

## Application BD using Mental Images, (#1)

This study intends to bring to light knowledge of how the human mind forms, stores and uses ideas. Additionally we will discuss the ministry of God, The Holy Spirit (GHS) as He interacts with our minds to form biblical ideas for application. Specifically, this study is interested in the images we form and store in our minds that we use as a guide to how different aspects of life should work.

**Understanding these “stored images” will enable us to reach a greater level of application of doctrine.**

### Mental Faculties of Perception The Mind’s Eye (Eph 1:16-19) Enlighten eyes / heart

Vs 16 – Paul’s prayer; Vs 17 – might give (main verb) [idea] (A.A.Subj **didomi**) [gift]

**The gift** - spirit of wisdom & revelation through full knowledge of Him (Christ)

- Vs 17 is a summary statement of the specifics in vs.18-19
- Spirit – message, inner disposition of wisdom and understanding of hidden things
- Knowledge – **epignosis** – knowledge believed **à** building blocks of wisdom & insight

Vs 18 – enlighten – (Pf.P.Ptc) – inst ptc – [means] – [give light to see]; [enabled to process epignosis]

Vs 18 – eyes / heart – **ophthalmos** mental faculties / perception – [mental images seen in heart]

Vs 18 – that you might know – **oida** Pf.A.Inf – [see with the mind] – 3 categories – (tis) [see what?]

- hope of His calling;
- riches of His glorious inheritance/saints
- exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe
  - a. Mental faculties of perception connected to the heart – process gnosis **à** epignosis
  - b. Eyes / heart enlightened to know (see with mind) – 3 categories of privileges in position / Christ
  - c. Heart enabled to visualize: hope / calling; riches / inheritance; greatness / power

### **Luke 11:34-36 – eye is the lamp of the body**

Vs 34 – eye – mind’s eye; eyes / heart – perceptive, visualization faculties

Vs 34 – eye is single – haplous – simple, sincere, w/out folds; w/out hypocrisy; honest  
full of light / truth – look honestly at self, others, life – mind’s eye looking for truth

Vs 34 – eye is evil – poneros – influenced by Devil; divided, hypocritical, dishonest  
full of darkness – mind’s eye conflicted & divided about self, others & life

Vs 35 – be on guard – light = dark; thinking becomes self centered & evil

Vs 36 – goal – mind’s eye to perceive all light, no dark, all will shine forth like when a lamp is lit – light of God shine from within us to give light to others.

- a. Mind’s eye – mental faculties of perception – synonymous with eyes / heart
- b. Single – honest; focused on truth – filled with light & shining light to others
- c. Guard against evil motives – use light for selfish motives

**James 1:2-4 – hegeomai – ago = lead + oomai = [imagine]**

- a. lead your imagination to visualize different scenarios God might bring about to cause good out of adversity

**Heb 11:24-27 – hegeomai** - mental imagery Moses used to choose God’s plan and Eternal Rewards

- a. Imagination -mental faculty - combine pieces of info in new ways – new conclusions
- b. **Hegeomai** – harness creative faculties to see God’s good hammered out of adversity
- c. Reject images that visualize angry, fearful scenarios that lead us into sin patterns

## Mental Faculties – Divine Design

### 1. In 1<sup>st</sup> Century the writers of scripture used terminology that made distinctions about the design & function of the human soul.

**Nous** [mind]; **kardia** [heart]; **pneuma** [spirit]; **suneidesis** [conscience]; **oomai** [imagination]; **boule** [motives]; verbs / seeing – **blepo** [focused mind]; **horao** [big picture]; **thereo** [theorize]

These distinctions were not made by biblical writers; they were made primarily by Plato and Aristotle between the years 428-322 BC. These Greek philosophers / psychologists observed and termed these distinctions, which were carried to Israel by Alexander in his conquest of the known world. These distinctions were extra-biblical, but used by **Jesus** and the writers of scripture and were commonly used terms in their day.

