

HAVE FAITH IN YOUR IMAGINATION 05: YOU CANNOT LOSE! STUDY NOTES

Read 2 Peter I.5-9. Can you imagine actually forgetting that you have been forgiven of your old sins?

That's an amazing statement. The Christians that PETER was talking to here FORGOT their sins were purged. They forgot CHRIST FORGAVE THEM EVERY SIN. That's the most amazing thing that has ever happened to anyone. Total pardon for every selfish act, every selfish thought, every time you broke the law, every time you acted selfishly, every time you hurt someone by accident, deliberately. Every time you failed to do what you knew was the right thing to do! ALL OF IT – totally pardoned forever. YOU ARE NOW RIGHTEOUS, you are now going to HEAVEN WHEN YOU DIE.

YOU CANNOT GET BETTER THAN THAT, and they forgot.

They forgot how GOOD God is. Now the reason they forgot is that they stopped imagining how GOOD GOD IS. If you do not hold something in front of your imagination, you will forget it.

Now listen: EMOTIONS FOLLOW THOUGHTS!

EMOTIONS come based on what you think. THINK THE WRONG THING, FEEL THE WRONG THING. YES, DREAM OF A GLORIOUS FUTURE – but at the same time BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU HAVE.

Read ISAIAH 26.3. Peace is a product of your imagination. IMAGINE THE WRONG THINGS – NO PEACE. IMAGINE THE RIGHT THINGS – PEACE!

If you forget that every single one of your sins is forgotten and you totally don't recognize that truth and forget it – you will never be at peace. If you think God is holding your sin and your past against you – if you think God is punishing you, if you think God is out to get you, if you forget every sin is forgiven – YOU WILL HAVE NO PEACE IN YOUR LIFE.

- Sickness will come on your BODY and you will think GOD is doing it, you will have no healing
- Poverty will attack you and you will THINK YOU DESERVE IT and you will have no deliverance
- You will end up depressed

BUT IF YOU REMEMBER THAT YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN – that GOD LOVES YOU THAT HE IS 100% ON YOUR SIDE – if God is for you nothing can be against you – that you can enter the presence of GOD WITHOUT FEAR, WITHOUT SHAME, WITHOUT ANY SENSE OF INFERIORITY. YOU ARE AS RIGHTEOUS AS JESUS – YOU ARE AS PURE AS JESUS – YOU CAN DO THE WORKS OF JESUS. You are treated by the FATHER as if you never sinned. IF YOU THINK THAT AND IMAGINE THAT – YOU WILL BE HAPPY, you will have PERFECT PEACE. You will be healed, you will be prospering, you will be succeeding. YOU WILL BE WINNING IN LIFE.

PEACE in your life = you are thinking the right things

PEACE not in your life = you are thinking the wrong things.

YOUR PEACE follows your thoughts!

When you remember every sin has been forgiven you will THINK PEACE!

BUT my rent is due and I don't have any money – that's ok, that's not a big deal for GOD – HE HAS FORGIVEN ALL YOUR SINS AND TREATS YOU LIKE A RIGHTEOUS PERSON! He loves you! He will never stop loving you!

BUT the doctor says this and that and this and that – that's not a big deal for a totally forgiven person. That's not a big deal for a RIGHTEOUS CHAMPION LIKE YOU!

You have to realize that things aren't difficult – you are forgiven, God loves you and treats you as perfect.

In the natural you could have a cold or cancer. Both are impossible for you to deal with. Actually, there is more medical stuff that can be done with cancer than a cold – they can use radiation, they can cut it out and throw it in the bin. BUT there is no medicine for the cold.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CANCER AND A COLD?

There is only one difference – COLDS do not generally get into your imagination.

That's the difference. CANCER gets into our imagination.

People with colds don't take their mind OFF GOD – but cancer can make you start imagine all sorts of things that are nothing to do with the things of GOD!

BUT FOR GOD – healing a cold, healing a cancer. THERE IS ZERO DIFFERENCE, God is so big, both cancer and colds are tiny to HIM!

