

HAVE FAITH IN YOUR IMAGINATION 04 THE LIFE BRINGING POWER OF IMAGINATION STUDY GUIDE

Your imagination is so powerful, that it is exceedingly difficult to be able to exaggerate how powerful your imagination is. One analogy you could use to help see how powerful your imagination is would be to compare your imagination to a womb. Your imagination is the womb of your mind. Your imagination is where ideas are conceived. You all know that it is impossible to give birth without a conception, and in your mind, you cannot give birth to your destiny, to your dreams, to the promises of God without imagining them. You conceive ideas and bring them to birth in your imagination.

You also all know that a woman cannot give birth on her own, there needs to be a seed. She needs to be intimate with a man, a seed must be planted. And if you want to conceive life and blessings in your imagination and bring them full-term into planet earth, you need a seed, the seed of the Word of God.

Read I Peter 1.23. We were all born again with a seed. Someone spoke the Word to us, we imagined it, believed it, saw it and received it – and now we are Christians. But when it comes to healing, and prosperity, and the promises of God, we pray and pray and pray, and often do not get it because we do not dream it, we do not plant a seed. The womb of our mind is empty because we do not read our Bibles and plant it in our mind and in our imagination.

Andrew Wommack tells a story about a pastor's wife who was legally blind. Her glasses were so thick that they looked like the bottom of a soda bottle. A healing evangelist was preaching at their church one day, and she was trying to avoid him because many people had prayed for her eyes in the past but she was never healed, so she didn't want to receive prayer again. But the healing evangelist cornered her at one of the services and said, "I want to pray for you."

He made her take her glasses off and commanded her eyes to be healed. When he was done he asked, "Can you see?" The woman started to open her eyes to check her vision, but the healing evangelist stopped her. "Shut your eyes!" he ordered. And she shut her eyes quickly.

He asked again "Can you see?" Again, she went to open her eyes, but the evangelist rebuked her. Shut your eyes! He said. By now the woman was beginning to wonder if the man was insane. How could she tell if she was healed with her eyes closed?

A third time the man asked "can you see?" but this time she started to open her eyes, he said "Do not open your eyes, you have to see yourself seeing before you can see" She understood and started to pray in tongues, after a few minutes, she said "I can see it, I can see me seeing"

Then she opened her eyes and was healed.

If we could understand this, how powerful our imagination is, we would be getting better results when we prayed. We pray then we open our wallet, check our bank account balance, feel if the pain is still there – but listen carefully to this point – miracles do not come from the outside, they come from the inside. God is inside us! Miracles come from our imagination imagining what God has done for us.

If you come to me asking for prayer for healing while imagining your funeral, it won't work. You should be using your imagination to see the Word working in your life. You should be seeing yourself pain free, see yourself having a good night's sleep. See yourself eating foods you could not eat!

See yourself in your new job – you are not going to partake in the recession – you are not going to fail financially; you are going to prosper in the storm. You are getting a better car; you are going to live debt free. You are going to win. Do not limit your imagination to what the guy in your office, in your street, in your family is doing – get your image from the Word and live a life of unparalleled blessings.

The Hebrew word for imagination is yetser. It is also the Hebrew word for conception. Your imagination is where you conceive life – you cannot have birth without conception. You cannot have a miracle without conceiving it. Read Isaiah 26.3. The word here for mind is yetzer. If your imagination is focused on the Lord, you will live in perfect peace – perfect shalom. That includes perfect prosperity, perfect life, perfect abundance.

The word is also in Proverbs 29.18. With no vision, the people perish. With no imagination, you die. It really is that stark, that real and that true! You will not make it unless you learn to imagine!

If you cannot imagine yourself doing what God called you to do, if you cannot imagine yourself doing what God called you to do, if you cannot imagine yourself with promises in your hands, in your body, in your driveway, you will never have them. There is no conception and therefore no birth. The problem for so many of us is that we are too busy to stop and dream and conceive some ideas. Busy-ness is not the same as fruitfulness! We need to take the time to be still. You need to take some time off to dream, to imagine, to spend time with the LORD. You will never regret doing that. You need to set aside time in life to use your imagination, don't let Hollywood be the only person using your imagination. Don't let the media. Don't let your family.

The first time that the word yetzer is used in the Bible, it is not used in a good way. Read Genesis 6.5. It says they had every imagination as evil – you see a weak imagination is easily pulled to evil. Read Psalm 140.2.

We hear stories of preachers and Christian leaders who commit a great sin. You wonder how could they do such a thing? The answer is that they imagined it first. They conceived it in their imagination first.

Read James 1.13-15. The number one way to sin is to imagine sin. The number one way to live holy is to develop a strong imagination.

Read Hebrews 11.13. Notice Abraham was promised all of Israel, but he never saw that, but he did see it – how? In his imagination! For 26 years he called himself the father of nations and he had no children! That is faith, that is imagination. Abraham counted the stars over and over and over, and eventually that image dominated his imagination.

You need to dream – and you need to get the negative images out of your head. Read I Cor. 15.33. The main way negative images are formed in our mind is through evil communications – doubt, unbelief, we are feeding it all into our mind, and into our imaginations! You cannot be tempted by something you do not imagine.

If you have never smoked, they wouldn't be a temptation for you. But when you have an imagination, you imagine – hey I fancy a smoke. If you want to be free, then change what you are imagining. You can have your imagination so full of the things of God that all you think about all day is God and all you dream about is God's promises, and you get to the point where these things are not temptations any more because they are not in your imagination.

Read Hebrews II.13-15. Notice that these people had no chance to go back because they were not imagining going back. If you think about something long enough, you will create a path to go there. That is the power of imagination. If you imagine something long enough, a path to it will appear. That works for positive and negative things, so we must control our imagination!