- Science, history, medicine, psychology can add to our understanding of spiritual concepts
- Brain science, psychology offers knowledge of mental mechanisms GHS works with

### 2. God designed the human soul with mental faculties or mental organs of perception

Heb 5:14 – Greek **aistheterion** – faculties, mental organs / perception – discern good / evil  
Eph 1:18 – eyes / heart; Lk 11:34 – eye as lamp of the body

### 3. Human mental faculties form thoughts in 3 different ways – visual, verbal, feeling

Visual – mental images representing people, events & principles used by the mind's eye

Verbal – inner dialogue; speaking to ourselves – Psm 10:6 he said in his heart

Feeling – kinesthetic – inner representations of doing that can be felt

- Our Old Man beliefs are stored in memory using all 3 forms of thought – visual / verbal / feelings
- Our Old Man beliefs create our paradigms holistic image of different relationships in life;
- Old Man Beliefs à expectations about how these relationships should function;
- Guidelines to determine success or failure in our relationships – marriage / family

### 4. Our human faculties form, store, use images in OM to motivate & guide our behaviors

Form – personal experience – parental relating; parents marriage; books, movies –

Stored – categorically stored memories corresponding to different areas of life

Use – Recall images to tell us how life should work – marriage, family, career, friends

- a. Motivation – our deepest needs and longings for relationship are tied to these images
  - Desire for love, intimacy, belonging, appreciation, significance, impact
  - Biblical images – hope/calling; riches/inheritance; greatness/power – for us
- b. Guide – we first draw on our experiences, then exchange them for biblical principles
  - Experience – our parental models of marriage and family; books, movies, stories
  - Biblical – divine parental model of marriage and family; body, shepherd/sheep

### 5. Stored images activate when encountering situations similar as in their formation

Max Wertheimer formed an experiment nicknamed "the dot essay" because it was illustrated with abstract patterns of dots and lines – he concluded that the perceiving eye tends to bring together elements that look alike and will complete an incomplete form.

- **Marriage:** Similar situations evoke old images that we are compelled to complete
- **Children:** We mysteriously train & discipline our children as our parents trained us, even when we remember little about our own childhood

### 6. When our relationship images are false, they create conflict in relationships.

Discover what is true and false within our hearts – purify our hearts with truth 2Cor 10:5 – bring every thought captive into obedience to Christ.

### Mental Faculties – Practical Application

**God, The Holy Spirit (GHS) empowers our existing human faculties to process spiritual phenomena** Carnal man.

1Cor 2:14 – the natural man (unsaved) cannot understand spiritual phenomena

Rom 8:7 – the carnal mind is hostile toward God & unable to submit to His law or please Him

Pre-Salvation formation of beliefs – visual / verbal / feeling – Old Man Beliefs / behaviors

**The Spirit empowers** - Jn 14:16 [teach, recall]; Jn 16:13 [guide]; Gal 5:22-24 [produce fruit of God's character]; 1Cor 2:10-16 [enable us to understand deep things of God]; Rom 8:4 [fulfills law in us] Rom 8:16 [gives assurance]; Rom 6 [freed us from control of our Old Man Beliefs]

Post-Salvation exchange of beliefs – visual / verbal / feelings – New Man beliefs / behaviors

Enabled to manipulate inner images / dialogue – reject OM & embrace

GHS enables us to be transformed by renewing our minds – Eph 4:22-24

Take off old man – reject, discard OM images that control relating patterns

Renew mind – create biblical images from historic examples, parables, and principles

Put on new man – visualize biblical images to control relating patterns

Recognizing our Old Man ideas that cause sinful patterns in our relationships, i.e.

Fights - quarrels – **mache** – fighting in relationships **Jam 4:1-3** – frustrated desire motivating quarrels

Causes of relationship problems – mismanaged desires creating conflict

Desire **à** don't get what you want **à** MAS - mental murder (anger) & hotly desire **à** still unable to obtain **à** don't pray **à** pray with selfish motives, spend on passions

Desire deceives (Eph 4:22) – believe that fulfilling desires = happiness

Frustrated desire frustrates our belief system – impossible to be happy

React with anger & manipulation of others to receive the object of desire

**2Tim 2:23-26** – belief system corrupted by evil thinking causing quarrels

Foolish & ignorant debates in opposition to the truth – snare of the devil

One person believes truth while the other influenced by evil thinking

Influence of evil causes debating strategies to avoid or defeat the truth

Believer is to be gentle, forbearing & humble, not to debate / fight & to win the other

**Tit 3:9** – Doctrinal debating causing divisions

Perverted ideas – **ektrepho** – twisted, inside out – beliefs turned inside out

Sinning – perverted ideas cause us to relate in sinful patterns

1. All of us have false images in our hearts that cause us to relate in unhealthy ways
2. We can become aware of our false ideas by observing our relationships
3. Our false ideas/images are connected to our desires – believe must get what we want
  - Frustrated when we don't get what we want – angry, manipulative, demanding
4. Our false ideas / images are connected to thinking that opposes the truth
  - Relational patterns are not aligned with what we see in the bible

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