

IMAGINATION

“A Transformed Mind”

Introduction

We have already seen that God wants us to love Him with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind. This mind is the working of our imagination—deep thoughts and reflections. We saw that these imaginations come from the heart and that we are built in such a way that we accomplish what we imagine. There is only one problem.

Genesis 8:21

And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. KJV¹

God knows that the imagination of our heart is evil. This cannot help but to manifest itself in evil action.

Psalms 103:13-14

13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.
14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

Fortunately, the Lord knows our make up. He knows our problem and how to fix it.

I. Where We Were

1. Children of Wrath – Eph 2:3

Ephesians 2:3

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

We were children of wrath, pursuing without restraint the lusts of the flesh and desires of our minds.

Micah 2:1-2

1 Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.
2 And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.

Herein is the problem with evil imaginations, in the morning we want to practice them! We are built in such a way that we have a drive to do what we dream. When we were children of wrath, we dreamed of doing evil and in the morning we did it because that is the power in our hand. This is why God wants our imaginations submitted to Him.

¹ All references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

Colossians 3:5-7

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

A child of wrath is a child of disobedience. It is a child who walks in his own way. Verse 5 names this propensity idolatry, which is the root of all vain imaginations.

Matthew 15:10-11, 15-20

10 And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand:

11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

15 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable.

16 And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?

17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

Murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies—in short, evil thoughts—proceed from the heart of man. They defile us. Religion will always point to action as the defiler. True spirituality will look at the cause. A religious judge will consider the adulterer defiled because of his adultery. But the truth is that he had already been defiled by an unholy, lustful thought life before the adultery was committed. In fact, had he not thought of it, he wouldn't have committed it!

2. Darkened Understanding – Eph 4:17-19

Ephesians 4:17-19

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Before Christ, our understanding wasn't enlightened. When we are ignorant and blind of God's ways and purposes in our lives, we alienate ourselves from God. We need to understand that when we choose to think as the world does, we are pushing God away with our mind. We do not need to live this way.

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The ways of God need enlightenment from His Spirit. And not only does His Spirit give us understanding, the Lord Jesus Himself can open our minds, our imaginations.

Luke 24:45

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

This verse refers to His disciples understanding the scriptures regarding His death and resurrection. Though He had told them on several occasions what was going to happen, they still didn't understand even after it happened. But once Jesus opened their minds, they understood the scriptures. We need to have Jesus open our minds to understand.

3. Enemies of God – Col 1:20-22

Colossians 1:20-22

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight:

We need to understand that our very minds were at war with God. Our thinking was against Him. He has healed and reconciled this through the blood of His Son.

Romans 8:5-8

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

If we let our flesh do our thinking for us, our imaginations will be at cross purposes to God's desires. Because we will not be minding His thoughts for us, there is no way that we can please Him. We need to live our lives from what He has done, not who we were.

II. What He Has Done

1. The New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:33

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

In the New Covenant, God decided to write His law in our hearts. He fixed us where we were most broken.

Ezekiel 11:19-20

- 19 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:
20 That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

He gave us this new heart that we might walk in His ways and be His people. There was a purpose behind the transaction. It was supposed to result in righteous action.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

- 25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.
26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.
27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

This heart exchange did more than make it possible for us to walk in His ways. It also birthed in us true sorrow over our old ways.

Ezekiel 36:31

Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.

*It is right and proper to loathe our former behavior. This loathing should always be in light of what He has accomplished in us. That is how we **were**, not how we **are**.*

2. The Mind of Christ

Romans 7:22-25

- 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:
23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.
24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?
25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

The mind with which I serve the law is the mind in the inward man, the spiritual mind. It is in our spirits—our hearts—that He has written His law for us to follow Him.

1 Corinthians 2:16

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

We have the mind of Christ that He may instruct us. His mind is within us. This is why Philippians 2:5 says “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Let implies permission. We need to let the mind of Christ out and not put barriers up against it by wicked deeds of the flesh.

3. A Transformed Mind

Romans 12:1-2

- 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
- 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

A transformed mind isn't an end in itself. Its purpose is to prove the will of God. When our minds are in agreement with His thoughts we will do His deeds and prove His will for the earth.

Ephesians 4:22-24

- 22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;
- 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;
- 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

This is why we need to be renewed in the spirit of our mind. He wants us to exhibit His righteousness and true holiness in the world.

Ephesians 1:16-20

- 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;
- 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
- 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
- 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,
- 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

God imparts His mind to us through revelation. That revelation comes to us through His word and through His speaking to us. Our understanding needs His enlightenment that we might know the hope of His calling. He has called us. We need His revelation to know what He has called us to.

Philippians 4:6-8

- 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Through prayer and pure thinking we become much more aware of His thoughts for us. We need to reject evil and cling to that which is good.

III. Where It Takes Us

1. His Vision

Jer 29:11-13

11 For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.

12 Then you will call upon Me, and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear and heed you.

13 Then you will seek Me, inquire for, and require Me [as a vital necessity] and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. [Deut 4:29-30.] AMP

God has a plan for us. In His plan, we are prosperous, at peace, and hopeful. His plan is imparted to us when we seek Him with our whole heart.

Isaiah 55:6-11

6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

His thoughts are above our thoughts. They come down to us like rain and snow (rhema's and the written word). Once that word gets in us, it will produce what God intended. This is how He births His higher desires in us.

2. His Ordination

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

God had these good works ordained before we were saved. This means that He was at work in our lives long before we knew it.

Psalms 139:13-17

13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!

Because He knew His plans for us and the good works He had ordained for us to walk in, He didn't make us haphazardly. He knew our frame before it was made. He made you with His eternal purposes in mind.

3. Our Action

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

What we cannot imagine of ourselves God can reveal to us by His Spirit. Our wildest imaginations, birthed in our own hearts by our own desires cannot compare to the plans He has for us. His thoughts are much higher than ours. And He has given us His Holy Spirit that we might know the depth of His plans.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Every purpose has a season in which it is to bear fruit.

Ecclesiastes 3:11-14

11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world [eternity] in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

12 I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

13 And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

Knowing the work of your life and enjoying is a gift from God. God has birthed in us eternal purposes that we cannot fathom in our own strength. But when His Spirit reveals it to us, we are to do it with all our might.

Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

7 Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

8 Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.

9 Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

“Let thy garments be always white,” this means that we stay bathed in the blood of Jesus. “Let thy head lack no ointment,” this means we stay under the anointing and authority of the Holy Spirit. In that condition, what our hand finds to do we are to do with all our might. It is in this life that He has given us to work out His eternal purposes. We are to do so with all our might because we are to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.