5, KJV – (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.*
- Imagination = “yester” (Hebrew) = a form, a framing, an image
- God wasn't angry that the people were using their imaginations, He was angry that their imaginations behind their thoughts were evil.
- The word “imagination” figuratively means “conception” or “creativity”.

4. We Store Information As Images

5. Without Imagination, We Become Legalistic

- Without imagination, we can only learn things by repetition, rules and regulations.
- Colossians 2:21-23, NIV – (21) *“Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? (22) These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. (23) Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.*
- Only when you change the images in your mind, do you change what you are focusing on, and therefore, on what is causing you to act.

THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF IMAGINATION

Part 1 – How We Use Our Imagination

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INTRODUCTION

- Three Biblical Images Concerning My Identity Flyer

THE FOUNDATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

1. Transformation Begins In Our Mind

- Romans 12:2, NIV – (2) *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- his good, pleasing and perfect will.*
- Conform = susche_matizo (Greek) = “to be figured or shaped together with”
- Transformed = metamorphoo_ (Greek) = “to be formed after”
- Renewing = anakaino_sis (Greek) = “being made new or fresh in an upward (better) manner”
- Mind = Nous (Greek) = “mind, understanding, reasoning”
- Romans 12:2 – Literal – “(2) Do not shaped or formed with this world, but be formed after or according to your fresh upward reasoning and understanding.”

2. Transformation Has To Do With The Thoughts In Our Minds

- 2 Corinthians 10:5, NIV – (5) *We demolish [destroy] arguments [speculations] and every pretension [lofty thing] that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*
- Demolish = kathaireo_ (Greek) = “to take down, choose against”
- Arguments = Logismos (Greek) = “what we think or reckon or consider”
- Pretension = hupso_ma (Greek) = “high thing, that which is lifted up or raised up or exalted”
- Knowledge = gno_sis (Greek) = a knowing, knowledge
- Take Captive = aichmalo_tizo (Greek) = “to take or conquer with a spear or double-sided sharp piercing object”
- Mind = Noe_ma (Greek) = thought, purpose, perception

- 2 Corinthians 10:5 – Literal – (5) We choose against and take down any thoughts or reasonings that are lifted up against God’s knowledge (God’s truth), and we conquer with a spear (the sharp two edged sword of the Word of God) every thought or perception and make it obedient to Christ.

3. Groups Of Common Thoughts Form Images Called “Strongholds”

- 2 Corinthians 10:4, NIV – (4) *The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world (flesh). On the contrary, they have divine (God) power to demolish strongholds.*
- Weapons = hoplon (Greek) = tools, implements, weapons
- We fight with = strateia (Greek) = we campaign with, we make war with
- World = sarkikos (Greek) = pertaining to the flesh, carnal
- Demolish = kathaireo_ (Greek) = to take down, choose against
- Strongholds = ochuro_ma (Greek) = a stronghold or fortress
- 2 Corinthians 10:4, NIV – (4) The tools we war with are not of the flesh. Instead, they have power from God to choose against and take down strongholds or fortresses of thoughts in our minds.
- When a group of thoughts form and fortify together, they create A PICTURE, or an IMAGE!

THE POWER OF IMAGES

- We communicate with words, but we don’t think in words, we think in images
- 1. **A Group Of Words Or Thoughts Form A Familiar Image**
 - Implication: When we teach or preach or counsel, people will usually not see the same image (or concept) that we see, unless they have had the same experiences that we have had.
- 2. **Each Word Heard May Result In Different Images**
 - Implication: A single word can mean different things to different people, and so you have to use enough words to form the correct image in a person’s mind.

3. We Relate Words To Our Experiences

- Implication: It is useless to use words or images that people are unfamiliar with, because people will not be able to imagine what we are imagining. They have no experience to relate to those words.

4. We Can Slowly Change An Image With Our Words

- Implication: If I say words to you that are outside of your experience, you will not be able to clearly and concretely imagine what I am imagining.

WHY TRANSFORMATION COMES EASIER TO SOME THAN OTHERS

- It depends if their experiences, and the images in their minds, are in line with, or in agreement with, the experiences and images of the person preaching..

THE NEED TO COMMUNICATE BIBLICAL IMAGES

1. Images Control Our Thinking And Our Acting

- Our challenge is to skillfully use the Word of God, to help people form new biblical images or new biblical strongholds in their minds, which push out and replace the old images in their minds, and become the new dominant images that they live by.
- The strongest images they have in their minds, will control the thoughts they think, and the things they do.

2. We Can Use Images To Change Our Thinking

- Three Biblical Images Concerning My Identity Flyer

WE ALL USE OUR IMAGINATION

1. The “Stigma” Of Using Our Imagination

- a) Childish – Daydreaming – “Imaginary”
- b) Eastern Religion - Counterfeit
- c) Fantasizing – Sensual / Sinful / Harmful