

VISUALIZING IN THE SPIRIT

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1. BUILDING IN THE SPIRIT

As I was praying the Lord impressed on my heart to touch on a series on visualizing. Please turn to Hebrews 11: 1-3 *Now faith is a substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*

Verse three says *by faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God*, which is invisible. The things which are seen, which are tangible, that we could touch, that we could smell, that we could hear, that we could see, the things that we could experience with our bodies are made of things which are invisible. Verse three says that it is made of things that are not visible. Lets read the whole verse, so that the things, which are seen, were not made of things that are visible. Notice there are two things there. The first thing is the things, which are seen. The second thing is the things, which are not seen. The things which are around us that we could see and touch are made up of some other things which are in the spirit world.

There is a physical world and there is a spiritual world. In the spiritual world there are spiritual things and substances, otherwise the bible wouldn't call them *things*. These spiritual substances are made of things that are not visible or perceptible to our five senses. On the other hand, the physical things in this world are visible and perceptible to our senses. For us we need to understand that every physical thing starts from the spiritual thing first. The physical world came from the spirit world. The physical world is influenced by the spiritual world. The physical world is subjected to the spiritual world. Many Christians want to change the physical world around them without changing the spiritual world around them. And it is not possible to change the physical world until we change the spiritual world. This is because the physical world is subject to the laws that govern the spirit world. Many times the laws of the spirit transcend and prevail over and above the physical laws. That is why sometimes a person who has been given up to die may get healed by a miracle of God instantly. There is a higher law in the spiritual realm operating over a lower law in the physical realm. This physical world that we have is built from the spiritual world.

Let me read a few more scriptures that we could use to expound on this understanding. In the book of Second Corinthians 4: 16-18 Paul knew this principle and he operated this same principle. *Therefore we do not loose heart for though our outward man is perishing yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen. For the things which are seen are temporary but the things which are not seen are eternal.* That is amazing for although he is living in the physical realm, he was constantly conscious of living in another realm. He says we are not looking at the things that are seen but at the things which are not seen. The things that we can see is temporary and is subject to change. It is changeable, moveable and removable. But the things which are not seen is eternal. It controls the physical realm.

Paul talked about those who were disobedient to the gospel then he make a statement in Romans 1: 20 *Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.* The invisible attributes of God are understood by the physical things which He made. In other words before God make any physical things He has some forms that He has conceived. And from that spiritual form He created the physical form. The things which are made physically were made from a spiritual form.

It is written in Genesis 1 that every time God creates something, the Bible prefaced it with a statement *and God said*. But the Holy Spirit records that for us to let us know that God made the world by His spoken word. And before God spoke those words from His mouth, the words were in God's mind. In the spirit

realm God has conceived how the world will be like. God conceived of a world with light so God says *let there be light*. God conceived of a world with the waters above the earth and the waters underneath the earth. Then God said *let the waters of the earth be separate above the firmament and below the firmament*. God conceived that there would be land. Land was not formed yet but in the spirit realm God saw it. God formed it in the spirit realm and then God said let the land appear. And the waters parted and the land came forth. And then God conceived all the plants and the foliage etc. and every time when He said it then it came into being. So the things which are physical were made of things which are invisible. And unless we realize this truth we will be working to change our circumstances and our life the wrong way.

Many people strive to change their natural and physical world when they should be putting all their efforts into changing the spirit world within them, the spirit world around them. When they change their spirit world, they will change the physical. And this process is what I call visualizing. The vision that each one of you have inside you shows that there is an ability in your life to give physical form to that vision you have. Some people think that visualizing is some new and strange teaching. Let me tell you whether it is a new teaching or not, it has been with you all the time. Just because we learn that milk consists of protein and other minerals does not mean that we have not had milk since we were first born. And just because we can understand the principles of visualizing clearly and systematically does not mean that it only started operating in our life. Visualizing has been operating in your life whether you knew it or not.

Inside each one of us is an image of your person, is an image of your circumstances, is an image that is in that spirit realm where the soul contacts the spirit. That is the part we are talking about. It is called building in the spirit world. Before you have prosperity in your life you have to have an image built from the word of God into your soul. So that when you see yourself as God sees physically it begins to take place. And many times you talk to people who are in poverty or who are in need, you will find that in their inner heart and mind they always see the bills. Whenever they close their eyes they see their needs. Whenever they close their eyes they could see all the poverty coming into their life. It is so clear that they could see and imagine it as if it actually happened. And then it does happen. And many times these people come and they are taught the word but the image in their lives is not changed no matter how much teachings get to them in their hearing, if they don't change the image that is inside them, they will never change the circumstances. They could hear the word in and out it but things will never change for them unless they change the spirit realm where they are seeing. They build the spirit realm around them. When they begin to change the image and take the word where it says my God supply all my needs, instead of seeing the bills, they would see the bills being paid and their needs being met.

I like you to close your eyes for a moment and I want you to see the place where you are staying right now. Now I want you to see what you will be doing in one year's time. How do I know what to see? You would know that the bible said the Holy Spirit will show you things to come. The language of the Holy Spirit is visions and dreams. In the last days the Spirit shall fall upon all flesh and they shall have visions and dreams. Visions and dreams may be classified as pictures received in your sub-conscious mind or your conscious mind. Sometimes through prophecy the Holy Spirit will give you a picture of yourself that God sees. If you take that picture that God has shown you and you hold it and you meditate on it, before long it comes to pass. So when you close your eyes the picture that you are seeing right now of your ministry or of your life will be played out in the physical realm exactly as you see it. If you see it with half victory you will have half a victory. People don't realize it but when you close your eyes and you see the spirit realm, that spirit realm is real. It is more real than the physical world. It is because that spirit realm will give birth to the physical world. And that spirit realm needs to be seen clearly.

Now what is happening here is that many people are not visualizing clearly. For them it is a blur. We do not encourage meditation on anything outside the word. All that you visualize must be in line with the word. And in line with God's will and purpose for your life. So before you move into visualizing you must sort of sense and come to the prayer of dedication and sense what God wants you to do. You must die to yourself first. Before the birth of a vision is the death of a vision. Your own vision must die before God's vision is born in you. Unless we deny ourselves this truth of visualizing will not be applicable. For example if it is not God's will for you to be a prophet, no matter how much you visualize it, it will not come to pass. So these truths are subject to the will of God. However when it is God's will for you to be prophet and you do not grasp the word of God to you. You do not meditate on the word of God for your life and the prophecy that was spoken over you and the words and the voice of God that were spoken to your life. You do not take them and form new images. You can live until Jesus comes again and you will never enter the prophet's office.

And so for many people the spirit world is very blur. They don't see it clearly yet it is the most important area of our life. When God shows me a vision I will form it and I will see it clearly. I will touch it and I will feel it in that spirit realm. I could see some of the things that God showed could be many years ahead. I don't know how many years ahead. Let me give you an example I saw a place that can seat a hundred thousand people. There was a platform for the choir and above the platform was a big screen. And the interesting thing is that within the whole congregation of about a hundred thousand people, there were sections of one thousand, two thousands and three thousands that have their own mini platform sort of an altar area. And each altar area is broken down into many altar areas. There was a big altar area in the main stage but there were many smaller altar areas. And in these altar areas the Lord's Supper was celebrated and the offertory things were kept. And the interesting thing was in each altar area there was a song leader. So there was a main song leader down there in the stage. And in each group of one thousand and two thousands there was an individual song leader that harmonize with the main song leader. What I do is that I take the image and vision that God has shown, in my prayer life I will take that and I will see it over and over again. I will touch it I will see it and sometimes I will have a zoom lens on it too. I don't know how it is going to come to pass. The "how" I don't know. We may not have the ability to make it to come to pass. But my responsibility is to conceive it until it gives birth. So. And I will zoom on some sections and see the people smiling and dancing away. I know that these are invisible and not touchable at the moment. It is the future. I conceive it over and over again in my spirit and in my imagination. I am the ground and God's word is the seed. And the word is like an image that comes to us. Words are actually images. All of us think in images. When I say a black dog, we think of a black dog. So words are actually images spoken out. And so God speaks His words and we receive. See we are the ground God's word is the seed. And the seed comes onto our heart. The heart area is the imagination area.

We are going to show you proof from the scriptures that the heart is the area of imagination. See there are several Greek words for the word *mind*. And one of those especially talks about imagination. There is a Greek word *dialogismoi* which talks about reasoning. There is another word which is *dianoia* which talks about the area of imagination. And the most amazing about this word *dianoia* the area of imagination is that it is the same Greek word that Jesus used in Matthew, Mark and Luke, when He said you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul and with all your *dianoia* all your mind. Now we know that the soul consists of the intellect the emotion and the will. Why does Jesus repeat the word *mind* again? It is because the imagination or our *dianoia* is a vital part for God to work the works of God on this planet earth.

So as far as the ministry is concerned that is what I do. I allow the seed of God's word which is the image that He gives to me through His spoken and written word. And I allow it to sink into me. And I constantly visualize it. Now you could do the same thing in your personal life. Ask what has God's word promised to you. Second what has God spoken to you specifically that you have and you are to do? Then begin to visualize and imagine. Your imagination will hold you stronger than physical bars. It is just like one day a person who keeps an eagle. He ties the eagle's leg to a stick. So the eagle goes round and round but it cannot go further than the stick. The eagle tries to fly but it cannot fly higher than the string. And so for years the eagle was going round and round that stick and being fed there. One day the man cut the string and the poor eagle did not realize that the string was cut, and so it still went round the same way. It sometimes looks up and sees the other eagles up there and wished he could be up there. But it has been ingrained within him that he cannot go further than that. Even when the string is cut that poor eagle behave no better than a chicken. He should be soaring in the clouds above. But here he is behaving like a chicken. We may laugh at the eagle but some of us eagles are like chicken too. And some of us has gone and said certain things but the devil has programmed us from our past life. We have been programmed for sickness. So some of us have never fallen sick for a long time. And so the devil tells you it is about time. He tells you it is abnormal for people not to be sick. After all people in the world get flu once a year. So the devil programmed your life and you said yes I must be normal like the rest. We have been programmed by the devil wrongly. So the imagination is an avenue.

Second Corinthians 10: 4-5 says that we have to pull down imaginations, pull down the devil's thoughts and bring every thought captive to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Let me tell you the devil doesn't need a physical handcuff to handcuff you. The devil can handcuff you by giving you his false images, by giving you images of destruction, images of poverty, images of being condemned, images of being sick, images of all his dirty filthy works. And you see them and you imagine them in your life and in your family. He

had you. He could release you from the handcuff and you would still be in prison. Your imaginations are stronger bars than the physical prison bars. And unless we unlock a person's imagination we cannot set them free.

How do we do that by the word? The word is like a pen. Hebrews 8 and 10 talks about God writing His laws in our minds and in our hearts. That word *mind* is *dianoia*. It refers to the imagination area. God writes His word in our imagination area. Your mind receives images from the word. But for most people their imagination is weak. Their visualizing is weak. For some they have a blackout. They need revival. Their batteries need recharging. In fact some of their batteries have run dead for many years. The imagination is a part of your heart area and between your soul and your spirit. Your imagination is a part of your soul that is extended into the spirit world and that touches the spirit world. You see our soul touches our body inside us. So that when my soul wants to go to the right, my body goes. There is some sort of control between my soul and my body. There is a connection between your soul and your spirit. And the connection that links your spirit and your soul is your imagination. It is a part of your soul but yet it is in the part which touches the spirit realm when it moves in the spirit realm. And for your spirit to flow through your soul to your body you have to get that connection renewed and washed and cleansed and be used by God's word.

Jesus said you shall love the Lord thy God with all your spirit all your heart all your soul all your mind and all your strength which is your body. He repeats the word *mind* which is the imagination area. But most of us do not have our imagination formed correctly. See we don't realize that what we do in the spirit realm is going to affect the physical realm. Let us use two person as an illustration. One represents the spirit and the other person represents the soul. Let the one who represents the soul see and follow exactly what the other person, who represents the spirit, is doing. The spirit realm is going to affect the soul realm and the physical realm. See the things which are seen were made of things which are not seen. Do you know the things that are seen are temporal and are still changing? What causes them to change? Do you know that in the world today there are demonic forces trying to change it for bad? And right now in the spirit world there are good forces, the angels are praying to change it for good. Who controls it? It is from the spirit realm that the battle is raged. For we wrestle not with flesh and blood. But we wrestle in the spirit world in order to change it in the spirit world. Some people try to change it in the physical world. But it will never change if they don't change the spiritual realm first. They try to change their working situation, their circumstances, their home life or the things that are around them.

See what happens is if you don't change the spirit world the physical world will never change. All your effort and energy will be spent on the wrong thing. But if you were to rest and relax in the physical realm, take the word and change the imagination, your imagination will contact the spirit world. For we wrestle not with flesh and blood but with the spirit realm. Instead of grumbling and seeing poverty you change the spirit world and begin praising. Slowly you will build up your spirit realm. And then you will get into the spirit realm to praise God. And then as you visualize, your spirit realm will change. Now isn't that easy? All we have to do is to change the spirit realm and the physical realm will follow. See people try to do it backwards. We have to change the spirit world before we change the physical world. If you want God's blessing in your business, in your ministry, in your home, in any area in your life, you must contact and change the spirit world first. No matter how you change it the physical world will follow. Do you notice that what we are getting at is that the spirit world affects the physical. We must change in the right realm. So the spirit world will be affected by our imagination. Our imagination is the part that contacts the spirit world.

Let me give you a few scriptures in the book of Hebrews 11: 1-3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed.* See the meaning of the word *framed* is to be *formed bit by bit*. The word *frame* is a word that talks about *forming*. It is formed and it is framed by the word of God. The word of God acting upon our imagination will change the physical world. Your imagination is your responsibility as it is in your control. We are told to change our imagination by God. We are told to change our imagination, renew the areas of our imagination.

Look at Second Corinthians 10: 4-5 *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.* Now here is the strongholds. You read verse five, *Casting down arguments and every high things that exalt itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.* Bringing every one of our thought in the spirit world to submit to Christ. If you look at verse three it says *we walk in the spirit and not in the flesh.* Now you understand what it means by walking in

the spirit. You change the spirit realm. See strongholds and imaginations are the attack of the devil on the realm of our imagination. The devil is sly and cunning. He does not come physically to you and attack you. You know how he puts sickness on you. He puts an imagination of fear. Perhaps someone you know has died. Then you have a fear in your life that it may happen to you. Then as you begin to imagine it, straight away he has gotten you. See the devil fights not in the physical world. He fights in the realm of our imagination. If he could get your imagination, he has got you. It says in Second Corinthians 10: 3, *for though we walk in the flesh, yet our warfare is in the spirit*. That is the realm of the imagination. Our warfare is in that realm. And as I have explained to you that there two Greek words for the word *mind*. One comes from the root word *dialogismai* which talks about reasoning. That is the same word that Paul used in Acts 18 where he *reasoned* in the synagogue. He talked about how the Pharisee reasoned among themselves. Another word is the word *dianoia*. And that is the word which has special reference to our imagination.

We are going to look at that word carefully. And that is Luke 1: 51 *He has shown strength with His arm, He has scattered the proud in the imaginations of their hearts*. Do you know that your heart and your imagination are connected? When the bible use the word *heart* it talks about the area of your heart that could imagine. The word *heart* and the word *imagination* are connected. That is why sometimes people take the word *heart* to represent the spirit world; sometimes they take it to represent the soul. The word *heart* has the reference to the quality within you to imagine.

Let me prove it from the scripture. Turn to Matthew 12: 35 *A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things*. This verse means that what you produce in your life and achieve in this life comes from your heart and not from your body. It comes from something within you. So if you want to change, change the heart. Changing the heart talks about changing the imagination area.

Another scripture Matthew 5: 28 *But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart*. Now is that lust found in the spirit or the soul? It is found in the soul because your born-again spirit doesn't do that. Now which part of the soul? It is the imagination. Where does the person imagine lust? In his imagination. They picture it inside them. They see it inside them. Every time the bible talks about your heart, it has reference to the imagination area.

Matthew 6: 21, 22 *For where your treasure is there your heart will be also. The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light*. Now Jesus was talking about the eye. But it is in the singular. He is not talking about our physical eyes but our imagination which are the eyes of the soul. In other words the imagination is the eye of your soul. You soul have eyes. If right now we should all go to be with God and leave our bodies down here, you would still have your eyes. Your soul have eyes. Jesus referred the eye in the singular because He was talking about the picture and the vision and the visualizing area.

In Matthew 6: 21 *where your treasure is there your heart will be*. And the very next verse in verse 22, *the lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is good your whole body will be full of light*. What kind of eye is He talking about? The eye of your imagination. The eye of your heart. What is the eye of your heart? We look back and study the word *eye* and *imagination*. The eye of the heart is the imagination of the heart. So Jesus is saying if your eye is good, your whole being will be good. If your imagination is good, your whole life will be good and full of light. If your imagination is evil your whole life will be full of evil. If you want to change the physical world, you must deal with the visualizing area, the area of your imagination, the eyes of our heart.

There is a Greek word that talks about the imagination. It is the word *dianoia* which is sometimes translated as *mind* but in Luke 1 it is translated as *imagination*. *Dianoia* is the part that sees the images. What most of us struggle with is that we are not able to visualize clearly. In the physical world some people are short sighted while some are long sighted. In the soul area people also have problems in visualizing. And yet God says that you shall love Him with all your heart, soul and mind. When you love God with your heart, it has to cover the imagination area.

Look at Hebrews 8: 10-11 *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel. After these days says the Lord I will put my laws in their mind.* The word *mind* here is the same word in Luke 1: 51 which is translated as *imagination*. *I will put my laws in their imagination (dianoia) and write them in their hearts.* The word *heart* again connects to the imagination. *Then I will be their God and they shall be my people.* This is repeated again in Hebrews 10: 16 *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days says the Lord. I will put my laws into their hearts and in their minds. I will write them upon their hearts and upon their minds.* The word *mind* or *dianoia* is the part that imagines.

So the bible is talking about how God is going to change our life by changing the imagination. And the warfare is in the spirit realm. If you win the warfare in the spirit realm you win the warfare in the physical realm. If you loose the warfare in the spirit realm you loose it in the physical realm. But the problem is many people cannot imagine clearly. Many people cannot visualize clearly. They don't know how to write the word of God in their heart and mind and how to write the pictures clearly.

Lets say that you confess Philippians 4: 19 *My God will supply all my needs according to Christ Jesus in glory.* And then when you close your eyes you still see your purse empty, your bank accounts empty, your whole lifestyle in need and you have pictures and recollection of those times when you are in need. What has happened? The word of God is in your mouth but it is not in your heart and in your mind yet. And the word of God will not work for you unless you get it in your heart and in your mind. So we should take that word and say if God supply all my needs what must I see? I began to draw on my past. The pictures that I have from the past I will use to form the new picture. How, by remembering those times God supply my needs, I will take those images and use those images that I could easily visualize and form my new situation where God is going to supply my needs. But you have to work at it and be very detailed about it. It has to be a clear-cut formation. When you build something in the spirit realm it has to be built clearly in details so that it will reproduce in the physical world. Most people don't take the trouble to do all these things.

Suppose I have never ever seen a jacket before. I don't know what a jacket is for. I don't know what a jacket is about. Now try instructing me who has never seen or worn a jacket before. And I want you to tell me how to wear this jacket. I would need explicit instruction. In the same way, in the spirit world we have to visualize and form our images very clearly. Our instructions to the imagination area which is done by our soul must be clear. Some are getting slow results because you are not visualizing properly. You are not seeing the image clearly. You are giving all kinds of instruction and the imagination is not forming it the way that it should be. The instructions are very vital. When we are doing imagination and visualizing we have to take what God's word says about our life and our situation. If God's word says *by His stripes I am healed*, I have to send the instruction back into my imagination area. If you have been sick all your life you will find your imagination actually is seeing a very sick picture. Then you are wondering why you are not healed. You know by His stripes you are healed but you are not healed yet. See the word of God must be written in your heart and in your mind. So the words *by His stripes I am healed* must get into this imagination area and knock off the old guy who is sickly and replace it with a picture of someone who is healthy. For example if just at one point in your life you have been healthy before where you have played some games. So you take that picture and you use that to get your imagination, *by His stripes I am healed*. A healed person does not stay in bed. A healed person does not hold a clutch. A healed person will be able to play games. So you take those images of yourself healthy and you put it into your imagination area. Sometimes when you put it in your imagination area, your imagination that is not renewed yet will try to spring back to the old image. So there is a struggle before the image is formed in the spirit world in your imagination. But the day you could form an image of yourself strong healthy and healed suddenly you find yourself you are free. And it just flowed forth without a struggle. The battleground is in the realm of imagination. As you change your imagination, you change your life.

Some husbands and wives may have been in disharmony because of the past before they knew the Lord. But now your Christian life is good but from time to time you fall back into the old ways of disharmony. Why, because inside the image of the wife is the husband who is fierce, quarrelsome and bad tempered. So the wife has kept a bad image of the husband. And here the husband is converted and has changed. But the image the wife has of her husband is still there because of what she has been through. Do you know failure have a tendency to produce more failures? And one defeat has a tendency to make you more defeated. What do we need? Thank God the Blood of the Lamb. The Blood of Jesus Christ is the only power that can erase the realm of the imagination, where nothing else can touch it. The Blood of the Lamb of God could get

into our imagination and wash away all the wrong images. When that changes and you put a new image inside, your home is going to change. Your life is going to change.

Some of you are struggling with bad habits in the area of smoking or drinking. This is how it is going to help you. If you close your eyes and see yourself smoking, you will never get out of it. Because your imagination has not changed yet. What do you see in yourself? What do the eyes of your heart see? For example a drug addict not only has a physical drug problem but he has an image problem. And if the image problem is not dealt with it will recur again and again. There is no permanent deliverance until the image is changed. It is not something that is a short cut. It is something you do everyday. Thank God with the Blood of Jesus and with the word of God you could re-write your life the way God wants it to be. And so if you could take those wrong images and you put a new image inside, you see a new image of yourself, the way the word of God says about you, you are what the word the word says you are. You can do what the word says you can do. You see yourself the way God's word sees you. And you put that image clear inside, your physical man will follow.

Repeat after me: *The battle ground is in your imagination. I will pull down the strongholds that the enemy has put into my imagination. And I will put new images in the realm of my imagination.* So now we go on house cleaning in the area of your heart and mind. You will be surprised how many images we allowed inside that are wrong. You will be surprised if you pray and check with God how much of the imaginations we have stored inside our heart should have been gotten rid off. If you don't get rid of them you are going to continue to repeat them. Those of you who are in the work wise area do you see what God wants you to see? Now these are the different ways that help you to paint a picture. See we are all like spiritual artists. We are painting a picture in the spirit realm. So to have the proper picture you need a proper book. And that is the word of God. Study the word, read what the word says about you. The word says *you are redeemed*. How is your redeemed picture? The word says *you are washed by the Blood*. How is the picture synchronizing with that word? Ask yourself is the picture synchronizing with the word of God. If not change the picture.

Secondly what has God shown you in your personal life about what He wants you to do? Now that is what we call *rhema*. God in His mercy gives each one of us *rhema*. He gives you a special *rhema* that He doesn't give to another person. What He wants you to do with your life, that *rhema* now adds colour to your picture. That *rhema* adds more details to the picture that God wants you to see. Whether it be a *rhema* in your business, in your ministry or in your home life, God does speak to you. Sometimes He speaks by vision. Sometimes He speaks by dreams. Sometimes He speaks by prophecy. But He speaks a *rhema* specially for you. You take that *rhema* and you meditate on it. Timothy was given *rhema*. Paul told Timothy to meditate on those things which have been spoken onto him. Meditate, let those things form images in you because this image realm is real.

There are four processes to experience that. The book of Hebrews 11: 13 *These all died in faith not having received the promises* (talking about the man of faith before us) *but having seen them afar off*. What happened? They could see it they could visualize. They have seen it afar off.

Number two they were assured of them.

Number three they embrace them.

Number four they confess. They saw, they were embraced, they were assured and they confessed. You see the images. Every time you pray you see the images until the images drop into your spirit. Then you know its all going to come to pass. The assurance builds up because faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Faith is the substance, is the conviction, is the assurance in some translation of the things not seen. So you need to visualize until you are assured. At first you see the images. When you see them the assurance is not there yet. You may need to see quite long before the assurance drops in you. At first you see you say it cannot be. There are a lot of doubts. You have to hold that image inside you until you are assured of them. And when you are assured of that image, you embrace that image.

What do you mean by embrace? You began to feel that image. As I pray in tongues I just keep that image there. And I use praying in tongue to bring it to pass. Sometimes when I do that I am fully assured that it is going to come to pass. And as I do that I see the people there. And sometimes I see a lay man getting healed. And sometimes I see the deliverance taking place. I saw the tears coming down their eyes. It is all in the spirit realm. Physically you look at me I will still be sitting on the chair. And when I have embraced the vision, I have moved into the vision. See its one thing to have the vision in you and to have you in the vision. I am embracing it. You need to embrace it into your life. You experience all the feelings involved. If you are seeing your business changing from bad to abundant. And you start dancing and saying thank you Lord. Actually you don't have a penny inside you. Why because you have embraced the vision. When you have gone through that process you began to talk about it. That's the way it should be operating.

2. ENCODING THE IMAGINATION

Let's turn to the gospel of Matthew 22: 37 *Jesus said you shall love with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.* The same is expounded in the gospel of Luke 10: 27 *So he answered and said you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.* This is also repeated in the gospel of Mark but we shall not turn to that. In all these three gospels that Jesus mentioned about loving God with all of our heart, all of our soul, all of our mind and all of our strength, Jesus used a special word for the word *mind*. And the word for *mind* that He used is the word *dianoia*, which refers especially to the imagination part of our mind.

Turn to Luke 1: 51 in Mary's exaltation it says, *He has shown strength with His arms, He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their heart.* The word imagination here is the word *dianoia*. That is the special word that Jesus used when He referred to the word *mind*. Sometimes in some of your bibles the translation keep changing for the same Greek word. I believe in being consistent; if you translate word in a certain way it must carry the same weight of meaning in another place. That word *dianoia* is the word imagination.

There is another Greek word *logismai* also used for the word *mind* that is translated *thought* or *reasoning*. And that is the Greek word. I show you a few places where it occurs. Lets turn to Luke 9: 46-47 *Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them is the greatest, and Jesus perceiving the thought of their heart.* This verse talks about their thinking and how they were arguing with each other over which of them is the greatest. The thoughts were in their minds. The Greek word here is *dialogismos*. In the Greek the word *dia* means *through*. So when the bible says *through* him it always uses the word *dia*. And so they add it to the word *logismos* and it become *dialogismos*. The other word that uses *dia* is the word *dianoia*. It comes from the root word *noia*. The word *logismos* refers to the analytical side of our mind. Most of our human training and education is in the realm of reasoning or *dialogismos*.

Second Corinthians 10: 4-5 says that we are to pull down strongholds. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but they are strong to the pulling down of strongholds. Verse five it says casting down argument or reasoning. It is the word *dialogismos* which refers to the reasoning part. In the Old King James version it is translated as *imagination*. But that is not the word for imagination. That is the word for *reasoning*. The New King James has amended it as *reasoning*. Some translations translate it as casting down *argument*. It is referring to human reasoning. All human reasoning that are against the word of God are to be pulled down. That does not mean that we get rid of the laws of logic and reason because in Acts 18 talked about Paul preaching the word of God and *reasoning* using the word *dialogismos* with the word of God or reasoning with the word of God. As he was in the synagogue and later he was in the school of Tyrannus, he was expounding the word of God to them. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath. The word *reason* here is the word *dialogismai* which comes from the root word *dialogismos*. The same root word is used in a verb form instead of a noun. Paul was reasoning or analyzing from the word of God to show that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. He used the Old Testament scriptures to prove that Jesus fulfilled the scriptures. He was analyzing the word of God for them. We can use analysis of the Word by saying, for example, if Jesus took my sicknesses therefore I am free from sicknesses. Jesus came in the form of man because man was under condemnation. It is man that is condemned not the angels and not Jesus. Jesus died on the cross for our sin. He has to die as a man because a sinless man has to die for the sin of man. See we are using

our analytical part. We are using the *dialogismos*. *Dialogismos* mean the reasoning part of my soul.