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT IS IN THE WOMB OF MOST PEOPLE'S MINDS – to them they hear the word CANCER – and they FORGET THEIR SINS WERE FORGIVEN. They forget GOD IS ON THEIR SIDE, they forget about the cross, they forget I Peter 2.24, they forget ISAIAH 53, they forget it all – and it goes into their imagination and IMAGINATION IS NAVIGATION – and imagination is also the THERMOSTAT FOR YOUR EMOTIONS.

If you are unhappy with your emotions – change your imagination! You change the image, you change emotions. If I said, there's been a call – someone close to you has been rushed to hospital, and I tell you all these details and paint a picture – IMAGINATION WILL BE THE THERMOSTAT OF YOUR EMOTIONS! If I then say "Only joking, haha" – your imagination will now CHANGE, and your emotions will change, a whole new set of emotions at why I would do something like that.

IF YOU DO NOT IMAGINE OUTSIDE OF YOU BEING A NEW CREATION, YOU BEING FORGIVEN, YOU BEING IN COVENANT WITH GOD – you CANNOT have bad emotions. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE DEPRESSED OR AFRAID OF ANYTHING.

I cannot remember the last time I was depressed or down, I will not let my imagination go there, so the thermostat keeps my emotions on joy and peace. I have been tempted, but that's all.

YOU HAVE TO SEE YOURSELF WINNING – you have to see the PROMISES OF GOD COMING TO PASS IN YOUR LIFE- YOU HAVE TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT WHAT GOD PROMISED YOU – stop thinking about this realm and YOU WILL HAVE PEACE. YOU WILL NOT BE ANXIOUS OR WORRIED, you will just have PEACE. You will forget how to worry about things. You will forget how to doubt GOD. YOUR HEART WILL BE FIXED

Read Phil. 1.21-25.

Paul had been threatened and beat up loads – he had been in prison over and over, shipwrecked, hungry, cold – and now he is back in prison again – knowing that HE WAS STILL NEEDED ON EARTH, but WANTING TO GO TO HEAVEN.

Notice PAUL is not afraid or anxious about DYING – he knew that this life is just step 1, the next step is going to be better – he uses the word gain – but HE CHOSE TO STAY BECAUSE THE CHURCHES NEEDED GOOD TEACHING!

NOW JUST THINK ABOUT THAT – JUST IMAGINE HEAVEN. There's more than a few SCRIPTURES ABOUT HEAVEN!

1. IT IS A REAL PLACE. Read JOHN 14.1-3
 - a. A place. It is as real as the cinema, as real as your house. As real as LONDON, as any other place. IT IS A PLACE.
 - b. It is a city full of people, it is a mansion with many rooms
2. IT IS A PLACE WHERE GOD LIVES Read Php 3.20
 - a. His throne is there.
 - b. YOU will be with me in PARADISE – Read LUKE 23.43
 - i. PARADISE means a place like Eden, a perfect place with no sin.
3. IT IS WHERE JESUS IS (Acts 1.11)
4. It is where CHRISTIANS GO WHEN THEY DIE (Php 1.23)
5. IT IS DESIGNED AND BUILT BY GOD (Hebrews 11.10)
6. IT IS A BETTER COUNTRY (Luke 23.43)

Do you know the STREETS ARE PAVED WITH GOLD, the gates are made of pearl, the walls are made of diamonds. IT'S GOING TO BE AMAZING!

So, whatever happens in this life, it is just a vapour, the real deal is FOREVER! We will recognize everyone – PETER recognized MOSES AND ELIJAH and HE HAD NEVER MET THEM. We are going to rule over cities and reign – WE WILL WRITE AND DESIGN, we will play sports, we will go to church, we will worship and worship, we will see creativity.

