

4. Picture – Desired Truth

a) Be Intentional

- 2 Corinthians 10:5, NIV – (5) *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*
- We must intentionally choose to do the work necessary

b) Be Purposeful

- “What unbiblical images are in my mind, that are controlling me or hindering me from being free and victorious in Christ?”
- 2 Colossians 10:5, NIV – (5) *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*
- What issue are you trying to transform? What is the lie you have been believing? What is the truth you want to believe? What image do you need to put in you mind, that will fortify that truth?

c) Be Clear

- 2 Corinthians 4:2, NIV – (2) *We have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

d) Be Visible

- Joshua 1:8, NIV – (8) *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

e) A Final Hint

- Hang pictures around your house!!!

THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF IMAGINATION

Part 4 – How To Use Your Imagination For Transformation

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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 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
- Therefore, to change what we believe to be true, we must change the images in our minds

NEGATIVE USES OF OUR IMAGINATION

1. Worrisome/Anxious Imagination
2. Fearful Imagination
3. Speculative Imagination
4. Sexual/Soulical Imagination
5. Obsessive Imagination

POSITIVE USES OF OUR IMAGINATION

1. Using Imagination For Gaining Wisdom / Understanding / Insight
2. Using Imagination For Identifying With Biblical Truth
3. Using Imagination For Building Our Faith
4. Using Imagination For Getting The Right Focus
5. Using Imagination For Receiving From God

USING POSITIVE IMAGES FOR TRANSFORMATION

- Philippians 4:8-9, NIV – (8) *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -- think about such things.*
- NASB – “... let your mind dwell on these things.”
- “Think about” = logizomai = “to reckon, to consider, to regard with the mind” = “To regard or consider a word or image which embodies an idea or truth”

HOW TO USE YOUR IMAGINATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

1. Easel – Mind

- Mark 12:30, NIV – (30) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

2. Canvas – Thankfulness

- 2 Corinthians 2:15, NIV – (15) For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.
- Praise and thankfulness to God are the thing that produces a spiritual aroma that blesses God.
- Criticizing and complaining produces a foul smell, that attract demons.

- 1 Timothy 4:4, NIV – (4) *For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.*

- Biblical images cannot be painted on a canvas that is negative – they just won’t stick!

3. Paint – The Truths Of The Word Of God

a) Truth Or Lie

- Romans 1:25, NIV – (25) *They exchanged the truth of God for a lie.*

b) Truth Or Evil

- Romans 2:8, NIV – (8) *But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.*

c) Truth Must Be Plain To Be Effective

- 2 Corinthians 4:2, NIV – (2) *We have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

- Take the truths of the Word of God and paint clear, biblical images into our minds, and then live our lives on the basis of those Biblical truths

d) Faithful To Truth, Then Walk In Truth

- 3 John 1:3, NIV – (3) *It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth.*