





Chapter 1

“God can do anything...**far more than you could ever imagine** or guess or request in your wildest dreams.” (Eph 3:20 The Message).






For some time now I have been concerned with false religions and the growth of many cults, as opposed to the church. While on a tour of the USA I picked up a catalogue of a variety of New Age activities. The publication was several inches thick and offered courses on everything from healing and marriage guidance to tarot cards and crystals. This sort of information was freely available throughout that city, yet one really had to ‘ferret’ out news on what was happening on the local church scene.



Let me point out that there is nothing new about false religions, religious cults and the New Age. It’s the same old stuff rehashed and dished up under a new, and effective packaging. However let me just add, that by and large the world doesn’t know the difference. All most people are interested in is....Is it real? And, Does it work? Alarming as it may sound, for many in the world the answer is ‘Yes!’ to both questions.

Unfortunately these cults are often providing supposed answers to questions the world is asking. We in the church may







sit back and scoff at some of these methods, but that's little consolation if we don't offer a viable working alternative. The world is hungry for the supernatural, desperate for answers, for reality in their lives, so desperate that they will accept any counterfeit. Communism is dead, it doesn't work. However humanism and false religions are fast rising to fill the gap.

I was also astounded to learn that many in the New Age movement consider the church as a threat to the continued existence of mankind on this planet. It appears as if they see the majority of us as negative, doomsdayers, fearful, almost anti-life and anti-joy. They claim (and rightly so in the case of some Christians) that we focus on so much fear and foreboding, that we could actually help bring these very things to pass.

Cults, New Age And The Occult



It also appears that some think we are pathetically weak, negative and ineffective in the demonstration of spiritual power. A sad indictment on the Church. It's one thing for the occult to think that, but do actually we convey that image to the rest of the world? I had one Pastor tell me recently that he was backing off all teaching on areas of the Spirit, speaking in tongues, the teaching of confessing and meditating God's Word and visualizing - And even God's Grace! Why? Because they sounded too much like New Age. I was shocked, flabbergasted would be a more accurate description.

These are principles of God! They have been in the Bible for thousands of years, neglected by the church certainly, but still principles of God and not the property of some group of kooks that have found out they work! Because New Agers drive cars does that mean that we as Christians should walk or ride horses?

Jesus Is Lord

One concern I have heard from the Church, is that there is a danger we might be associated with these people. One sure way



of identifying anything New Age is that they consider that they are gods, while to the Christian - Jesus is Lord! The New Age glorifies self and self efforts, while true Christianity glorifies Jesus alone.

So I suggest that now is not the time to back away from the spiritual realm, from the principles of the Word of God we know have changed our lives. If we do then the Occult and false religions will simply sweep in and fill that vacuum. Now is the time to teach these principles more than ever. The very reason we are facing this predicament is largely because the church has been negligent in presenting the real power of the Word of God!

I was astounded to learn that in many towns the New Agers are achieving as much publicized results in healing as the church. In the USA there's a group of New Agers intent on raising the dead! What's more they believe they will be doing so in the very near future. Unfortunately for us in the church we have been hobbled by a few sadly misled, scripturally ignorant, but highly visible speakers, who decry much of the Bible truths as 'New Age'. A lie can be told hundreds of different ways, the truth only one way. Let us take for example the use of visualizing, or the renewing of the imagination (through which God created the world in the beginning). Many Christians believe that this is:

(1) Of the devil

(2) A recent discovery.

Yet neither could be further from the truth. The ancient Greeks understood this process perfectly, in fact when one of their women was pregnant they would surround her with statues, images and pictures of beautiful women and strong handsome men. The idea was to so impress the picture of beauty upon the

heart that it would affect the forming child within the womb. As history bears out, the Greeks were a beautiful race of people.

True, the word ‘visualise’ is not found in the Bible, but neither is the word ‘rapture’ or ‘trinity’. The word means (according to the dictionary) ‘to form a mental image’.

Abram Used His Imagination

So while the word may be new, the concept of using the imagination or visualising is as old as the Garden of Eden. The Bible speaks repeatedly about this misunderstood process and from Genesis to Revelation one can find it in the scriptures. For instance, in Genesis 12:4 Abram was 75 years old when God promised him a son. “So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Har-an.”

How did God use an old man and barren woman to produce a child? Many folks believe that it came about by Abraham’s continual confession of the Word, (his new name Abraham meant the ‘Father of a multitude’, thus every time he or anyone else spoke that name they were acknowledging him as Father of many nations). But there was much more to this process than just confessing. In Gen.17:1 we find where Abram was now ninety nine years old, but God had still not changed his name. “And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared unto Abram.....”

