

- “Looks at” = “blepo\_” (Greek) = “behold, consider, keep on seeing, take heed of”
- “Lustfully” = “epithumeon\_” (Greek) = “coveted, craved, desired, longed for, set its desire on”
- James 1:13-15, NIV – (13) *When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; (14) but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. (15) Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

#### b) Soulical Imagination

- 2 Samuel 13:1-2, NIV – (1) *In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David. (2) Amnon became frustrated to the point of illness on account of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her.*

#### 5. Obsessive Imagination

- Genesis 6:5, KJV – (5) *And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination (image) of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*
- Genesis 6:11-12, NIV – (11) *Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. (12) *God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.**
- Example - serial killer Ted Bundy
- “I’ve lived in prison for a long time now, and I’ve met a lot of men who were motivated to commit violence. Without exception, every one of them was deeply involved in pornography – deeply consumed by the addiction.”

#### CHALLENGE

Time to repent and ask God to forgive us for our negative (evil) imaginations! He has grace for use, if we will come to Him and trust Him!

## THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF IMAGINATION

### Part 2 – Negative Use Of Our Imagination

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#### REVIEW

##### 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.”*

##### 2. We Determine Our Degree Of Transformation By The Thoughts We Think

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

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

- 2 Corinthians 10:4, Literal – (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.*

##### 4. The Images In Our Minds Are Reinforced By Our Experiences

- Unless people have had the same experiences that we have had, they will not be easily able to imagine what we imagine, and so they cannot easily believe what we believe to be true.

##### 5. The Prevalent Images In Our Minds Determine What We Believe To Be True

- If I communicate an image that is outside of your experience, you will eventually return to an image that is familiar to you.

#### NEGATIVE CREATION WITH OUR IMAGINATION

- Our imagination is the creative part of us. In fact, the main synonyms for imagine, are “to create”, or “to conceive”.
- If we imagine negative things, we will start conceiving negative things.

## 1. Worrisome/Anxious Imagination

- Matthew 6:31-33, NIV – (31) *So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ (32) For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. (33) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*
- Whatever we worry about, we will imagine in our minds
- The worry will feed our imagination, and our imagination will feed our worry
- Said another way, when you imagine lack in your minds, you will begin to create lack. When you imagine God’s provision in your mind, you will begin to create provision

## 2. Fearful Imagination

- Job 1:1, NIV – (1) *In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.*
- Job 1:2-3, NIV – He had 7 sons, 3 daughters, 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 ox, 500 donkeys, many servants, and “... *was the greatest of all the men of the east*”.
- Job 1:15 – Oxen and donkeys were stolen, the servants all killed
- Job 1:16 – Fire fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants all died
- Job 1:17 – Camels stolen, servants all killed
- Job 1:19 – Sons and daughters all killed when a tornado caused a house to collapse on them
- Job 2:7 – Painful sores came on Job from the soles of his feet to the top of his head
- Job 3:25-26, NIV – (25) *What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me. (26) I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil.*
- Job’s fear turned into dread, and that dread caused the opening that Satan was able to exploit.
- Unresolved/unchecked fear will cause our imagination to form opportunities and openings for evil forces to wreck havoc on our lives.

## 3. Speculative Imagination

- 1 Timothy 3:2, NIV – (2) *Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled ...*
  - “Self-controlled” = “prudent, sensible, of sound mind, well or whole in mind and thought”; literally “void of speculative imagination”
  - Speculative imagination will cause a person to actually believe that what they are imagining in their minds, is actually the truth.
- a) Wrong Judgments
- They develop a speculative picture in their mind, that they begin to believe is the truth, and they will not accept any information, that questions what they believe to be true.

### b) Wrong Expectations

- Speculative imagination will cause you to develop expectations of what people’s motives are, why they did what they did, and how they will act in the future.

## 4. Sexual/Soulical Imagination

### a) Sexual Imagination

- 2 Samuel 11:2, NIV – (2) *Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.*
- “Saw” = “Raah” (Hebrew) = “behold, consider, enjoy, examine, gaze, give attention to, gloat, indeed look, keep looking, make an inspection, regard, take into consideration, watch”
- “Appearance” = “Mareh” (Hebrew) = “appearance, vision, image”
- Matthew 5:28, NIV – (28) *But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*