We are focusing on the other part called visualizing in the spirit and we are not focusing so much on that area. Now we are focusing on the area which we call *dianoia*. Now that refers to a different part of your soul. It refers to the part of your soul that perceive, that sees the picture. You see how limited our English language is. When we say *mine*, it is *mine* that's all. When we say *thought*, it is *thought* that's all. But the Greek has so many words for *thought*. They differentiate between analytical thought and picture thought, vision thought, imagination kind of thought. The modern world live on the analytical side and the demonic world is trying to get people into that realm of that mind where they do occult. The church of God has neglected this realm. In fact we should not neglect both realms. The word of God brings understanding to our soul at the analytical side. We should develop that realm so that we could present the gospel and understand how the word of God apply to our life.

Our *dianoia* part of our soul needs to develop in creativity and imagination. The root word of this word *dianoia* has been translated as *behold, see*. So you can see that the root of it actually refers back to imagination. And imagination is a picture. Instead of just using the analytical part of our minds and say $A = B$ and $B = C$ therefore $C = A$, we could use the imaginative part of our minds and say visualise yourself on a beach sitting under the coconut tree and lying down in the shed enjoying the breeze. You could see the picture. What are we doing? We are using the imagination part of our mind. And that is the part of the mind that modern man has neglected. Some people go into the area of the psychic. They try to move into the area of imagination. But the word of God has been talking about all these things long ago. God knows because God is the one who created our soul. See our bodies have different parts. Our hands are different from our eyes. Our eyes are different from our ears. They each have a special function. Our soul has many faculties. There is a part of our soul for analyzing and reasoning. There is a part of our soul for imagining. And God did not create all these things for the devil to use. They were created because we were made in the image of God. It is the image of God in us that causes us to have the ability. God Himself has all these faculties within Him.

Turn to the book of Genesis 6. Something that God said before He destroyed the earth in Noah's time. In verse 5, *then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thought of his heart was only evil continually*. In the Old King James it is put as *of the every imagination of his heart* in place of *every intent of his heart*. Now that word *intent* is translated as *imagination* also is the word from another Hebrew word *yetzer* that talks about the picture part of our mind which is equivalent to the Greek word *dianoia*. Five times it was translated as *intent* or *imagination*. The root of it talks about picture. There are a few special times that *yetzer* is translated as *something solid*. They use that word to refer to something that is molded.

Turn to the book of Isaiah 26: 3 *You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you or whose yetzer is stayed on you*. The word *mind* here is the same word translated as the *imagination* or *intent* of the heart in Genesis 6:5. The reason *yetzer* is translated as *mind* in Isaiah 26:3 but not translated as *mind* in Genesis 6: 5 is because it is very funny if they put it as *the mind of the heart*. So even the translators are struggling when it comes to all these things. How to put the mind of the heart? They couldn't. So in the Old King James they put it as *imagination of the heart*. And in the New King James they put *intent of the heart*. But based on a thorough study of this word *yetzer*, it talks about a solid form, a solid imagination.

Psalms 103: 14 *For He knows our frame, He remembers that we are dust*. The word *frame* is the word *yetzer*. Isn't it amazing they translate the word *yetzer* here as *frame*? Now let see if the translators could translate *yetzer* as *imagination*. *For He knows our imagination, He remembers that we are dust*. The translators find it very difficult because in the Hebrews in this sentence they were referring to something solid. But in English translation the word *imagination* is not something solid. But here in the Hebrews it was referring to something solid. We understand because the things that are seen are made of things which are not seen. We have no problem with that because we know that the spiritual is as real as the physical. And the spiritual has its own tangibility. The spiritual realm has its own material that forms the physical. So we have no problem with that if we understand that the imagination is where God forms the thing to come. And the imagination part of you is the part that has the creative force within you. It is the part that sees and forms.

Habakkuk 2: 18 *What profit is the image that its maker should carve it the molded image, a teacher of lies, that the maker of its mould should trust in it to make mute idols.* Now here the word *yetzer* is used in the negative sense. But he is talking about the prophet rebuking those idol worshipers who make those dumb idols. The word *yetzer* is found in Habakkuk 2: 18 in the word *mould*. That the maker of its *yetzer* should trust in it. In some of your Old King James it says the maker of its work. I am showing you that the word *yetzer* which is translated as imagination in Genesis 6 and many other times is the same word translated as *mould, work*. What are we saying here is that the word *yetzer* refers to something solid like a mould. Here is what I want you to see that actually the word *yetzer* refers to a blueprint. And the blueprint is referred in a solid way. It is referred as solid as if it is a real object. It's a blueprint for those dumb idols. It is the blueprint for our imagination.

For He knows our frame even before we were made. That refers to our small little coded DNA, those things that are coded in us before we were conceived. When you were conceived, you were just a one cell creature. In that one cell is encoded a gene which will determine the color of your eyes, the color of your hair, how tall or short you will be, the color of your skin. The *yetzer*, the form, the blueprint is inside. Some of you are in the mold of your father. Physically we receive part of our physical look and make up from our fathers. Now what I am holding is a seed. Inside the seed is encoded what type of plant it will be. The blueprint is inside. No matter how this seed try to change, it will never change beyond what is encoded inside. Now it looks insignificant but inside this is a great plant. Now here is a seed; you don't see much in that seed. But when God looks at it, God sees the plant, God sees how tall it will be. God even knows how many fruits it will bear before it dies off. God knows the extent of the life of this seed. But when you and I see it, we say it is dark brown, it is wrinkled etc. That is all you and I see. That is the way many of us treat our imagination.

That is the way many of us look down on our imagination and the things we are receiving inside our *yetzer* of our mind, inside the *dianoia* of our mind. We despise it, we put it away. We have allowed the world to cause us to be analytical creatures so that have totally lost our creativity. And so we despise the imagination part of our life. We don't think much of it. We think it as day dreaming. That is what the world calls it. And we think about it as distracting thought, distracting pictures. And yet the seed of your future, listen very carefully, the seed of your future is in your imagination. Jesus used this word when He said you shall love the Lord thy God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your *dianoia*. With all your mind. Give Him your mind. Your imagination, don't despise it. Don't look down on it because the seed of your future is inside that. Something is taking place inside.

Look at Genesis 1 before the world were formed. We read Hebrews 11: 3 by faith we understand that the worlds were framed or formed by the word of God. Lets look at Genesis 1. See God Himself has an imagination. God has an analytical part to His nature. God is not like us. We were made like Him. We have an imagination because we were made like Him. Genesis 1 before God said anything, I want you to see what God was doing. Before He said any word what was He doing through His Spirit. Look at Genesis 1: 1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. The earth was without form and void.* That means nothingness, completely nothing. You and I didn't exist. The universe didn't exist. *And darkness was on the face of the deep.* Not on the face of the earth. There was no earth yet. God started forming the image. In verse two *and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.* God was not wasting His time. There was a purpose for the scripture to record this. The word *hovering* in the Hebrew is the word *brooding*. It is the same word that would have used for the chicken that hatches on the egg.

Take the image of Habakkuk 2: 18 There was this idolater before he make that idol. They have an image. And many times those images came from the devil. There is something inside that they see and then they make it. God began to see the animals. God began to see Adam and Eve. God saw all these things in Him. Before it came out from His mouth it was in the mind of God. I was in Him. He had me in mind. He saw that is why in John 17 He prayed for others who will come to know Him through those He had at that time. And that prayer included you and I. We came to know Him through somebody else who knew Him. So God was forming it perfectly. Many of us don't form something clearly inside before we start acting on it. So when we started acting on it, half way we have to re-think and sometimes re-make. God doesn't make mistakes. The moment He has conceived it, speak it, that's it. There is nothing more you can improve on it. But most human beings conceived it partly and do not fully formed the image in their minds. They try this and that and along the way they find that it is not a perfect work. When God was conceiving the image of the creation, the Spirit of God was hovering to birth it forth. And finally God saw everything. Before the first to the sixth day happened He already saw the whole of creation inside of Him. And when it was all formed nicely He just has

to say what He wanted. He said what He wanted and all was made. He formed in Himself the *yetzer*. And God said let Us make man in Our image. He made us like Him. We have the same potential and ability to create physically what we conceived in our imagination.

When they were building the tower of Babel God said let us go down and confound them, for if they are in one accord nothing is impossible to them. They can do it. So God divided the languages so that they could not do anything against the Lord. Today the devil have make use of our fallen imagination to conceive the wrong thing. Before you act on a scene you saw a scene. You saw it inside you and you conceived it in your mind. Jesus said in Matthew if you look at a woman with lust, you have done it in your heart. Jesus was referring to the imagination and the thought of the heart. The *dianoia* of the heart is important. You have to guard it and nurture it. That is the part of your heart that God wants to paint a new image of your future which is the blueprint for your life.

The same word in Hebrews 8 and 10 when it says that God says *I will write my laws in their heart and in their mind*. The word *mind* is the same Greek word *dianoia*. I will write My word in their imagination. Don't despise the seed of your imagination. The seed of your imagination is vital and powerful. And that seed is the seed of your future. You are going to build on it and God is going to use it to build your life. He is writing on your imagination. How does He writing on our imagination?

Turn to the book of Hebrews 4: 12 *For the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword piercing even to the division of soul and spirit and of joint and marrow and it is the discerner of the thought and intent of the heart*. See the word of God comes right between our spirit and our soul. And it began to act on the soul part of our imagination. When the word heart is mentioned it always has a reference to the *dianoia*. Jesus said that *out of your heart proceeded all these things*. He refers to the creativity part of your being. And its that part of your soul that the word of God right now is writing on which becomes the blueprint for your life. And it's a special word that is used here in Hebrews 4: 12. The word intent of the heart is the word from the root word *noia*. So the word of God must come into our heart and into our life and written in the corridors of our imagination. The word of God must come into our imagination. Don't use the word for *analysis*, but use the word for *imagination*. Let the word be written in the corridors of your imagination so that you begin to see the blueprint in hour life.

You start with the *logos* of God, the written word. The sword of the Spirit discerns, judges and removes those things that are not in line with the word. There are a lot of imaginations in our life that are in the past, from our unrenewed mind, from the world, from the things that you see today. It is very difficult for God to write. You have to clean it first. And so God says guard it. It's the seed, the blueprint of your life. It is very important for us to guard it.

And the other word is the word *thought* as found in *A discerner of the thought and intents of the heart*. The word *intent* is the *imagination* of the heart. The word *thought* here is the word *enthumesis* a special word that occur a few times only in the New Testament. It is the word that is used for *form*. It is the same Greek word used in Acts 17: 29 *Therefore since we are the off springs of God, we ought not to think that the divine nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising*. The word devising is the word *enthumesis*. The devises of the heart begin to take the forms. You see how solid he is talking about now, imagination and form. So the word of God is like a two edged sword. It divides between the soul and the spirit, the bones and marrow. And it acts upon the formation which is found in the imagination part of our heart. If God can change your imagination, He can change you. If God cannot change your imagination, He cannot change you. Your imagination is the seed and the formation of your future.

You may ask, "How am I going to form it clearly?" You need first a general plan of God to put into your life. See all of us need a general plan of God which is the written word. If I give you a map and ask you to close your eyes and show me United States, you will be able to do it because you have seen the map before. But if nobody showed you the picture, you probably wouldn't know how it looks like. So how can we build our imagination? We build our imagination with the *logos* of God as in Hebrews 4: 12. If I ask you where do you live and you reply, "America". America is so big that you have to specify the town. That is what

some people's problems are. They are not specific in their imagination. Their imagination is just general. Their imagination sometimes is even fussy. So you begin to go into greater detail with the help of the *rhema* of God which is God's personal word to you.

Do you know sometimes the Spirit of God speaks in visions? For example it is not God's will for me to be a missionary in the North Pole. So I don't flow into that. It would do me no good to visualize in that area because that is not what God's purpose is. So I have to spend time fasting and praying. Sometimes God speaks a word of prophecy, then the picture in my life becomes clearer. A prophecy helps you to see clearer. And then sometimes in reading the bible something jumps up at you. You know more and more what God wants to work in your life.

When I was teaching on prosperity series some of you began to see that is God's will for you to be one of those with the grace of giving. In the same way the word of God helps us to go into more specific area. I want you to know that when God sees this seed He saw the plant. When you and I saw this seed we only see the seed. God sees in great detail. The Spirit of God was hovering. When God saw you before you were born, God even knew how tall you would be. We have a limited part of all that is given to mankind. But whatever we have we have to be faithful to God. We have to see in specific details. Then we began to zoom in. So we have to see in great details in the corridors of our imagination. These things don't come by accident. Right now when God looks at you God can see according to your level of faithfulness in the word which helps you in the renewal of your mind. God knows where you will be in twenty years time. When God looks at you He knows from your discipline, from what you are doing, from your attitudes, from your faithfulness to the word and most of all in your imagination. That is where all the spiritual genes are. When He looks at it He know where you will be. But the good news is that Hebrews 4: 12 we can change before it happens. Now we can change our lives. Now we can change what our future will be like. We are not being fated to do something. Your destiny is in your own hands. What you do with your destiny is determined by what you do right now in the corridors of your imagination and by your faithfulness to write the word in the mind and in the heart. The Holy Spirit sometimes helps us by giving us visions and dreams. Those visions and dreams are to be encoded into your imagination so that through your meditation you could produce it at some time in the future.

Sometimes a man of God comes and gives you a prophecy. As far as you can remember write it down. If it is in line with God receive it. Get it encoded into your imagination. And the day you could conceive a clear picture the birth begins to come. You begin to give birth to it. And the giving birth from the imagination area, from the spirit realm comes suddenly. You have to understand the terminology of God. Acts 2: 1 said *when the day of Pentecost had fully come suddenly there was a sound like a rush of a mighty wind*. The word *suddenly* can be misleading because the word *suddenly* looks as if is something unexpected, something that is a surprise. But they were up there in the upper room praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is not something they did not expect. They expected it. They wanted it. This was what they were praying for. This was what they were travailing for. This was what they were weeping and crying for in one accord together waiting on God. What happened is when the fullness of time came, the timing of God came and it just birthed forth. It may take a long time for God to build the imagination area. But the day you could receive it into your heart and you see it in great detail, it is going to be so encoded in you that nothing can take it and change it. Come what may, come flood, come storm, whether you have to climb over, whether you have to go under, whether you have to sink or swim, when its encoded inside you, you are like a bulwark before the devil. You are unshakable. Jesus was that way. He saw what the Father wanted Him to do. He never turned to the left or to the right. The book of Hebrews 12: 1-2 tells us Jesus saw the joy that was set before Him. It was encoded within Him. He knew what He has to do. He had no time to waste. Come what may He will follow what God has encoded within Him. God Spirit is at work in our lives. We have the destiny in our hands, or more accurately, in our imagination.

3. WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET

Turn to Second Corinthians chapter four. In this whole series the basic text are Second Corinthians 4 and Hebrews 11. See the Holy Spirit can move in any way He wants to and we just flow along with Him. Most of you will sense that when the Holy Spirit comes in there is a gentleness. That is why when we sing the

song, "Come in Your own gentle way." There is a gentleness that comes that demands worship. And when we worship Him, God will manifest Himself some more.

Second Corinthians 4: 16-18 *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

The above verse speaks about seeing and looking at things in the spirit world with our imagination. We cannot change our natural world until we change the spirit world. God makes all physical things based on the pattern and the blueprint He has seen and conceived spiritually. The things, which are seen, are made of things, which are not seen. There are two kinds of things. Things that are seen and things which are not seen. And those, which are not seen, are invisible. They are not tangible to our five senses. But this is the realm that controls the physical world around us.

Turn also to Hebrews 11: 3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God. So that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.* In other words they are made of things which are invisible. And there is a part of our being that relates between the physical and the spirit realm. There is a part call the imagination. It relates both to the physical and the spiritual realm. And it is that part of us that God has made us to be. See God has made Adam and all of us to be both creatures that function in the physical and function in the spiritual. Angels function in the spiritual. Animals function in the physical. But God has made man to function in both the physical and the spiritual world. That is our uniqueness that God has made mankind.

And the spiritual controls the natural. The things, which are not seen, made the things, which are seen. We have talked about the area of our imagination. Now that there are two parts of the soul; one is the *dialogismos* which is the reasoning part of us. And there is another part of our soul call the *dianoia* which is the imagination, the creativity part of our soul that needs to be brought in line with the word of God. Now that is the part of the soul that satan also attacks. See when satan attacks he not only sends false ideas, he also sends false imagination. He sends false images into our *dianoia* part of our soul so that we could be deceived and flow with what he wants us to do instead of what God wants us to do. Satan knows that if he could control our imagination, He can control our decisions and our life. So satan actually targets his attacks and his temptation at the part of us called the imagination. All of his fiery darts that he constantly throws at us are targeted at our *dianoia*, which is the part of us that will respond and create images. Satan knows that if he could get our imagination, he has got us. If he could keep our imagination in bondage to him and if he could put a blueprint into us of his work of destruction, we will produce the results of the same blueprint.

So the fight and the cosmic battle over the souls of men are in the realm of the imagination. Satan will seek all he can to re-programme us to destruction. He seeks to imprint upon our minds and hearts his blueprint of destruction so that we could be programmed to function the way he wants us to function.

It all started in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3. In the passage here is the first temptation and the first attack of satan. He used the same techniques that he is still using today. And he attacks at the *dianoia* the same part that God wants to implant his word that programmes us onto holiness. Genesis 3: 1 onwards. *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God has made. And it said to the woman, "Has God indeed said you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"* He used words. He said did God said you shall not eat of the fruit of the garden. And Eve knew God's word to a certain extent. Eve replied to the serpent, *"We may eat of the trees of the garden. But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden. God has said you shall not eat nor shall you touch it lest you die."* She added to God's word. God only said you shall not eat. *And the serpent said to the woman you shall not surely die. God knows that in the day that you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God knowing good and evil.* Up to verse five Eve was still not defeated. She was still fighting the fight of faith with the word of God at least to a certain extent although she added a little bit about the touching part. She quoted the word. There was a battle going on and the word was being used. The devil used his own words whereas Eve used God's word.

But it is verse six that gave the problem. Look very carefully at verse six, *the woman saw*. Up to verse five she was still alright. But when the devil through the serpent could begin to influence and affect her imagination the battle ground began to be lost. Eve was looking at the fruit. There was an image transferred from the outside to the inside. Not the image of God. When she saw the fruit she should have an image God said don't eat. Inside her she should see a ring of fire or something that says don't eat. But when the serpent began talking to her, a different image was being implanted in her imagination. Her imagination was being polluted and re-programmed. When she saw the fruit she saw something else.

Verse six said *the woman saw that the fruit was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes - a second emphasis on the image*. See how much the bible emphasized on the image that was being implanted in the mind of Eve. *And desirable to make one wise*. And that came from the devil. The devil said this fruit will make you wise. She began to receive the word and the word began to form an image, and an imagination. She is heading for defeat. That is how the devil attacks people today. He comes to you not directly. He does not come and just say, "Would you like to sin?" Your first answer would be "no." But he doesn't come that way. And he paints out what he wants you to do and he makes you see it. When you see it, you want it and you desire it. He has got you. See the devil knows how to use our imagination against us. He knows how to turn it for our defeat. So we must guard our mind.

In fact the bible tells us in First Peter that says, "*Gird up the loins of your mind*." That word came from the word *dianoia*. Gird up the imagination of your mind. How do you gird up the loins of your mind? Lets turn to First Peter 1: 13. *Therefore gird up the loins of your mind*. That refers to your *dianoia*. It is the same word *dianoia* the imagination part of you that needs to be girded up. Otherwise your imagination will be filled with the wrong thoughts and with the wrong imagination. *Gird up* means to cover up. Cover up your imagination against the attacks of the enemy. Do not receive his images. Gird up the loins of your mind be sober and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. The bible exhorts us to gird up our minds looking into the revelation of Jesus Christ. Your mind is the part of you that satan seeks to defeat. If satan can get your imagination he has got you.

Today some of our problems as we go through as a Christian is because deep in our past satan through imperfect circumstances that we have been through in our life has used all of them to programme our mind for defeat. Some of us have a very poor self image. Some of us have an image of failure. Some of us have an image of defeat. Some of us have an image of rejection that satan have programmed into us. And today when you are born again, you seek to live the life of God, you hear the word of God, you know that you should walk by faith and not by sight. You know that you are an over comer and yet you are being over come. You know that you are to be healed and yet you are sick. You know that you are in prosperity and yet you are in poverty. You know that you are to be successful but you are a failure. As long as satan has an image and a stronghold in your imagination, you cannot be free physically in your action until you free your imagination from that bondage. Until you remove that wrong imagination from your heart.

This is not the first time satan use that tactic in Genesis 3. He used that several times. He even used this to defeat men of God. In Second Samuel 11 we read the story of King David at the apex of his ministry, at the apex of his glory and kingdom that God has bestowed upon him. Every thing was going well. He has been crowned King of Judah and Israel. He has conquered Jerusalem. Every thing was at ease and smooth. And King David had nothing to do. He should have been meditating on the word. Any free time you have you should be meditating on the word. So King David had nothing to do. And everyone went to war but he stayed at home. He was walking about at the balcony of his house. His house was probably higher than his neighbor's house, which happened to belong to Uriah the Hittite and Uriah was fighting the battle for David. He left his wife Bathsheba at home. And as her name goes Bathsheba was having a bath. He was walking and he looked over and he got the wrong imagination. He came, he saw and he fell. Satan seeks to defeat even a man of God through the imagination.

That is why First Peter 1: 13 says to gird up, strengthen, hold fast, watch over your *dianoia*, the loins of your mind. We all know that human reproduction comes forth from the loins. And he talks about the loins of your mind. Because that is the part of your mind the imagination where the spiritual reproduction is happening. The imagination is the part that reproduces in the physical realm and needs to be guarded and

watched over. All of us, whether young or old in the Lord, have to constantly guard our imagination against the enemy's infiltration. If he cannot infiltrate your imagination he cannot infiltrate your life. If you give in your imagination, you are sowing defeat.

In the book of Joshua they had a glorious victory over Jericho. And after that they had a terrible defeat at Ai. And so in Joshua 7 they knew something was wrong. And they checked and they found that one of the Israelites, Achan had stolen something when they entered the land of Canaan and conquered Jericho. God said all the silver and gold in this first city is mine. It is called the first fruit. And this is what Achan confessed in Joshua 7: 20 *Achan answered and said indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel and this is what I have done.* Notice the statement *what I have done.* His action followed his imagination. Then he said what he conceived in verse twenty one. *When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment.* See Satan was appealing to his imagination. He even described *a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels I coveted them and took them.* Listen very carefully, which came first? The action or the seeing? The seeing came first. It is the imagination that is defeated first before the action is defeated. And if you are believing God for something in your life, and if your imagination is already defeated, don't bother to try, you will be defeated.

Do you know what made men of God like Joshua and Caleb conquer? They conquered because they were victorious in their imagination. Look at the book of Numbers 13 where they sent the spies into the land of Canaan. And when they came back this is what the people reported. Verses 32 and 33, *and they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw, notice we saw, we saw, it was working in their imagination. Satan was defeating their imagination. They saw, they saw, they saw. There they saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight. In our own imagination we were grasshoppers. You know what it means by in our own sight. It meant, inside us we began seeing that we are just little grasshoppers. They also claimed that the children of Anak also saw them as grasshoppers. And the most marvelous thing is that they haven't even tried. They haven't even tested whether they could win it. Some people are defeated even before they tried it. They haven't even lifted their sword. They haven't even organized a battle. And they have already given up. At least praise God for those who tried. They did their best. But these ten stooges haven't even tried. They haven't even lifted their swords. And they said we are like grasshoppers. Their imagination was already defeated. When you fight the fight of faith if you do not win in your imagination, you will never win in your action. The imagination comes first and then the action.*

And later on Moses said, God said because you all are disobedient. They had to spend forty years in the wilderness for the forty days they were spying. For each day they spent spying they shall pay a year in the wilderness. Then all the Israelites were very sad. They said let us go and try now. After God said, "Don't go," now they want to go. The next few chapters tell us they fought and they were defeated. They received what they saw. They saw that they were defeated. They receive the defeat. But not all people of God are like that way. And God never intended for his people to be defeated in that manner. Caleb and Joshua also went. They saw the same things. They saw the same giants. But they never saw that they were grasshoppers. Here is what they said in Numbers 13: 30 *They said Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession. At once he said, for we are well able to overcome it. See what they saw. They saw that they were able. They said we can do it. We are able to do it. We are able to overcome. They have it in their imagination. Where did they receive it? God said it that's settled it. They got it from the word. How did they get such a strong imagination to conquer? They got it from God. God said I have given it to you it is yours. They said God said it and that's settled it. And they got it in their imagination. If God say I can do it, I can do it. I will see that I can do it. They received the impartation in their imagination through the spoken word.*

Numbers 14: 6-8 *Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying; "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ' a land which flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the Lord nor fear the people of the land for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them. You know what they saw? They looked at the sons of Anak*

and said they were a piece of bread. They saw a loaf of bread walking about. You know how easy it is to defeat a loaf of bread. Just crush it with one hand. They saw a different thing. *Their protection has departed from them.* Now who says their protection has departed from them. Physically it has not happened yet. How did they know that their protection has departed from them? God had said it. They received it from the words. They did not go by the things which are seen. They went by the things which are not seen which is the spoken word of God. They didn't walk by sight. They walked by faith. And faith has spiritual eyes.

Hebrews 11: 1 says that *faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* Do you know it is an evidence. Evidence is something you see except that faith is an evidence in the spirit realm. Faith has spiritual eyes. They said their protection is gone. Then they said the Lord is with us. As they were walking in the lands, they didn't just see the Anakims, they saw themselves and they saw God with them. Do you know God is taller than the Anakims? The other ten guys saw the Anakims and they compared themselves with the Anakims and they said we are smaller than them. But Caleb and Joshua saw the same Anakims. They saw themselves but they saw God over the Anakims. And they said they are just peanuts. These are the same people, Joshua and Caleb who went in and conquered the land of Canaan. God will not be able to use you to conquer unless you have the right imagination. If you are defeated in your imagination you have already lost the battle. If you are exercising faith in God in some endeavor, in some fight of faith, look into the depth of your heart and see what is written in your imagination. What is written will foretell to you the future of your program, whether it is going to succeed or fail.

How important it is to have our imagination filled with the word. In whatever area of your life, whether you are having problems in your family or office, what does your imagination show? If they show something that is not in line with the word, change it, re-write and re-program it. Unless you take time to transform your imagination you will be defeated. The time that you invest in imagination pre-programming the word of God into your imagination is an important time that must be taken lightly. Don't despise the work done in your imagination. So we are going to show how we can re-program our imagination. Let me show you how God does it to re-program people's imagination so that they could rise up above the level that they are living and walk on the level that God wants them to walk, the level of victory. You know God is never defeated. God is always victorious. That is what He wants all His children to be.

Turn to Genesis 13 to see some truths that we want to bring forth. In the life of Abraham God wanted to do a mighty work. But what God can do through him depends on what his thought life is like. See you limit God by your thought life and by your imagination. Before God can do a mighty work in you, God has to change your thought life and your imagination. So God wants to use Abraham. At that time he was called Abram. Abram has seen defeat. Abram has seen childlessness. Abram has gone through the hard things of life and now God say you are going to receive a son. You are going to be blessed. You are going to have many, many descendants. And do you know that while God was saying all these thing he had zero descendant. Sometimes the things of God are not comprehensible to our carnal thinking. Here he is with Sarah. They are now quite old. He started his journey from at the age of seventy years old.

Some of you who think you started late think about Abraham. He started at seventy plus. When he started his journey he had no children. If he went by what he sees and things which are seen he can only see defeat. But God spoke of things which are not seen. God spoke of the things which are in the spirit world. God saw the children while Abraham didn't see. So God has an important task. The Holy Spirit has an important work to do. The Holy Spirit has to put God's picture into Abraham's mind and imagination. The Holy Spirit is going to figure a way out to put and write the imagination in Abraham's imagination. There is where all of us start.

So God says in Genesis 13: 14 *The Lord said to Abraham after Lot had separated from him. Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are - northwards, southwards, eastwards, and westwards.* What is God trying to get into him is the imagination. God's Holy Spirit was working on Abraham's imagination. Before the action comes, the imagination must come first. So God has to re-program and correct the imagination of Abraham. God made him see. Don't think God was just wasting his time. Don't think that God was giving him a sight seeing tour. God was seeking to write in his imagination. To see the land that is his. And then God says in verse 15 *all the land which you see I give to you.* What he saw will be what he gets. God says I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth. So that if a man could

number the dust of the earth then your descendants also could be numbered. Verse 17, *Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.* God took many years to write on the imagination of Abraham. When he was about ninety-nine God changed his name. When he was about seventy plus God has to write his imagination. See the imagination was very important to God. He spent about fifteen to twenty years changing Abraham's imagination before he change his name. See he didn't change his name until he change his imagination. He had to change his imagination before He changed his name otherwise the confession has no power. See some people try to confess the Word of God, saying, "I confess it therefore I possess it" but inside they don't see it yet.