Abraham Had To “See” Before He Confessed The Promise

If the son was born when he was 100 years old, that only leaves a year for the child to be conceived and birthed! Actually Abraham really only confessed that promise for 3 months before Sarah conceived - not 25 years as has been taught - but 3 months? If you take 12 months, once his name was changed, less 9 months

for ‘signs following’, leaves only 3 months for Abraham to confess his new name before conception took place!

There is much more to this principle of God than just saying it. It won’t work just because you say it, but saying is involved in the process. This is where a large number of believers miss it altogether. Before God changed Abraham’s name he gave him specific instructions in visualizing. In fact Abraham was so surprised that he laughed and so did Sarah. God told him to look at the grains of sand in the desert by day (Gen 13:15 -16). “For all the land which **thou seest**, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth; so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.”

Abraham still complained of having no son, (Gen15: 2-3). showing that this process takes time to produce results in our lives. It was then that God took him outside at night and showed him the stars in the sky (Gen 15:5). “And he brought him forth abroad, and said, **Look now** toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.” Each of these stars would represented the faces of his descendants to come.

Abraham did not have God’s written Word as we do today and so God had to use natural things to impress upon his imagination. The visual impact of imagining the numberless grains of sand by day and the myriads of stars by night as faces of his descendants began to impact and superimpose upon Abram’s heart. In fact he visualized (meditated) for 24 years before it became imprinted into his heart.

Joshua Used His Imagination

Why would God use this process of visualising if it had no effect upon the human heart? In fact it was only after Abram began to focus on the stars as the faces of his descendants to come, that

he believed and the Lord counted it to him for righteousness (Gen 15:6).

The first step along the road to giving birth to your miracle is not just the confessing, but the creation of the image in the heart! To ‘believe with the heart,’ refers to the image we see inside ourselves. (This is a spiritual principle, God told Joshua in Joshua 1:8 and David in Psalm 1:2-3, to meditate on His Word day and night). “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” (Josh. 1:8).

David Used His Imagination

Psalm 1:1-3 says: “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. **But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.** And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper.”

The word here for ‘meditate’ is the Hebrew word *‘hagar’* which means to mutter, to ponder, to create inner images by consistently speaking words. Man, like God, is a triune being, we are a spirit, have a soul (mind, emotions, will and intellect) and live in a body. Three is God’s number of perfection. I believe the heart is the place where our spirit and soul merge. It’s the real you, the seat of the deepest, most intimate thoughts that make up your personality. The heart is the part of us where the mental and physical realms merge, it’s the part of man which serves God.

Let me go over this again just to make sure you fully understand the process that Abraham used. We must build on a firm foundation. In Gen. 17:1-5 we discover that God never

changed Abram's name until he was 99, some 24 years after first speaking to him about fathering a son. Notice now that God never changed his name from Abram to Abraham (Father of a multitude) until he first began to conceive this image in his heart.

Now if the son was born when Abraham was 100, that only leaves 1 year, (less the 9 months of pregnancy) leaves only 3 months of speaking his name 'The Father of many nations.'

The Image Of The Heart Must Agree With Our Words

In other words it took 24 years to get the right image inside Abraham and then only 3 months of 'confessing' that promise to bring it to pass. Once Abraham had the right image in his heart, God changed his name so that his heart and his mouth agreed - the Father of a multitude! **The heart and the mouth must agree for it to work!**

Pastor Cho states how he used this principle of visualizing or his imagination to build his church in South Korea, the largest in history (1 million people!) It was this same principle that healed me (twice) many years ago. I had seriously damaged my shoulder to the point where I could not raise it above my head, which seriously limited me in my occupation of hunting and fishing. I sought numbers of evangelists, pastors and visiting ministry to have them lay hands on me for healing but nothing changed. I sought doctors and naturopaths, but I grew worse. In fact it not only affected my health but my mental well being and business as well. Finally in desperation I sought God, I begged him to heal me.

One time during a time of prayer I believe God spoke to me, not audibly but in my spirit and told me that he had done everything about my healing he was ever going to do. Mistakenly I thought that meant no, when in fact He meant that Jesus had already borne my sickness and disease and I needed to believe that and accept it in my heart. Some time later I received a

revelation that before I would experience the healing manifest in my body, I would first of all have to ‘see it already complete in my spirit.’ **My whole life changed, I spent hours picturing myself as healed and praising God for the full use of my arm.**

If You Can ‘See It’ - You Can ‘Have’ It.

I got so carried away with seeing myself healed that I forgot that it had not yet manifested in my body, and started waving my arms about. The pain soon brought me back to earth very smartly! But I stayed with it, day after day, week after week, until finally some months later I was totally healed. I don’t even know when it took place, there was nothing instant, the healing took place gradually over a period of three months.... but I was healed!