There is a powerful quote from Spurgeon about heaven, he says when we get there, we will:

1. Worship without any distraction
2. Serve without any exhaustion
3. Fellowship without any fear
4. Learn without fatigue
5. Rest without any boredom

AND above that we will be with the Lord! You get a real glimpse of this in your imagination, you will need to use your faith to stay here LIKE PAUL had to. Chris and Von at their best moment – is nothing but a dim, dark reflection of the sound you are going to hear at a worship service in heaven. So, WHEN STUFF HAPPENS – you do not have to fall apart – If the doctor says IN SIX WEEKS YOU ARE GOING TO BE DEAD – wow! WE ARE GOING TO HEAVEN IN SIX WEEKS, that's better than going to FLORIDA OR ITALY. It's heaven!

Now you can obviously believe GOD and do the works of JESUS and receive your healing, but even if nothing worked – you are on track to have dinner with JESUS. What is the dinner going to be like – like nothing you have ever imagined or dreamed! The

conversations, the beauty, the glory of God – the purity, the kindness of people – all of it.
IT IS GOING TO BE AWESOME.

If the doctor says you are going to die soon, you should hug them. Death is not the end, it is the beginning. IT IS GAIN!

YOU CANNOT LOSE, YOU CAN ONLY WIN.

What have you lost?

MONEY? HAVE YOU LOST MONEY DURING THIS LOCKDOWN?

GOD HAS GIVEN YOU THE POWER TO GET WEALTH (DEUT. 8.18). You can make it back again!

If you are fired without cause, GOD IS YOUR SOURCE. HE IS YOUR DAILY BREAD. You can have your daily bread and your reputation can be restored – I WILL GIVE YOU A GOOD NAME!

Are you sick? YOU CAN BE HEALED.

Have you messed up? YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN. DO NOT FORGET THAT!

YOU ARE A WINNER, but even if you lose, you STILL WIN!

JESUS NEVER PROMISED YOU A TROUBLE FREE LIFE – he promised trouble would come, but HE PROMISED THAT YOU WOULD OVERCOME. Read John 16.33

If you are not at peace, if you are not in perfect peace, you are not thinking about this, you are not remembering what JESUS HAS DONE – if you are fighting stress and worry and depression – your imagination IS ON THE WRONG THING.

Your imagination is THE THERMOSTAT OF YOUR EMOTIONS!

You know your emotions are not based on whether you had a bad day at work

Your emotions are not based on how your spouse treated you

Your emotions are not based on what was on the radio this morning

Your emotions are not based on what is the new lockdown instruction

Your emotions are not based on a chemical imbalance

IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND YOU – your emotions are based on WHAT YOU ALLOW TO DOMINATE YOUR IMAGINATION. That is all.

That is how you feel, what you imagine. ALSO, your imagination is your navigation. IT IS WHERE YOU WILL END UP.

I can tell you I have been BACK AGAINST THE WALL AGAIN AND AGAIN – LIED ABOUT, TREATED SO BADLY BY SOME PEOPLE, I have had my knees knocking at some of the financial pressure we have been under in the last decade

BUT I HAVE KEPT MY MIND ON JESUS.

There was a season years ago – so many lies, so many things going on, I had the police interview me for five hours to try and get me to crack, then admit that there was zero evidence they were just fishing – I didn't want to go preach, we were losing thousands of pounds, like you cannot imagine. Someone told me – take a few weeks off – what you are going through is so much – no one can keep going. I said "I am not going to preach on the troubles, I am going to preach on the victory. I am going to preach on JESUS – to LIVE IS CHRIST" – I am going to speak life – and I DID, and I HAVE.

YOU must keep your eyes on JESUS – the author and finisher of our faith!

Read 2 COR. 4:18

Everything you see IS TEMPORAL – that means it WILL NOT LAST FOREVER.

IF YOU CAN SEE IT, it will not last

YOUR PROBLEMS WILL NOT LAST. Your circumstances WILL NOT LAST

Your sickness WILL NOT LAST. This lockdown WILL NOT LAST. The mask-wearing WILL NOT LAST.

BUT WHAT IS UNSEEN – anything in the WORD – is ETERNAL.

