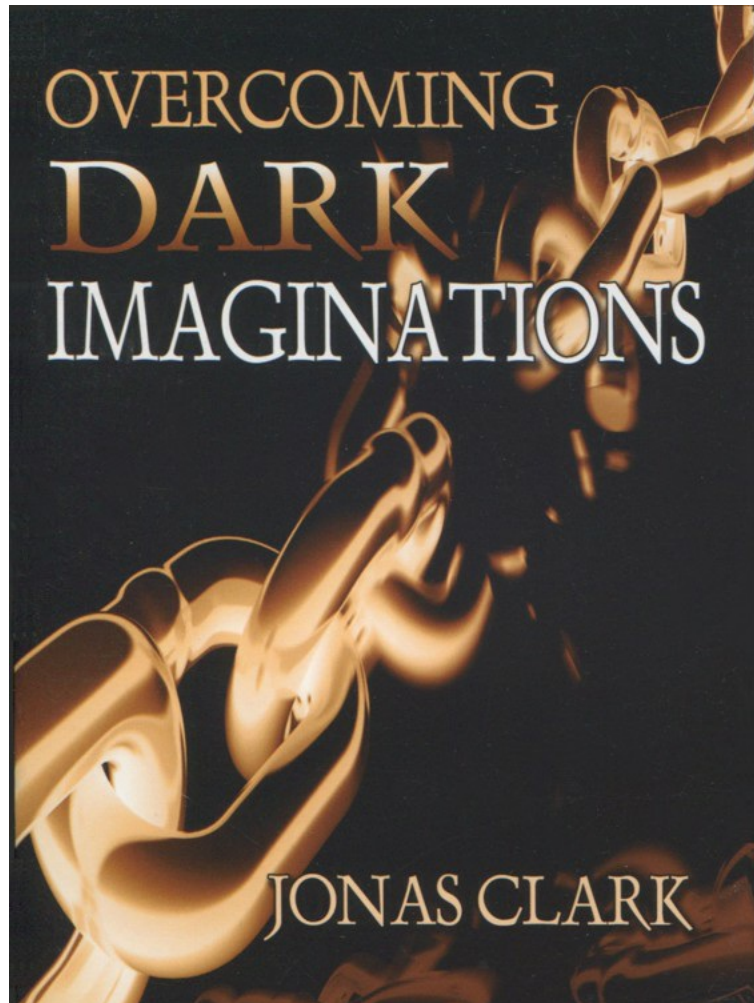


An abstract, three-dimensional sculpture made of polished, golden metal. The sculpture consists of several thick, curved bands that twist and loop around each other, creating a complex, organic form. The lighting is dramatic, coming from the upper left, which highlights the smooth, reflective surfaces of the metal and creates deep shadows in the recessed areas. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a backdrop, which makes the golden sculpture stand out prominently.

OVERCOMING DARK IMAGINATIONS

JONAS CLARK



OVERCOMING DARK

IMAGINATIONS

by Jonas Clark

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are taken
from the King James Version.

OVERCOMING DARK IMAGINATIONS

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OVERCOMING DARK

1

IMAGINATIONS

With your spirit you connect to the
unseen spirit world, with your body the
natural world, and with your soul the
magnificent world of imagination.
an you see yourself with sword in hand
Cwinning the war against your mind? To
succeed you will need to discover how God
created you, a champion that is "fearfully and
wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). God
created you spirit, soul and body. Just like
God, you are a triune being. With your spirit
you connect to the unseen spirit world, with

your body the natural world, and with your
soul the magnificent world of imagination.

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

When you were born again, your spirit
became a "new creature in Christ Jesus." Your
body and soul, however, remained unchanged.
They need some help. You understand that
exercise and diet is good for your physical
health but what about the health of your soul?

The Apostle John said,

Beloved I pray above all things that
you might prosper and be in health even
as your soul prospers. (3 John 1:2)
A person can be born again, physically fit,
and yet suffer tremendous warfare within
their mind. Throughout this material you will
learn battle tactics that will help you
overcome the warfare against your mind. Let's
start with the soul.

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

Vain imaginations are those
corrupted negative images and
possibilities that form within the
spirit of your mind when you linger
on negative thoughts.