IT IS TIME TO LIVE AT A HIGHER LEVEL THAN EVERYONE AROUND YOU – stop using your imagination to conceive sin, and stop imagining yourself as a movie star, and stop thinking the news. Most Christians are as sick as their neighbours, they are as scared as their neighbours, as dishonest as their neighbours, they relate to the WORLD more than GOD – they go on average to churches that are dead, that never help them. Never lay hands on the sick, never live prosperity or health, if you raise your hand to worship, they say "the toilet is that way" – who you surround yourself with matter so much.

Remember the bad words spoken around you chip away at your ability to receive and conceive God's Word. Stop imagining failure and defeat and stop imagining ungodly things and start imagining godly things – your imagination will navigate you to where you want to go!

QUIT IMAGINING DYING – it's not normal to die young, it's not normal to struggle. **YOU ARE DIFFERENT FROM YOUR NEIGHBOURS** – you are different from the people at the office. **YOU ARE BORN AGAIN, YOU ARE DESTINED TO WIN, YOU HAVE THE POWER OF GOD INSIDE YOU**. Get some people around you who believe that about you, and listen to them. When the doctor says, "You are going to die", you are not going to imagine that you are going to imagine "I WILL NOT DIE BUT LIVE AND DECLARE THE WORKS OF THE LORD". You need to get so much of your imagination FOCUSED ON THE LORD that you really do not care what the WORLD IS DOING. You don't care about circumstances. You will not fear. Read Isaiah 54.17. Imagine Isaiah 54.17. It is a promise for you – that is all for you – no matter what comes against you, it will not succeed. You are entitled to that – but read it carefully – you are the one that has to condemn the words. You have to bring those words down and not imagine them. Do not condemn the people – do not jump down someone's throat, just get away and stop those words.

Words have so much power – they can be weapons, they can be a honeycomb – they can bring you close to God; they can make you give up, they can birth life or birth death. **YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE WHAT WORDS YOU IMAGINE! YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE WHAT YOU CONCEIVE**, but once you have conceived, you do not get to choose what you give birth to.

IF you are struggling with temptation right now, if you are caught in a cycle of sin, it's because you went there in your imagination, you watched adultery in the film first, you watched the people on the TV lie and you lied, you let your emotions go with people in the soap opera places you didn't think you could go – **YOUR IMAGINATION IS CONCEIVING SIN and birthing it.**

It is a lot easier to walk in holiness if you do not imagine it. Read 2 Cor. 10.5. It is not the circumstances that need to change, it is what you think and imagine that needs to change. I get a lot of prayer requests that are things like "I need a new boss, we need a new government, I need a new job, pray that God will change this and that" – and they are probably right, they do need those things, but they need more than anything to change their imagination. If you can see it, you can see it. If you cannot see it, you will never see it. That is how powerful imagination is.

Someone grew up watching Star Trek and ending up inventing the communicator. We all have one now. We will very soon have our own matter replicators. It is amazing what is going on with science and technology, through people dreaming. It's imagination.

YOU NEED TO SEE YOURSELF BEING SUCCESSFUL! RIGHT NOW!

You need to see what GOD sees – HE SEES YOU WALKING IN VICTORY. HE SEES YOU AS AN OVERCOMER. YOU ARE A VICTOR. YOU ARE BLESSED. YOU ARE PROSPEROUS. YOU ARE FULL OF PEACE AND JOY AND WISDOM. YOU ARE HEALED. YOU ARE A CHAMPION. YOU ARE COMPLETE AND WHOLE. But to think that, you have to dream it, imagine it – and stop imagining what your senses tell you. THAT IS THE REAL BATTLE. This is the real battle. The real battle is not you yelling at demons. JESUS beat them all at the cross. It is you choosing what to think on. ALL SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS IN YOUR IMAGINATION.

I believe in demons – and angels. BUT they only influence you through their imaginations. OUR WEAPONS ARE NOT CARNAL – MIGHTY THROUGH GOD – to CAST DOWN DEMONS. NO – they are might through God to cast down imaginations and bring every thought into OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST.

The problem is most Christians let thoughts go into their head that are completely rebellious to JESUS. They think they are never going to get healed, when the Word says they are healed. They think they will never make it, but the Word says they are already the head and not the tail. They think they are terrible people, but they are graced by God. They think satan will beat them, but he is already beaten at the cross!

So many Christians, especially charismatic – they IMAGINE SATAN AS POWERFUL. That is what they imagine. They think God is tiny and satan is huge. Some of you who were raised in Africa were raised in cultures where you were painted a picture of a great, big devil. The problem is not satan, it is your imagination, so tear down that imagination! When you change what you think, you will be free.

Satan cannot beat you up unless you co-operate with him – YOU HAVE TO STOP STRUGGLING WITH FEAR AND OPPRESSION AND START IMAGINING NOT A GREAT BIG SATAN BUT A GREAT BIG YOU – you are redeemed, you are complete in CHRIST. YOU START DREAMING WHO YOU REALLY ARE – satan will turn and run from you – fast! Take some time to dream about who you are this week!

THE LIFE BRINGING POWER OF IMAGINATION STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. In what ways is your imagination like a womb?
2. How does I Peter 1.23 describe the new birth experience?
3. What can we learn from the woman who was healed of blindness as recounted by Andrew Wommack?
4. What does Ben mean when he says "Miracles come from our imagination"
5. How can we practically this week set aside time for dreaming?
6. According to James 1, what begins the process of sinning?
7. How can we live at a higher level than everyone around us?
8. What Scriptures can you use to see yourself and your destiny the way God sees it?
9. What about this message inspired, challenged and encouraged you the most?