IF it is in the WORD IT WILL LAST –

Your healing WILL LAST

Your prosperity WILL LAST

Your good name WILL LAST

Your DESTINY will last

SO, focus on what will last – I HAD TO LEARN THIS – we would never be here today IF I DIDN'T – FOCUS ON WHAT YOU CANNOT SEE.

And I haven't really had it that hard – not compared to some people across the world, not compared to PAUL! Read 2 Cor. 4:8-15. Verse 15 is for you! NO MATTER WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND YOU – your inner man is new every day – fresh, eternal.

STOP IMAGINING THE OUTSIDE, and IMAGINE WHAT IS INSIDE YOU – the love, the joy, the peace, the grace, the SAME POWER THAT RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD, the FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD, all healing, all the glory, all the power to prosper. IT IS IN YOU!

Listen to me so carefully – this is vital for your success. I am going to give you three words that if you obey you will be propelled forward in LIFE.

STOP MAKING EXCUSES!

We live in a generation that is the experts of excuses.

- You don't know what they did to me, you don't know about my hormones, I can't help being fat, I can't help being rude, it's my temperament, it's my time of the month, my problems are the largest in the world, the world is out to get me.

- LISTEN – you cannot be a VICTIM and a CHAMPION. You have to choose which one you IMAGINE YOURSELF AS – VICTIMS HAVE EXCUSES, CHAMPIONS EAT EXCUSE FOR BREAKFAST.

You are a champion – you are more than a conqueror – but you have to see yourself that way. YOU HAVE TO IMAGINE YOURSELF THAT WAY. You have to stop convincing yourself that your problems are unique.

I did that for years with my overeating. I made excuses all the time:

- No-one understands how much pressure I am under, the things I go through –
 - Any thought that has you being unique, or your situation being uniquely difficult or challenging IS A LOSER VICTIM THOUGHT!
- Being a minister is a sedentary lifestyle
- People keep bringing me food and it would be rude to not eat it
- I need to travel, I need to eat out with people
- Blah blah blah

NOW, no excuses. I am going to lose the excess fat – no more fat pastor – no more fat dad – that's as simple as it is.

MOST OF MY WORK WORK IS WHEN YOU DON'T WORK WORK – I work in the evenings, I call people in the evenings, I preach in the evenings, I work late, I do three services most weekends, I teach Saturday mornings. So, I can go to the gym mid-morning when it is almost empty. See, not a victim now, a champion. Restaurants have menus that have calorie counts on, I can choose the healthier options, I can do what I want. I can walk places and get some steps in. I am a winner.

You see how my imagination HAD TO CHANGE – I HAD TO STOP SEEING MYSELF AS THE VICTIM. OVER TIME THINGS CHANGE –

I tell testimonies from years ago, remind myself of GOD'S GOODNESS, but I also think – I was so worried at the time about not having £500, £3000, whatever. AND IT WAS SO HARD BACK THEN TO FOCUS ON GOD when I was facing those problems NOW I FACE A £3000 need pretty much every day, doesn't bother me, my mind is on THE LORD.

Things that used to wind me up, just don't anymore! It's only stuff, TEMPORAL STUFF, CHANGING STUFF. THE UNSEEN IS ETERNAL!

GOD INSIDE YOU IS BIGGER THAN ANY PROBLEM

Read 2 Cor. 4.17-18

You trouble is LIGHT AND BUT A MOMENT. It does not look like LIGHT AND BUT A MOMENT! That is because you are not imagining the GLORY OF THE LORD, you HAVE FORGOTTEN YOU ARE A FORGIVEN MAN, in the FAMILY OF GOD – you are not imagining UNSEEN THINGS, you are not feeding your mind the WORD! When you realize the glory of heaven then EVERYTHING SEEN CAN BE CHANGED.

Cancer – can be healed.

Poverty – can be solved.

Finances – changed instantly.

EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD MUST BOW THE KNEE TO JESUS – I know it's easier to say it than do it – I DO – but YOU MUST KNOW THIS.

THE WORD OF GOD IS BETTER – NOT WORSE – than ANYTHING YOU CAN SEE WITH YOUR PHYSICAL EYES.