So the first thing God had to do is to re-write Abraham's imagination. He is using something familiar with him. If you live in a hot climate and a place where there is some deserts and some oasis, you would probably encounter dust all the time. God used something familiar from his daily life. If you want to re-write your imagination, you have to use something familiar to you. Don't use something that you don't relate to. I remember Clark Taylor sharing this in a conference. He says that before he started preaching he had a desire and a call of God in his life. He knew God wants him to be a preacher and a preacher he wanted to be. But he was a cattleman. He takes care of the cattle and cows and he said God started working on his imagination. I heard that Kenneth Hagin started preaching to the cabbage but Clark Taylor started preaching to the cows. Every time he sees the cow he knew that God was calling his life. He sees the cows as people. Today his church is growing and God is building his ministry because he has it written in his imagination. See you have to use something familiar with you. Something you handle and contact everyday. If you are believing God for your family, then you have to take some photo or something that have you and your wife together. You must have that picture inside you. Paste it in your car; paste it in your table.

God told Abraham your descendants are like dust. Every time he sees the dust he sees them as his children. He started seeing something from his daily life. What do you have that you can use? Use it. It has to be number one something familiar in your life that you handle it every day, that you could use it as a positive reminder to remind and implant into your imagination that God is going to do this for you. If you need healing and you have been healthy before. You used to play football but now you are lying in bed sick, bony, pale etc. Get yourself one of those photographs, see yourself there with all your muscles everyday and say, "By Your stripes I am healed. Thank you Lord." Unless you could see an image of yourself healthy you will never be healthy. Unless you could see an image of yourself healed you cannot see yourself healed. Did you know that when God sees you, you are healed? God considers you healed.

And the second thing when God says the dust shall be your descendants it is something that is in line with the word. God has said and God has promised. You cannot use your imagination against your conscience. For example if the bible says thou shall not steal, you cannot imagine yourself robbing a bank and trying to succeed. The imagination will not flow against your conscience. You conscience and your imagination will flow together. So you must discern what God is saying about your life. Definitely you know that healing is in His word. See there is something in the word that belongs to you. So it must flow with your conscience. See God did tell Abraham he shall have many descendants. I am believing God for spiritual children. For example if God did not ask you to be a prophet, don't imagine yourself as a prophet because it will not work. See the will of God still comes in. You must discern what God wants to do in your life. When you have discerned what God wants to do in your life then you apply these principles it will work for you.

So number two it has to be something that God has spoken to your life. God has spoken something to you. God has put His desire in your heart. God has put His plans in your mind. God has given some of you dreams, some of you visions. So that you could began to see what He wants you to do. You must take it and hold it in your mind. Every time I go to the stadium, I will sit there and see all the people worshipping as a church. That is the imagination that I am working on.

The third area here dust is what he sees in the day time. God says in Genesis 13 I will make your descendants as the dust so that if a man could number the dust of the earth then your descendants also could be numbered. Verse 17 *arise walk in the lands through its length and its width for I give it to you.* Thirdly Abraham was to walk in the land and experience it and begin to feel it. This is what I call embracing the vision that God has for your life. When you embrace it, you hold it close to you. You begin to have feeling. See God works in the imagination. The language of the Holy Spirit is visions and dreams and the realm of

the imagination.

Fourthly in Genesis 15: 5 *He brought him outside and said, "Look now towards heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."* God added new pictures that are familiar to him. Don't limit yourself by just one picture. In the day time God showed him the dust. In the night time Abraham saw the stars. So God deals in his life number four daily night and day, day and night. If you want your imagination to be re-written, you have to do it day and night. Now you understand why God says that you shall meditate on my word day and night. In fact the book of Deuteronomy 8 says that the word of God shall be on your mouth when you walk by way, when you sit down by the way the word shall be before your eyes. God expects His word to start working and taking place in our imagination. Number four you have to do it night and day.

What is God calling you to do? What is God speaking to you about your family? What is God speaking to you about your finances and your business? What is God speaking to you about your ministry? You must hold it day and night. See our mind have to be re-programmed by the word of God. Illustration: Brother Benjamin and Brother Philip. Now I want both of you to draw a church. The instruction was draw a church. Now have a look at Benjamin's church. What Philip has drawn is a lot of people. Benjamin has drawn a tall building with a cross. Now understand here when we say a church, all of you have different impressions and visions. Where did you get it? You got it from your past, from your conversation, from your experiences. All these will influence the picture you see. See how important it is to see the right picture. I am glad they each drew something different. You can see that the same word *church* produce different pictures in two different individuals. Based on their understanding of number one what I wanted. Number two what they feel a church signify. Today when we use the word *church* in English, we also refer to a building. Which is what Benjamin drew. In the bible when they use the word *church* they do not refer to the building. They refer to the people. That is why in the book of Romans sixteen and in Corinthians you will find that Paul says to the church in the house. The building could not go into the house. In the bible when they say *to the church*, the church in the New Testament had no building. If it was a building they would call it a building like synagogues. But the word *church* in the New Testament does not mean building. It means people.

Now here is where we are illustrating that many times because we have been fed in what have been programmed in by our experience, by our tradition, by the connotation of what the word means, we will produce a different impression when we see a singular word that God says. For example the bible says that revival is coming forth. Then many people see different things. For some, Revival means fire, for some they see persecution. It depends on the background you come from and the type of conversation you have been following all the time. The kind of thought pattern your life have been flowing. If you are someone who has grown up to realize that revival means persecution you begin to see persecution. If you are someone who are growing up to realize that revival signifies fire, then you will begin to see fire. It depends on what you have inside you.

It is not quite as easy to write in our imagination as we think because when the word of God says something, we may see something else. The word of God says this is the land I have given you, a land flowing with milk and honey. But we can see something else. It is not quite that easy to make sure that our imagination is in line with the word. There has to be a cleaning process. We have to lay down our thoughts, our concepts, our ideas, our pre-conclusion that we have in order to receive fresh from God what God actually meant when He says something in his word.

And so when God was programming Abraham did you know that God had a difficult time with him. God kept telling him descendants, descendants. You know what Abraham thought? Even up to Genesis 15 he thought that it was through his servant. See it takes a long time for God to get it through to him. Abraham thought that it was going to be through his servant. And then later he had Ishmael through Hagar. And then when God started talking about descendants Abraham told God and say God bless Ishmael bless him abundantly like the rain. And God said no not Ishmael. I will give you your own one. God took a long time to convince him that even though the things that are seen say no, no, no, the things which are not seen say yes, yes, yes. God was trying to get through Abraham that he would have a multitude of descendants of his own seed, flesh and blood. And when God can get through to him, that is not going to be Ishmael, it is going to be on that is through Sarah his own seed, he began to see a clear picture. The day that Abraham saw a

clear picture God told Abraham that He is changing his name.

God was saying it is time to speak to the mountain. See there is as time and a purpose for all things. Don't just go and try to speak to the mountain and say move. The bible says in Mark 11: 23-24 *if you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth it shall be done*. But it also emphasizes *and shall not doubt in your heart*. And your heart is where your imagination is. As long as your imagination is wavering one day this one day that, you will never change the circumstances. You will never defeat the enemy, you will never conquer and overcome. And that is what happens. Many people who hear this kind of messages start practicing it. The next day, the next week they reject it. They began to see the old things again. Then they come to church and repent and then they see a new thing again. They do not hold fast to what God says. We must hold fast to what God says. Get a clear picture. In fact what should have been happening every day is that the picture gets clearer and clearer. You began to see more specific details.

In Romans 4 the bible tells us there was a time when he stop doubting. There was a time when he began to see what God sees. Do you know that what God sees is one thing and what we see down here is another. God sees something while we see another thing. And until we see what God sees He will not be able to work what He want in our life. If ten percent of your life is in line with what God sees, God can work on it ten percent in your life. When God sees all of you, He doesn't see you as defeated. He doesn't see you as failures. He doesn't see you the way you see yourself. And all this time we have the Spirit of God seeking to bring to our imagination what God sees. I mean He has been doing that all the time.

Do you know why sometimes you find it hard to love some people? Because you look at them as they are. Romans 5 says we were yet sinners He loved us. He saw what we can be. I am giving you a little clue how you can love people. People who are unlovable, people who behave in such a way that turns you off, when you look at them you see all their rottenness. But when God sees them He sees the beauty He can make them to be. See the difference? Now you know why God can love us? If He takes you as you are, you are finished. Thank God He doesn't see you as you are. He sees you as He wants you to be. With all your weaknesses with all your failures God never sees you the way you are. He sees you the way He wants you to be. And the day you can see your husband and wife eye ball to eye ball and not see them with all the weaknesses you know but see them as the people God can make them to be you will love them more. The way you could see your brothers and sisters not with their weaknesses and their shortcomings and their sins. But if you could see them even if they are hurting if you could see them with eyes of God the love of God will flow through you. And do you know that the only person who can change another person is the one who can see the good in the other one and bring it out. And they are the ones also who really love. And they are the ones who people will turn to and open their lives up. If you want your life to be able to transform other lives, you must see the way God sees other people. And you become an influence to direct the other person in the way you know that person can be.

That's how we bring up our children. We don't tell them all the rotten things. They may fail, they may make mistakes but you always know as a parent what they can do. And you always tell them I know you can do this. I know you can succeed in that. You always tell them what you know they could be not what they are. That's the way our Father is with us today. He sees your potential and your soul is worth more to Him than the whole world. You are valued. If you see your own image as an unlovely image and you don't see yourself as something beautiful something good, you are not seeing yourself as God sees you. Do you know if Jesus Christ could take the time and trouble to come down all the way from heaven to this planet earth to die on the cross for our sins. If you were the only one who is the sinner He would still come and do that. Because He loves you, you are precious, you are beautiful in His sight. The world may have told you, you are ugly, and the world may have told you that you are unpleasant but God's word never said that of you. God's word said you are the bride of Christ. You are the body of Jesus. He is the Lily of the valley. You are joined to the Lily of the valley. He is the fairest of ten thousand. You are the part of His body. You are lovely in His sight. You are precious. Don't think that you cannot do anything for God. You can do something for God. God has something special for you. God looks at you and see the potential of your soul. Give God your life as you are and God will show you what He can do. Number one, God will put the image in you what He sees you as. Number two you will began acting up what He puts into you. So lift up your hands onto the Lord and let the Spirit of God write the image in your mind.

4. UNDERSTANDING THE HEART OF MAN

We have touched on the imagination. We have considered the power of imagination is a part of the spirit world. Just want to refresh your mind to what Jesus said Matthew 12: 35 *A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things. And an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.* Notice that your heart is a part of you, which does what is to be done on this earth. Your heart is a part of you that controls your whole life.

Turn to Matt.15: 18-19 *“But those things which proceeds out of the mouth come from the heart. And they defile a man. For out of the hearts proceed evil thoughts, murders, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.”* All these things come from the heart.

Jesus in Matt. 5 says, *“Where your heart is, there your treasure will be.”* Some Christians have said that their heart is the spirit man. But definitely in Matt.15 your heart cannot be the spirit man because evil is proceeding from the heart here. All kinds of evil are conceived in the heart. So we have to understand which part of us is the heart. And perhaps it will help you to understand if you look at your physical body, inside your skull area is your brain. Your brain is divided into two sections, the right hemisphere and the left hemisphere. See there are two sides of your brain. The right side of your brain controls the left side of your body and the left side controls the right side. Now the two hemispheres of the brain join up together in one central part. One nerve center and the part that joins the right hemisphere and the left hemisphere is very important because it's that part of the brain that brings forth all the decisions that are made in the brain into operation. And nothing happens without it flowing through the joint - the joint of the left hemisphere and the right hemisphere. And all the decision making process has to pass through that joint before it takes place in the physical realm. Now that joint function as part of the brain. And yet it is not the left hemisphere or the right hemisphere. It is separate from the brain. It functions as part of the brain and yet not at the same time part of the brain and without that part, the brain cannot function.

Now your spirit and your soul have a connection. We know there is a connection between our soul and our body. There has to be a connection. Otherwise what your soul wants to do, your body cannot do. So there had to be a connection between your soul and your body. And there is a connection between your spirit and your soul. And the part of your soul that contacts the spirit there is a joint in between. See it is not separated. It is joined together at one point. But yet your spirit man and your soul are two different persons, just as my soul and my body are two different parts. You can lose your body but your soul will continue in existence. Our soul flows through our body and yet it is separate. The body cannot go on without the soul. So there is a connection.

There is a spirit man within us that contacts our soul man. The contact point between the spirit and the soul is that part called the heart. Your heart is the decision maker. All the Holy Spirit wants to do has to flow through your spirit and then flow through your heart and then to your soul is the important part of you. So what the Holy Spirit wants to do, He has to do through your heart. That is why the first thing that happen when you are born again is that you are given a new heart. The connection between the spirit realm and the soul realm is completely blocked. So we have been given a new heart and through that new heart, God began working through your life. He is renewing your mind and causing you to be able to flow with what He wants to do. So you see the spirit man on one side, and the soul man on the other side and then you see the connection - the heart.

Illustration: One person represents the spirit man. The other man represents the soul. There is a connection between the spirit and the soul. They joined their hands. This is a connection between the two. I call the connection of the heart that is the decision point been made. What is transmitted from the spirit comes here (heart). What is transmitted from the soul comes here (heart). The decision point is here (heart). Just like in your brain, there is a left hemisphere and a right hemisphere and they are interlinked by one joint. All that decision-making is done within that joint but the processing of it is done in the left and the right hemisphere.

Inside the soul, you have your emotion, your will and your mind. It is your emotion, will and mind and within the mind is a part of you called *dianoia*, which is your creative part of your mind, the imagination part of you. This left hand represents the *dianoia* part of your mind. So the *dianoia* connect directly to the heart, which connect directly to the spirit man. The other part of you is your *dialogismos*, the part of you that analyze. Sometime you can see before you can analyze. You can see a building but to analyze the structure of the building is a different process. So that is a different operation of your soul, of your analytical part of your mind.

There is another part of your mind that is called your understanding. The Greek use a different word for the mind. They use the word *dianoia* to describe the imaginative part of the mind and the word *dialogismos* to describe the analytical part of the mind. We have covered these words in our previous messages, and then there is a part of you called *noema*, which is your understanding or your comprehension. Sometimes you see you don't understand yet, the Holy Spirit opens your *noema*. You can understand and then you can analyze.

Heb.: 8-10, "*Behold the days are coming says the Lord when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah, not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by their hands to lead them out of the land of Egypt. Because they did not continue in my covenant and I disregarded them,*" says the Lord. "*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel. After those days,*" says the Lord, "*I will put my laws in their mind (that is dianoia), and write them on their hearts.*" Your mind and your heart; the *dianoia* and the heart. Your heart is a decision maker in the whole process of it. See the heart is connected to the imagination directly. Your heart is like a camera. And the film is the *dianoia*. Your heart makes a decision what to see and which direction to respond to. Out of the heart proceeded all kind of things. And there the Bible says, "I will be their God and they shall be My people."

Heb.10: 16. Notice this is the covenant. It's referring to you and me. It is going to happen today. It's not going to happen later. The covenant is here on this planet earth. God has made a covenant with us, writing His laws and His Word in our hearts and in our minds. Heb.10: 16, "*This is the covenant that I will make with them. After those days,*" says the Lord. "*I will put My laws into their hearts and in their minds. I will write them. Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.*" Verse 19, "*Therefore brethren having boldness to enter the holiest by the Blood of Jesus. By a new and living way, which is consecrated for us through the veil, that is his flesh. Having a high priest over the house of God that is Jesus Christ.*"

Now read the next verse very carefully. Verse 22, because it talks about your heart again, God's word says, "*I will make a new covenant and write My laws in their heart and in their mind.*" And then Paul continues writing about the heart. Verse 22 "*let us draw near with a true heart...*" See He is telling you, let your heart draw near. Bring your heart unto God to function. Draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith. Faith is a fact. Faith is an act. Faith is evidence, a picture. See it relates back to the imagination. Heb. 11: 1 says faith is a substance of thing hoped for, the evidence of the things not seen. In other words, faith receives and reaches into the realm of the unseen and hold on to it. We are operating on the imagination again. It's in your heart and it's taking place, your heart working together with your imagination. The Bible talks about the heart. It's always a relation to your imagination. It says having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience. Now your conscience is a part of your spirit man. Your spirit man has three main areas: communion, conscience and intuition. That's the part of you that receive knowledge. Intuition part is the mind of your spirit. So you have the conscience communion and intuition, which is the function of your spirit.

Now you notice how the heart is connected to the conscience. See I mentioned that is what people get confused. When the Bible mentions heart, some time it seems as if it is talking about the soul. Sometimes it seems as if it is talking about the spirit. Your heart function in both the spirit realm and in the soul realm, and is a decision making point. Out of your heart proceeded all kind of things good or bad. According to your heart you shall be. So if your heart has the right imagination and the right thoughts, you will produce a right life style. God asks you to change your heart and your imagination before you change your life. Cause your heart and your imagination is stronger than your action. What you see is what you get.

Remember in the last message, those 10 spies saw themselves defeated so they were defeated when they tried to enter the Promised Land. Joshua and Caleb saw themselves as victorious and they receive victory. So your heart and your imagination is an important part of you. God is working on your life. Having this understanding go to II Cor. 4 to see the fullness of the context. You have to read from chapter 3 first. II Cor. 3 talks about the old covenant and the new covenant again. We have the same description of the covenant of God: the covenant of the law and the covenant of the spirit as found in Heb. 8 and Heb. 10.

In II Cor. 3: 8 -11, *how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory (that is the old covenant) the ministry of righteousness (which is the new covenant) exceeds much more in glory. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect because of the glory that excels.*

Now verse 13-14, *unlike Moses who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. But their minds (here is noema) were blinded (their understanding was hardened) For until this day, the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of Old Testament because the veil is taken away in Christ.*

It talks about the Jews who even today when they read the Old Testament they still doesn't see Christ as the Messiah. Paul was referring to that cause there was a veil upon their hearts. Read on in verse 15, *But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their hearts.* So he is saying here that a veil lies on their hearts. So they cannot operate and look into the things of the spirit or perceive the things of the spirit. See when a veil lies on a heart, you cannot connect to the spirit realm and the spirit realm cannot connect to the soul realm that is not only to the condition to the Jews, that is a condition of all men who are not born again. A veil lies on their hearts.

Paul continued to talk about the same thing about the veil in II Cor. 4: 4 *whose minds (that is the noema the understanding) the god of this age (that is Satan, devil) has blinded, (that means they cannot understand, for the things of the spirit are carnal and foolishness to the mind. That blindness is referring to the same veil, the veil is on the hearts of all men not to born again) who do not believe lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God should shine on them.*

Now what Paul is talking about is the condition of all men. He is saying their soul cannot contact the spirit and the spirit cannot contact the soul. That is the condition of all men. Jesus said, "I will send the Holy Spirit whom the world does not know." See the world does not know the Holy Spirit. You were in the presence of the Almighty God. The Holy Spirit is right here in our midst every time we gather but the world does not know Him. They only see the side effect of the Holy Spirit. But they don't know the Holy Spirit personally. Let me tell you, Christians also sometimes don't know the Holy Spirit. They quenched the Spirit. They grieved the Holy Spirit. They do things that hurt the Holy Spirit and it saddens the heart of our Father God. The reason is we have not understood how the veil is removed. See the Holy Spirit is here all the time. The presence of God is here. We have to learn how to take off the veil and how to move into the spirit world and allow the spirit world to affect our life if we were to understand this truth.

Right now where you are sitting open yourself to the Holy Spirit. You are a physical being you are a soul. But in the spirit realm is where all your needs are. See everything is in the spirit realm. Healing is in the spirit realm, not in the soul realm. Power is in the spirit realm, not in the soul realm. You need a miracle from God, which is in the spirit realm not in the soul realm. Whatever you need is in the spirit realm. God is a Spirit. It is all in the spirit realm and as long as you don't understand how to reach forth in the spirit realm, the power will not work for you. The anointing will not work for you.

You will be like the disciples of Jesus Christ who did not understand the anointing in the early days of ministry. Remember there were many people who came to Him. And when Jesus went to certain places like Mark 6, to His own hometown. The Bible tells us in Luke 4: 18 the Spirit of the Lord is upon Him. There was enough anointing and power on Jesus to break every yoke of the devil, to destroy every work of the devil. *'For this purpose the Son of God was manifested to destroy the work of the devil.'* I John 3: 8. There is

enough anointing on Jesus to heal all the blind, to heal all the deaf, to remove cancer, to cause miracles to happen. When our Lord Jesus Christ in Mark 6, went and visit His hometown in Nazareth He met many people who were in these condition, many people whose soul never connects to the spirit realm. Who looked at Jesus and said, *“Who is this Jesus of Nazareth? Who is this son of a carpenter? Isn’t his sister with us? Who is this Jesus?”* And the power of God that heals and deliver and save multitudes could not work for them. The Bible says Jesus walked away from them. He marveled and was filled with astonishment. How they could be so blind?

Now tell me, is Jesus anointed? He is anointed, but His anointing could not work in this kind of life. Let me tell you, you could sit under the anointing of God. But if your heart and your mind is veiled, the anointing will not profit you. It will not break the yoke in your life. There are many times the anointing of God is so strong it could just set people free. And those who are opened, sometimes one person will stand right here and can get healed. The next person who stands in the same position one foot away cannot. What is wrong? It is the heart and the mind.

The same Jesus Christ in Mark 5 went to Jairus’ house to heal his daughter. As he went there, many people reached out to touch Him. The multitudes thronged Him. The Bible says that there was a woman, before she went to Jesus she opened her mouth and said, *“If I touch Him, I shall be made whole.”* What picture did she have inside her imagination? She saw, she believed and she spoke. When she came to Jesus, the veil was off. She saw that the Word of God has been written in her heart and in her mind. The only power that can remove that veil is the Word. She heard the Word about Jesus. She believed Jesus was anointed and inside her heart and her mind, she formed the decision and the image. That if I touch Him, this sickness that I have been suffering for 12 long years shall be healed. She had received it even before she touch Jesus. She had received the truth and the Word about Jesus in her heart and in her mind. So her heart and her mind were wide open all ready. She was in this condition when she came to Jesus. There were many people who touched Him. But when that woman touched Him, the power of God flows through Jesus and went through that woman and touched her body. And instantly, 12 years of sickness, 12 years of suffering, 12 years of torment, 12 years of spending all she had and becoming worse was healed instantly in a split second because her heart and her mind were in the right image. She saw that if she touches she should be healed.

But Jesus’ hometown people in Mark 6 did not see and conceive what Jesus can do. So the veil was upon them. No matter how much power and anointing Jesus carried, it did not work for them. It could never violate God’s principles. The power of God flows through your heart and then through your mind, through your soul and through your body. If your heart is blocked, the power of God stops. That is why you can come to a meeting with unforgiveness in your heart. It short-circuits your system. And the power of God cannot work.

Remember what Jesus said in Mark 11: 22-24, you all know it well. Jesus said that if you say to this mountain and shall not doubt in your heart that is if your heart don’t short circuit it say, if you say to the mountain with your voice and if your heart don’t doubt, you will have what you say. That’s a powerful truth there. Listen very carefully. I don’t care what kind of circumstances you are under but if you can conceive the Word in your heart and say it with your mouth, the power of God will blow the mountain apart. No matter what kind of difficulty you are facing the Word must get into your heart. And then Jesus says in Mark 11: 25 not to have unforgiveness because it jams out the heart. So if your heart doubts, your heart has all kind of blockages. The power of God – the mountain moving power is stopped instantly. There is enough power, whenever God’s people gather, to bring their great deliverance. But you see the area of our heart and our minds are very sensitive areas. And if a wrong image creeps into it, it defeats you. That is why, sometimes when you worship God and you give praise to God, there are a preparation and your heart and your minds slowly open to God. That’s when you begin to sense the presence and the power working and the anointing. What happen through daily activity, your mind gets blocked up. Then as you worship God the worship slowly removes the blockage from your mind and could face the image of Jesus again and it clears up. Then the power of God flows.

Sometimes when you walk on this earth, when you mixed with the world and the influences of the world try to get in, the Word of God says unto us in II Cor.12 it says that thoughts and strongholds grab hold of your mind. Now you know where the devil attacks. One of the Biblical principles God has shown is this.

Every bondage and demon possession starts in the mind. Because every demon possession and bondage starts with the temptation in the person's life and the temptation is always in the mind. It is a battleground. If Satan cannot touch your heart and your mind, he cannot touch you. If you have an image of yourself victorious, depression will never touch you. Sickness will never touch you.

In II Cor.4: 4, having said in verse 4 that the veil lies in the heart of all men. II Cor.4: 6 it says, "*For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*" Proverbs say, "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet. Thy word is light.*" The gospel is the Word preached. When the gospel is preached God shines His light upon the heart. He deals with the heart to remove the veil. His light shines on our hearts to give light. See when the light comes, the darkness flees away. The light of God will shine on it to give you knowledge. See it flows into your mind of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. The light of God shines on your heart. It gives you an experience of Jesus. Jesus moves in the spirit realm and He could contact you there.

Look at what Paul continue saying, in verse 7, *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels* (that is our bodies; we have the power within us) *that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.* See you pray for someone and they got healed. It's not because you are anything. It is because you are in connection with God. And God's power flows through your spirit into your soul and into your body and bring healing to others. You become containers of the power of God.

Paul continues talking about his heart and his mind and it says in verse 16, he talks about opposition that comes. And then in verse 16 –18, he says, "*Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is, but for a moment is working a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look to the things that are not seen, but at the things which are not seen.*" Our imagination is not looking at the physical world that changes. Our imagination keeps focused on the heart. And keeping on focus on the things that are not seen, the power of God continues flowing. That happens when we are born again and we must learn how to continue to maintain this position.

That is why Eph.1: 17-18 Paul prays for the Ephesians and said *I pray that you may receive that Spirit of wisdom and revelation that the eyes of your understanding* (or the Greek word *dianoia*). The eyes of your understanding the Greek word are the eyes of your *dianoia*. Your *dianoia* has eyes. Jesus has been talking about the eyes of your heart. Eyes see pictures. Your *dianoia* relates to pictures in the spirit realm. Your imagination what you see is what you get, that the eyes of your understanding might be enlightened. Therefore light have shine forth. Now he says, 'I pray that more light shine. The more of the light of God.' And what is light? Proverbs says, "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light onto my path.*" The light of the Word! Every time you spend time in the Word and in prayer, it continues to bring light. It continues to be enlightened. Every time you worship God it makes you easier to look into the spirit realm. You will learn to develop your spirit life and your imagination in your heart until you could see in the spirit realm.

Now the Spirit of God is here. You have eyes in your heart in your *dianoia*. What you see is what you get. Paul says, we continue looking in the image of God. We continue beholding Jesus and we see Jesus all the time - Jesus in us. And like the glory, the power of God will continue flowing. See right now, Jesus' anointing and presence is here. But it will not work for you until you learn how to open yourself to the anointing and let it flow through you. How to remove that veil - the distractions and the things that pull you away from the spirit realm to focus on the natural? As long as your eyes are on the natural you cannot be on the spiritual. You are either walking on the spiritual or the natural. There is no halfway point. You are either carnal or spiritual. We have to keep our eyes on the Spirit to draw forth from the Spirit and receive the anointing of God.

There will be a similarity of what we see in the spirit realm. See our hearts and our minds can function in the natural realm or move into the spirit realm. We move into the spirit realm by opening the eyes of our hearts and our minds to the things of God. Jesus is right here in our midst. The presence of God is here. The anointing of God is here. The glory of God is here but you have to reach out into the realm of the spirit to receive Him and to contact Him. As I talk I am also reaching into the spirit realm to contact the things

of the Spirit. To know what the spirit is doing. Cause its not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit. If you move without the Spirit there is nothing. If you move with the Spirit there is something. So we learn to move with the Spirit. The Bible says that Jesus is in our midst. We know He is in our hearts. Jesus is also manifest when we gather together like this in oneness, in worship, to glorify Him. Right now, Jesus is here. There is area of His anointing and His manifested presence. So we have to reach into the realm of the spirit to perceive Him. He works in your heart, in your imagination -in your *dianoia*; you have to close up your imagination to your own things, your won ideas. And your imagination sort of hangs loose to allow the Spirit of God through the heart and through your spirit to implant on the canvas of your *dianoia*.