The answer lies in changing the image within us. (“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..” Prov.23:7). To the world the imagination is ‘airy fairy’, not real, but to God our imagination is counted as reality!




Jesus himself said in Matt 5:28: “But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”

Notice he says “***hath committed adultery with her already***”. It doesn’t say that he will commit adultery, it says he’s already guilty of the act! Something must have taken place for a man to be guilty!

God Considers The Imagination As Reality


God looks upon the imagination as reality, the real thing. I have experienced first hand the power of images held in the heart. Let me relate an incident from my first book ‘*High Adventure with Jesus*’ (Harrison House) which proves my point.

“The outboard motor coughed nervously, sputtered and then roared into life. The sudden noise startled several




white egrets wading in the shallows, causing them to soar majestically into the air, emitting panic filled cries as they flew off over the grey-brown waters of the river. On the far bank, a large armoured, salt water crocodile slithered quietly into the opaque waters, pausing just long enough to give us the ‘once over’ before its fierce eyes silently submerged.

We were some 40 miles along a deserted, potentially dangerous river, and we were in real trouble. My eyes had almost popped out like saucers when I glanced at the fuel gauge, for it was registering almost empty. To this day, I can’t work out just what happened or how I made this blunder. I had made this trip many times before and knew how much fuel would be needed. Yet, here the gauge was staring me in the face, indicating there was no way we would have enough fuel to get back to camp.




Here in the sparsely populated, wild and inhospitable outback of Northern Australia, running out of fuel is something you just don’t do. Even on land one might have to walk for a day or more to get back to civilization, but on the wild deserted stretches of a tidal river, it can prove very uncomfortable and even down right dangerous. I had made the safari trip down the river to show a visiting sportsman some of the large salt water crocodiles that abound in the area. As we planned to be out only for the day, I had allowed my young daughter, Leann (eight at the time) to come with us. Now we faced the prospect of a very uncomfortable and perhaps dangerous night on the river.



Our rivers, here in the coastal strip of the Northern Territory are tidal, the tide rising and falling 7-8 metres at a time. The sheer flow of water is tremendous and is often hazardous. Adding to this, we had no protection from the hoards of stinging, biting mosquitoes and sand-flies, a far from comforting prospect. I was also unnerved as I looked across the water to see a 4-5 metre croc sliding casually into the water.





I was reluctant to say anything, however, for I didn't wish to upset my passenger or my young daughter. Only a few months prior to this, a friend of mine had been attacked by a large croc on the Finnis River. The huge saurian had launched an unprovoked attack on their tiny boat and succeeded in smashing the skeg off their outboard motor as well as tearing three gaping holes in the thin skin of the aluminium. The three occupants, including one very terrified woman, had been thrown violently about before the croc could be driven off. And the attack had taken place at night!

The power of my imagination began to work against me. Fear-filled thoughts and visions came suggesting and portraying visions of what I could expect during the coming night. Vivid pictures flooded through my imagination of us drifting helplessly on the fast flood-tide as it raced from the sea. I could see us all huddled together in the the boat, while hoards of biting insects drove us mad.

The main thing that was beginning to cause my anxiety was the vision Satan kept before my eyes - huge crocodiles! I saw them attracted by the fish we had on board, even launching savage attacks on us throughout the long night! If Satan can control your imagination, the images that enter your mind and ultimately your heart then he has you in his grasp. That is why Jesus ministered so much against fear. 'Fear not' was often the way he ministered to people in a crisis.

If Satan can get you to concentrate on negative pictures - he will control you. Eventually it will become fear. Fear brings torment, and sooner or later it will start to control your words and your life. Faith works either way, in the negative as well as in the positive.

That's why so many people receive the things they fear most. They expect them to come. Like Job, they can say, "For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me." (Job 3.25).

The devil was controlling my thoughts and imaginations with fear. I pictured us clinging to an overturned boat, being swept along by the raging current in the pitch blackness of the tropical night, trying vainly to hold onto my young daughter, while giant crocs lurked all around. About this time the Lord spoke to me in a very real way. Oh not in an audible voice; there was no flash of lightning or roll of thunder across the sky. He spoke through my spirit.

“Son what have I been teaching you over the past two years? Have I been teaching you how to receive from Me? Have I been showing you how to claim My promises, how to act on My Word and cause My hand to be moved? Haven’t you been building My Word into your heart?”


“Yes, Lord,” I replied.

“Well then, has it all been in vain? Remember, without faith it is impossible to please Me. Have you truly learned to receive from Me, to truly trust in My Word and rely upon it in the face of every other circumstance?” He continued, “Do you think it’s My will for you and your daughter to suffer?”

