

INSIGHTS

*A very big part of
our design is in our
ability to remember
our past and
imagine our future.*

THE MOVIES IN YOUR MIND

BY DR. DENNIS BURKE

There is no doubt that when God designed you and me, He created amazing abilities in us all.

We have the ability to fellowship directly with Him. And because of Jesus' free gift to us, we are welcomed into His presence without being condemned or made to feel unworthy. We are free to simply enjoy Him just as He enjoys us.

A very big part of our design is in our ability to remember our past and imagine our future. Life can be enriched by reviewing the mountain top events of our life. These memories are like the fuel that ignites our imagination for great times ahead. Our memories and imaginations are like the eyes of our inner life that impacts our perspective toward everything.

When our life is in alignment with God's thoughts and promises we are on course for the good life in Jesus. Yet, I find a great deal of trouble can also be stirred up from these two aspects of our inner life — memories and imaginations.



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The writer of Psalm 77 points out that there are underlying questions that will undermine our trust in God's influence. In this psalm Asaph asks several questions that pretty much summarize every kind of unbelief.

Will the Lord cast off forever? And will He be favorable no more? Has His mercy ceased forever? Has His promise failed forevermore? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies? (Psalm 77:7-9 NKJV).

Of course, the answer to each of these questions is a resounding NO! Although, when we are in the heat of the moment and facing pressure and problems these ideas can race through our minds.

But then the psalmist makes a change by choosing to remember several things that pave the way for victories. They are:

And I said, "This is my anguish; But I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High. I will remember the

works of the Lord; surely I will remember Your wonders of old.

I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your deeds" (Psalm 77:10-12 NKJV).

Notice that he is selective about what he chooses to remember, meditate, and talk about. He is not allowing unfiltered anguish to dominate his inner life. He chooses what will dominate it instead.

Our memories are the replay of our past. The more we replay the victories, the things God has done in us or even in others, the more alive His promises become for current situations. This review will inspire faith, soothe the soul and restore our joy. However, too often our memories will betray us by filling the screen of our mind with a condemning and disqualifying picture of ourselves. The memories of bad decisions, failed relationships, or hurtful words seared into our soul will disconnect us from the strength to step into our rightful place of victory.

In Hebrews 8:12 we're told, "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless

deeds I will remember no more."

Since God doesn't hold our past against us, when other people remind us of our shortcomings, they needn't hold power over us either.

Our imagination is part of what defines biblical meditation. By meditating and imagining what God says, we pre-play our future. We can envision God moving and demonstrating

**"EVEN WHEN
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His power on our behalf. We have the ability to see the results of faith and prayer before they happen.

Faith sees the changes come with the eyes of faith, creating previews in the movie in our mind.

When we choose to remember and see God's creative power as a preview in our mind, it will also create a filter for how we speak. We can alter our confession and conversations to reflect exactly what we have pre-determined as our end result.

When our words turn negative, harsh, impatient, or angry it's time to go back to the Word of God to recreate His image in our mind. When we feed on hurt feelings, those feelings will fill the screen of our soul with the memories of exactly how we were hurt, and

UPCOMING MEETINGS



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Victory Church | 1208 East Hardy Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39401 | 601-544-8485

BROOKLYN PARK, MN | JANUARY 21-22

Living Word Christian Center | 9201 75th Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55423 | 763-315-7000

JEFFERSON, SC | JANUARY 29

Faith Family Church | 5779 Mt. Pisgah Road
Jefferson, SC 29718 | 803-475-7374

LANCASTER, CA | FEBRUARY 12-13

Antelope Valley Springs of Life Ministries
456 E Avenue K-4
Lancaster, CA 93535 | 661-972-9072

LEBANON, OHIO | FEBRUARY 19

Faith Building Church | 875 Covenant Way
Lebanon, OH 45036 | 513-932-5504

STILLWATER, OK | MARCH 19

Solid Rock Church | 2917 E. 6th Street
Stillwater, OK 74076 | 405-743-4128

PUNTA GORDA, FL | MARCH 26-28

New Life Family Worship | 28330 Bermont Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33982 | 941-639-1700

TESTIMONIES

THANKS FOR BE A BLESSING TO US.
Part of the enclosed offering is from my 11 years old son who is reading some of Vikki and Dennis books with me. He tithes from his weekly allowance to different ministries, but this time he wants his tithe go to Dennis Burke Ministries because the books are teaching him a lot and he wants Dennis and Vikki to continue writing. I share this testimony with you so that you know that the impact of your ministry is touching children too. Thanks and be bless!