The picture of the spirit world as it is now. Sometimes it comes with a soft impression. For some people they see it blurry but there is an impression. The things of the spirit are not the same as things of the natural. In the things of the spirit you could sense angels. You could sense if there is an enemy infiltration, a demon power trying to work. We do not go by what we see. We go by the things of the spirit and I could sense Jesus speaking. Having sense what Jesus is speaking I become an instrument to Jesus. I yield my imagination; my mind, my voice, my thoughts and I take what Jesus is saying upon my lips and speak it in the natural. And become like a mouthpiece for Jesus. Jesus is saying something that I have to pick up with my spirit and my heart and my imagination and all that is within me.

This is what the Lord is saying:

You have been faithful in much and I will be faithful, as I have promised you according to My Word. For you have longed for certain manifestation, you have even asked of Me, says of God. All that you may renew of Me. And I have loved you my child and I have sought you. There is none to stand in the gap, I have chosen you because I have a purpose in your life and in your ministry and that ministry will come forth in your life because I love you and all that you have seen shall come to pass. Not in one day, not in one month, not in one year. But one by one they shall surely come to pass.

Oh the glory of God I see it coming upon you when I said those word I could sense the anointing began to move on her. I could sense the Lord ministering deep in her and imparting and anointing upon her life. As I sensed it, I say exactly what I sense and that the anointing flows. Even now the power of God is descending upon you. Baptize her Lord in Your power, in your glory. Baptize her in power. I see flames of fire just pouring down upon you. Oh we worship you. We thank you as your spirit completes the work. We thank you Jesus. This is the realm of the spirit. And the Spirit is right here in our midst. I want you to stand with me on your feet in the same way that you learn to open your heart and your mind and your imagination to the things of God. And you began to receive from the spirit world the implantation to your heart and mind, the things, which God is putting in your life. The Holy Spirit is moving in our midst. When we open ourselves to Him in the spirit world cause our hearts and our minds to open to Him and sometimes we just need to wait on Him as He move. And when we do, we just worship.

5. FACTS AND TRUTHS

In today's message, we want to define facts and truths and see how they relate to the Word of the living God. Just tell me in one simple sentence what you define as a fact and as a truth. (Five persons came to the mike to give their definition of facts and truths.)

1. A truth is something that is real whether we accept it or not. A fact is something that appears correct to us at that moment.
2. Truth is something that will never die; it will be perpetual. Heaven and earth may pass away but the Word of God, the truth will remain. Facts are what man makes; it can change and it can vary.

3. Facts is what I believe is. Jesus died for us on the cross. It's fact and it's true.
4. Truth as the Word said, truth shall set you free. Fact is fact, which is not so strong as truth.
5. Jesus said, 'I am the Truth.' I believe He is the Truth.

Now you can see that the definition of fact and truth needs to be clarified, otherwise after when we use that word you will not be able to understand. The dictionary definition of a truth is that a truth is a real state of being. It is the reality of the state of being.

A fact is a piece of information. The information may both be true or false. But it is perceived as information. So facts are not necessarily true. But truths are always fact.

In the Word of God we have what we call the truth. As we look into the Word of God in visualizing, we have to realize that we pick up all kinds of sensation. We pick up all kinds of information. Some of the facts we perceived are true only within our area of experience. I am sure you are familiar with the 3 blind men who were feeling the elephant. One blind man felt the elephant's body and said an elephant is like a wall. Now that was true as far as he perceived. True to his perception but not the total truth. We know walls don't look like elephant. And elephants are not walls. Then another fellow felt the elephant's legs. When he felt the elephant's leg he said an elephant is like a tree. Now we know that is true to his experience but it's not the truth. He perceived from his experience. Another blind man happens to be right at the tail. He felt the elephant's tail and said that an elephant is like a rope. Now was what he said true to his experience? It was. But what he said was not the truth because the combination of all the experiences can give a better indication of what an elephant is like to a blind person.

In the same way, God speaks His words and He says that the things, which are seen around us, are made of things that are not seen. So the things that are not seen create and made the things, which are seen. And His Word declares here that the things, which are seen, are changeable and temporary. The things, which are not seen, are eternal. Look at II Cor.4 His word declares unto us in verse 18, "*While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary.*" Temporary means changeable. Today here, tomorrow gone. Temporary means it does not last and it's moldable, changeable, and removable. But the things which are not seen, that is in the realm of the spirit are eternal. But because we have been walking on this planet earth, society around us goes by our 5 senses.

We many times allow what we see to mould our lives instead of allowing what is not seen from the spirit realm to mould our lives. And sometimes what we perceived with our 5 senses is contradictory to the spirit world. Sometimes in our experience we are like the 3 blind men. We need our spiritual eyes to be opened to see our problems. And we see it not in the perspective of God where God said He saw. We see our sicknesses and problems that the devil tries to put on us but the Word of God says *by His stripes you are healed*. We see our financial problems but the Word of God says that *He was made poor that you may be rich. My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory*. God's Word says something but your perception is saying another. The things that are not seen are the real things and the truth but the things that we perceive are not necessarily the truth. We have to subject our 5 senses to the Living Word - The Word of God.

Heb.11: 1, "*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*" In order to operate in the unseen world you need to get a hold of the unseen world. You have to somehow reach into that realm and hold it, and perceive it and touch it with the eyes of faith and hands of faith. How can we operate the things that are not seen unless we could get a hold of it by a different realm? And we can, through our spiritual eyes and through our spiritual senses. We can reach into the spirit realm, which is the realm of the unseen and begin to mould our lives accordingly. This is where we say that our heart is where we draw on the things of the spirit. It's in the heart where faith operates. It's in the heart of man that the faith

of God is implanted. It's in our spirit. It flows into our hearts and unless faith comes into the heart you cannot perform and do what God wants you to do in this life.

Last week we defined the heart. Let's go a little bit on the definition of the heart. We all will realize that all your bodily system goes back to one control center. Your bodies, hands, organs all have nerves. And even your heart has nerves that control them. The pumping of the heart, everything goes back to the nerve center in your head. Every nerve goes back to the spinal cord and your spinal cord goes right up to where it joins the brain, where all the nerves meet together and where all the action take place in your body voluntary and involuntary. It flows to the spinal cord in your brain. And if your spinal cord is severed your body will be paralyzed immediately. So there is a nerve center in our head and that nerve center controls our whole body.

In that same way the heart is the nerve center of the soul. The soul consists of the emotions, of the intellect and of the will. Now your soul does not function as 3 different parts. The 3 different parts of your soul flow back into one nerve center and that nerve center that controls your whole soul is your heart. Your heart is the control center of your whole soul system. There could be many other aspects of your soul - your conscious and sub-conscious mind. Your heart is the nerve center and if I could control your heart, I could control your soul.

In the same way physically your nerve center in your head controls your whole body. The bodily organs and tissues could be different but they are controlled by the same nerve center. So if I want to control and channel some sicknesses to my hand, it has to flow through my nerves. So the brain processes all the information that comes in and makes the decision.

In the same way, the heart is the nerve center of the soul and when God want to flow through our soul, He works at our heart. Remember Jesus said that out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, imagination, fornication, etc. What is He saying? He is saying that what affects the heart is going to affect the whole man. And when the Spirit of God wants to control our soul and our body, definitely He has to control the heart. See the heart is where it touches the spirit realm. The Spirit of God lives in our spirit. Through our spirit He touches our heart and through our heart it can give signal to every part of our soul. Our soul can give signal to our body and our whole being is then under control of the Holy Spirit.

Having understood what takes place in our heart, now let's look at Heb.11: 1, "*Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of thing unseen.*" Let me read to you from the Amplified Version on this particular passage. It brings out some thing beautiful in that realm. Heb.11: 1 from the Amplified Version, "*Faith is the substance, the confirmation, the title deed of the things we hope for, being the proof of things which we do not see and the conviction of their reality. Faith perceives as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.*"

That is the whole mouthful of words but basically what it says here is that faith is the perception of the things that are the truth, the reality - the real state of being. Faith perceives the things, which are not sensed by your sense, and our heart is the container where faith operates. If your heart doubts it spoils the whole power. It short-circuits the whole system. It won't work any more. Faith operates upon the heart. Faith and doubt are the operation of the heart.

Jesus said in Mark11: 23-24, "*If you say to this mountain, be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea..*" Then He goes onto say, "*and shall not doubt in his heart, he shall have whatever he says.*" That tells us the importance of the heart not doubting and not sending contrary signal or pictures. Faith is evidence. Faith is the perception of the things in the spirit realm.

Paul says in II Cor.4: 18, "*While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.*" We perceive the things, which are not seen. The act of perception is called faith. Faith is the act of perception, of visualizing of seeing the things of the spirit and having it written on the canvas of our heart.

Turn to II Cor. 4 we will see that he is talking about visualizing and faith. II Cor.4: 13, *“but since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what it was written, “I believe and therefore I spoke.” We also believe and therefore speak.* Then verse 16, he says, *we do not lose heart.* Then verse 18 he says, *we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.’* He is talking about the spirit of faith. We have the same spirit of faith and if you are born again, you have the same spirit of faith and the ability to see into the spirit realm. It’s the spirit of faith that sees the unseen and receive it and grasp it and takes it into the physical realm and makes it happen. We have to reach into the spirit realm by faith.

How does it all relate back to the heart? Now this is where it connects to all the rest of the teaching. Heb. 8 talks about God writing the covenant in our hearts. And it says in verse 10, *“This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel, after those days”, says the Lord, “ I will put my laws in their minds and write them in their hearts and I will be their God and they shall be My people.”*

Then He repeats that in Heb. 10: 16, *“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord; I will put my laws in their hearts, and in their minds I will write them.*

Then in verse 19, *“Therefore brethren having boldness to enter the holy of holies by the Blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us through the veil, that is His flesh. Having a high priest over the house of God.”*

Verse 22, now this is the part where they have to do. God says, ‘I will write.’ Then the author in writing to the Hebrews says this is what you have to do. Let us do something about that. Let us do something about God writing His Word in our hearts and in our minds. He says, *“Therefore let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.”*

The heart operates on faith. Doubt is the wrong image in the heart. Doubt is the wrong fact and information fed into the heart. It will produce doubt. Faith is the correct truth that is passed into the heart to have it recorded and coded an image inside. That is why the author of Hebrews tells us to have our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. That is the Word of God. It says that we have to have our hearts cleansed and washed.

We have mentioned about all the wrong images that need to be removed in our life. A lot of wrong images have been stored into our hearts from our past and all those images have to be removed, washed away by the Blood of Jesus and the Word of God. These are the only elements that can get rid of the dirt in our hearts. The Word is the only antidote for healing and removing all the wrong images and wrong programming in our hearts. Once we get all these things removed, we have to implant the right images inside our hearts to see what God wants us to see. To receive what God wants us to receive. And there is where we have to differentiate between truth and facts.

The facts may tell you it ‘s not working yet. You see claiming the Word *by His stripes I was healed* but your body may scream in pain. The truth says you are healed but the symptoms that you perceive say contrariwise. The truth tells you that you are free but your perception of the fact is still not in line with the truth. Sometimes the facts are in line with the truth but sometimes the fact seems to be contrary to the truth. The reason being that there is something wrong with our perception ability. Even since the fall of man our perception of truth have been perverted. It is true only in the sense of the circle of your experience. Just like the blind man said that the elephant was like a wall. Was it true to his experience? We have to say, ‘Yes.’ But it is not the truth. Sound strange to us when we say something is true but it’s not the truth.

Let me illustrate here. Supposing we are all having an annual general meeting and this is the A.G.M. of the XYZ Company. So at that AGM the chairman makes a statement and said in AGM of XYZ Companyso the meeting was on and the secretary was writing down all the minutes. The chairman stood up and

said, "All cats have 3 legs." So the secretary writes them down too. Then the next year AGM, they gathered together again. Then the secretary read out the minutes of the last AGM. So the secretary said, 'the chairman said that all cats have 3 legs.' Now is that true, what the secretary recorded. Did the chairman say that? It was true. But was that the truth? We don't find cats with 3 legs. All cats have 4 legs. So it was true as far as the recording goes but it was not the truth. And so sometimes we perceive things that are true to our experience. We are not denying those experiences. Remember that!

What the world cannot understand about faith is this. They say, "Oh you are just lying." No, it's not lying. There are some cults like Christian Science that says sicknesses don't exist. We are saying they do exist. We are not denying the experience. We are denying the right of the experience to continue. We are denying the right for those kinds of facts that are not in line with the truth to continue its existence because the facts are the things that are temporary. They are telling of temporal things happening and we are denying their right to continue its existence. When we say, "No, I am not accepting this fact. I am accepting that fact over there." Which is the true fact, which is the truth too? And so by holding on to the truth, you will be able to blow apart all those wrong acts. You go around saying, "By His stripes I was healed. Thank You, Jesus! I am healed." Your bodies scream, "No, I am not healed yet." You continue saying, "By His stripes I am healed." You hold on to the truth. You visualize the truth. Sooner or later the truth is going to blow apart the facts that are not in line with the truth. That is where the power of visualizing and the spoken Word come into the picture.

If you think that God is not like that, then you have to examine very carefully because in the Bible here it tells me that God functions in the same manner. Rom. 4 again, it talks about the spirit of faith. Verse 16-17 onwards, "*Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seeds, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham who is the father of us all.*"

Now that is a significant statement. He is saying here that everything that we are going to receive in the Christian life has to come through faith. If you are not going to learn how to exercise faith in the spirit realm and bring it into your experience, you are missing out on the total realm of God's promises. The Bible says all the promises of God are yea and amen. And it tells us that the just shall live by faith. That is our covenant. We live in the covenant that operates by faith. The Old Testament believers had a different form of covenant but our covenant; the new covenant operates by faith. Everything that you receive in the Christian life, from the time you are born again, until you are raptured to be with Jesus is received through the operation of faith. For the Bible declares in Heb.11: 6, "*Without faith it is impossible to please God.*"

Abraham is the father of faith and the father of that covenant that we have made. This is how faith operates. In verse 17, "*As it is written I have made you a father of many nations. In the presence of Him whom he believed – God, who gives life to the dead, and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.*" God calls those things, which are not seen as though they are seen. God calls those things, which are invisible as though it is done.

That is the same spirit of faith that operates in visualizing. You have to receive in your heart that it is done - past tense. You must see the image of it accomplished. God did not say I would make you a father of nations. He said, "I have made you a father of many nations." And at that time Abraham did not even have a single son through Sarah. He did not have a descendant. It was not manifested yet. Sarah was still barren and God said, "I have." Why could God say that? It is because the image was already settled. It has been spoken. It was settled in the spirit world and in your heart. You must have the right tenses. The wrong tenses and the wrong sense defeat you. In your heart, the vision that you receive must be a vision of something done even though it's not done in the physical realm yet. It must be a vision of something already accomplished. You must see it clearly. You must call those things, which are not as though they were in existence.

What is the vision in your heart? What do you see? Do you see the present circumstances? Then you are allowing the wrong facts to program your heart. But if you see what God sees, then you could begin to change your circumstances. God has called us to be changing circumstances, not controlled by

circumstances. We are not subject to the control of circumstances. We by the authority of God's Word control and change the circumstances around us. We are more than conquerors through Christ. We are the overcomers, not the overcome. We are more than conquerors, not the conquered. We are the victorious blood washed army of God, not the defeated stooges of God. God have called all His people to see before it happens. We must have it in the past tense in your heart.

Let's look at our dear Abraham, Gen.17, when God spoke to him. God says in verse 5, "*No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.*"

See it's the same covenant. Remember the covenant. God writes the laws in our hearts and in our minds to be God to you and your descendants after you.

Verse 8, *Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.*' Now you will find in verse 5 it says 'I have made' a perfect tense, something already done. Although it was not manifested yet and God even went and said, "Abraham change your name because as far as I am concerned you are changed.' Now in the English it does not come out that strong. In the Hebrew, there is a special tense that gives the translators a headache. They found it very difficult to translate that vowel consonant. It is a tense that God use the present and the past tense to talk about something still in the future. It really makes all the translators scratching their heads. They have struggled to translate it and try to put it in good English because we don't speak that way in English. We never come to a brother and say, "Brother James, tomorrow I have met you." We never talk that way. So they all were very shy that God talks that way in the Bible. And so they wanted to correct God's English and modernize it a bit and bring out the future tense. In the end we miss out what God was saying and here and there when they cannot avoid it, they have to still put it in the perfect tense. God many times talk that way. God told Abraham and said, "Tomorrow I have already made you. I have made you a father of nations."

In every introduction to a Hebrew Bible they will tell you of the translators' struggle with God's use of the tenses. Young the fellow who gave us the Young Concordance was an expert in the Greek and Hebrew. He put a whole subject about the vowel congregation and consonant. He speaks about how they had struggled to translate what God says because God kept using the present and the past tense. Very rarely does He use the future tense and yet all the time God keep speaking about the future but what was happening is that all the translators did not realize that God was revealing Himself there. That God was revealing His nature and His character. That God was revealing that He is someone who calls those things, which are not as though they were. He was revealing Himself in that special language.

I will just give you a small example of the same passage in Gen.17 that we have read in the literal Hebrew translation that we have for you here. This book is also by the same Young that translated the Hebrew Bible and this is what God said to Abraham in Gen.17 verse 1 onwards, *When Abraham was ninety-nine years old, Jehovah appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will give My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."* Then Abram fell upon his face, and God talked with him, saying: *"As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.*

The word *shall be* in the above should be the word *have been*. The latter is not in your English translation but is in the original Hebrew. You can see the translators' dilemma if they put in *have been* instead of *shall be* and translated that verse as *but your name have been Abraham*. It doesn't sound right or coherent with the rest of the passage.

In all your translations the translators put in that future tense *shall be* instead of the past tense *have been*. They wanted to correct God's grammar. See they don't understand what God was saying. God was calling those things, which are not as though they were. Now here is where God continues saying in verses 7 and 8. They English translators also put that in the future tense in your English translations.

Let's look at the English translation first: *And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. And I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.*"

Now let us look at the Hebrew original, *And I have established* (past perfect tense) *My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. And I have given to you and to your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.*'

There is not a single drop of the future tense in the whole passage of the original Hebrew. You can see in your English translations how much future tense they have used there. There is not one drop of future tense inside the original Hebrew. Everything was in the past tense or in the perfect tense. Something that has already being accomplished and done.

But you and I know when Abraham was there listening to God, the facts told him, "Abraham, you don't have a son." The facts told him, "Abraham, the land of Canaan is still filled with all these other inhabitants. It's still not yours." The facts told him that. But the truth says, "I have given it to you," and the truth is more powerful and stronger than the fact. The facts told him, "Abraham, your name is Abram, that's who you really are. You are not someone very fruitful and your wife Sarai, she is not fruitful." The facts told him that all these things are not so but the truth says, "Abram, your name have been Abraham. A father of many nations I have already made you." And the Bible tells us Abraham had an image implanted in him; he saw it in the right tense.

What is your vision? Is your vision being affected by the fact or by the truth? If your vision is being affected by the facts, you are a sense ruled creature and when you are a sense ruled creature, you are an easy prey for Satan. Satan operates in the sense realm but God operated in the faith realm. And as long as you refuse to operate in the sense realm Satan cannot touch you. He cannot prevent you; he cannot deter you. He cannot stop you. He cannot do anything to go against you what God wants you to do. Choose you this day what you want to follow. Whether you want to follow the truth or the facts. When you follow the facts you will be governed by circumstances. Bullied by the devil, overcome and conquered. When you follow the truth and what God said, you will change the temporal facts. There are eternal facts. There are temporal acts and the temporal always have to give away to the eternal because the eternal is the truth.

So we must have implanted into our hearts and minds a vision in the right tense. If you have a spirit of faith, faith perceives what is not perceived by the sense. And count it as done what the senses have not counted as done and the first things that God starts changing is your heart. Many Christians says to God, "Lord, please change my circumstances." God replies, "Change your heart!" You say, "God change and free me from sins and disease." God says, "Change your heart!" Cause when our heart is changed, transformed we see what the Word of God sees. We say what God's Word say. We perceived what the Word says. Then the circumstances begin to change. Let the vision of God, which is in line with the truth and with the Word, be in your heart. Thy word is truth. The word of God let it be implanted into your life as a past tense fact or a perfect tense. Something already accomplished and something already done. What you see is what you get. If you are going to see what you see now as facts, you are not going to change the circumstances. You must see what God sees. What do you see right now about your life, about your future, about your circumstances, your problems? What do you see? What you see is what you get.

And the second thing that needs to change is our mouth. When you have it in your heart, instead of

talking the circumstances, you began to talk what you believe. God told Abraham, 'Abram change your name to Abraham. Call yourself that and call Sarai, Sarah.' The Bible says they don't consider their own bodies. They did not consider the facts. Rom. 4 tells us that he did not consider his body was dead. He did not consider Sarah's womb, which was dead. They did not consider the facts. They considered the truth. Cause God says you are going to have a son. God says it. I believe it. That settles it. So what did God say about your circumstances and about your life? Take a hold of the Word because the Word will bring you through. The Word will bring you victory in your life. What did God say about your circumstances? What Word did God give to you? What scripture did He give to you? What vision did He give to you? What truth is He revealing to your heart that you have to take hold? Hold on to the Word because the Word will bring you through. The Word is your sailboat, your motorboat, and your vehicle to travel through the storms of life. The Word is God's lifesaver. You cling to His Word. You don't do the fighting. The Word does the fighting for you. Do you know what kind of fight they call the Christian fight? The fight of faith! What is faith? The only fight is to hold on to the Word until the Word brings you through.

Read the parable of the Sower and the seed. The sower went out to sow the seed. The same Word fell on different types of ground. Why were there different types of ground? It is because there were different degrees of holding on to the Word. Some of the ground held on to the Word with their little finger tips. They rejoice a bit and let go. Some of them held on to the Word of God but there are some other things that distracted them that are the cares of life. Then they let go of the Word. Then there are those that held on to the Word 100% and Jesus said, 'They produce 100 fold.' It was the same Word, the same powerful Word given to all. They were not different types of seeds. They were the same seeds. And the seed was the Word. But the holding power was different. These were some who held on to the Word for life's sake. They will never let go. The Word is his hand stretched out to you. You hold on to His hands. The Word will bring you through.

Abraham and Sarah started holding on to the Word. They started calling each other by the names that God has given them. When God met them in Gen.17 and changed their names Abraham had to call for a servants' meeting. He told them, "From now on I want all of you to call me Master Abraham," and all his servants would laugh. The fact is he is an old man. He is getting senile, they say. The facts tell us that there is something wrong with him. He has been out too much in the sun. Poor Abraham, now he wants to change his name and then he says, "I also want you to call my wife Sarai, Sarah." They ask themselves, "What are Abraham and Sarah trying to do? Start a new show?" See the facts told them that they don't have children but the truth says that they already have children and descendants as numerous as the stars and the sand on the shore and they persistently held on to the Word.

The Bible tells us in Rom.4 Sarah's womb was dead. There was no possible way she could bear a child. The word tells us in Rom.4 that Abraham's body was dead. There was no possible way he could father a child. But they heard the truth and they believe the truth. They visualized the truth, as stars and dust are their descendants. And they start speaking the truth. They spoke the truth rather than the facts and they changed their confession. Every time Abraham meets somebody, he says, "I am Abraham." When he started talking that way and changing, one fine day Sarah came to Abraham and announced, "I think I am having a baby." See the truth will work for you. The facts may not work but the truth will work.

Jesus said, in John17, "Thy Word is truth." John14, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.' The Word is the truth. It is life changing, life transforming if you will see the truth, believe the truth, speak the truth. It will blow apart all those facts that are pressurizing you.

6. "YETZER" THE HEBREW WORD FOR IMAGINATION

We have been teaching on the imagination and it is good for us to realize that imagination is considered real. It is not like what we use in our English expression, that "It is just a figment of your imagination." As far as the Bible is concerned, what happens in our imagination is going to happen physically.

We will consider the Hebrew word *yetzer*, which means the imagination. Let's look at Gen.6: 5, "*Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of men was great in the earth and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*" Now the world was already corrupted. And it has reached a place of corruption in Noah's time where the judgment must come down. God is a righteous God and there is a certain limit to the evils in the world before He personally would step in. Otherwise if He doesn't step in, the world would self-destruct. It will just destroy itself utterly completely. So God has to step in to make sure that the world could continue to be preserved.

The Bible makes a statement here that God saw that the world was wicked but He did not only go by what He saw in the physical. He saw in the spirit realm. He saw in the intent, the *yetzer* of man or the imagination in the man, that it was continually wicked. God saw that there was more to come and if He doesn't stop it now, it's going to get worst. He knew that what man imagine, man will perform. He knew that what is inside will come forth naturally. So God considered our imagination to be as real as a substance and not just something that is nonpermanent/temporal or something that is just a wish. The imagination is not just a wish.

The imagination is the production center for all your life. The imagination is a part of you that will produce what is to come. So if the devil gets hold of your imagination, you are doomed. But if God gets hold of your imagination by His Word, then great things are in store for you. There are only a few times that the word *yetzer* is specially used. Let us lay a foundation by reading all those passages in the bible where the word *yetzer* is found.

Deut. 31: 21, "*Then it shall be when many evils and troubles have come upon them, that this song will testify against them as a witness, for it will not be forgotten in the mouths of this descendants for I know the inclination (yetzer) of their behavior today, even before I have brought them to the land which I swore to give them.*"

Now here the Israelites have not even entered the land of Canaan. The word *Deuteronomy* comes from *Deutero*, meaning second and *nomy* which means law. That means the second law. In other words it was a repetition of the Book of Exodus and Moses recounted all that God has done. Remember Moses was going to die. And Moses was giving his last few words to the Israelites, preparing them before they enter the Promised Land. So they were just at the doorsteps of the Promised Land. Just beyond was the Promised Land. Joshua was going to lead them through. They could see across to the Promised Land but they have not entered. They have not even lived there yet. They left Egypt 40 years ago. The old generation has passed. This is the new generation. All they have seen are the wilderness, the deserts and mountains but they have not tasted the land of milk and honey. Yet they could stand before the Promised Land and say, "There is the land of milk and honey." They have not even lived there. They have not been there.

But God says right now I could see in their imagination. I could see in their *yetzer* that there is evil. God says I see evil inside their *yetzer* there. They have not been there and God says I know that they are going to do evil there. Just think about that. God considers your imagination, your blueprint, as guiding the whole course of the nation's life and God said Moses write this song because I know that they are going to be what they saw. They are going to become what they see. They are going to get what they see. And inside their *yetzer*, inside their imagination God sees evil. So Moses wrote this song so that when the *yetzer* comes to pass out there, this song will be a testimony against them. The children of Israel will know that God has seen that it was going to take place. How did God know? God had looked at the *yetzer* or imagination of the children of Israel and the seeds of evil contained therein. The word *inclination* in that verse is the word *yetzer*.

There are only a few times that special word is used and that same word is used again in I Chronicles 28: 9, "*As for you, My son Solomon, know the God of your father and serve Him with a loyal heart, and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent (yetzer) of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him He will cast you off forever.*"

The Lord understands the imagination. The Lord understands the *yetzer*. Isn't it interesting that the Bible translate imagination *yetzer* as intent? See the inclination of your heart is your intent that becomes your actions. It is the blue print. It is the direction. It is the program that has been implanted as God sees.

So David warned Solomon because David knew how important the imagination was. He himself has fallen when his imagination fell. He knew the importance of the imagination of the *yetzer* and in the same book of 1 Chron. 29:18, "*O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, our fathers keep this forever, (in other words keep this covenant) in the intent (yetzer) of the thoughts of the heart of Your people, and fix their heart toward You.*"

In the intent of the thoughts of the heart means the *yetzer* or imagination of the thoughts of their hearts. David is saying to God to keep this willingness to do His commandments and to build His house in the imagination of His people. David knew that if he could get the people of God to have the *yetzer* or imagination to build God a house it would be a matter of time to come before that house is built .