Your soul hosts your mind, emotion,
imagination, reasoning and intellect. The
warfare that attacks your mind operates

within your soul, particularly your thought life and within your imagination. When God created you He gave you the ability to “see all things as possible” within your imagination. Satan understands how God created you and will use your imagination and ignorance of God’s Word against you. That’s why it is important to:

Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

Imagination is your seeing gift from God.

With it you can envision great things, dream great things and achieve great things. All outstanding achievement in life is birthed within someone’s imagination. Before you can benefit from positive imaginations, however, you need to win the war against vain imaginations. Vain imaginations are those corrupted negative images and possibilities that form within the spirit of your mind when you linger on negative thoughts.

Vain imaginations defeat many Christians and take them out of successful Christian living. Our imaginations, like military forts in the old American West, need to be fortified with Gospel truth. That’s why Paul taught

believers to renew their minds with the Word
of God. The devil is a strategist. He uses
imaginations to gain access into your life to

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

steal, kill and destroy. The Apostle Paul passed
on a tremendous truth that you can use for
victory. Throughout this essay we will use it
as foundational truth to help you win every
battle that attacks your mind.

For though we walk in the flesh, we
do not war after the flesh: For the
weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but
mighty through God to the pulling down
of strong holds; Casting down
imaginations, and every high thing that
exalteth itself against the knowledge of
God, and bringing into captivity every
thought to the obedience of Christ. (2
Corinthians 10:3-5)

From this verse you will learn how to
overcome every vain imagination and every
thought that tries to take you out of the
generous life that Christ provides. One of
humanity's greatest struggles is the spiritual
warfare in the mind caused by corrupted

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

thoughts and imaginations.

WARFARE WITHIN

All men have eyes but few can really see.

It's amazing how much is written in the Bible about imagination. The realm of imagination is the realm of images. It is the place of seeing and visualizing, scripture says, "Thou shall have no graven images (imaginings) before me" (Exodus 20:4). Our Lord never wanted His sons and daughters to worship him through graven images but with their heart and through their imaginings. With your imagination and only with your imagination can you image the greatness of God.

"So what is an imagination?" you ask. An imagination is a mental vista or picture seen within the spirit of your mind. It's a picture of something created in the mind of man, or said another way, in the spirit of man's mind. It is

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

an image of something you see and suppose might happen. It is seeing yourself in a place you're not. It is a real place called the spirit of your mind, the world of the unseen within.

The spirit of your mind has nothing to do with your born-again spirit. The spirit of your mind is within your soul or psuche man (pronounced psou-khay, Greek for soul). An imagination forms a mental picture of things unseen or things only seen within.

Your imagination can only incubate

what you linger on, good or bad.

Something that exists only within the imagination is a virtual world that is not real until acted on.

Imaginations create reality, even evil reality. There are over 400,000 registered sex offenders in the United States. The

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

pornography industry, fueled by carnal lust and sexual fantasy, is larger than the combined revenues of Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo and Apple. Driven by debased images, this blackened smut is a \$1 billion industry in North America alone.

Engineered by wicked masterminds, pornography is the creation and distribution of sexually illicit images that have no literary or artistic value.

Through the contagion of erotica, Satan uses the imagination of man to sin against God, himself and society. Unrestrained sensuous pingere have a dark side that leads to wickedness, debauchery and destruction. The infamous serial killer Ted Bundy, murderer of 12-year old Kimberly Leach, was interviewed by Dr. James Dobson before his execution in the Florida State electric chair on January 24, 1989. Bundy murdered 28 young girls and

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

women. He grew up in a Christian home, went to church and had loving parents. He describes pornography as the genesis of his fall into the abyss.

In the interview just hours before his electrocution, he tells of finding, as a 12- to 13-year-old boy, a pornographic magazine in the trash near his home. In time he became more and more addicted to pornography, especially violent images of tortured women. When that no longer satisfied his lust, he fantasized of sexually assaulting and murdering women himself. He said, "The most damaging kind of pornography—and I'm talking from hard, real, personal experience—is that that involves violence and sexual violence. The wedding of those two forces—as I know only too well—brings about behavior that is too terrible to describe."

