

Life Reimagined

Taffi Dollar

Broadcast Date: 1/1/21

Message Date: 8/12/20 • 10:00 A.M.

Scripture References

Genesis 6:5, 14-16, MSG

Psalms 127:1, 2, MSG

Psalms 127:1, 2, NLT

Deuteronomy 6:4-9, NLT

Luke 6:46-49, NLT

Proverbs 16:25, NLT

Proverbs 9:1, NLT

Proverbs 4:7, NLT

Proverbs 4:7

Proverbs 14:1, NLT

Psalms 14:1

Luke 12:16-21, NLT

Proverbs 24:3, 27, NLT

Summary

*We live in an uncertain world that is easily shaken, filled with fear and anxiety. Our thoughts are powerful; our imaginations have much to do with the outcome of our lives. Imagination is the ability to visualize something in our minds that we cannot see with our physical eyes. This works for good as well as for evil. During Noah's time, the people had formed evil images in their minds, and the external environment reflected those images. However, it is not God's will for us to live in a world like this; as believers, we can use our imaginations to see His plans for us come to pass in our lives. The bad things we see around us are the world's reality; we actually have the power to redefine **our** reality according to God's Word.*

A. Noah's world was corrupted because everyone used their imaginations for evil.

1. GOD saw that human evil was out of control. People thought evil, imagined evil—evil, evil, evil from morning to night... Build yourself a ship from teakwood. Make rooms in it. Coat it with pitch inside and out. Make it 450 feet long, seventy-five feet wide, and forty-five feet high. Build a roof for it and put in a window eighteen inches from the top; put in a door on the side of the ship; and make three decks, lower, middle, and upper (Genesis 6:5, 14-16, MSG).
 - a. Noah lived during a time when people's imaginations needed to be tweaked. Their thoughts were so twisted that even their imaginations were evil. The corruption in the world was the result of people imagining it.
 - b. The world was filled with violence; the reason God told Noah to build himself an ark was so that He could deliver Noah from the wickedness around him.
 - c. Noah had no blueprints to refer to while building the ark—he had to use his imagination. Despite what others thought about what he was doing, he realized he was in a covenant with God. Noah made a decision to build his life on God's Word.
 - d. Like Noah, we, too must refuse to get caught up in what the world says or what it is doing. We must ignore it, and focus completely on what God is saying.
 - e. We have to decide how we are going to build our lives, and what we are going to build *on*. We need an inner image inside us, like Noah had, so that we can build into our lives what God wants.

- f. As the body of Christ, we should use God's Word as the foundation for our lives. The type of foundation we have determines the type of structure that is built, and whether that structure has the ability to do what needs to be done. If we build our lives on others' approval, that foundation will crumble, because it is based on the wrong thing.
- 2. If GOD doesn't build the house, the builders only build shacks. If GOD doesn't guard the city, the night watchman might as well nap. It's useless to rise early and go to bed late, and work your worried fingers to the bone... (Psalm 127:1, 2, *MSG*).
 - a. If God is not the foundation of our lives, we cannot accomplish anything that will last. God wants to build His Word in our lives; we must build the foundation brick by brick and wall by wall.
- 3. Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the LORD protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good. It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning to late at night, anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to his loved ones (Psalm 127:1, 2, *NLT*).
 - a. No matter how much effort we put into something, if God is not involved in the building process, our efforts are useless.

B. We need to use our imaginations to paint mental pictures that agree with God's Word.

- 1. Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, *NLT*).
 - a. Talking about God's Word with our family lays the right foundation in their lives.
 - b. Words paint pictures in our imaginations. There is no other word as great as *God's* Word; we must focus on it until the right image is set in our minds. When His reality is on the inside of us, we can see Him on the outside.
- 2. So why do you keep calling me "Lord, Lord!" when you don't do what I say? I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins (Luke 6:46-49, *NLT*).
 - a. Noah would have drowned if the ark had not been well-built. This is what is happening today in many people's lives—they are drowning because their foundation collapsed. We must ask ourselves what we are building our lives on.
 - b. We are called to build our lives on a rock; that Rock is Jesus. Storms in life *will* come; we will be able to withstand them if our lives are built on Him.
- 3. There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death (Proverbs 16:25, *NLT*).
 - a. What *seems* right is not always the right thing to do. We will never know what the right path in life is unless we take the time to build on the proper foundation.

C. It is foolish to build our lives on any foundation other than the Word of God.

1. We must build our house on wisdom. When Noah built the ark, all he had to build on for a foundation was the wisdom of God.
 - a. Wisdom has built her house; she has carved its seven columns (Proverbs 9:1, *NLT*).
 - b. Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment (Proverbs 4:7, *NLT*).
 - c. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding (Proverbs 4:7).
2. A wise woman builds her home, but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands (Proverbs 14:1, *NLT*).
 - a. A wise person builds their home, and their life, on wisdom. A foolish person builds on the wrong foundation.
 - b. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God... (Psalm 14:1).
3. Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"' "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?' "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God" (Luke 12:16-21, *NLT*).
 - a. A fool does not listen or obey, or even understand that everything in the world is only temporary.
4. A house is built by wisdom and becomes strong through good sense... Do your planning and prepare your fields before building your house (Proverbs 24:3, 27, *NLT*).
 - a. We see plenty of foolishness and earthly wisdom around us; spending time with God helps us to avoid that.
 - b. Noah had to plan his future carefully, because his life depended on it. After the flood, he and his family were the only ones left on the planet; they experienced life reimagined.
5. We will not be able to see anything happen without our imaginations. We must use it to start thinking and seeing bigger.
 - a. We can use our imaginations to see beyond natural things. To see something manifested in our lives, we first must be able to see it on the inside. It has to become so real that we can see ourselves doing it.
 - b. We will not see the miraculous power of God if we are defeated, discouraged, or depressed in our imaginations. This is why we need to get the right words in us.
 - c. We must resurrect our imaginations, and start using them in a positive way.

For more on reimagining our lives according to God's will for us, click on the link below for the CD, *Life Reimagined*

<http://bit.ly/LifeReimaginedCD>

Category: faith

Keywords: uncertain, fear, anxiety, thoughts, imaginations, imagination, visualize, reality