Yetzer is something solid in the spirit realm. It is not liquid. It is not something like a vapor that passes away. But it is constructive. It is built. Now there is sometimes the word translated in the Bible *yetzer* as a solid object. Turn to the book of Isaiah 29:16, "*Surely You have turn things around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; for shall the thing made say of him who made it, "He did not make me"? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?*"

The word called *the thing formed, the thing made* is the word *yetzer*. Let's read it with the word *yetzer* put in there.

*Surely You have turn things around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; for shall the **yetzer** say of him who make it, "He did not make me"? Or shall the **yetzer** say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?*

The *yetzer* is treated as something real, something solid. Something that has already been formed except that it was in seed form. In a seed everything that is to come is placed there. The seed is important to what is to come. All the programming, the entire gene is in the seed. What kind of leaves it will produce is already in the genes of the seed. What kind of fruit it will bear is already in that seed. Now the seed is so small you could hold it in your hand. But when it is grown you cannot hold a huge tree in one hand. But yet that tree and that seed are equal. That tree came from the seed and the *yetzer* is the seed of the things to come.

The *yetzer* is the seed that produces your future life. The *yetzer* is the seed of your future. The wonderful thing is that your *yetzer* can be changed. Your *yetzer* can be formed. Your *yetzer* can be trained whereas the seed and the genes remains as they are. But even though the *yetzer* can be formed and can be changed, it can only be formed and changed in line with what God's will for you is. You cannot go beyond the will of God. God's will that is written for you is inside your *yetzer*. It is inside your spirit. And it needs to be written out clearly with the help of the Word of God.

The Bible tells us in Isa.26: 3, *Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee.* The word *mind* is the word *yetzer*. *Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose **yetzer** is stayed on You.*

Notice the *yetzer* will fix you. You will not turn to the left or to the right. If you have your imagination set right, you will not fall. If you have your imagination set right and programmed right with the Word of God, you will only be able to take success and not failure. See the imagination is vitally important on to us. There are only these few times that the Hebrew word *yetzer* comes out. The following verses contain the word *yetzer*.

Gen. 6:5.

Gen.8: 21,

Deut.31: 21,

I Chron.28: 9,

I Chron.29: 18,

Ps103: 14, it is translated as frame.

It is translated as imagination or intent in Gen.6, 8, Deut.31 and I Chron. 28, 29. In Ps.103: 4 is translated as frame, translated as mind in Isa. 26: 3 and translated as the thing framed in Isa.29: 16. These are the only time when the word *yetzer* is used in the Old Testament but yet that word speaks about the intent, the inclination and is actually translated as imagination. Our imagination!

Let me illustrate. Can I have that cup of water and could I have that ice? In our normal temperature water exists as a liquid. If you try to catch water you cannot hold it, your hand can only get wet. If I ask you to pick up that pound of water, it would be absurd. You cannot grasp water. You cannot hold it.

Now this is ice, which is also water in solid form. I am holding water in solid form in my hand without the cup. I could even throw it up and catch it again. It's the same water. Chemically and physically this water is the same as this water inside this cup. But if I were to just pour it down it will just slip off my hand and fall to the carpet.

What is the difference between these two? The difference between these two is that they have been in different environment. If I take this cup of water and put it in a cold environment, that water in the cup would become this piece of ice. It was just the environment. If I just leave this water in the sun, the water will become vapor and it will just disappear. The sun has evaporated the water. See you can't catch vapor in this cup. But I can guarantee you can catch this lump of ice. It's still the same water. It's the environment that changes its form, either to a solid state called ice or to vapor.

In the same way because we live in the physical world we consider the imagination to be something as a dream or something as a shadow and not as something real. Just because it is like water to us, we feel that it's something that we cannot hold. I want you to close your eyes for a moment. Now I want you to see with your imagination this whole place packed. I will describe it and you just see it in your imagination. The whole place is so filled that there are people standing outside. There are people standing all around. Could you see that in your imagination? You can open your eyes now. What you saw just now in your imagination was something as solid as this ice in the spiritual realm. But when we close our eyes and we see with our imagination and we open our eyes again, we say that is only a wishful thinking or that was only a passing thought. We never conceive of it that what we see inside is as real and as solid as the physical world. But to God what is in the *yetzer* or in the imagination is as solid as ice is to you.

The difference is in the different realm. Your *yetzer* is in the spirit realm while your eyes are in the physical realm. Your eyes function in the physical realm while your imagination function in the spirit realm. It's interesting to know that the Hebrew word for *dream* and *window* is quite close. And so the dream is just like a

window that you see into another realm. Just like there are many windows here in this church. If I want to look over the riverside, I look through the window on my right side. If I want to see just roads, I look through the window on my left side. See it depend on which window you are looking through.

But your imagination is like a window in the spirit realm. It sees the things in the spirit realm and just because the spirit realm is not touchable or tangible to your five senses, we sometimes despise it. We sometimes neglect its importance to our life but right now, all of you have an imagination functioning whether you are taught this truth of visualizing or not. You have an imagination functioning. You may not realize it but you are all the time visualizing. We human beings are creatures that visualize. We are learning to apply from the Word of God what God has equipped our imagination or *yetzer* with.

If you are a normal healthy functioning adult you would be using your tongue to talk. We would not teach you how to talk but we will teach you that the words you speak are important. Instead of speaking like the world does, we teach you to speak God's Word. See we are not teaching you how to speak since you would have learnt it in school or from your parents. Instead we are teaching that since words are vital and important we need to be more careful and speak only which is in line with the Word of God. In this way you could use what God has placed in your soul to His glory.

In the same way when we teach on the visualizing and the imagination, it is not something new or invented right here. It is something that you have been using all the time. You may not even be aware that you are using those areas in your life. We are just making you aware that it is functioning in your life. Before you get a job, you visualize. Before you embark on a career, you are already visualizing to what level in the company you want to climb up to.

We are teaching the importance of visualizing and imagination that we have taken for granted. If you leave a small child to grow up by himself and say let the child educate himself, the child can even grow up without learning how to read and write. We teach our children and educate our children. We teach them. We don't just leave them alone. In the same way our imagination has been so much a part of us, that we take it for granted. We don't realize the importance of the imagination in relation to the spirit realm. So when we teach this thing, it is not that we have just invented it. It was there all the time but what we have done is to make you aware of it and then from making you aware bring it into practical application. We take the Word of God and began to form in your imagination the solidness of a vision that is in line with the Word of God and from that imagination it will produce your future life. So your imagination still has to work along with the will of God and the Word of God. To keep your mind in perfect peace your *yetzer* have to focus on God and not on yourself.

In the world they are discovering this truth but they are misapplying it. In the world they teach about visualizing also. There was a book on visualization that I just glanced through. I just wanted to check the level that the world is copying the things of God. Jesus said in Mk.11: 22-24 that if you believe what you say it will come to pass. You shall have it. So Jesus is teaching the power of the spoken word. Prov. 18:21, 'Death and life are in the power of the tongue. Now in the world they have an imitation and the form. They call it positive confession and so they tell themselves to look at the mirror and say, "You are successful, you are ok." But in the world they don't teach morality and the 10 commandments. So sometimes a greedy guy will look at the mirror and say, "You are rich, you are powerful" and it makes them covetous because they are not guided by morality. Or sometimes an evil guy may covet another woman and visualize adultery or fornication to make it happen and fulfill his lusts. So the world has stumbled on this principle of the power of visualization. But they have misapplied it and to some extent they have succeeded a little bit because there is truth in the Word. But it can only go so far and no more.

But some Christians react negatively to such teachings. They say this is positive thinking and associate it with Norman Vincent Peal or Dale Carnegie or Robert Schuller or some other positive thinking writers. They even associate such teachings with the Word of Faith movement. In the end they reject the whole thing totally without realizing that in Christianity and in the Charismatic movement God is reviving this truth. Every truth that is in the Word will be manifested in these days before the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. So as a result some react negatively to this teaching and turn their minds off.

About 5 years back we were teaching on prosperity since we found it in the Word and we got it from the Word. But there was one group of Christians who said that such teaching is from the devil. 5 years later with their wallets empty and their pockets and pants full of holes they came back and said, "Could you teach us some of the prosperity stuff?" See what happened is that they rejected the teaching on prosperity completely without realizing that there was an imitation. They threw the baby with the bathtub water. Remember if there is an imitation there is a real. The imitation comes because there is a real. Now if a person wants to make counterfeit money, he will not make the counterfeit money look like monopoly money. What do they do when they make counterfeit money? They try to make it look and feel like the original as much as possible. It's an imitation. But it's not real and that's what the devil does. He counterfeits all these things. If there is a counterfeit, then there is a real, which is true.

The Bible has a solid teaching on the importance of the confession and I have sat down many times and confessed that God's Word is true, sometimes for about 8,9 hours. It does something to me. I could tangibly feel a change come on my whole being when I confess God's Word. You do it and see. You sit down and do meditation 3,4,5 hours confessing God's Word. You will see the physical change is tremendous. So there is the real and there is a counterfeit of visualizing without the commandments of God, without a moral base. But there is a real art of visualizing and imagination. Like Paul says in II Cor.4 we look to those things, which are invisible. We look to the invisible to manifest it in the physical.

Let's look at Heb.11: 1, "*Now faith is the substance....*" But it's not a physical substance. It's not a substance that we could touch with our hand, smell with our nose, see with our eyes, and taste with our taste buds. It's not a physical substance. It is a spiritual substance and the word *substance* in the Greek is the word, *hupostasis*, which is something solid. It is only used a few times in the New Testament but in the book of Hebrew the word *hupostasis* is used three times.

Here in Heb.11: 1 *Now faith is the substance of thing hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* Remember faith is the substance of things hoped for and faith is a substance of things not seen. Isn't it marvelous the things that are not seen I can receive as a substance through faith? I can receive a substance in my imagination. For the spirit of faith believe that we received it in the spirit realm. Hold fast to it what the Word says.

For your interest the word *hupostasis* occurs in Hebrew 1:3, '*Who being the brightness of His glory and the expressed image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He by Himself purge our sins sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high*'.

Now verse 3 refers to Jesus. It says that Jesus is the expressed image of the Father, referring to the person of the Father. Now the word person in verse 3 is the word *hupostasis*. So it says, "*Who being the brightness of His glory and the expressed image of His hupostasis.*" That means His spiritual substance, reality. One day when this whole world is redeemed and are in the glory of God, you could literally touch God. See He is spiritual being, touchable and knowable. But this world has fallen to the realm where the spirit realm is like something non-existent. Man has fallen to the stage where sometimes you can walk in the street and you can ask a man whether he believes in the spirit world? Does he believe in heaven and hell? He will say, 'No! I only believe in this life.' See the world has fallen to that extend where some ministers don't even believe in an angel, don't even believe in the existence of demons. No, the spirit world is non-existent as far as their experience is concerned. If only they knew that the spirit world controls the physical world. And there is a substance of the spirit world and that is the substance of God Being.

Heb. 3: 14 "*For we have become partakers of Christ* (Notice he says we have become a part of Christ. How? That is) *if we hold the beginning of our confidence (**hupostasis**) steadfast to the end.* Here the word *hupostasis* is translated as confidence.

So you see the same Greek word *hupostasis* is translated in Heb.1: 3 as person; in Heb. 3: 14 as

confidence and in Heb.11: 1 as substance. It is the same Greek word but it is translated differently. The reason is because the translators could not comprehend what this substance is. Some say it is the confidence that comes in. It's more than a confidence. Heb.11: 1 put it a substance but then its more then a substance. It's so real that Heb.1: 3 translate it as a person, which we have said the *yetzer* is something that is real. It is something that is solid. It is something that can be grasping that can be felt. It can be molded by the Word of God and right now you have in your imagination the ability to change your future. I don't believe in fatalism. I don't believe in fate. I don't believe in *unfortunately* or *fortunately* or *lucky*. No all these words talk about fatalism. That means you are not in control of your destiny.

But God tells us in His Word that we are in control of our destiny. We are responsible for our destiny. That is why there is a judgment. If everything came because of the will of God, why then does He judge us for what is His will? No, we are responsible for our lives. We are responsible for what we do in this life. We have our destiny in our hand. Therefore God says there is a judgment coming where every man has to answer for what he does with his life. You have your future in your hands. More accurately you have your future in your imagination. What is stored in your imagination?

Now the most wonderful thing is that in Heb.11: 1 imagination is where faith is. In the previous message we related the heart with faith. *Faith is the substance of things hoped for*. The word *hoped for* - is that future tense, past tense or present tense? *Hoped for* is past tense but *faith* is in the future. Isn't that a contradiction of terms? *Faith is the substance of things hoped for*. Think about that. That is a complete contradiction of all the rules of grammar in the English language. Hope is always in the future.

We have said that about the Hebrew vocabulary. God has a habit of calling things, which are not as though they were. Not even as they are but as they were. That is done. He told Abraham, "I have made you a father of many nations." It is future, yet it is past but it is now. What a complete contradiction. No wonder people just stumble when they come to all these things. Future, past then He said present. Their minds blow!

Now the imagination is not bound by physical time. That is what the truth is coming forth. Your imagination can scan the past. We all know that. Let me illustrate with something, which may not be pleasant but you could identify with it. Lets say somebody has hurt you badly about 10 years ago that you could not forget, and suddenly that person reappeared in your life. And of all things he is also attending the same church as you. You wish he was in some other church; you say to yourself that wherever this person sits, you will sit on the opposite side. The preacher now leads in the singing, "I love you with the love of the Lord," and tells everyone to go around shaking each other's hands. Here comes the person charging down the aisle singing, "I love you with the love of the Lord." You say, "Here comes disaster." And inside you, all your hurt feelings and painful memories are once again stirred up. What is happening? Your imagination and your memory have been buried in the past. But when you see that person, the past hurt is resurrected in your imagination. You relate to that person as in the past. That painful incident could have happened when you were 10 years old. Now you are 20 years old. So every time you see that person, you become 10 years old again. You grew younger and so was the person who hurt you 10 years ago. When you see the person you become 10 years old and say, "You hurt me, so I hate you!" so you become 10 years younger again.

What your imagination has done is to automatically switch back to your past and make the past a living reality. It happens all the time. Praise God, the Blood of Jesus can cleanse you from all your sins; cleanse you from all your unforgiveness so that you could relate differently. And that's what happens when we relate to each other.

Some of you may remind me of my strict Chinese teacher. That teacher will whack me for every mispronunciation I make. But sometimes I look at some people and they remind me of that Chinese teacher. But they are different persons altogether. Now some of you remind me of my father. When he gets angry he turns purple. And so some people remind me of past unpleasant persons or incidences. But when I relate to them I have to get the Blood of Jesus to cleanse me of these past hurts in my imagination and relate to them as they are. Most of you have come to know John who is very zealous for the Lord. You came to know him either by knowing him personally or by watching him. So when you come across another person just as zealous, you will say, "Ah, he is just like John." Now John has sort of accidentally hurt you by making some

remarks about your commitment to the Lord. Then the next time another equally zealous person comes along, you tell yourself, "I am going to avoid this guy." What happens is we have brought our past into our present relationships. Most of the time that prevents people from loving each other and flowing together in the Body of Christ because we are reminded too much of our past.

But *agape* love looks at your future. Rom. 5:7-8, "*For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.*" Christ didn't love us because of our past. We had a bad past. Christ didn't love us because of our present. We have a terrible present. But Christ loves us because He saw our future. And as long as you look at each other and remember the past or even the present, it is quite difficult. Some people are loveable, some not so loveable because they just got extra longer shoulder blades. So it's difficult in the natural but when you look at each other in the future, you see the value God has placed on the person's life. God doesn't see what you were or who you are. But He sees what you can be and He loves you for what He can be in you.

So the wonderful thing about the imagination is that it is not bound by time. We could go into our past or into your present. Anyway it is past for you if you are here. It could be an hour ago.

Close your eyes right now and see the room of the house you stay in. Now that was in the past about a few hours ago when you left your house. You are no more there or else you won't be here. It was in your past. A couple of hours back. What happens is your imagination is not bound by time. Your body is bound by time. Here is where we want to say these words. If your imagination is not bound by the past, if it is not bound by the present, why is it that people make it bound when it comes to the future? See the point? Your *yetzer* and imagination is not bound by time but your physical body is. It could go to your childhood and see both your unpleasant and pleasant incidences of your life. You could remember the things that are pleasant to you. You could go into the past and relive the whole experience. You could go into your past even a few hours back or right now if I ask you to visualize this place as it is, you could just close your eyes and see as it is. We have no problem for the imagination to deal with the past and the present.

The question is: Why do people struggle when it comes to their future? Why is it that their imagination does not seem to move into the future easily? And yet that's the most important because that is where the imagination is forming the future. If they see the past they will keep producing the past in their present life and in their future life. They will keep repeating the same mistakes. If all you can see after you have failed many times is failure, you are going to harvest failure because you have allowed the past to have a hold on you. You keep producing the same pattern in the future as in the past. It has been locked up in your imagination. Here is why people struggle because they cannot see the future. They could see their past because they have experienced it. They could see their present because they have experienced it. What is the key? Experience. How is it that we can see the past and the present? It is because we have experienced it.

Here is where we need someone who has already known our future, who can see our future as past to give us a conducted tour into that realm.

John 14: 26, *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.* He rules the past.

John 16:13-14, *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come....*" What is truth? Truth is the real state of being. A fact is a piece of information. It may reveal the truth or it may not. It depends on what extent they have the whole picture of the fact. But here the Spirit of truth in the Amplified Version they say reality - the real, the Spirit who knows the real substance. Do you know in this whole world, everything that you see is temporal? The real is the spiritual and eternal and that's the truth. The Spirit of truth, the Spirit who brings the truth comes to blow apart the facts. The same Holy Spirit works now in your imagination. Truth is a spirit. The Spirit of truth will guide you into all truth. Now we have seen in the last message that you need to hold on to the truth before you can blow apart the temporal facts that are contrary to the truth. And you are a spirit

being. The third person of the Godhead Who is called the Spirit of truth will guide you and bring you and make you experience the truth.

This is what happens. You go around confessing, "By His stripes I was healed. Thank You, Jesus. I have been healed by Your stripes," and one day the healing takes place, bang you are healed. Who did that? The Holy Spirit! Who brought the healing? The Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit guides you into all truth. The Holy Spirit guides you to experience the real. He changes and blows us apart what is not real. He guides you into the experience of the truth. Nobody can claim healing. Nobody can claim his or her ability to heal. It rests on the person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one person on the planet earth today who is sent by Jesus to do the works of Jesus and greater works. But if you and I yield to the same Spirit the greater works will flow through your life. You will experience it. The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth.

Then we have Jesus saying about the Holy Spirit, *He will not speak on His own authority*. The Holy Spirit's purpose for coming is to help us to experience the reality all that Jesus promised and said, all the works of Jesus, all the promises of Jesus all that is entrusted in Jesus. He is going to help us to experience Jesus in person. That is His purpose for coming. That is why Jesus calls Him the Spirit of Truth. Whatever He hears He will speak. Now God is a God who calls things, which be not as though they were. And God sees something completed before it is completed and He calls it as such. The Holy Spirit hears and He transmits that to you and I. And it says He will show you the Word manifest. He will manifest to you the things to come.

Thank God for the Holy Spirit. Without Him we can do nothing. Thank God, we have an Advocate. You know what is an Advocate? An advocate is someone who stands there and says that is the legal right of this child of God to experience this inheritance. See when you are wronged by somebody, you are having injustice done to you. Somebody comes and steal your car, steal your health, steal your property steal all that you have and you say, "I am a child of the living God, all these destruction don't belong to me. The blessing of God belongs to me." The devil will say, "No, no! You got no power against me." The Holy Spirit comes along and said, "He is right. Devil, you are judged. Surrender!" And the Holy Spirit comes and takes the devil by his tail and gives the devil the left foot of fellowship. And the devil goes off and then you experience all that God intended for you to experience.

The most wonderful thing is that the Spirit of Truth right now is working in your imagination. He is right now forming your future. The language of the Holy Spirit is the language of vision and dream. One of the first things that happen when the Spirit came down was visions and dreams. And the Holy Spirit right now will show you things to come. The reason why people cannot see their future easily as they can see the past is because they have not experienced their future yet. But here comes the Holy Spirit to give you the experience of what is to come. He will manifest the future to you through dreams and visions. He will show you things to come. All you have to do is to get into the spirit. Pray in the spirit and all you have to do is be like a spiritual tourist. You know what tourist do when they go to a new place - they look. Have you seen tourists on a bus? They just peer out of the windows of the bus all the time and look, look and look. They just do a lot of looking and some of the places where you have been so regularly you hardly turn to see. They will be looking and say, "Oh this one, Malaysian beach." You say, "Yes, we have seen it so much that we just don't think too much of that." But they haven't seen it before so they just look and look.

And this is what happens - the Holy Spirit will take you in your prayer closet where you are visualizing the things of God and He will take you into the future. Get on His bus and the tourist guide is the Holy Spirit. He will guide you and show you the future. He will show you from time to time. He will unfold the future before you. He will say, "This here is what I want you to do and the will of God for your life in three years' time. And this here is the will of God for you in 20 years time. This is what the Father has been asking you to do. And this is what the Son has been speaking to you about. And this is where you will be. And this is what the Father desire you to have and all these things." He begin to show you the realm of the future. You begin to experience it. You begin to embrace it. You begin to hold it close to you until it moves you. And when you experience the future that is so real, you come back to the present. You are like a creature from another world. You are aliens and in a sense we are. We are not people who live by the present. We are people who see the future. We are the living hope. Our whole perspective for life is different. We don't live for this life. We live for the life to come. So we put all that we are to see, the kingdom of God come, to do the will of God on this planet earth, to extend the kingdom of God. We live like aliens on this earth.

Paul says in 2 Cor.4 that we see the things that are not as though they were. We see the invisible. We have the same spirit of faith who the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit of Truth will cause you to experience all these things. I don't care how long you have been visualizing, how long you have been claiming, but you have Someone on your side. If you have grasp the whole of the truth, if what you see in your *yetzer*, in your imagination is the truth, if what you see in the corridors of your heart is the truth, then know, that there is a person called the Holy Spirit who will see to it that all of the truth comes to pass in your life. We only need to yield to Him. We only need to know Him. We only need to let Him flow through us in the things to come.

So what I personally do is, some of the things the Holy Spirit has shown me that is to come in the future I will hold it fast with my *yetzer*, my imagination and then I will pray in tongues while I see. It would be just like the Holy Spirit hovering over my imagination just as He hovers over the earth. So here am I. I am sitting on that vision and that vision is sitting on me. The vision becomes a part of me and I become a part of the vision. Until we become molded into one. You live for the vision and the vision lives through you. And all I see are those purposes of God. I will hold it fast and I will just pray in the spirit and pray in tongues. I will just see it so clearly, I will pray. I will sit on it and let the Holy Spirit hover over the vision and bring it to pass.

In bringing it to reality that is not my job. My job is only to hold on to my *yetzer*. Didn't the Bible say, "Hold fast"? It is the job of the Holy Spirit to make it come to pass. All you have to do is to hold fast to the Word of God to the truth. All you have to do is to hold fast to what God says. If you hold fast long enough and strong enough, the Holy Spirit makes it manifests. What part of truth have you not experienced yet? What part of your life is still not where you know what God wants it to be? Bring it before you in the corridors of your imagination. Pray in the spirit and live in it. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will tell you to get on the bus. You get on the bus and you can see it clearly.

Some of you are businessmen and businesswomen. The time that you invest in your prayer closet in visualizing is as essential as the time you spend outside getting the deals. You will invest that time in visualizing and knowing that you already know what God's will is. And you begin to see what is in the future as in the past. You begin to see your business prospering. You see the clients coming. You see the checks coming in. You see it all come to pass. You see what Jesus and the Father want you to do with that business. You see it and you just pray in tongues. Hold on to it with your spiritual hands. And the Holy Spirit will send the angels to work in that direction.

Some of you are praying for your family, your loved ones, they are not saved or born again yet or some may need healing. You must hold fast and see your family the way God wants you to see clearly. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will tell you to get on the bus and then He drives you around. You not only see that your unsaved husband is saying yes to Jesus but you even see what your husband is doing after he has said yes to Jesus. See the Holy Spirit is bringing you for a more detailed tour. He begins to show what would happen in great detail. And then you hold fast to it in your imagination. Sometimes it's so real.

I can tell you those times I spent in that way. It's so real that it makes me weep. Sometimes I hold fast to the burden and the vision God gave me. I see the souls that are saved. I see the people that are touched and healed. It becomes so real. I could actually see them being healed by the Holy Spirit. And I could literally see them being touched. And I am so thankful that the tears just flood my eyes. It's a real experience. See we need to experience the future by the work of the Spirit so that it becomes real.

Some of you could be called to the ministry. Or your ministry in certain ways is supposed to take off. The time that you invest in visualizing is essential. It is not wasted time. It is essential time. Give it top priority. Most of my prayers are in the realm of visualizing because I can see it better than I can speak it. So I present it before God and said, 'God this is the way I believe you have shown me. I will hold fast to it.' And I just thank Him and worship Him and hold fast and praying in tongues for it to come into reality.

And sometimes the Holy Spirit tells us to get on the bus. And you get on the bus. And He shows you,

not only what your ministry will do. He begin to show you what your ministry does to people, who will do some other things through that touch that they received. It's all in that realm called the imagination or *yetzer*. It is solid in the spiritual realm.

Let's all stand together. I want you to surrender your imagination to God. Your imagination has worked on the past and on the present. But Jesus said the Holy Spirit would show you the things to come. Has the Holy Spirit been real enough to you that what Jesus said He will do He has done? Jesus said He would show you things to come. Have you been receiving that? If you have not, you have to give your imagination to Him to let Him implant the truth of the future into your experience. Right now just surrender your imagination to the Lord. If it's filled with dirt and uncleanness the Blood of Jesus can wash your heart and make it white as snow.

7. PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF VISUALIZING

We have seen the biblical basis of visualizing and we need to do some application. We need to be taught not only be taught what to do but also how to do it. We are going to dwell on the application or practical part. It's the application, which will make visualizing real in our lives. We are coming to the most important part of the teaching. The conclusion is always the most important although the preliminary discussions are important too. They lay a foundation but its always leading to a conclusion. How does it affect our life? How can we allow visualizing to change our life? What is the biblical basis for its application?

We want to make it very clear that the principles of visualizing cannot violate God's Word. Visualizing is one of the mechanics of faith. Confession is another mechanic. And meditation is another mechanic. Another mechanic is prayer. These are mechanics of faith that you apply. Before you apply the mechanics of faith, you have to know the will of God. For example if God did not call you to be an evangelist and you start visualizing and applying the mechanics of faith in that area, it will not work for you. This is not a get-rich-quick scheme. Neither is this a get-strong-spiritually-quick scheme. There are no short cuts to the things of God. There is a price to pay. So we do not offer shortcuts. We only teach you the proper methods. If you know the direction to come to church, you will come here in much quicker time than when you don't know the way.

So in the same way if people know the right application of truth, they will get to a place without wasting unnecessary time and unnecessary struggling in the wilderness for 40 years. So we want to emphasize again, you have to be in line with the will of God for your life. If it's not the will of God for your life, all these applications or mechanics will not work for you. How to know the will of God for your life? It comes by spending time with Him. Humbling ourselves before Him and saying, "Not my will but Yours be done." It costs us surrendered consecration, dedication; sacrifice sometimes to get into the will of God.

So some people do not succeed in a ministry because after they have discovered God's will they have not applied the mechanics. For example a person can be called to be an evangelist but that person did not learn meditation. That person did not learn visualizing. The person did not learn the laws of confession and the laws of faith. So the person suffers discouragement and setbacks. And his evangelistic ministry cannot take off. The person is in the will of God but the person has not learned to apply the mechanics of faith. On the other hand you can apply the mechanics of faith without being in the will of God and it won't work for you. For example if you want to rob a bank, you start visualizing how to rob a bank and you start claiming the bank for your own selfish ambition. The Word of God says, 'Thou shall not steal.' So you are contradicting the Word of God and misapplying the mechanics for the wrong ends, for selfish gains, greed and covetousness. It will not work for you. These mechanics of faith are Bible-based principles and must flow with the will of God.

A lot of pastors are going into the ministry and they do not understand the mechanics. So they are failing. They failed not because they didn't go into the ministry. They failed because they didn't learn the mechanics of faith. On the other hand you have the other extreme - of those who are overambitious and self-centered. So they apply the mechanics of faith to certain areas of the life and as a result they don't discover God's will. They move into areas that are outside God's will and endanger their own life because God is

going to judge.

