

## Finding and Following God's plan for your life

### The Power of Imagination - Class 6

*Imagination is the ability to see what is not present.*

*Vision is what you see, the image produced by your imagination. Your imagination produces vision.*

**Genesis 6:5 KJV** "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

1. Imagination - yetser - a form, conception
2. Your imagination is where things are conceived!
3. The wickedness of man was produced by an evil imagination

**Ephesians 3:14-20 NKJV** "For this reason I bow my knees to the **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be **strengthened with might** through His Spirit **in the inner man**, that **Christ may dwell (make his home/dwelling place) in your hearts** through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to **comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge**; that you may be **filled with all the fullness of God**. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,"

1. His love passes understanding just as his peace passes understanding
2. It is like trying to measure the water in our oceans compared to measuring some water from our tap. Just as we have no means of measuring our oceans we have no means of measuring the love of God.

Ephesians 3:20 TPT "Never doubt God's mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, your most unbelievable dream, and **exceed your wildest imagination!** He will outdo them all, for his miraculous power constantly energizes you."

1. Paul's prayer for the Ephesians
  - a. That the inner man would be strengthened with might
  - b. That Christ would dwell in their hearts
  - c. That they would comprehend the love of Christ
  - d. That they would be filled with the fullness of God
2. Paul finalizes his prayer with a statement.
  - a. That God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us

- i. This leaves a question for us... Are we allowing God's power to work within us? It is that power that is able to exceed our own dreams and imaginations.
3. Since God is able to do more than we could ask or imagine it's time to line up our thinking and imagining to God's word.

Let's look at an illustration God gave Abraham to encourage his faith.

**Genesis 15:1-6 NKJV** "After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." Then He brought him outside and said, "**Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.**" **And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."** And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness."

1. The Lord gave Abraham a sign that exceeded his current imaginations. The Lord was replacing his current view for heaven's view on his current situation.
2. We see the Lord gives Abraham a second illustration after Isaac was exchanged for the sacrificial lamb **Genesis 22:17 NKJV** "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven **and as the sand which is on the seashore;** and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies."

Let's look at another example Jesus gave to the crowds in Matthew 6

**Matthew 6:25-33 NKJV** ""Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? **Look at the birds of the air,** for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? "So why do you worry about clothing? **Consider the lilies of the field,** how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**"

1. Jesus wanted to shift people's imaginations, look to the birds, consider the Lillie's of the field, why? Because what gets into your imaginations produces hope, strengthens faith, and allows us to trust God for things we wouldn't have previously considered.

Can your imaginations produce things that are ungodly?

**Genesis 11:1-9 NKJV** “Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said, “**Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.** Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.”

1. In this case the imaginations of the people working together were working but not according to the direction of the Lord.

Today, similar concepts appear in:

1. visualization,
2. manifestation culture,
3. positive mindset teaching,
4. self-help movements,
5. sports psychology,
6. business leadership,
7. motivational speaking,
8. and neuroscience discussions about mental pathways and focus.

That’s why the Bible speaks both positively and negatively about imagination:

1. Babel shows imagination unified against God.
2. Abraham looking at the stars shows imagination anchored to God’s promise.
3. Jesus telling people to look at birds redirects imagination away from fear and toward trust in the Father.

Lets line up our imaginations with the things God is speaking and affirming to our hearts. Dream big! Imagine yourself fulfilling the plan he has for your life.