

Re-Imagine Your Life

James in his letter to Jewish believers told them that they could choose to control their thoughts rather than allow circumstances to control their thoughts. Our natural tendency is to choose our state of mind based on circumstances. [Good => good state; bad => bad state]. James tells us that we use our creative faculties to lead ourselves into a state of mind based on the truth of God's word.

The purpose of this study is to help us learn how God, The Holy Spirit (GHS) empowers our human faculties to apply God's word to our life situations.

(Jam 1:2) Consider it pure joy, my brothers when you face trials of many kinds, [Consider – **hegeomai** – lead, rule, think, consider, deem, conclude, count]

1. Definition & description of hegeomai

Ago – lead the way, bring along, guide + **oiomai** – imagine, think, suppose

- Lead the mind; guide the imagination; control your conclusions & thinking; use your imagination & creative faculties to rethink your attitude toward life situations; imagine yourself using spiritual principles in life situations & imagine God's blessings that result from the application of doctrine
- A.** Ruler, Leader – political leader Mt 2:6; Act 7:10; spiritual leader Lk 22:26; Act 15:22; Chief speaker of a team – Act 14:12; Pastors Heb 13:7, 17, 24
 - Political leaders lead the social thinking of people – vision; new possibilities
 - Spiritual leaders lead the spiritual thinking of the congregation – teach so that believers can imagine their life in Christ
- B.** Think, consider, and conclude – to allow GHS to lead your mind, to allow GHS to use your imagination to arrive at spiritual conclusions.
 - GHS enables believer to imagine principles of truth that lead you to spiritual conclusions and behaviors – different conclusions than our flesh
 - Use imagination to visualize spiritual conclusions to your circumstances
 - Reject natural tendency to pursue usual human answers to adversity and allow GHS to generate new images & possibilities for our lives.

Ex: (Jam 1:2) Hurricane Ike – Imagine person trapped as Ike's flooding filled their house; made them aware of need for Christ; grab bible, read & be saved; lost all earthly possessions and gain eternal possession

- Imagine any situation that might happen in your life resulting in spiritual benefit to yourself and those around you – worth losing your stuff?

2. Uses of hegeomai regarding life situations – re-imagine your self handling these life situations using God's power to apply God's word

(Lk 22:26) Those who would be spiritual leaders – be servants

- See yourself using your freedom to enslave yourself to needs of others

(Act 15:22) Experienced leaders in the church should handle critical ministries

(Phil 2:3) Picture others as more important than yourself

- Create image of self growing smaller and others growing larger

(Phil 2:6) GHS saw Himself limiting His deity & becoming a man

- GHS saw Himself limiting His deity, becoming humanity; suffering abuses & death on cross – didn't see Himself refusing the Father's plan

(Phil 3:7-8) Paul re-thought his value system – what was profitable (human assets) he considered as worthless & dung for sake of Christ

- Before Christ, Paul could not have imagined himself w/out human assets of his Jewish genetics, family support, political position, personal wealth. After Christ, God revealed true value to him so that he was willing to surrender all human assets, live day to day – saw it all as worthless in comparison

(1Thes 5:12-13) Appreciate those who lead/teach you & think of them as valuable

- See their true value for your life and express gratitude & support

(2Thes 3:14-15) Don't socialize with reversionistic believers, but don't think of them as an enemy but as a brother

(1Tim 1:12) Christ considered Paul faithful – put him in the ministry

(1Tim 6:1) Slaves consider masters worthy of honor

(Heb 11:11) Sarah considered God faithful – to fulfill His promise of Isaac

(Heb 11:26) Moses weighed out the value of disgrace for sake of Christ & the treasures of Egypt concluded life with Christ as more valuable – rewards

(Heb 13:7) Remember those who lead you – speak word of God to you, consider their conduct, imitate their faith

(Jam 1:2) Rethink your attitude about adversity – joyful

3. The Greek word hegeomai describes genuine application of God's word.

GHS works to retrain our minds; replace beliefs, views, attitudes, feelings, action

False ideas: Most ideas presented from pulpits emphasize overt activity w/out any discussion of what happens in the soul – Christian works by the flesh. When application takes place in the soul by faith, it always impacts our words / deeds.

- False app takes genuine works and does them through human effort
- False app emphasizes results w/out motives; quantity w/out quality; style w/out substance;

True Application: (2Cor 4:13) I believe therefore I have spoken – faith à speak

- Change the soul (beliefs) and change motives, feelings and actions

Obey – peitho be persuaded, convinced – allow truth to persuade your view of life situations to impact feelings & behaviors (Rom 2:8)

Hupakouo Hear under (Rom 6:12) – to hear the voice of authority & comply

Hupotasso Submit to authority (Eph 5:22)

Hegeomai Envision the truth in life situations; picture yourself empowered to perform the truth; picture conclusions based on biblical principles

- (Heb 5:14) training / exercise our mental faculties – aistheterion – mental organ of perception; faculty for understanding (Aristotle) (Lk 9:45; Phil 1:9)
- Allow GHS to train your faculties to envision the truth in your life