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

Refuse to let Satan introduce demonic imaginary into your imagination. Bind every image and cast them down. You can choose how you respond. Bundy didn't, you can.

In "The Road to Xanadu" Professor John Livingston Lowes wrote, "Fantasy and

imagination are not two powers at all but one.” Bundy brought life to his perverted sexual fantasies. Commenting on the dangers of pornography he said, “I’ve lived in prison for a long time now, and I’ve met a lot of men who were motivated to commit violence. Without exception, every one of them was deeply involved in pornography—deeply consumed by the addiction. The FBI’s own study on serial homicide shows that the most common interest among serial killers is

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

pornographers.”

Bundy is an example of the dark side of unfettered and incubated evil imaginations. He leaves us with a fagged warning, “There are those loose in their towns and communities, like me, whose dangerous impulses are being fueled, day in and day out, by violence in the media in its various forms—particularly sexualized violence.”

The good news is that Christ gave you authority to bind and loose every thought and imagination. Refuse to let Satan introduce demonic imaginary into your imagination. Bind every image and cast them down. You can choose how you respond. Bundy didn’t, you can.

RESPONSE ABILITY

Everyday we are bombarded by secular

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

television reminding us that we are in a spiritual battle against our minds. There is much concern about the economy, jobs, and housing prices, mortgage foreclosures, declining morals, attacks against family values, wars and rumors of wars, sickness, disease, terrorism and natural disasters of all kinds. It seems like the perpetual hostilities against our minds offers much opportunity to leave the realm of faith in Christ and enter the quagmire of doubt, unbelief and worry.

Once again I am assisted by the Apostle Paul's statement: "Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God." I love the power to imagine "all things possible to him that believeth." Don't you? Frequently, however, we have to battle the negative thoughts that war against our minds first. This brings me to the testimony of Viktor Frankl, a survivor of

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

the Nazi prison camps. In his autobiography, "Man's Search for Meaning," he pens an inspirational testimony of humanity's potential for greatness whatever the circumstances. He wrote:

Our generation is realistic, for we
have come to know man as he really is.
After all, man is that being who invented
the gas chambers of Auschwitz; however,
he is also that being who entered those gas
chambers upright, with the Lord's Prayer
or the Shema Yisrael on his lips.

Frankl stated that no matter the
mistreatment by his demonic oppressors, they
could never take away his choice of how he
responded to them.

BUILDING STRONGHOLDS

Vain imaginations pondered will build
damaging strongholds in your life. They war
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Overcoming Dark Imaginations
against your mind and keep you from walking
in God's perfect plan and purpose. Remember
the degenerate progression. First the enemy
challenges God's Word in your life by
introducing such things as doubt and unbelief.
Next you have opportunity to ponder the
thought and image it or cast it down. Further,
you have the ability to linger on that
imagination and speak it out or take it captive
to the Word of God and cast it down. See the
progression? The ability to give freedom to
your imaginations belongs entirely to you.
The result of habitual negative thoughts
and imaginations can send you spiraling into a

state of depression. When we think something often enough, we begin to believe it's true and our feelings match what we are thinking. To conquer depression, psychiatrist Aaron T. Beck developed "cognitive therapy" in the 1960s to stop negative thoughts by replacing

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

them with more positive ones. He believed that depression could be stopped before it ever started. The Apostle Paul developed the therapy long before Beck. He said,

Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. (Philippians 4:6-9)

Overcoming Dark Imaginations

God gave you freedom to choose how you respond to every circumstance in life, every thought that attacks your mind and every bad report that contradicts God's plan. Like Frankl you have complete control over your thought life. All of us have thoughts. They can be good or bad but thoughts are only ingredients we use to make decisions. If your thoughts are carnal, then cast them down. If they are positive, feed them. Your imagination can only incubate what you linger on, good or bad.

You have control over your thought life and nobody can ever take away your freedom to choose how you respond to thoughts and imaginations. The Word teaches of a demon possessed man with an unclean spirit that lived in a cemetery. When he saw Jesus he ran to Him, bowed and worshipped (Mark 5). If a legion of devils could not stop him from

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

coming to Christ then no devil, demonic thought or evil imagination can stop you from the abundant life in Christ Jesus.

Take control of your life and choose to respond to every circumstance of life, thought and imagination according to the truth found in the

Word of God.

