

OUTLINE • 15.2

II. Hope is your *imagination* (Rom. 8:24-25), and faith is the *substance* of things hoped for.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

HEBREWS 11:1

- A. If you can't hope for something first (i.e., imagine it), then you can't receive it by faith.
- B. One of the things you need to have, when it comes to fulfilling God's will and staying consistent over a long period of time, is a strong sense of hope.
- C. Hope is the anchor of your soul (Heb. 6:19).
 - i. Hope will keep you from being blown off course and missing your destination.
- D. The Hebrew word *yetser* ("imagination") also means "conception" (*Strong's Concordance*)—this reveals a significant truth: *Your imagination is where you conceive things.*
- E. You have to conceive in your imagination what the Word says; for example, you have to see yourself healed.
- F. But there is a *big* difference between imagination and fantasy.
 - i. "Imagination" is the power, or process, of seeing something you can't see with your physical eyes, whereas "fantasy" is delusion.
 - ii. Fantasy is imagining something that isn't real—it's fiction.
- G. A sanctified, godly imagination is the part of you that conceives the things of God; it's the creative part of you that has a vision for the future.
- H. Take the Word of God, and let it soak down into the creative part of your mind—your imagination—until you can see yourself successful or healed.
- I. A godly imagination is directly tied to glorifying God and being thankful.
- J. The Bible says that if you don't glorify God and if you aren't thankful, your imagination becomes vain (Rom. 1:21)—instead of being creative and conceiving good things, a vain imagination conceives evil.
- K. When you believe negative words or ideas that are pushed on you, it forms an image on the inside of you about who you are and what you can do.
- L. Even though your talents and abilities could enable you to go further, you don't allow them to—somehow you find a way to self-destruct.
- M. You don't see yourself being who God says you are.
- N. Glorifying God, putting value and worth on Him, and being thankful will cause your imagination to come alive and start working for you.

- O. A positive imagination will help erase all of the self-defeating ideas you have wrongly believed about yourself, and you will begin to imagine yourself the way God sees you.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 15.2

7. _____ is your *imagination* (Rom. 8:24-25), and _____ is the *substance* of things hoped for (Heb. 11:1).
- A. Faith / hope
 - B. Hope / Jesus
 - C. Hope / faith
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

8. Discussion question: What do you think about the statement, “If you can’t hope for something first (i.e., imagine it), then you can’t receive it by faith”?

9. What does Hebrews 6:19 tell you?

10. Discussion question: How will hope keep you from being blown off course and missing your destination?

11. Is there a big difference between imagination and fantasy?

12. Discussion question: How do they differ (see #11)? In what ways have you seen either or both in your life?

13. A positive imagination will help erase all of the _____ ideas you have _____ believed about yourself, and you will begin to imagine yourself the way _____ sees you.

SCRIPTURES • 15.2

HEBREWS 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

ROMANS 8:24-25

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? [25] But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

HEBREWS 6:19

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.

PROVERBS 23:7

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

DEUTERONOMY 34:7

And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

ROMANS 1:21

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.

MARK 16:18

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.