If you can see it on the OUTSIDE, an IMAGE ON THE INSIDE CAN CHANGE IT. The image on the inside is more powerful than the image on the outside.

YOU NEED TO OPEN THIS BOOK AND LET IT CONCEIVE MIRACLES IN YOU – YOU NEED TO LET IT PAINT A NEW PICTURE IN YOUR MIND – YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR IMAGINATION STAYED ON GOD – it is effort – it is not effortless – BUT NO MATTER WHAT IS GOING ON OUTSIDE – you can do this from the INSIDE – you can OVERCOME, you can WIN.

STOP THE EXCUSES – because you are not the only person on the planet who has to live under the circumstances!

QUIT ALL EXCUSES.

Did you eat all the pies and cakes?

Did you slack off at work and dishonour your employer?

Have you opened your BIBLE today for the first time since last SUNDAY?

TIME TO CHANGE – NO MORE EXCUSES

We can come up with excuses for anything.

HOW TO STOP EXCUSES

I. REMEMBER YOU ARE FORGIVEN, GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU

A lot of time excuses are because we are SCARED OF CHANGE – stop being scared, you are not going into that new job, new life, new attitude, new ministry ALONE – GOD IS WITH YOU

Stop being scared of messing up as well – messing up IS NOT THE END, it's just a lesson and a knowledge of a new path NOT TO TAKE!

2. MAKE A GOAL – A SPECIFIC GOAL – that will cut out a lot of excuses.
 - a. I will lose weight this year. Is not a good goal!
 - b. I will lose 8lb this month. Is a good goal!
 - c. SEE THE DIFFERENCE? ONE IS A GOAL – a measurable finish line.
3. STOP LOOKING TO OTHERS – they are not your measurement. You are not aiming to be like someone or the next someone. YOU ARE YOU!
4. YOU ARE WAITING FOR A FEELING. Do it NOT FEELING IT – I often do things I don't feel like doing – praying, going to the gym, reading my BIBLE, going to conferences.

5. YOU BLAME OTHERS. Take some personal responsibility. You cannot change how others treat you – but you can change your response to it. Some people are never going to want you at the cool table, that is on them – how you respond to that is on you. IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME.

NOW SEE YOURSELF AS A CHAMPION – you can do this, you can win, you can walk in victory. YOU ARE A FORGIVEN MAN – NEVER FORGET THAT. EVER.

DO SOMETHING DAILY – you need a consistency about this. DO SOMETHING DAILY. Learn something new daily. Listen to a message a day. DO SOMETHING DAILY!

SET A TINY GOAL TODAY – I WILL DO THIS. Today before sunset, I will pray in tongues 10 minutes. I will walk for 20 minutes. I will read 5 pages of a non-fiction book. JUST A TINY GOAL AND DO IT. You will thank yourself for it.

ABOVE ALL SEE YOURSELF WINNING – you are a winner. DITCH THE VICTIM MENTALITY.

NO EXCUSES, YOU ARE NOT AN EXCEPTION – you can walk above your circumstances and PAINT A PICTURE ON THE INSIDE THAT WILL CHANGE THE OUTSIDE.

DO IT NOW – pull down that excuse!

HAVE FAITH IN YOUR IMAGINATION 05: YOU CANNOT LOSE! STUDY NOTES

1. What remarkable event did the people Peter was writing to actually forget?
2. Have you ever forgotten that? What happened?
3. Your imagination is the thermostat of your emotions. How does imagination act as a thermostat for our emotions, and when have you got very emotional over something that turned out to be just in your imagination?
4. What did Paul describe death as in Php. 1.21?
5. Of all the things about heaven mentioned Sunday, what is exciting you the most about going there?
6. What did Jesus tell us to do when trouble came (see John 16.33)? Why did he say that?
7. "Everything we see is temporary". What does this mean for you?
8. Are you failing to succeed in an area of life because of excuses? If so, what are you going to do about it?
9. Where are you going to start dreaming and winning now?
10. What about this message inspired, encouraged or challenged you the most?