

IMAGINE
Pastor Dennis Clanton
Woodland Church
Sunday, April 28, 2019

God's gift of imagination allows me to relive the past, envision the future, and live hopefully in the present.

To imagine is to picture things in your head. It is the ability to "see" things in your mind that you cannot immediately see with your eyes.

Tony Reinke, Lit!

My imagination was damaged by the fall.

*"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."
(Romans 1:21, KJV)*

God sanctifies my imagination to overcome sin and get beyond what I can't forget.

*"We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ."
(2 Corinthians 10:5, NLT)*

"Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that "we all have knowledge" about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church. Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn't really know very much. But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes." (1 Corinthians 8:1-3, NLT)

God sanctifies and uses my imagination to grow me in grace for the present.

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. ... Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep." (Romans 12:2,15, NLT)

“Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.” (Psalm 1:1-3, NLT)

God encourages me to look forward to the future with my imagination.

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9, NLT)

GROWTHWORK

- 1. Use your imagination to glorify God.**
- 2. Where is your imagination held captive and needs redeeming?**
- 3. Imagine putting off your old nature and putting on your new nature in Christ.**

*“With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity. But that isn't what you learned about Christ. Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.”
(Ephesians 4:17-24, NLT)*

- 4. Imagine the presence of Jesus with you!**

“Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David's throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals.” Then I saw a Lamb ...” (Revelation 5:5-6, NLT)

