

**Casting
Down
Imaginations**

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The imagination of men has reached a critical point in history where nothing can stand in the way to hinder men in their quests to live their lives without interference from God. It is possible to achieve almost anything in this age of knowledge other than skipping the appointment of death. In fact, it does appear that death could even be postponed by keeping the dying alive in a vegetable state through administration of tubes of fluids and medication. Imagination is now a key element in many products development and students are taught from a very young age to let their imaginations lead them in their creative learning of the world around them. However, no matter how much mankind has benefited from the imaginations of men that brought about a much more higher standards of living, the Holy Bible has consistently denounced the imagination of men to be evil. In fact, there is a commandment where Christians are explicitly told to put down their imaginations for nothing good will result from such imaginations.

Imaginations are not restricted to the betterment of mankind as a whole but they do possess a negative destructive force that drives men to tragic ends. Hence, Christians will be wise to consider what the Scriptures reveal about the imaginations of fallen men from the beginning of time and how such imaginations will end with the Lord intervening to bring in the Kingdom of a Divine government beyond the imagination of men. Six thousand years of imagination of men have not solved men's problem. The problem of sin and the consequence and effect of sin have not been eradicated no matter how hard men try to imagine away this problem. So death is still the reality and pains and sufferings the companions for this voyage for men living his few short years on earth. Imagination of fallen men is not the answer to the trouble we face today and will never be the solution to the trouble of the future. Only the Lord can undo all evil that happened in the distant past and bring in a glorious future for all those who obey Him and trust in Him.

Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. (2 Corinthians 10:1-6)

Casting down imagination is one aspect of the spiritual warfare according to 2 Corinthians 10:4: **(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)** The word “imagine” comes from the root word image. Imagination concerns an image that is formed in the mind. In our day, this image is then molded from its virtual form in the mind to come alive by the constant imagination of the mind to become some forms of products. It is like the modern usage of the word animation where animals and images of unreal virtual characters come alive. We see the proliferations of all kinds of products associated with such make-believe characters. Walt Disney is a good example of how successful the imagination of men has become where jobs are created and products sold and everyone is happy. So in our day and age, the product of such imaginations of the fallen mind has brought the virtual world into life.

Animation is a multibillion dollars industry. According to Rowley, “The Japanese animation industry is a \$5.2 billion dollar industry”. That is why people sued over illegal downloading of images and animations. So you have people dressed up like those characters from comics, anime and movies. You even have grownups wearing outlandish costumes of some characters from the anime world and they are not even embarrassed by such awkward display of their childishness in a real world of the grownups.

Nowadays, the line between the real world and the virtual world has become blurred. Many people are like zombies not knowing whether they are living in the real world or in the world of their own imagination. There are students having to quit school because of addiction to virtual games and animations. This poses a serious challenge to educationists trying to bring

out the best in their young by nurturing them into useful citizens. Imagination of the evil hearts of men is a serious issue in our day and age.

That is why the movie industry is booming. People like to watch images. People want to know the imagination of the hearts of some authors and directors portray through the movie screens. Steven Spielberg is very successful in this regard and he has a huge following. Jacky Chan is very popular as well. The trouble is the more you watch the less you think. You become a passive receptor of images and then you can ferment your own imagination from those images that cross your mind. Like the axiom of our day, “teach less learn more” you now have “think less watch more”. You are no longer thinking. You let your imagination run wild. Imagination is the key and dreamers abound everywhere seeking a pie in the sky of their make-believe world apart from the knowledge of God.

Where did you get the idea that when you are sad or unhappy, you drink and get drunk? Where did you get the idea that when you are stressed out, you puff a cigarette? Where did you get the idea that when there is no way out, you commit suicide? Where did you get the idea when someone does something seemingly brave but quite ridiculous and childish in nature and you offer him a Tiger Beer? There is no actual correlation between the two and yet men act out the scripts they watched in movies and television programs. You have been mentally conditioned since young by movies and characters in movies about certain behaviour that is acceptable to most people.

Imaginations of men keep the economy going where values are imputed to products and the law of supply and demand drives businesses into successful enterprises. Many times certain products have no inherent values at all but with creative imaginations through shrewd marketing strategies such products become desirable and marketable and men rush to get hold of such products driving prices up north. The “Hello Kitty” cat with no mouth is a case in point where people queued over night at the fast food Macdonald restaurants for such toys. It really does not make sense at all and the values of these toys only exist in the mind of the imagined world. There are many expressions of the imaginations of men written in books, reported in the newspapers, recorded in music albums, made into movies and posted on the Internet. Imaginations of fallen men abound everywhere. Here is a song lyric by the late John Lennon, one of the founders of the famous pop group the Beatles.