“Oh no Lord!” I quickly replied.

“Well if you believe My Word, you will act on it. Now lay claim to My promises, for I long to bring you into victory. Remember your healing, when you stood on My Word and you were set free?”

I blushed inwardly, remembering how the Lord had healed me some 15 months prior, and now I was allowing Satan to flood my mind with all his destructive garbage again. Quickly I asked the Lord to forgive my lack of faith and then I prayed, asking that we be able to return to our launch site without mishap, that we wouldn’t be stuck out on the river overnight. Right there and then, I believed I received the answer. Despite what I saw with my physical eyes and felt with my senses, I allowed my spiritual eyes to take over - I began to imagine myself safely back at the dock.



I believed like Daniel, that the answer had been despatched to me from God that very instant I prayed. I called those things that be not as though they were. I started acting on God's Word. I changed my inner vision from one of fear and defeat to one of victory and peace. Where I had allowed Satan to conjure up images of fear and panic I now saw us safely back at the boat landing without mishap. I could see it vividly. I pictured us pulling up at the landing, happily loading the boat back onto my four wheel drive and heading home.




The Eyes Of The Heart

The more I saw it with the eyes of my heart or the imagination, the more I confessed it quietly with my mouth. Now I had my mouth and heart in agreement! The picture began to get clearer, just like looking through the lens of a camera. Originally the image was blurred and hazy, but the more I acted on what I had prayed, the more I confessed it with my mouth, the clearer it became in my eye of faith. I refused to allow Satan to distort the image and if fear came, I cast it out.

2 Corinthians 10:5 tells us: **“Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God”**. The knowledge of God is the Word of God, everything contrary to His Word is unbelief. As I continued confessing His Word and visualising myself back safely I noticed a visible change coming over me a real peace began to descend, I felt at ease!

The motor droned on as we cruised along the seemingly endless river, I settled into a comfortable, relaxed position and began to whistle a song. Now I could understand how Jesus could sleep in the boat during the storm - he knew the outcome!

Satan tried every trick in the book to get me to doubt, to gain control of my thoughts, but I wasn't having any. I was holding fast to my confession without wavering in word or



picture! Actually in the natural things started to go from bad to worse, the motor began to cough mysteriously, the fuel gauge failed to register at all and the tide began running very fast against us. I simply refused to be moved, but kept my eye of faith firmly focused on what I had prayed! I vividly held that picture of final victory. I literally painted that image into my heart with my tongue! There was absolutely no possibility of us getting out and walking if we ran out of fuel as the country was far too swampy and criss-crossed with dozens of creeks and run offs. To attempt to swim these jungle rivers at night would be dangerous and foolhardy.

Five, six miles passed by as I sat in the stern of the little boat, confessing, praising God and picturing the successful outcome. All the while the devil kept up a constant barrage of thoughts that there was no way possible we could make it back on the fuel we had, and that we were due to run out any moment. No one lived in the area, no civilization, in fact nothing - it was wilderness. In fact looking back I don't think I had ever met another person on one of these trips.

Our boat zoomed around a curve in the river, and there before us bobbed a dinghy with two people aboard. It was the most beautiful sight in the world. As we hove into view, they began beckon us, so throttling back we cruised over to where they lay at anchor.

“Excuse me”, the bloke called. “But I’m lost! We came here to go fishing but we got lost. Can you help us?”




I thought to myself, I must really be lost to end up this far off the beaten track. This was one spot most tourists would never visit.

I offered the bloke some of our fish as we had plenty to spare, the thing we desperately needed was fuel.

“Can I do anything for you?” Yelled the tourist. Could you what? I thought to myself. Is the Pope a Catholic?

“Well I could sure use some fuel, if you have enough to





spare?” I yelled back, to make myself heard over the noise of the outboard motor.

“No worries mate, we have plenty !” he responded. “In fact I threw in an extra jerry can full, just in case. Help yourself.”

“God you are so good!” I whispered. Here was the answer to my prayer. I had the fuel we needed to get us home and the Lord even sent someone to deliver it to us! How’s that for service?

Within minutes we were refueled and cruising home into a blazing red ball of fire, as the tropical sun slid below the distant horizon. We arrived back at the boat ramp and loaded up, exactly as I had seen with my eye of faith, my imagination.

Coincidence you say? Maybe, but I doubt it, it’s called the Grace of God - His unmerited, unearned favour! Coincidence? No, it’s more than likely you need your mind renewed to the promises in the Word of God! Maybe your problem is like many other Christians - you suffer from “hardness of heart”, it’s easier to flow with the things of the world than it is the things of the Spirit!