So let me qualify all these things. The area of visualizing is actually one of the mechanisms of faith. It is important for us to learn the mechanism after you have discovered God's will. Without the mechanism you will get nowhere. Life is not such that success just happens. All you have to do is do nothing and you will fail. In the natural to succeed you have to work. So in the spiritual you have to work at something. You have to work at some spiritual area so that you could succeed spiritually just as you succeed in the natural.

We have talked about visualizing. We have laid a proper foundation. We are going to teach how to visualize and the practical application of this truth. We have seen that visualizing is important. It has to do with our imagination and how God's Word gets into our heart and our imagination. To visualize is to see - to form an image within us. We have to understand that the Holy Spirit is a spirit being. And He wants to communicate to us who are down here in the flesh. God is a spirit. John 4 says, "God is a spirit." And as God is a spirit, He wants to communicate to our spirit man. There has to be a medium of communication and one of those mediums is the written Word of God. Another medium is the spoken Word of God. And there is an image that God transmits to us - an open vision or a close vision that God shows you.

See words form pictures. If I say a *black dog*, you will see inside your mind a black dog. My word causes a picture to come in your mind. If I say a black dog with a long tail, then in your mind, that picture changes. I added a few words, *long tail* and your image changes. Suddenly in your image you see the dog growing the tail. If I say a *dog*, some of you could be thinking of an Alsatian dog. Some of you could be thinking of Poodle and all kind of dogs. But if I say a Cocker Spaniel dog with long ears and long tail, furry all over, black in color, it becomes more specific. My words have formed pictures in you.

In the same way when God speaks a word, His Word is a part of a picture. When prophecy comes to you, it comes in parts. 1 Cor.13:9 says, "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part." God has a plan for your life. Right now everything that you will ever do in this earth, from the time you were born till the time you die has been written up there. God has a completed plan for you up there and He reveals it to you through prophecies, through the inner voice of the Spirit, through your reading of the Word. You began to discover that plan for your life. Blessed are you when you discover the will of God in your life. You will no more be aimless. So God is communicating to us all the time His plans through His words, through many forms - His spoken Word, His written Word, prophecy, the gifts of the Spirit, visions, devotional life, inward voice, through fellowship with other Christians. They also began to see the ministry in our life and they began to tell us what they see and so there is an exchange and so we began to discover God's plan in our life.

And this plan must be clear-cut in our vision. We must see it clear-cut for it to be applied and communicated outwards. Unless you change your vision you will not change your life. Unless you change what is inside you, you cannot change the outside. Your vision must be clear-cut. It's vitally important. If you have an image of failure, you will keep producing failure after your kind. If you have an image of success, you will keep producing success after your kind. If you have an image of poverty, you will keep producing poverty. If you have an image of power, you will keep producing power. What we see is what we get and what we say is also what we get. So what we see and what we say is important to our life.

If you change the spiritual world you will change the natural world. It's important to change the spiritual world. For Heb.11: 1 said, "*Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*" And we have seen how, unless we have changed the spirit world, we cannot change the natural world. Heb.11, the faith chapter, in verse 3, "*By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God. So that the things, which are seen, were not made of things, which are visible.*" The things, which are invisible, made the visible world. So the things that you can see, touch, taste, feel and hear around you with your five senses are made of things, which are not seen.

2 Cor.4: 18, "*While we do not look at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen.*" Definitely Paul was visualizing. He says he is looking at things, which are not seen. What is Paul doing? Visualizing! Paul's ministry is a ministry of visualizing. He saw before he achieve. He says we look at things,

which are not seen. And the reason is he says *for the things, which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal*. The things that are around us physically changes. Every physical thing is subject to decay and change, wear and tear. But the spiritual things are permanent. So Paul was a visualizer.

Jesus was a visualizer, Heb.12: 2, "*Looking onto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*" He says *who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross*. Do you know when Jesus went to the cross He saw the joy ahead? He saw what was to come. He saw the things that were not happening yet. He saw into the invisible realm. Jesus is a visualizer. Jesus saw the joy that was set before Him. What was that? Those were the visions. Those were the revelation that the Father God gave Him. The Father God showed Him what would happen if He goes to the cross. So Jesus saw all those things that were set before Him. And by seeing that vision He could go through the cross with no problem. Jesus is also a visualizer.

Our Father God is a visualizer. The Bible tells us in Rom.4 how that God calls those things which be not, that means they do not exist yet, as though they were. That means God call those invisible as if they are. He saw them in the spiritual world and He is calling them into existence in the physical world. That is how faith operates. Faith sees the thing already done and created in the spiritual world, and faith holds that vision until it materializes in the physical world. We have to learn how the spiritual world operates. This physical world operates by what is seen physically. But it is the opposite way of functioning in the spirit world. You operate on what is not seen in the physical world, but what is seen in the spiritual world. What is seen in the spiritual world is invisible to the physical world and from this invisible we will change the things that are around you. This is having the right vision To do that the Holy Spirit has to communicate to us. He has to speak to us. For this communication to take place it is important to understand the language of the Holy Spirit. So here is where we began to learn how to apply it.

Illustration: Tom, could you come up. Supposing that he is in the natural realm and I am in the spirit realm and I have to communicate to him. Do you know that spirit have to talk to the flesh somehow? Now if he and I understand the same language, there is no problem. If I communicate to him in English and I say, "Tom go to your seat and bring me your Bible." He does it. Why? There is a communication! His eyes could see, his ears could hear and his hands could hold. So he could get the Bible for me. Now supposing he is deaf and I have to tell him to get his Bible. Now he cannot hear me. So I try to talk to him, 'Tom could you go and bring your Bible and give it to me.' No response! Why? Because I am speaking in a realm that he cannot operate in. He is deaf! So at that realm he cannot hear me at all. I have to somehow reach into the realm that he could understand my communication.

Now you begin to understand why the Holy Spirit is grieved when He tries to communicate to us. The Spirit of God tries to communicate to us and we are deaf to that spiritual realm. We are insensitive to Him in some ways. Think about the difficulty that the Holy Spirit, the blessed third Person of the Godhead, finds in communicating to us the things of God. So if you are deaf spiritually and cannot hear God in certain areas, then it makes it more difficult for the Holy Spirit to communicate to you.

Now Tom cannot hear me at all since he is deaf. So speaking does not work here. So I have to communicate with him in a sign language. So we see the Holy Spirit has to communicate with us in the physical realm in some way. The Holy Spirit has a special language and we have to understand His language. So if you do not tune your spiritual ears, you do not open your spiritual eyes and you do not tune your spiritual senses, it makes it more difficult for the Holy Spirit to communicate to you. The less spiritual senses you have the less sensitivity you have to the Holy Spirit and the more difficult it is for the Holy Spirit and God to get through to you. The problem is not with God. It is with us.

In the spirit world just as in the natural world we have senses. If we all were to leave our bodies right now and go to heaven with our spirit and soul, we will have spiritual senses. In heaven you will hear, in heaven you will see. In heaven you will feel. In heaven you can taste. In heaven you can smell. The five senses you have in the physical realm actually are a type of the spiritual senses. You see the physical was made based on the pattern of the spiritual. There are five spiritual senses and therefore there is five physical

senses. Rom.1 tells us that the things, which God made in the physical, were made in the pattern of what is in the invisible. For we understand what is in the invisible make the visible. Rom.1: 20, "*For since the creation of the world, His invisible attribute are clearly seen being understood by the things that are made.*" So creation was made to communicate spiritual things to us.

Let's say God loves us. So He makes physical things to communicate and reveal His attributes of care and love to us. All that is in the physical is made in the pattern of the spiritual. You have many spiritual senses. How do we know it? Heb.5 says that those who are matured have their senses trained to discern good and evil. Those are referring to your spiritual senses. And I have discovered that we have many spiritual senses.

We have a sense of spiritual ears. *Let him who has an ear hear what the Spirit of God has to say.* So we have spiritual ears.

We have spiritual eyes. That is the area of visualizing we are talking about. Eph.1: 17-18, Paul prays that their eyes may be enlightened.

We have senses of feeling inside us. We can sense the inward witness. We can sense troubles. We can sense peace. We have a sense of spiritual feeling.

We have a sense of spiritual taste. David says *Your Word is sweeter than honey in the rock.* See you develop a taste for the Word.

We have a spiritual sense of smell. The Bible tells us that God smells the aroma of the offering that Noah gave onto Him. After he came out from the ark and God was so pleased that He says He has set a covenant – the rainbow. Philippians 4 says our offering to God is a sweet smelling savor. Just now we worshipped God in giving our love-offerings. None of us physically smell anything but spiritually when the sacrifice is done from your heart, there is a sweet aroma that goes onto God. These are spiritual senses.

So the fewer spiritual senses you are trained in, the more difficult for the Holy Spirit to communicate to you. We have to train our spiritual senses. And the Holy Spirit has a language and unless you understand His language, you cannot understand Him. He can communicate in English and any language in the world but all language comes down to one factor: reality. And pictures communicate reality.

Going back to Tom - I am going to speak in my mother tongue to him and ask him to do something. If he doesn't understand my mother tongue he will not know what I am saying. [Spoken in Chinese, "Give me an egg."] Now he doesn't understand because he speaks a different language. Now I am going to ask Benjamin to come up. I am going to speak in my language and he will translate that in English. [Spoken in Chinese, "Give me an egg."] Benjamin translates to English, "Give me an egg." Now Tom understands me. Now that was what I was saying to Tom. No matter how different our languages are, pictures are universal. See all languages produce pictures.

If I were describing a dog in my language it will produce a same picture in someone who understand the language. If I were to say a black dog, to the hearer who understands the language, they will have a picture of a black dog. If I were to say *anjing hitam* [Malay word for *black dog*], those who understand Malay will have a picture of a black dog. See all language produces picture. The picture is the reality of the word and all the word communicates the same picture.

The language of the Holy Spirit is in pictures. Words are a part of a picture but the final part, source and the end is a picture. If I have a picture of a dog in me and I want to put it into you, I use my words. For

example, I am thinking of something different now, I have it inside of me but it's not inside of you yet. I could bring it to you by words. It's a cat, yellow in color, black stripes behind it, quite naughty in behavior and always is there in your Sunday Star newspaper. You got the word *Garfield*. So I have managed to get the picture into you. What did I use? I have no picture here to show you but I have used words to produce a picture in you.

In the same way, the Holy Spirit uses prophesying in part, the written Word, visions, dreams, teachings and many other ways to communicate the picture to us. His purpose is to get the right vision and the right picture into our hearts that He has for us. As we understand the purpose of languages and words and visualizing, here is where the practical application can apply. Words communicate pictures. You can practically build a vision inside of you by using words. If I use a word to build a picture in you, you could also use words to build a picture inside of you. Words are picture builders and so visualizing will always relate to the tongue.

When we talk about the tongue there are actually two different aspects of the work of words. Let me illustrate it. See in everything in life there is a balancing. We are talking about giving and receiving - we give and we receive; we receive and we give is a continual process. So in the same way, words have two parts of work, two aspects of work, which people don't realize. They think confession is just confession, there are two different aspects.

The first aspect of words is the words building the vision into you.

The second part is that the vision has been formed and you are speaking forth that vision.

See there is a time where you are building the vision into you and there is a time when you are speaking out what the vision is. Both are using your own mouth and your own confession in speaking. The first part I call it building the vision. It is like drawing the vision onto the canvas of your heart using your words.

The other part I call it decreeing. To decree is to command. When God says, "Let there be light," He has already got a picture and He just commanded it. See in Mark 11: 23 when Jesus said, "*Truly I say to you that whoever says to this mountain, Be taken up and cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says happens, he will have it,*" He was talking about the power of decreeing. Now the power of decree is dependent upon the picture in your spirit. *Does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says happens*, means that you must first believe in your heart and then speak with your mouth. That means you already have the picture in you and then you could decree it. The power of decreeing or the command to speak the picture into being can only work when that picture is first in your heart and spirit.

The other is where the picture is not inside you yet and you are speaking words to build the picture into you. That is called meditation. You are speaking the words to form pictures into yourself and what some people make mistakes about the confession of the Word is this. They don't see the difference between meditation and decreeing. Some people who do not have the words and the meditation to form an image properly in their spirit man start decreeing prematurely, "Mountain move!" But it doesn't move and they turn around and say that it did not work. Why didn't it work? "I confessed three times for it to go and it didn't go." Of course it did not go. You did not have it in your heart yet. You are in no position to decree. The only time you can decree is you must have it solid inside you. You must know that you know, to use that phrase. You know it without a shadow of doubt and the way you talk shows that you know that you know that you know, ad infinitum. The vision inside you is solid and you can decree it forth whereas in the other person the vision is still uncertain and is still forming inside.

Let me show you how it happens here in the life of David. 1 Sam.17, see this is how to write the vision into your life, David was sent by his father to the war zone. There was a war going on between the Philistines and the Israelites. David was sent by his father not to fight Goliath but to bring food for his

brothers who were part of the army of Saul. While David was there in 1 Sam 17: 23, *Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them.*

David happened to be there but did not know that he was going to fight Goliath that day. He had no idea at all. He was just there to bring food to his brothers. Of course God planned all this. David heard the rotten words of Goliath. When David heard that, he asked a question in verse 26, *Then David spoke* (now he is using words here) *to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is the uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"*

He said, "What shall be done?" He asked the question. He kept speaking those words because he does not like the Philistine who is a worshipper of false gods to defy the true worshippers of God. He used words. He is speaking words and then in verse 27, *And the people answered him in this manner saying, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him."* And then his eldest brother misunderstood David who went around asking, "What shall be done to his man?" The elder brother heard him and got angry with him and rebuked him because the elder brother was having pride.

In verse 30 *Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones did.* Notice he said the same thing and the people answered him as the first ones and when the words of David were heard, they reported them to king Saul and king Saul sent for him. And then in verse 32 *Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight this Philistine."*

Now between verses 26 to 32, something has happened. You see in verse 26, David never intended to fight Goliath. Between verses 26 to 32, just a few verses, it looks as if he had taken a few minutes. No, it took quite some time. The army was huge. David must have gone around and talked to many, using the same words and kept saying the same words. It was the time of meditation and confession. Between verses 26 to 32 David had made the decision that he will be the man. Did you see that in verse 26 he never intended to fight Goliath? But as he kept asking, "What shall be done to this man who kills this Philistine? They say he shall have the king's daughter. See he keeps talking in the same tone. Something happened, there was a change that was taking place in David's heart until what he asked he believe he could do. See he was just saying to the Israelites hoping to encourage them but nobody took it up. In the end the picture got into him. He can do it. "I will go!" Something happened between verses 26-32 and by the time David faced Goliath he was sure. He starts decreeing.

In verse 43-44 Goliath sneered at him and said, *"Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beast of the field!"*

And David stood. Remember the image was already in him. He starts decreeing and said in verses 45-46, *"You come to me with a sword, with a spear and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."*

He is now decreeing with his mouth. He is now speaking forth what he believes. He is not speaking in order to believe. He is speaking because he believes and I tell you before you go out and face Goliath, you better do your homework first.

David said in verse 37, *"The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hands of this Philistine."* He knew that success was his. Between verses

26 to 32 he has reached a point where he says, "Alright I will be the one." And he has an image locked into him. There is a time when meditation is to get it into your heart, to get a picture and an image into your imagination. That is meditation.

On the other side is decree, you just speak and it comes to pass. They are two different workings of speaking words.

The first area is where we see how to write the vision in your heart. See meditation is to get the vision into you. You could see it clear and strong. God has certain laws on that. David says in Psalm 1: 2, *But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in his law he meditates day and night.* So he meditates on the law of God day and night. God told Joshua the same key in Joshua 1:8. These are all practical application. Joshua 1:8, *This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have good success.*

You want to have good success and be prosperous follow that law. There is no short cut but a daily life event. Meditate on the Word. Speak the Word to yourself. Visualize the Word in you. As you speak, the Word began to write the vision in your heart. The process of meditation on the Word write a vision in your heart. What words are you going to speak? All the words that are in the Word of God. What He says you are – you are. What He says you can do – you can do. Hold your Bible up for a moment and say, "This Bible is the Word of God. I can do what He says I can do. I am what He says I am." See these written words tell you who you are. It tells you what you can do. If He tells you have power over demons, that settles it. Meditate on it. If it tells you, you can lay hand on the sick and they shall recover, that's it. See you must get that vision from the written Word. That is a solid foundation and you can take it everyday and you meditate and speak and say:

The Word of God says that I can lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.

The Word of God says that I have authority to cast out demons.

The Word of God says that I am the righteousness of Jesus Christ and I have been born of God and I do not sin.

See you confess what the Word says you are:

The Word says I am cleansed.

The Word says I am washed.

The Word says I am strong.

The Word says Christ is my wisdom.

You say what the Word says you are. Remember you confess what the Word says about you. Not what people say about you and not what you say about yourself but what God says about you. Some people have a wrong picture of themselves. They either made themselves too big or they made themselves too small. They don't want to see as God sees but we have to see ourselves as God sees us. You begin to have the image of God inside you as you confess that and says what you say you are. Remember you have to say

what you are before you become. That is why you have to have all the foundation of visualizing and then you understand this application. We did not say that you have cast out demons. We did not say that you are already prosperous. But you have to start saying that you are and write the vision inside of you that you are. You have to see that you are before the reality comes. That is meditation. Writing the vision inside of you. Writing clear vision. It comes from the written Word.

The second way it comes is through the spoken Word. The spoken Word can come through the lips of a human being who is yielded to God, maybe a prophet or a brother or sister in Christ. In prophecy or in counselling it could come through the discerning of the voice of the Spirit to you and your human spirit is picking up the instructions of the Holy Spirit in your life. So when you have a good prophecy that is spoken to your life, keep it. Write it down. Don't let it go. If God says to you something to do, write it down and keep it. Never forget those things that the Holy Spirit tells you to do. I would write them down. Some of the things do not come to pass until many years later.

So it's important to hear the Word when God says and speaks. He spoke to me several times about some particular work and I have it very strong in my spirit man. It was clear-cut. He repeats to you very gently and through the weeks it becomes clear. So I know that this is what the Holy Spirit is instructing me to do. Therefore, you have to see it clearly what to do and where to go. All these are the spoken Word, the *rhema*, and the detail. You have the *logos* and the *rhema* that speaks to you.

Now there are sometimes good prophecies that people have spoken to me about my life. I remembered them I have written them. I have noted them down. Sometimes people prophesy certain things over my life but there is not a very strong confirmation but nevertheless it is very positive. I just write it down and keep it. I meditate on those things. So all those things began to form the vision inside of me.

About a month back I said that I have 14 points listed that I believed God has shown me about what to do in this life. I have added 2 more and that makes 16 now. When I have completed all 16 I am ready to go home. So there are the points that are clearer, you have the written Word and you have the spoken Word. You write the vision down and you meditate on the vision.

Now the time of meditation is important. Some of you who hear all these teachings may wonder how to start and when to start. I understand that because I had the same dilemma as a Christian. I always say that these bible teachers teach me what is meditation but they never tell me how to meditate.

The best times of meditation are day and night. Let me qualify that. They are the times spoken of in the Bible and they are the reasons for the time. I give you the reasons for the time later. I give the times now.

Usually the best times for your meditation are when you just wake up before any thoughts come to you. The first thought you have, take what God says that you are. Take what God says that you are to be and to do. Take what you have realized is the spoken Word. Confirm that in your heart. Take the written Word and the spoken Word that tells you what you have to do and meditate on it. You see you set your whole direction. You are setting your life direction. God doesn't give you these messages and prophecies to hang on the wall and put on the bookshelf. It's for you to get it written in your heart because when you have them ingrained into you and programmed into you, that's what you will become.

Many people are not visualizing what God has spoken to them. I have it. I hold the 16 points in my pocket all the time. Moreover, the last thing I do at night, I take it out, meditate, and visualize. Now you will not be able to get all the 16 points just like that. It took me 13 years to get all that out. You may get one or two points. That's good enough. Start meditating on them. Nevertheless, you know to a certain extent what God wants you to do. If you don't have any *rhema* and spoken Word yet, go on the written Word first. I went on the written Word for the first 3 years. I did not know what God has called me to be. What I know is I want to be what the Word says I am and I have a whole file, which I go through once a week of what God says I am. I go through the meditation to get the written vision inside of me. I confess it because what I say will put

a picture in my mind. What I say and meditate releases the power of the spoken words to get the vision written into me.

I have always wondered why God always say to meditate *day and night*. Finally Holy Spirit taught me that since the vision is what you are to become, so every day, what you do in your life must flow with that vision. Therefore, when you start the day you have to check with the vision. When you end the day, you have to end by double-checking how you fulfill the vision. If the vision isn't fulfilled that much, just keep on meditating. Ps.4: 4, *Meditate within your heart on your bed and be still*. Let your last thoughts be thoughts of meditation on the vision before you sleep. Now you do worship also. I do worship but I always refer back to what God tells me I am, what God tells me to do. I want to be faithful to do what God tells me to do on this life. I want to be like Jesus where in John 17 Jesus told the Father and says, 'Father, I have finished what you told Me to do.' Isn't that wonderful? That is the best worship you could give God. I want to make sure I obey what God tells me to do in this life. All of us got different assignments by our Father. You have to discover God's will and meditate on it even on your bed, too.

People don't realize it but many times before they sleep, they watch TV. They see some midnight movie and then they dream. They meditate on the midnight movie, and then when they wake up throughout the day they behave like the midnight movie. No wonder their life is a mess. The constant bombardment of celluloid morality or immorality has sunken deep into them. They end up in all kinds of messy situations.

Your last thoughts before you sleep and the last picture you see must be there which God spoke to you before you sleep. When you wake up these same thoughts and pictures should be the first things on your mind before any thoughts come to your mind. If you live that kind of life, sometime you wake up with a good song for the Lord. Every time I wake up the first thing I think about is Jesus.

Now I understand when God says morning and night.

Deut. 6, He is talking on the aspect of meditation on His Word. He says in verse 6-7, *These words which I command you today shall be in your heart*. Remember what is in your heart is the vision. God wants to write the vision in their hearts. How? Here is how. God says *you will teach them diligently to your children*. That means everything you teach your children must be in line with the Word. *You shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up*. Again, you see that *rising up and lying down*. People don't realize it but that time of your life that your vision can lock into you very quickly is just when you wake up and just when you sleep. This is from the Word of God and it says *you shall bind them as the sign on your head and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes*. You write them all over the house. I know some of you have written the confession on your mirrors. Everyday you look at it. The first thing you see on the mirror each morning is your confession as you wash your face, brush your teeth, comb your hair or shave and say, "Thank You, Lord, I can do all things through Christ who strengthened me."

What I have given you is a practical application of the best times. Now that doesn't rule out the other times. However, you must understand why it is the best time. What causes us to absorb more during those times? If you understand the causes, then you could learn to meditate anytime. This law is found in Luke 8 when I talk about meditating and writing the vision into you. I am not thinking about just silently reading while you just look at the paper and read. Read it aloud to yourself because word will produce images. I just read it aloud. The picture may not be clear. Nevertheless, as I keep reading it out daily, the picture becomes clearer and clearer, and I do it the same way in the evenings too.

Luke 8: 11-12, *Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God. (And you are going to meditate on it. The Word contains power.) Those by the wayside are the ones who hear them; then the devil comes and takes away the Word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved*. The devil stole the image. The devil stole the picture. The devil can steal the image. You can hear in the church what God says you are. You are prosperous, you are healed and all these. You go out and read something else. You go out and hear something else. The image is destroyed and it's stolen. Let me tell you, if Satan cannot steal the words and the image from you, he cannot defeat you. He has to defeat your vision first before he can defeat

you. How does he steal the word? The devil does not come literally and pull it out. No, he sends his darts and his thoughts that are contrary to the vision. He destroyed Adam and Eve that way. He sends contrary words. God's Word says something and the world tells you something else. It contradicts the Word of God to produce a different image so that if Satan could destroy God's image in you he will destroy you. So Jesus says, these are those who Satan has stolen from their hearts. See the heart is where the vision is.

Verse 13, *But the ones on the rock are those who when they hear, receive the word with joy. That means they receive some form of image. To have joy, it must have hit you. And these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.* In time of difficulty they do not allow the vision to sink into them. Verse 14-15 *Now the ones that fell amongst thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with the cares, riches, and pleasures of life and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.*

Now tell me from the parable where does the Word gets to the heart? Now the heart as we have defined is where your imagination is. See the battleground is in your imagination. There are four types of grounds. There is those ground by the pavement. Birds of the air came and eat it. Then there is another ground; takes root for a while then dies off. Another ground, thorns are around you. It cannot grow - choked. The last ground, the good heart. The Word grows and in other gospel, it says it produces thirty, sixty and a hundred fold.

Now in all the 4 grounds is a marvelous thing. It was the same Word. When the first ground failed to produce any fruit, was there a potential of a hundredfold? Yes because the same seed was sown in all. It was the seed of the Word. Now the same seed that was sown on the last ground could produce a hundredfold. If the same seed has been given the same amount of yieldedness in the first ground, it would have yielded a hundred fold too. The Word was the same in both grounds. It's a powerful Word. He did not sow different types of seed or different varieties. It was the same seed. The seed was the Word. The first ground has the potential but it could not come out. The second ground has the potential, it could not come out. The third ground has the potential, it could not come out. The problem is not with the Word. The problem is not in your vision. The problem is the vision did not get into you. See many people have visions. They want to do this and that but the vision did not consume them. The vision was not seen clearly. It was not strong enough to produce. All the four types of hearts have the same Word. Three did not produce because the devil came and gave other types of doubt, causing them not to believe the Word. He says lest they believe. Therefore, they have many doubts.

God shows you something about yourself. You say, "I cannot do it, I cannot do it." Your doubts cause God's hands to be tied and hinders what you can believe Him for. Jesus' hands were tied when He went into His hometown. Here was a man who had the Spirit without measure, went to His hometown and they did not believe so He could not do anything but to only heal a few minor ailments. The power to do a miracle was there but they did not make use of that. When you don't believe something, you are not going to pay much attention to it. You are not going to meditate on it. When you believe what is spoken about you in the Word and what is spoken to you, confirm that in your spirit. When you hear it privately, confirm it in your spirit. Prophecy come to your life you believe it. Hold fast to it day and night. Second type of ground – they had it for a while and let it go. They have it for a while, they rejoice. However, when contradictory winds and persecution came, they quickly let go of their vision. What is persecution? The vision says something and they see something else. They start going by what they see instead of by what God said. They start believing what they see. Like Peter walking on water, he started to sink.

Nevertheless, the third ground is the most interesting in terms of what we are teaching. It says thorns came and choked. Now the ground is the heart. What kind of thorns can be in the heart? Let me tell you. It says here very clearly, *the cares, the anxiety and the pleasures of this life.* In another words, you are spending your time thinking about the world. What are cares? Cares are the things of this life: what to cook, what to eat, what to wear, what to buy, what to invest, shares, businesses, entertainment, movies, children, relationships, worldly pleasures, etc. Your mind is so occupied with worldly things that you have no time to meditate on the Word. Therefore, the Word cannot come out.

Here is where we draw the principle. God knows that the best times to meditate are when you rise up and when you lie down. That is the time when you quieten down from the hustle and bustle, cares and worries, pleasures and leisures of this life. Many people begin to think what is life when they are just about to sleep. What am I doing here? What is my purpose in life? Where am I going? God knows these are the times when you are in a more relaxed and freer mode. Many people have much worries at night before they sleep and also when they rise up. But comparatively speaking there is a sort of rest just before you sleep and just before you wake up and at that quietness God says, "Get My vision into your heart. Meditate and get it written inside."

Moreover, if you understand this principle then you realize that is the reason why God says to meditate on the Word *day* and *night*. People find it hard to meditate and the Word could not come out because their thoughts are not focused on the vision. They are rather more focused on the cares of life or trying to enjoy more pleasures of life. Therefore, they could not meditate on the Word. Most people are just caught up with the cycle of this life. Thousands of things to do everyday. We understand that this life has its cares but you are not going to let all this things bother you. You are going to keep a true heart on what God wants. You could have a quietness of life. This is what I am talking about. You refuse to think of all those things and you think about God. It would be as effective as when you wake up and when you sleep.