Imagine

Imagine there's no Heaven

It's easy if you try

No hell below us

Above us only sky

Imagine all the people

Living for today

Imagine there's no countries

It isn't hard to do

Nothing to kill or die for

And no religion too

Imagine all the people

Living life in peace

You may say that I'm a dreamer

But I'm not the only one

I hope someday you'll join us

And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions

I wonder if you can

No need for greed or hunger

A brotherhood of man

Imagine all the people

Sharing all the world

**You may say that I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one**

So you have the imagination of the late John Lennon. God forbid that we should join this dreamer in his imagination. He is not imagining anymore and he is living in the reality of hell fire. Not long ago after the suicide of a boy from an elite school, someone posted a poem on a blog to pay tribute to him. The poem is titled "Imagine". This poem is very long, so here is the last quarter of the poem.

**imagine his argument.
imagine your shouts.
imagine his shouts.
imagine your screams.
imagine him dash up to his room.**

**imagine going on with other activities.
imagine hoping he'll think clearly.
imagine hoping he'll quit his sport.
imagine hoping he'll resolve to focusing on studies.**

**imagine him running downstairs again.
imagine him shouting that as real as you were his mother,
his life wasn't worth living.**

**imagine him dash back up.
imagine him dash back with one last look of hatred, chaos and distress.
imagine your screams.
imagine your sprint after him.
imagine yourself praying right there and then.
imagine your cries after him.
imagine your desperation.
imagine your arrival at his room.
imagine him running towards his open window.
imagine your last desperation.
imagine your last cries.**

**imagine your outstretched arm just two metres away.
imagine a figure just descend.**

**imagine his smile.
imagine his words.
imagine his laughter.
imagine his candid.
imagine his humour.
imagine his quotes.
imagine him coming out of your womb.
imagine his first walk.
imagine cuddling him in your arms.
imagine his face.
imagine his face as you were talking to him thirty minutes ago.
imagine him.**

imagine.

This poem was written in some way attributing blame to the mother for the boy's death though the author denied this on his blog. If you read through this entire poem "Imagine" the writer is trying to form an image in your mind about this boy, his life and his tragic death. Tragic no doubt but if you imagine the boy having arrived into this world for a short fifteen years you will surely feel sad for him and his parents as well. It is a sad loss to the nation as well where a young talented boy ended his life prematurely based on some wrong and vain imagination of life.

Some people do have fantastic imagination too. This Japanese guy imagined he was ugly and lonely so he went out to stab people to death. Eight people died during his stabbing spree and more were injured as well. Now the newspaper is blaming his mother for her strict upbringing of this man. Imagination untamed is a serious threat to society. Innocent victims become part of this wanted and unwarranted imagination of some sick people.

Some think so highly of themselves and they boast to high heaven. Reported on the Straits Time dated 26 October 2007, James Phang, Sunshine Empire's International President made this claim, "I'm a legend – better than Warren Buffet". He can surely tell you more about imagination. He reportedly said, "We have entered an era whereby imagination is much more

important than knowledge and creativity, much more effective than productivity...” You can see the kind of premium some people placed on imagination. Since last year, Sunshine Empire’s business operation had been placed under investigation by the Commercial Affairs Department. So are you impressed with his imaginations?

Imaginations from fallen men are nothing but a mad race towards a tragic end to a Christless eternity. From the very beginning, even before the fall of man, imagination was already flawed under circumstances when the mind is not brought under the obedience to the words of God. Eve imagined she could become like god under the deception of the Devil. Her imagination brought us to where we are today when her husband knowingly rebelled against God. From then on, imagination of men was a downward spiral to the destruction of men. **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. (Genesis 6:5)** So God had to wipe out the world and embarked on an accelerated pace of a worldwide depopulation program to reduce the entire population to eight people.