Again, scripture declares, "For though we walk in the flesh we do not war after the flesh" (2 Corinthians 10:3). The warfare theme is consistent throughout the Bible. All of us are in a spiritual war for dominion. Dominion in our lives, and yes dominion within our minds. As said before, when you were saved, your spirit man was born again. You became a "new creature" in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17). Your mind, however, didn't change. It was not born again and needs renewal. After

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

salvation you still had, for example, carnal thinking, bad information and troubling life experiences and memories that affect your judgment. Even so God has given you mighty weapons to stop every damaging thought and corrupted imagination. With these weapons you have authority and power to cast down every imagination and "high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God" in your life.

The world has always been filled with doubt, unbelief and evil goings-on. The good news is that you, the born-again believer, are no longer part of that kingdom. You can escape the dark side. Christ has redeemed you and given you great and precious promises.

Take control of your life and choose to respond to every circumstance of life, thought and imagination according to the truth found in the Word of God. He has given you the

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

ability to bring into captivity every vain thought and imagination every time they attack your mind. You can do it! Start today.

MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

With your spirit you connect to the unseen spirit world, with your body the natural world, and with your soul the magnificent world of imagination.

Your soul hosts your mind, emotion, imagination, reasoning and intellect. The warfare that attacks your mind operates within your soul, particularly your thought life and within your imagination.

Vain imaginations are those corrupted negative images and possibilities that form within the spirit of your mind when you linger on negative thoughts.

Imaginations create reality, even evil

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Overcoming Dark Imaginations

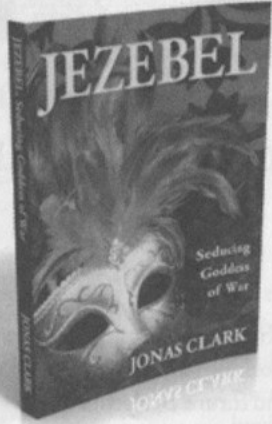
reality.

All of us have thoughts. They can be good or bad, but thoughts are only ingredients we use to make decisions.

If your thoughts are carnal, then cast them
down. If they are positive, feed them.

Your imagination can only incubate what
you linger on, good or bad.

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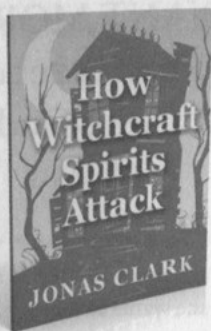
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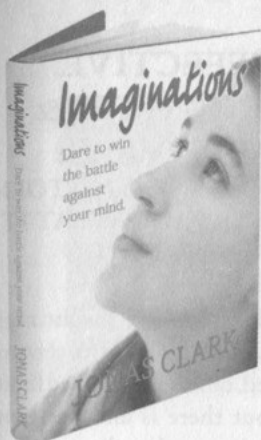
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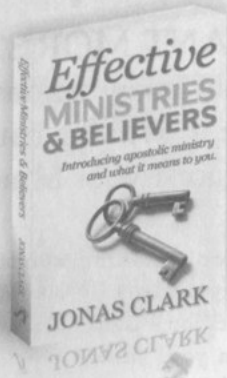
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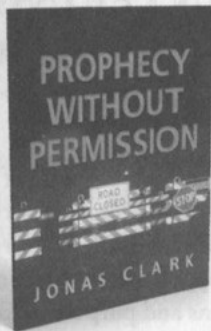
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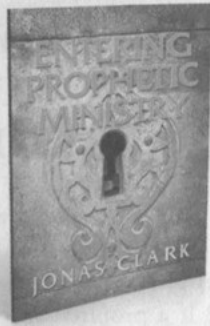
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About Jonas Clark



The anointing on Jonas Clark's life is both strong and bold. His great passion is to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Fortitude and God's grace have taken the ministry international, carrying a message of divine impact and reform for this generation into over 25 nations. As a reformer, his desire is to see the nations of the world impacted by the power of God. Jonas has written more than a dozen books with an apostolic and prophetic voice that are catching the attention of the Church.

For more information visit:
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Contact: Jonas Clark Ministries
27 West Hallandale Beach Blvd.
Hallandale Beach, FL 33009
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