

# *A Sound Mind- No Vain Imagination*

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Romans 1:21-22 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

- I. What is it like when the mind and the imagination work the way God intended it to, under the influence of the Spirit of God and not the spirits of devils?
  - A. We go in the opposite direction than those who become vain in their imagination.
    1. They are lead into darkness and confusion and foolishness.
  - B. We are led more and more into light and understanding when we focus our mind and thoughts on the Word of God and meditate upon its truths.
  - C. We form concepts, ideas, and notions that are sound and true when the material our imagination works with is absolute truth and facts.
    1. Line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little.
  - D. When we know the truth we are made free; the more truth we know, the more free we are.

John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

1. We are freed from the darkness and fog of this world with its deception and lies.
2. We are freed from the fear and confusion of mind which results from seeing, hearing, and being influenced by people who are in darkness and believing lies.
3. We are free from the stress and worry and torment that a vain imagination inflicts on those who have allowed their mind to become a stronghold of Satan.

Luke 8:35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

Luke 15:17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

- II. The way gets clearer to our inner man as we go instead of more confusing.

Proverbs 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

- A. The more truth we know, the more light we receive.

Luke 8:18 Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

B. The promises are all to those who continue and follow on to know the Lord.

Hosea 6:3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

C. If our mind is being guided by the Spirit of God we get less and less lost and unsure of what to do and how to deal with life here.

1. We stop making so many foolish mistakes and bad choices.
2. We begin to be steady and skilled at life instead of a wreck looking for a place to happen.

III. As our mind is stayed on Christ we are changed into his image.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

A. When our thoughts are focused on Him and our concepts, ideas and notions are formed around his truths we begin to have the mind of Christ.

B. To have the mind of Christ toward God and other people causes us to act toward them as He does.

C. People begin to see Christ in us as He is formed in us and we are conformed to his image.

D. We are changed from the foundation and a whole new house is built.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Ephesians 4:22-23 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

E. So if our mind is disciplined and focused truth, righteousness, and godliness, it will produce a change in our outward man that is plainly visible to all.

IV. When we sanctify our mind and stop wasting it on vanity, and focus its energy and strength on Christ and truth, we begin to see more and more clearly the world around us, as well as the eternal things of God.

A. The difference is like seeing the mountains when they are still 100 miles away, and how they get bigger and clearer as you keep traveling toward them.

B. We see through a glass darkly, but we can see better and better the nearer we get to the journey's end.

C. This is one of the benefits of having a mind exercised to godliness instead of foolishness and vanity.

Ephesians 3:17-19 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

2 Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

D. Has the day star arisen in your heart yet?

1. This is speaking of more than just being born again – it is referring to spiritual growth and understanding as we continue on this journey.
2. This is a promise of a continual progression of revelation and enlightenment until it is something far beyond what you had in the beginning of your walk with God.

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

- E. So if we guard our mind and heart from believing lies and our imagination from creating fantasies and use these faculties rather for learning more about truth, righteousness and God we will come to a blessed graduation day from the dark veil of this earth.
- F. We will begin to see clearly BEFORE we cross over to the other side and our crossing will be our triumph instead of our fear.