The imaging faculty of men has become faulty after the fall. Imagination of men has brought destruction and misery upon men. Even then after the flood when dealing with those survivors, God had nothing good to say about the imagination of man. **And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. (Genesis 8:21)**

Men are now living under the bondage of sin. His thought is only evil from his youth. His propensity is only to imagine evil and this is an inborn disease he cannot avoid. His imagination when manifested outwardly is nothing but rebellion against the Most High God. So Moses warned the children of Israel: **And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven. (Deuteronomy 29:19&20)**

This is no doubt very serious. To imagine a God who will do nothing and you think you can have peace while sinning against God to add drunkenness to thirst. That is precisely what many people think. They imagine a God who is so loving and so kind and God will tolerate their sin and sinning and nothing will ever happen to them. How do they do that? **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. (Romans 1:21)

Fallen men darkened their hearts by their vain imagination. They imagine all is well and there is no hell like John Lennon. They imagine evolution is true and the biblical account of Creation is false. They imagine men go through many cycles of reincarnation and eventually achieve nirvana. So the degeneration of fallen men continues on its downward spiral where men have: **An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, (Proverb 6:18)**

So when you think after the flood men would have learned their lessons guess what happened? **And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. (Genesis 11:6)** Do you know what men imagined to do? They imagined they could save themselves from a future flood by building a tower that would reach heaven. Men will never fail to try to save themselves apart from divine mercy and grace and divine intervention. God told them to scatter on earth but they gathered to build a tower to heaven. God told Christians to gather to build a church but they scatter to build a palace in their own home. What strange irony!

Fallen men are already handicapped with fallen minds that are prone to imagine evil. Such wicked imaginations are one main subject penned by the psalmist. **The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined. For they intended evil against thee: they imagined a mischievous device, which they are not able to perform. They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long. How long will ye imagine mischief against a man? ye shall be slain all of you: as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering fence. Deliver me, O LORD, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man; Which imagine mischiefs in their heart; continually are they gathered together for war. (Psalms 10:2, 21:11, 38:12, 62:3, 140:1&2)**

Solomon also wrote: **Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy. (Proverb 12:20)** There is nothing good about the imagination of fallen men. The imagination of the mind of fallen men so prone to evil is just the outward manifestation of the

sin nature of fallen men. What man imagines in the heart and mind is often acted out to cause harm and misery to others and himself. What Solomon penned here is a description of the propensity of a sinner toward evil imaginations. Such evil imaginations originate from the heart. This is also what Jeremiah is telling us: **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9)** So the Lord is right when He concluded that the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth. Evil imagination is not only the predisposed propensity of the wicked.

The children of Israel had been warned even before they stepped into the Promised Land that they would turn away from the Lord. **Now therefore write ye this song for you, and teach it the children of Israel: put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the children of Israel. For when I shall have brought them into the land which I swore unto their fathers, that floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxen fat; then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant. And it shall come to pass, when many evils and troubles are befallen them, that this song shall testify against them as a witness; for it shall not be forgotten out of the mouths of their seed: for I know their imagination which they go about, even now, before I have brought them into the land which I swear. (Deuteronomy 31:19-21)**

Jehovah God testified before hand the imagination of the evil hearts of the children of Israel. In fact while Moses was up in the Mount with God, the children of Israel imagined that the God of Israel was a golden calf who would lead them into a golden era of peace, security, prosperity and luxury. So the children of Israel did turn away from God after entering the land of Canaan. The children of Israel did not heed the warnings written about them. By the time of the ascendancy of the Babylonian Empire, Jeremiah had been condemning the children of Israel to no end for the wicked imagination of their evil hearts for abandoning the God of Israel.

But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward. But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them: Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart: therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do; but they did

them not. This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing. And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me: And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart. They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you. (Jeremiah 7:24, 9:14, 11:8, 13:10, 16:12, 18:12 & 23:17)

So what God said about the children of Israel, all came to pass. As such the only thing consistent about the children of Israel was apostasy time and again after God graciously raised up judges and kings to deliver them from their enemies. This is the sad history of a people chosen by Jehovah God to be a light unto the Gentiles. This shows that the people of God are not exempted from vain imagination. What about us? We are God's called out people, a people delivered from darkness into Christ marvelous light. What about our own imagination? Will we fare better than the children of Israel? We are in this generation that is raised up watching fast motion pictures and images. How are we managing our thought lives and imagination? Are we taking what Scriptures revealed about the imagination of fallen men seriously?