You could pull your list out in the afternoon and start speaking the Word. You notice that if you have been looking at figures and numbers the whole morning in your office, when you sit down at lunchtime, the figures are still swirling around your mind. It's not easy but you can do it everyday, for example three times a day. David says in the Psalm, 'I praise God seven times a day.' Daniel in the midst of his busyness as a politician and as a Prime Minister in the book of Daniel, he took time to pray to God three times a day and its people like that, that change the world. They took time to renew their vision and take time to visualize. So be practical start doing that. You may have to write down what you want to confess. Read it every morning and every evening. Read it during the daytime. It takes me only about 1 minute to read all the 16 points that I confess. I am doing this just to let it soak down into me and to let the vision be written down and become clearer and clearer in my heart.

There are times when I specially spend with God to build up the vision. I write down what God says and asks me to speak. Speak it out every morning. It could only be seven sentences for some of you. However, that's a start. Start it in the morning. For example, you could start it in the morning and say, "Thank You Father God, I am Your child and I can do all that You say I am." Let me illustrate with just one little point from Mark. My first point is "Father I thank You that I receive revelation and guidance as to your perfect will in my life here on planet earth." That's a nice confession. Everyone wants to do the perfect will of God. I don't care about anything; I only care about doing His will. It takes me only a few seconds to read it. Point no.10 this I can read to you. "Father thank You for Your grace in my life to function in all the spiritual offices, gifts and ministries that You have called and ordained me to function in." The vision is to align your whole life. Some of you could be called to be evangelist. You could make a confession like this, "Father God, I know I am called to be an evangelist, grant me the anointing, double portion of the anointing to be an evangelist." That's a nice confession.

See your confession will produce a vision in you. Visualizing is not something you have to struggle at. Your confession will gradually build the vision in you until it becomes what I call a sub-conscious part of you. When it becomes that, that is when the decreeing comes, you began to say it, and the mountains begin to move.

8. THE POWER TO DECREE

This Bible is the Word of God. It does not contain the Word of God. It is the Word of God. It changes my life. It changes my heart and it gives me a new vision. I am what it says I am. I can do what it says I can do in Jesus' Name.

We have been talking about visualizing. We were talking about writing the vision in our hearts. We

have covered the ground works. In the last message, we spoke on the practical aspects of visualizing. We have taken off from the point where we said that there are two areas or two parts of confessing the Word of God. There is one where the confession is being made in order to get it written into our hearts. The other is the confession that is spoken out as a decree.

Mark 11: 23-24, *For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says. Therefore, I say to you, "Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you received them and you will have them."* These words of God speak about confession. When we confess we are able to write the vision into our heart.

The other part of confession is decreeing. Mark 11: 23-24 also talks about decreeing. When you decree to a mountain, be gone it is gone. See what happens when we decree is different from meditation. Meditation as we have seen it covers a speaking of words so when we meditate the words are written in to our hearts. Deut. 6 talks about speaking the Word when you are lying down, when you wake up, when you walk by the way and when you sit down, when you rise up. We have seen how Psalm 1 and Joshua 1:8 talks about meditating on the Word of God day and night. That speaks about writing the Word of God and writing the vision down into our hearts.

However, when it comes to decreeing, it is different. When we decree, we pick up from the Spirit of God that which the Spirit of God wants to declare and set a pattern to follow. See that is decreeing. In the same way when Jacob was about to go home, Jacob spoke decrees to every one of his sons and what he spoke came to pass. He said the scepter shall not depart from Judah and the kingly anointing came for Judah. It came to pass.

Many times people who are in the Word of Faith movement, are just confessing the Word all the time. They hear the teaching that what you confess is what you possess. So they confess the Word but they did not possess the promises. Something is wrong. Alternatively, they heard that when you speak to the mountain, it should be gone. Jesus said it, so it has to be true. He said, 'Say to this mountain, "Be thou removed," and it shall be so.' However, it is not true in their lives and we have established the fact in our last message that unless the Word is written in our hearts, unless the vision is written in our hearts we will be unable to decree. They are like two steps, you must have the Word in you before you can speak the decree and it takes a long process to get the Word in. It takes meditation. It has to clear out the doubts. It has to clear out the unbelief and we have to line out lives with the Word before we can decree. We are going to focus more about decreeing and speaking the vision.

Mark 11:23-24, notice in verse 23 Jesus said, *"If you will say to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and **does not doubt**.* That is where most people's confessions fall through because of the doubt in their heart. Now why do they have doubt? It's because the Word is not written into their hearts solidly. The vision is not seen clearly. See the problem is that many times that we do not believe. The problem is not in the acting. The problem is in the believing part. The believing part determines it.

Suppose there is somebody who has 4 hours to live and doctors have given up hope on him and I want you to go and pray over him. In fact, on your way there, he may have died. If I ask you to go and pray for him and work a miracle, would it be easy for you? How will it be easy for you to go and pray for him? You heard the Word of God very clearly, either in vision or audible voice or inner impression but it was so strong that you knew without a doubt. It says, "Thus says the Lord, 'Go down and raise my child Habakkuk from the dead.' You have it confirmed and reconfirmed into your heart that it is the Lord. You don't even have one doubt that it is the Lord. Would it be easy? It would be easy. See what makes it easy or hard? The problem is not so much in the action, but it is in the hearing part. If anyone of you when God has shown you and says, "Go to such and such a place and such and such a house.' This is exactly what you would do and you are sure without a doubt that God has said it. Then it would have been very easy for you to go and do it. No problem, even when you reach there, everybody else is crying and they have just called the undertaker, Habakkuk could be lying in his coffin, and the professional mourners may have started. You knew the Lord

had sent you; you would have boldly gone there and said, 'Open the coffin, and stop crying.' You may send everybody out because when you raise Habakkuk from the dead others may die of fright. You say, 'Habakkuk arise!' Habakkuk arises and the house suddenly becomes emptied of people. They have all fled away, screaming, "It's a ghost." Now that would be very easy and the reason why Jesus could do the miracles of God easily was that His hearing was perfect. Jesus never makes a mistake. All of us make mistakes as we move into the things of God and we improve from time to time but when Jesus heard God He made no mistakes.

Remember one time when Jesus raised the widow's son from the dead. As He was going into the city, the funeral was marching out and when He saw it, He knew that the Father wanted Him to raise the widow's son and in the middle of the funeral procession, He stopped them and He said, "Open the coffin." They opened the coffin. Now where did He get His confidence? It is the assurance that comes from hearing the Word of God. The reason why many people are speaking to mountains and they are not moving is because they doubted in their hearts. We must get the heart established, grounded, rooted in the vision of God, in the Word of God so much so that there is not even one iota of doubt.

Now God has spoken something to some of you. You never had any doubt because you knew God said it but there are other areas of your life that you are still not sure. In those areas, you have to make it sure through the years as we grow in God. We have to establish all those areas of our lives and ministry clearer and clearer that God has asked of us and spoken to us. We are not going to go through much of the principle part, which we have touched on, in the last 4 or 5 teachings ago on this series about visualizing. We are going to focus on the practical side of visualizing now that we have spoken about the vision being written in our hearts. That part is the most difficult. You see, speaking to get the vision written into our hearts is easier but that takes a little bit of time before you are ready to decree to bring it forth. The vision must be written first on our hearts before we can decree it forth. If there is no vision in your heart, how can you decree it? If there is no tea in the teapot, how can you pour tea out into a cup?

Just before Jesus was crucified, He said to His disciples that all of them would be scattered. Peter came and told the Lord with his own lips. 'Though everyone desert you I will not.' Peter said it with his word. Luke 22:33, *Peter told the Lord, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death."* See Peter knew that was a good thing to say. "I will go with you. The rest may fall but I will be with you." Now that was a good confession but the difference was Peter was saying it from his mouth and not from his heart. He was saying it from his head and not from his heart. If your head is aligned with the Word properly but your heart is not aligned, you are in trouble. I am sure you know that. If you could align one wheel of your car and the other is not aligned properly you are in trouble. You won't get a good balance. You have to align your head and your heart. Some people need alignment and the process of the alignment takes the Word. The one who aligns is the Holy Spirit so get hook on Him to align you. Peter has his mouth speaking good things but his heart was not in it and he could not stand when the pressures increased on him and when his words were challenged, he crumbled and went against what he said.

Jesus said you would have what you say if you do not doubt it in your heart. If doubt does not arise, you will have what you say. It will come to pass provided there is no doubt. Moreover, the removing of doubt is the greatest problem in people's life. They doubt too much but this same Peter who doubted the Lord is the same one in Acts 4:21. *So when they have further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done.* Now the Sanhedrin had already threatened them. Now when you use threat you usually use threat to kill, to maim, or to imprison. They repeated this when they found Peter preaching in Acts 5:28, saying, *"Did we not strictly command you not to teach in His name? And look you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine and intend to bring this Man's blood on us."* Then Peter and the other Apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey God rather than man." Now here is the same person but this time he believed. This time his heart was established. This time he was willing to pull through. Sink or swim he was willing to pull through. What was happening is that the vision had been written in his heart and when the vision is written in his heart, he is in a position to decree and speak the vision out.

There are two parts when it comes to visualizing. The first part is to write the vision down in your own heart through confession and meditation. The other part is to declare the vision, speak the vision so that

it comes to pass. We have taught on the other area that as much as you have meditated you must stand and also speak to the mountain. Jesus says you have to speak to the mountain. You have to speak your vision out. Speak and then your vision will come to pass and the more you talk about the vision the more the vision consume you.

Abraham is an example of a man of God who has the vision written and then the vision spoken. The vision has to be written in our hearts before our mouths can speak it. The Lord appeared to Abram in Gen. 12: 4, *So Abram went as the Lord had spoken to him and Lot went with him and Abram was 75 years old when he departed from Haran.* Therefore, Abram was 75 years old but we can say he was 75 years young. Compared to Moses he was young. Moses started his ministry at the age of 80. 40 years in Egypt, 40 years in the wilderness and then came the burning bush and that left another 40 years to go and he went off at 120. Therefore, you are still young. Look at the one next to you and say, "You are still young." Therefore, Abram started at 75. Moses started at 80. Some of you had the privilege of starting at 50. Now God had spoken to him about visualizing.

Here we are in Genesis 13:16, *"I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered."* Now God was helping him to visualize. God brought his attention to the dust and as we have said in the wilderness, one commodity you have in abundance is dust. In the desert, you could see dust storms. Dust is all around and so as he looked at all the dust, he sees the dust as people, children, his descendants. That was in the daytime. Remember God says to meditate on the Word *day and night*, so God has to think of some way to get it into him during the nighttime too. God knew that Abraham really needs a lot of visualizing. God knew that Abraham did not have the vision written properly yet. Gen.15: 1, *"After these things the word of the Lord came to Abraham in a vision saying, 'Do not be afraid Abram, I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.' But Abram says, 'Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus.'"* How many think he is still a doubter. He is still a doubter.

Remember the song that a Christian composer used to sing, "You will never get Abraham blessing with the Thomas kind of faith. The mountain will just stand there every single day." He says that you will never get Abraham blessings with a Thomas kind of faith. Thomas said I have to see in order to believe. Abraham kind of faith is you must believe before you can see. Therefore, the world is full of Thomases. Let me say this Abraham was once upon a time a Thomas. He was, he doubted so that gives you great encouragement to know that he, the father of faith took time to have the vision written into him, the same way for each one of us. Don't despair if your vision hasn't come to pass yet. Don't get discouraged. Some people say, "I confess the promises of God three times a day and nothing has happen." The vision must be written into our hearts clearly.

Remember God has told him in Gen.13, God said, "Abram, I am going to make your children as many as the dust." Moreover, here in Genesis 15 we see, what Abram said to God, 'I am childless.' He did not believe. So God thinks Abraham needs another dose of visualization. I have given you something to visualize in the daytime. Now God took him out at night. God is very patient. Human beings are very impatient. Take a good look at yourself. God had to be patient with you. If He were to be a human being who deals with all our lives, we would have been given up long ago. Therefore, God is very patient with His little child, Abram. Abram said in verse 3, "You have given me no offspring." He still won't believe. Then the Word of the Lord came to him saying, "This one shall not be your heir." Verse 5, the Lord brought him outside. He told Abram look up and Abram looked up he saw the stars and God said, "Abram look, see if you can number the stars." Who can number the stars? Even today, they are still discovering new galaxies and a galaxy is a cluster of stars. Nobody can number them. Abraham looked up and saw all the stars and God said, "See if you can number them?" God put the challenge to him. Of course, he could not and God said, 'Abraham, so will your descendants be.

So now, God has him to visualize in the daytime and God has him to visualize in the nighttime. God has him day and night. Now God has started getting him to meditate on the vision day and night and today it applies to us by meditation. What God has spoken to you, if someone has given you a good prophecy that confirms in your spirit, take it and write it down. Meditate on it. Don't expect it to come tomorrow. Some may, but it takes time to get the vision written into it. Its work - its hard work and that is the part where many visions failed. In heaven many people will be gathered before our Lord Jesus Christ and there will be many

of them who will not be able to fulfill the vision God has intended them to fulfill. The reason is many do not have the vision written clearly in their hearts and mind.

Therefore, God has his daytime and God got his nighttime but there is one more problem - Abraham's wife. God has to get hold of his wife too and Abraham did not communicate to his wife. He himself may have been doing the meditation whereas Sarah has been meditating on a different thing. Gen.16: 2, *So Sarai said to Abram, "The Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.* Abraham did not get this wife to visualize the number of children they would have. So, one day she said that since the Lord did not give her any children, Abraham could beget a child by the maid Hagar. Abraham heeded the voice of Sarah. That also was an act of unbelief if Abraham acted and followed Sarah's voice contrary to God's intention. We can only conclude up that to that point Abraham still had unbelief in his life because he acted in unbelief. Therefore, unbelief must still be inside of him. It took a long time to set that vision written down.

Don't get the mistaken idea that Abraham did not believe at all. He did believe when God first spoke to him. Look at Genesis 15: 6 *And he believed in the Lord and He accounted it to him for righteousness.* What did the Lord promised? Descendants as the stars. The Bible says he believe and God accounted it to him for righteousness but what happen was Abraham's believing was up and down, like any yo-yo Christians. One day up, next day down. Sundays up, Mondays down and Saturday confessing their sins. Abraham's faith was shaky. His belief was overwhelmed with doubt from time to time. The vision says something but the fact shows another. Therefore, the vision and the fact were not in agreement but the fact had to change because the things that are not seen shall change the things that are seen. That's what we have been touching on in Hebrews. That what is unseen shall change what is seen. When God said you are healed - that's it. You can believe it. Abraham doubted. He believed and he doubted. Just like many people. They believe God for something. When they pray they believe for a while and after that they forget it and they doubt and then with encouragement they believe again.

This is a long process. You know how long it took Abraham. Abraham was 75 years old when God first spoke to him about making him a great nation (Genesis 12: 1-4). When he was 99 years old, God changed his name from Abram to Abraham. When his name was changed, it was time to decree his vision. At 75 years old, God told him that he would be a great nation. When he was 99 years old, God told him his name was changed to Abraham, the father of many nations. This is the start of decreeing. By announcing to his wife and Ishmael and Hagar and the herdsmen and servants that his name is Abraham, everyone else was decreeing him as father of many nations when they started calling him, "Abraham, Abraham, father of many nations, father of many nations."

99 minus 75, how long is that? 24 years. 24 years of getting the vision written into his heart. 24 long years then God came to him and God said, "Abraham, it is now time to decree." God says in Genesis 17: 5, *"No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations."* That's when the decreeing starts. God knew that finally the vision has gotten into this heart. After 24 years of getting the word in to him, Abraham finally can decree. Abraham did not get it easy and we are all going to get it the same way. We have to fight the fight of faith. What God says to you, you must see clear. Hold on to the vision. It will come to pass if you don't give up. The vision will not give up but the vision has to work through a human vessel for God to fulfill His purposes on this earth.

I am sure after Abraham had Ishmael, he must have sat around and thought about what God told him. Looking down at the dust and looking up at the stars, he says, "God did say that my children will be like the sand and the stars." I am sure that from time to time, the vision came back and there is a silent period in Abraham's life. The silent period lasted for about 12 years from the time Ishmael was born until Gen.21 when Isaac was born. It is known by bible scholars as the silent years of Abraham and it was pointed out that the silent years are pointing to Abraham's act of unbelief when he had Ishmael conceived by Hagar. Nevertheless, through those years as he sees Ishmael growing up he must have asked, 'Is this the one? Cannot be because God has said, 'Your offspring.' Finally, after 25 years, God came and said in Gen. 21: 1 *And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken.*

Now just before that. Let's look at the name-change. Genesis 17 that's when the name-change took place and just to let you know the date is in verse 1. Abraham was 99 years old. *The Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am Almighty God, walk before Me and be blameless and I will make My covenant between you and Me and will multiply you exceedingly.'* Then Abram fell on his face and God talked with him, saying, "As for Me, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations." Verse 9, *As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. This is My covenant which you shall keep..'*

And then in verse 15-16, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name and I will bless her and also give you a son by her, then I will bless her and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her." Verse 17 *Abraham fell on his face and laughed and says, 'Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?'* Look at Abraham, there is still a little doubt there.

How many know that God is not too late? God is not too late. If there is any delay, it's because of me. What was the delay? Abraham was laughing. His laughing shows a small indication of some unbelief. 'I am 100 years old. Now Lord, you just came too late.' Sometimes some people like to talk that way to God. When Jesus met Martha and Mary, Lazarus's sisters, Lazarus had died and both Mary and Martha said the same thing. They said, "Lord, You are too late. If only You had come a little bit earlier." God is never too late. He is always on time. He is punctual. You can add this into your list. God is love, God is light, God is power, and God is punctual. When it comes to answering, He is never late. He is right on target. Even right now the church of God in the world is right where God is working His will out.

Then God mentioned about changing his name in verse 5, *'No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be called Abraham. For I have made you.'* Notice the past tense that we have covered. Visualizing is always seeing what is to come as a past tense. We have noted that there's a special Hebrew language that bible scholars struggle with that because God always use the past tense for the future. It reveals God nature. Calling those things, which be not as though they were. Well Abraham was 99 years old and God changed his name. Why did God change his name? Because your name is something that you speak frequently and the others call you frequently. Your name is the confession of what you are called to be repeatedly and that is why it's important when you choose a name, you hear from God what He wants you to be called. If you have a name like Dumbly Bell, I would suggest you change it or if your name is like Rascal, I suggest that you change it because it's something that everybody calls you. Can you imagine everybody calling you, "Rascal, Rascal?" Eventually you end up as one.

Therefore, God changed Abraham's name and got him to decree. See the name means *father of many nations*. Sarah means *mother of many nations*. God started getting them to decree. It took a process but now the vision is solidly grounded in their hearts. In Genesis 18, God has to deal with the wife too. One day while Abraham was entertaining the angels, in verse 9 -10, "They said to him, 'Where is Sarah your wife? And he said, 'Here in the tent.' In addition, He said, 'I will certainly return to you according to the time of life and behold Sarah your wife shall have a son' and Sarah like most women was listening in the tent. She was supposed to be hidden and she was listening very carefully to the conversation because these are honored guests. They are God and his angels and in verse 12 *Sarah laughed within herself*. When she heard that like most women, she gave herself away and in verse 13, The Lord said to Abraham, "Somebody is laughing here." *God says, 'Why did Sarah laugh and say shall I surely bear a child since I am old? Is anything too hard for the Lord?'* Moreover, in verse 14 God said, "At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

The New Testament has something to say. It says in Rom. 4: 19-20, *And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body already dead since he was about 100 years old and the deadness of Sarah's womb too.'* Now Romans 4 tells you something. It did not point to Abraham when he was 75 but it points to Abraham 100 years of age. Because it is towards that time when he was 99 that God spoke and changed his name and from that time onward something had happened. The vision had a hold on Abraham until he knew that God says it, that settles it and Abraham reached a point where he started to decree, "I am Abraham. I am what He says I am. I can do what He says I can do. I am the father of many nations." He reached a point where he started speaking with the power of decreeing.

See a decree is usually given as a commandment. It is like a king who sends out a decree and makes a declaration. It's no more meditation now, it's decreeing, speaking to the mountain. Moreover, it records for us here in Rom. 4 *he did not consider his own body or the deadness of Sarah's womb*. It says in verse 20 *he did not waver*. Now you and I can see the whole story here that they had wavered for 25 years - they wavered. Like the waves of the sea and James chapter 1 tell us that if, any man asks anything from the Lord, let him not doubt. A double-minded man couldn't receive anything from the Lord and that includes Abraham because God's Word never changes. If the Word of God says, a double-minded man couldn't receive anything from the Lord, that means whether it is Abraham who is double-minded or Isaac or even if it were Jesus Christ, if they had been double-minded on this earth, they would not have received anything. Thanks be to God, Jesus was not double minded. He was single mindedness. He knew what God said, He did what God told Him to do without doubting, and Abraham came to the point where he no more had a double mind. He had a single mind. What God says that's it. He was 99 years old when he started speaking, calling and decreeing what God has told him. The Bible says Abraham did not waver.

It took Abraham about one year of not wavering. From the time Abraham's name was changed when he was 99 years old to the time Isaac was born when he was 100 years, he was decreeing his name as father of many nations and unwavering in his faith. Here is where the key is. It takes only a short time for a baby to come out from the womb but it takes about 9 months for the baby to grow in the womb. See the carrying of the vision takes time. Being pregnant with the vision takes time. Let the vision grow in you as you meditating and speaking the vision out day and night. You are visualizing it and seeing it. It grows in you and then the speaking is where delivery comes. You start decreeing the vision. It took Abraham about one year to decree that he is the father of many nations. That is a ratio of one is to twenty-five. 25 years of writing the vision down. One year of decreeing got the result but the decreeing is based on having the vision. So there is no short cut. You have to meditate and get the Word into you.

The interesting point is that when they started speaking the Word, some things started changing. Earlier in Genesis 15 God has given the promise to them that "*one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.*" (Gen 15: 4) In Genesis 17, God changed their names to Abraham and Sarah. For the next three chapters, Abraham started calling his wife, "Sarah, Sarah, mother of many nations." Sarah called her husband, "Abraham, Abraham, father of many nations." Since God changed their names, they were calling each other that and that was when something started happening to their bodies. The day they started decreeing, the change started happening. The truth started blowing apart the temporal facts. See we said that the truth would blow apart the facts that are not in line with the Word. God's Word says that, 'You shall be a father of many nations' but the fact says, 'I am old, 100 years and Sarah's womb is dead.' The facts do not agree with the truth, the truth became spoken, and it starts blowing apart the facts. Abraham's body started becoming younger and Sarah started becoming younger - the reverse process is taking place. He has to have a normal body and she has to have a normal womb. Something has to happen. Resurrection power was flowing into them. I see some of you older ones suddenly brightening up. It started changing Abraham's body. It started changing Sarah's body. Everyday when Abraham look at Sarah, she has gone prettier and every time Sarah looks at Abraham, she said, 'Abraham what's happening to you? You are growing younger.'

The reverse process started happening so much so that in chapter 20 when Abraham made a trip to Gerar, King Abimelech took a fancy for Sarah. Now Sarah was about 10 years younger than Abraham. If Abraham was about 99 Sarah would have been about 89 years old, yet when King Abimelech saw Sarah he said, 'Wow!' In addition, because she was so beautiful now, Abraham said, "She is my sister." Have you ever heard today of a man who fell in love with a 90-year old young woman? There is hope for some of you here. Get the power of God here. I tell you, your confession works. So this Abimelech said, 'Wow she is pretty' and he took her. He asked, "How old are you?" "90," but he heard "19" instead but she was 90. Something started changing and that is when we can see that God has to do something. You know what God did? God threatened to judge Abimelech and his nation unless he releases Sarah. Why is this so? It is because Sarah is now capable of conceiving. He has to protect the seed.

However, the wonderful thing that we can get from this story is that the decreeing power started working. Decree what is to take place. You have to write the vision, you have to speak the vision, and we have said last message that in the writing of the vision, you have to many times write it down and meditate

on it. Write down and meditate. My confession file is thick and I have a small list of confession to do everyday that I carry in my pocket all the time and I take it out in the morning. I take it out in the night. I meditate on the Word. I get the vision written on my heart to get it to grow. See when faith grows the vision grows within you and all the other time when you are visualizing, there is something you must do. You must pray it forth. You must, what I call, birth it forth. Moreover, that takes a special power that God has already given to you but has not been utilized.

Paul the apostle says in I Cor.14: 4, *'He who speaks in a tongue edify himself but he who prophesy edify the church.'* Now there is a lot of truth there but I want to focus on one. He who speaks in tongues edifies. The word *edify* comes from the Greek word *oikos*, which a word that means house and so is like establishing, building a house. He who prays in tongue builds, builds, God has given us a language of prayer in tongues. That language can build you up.

Now very quickly, just to have a few references - in Colossians 2: 10 the word of God says, *'You are complete in Him who is the head of all principalities and power.'* Now that is the word of declaration. That is the objective truth. You are complete as far as God sees you.

Now you look at Colossians 4 in verse12, *Epaphras, who is one of you a servant of Christ, greets you, always laboring for you in prayer, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.* You see, God says you are complete. That is what God call those things as be not as though they were and then you need prayer - Epaphras prayed for that perfection to be birthed in the Colossians.

The prayer language is so important that God has given you. We are talking about the practical application. See in Romans 8 talks about an imperfect world. The creation is groaning and the things that are not in line with the word. Then he talks about prayer, groaning. You have within you a powerful force that God has released when you are baptized in the Spirit - the prayer language that builds and edifies. Now this is what it specifically does.

In Jude 20 says, *But you beloved building yourself up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.'* I Cor.14: 14-15, *If I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays.'* So we know it's connected to praying in tongues - praying in the Spirit. It says building yourself up on your most holy faith. The word *build* is the same word that is used in I Cor.14 just now edifies and the same Greek word to build you up.

Now I have studied that word because I was experiencing it during my visualizing. I visualize the vision in a clear-cut way and as I pray in tongues for what I see crystal clear, I am praying it forth. I asked God, "Lord, show me clearly in the scripture where it says that I should be praying in tongues as I visualize the vision of what you gave me." As I study that, I began to find that is what the Holy Spirit is showing. He says, "This is exactly what you are doing and this is what My Word says that you are building.' We are talking about the practical part. What you must do is you must take what God says in the vision. You must sit down, see it clearly, and pray in tongues over it and building the vision up into you. If God calls you to be an evangelist, you must see yourself as an evangelist. Receive that from the Holy Spirit, pray it forth in tongues, and see it clearly. That is building you up.

Don't misunderstand Jude 20, *But you, beloved, building yourself up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.* It did not say that praying in the Holy Spirit is building your faith. It did not say that. Praying in the Holy Spirit is building *you* up. Any English teacher will tell you that the subject is not faith. The subject is self. I Cor.14 also praying in tongues edify himself. Jude 20 the subject of the word build is self, building yourself and not your faith because faith does not come by praying in tongues. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. You don't get faith by praying. You get faith by hearing the Word of God. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Rom.10: 17 the only way you can get faith is by the Word.

Now look at it very carefully. It says you build yourself on your most holy faith. You must see carefully in the context of all that we have spoken so far. Let's take this Bible to be faith. Now what is faith? Heb.11: 1 tells us that *faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*. Heb.11: 1 is the definition of faith in the Bible. All the rest teach about faith. Nevertheless, the Bible defines faith. You see a definition is something that says what is so there's where it defines faith. It says faith is the substance that is the spiritual substance. Substance of things hoped for, the future, it is the substance now. Just like the seed in the plant. If I take an apple tree now and I bring the seed here, I say inside this seed is an apple seed, you may not believe it but when it is planted and grown, an apple tree will come out. So faith is a substance, faith is the seed of the things to come. Faith is the gene or the DNA of what is to come. Faith is what is to come. It is a real substance now. You receive it now in seed form of what is to come. If you will nourish it properly, it will bear fruit.

We have read in the last message about the parable of the sower and the word. There are 4 types of ground. What makes the difference? The ground, which is the heart, is the one that makes the difference and not the Word. The same Word was sown into all the 4 types of ground, some of the grounds choked the Word, and some of the grounds didn't bear fruit. All have received the same powerful Word. All the 4 grounds had the potential of yielding 100 fold. So the Word is the substance and faith is the substance of things hoped for evidence of things not see. That means faith is the spiritual evidence that you have of physical things to come. Heb.11: 3 *By faith we understand, (that is, by this substance of the things hoped for, the evidence of things notes) that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which are visible (that is, by what is invisible).*

Let's look at it very carefully. It says faith; don't look at it as just a word, look at it as a substance. That substance is your vision. Remember faith sees, faith speaks, faith rests, faith stands, focusing on faith sees. Faith visualizes it; see the things to come and so that is faith the substance of your vision. The substance of things to come in your life is the substance of the future that is given to you in vision and written upon your heart. Therefore, in Jude 20 "your most holy faith" means the substance of the vision given to you by God. Jude 20 says when you pray in the spirit you build yourself on your most holy faith. It did not say when you pray in tongues you get this and that but it says when you pray in tongues you build. You are building up all of your being in order to fulfill the vision God has given you. See self is made up of many parts. Just as the physical body is made up of millions of cells and many organs that function separately, your soul or your self has many parts. It has an intellect; it has an emotion. It has many areas within each one and so when you pray in tongues it takes every part of you and brings every part of you to that vision.