—D.M./Puerto Rico

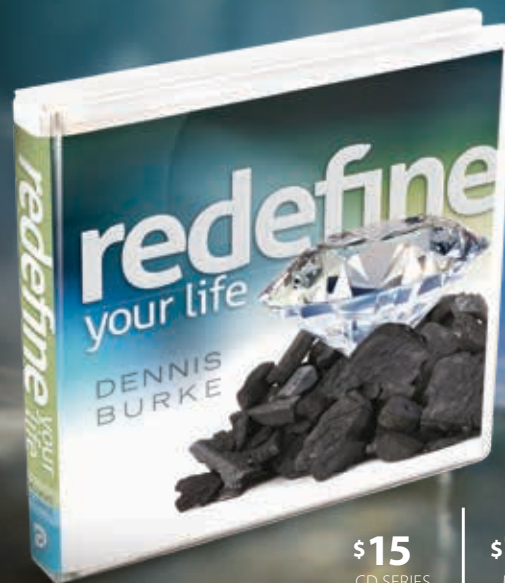
then our imaginations run unfiltered. It is like a runaway train racing into a dangerous curve.

It's time to once again stir up the Word and change what we're feeding on. Take Isaiah 26:3 as a starting place:

"Perfect, absolute peace surrounds those whose imaginations are consumed with you; they confidently trust in you" (TPT).

And Ephesians 1:18 stirs faith to see what God sees for us:

Why does the abundant life Jesus promised always seem just out of reach for many Christians? How we see ourselves makes all the difference. Continue this study in more depth with this 3-part CD series.



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"I pray that the light of God will illuminate the eyes of your imagination, flooding you with light, until you experience the full revelation of the hope of his calling" (TPT).

This illumination in your imaginations brings your thinking into agreement with the plans God wants to unfold for your future.

Keep in mind, if your pre-play is defined by your replay of failings, disappointments, or the weakness of your wrong thinking you are setting yourself up to repeat it. When your mind is stuck on the pains of the past, it can be a challenge changing the memories and imaginations that you feed on. But it's been said, "the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." The first step to change is making the decision to stop yourself when your mind runs rampant. When your conversation turns to complaints or contrary to God's love language, put a Holy Spirit bit into your mouth. Choose to speak His language of faith and love. Even when

CONTINUED ON BACK ►

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you don't feel like it, speak His Words in faith. Then your emotions will follow. The Holy Spirit is your partner in restoring you and renewing your mind. He will absolutely help you.
This "mind management" is a huge

part of the daily habits of a disciple of Jesus. And in these times when so many are facing mounting pressures we need to be reminded often.
The apostle Peter said it this way:
"For this reason I will not be

negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth" (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV).
Your best days are ahead.

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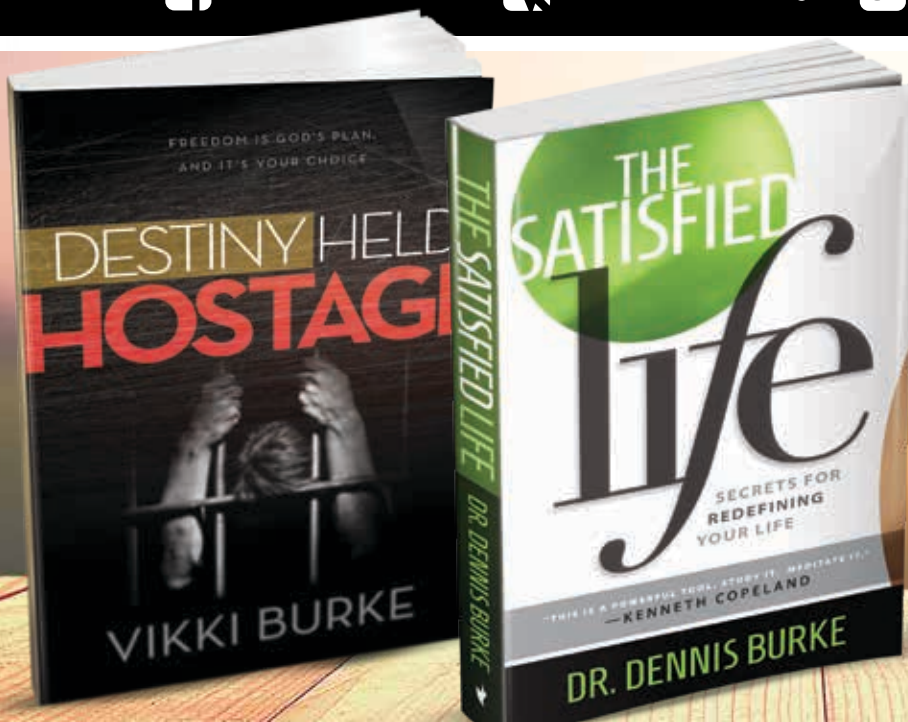
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