From the movies, we often watch when a man speaks to a pretty woman, this woman's boyfriend or husband is upset. Likewise when a woman talks to a man, his girlfriend or wife gets jealous, especially when this woman is more gorgeous looking than her. They imagine something that is not present and they get upset. So you have this tycoon's wife slapping an air-stewardess in real life just because the air-stewardess was talking to her husband during flight and the case ended up in court. As a Christian, are you exempted from such evil imagination? A man who had done something wrong or had wronged others will always fear and imagine people are trying to harm him. Sick people always imagine others are trying to harm them. Such imagination will take a toll on the man who constantly worries over something that may not be true. The result of such unnecessary worrying due to unfounded imaginations is not going to be a pretty sight.

Why Christians allow their mind to imagine evil things and things that may not be true? One reason is because he is a self-centred Christian who majors in self-love. Why does he imagine others talk bad about him? Why does he imagine things that are evil? Why is he jealous of others and becomes upset for things that do not transpire? Why is there this constant negative and unproductive imagination? Do you know why? One reason is because he fails to practise the admonition in Philippians 4:8: **Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.** So when he has been constantly feeding on a diet of negative thinking, what do you reckon would be the end result? His constant fixation on the negatives and feeding his mind on negative thoughts will cause his imagination to be distorted and run wild. His life and his response to people and issues will of course turn out to be warped.

Another reason why he is always imagining things that are untrue is because he loves himself too much. He is always sensitive about how others think about him. His whole motivation is toward self-aggrandizement. He covets praises from men and fears ridicules. What he really lacks is charity for others. **Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things,**

believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

If a Christian has true charity for others, he hardly becomes upset over unimportant things, especially things that may disadvantage him. Charity indeed thinks no evil. A Christians who has charity for others will not continuously live on a heightened suspicion mode. He will not react negatively and become overly suspicious of others' intention based on his unreliable imagination. He knows full well that his imaging faculty is defective and his imagination cannot be completely relied upon for good judgment. He lives his life based on facts and not imaginations. It is dangerous to make decisions based on his imaginations. He should not be overly concerned about what people think of him and he should not covet praises from others.

Do you know why Paul was writing to the Christians in Corinth and commanded them to cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God? It is because they had wrong imagination of Paul. **Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. (2 Corinthians 10:1&2)**

So they imagined Paul was just an armchair warrior. They imagined Paul was weak and base when he was present with them and they imagined Paul was scared of them in their presence. Moreover, they imagined Paul was only bold when he was absent from them by writing letters with strong words of rebuke from afar to terrify them. They really imagined Paul who could only use his pen and not possess any real apostolic authority and power who could do them serious harm for edification. Why did they have those vain and wrong imaginations against Paul? It is because they were carnal. Only the Christians in Corinth had to receive the definition of what is love as defined as charity.

Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God is a spiritual warfare. This is part of the work in mortifying the deeds of the flesh and in this case it is in the mind. If you are not careful, the Devil will put suggestions in your mind that is not

according to the knowledge of God. You will imagine your husband does not love you because he did not buy you flowers. You will imagine your wife does not love you because she did not always cook your favourite food. You will imagine a brother or a sister in Christ does not love you because he or she does not talk much with you.

You will imagine your parents do not love you because they would not allow you to go to a foam party at Sentosa. You will imagine your parents do not love you because they disallow you to sleep over night at your boyfriend's home. You will imagine your parents do not love you because they make you do your homework and study for your exams. You imagine your parents do not love you because they refuse to buy you an iPhone. Actually this is not funny at all. Six years ago, a twelve-year old boy living a few blocks from where I live committed suicide because his parents refused to buy him a mobile phone. You can visualize his imagination against his parents for refusing to buy him something so unimportant like a mobile phone for a twelve-year old kid. He imagined life would be meaningless without a mobile phone. He imagined his parents did not love him. His imaginations were all wrong, tragically wrong. A young life was needlessly lost because of some unimportant gadget and the unnecessary imaginative speculation about parental affection. Wrong imaginations could lead to tragic consequences.

Can you see how self-centredness and self-love can lead a Christian to become unfruitful and spiritually sick? Why are people always imagining things that are not true? If you want to be joyful and fruitful, casting down imaginations is a commandment to be obeyed and not an option to be exercised when you feel like it. Even as Christians, we do possess a fallen mind. If we are not careful, the Devil can build a workshop in our mind and start producing his evil work. When he does that, you will see the unfruitful manifestation of the evil work in your life and you become useless for the Lord. You are no longer serving the Lord but imagining how the Lord has failed you and has been unfair to you. You will become discouraged and then become despondent. When you continue to indulge in your vain and wild imaginations, you will become depressed and then eventually despair. Can you see how important it is to watch over our mind and bring it to the obedience of Christ? That is why we are to keep our mind **and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ**. Do you know how we are to do this?