Now the closest I can illustrate this is Psalms 107: 20 *He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions*. When you meditate on the Word, healing comes. What happens when as an old organ, for example, a sickly heart is healed? A heart is made of many tissues and different cells so the Word of God causes new cells to be formed. The old ones are removed. New ones are formed part by part. It can happen instantly so that a new organ or new tissues are miraculously created. Supposing there are many parts of your body that are sickly. Then you need to meditate on the Word and the Word of God will give you health, life and strength from day to day, and so all your cells are renewed until it taste perfect health.

Now in your soul or your self, there are many parts of your soul that are not flowing with the Word of God. Many parts in your soul are not in line with the will of God for your life, which is the vision of God. By praying in the Spirit, you take of your self and you build it on your most holy faith. That means the vision of God for your life. The faith of God is the substance of things to come for your personal life. See when you pray in tongues you take your self and you build your self on the Word. You take your self and you bring your self to line up with the vision. The day comes when all of your soul, all of your self comes perfectly in line with that vision. Your vision can just flow out through your soul and physically it starts manifesting. That's the practical aspect.

Therefore, the next time when you pray when you visualize, pray in tongues to build that vision up. We have said that you have to do things in line with the Word. You cannot visualize anything outside the Word or against the commandments of God. You visualize that which is for you in the will of God. That is the

general view here. You can discover a specific view of your vision through your prayer time with God everyday as you visualize, confess, meditate and get it written into you. As you pray in tongues, you see that vision. See the vision could be a distance from you but as you pray in tongues, you and the vision become one. At first, you have the vision. Then the vision has you. When the vision has you now that is when the decreeing comes. You speak and the power flows to make it come to pass. Many people have the Holy Spirit but the Holy Spirit does not have them. Many people have the vision but the vision did not have them. That's the difference because when the vision consumes you, you will be like Paul. He says, "The Lord our God constrained me. Woe is me if I don't preach the gospel - I just have to go. The vision consumes me day and night." The vision so consumed him that he was able to go through the persecutions, through death threats, through shipwrecks, lashes, imprisonments and a host of other opposition.

When the vision consumes you, that is when it is ready to come forth. That's the practical part of visualizing. I am afraid many of God's people are not making use of their prayer language. They are baptized in the Spirit. They pray 15 minutes a year. They don't take advantage of the power that God has released - the supernatural ability to bring yourself to line up with the Word of God by praying in the Spirit. See by hearing you get the Word into you. By praying in tongues you get yourself into the Word. It is a beautiful combination. By hearing the Word and praying in the Spirit as you visualize your vision, your vision will come forth and materialize to the glory of God and the building up of the body of Christ.

9. NURTURING VISION THROUGH DESIRE

Hebrews 11: 1 *Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* The substance of faith comes from hope. Without hope, faith cannot exist also. They are related but hope and faith are two different forces. In this message, we will conclude our series on visualizing and its important for us to know that what we see with the eyes of faith is actually what we have hoped for. Without hope, you cannot have faith. If faith is the substance of things hoped for, then faith comes through hope. Hope is in the future but faith is in the present. Therefore, what happens is faith reaches out and takes hold of hope and brings it into the present. It has hope in embryo form. It has hope as a seed. It has hope as a substance and we call the substance *yetzer* - the vision that is in our heart - the substance that faith had taken hope. In faith, there is no time span. Therefore, faith could reach out into the future. What God has shown in your life, get a hold of the seed or embryo of it, and right now begin to nurture it in the present in vision form.

Now the vision is very gentle. We are talking about the practical application of the vision. It's important for us to realize that the vision you have is very gentle. It is very fragile, just like a new born infant. The bones are tender, the skin is soft, all you have to do is to press with one hand, and you could have easily fractured an infant. However, for most of us who have grown to be adults our bones have hardened. Therefore, we have to treat the seed and the infant with care. A little bit of doubt or unbelief will cause everything in the future to be spoilt. Today scientists have even map out the entire gene directory of a human being. If they could alter the gene, they could alter the adult or whatever the gene is going to become. It is so fragile that one tiny injury to the embryo could mean a lifetime of handicap.

I want to share in the practical aspect of how to bring the vision about. We have talked and concluded last week about praying in tongues. How we can bring that vision forward in tongues and so there is an aspect of what we call, desire. Say, "I will desire the things of God with all my heart, my entire mind and all my strength." Desire is in different degrees. Here we are talking about the seed of the vision and the desire that we need to have to bring it forth. Many people have vision, very bona fide, vision from God but it cannot work out because they did not put desire to the vision.

Turn to Proverbs 13:12, *Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.* Remember faith is the substance of things hoped for. Now it says *hope deferred* - that means when the hope or something you hoped for is postponed depression and discouragement come. Something that you hope did not turn up. Your spirit of confidence becomes broken. It says, it makes the heart sick. Remember we talked about vision is in your heart. The heart is a part of you that visualizes and sees. So, when there is no hope, when there is no vision in the heart, the heart becomes sick, depressed, and

aimless.

The next verse says *but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life*. See the vision you have is a seed, not a tree yet. The vision you have is an embryo, it's a seed not a plant or a tree yet. You need to add desire to your vision to make it a tree - a tree of God's life. Vision must be nurtured by desire. Your desire can be in different degrees. Some people desire something to that extent that they would give all their time to it. Some people desire it so much that they isolate themselves to concentrate on the desire to fulfillment and some people desire to upgrade their ambition so much that they cut off fellowship from others. See desire propels a person's commitment. Desire causes us to spend less time on things that are not profitable to the fulfillment of the vision. If you have a vision of God and if God has spoken in prophecy or in any form of what you are to do, you need to add desire to bring it to pass. Now desire comes from us and it can come from God. The Spirit of God plants spiritual desires and the desire will cause the seed to become a tree of life. It causes your hope to be realized instead of deferred and when these desires are realized, they are manifested. Unless we get so hungry and thirsty after what God has said in our life to come to pass and put all our being into that vision, it will not come to pass.

The Bible says in Heb.11: 6, *Without faith it's impossible to please God. For those who come to Him must believe that He is and that He is the rewarder of them who seek Him diligently*. Desire enables you to be diligent in the vision and to cut off what is not edifying. Many things are lawful, nothing wrong with doing them but they are not expedient. That means it has nothing to do with your vision. There are many things in my life that I enjoy doing. However, because they are not expedient to the ministry I cut them off in order to fulfill the vision. All of us only got one life. We got only 24 hours a day. If you spend 24 hours on different things each hour, you will dissipate your strengths and your desire but if you spend it all on that vision, it brings the vision to pass. The concentration of all your spirit forces, all your soul forces, all your body forces are in that vision. Moreover, it will enable that vision to grow into a tree of life. When desire comes it is a tree of life. I like the way the Bible compares it to the tree of life, which was planted in the Garden of Eden. A tree, which gives life, bears fruit.

There are many things that I enjoy doing that I do not do. I either do not do them or I cut down on them in order to fulfill the vision. I spend more time on the Word and on prayer. For example, I like playing chess. I was a chess maniac. In fact, I was so chess mad that one of my ambitions was to be a grandmaster. I love playing it and I enjoy playing it but it is something that is not expedient. It will not help me in the ministry because I cannot play chess with the devil. He may have the black pieces and I have the white pieces but what is the point? He does not play chess that way and so I cut down on those areas. Some of you, it may not be chess. It could be your football so instead of kicking the football, learn to kick the devil, which is a more interesting game. Spend your time on the priority item. Your desire must come forth. The desire for God and for the Word of God consumed me. Therefore, I gave my beautiful chessboard away. There are many things that all of us enjoy doing. They are lawful and the Bible did not say, "Thou shalt not play football." Hold it there. Do not go overboard. I did not say thou shalt not have some games or exercise but when it consumes your passion and takes your desire, then you give little room for God's vision to consume you. Do you know that in this life you can have only one solid direction to go? Then you have dissipated your energy into the wrong end. You can go swimming occasionally. However, when that consumes your life it will bear the wrong fruit and the wrong tree. Moreover, it will defer your hope. It will defer your vision. In fact, it may not only postpone, it may nullify and cancel your whole vision from fulfillment. Therefore, we have to realize that desire must come forth in order for the vision to be fulfilled.

Jesus held on to His vision by desire. See desire helps you to hold on to your vision. Jesus is still holding on to that today. In His prayer He says in John 17: 24, *'Father, I desire, [notice the word desire], that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me for You love Me before the foundation of the world.'* Jesus desired us to be with Him. Now He is interceding for us. Why is He able to intercede with great desire and vision for us? It is because of His desire.

See the gospel of Luke 22:15 at the conclusion of His ministry. See Jesus held on to His desire to finish His ministry. He says in John 17 that He has finished the work, which the Father has given Him. Now in Luke 22: 15, *Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."* Do you know that all the 30 years in His early life before His ministry and all the 3 years of

His life in the ministry, He was looking forward to that day? He was desirous for that day. See His desire consumed Him and directed His vision. The desire is like the railway track on which the train runs on. It builds the track and causes you to be on target. Desire must be built up. It is our responsibility to build desires in our life.

It may help you to understand on the negative side how desire comes. See God told me one time when I was trying to help Christians overcome bad habits in their lives and weaknesses and helping them not to fall into temptation. God said there are 4 steps to temptation. The first step is the thought. The second step is the imagination. The third step is the desire. The fourth is the action. Therefore, God told me to tell His people and said if any Christian wants to overcome temptation that they face in their life, they have to overcome it within the first two steps. By the time it reaches the third level, it is very difficult to overcome because the desires are now flowing in the wrong direction. Moreover, the desires now love the sin. So by step three or step four they need someone to stay close to them to help them not to fall into sinful actions. Desires are something that you feed. If you do not feed those desires, you do not have those wrong imaginations, those wrong thoughts, the desire began to starve and die off but if you keep feeding them on the wrong things, they would grow. Lets say a person who has a weakness for lust; the devil tempts the person with wrong lustful thoughts. The person reads pornographic books. He feeds the desire and then what happens is that the desire will grow. It grows stronger and the action becomes harder to resist. It becomes hard not to act in that direction. You will always act in what you desire. That is on the negative side.

So what a person has to do he must starve his doubt and feed his faith. Starve the temptation and feed your faith by reading the Word of God. Make quality decisions. Don't waste time on those wrong thoughts, wrong imaginations and if you need help you have to get a Christian brother or sister to discipline you. Tell him or her, "Watch over my life. Make sure I do not go into all those areas. You just discipline me and put me through that boot camp for one year." When you come out of it, you will be different. See God says the people of God will overcome temptation within the first two steps that the devil throws at them, it is very easy to overcome the temptation. The desire has not come yet. But when the desire is conceived, it is very hard to set a person free. It takes time by meditation on the Word.

On the positive side is the same. The Word of God comes in thoughts. You meditate on the Word. You see the Word. You imagine the Word both *logos* and *rhema* and as you imagine it long enough the desire drops into you and it becomes easy for you to do something. That is where meditation comes in. See every time we read the Bible, we hear it saying that you must love, love, love. Then the next day you read, "You must be holy, holy." Then the next Sunday the preacher tells us that you can be healed. A person hears all these things and do not have enough time to meditate on the Word. That person knows what they ought to do but they cannot do it. You know you ought to but you have no desire to do it. So the struggle in Christian life comes in. How many of you have any problem doing what you desire? You will have no problem and no struggle doing what you like and desire. The reason why your Christian life struggle is because you know you ought to do something but you do not desire to do it. Desire is not there so you need to meditate on the Word, pray in tongues and then as you focus on it long enough, the desire drops into you. When desire drops into you, it becomes easy to do it.

The Bible says that you shall love one another. You take the meditation scriptures on love and confess on love every day. The first thing when you wake up and the last thing before you sleep, you confess all the scriptures on love. After for about 3, 4 months suddenly you find that you love to love. It becomes a part of you. It has built desire into you. Action is easy when the desire is there. The Word and the vision can nurture desire. See the vision and the Word will put desire in your heart. Some of you have a ministry and a call. Every time you are in an evangelistic meeting or in a service, the desire for the ministry grows strong again. Sometimes when you are at home or you are at work, the things of the world cloud you out. The desire seems to grow less that is why it is important to spend as much time as possible on the Word or meetings. It builds desire in your life. It comes to a point where the desire is so strong that it consumes you day and night. By this time, you are close to manifesting what you see. See when you desire it strong enough, long enough; you are close to the vision being burst forth in your life.

Now let me take an example from the Bible that speaks about different area but is related in principle. Lets talk about the gifts of the Spirit and the anointing of God. I Cor. 12 after Paul listed the 9 gifts

of the spirit and the ministry of God, he concluded with the last verse. Do not ever forget the last verse. *'But earnestly desire the best gifts and yet I will show you a more excellent way'*. Then he talks about love. Turn to the one next to you and say, "Earnestly desire the best gifts." Now how does he fit in with what he says? In chapter 12 verse 7 he mentions, *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all*. Now what is a manifestation? A manifestation is something that is in the Spirit and that becomes tangible to the 5 senses. That is what a manifestation is. A manifestation is something in the Spirit that becomes manifested in the physical realm. It is a manifestation that becomes perceivable and audible. Therefore, it will be manifested in your soul realm. From the spirit realm it gets into your soul realm, it gets into the physical realm. The manifestation of the Spirit is given to everyone but the Spirit of God has a certain level of desire before He performs in manifestation. Some of you desire to prophesy but unless the desire to prophesy consumes you, you will never prophesy. Some of you desire to function in the gifts of the Holy Spirit in healing but unless the desire consume you, you will never manifest. That is why after Paul taught them about the gifts, he says, "But earnestly desire the best gifts." Unless you desire it cannot come forth. See desire must flow to a certain level.

Its just like if I have a radio that runs on a 220-volt and I plug it into a power point that supplies only 110 volts. The radio will not run. Why because the voltage is too low. Alternatively, if I have a radio that runs on battery and it runs on 5 volts. After using the radio for sometime, it reaches a point when the radios stop functioning. Why, because the batteries have run dead. In other words, the voltage has gone too low to impart a manifestation on the radio. The radio could not pick up the radio signals any more. The radio signals are in the invisible realm. The radio picks up the radio signals and converts them to sound signals, which are what we can hear and perceive, but the voltage is too low for all the different electrical components to function, to bring the radio waves and convert them into sound waves. If you put in new batteries then it starts again. What happens? There must be a certain level of voltage before the radio start working.

Likewise, there must be a certain degree of spiritual voltage before the Spirit of God manifest and that is why Paul said, "But earnestly desire." Now what is that voltage? It is your hunger and desire after the things of God. In proportion to your hunger and desire, God is able to manifest your life. See the desire and the manifestations are related. The manifestation is tied to your desire. Now he repeats the same things again in I Cor.14: 1. After he talked about love, he says, *"Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts but especially that you may prophesy."* Then you have it again he says, "Desire it, hunger for it, thirst for it so that it may come forth in your life." There will be no manifestation of your vision if you do not add desire in. That is why fasting and prayer help. Fasting and prayer are indications of your desire. Spending time with God helps because it is an indication of your desire. Your desire factor must rise to a certain level before God can manifest.

See God can do many things. One of the keys to the anointing of God functioning is the desire level, the faith level and the need level. For example, if you are preaching to a congregation that is 100% Christians, there is no point for God to manifest an evangelistic anointing on your life. There is no point to preach an evangelistic message where everybody is a believer. The evangelistic anointing will not be manifested because the need is not there. Sometimes the need is there but the desire is not there. For example, it could be in a place where nobody cares about the lost, nobody intercedes and travails for the lost and could not care. It is just a place where they play church, where church is a society game. You just attend for social status. What can happen is that there can be a need, but there is no desire level. When there is no desire level, there is also no faith level, so the anointing does not manifest. The manifestation depends on the desire and in your own private life the vision in your heart, in your mind and in your imagination can only be manifested when your desires for that vision consumes you. You having the vision is something but the vision having you is another. It is only when the vision consumes you that it is ready to burst forth.

See Paul have many desires in God. Moreover, one of his desires was to go into Rome and to Spain. The Spirit of God has written a vision in him but it was not fulfilled yet. Let me show it to you in Rom. 15. Some of you have received visions but in the end, you have to desire to see the vision fulfilled. It could be an inner vision, a direction to your life but it all must come to this one thing, desire. Remember that the book of Romans was the only epistle that Paul wrote to a church that he did not plant. Paul had never been to Rome before. It was the only epistle he wrote to a group of people whom he had not met. He did not plant the church in Rome. He had not preached the gospel in Rome. But Paul wanted to visit them. When Romans was written, it was written at the peak of Paul's third missionary journey. It was written from Ephesus somewhere about Acts19. If you read Acts 19 it tells you how Paul stayed about 3 years, 2 years in the

school of Tyrannus and another year just ministering the Word before that. He spent 3 years in Ephesus. During the 3 years there that was the time, he wrote to the Romans and he says in Rom.15: 23, "*But now no longer having a place in these parts and having a great desire these many years to come to you.*" See God was the one who has put the vision in his heart to go to Rome and together with the vision was the desire. Now the desire was building in his life. The desire has increased. It was a great desire. Who gave that to him? The Holy Spirit! Some of you have good desires in line with the Word. They come from God and those desires need to be nurtured. See Paul nurtured the desire. In verse 22, he says, "*I have been hindered.*" Some of you have vision but your vision has encountered hindrances. Like Paul, you want to fulfill that vision. He wanted to go to Rome but he was being hindered. There was hindrance all along the way. The time of the vision was not yet.

Remember when God say, "Today," His "today" can be a 1000 years away. To give you an indication of that, when Samuel has told Saul, after Saul has disobeyed and given the unlawful sacrifice, Samuel said to Saul that now God has chosen somebody else to replace him (I Sam.) Samuel told king Saul that God has chosen someone who is a man after his heart. Although Samuel says, "Now," it took many years before David was anointed and it took nearly 37 years before he went to the throne. It was the third year of Saul's reign when Samuel told him that God has rejected him from being king and yet Saul continued reigning for the next 37 years, making a total of 40 years on the throne. Moreover, later on when Saul did not obey God and he did not kill the Amalekites but spared their sheep and flock, Samuel rebuked him for disobeying God. As Samuel was walking away, Saul tore Samuel's coat. When he tore it, Samuel turned around and said, "Today God has torn away from you, your kingdom and given it to your neighbor.' Now the word "today" was fulfilled nearly 37 years later. So please understand and do not be impatient when God gives you a vision. It will come to pass if you will hang on to it. Hold on long to it. The vision shall come to pass, provided you do not give up your desire. You hold strong onto the desire and the desire will build in you.

See desires take time to build. Desire takes time to grow in you and it can grow like Paul's. He wanted to go to Rome. It was God's perfect will and it was fulfilled not in the way he wanted it. In fact, he did get to Rome. Acts 28 said he finally reached Rome. Acts 19, he wanted to go there but Acts 28 he finally reaches Rome after many years of imprisonment, many years of trial, problems with the Jews. Finally, he reached Rome and along the way, Jesus appeared to him. While he was in Jerusalem Jesus said, 'Paul you will go to Rome.' Look at Acts 23:11 while he was in prison in Jerusalem, it looks like he will forever be in prison and the vision to go to Rome can never be fulfilled. But Jesus appeared to him in Acts 23: 11 and said, "Be of good cheer." You see Jesus is never discouraged. You may doubt but Jesus will never doubt. He said, "Paul as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem so you must also bear witness in Rome." Jesus says, "You shall go to Rome." If you read carefully, Paul was still in prison for a couple more years. However, he never forsakes his desire. He never forsakes that vision because the vision was built with great desire. Moreover, if you have great desire together with your vision, come what may, come storms, come hindrances, if you hold on to it, God will bring it to pass. If you do not give up, God will not give up. The seed will grow forth when desire come. It shall be a tree of life. It shall blossom where it is planted. Desire comes it shall burst forth as a tree. Therefore, I encourage you to nurture that vision.

A vision is very fragile. Let me illustrate what fragility is like. It has to be built slowly by your desire. It is just like the anointing. The anointing is powerful but it takes obedience and gentleness to build it. Otherwise, it will go off. Its just like Elisha in II Kings. They told Elisha they said we need a word from the Lord. We are going to die here because we do not have water. Elisha said, "Bring me a minstrel," and when the minstrel plays the anointing of God came. See we have to be tender hearted it builds; its gentle but yet the thing that is built becomes the thing that overcome. The vision when it is small is fragile but when it comes forth, it is the most powerful thing on earth. You could take one seed of a tree and you could take a hammer and destroy it with one blow. However, when that seed is planted and it grows into a great tree, you try to take the same hammer you cannot harm that great big tree. It starts very fragile. All of you were very fragile when you first came into this world. You were so fragile when you were born. All somebody could do to kill you is to block your nose and you will die but today if anyone tries to block your nose, it is not easy. You are no more as fragile as when you were a tiny baby. Today you are people who can overcome but you started fragile. It is the same way with your vision. See sensitivity is important; sensitivity to the things of the Spirit and handling them with great care is very vitally important.

For example, lets talk about the anointing of God. I am going to ask one of you to read Psalms 23 in a way that you will give a prophecy as I play the organ. (Pastor then plays two different types of music – one

loud and aggressive and the other soft and meditatively.) Now those two styles of playing the organ make two different moods. When there is an anointing, we cannot play the first style. It produces a very different atmosphere. The anointing when you are building it up at first is fragile but when it builds up strongly it becomes a mighty tree that is a tree of deliverance. That is why some times I keep signaling to the musician because if the music moves in a different way, it can be disruptive to the anointing.

The closest example I could find in the natural is the lightning. See what happens inside a cloud is that there are many electrical forces moving. If any of you have traveled in a plane, if the plane get into the cloud and it is hit an air pocket the plane would start shaking. Now inside the cloud, I had a very careful study on that, a lot of electrical exchange is taking place. The air within the cloud is moving. There are many forces moving inside the cloud. There is a current flowing inside the cloud consisting of electrons, protons and neutrons. The electricity is being built up. Now it reaches a point when there are too much electrons being released in the cloud. When it comes close to another cloud, which has also built up much electrons, they collide and release what we call a thunderbolt. The lightning is calculated in terms of millions of voltage. It could kill a person instantly. But the building up of the cloud is very gentle and fragile. A cloud is very fragile but when it builds up to a certain amount of energy, it is ready to release millions of volts of energy.

See we must treat the anointing with great care. When the anointing builds to a certain point, if anyone believe it and receive it, he or she can immediately receive a miracle. Now if you try to come before the anointing or come after the anointing nothing will happen but if you come right at the time when there is a flow of the anointing that's when the thunderbolt, the lightning of God is being released. One stroke of the lightning, you are healed. You could have been having 20, 30 years of problem. It would blow apart in one split second. Nevertheless, the handling of it has to be very gentle, the building up of the cloud of glory, the building up of the voltages in the spirit realm. What happens is that when you built the anointing to a certain level, some people still are in unbelief so they never receive at all. Jesus could not minister to those who do not believe. But there are those who believe and open their hearts to receive at the right time at the right moment, then the power and anointing of God gets into their lives. That is what it does. The anointing can be built up.

During the building stage, it is fragile but when it reaches a certain stage, it consumes you. The vision is that way. The vision is like an embryo. Handle with care, a little doubt, a little laziness, a wrong little indulgence in the flesh will wash out all that God has placed in you. Therefore, we have to treat it with care and nurture it and build it up. You build your desire layer by layer. As you grow in your love for God, you want to fulfill God's vision for your life even more. You may say, "All right I am going to spend an hour meditating on that vision." Then you say, "It is so important to me now that I will spend an additional hour praying over that vision." Therefore, you began to commit more and more until that vision consumes you. It reaches to a certain point when the vision starts manifesting. When it is manifesting, it is so awesome that the things of the devil and every work of the devil can be blown apart by the vision. God is implanting vision in your heart and in your life. They are fragile when you receive them, a tiny dot a tiny dream, a small vision but if you will treat it very carefully for it is fragile. It will build very strong to the point that in the end, you do not carry the vision anymore but it carries you. Do not despise it. Do not dwell in unbelief and build it up. It is just like a man who has to cross the sea. At first, the man has to build a boat. After sometime, when the boat is ready, the boat carries the man. Therefore, at first, you carry the vision but as your vision builds up to a certain halfway point and crosses over, the vision now carries you.

Paul was a man of vision. He carried many visions and many of his visions have reached a point where he says, "I am constrained by the vision." See the vision now carry him. When the vision carries you, it is the easy part but the hard part is to get the vision in you to grow until it can carry you. When the vision carries you, all you have to do is to worship, enjoy, and see the vision happening in your life. One thought, one word, one dream one vision is enough to change your future.

My life turned about 180 degrees. I was not committed to Christ in my early life. As a Christian, I was still very ambitious in the worldly sense. I just happen to join some of my fellow Christians to pray in the morning. One morning in 1975, I was praying on the rooftop of a 4 storey apartment. We used to gather on the roof in the early morning to pray. When I was praying one of those mornings, there came a presence that surrounded me. I started crying, and then there came an overwhelming desire to go to the lost, to save the lost and bring the lost to the kingdom of God. I had my own plans, my own ambitions but that tiny moment

God changed me 180 degrees. I then realized what is life, if not to live for God. It turned me round and from that time onward, I pursued the vision to follow God and do what God wants me to do. I gave up my ambitions. I had two ambitions; one was to be a grandmaster and the other was to be an accountant. I was already taking a course but that experience made me turn 180 degrees to say, "I will give that up. I will follow the vision." There have been many times along the way, when others whom I met have strengthened the vision. Others who I have met through their teaching of the Word had rather helped me to see how I am able to fulfill the vision, hold on to the vision, renew the vision, strengthened the vision and grow the vision.

In the same way, I am building into your life. Renew your vision, strengthen your vision because if we all remain faithful, in the next couple of years we are going to see some of you enter into the most beautiful things of God. Your vision is going to come to pass if you will hold on to it. It is fragile. Hold on to it. It is going to carry you. The vision that you have in your hearts is precious. So precious, so gentle but yet so true. It is impossible to man, but possible to God and incomprehensible to your own mind nevertheless, understandable to your spirit. It may even look like there is no way you can fulfill it. Where there is no way, God will make a way. The vision that you have requires your commitment and your desire. Some of you, your vision is just like little embryos. They are so fragile that if you are not careful you may wipe it out and you remain the same in the years to come. You have to take heart to that vision that God has placed into your heart. Take heart to the desires. I realize in my spirit that not all of you have seen visions but God spoke to my spirit and said all of you have desires placed in your heart like Paul who have a desire to go to Rome. Some of you have godly desired placed in your heart. Write them down because those desires came from the Spirit of God and if you will nurture them, they will burst forth into visions. They will burst forth into great vision that can carry you through the rest of your life.

Let us dedicate ourselves onto our Lord today. At the conclusion of this teaching on visualizing let me tell you it is that visualizing that changed my life. It is one of the inner secrets of my heart that I pour out to you. If you can see it, it is yours. If you could nurture it, it will change your future whatever kind of circumstances or hindrances stand before you. Only if you could see it clearly, but be careful about it because it is fragile in the beginning. Nurture it carefully. It is the most powerful force ever released on this earth. Nothing can stand before it because the vision is always from His Word and His spoken Word through your life. Heaven and earth will come to pass. Nevertheless, in our midst, our many visions and dreams and desires that the Spirit of God has placed – I want us to dedicate to God. Commit ourselves to our vision in such a way that we are willing to pay the price. If it cost you your time, pay the price. If it cost you your money, pay the price. If it cost you to cut off the unnecessary fellowship, cut it off because God is looking for men and women who will love Him with all their hearts, all their minds, all their strength. Only such a person can God use today to do what He wants to do on planet earth. He cannot work much with a halfhearted Christian. He needs a total commitment to what He says to you. Whatever He has spoken to you unless you are willing to pay the price to fulfill it, it will not be fulfilled. You must be willing.

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