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:1-8)

Even Christ had to learn obedience though He did not have a fallen mind and not prone to evil imagination. The Lord Jesus Christ took on the form of a servant and made Himself of no reputation. He humbled Himself and became obedient to the will of God unto death, even the death of the cross. We are told to let this mind of Christ be in us which was in Christ Jesus. If we do not let this mind of Christ take over from us, we will never be able to cast down imagination and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. As Christians we have this capability and the tools are available to us to help us to cast down imaginations and every high

thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. Without the mind of Christ given to us, it is impossible to obey God in this regard.

But the sinners in this world will not stand a chance. They will continue their downward spiral in imagining vain things against God. One day, the Devil incarnate will appear on earth. **There is one come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the LORD, a wicked counseller. (Nahum 1:11)** So the piper needs to be paid. This man of sin will lead them to worship an image since they like to imagine so much. The conditioning of the world populace is about complete. The imaginations of fallen men in this day and age have far surpassed the imaginations of those men in time past trying to build a tower to reach heaven. We have aircrafts that fly in the heavens now. In fact, spacecrafts have already penetrated the second heaven. The stage is set and the actors and actresses are busy rehearsing this event of unparalleled proportion. All the players are getting ready to assemble on stage soon. The grand finale is about to begin. While the imagination of evil men continue to spin its web of rebellion against the Most High God, an image is being prepared to be ushered into this new era of enlightenment. Many will receive the mark of the Beast. For the day will come when they imagine they could fight against the Most High God. Let the fireworks begin! How woefully foolish!

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. (Psalm 2:1-3) What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time. (Nahum 1:9) He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. (Psalm 2:4) He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. (Luke 1:51)

The imagination of fallen men is at this critical stage that will eventually culminate at Armageddon. This event will eclipse the rebellion of the people during Noah's time by a huge proportion. Those evil people during those days only mocked Noah and despised his preaching. But the people during this time imagine they could fight against the Most High God and His saints. Their response by then would be one of terror. **And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: (Revelation 6:16)** The Lord will avenge all those who knew God and they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish hearts were darkened. When the Lord has finally avenged

all disobedience with the vain imagination of sinners, the Kingdom will be ushered in. **At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart. (Jeremiah 3:17)**

Meanwhile brethren, we are to cast down imaginations and everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. **For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)** We must never allow our minds to run wild with vain imaginations. When we realize that there is no correlation between the imagined world and the real world and the agony and sorrow brought upon us by our vain and wrong imaginations, it is just not worth the effort and trouble to indulge in our foolish imaginations. The warnings throughout the Scriptures on the vain imagination of fallen men have been very clear. We do it to our own hurt if we neglect this commandment to cast down imaginations.

Many things we imagine are not true most of the time. How can we know what is in the hearts and minds of men and imagine their motives and intentions against us? How can we know what will happen before it takes place? How can we know what a day may bring forth? Even when certain things we imagine may be true but we have no control over the situation and we are wasting our time anyway. We must learn to commit everything to the Lord in prayer. Imagination is not a solution to the trouble we have to face in this life. For six thousand years, the imaginations of men have not solved the most basic trouble faced by men that originates from the sinful nature men are born with. What we really need is a sound mind from the Lord as promised. **For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7)** This sound mind is a gift from God to the children of God. It is the most effective and reliable tool to see us through all the problems we have to deal with in this life. Imagination will certainly not get us anywhere.

May the Lord bless us and help us in this spiritual exercise. Let us not trust our own mind but let the mind of Christ take control of us. Let us be obedient like Christ and not let our fallen minds lead us to misery and trouble. Let us wake up from our slumber and do the first work to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us take heed to David's exhortation for his son Solomon. **And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou**

forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. (1 Chronicles 28:9) God certainly knows our thoughts from afar. **Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. (Psalm 139:2)** So let us be careful what we allow our mind to imagine. Let us cast all our fears and cares upon the Lord for the Lord surely cares for us. **Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; (2 Corinthians 10:5)** is a commandment we cannot afford not to obey.

If you have been blessed with the reading of this book and you wish to contact the author, you may write to him at charles@kiv-asia.com.