

choices. You move toward the fulfillment of your selected goals by "imagineering".

An Indian guide demonstrated uncanny skill in his work in the rugged regions of the Southwest. On one of his trips he was asked how he knew where he was going. His secret was in being able to reach his destination in spite of what seemed to be insurmountable obstacles. He replied,

"There really isn't any secret. All one needs  
is the far vision, and the near look...."

He went on to explain that if he first determined his objective, and then saw to it that each step taken would be directed toward the attainment of that objective, he couldn't help but succeed. "The far vision....and the near look". "Imagineering" is called for. Friend, believe....believe that your goal is already accomplished, by looking backward on it. In the quietness of these moments this hour, affirm for yourself that you are ONE with the mind of God, and that His power, His peace, His promises are undergirding you and taking you to your goal - already.

PRAYER      Open our hearts, Lord, to receive your word. Silence in us every voice, but your own. So, that hearing we may understand; understanding, obey. And obeying, receive your love in Christ Jes. In His spirit, we pray. Amen

A FRIEND A friend of mine, talking about her invalid mother, remarked that for many years she and her mother had feared that the mother would one day get heart trouble and be paralyzed; it had been a source for perpetual worry.

Perpetual worry is another way of "praying without ceasing". Together, mother and daughter had held before their minds this destructive image of the mother sick and unable to walk, fully expecting this to materialize. Sadly and predictably, it did happen, exactly as they had envisioned it for so many years. Sadly and predictably, it occurred. Some would interpret this as an example of premonition, or as a vindication of their years of worry. It would be difficult to explain to them that they had been actually imagineering for this all the while. The goal had been illness, and they had been looking backward upon it.

POSITIVE SIDE There's a positive side to all of this and it can be found in this beautiful story of the prince and the statue. The prince had been born with a deformed back, and he could never stand upright like even the most humble person in his kingdom. He had great pride and this caused him much mental anguish.

He called upon the most skillful sculptor and requested him to make a statue of himself - representative in every detail - except with a straight back, as he might have been. When the work was completed, instead of being placed before the palace gate where all could see it, the prince directed that it should stand in a secret nook in the garden where only he would see it.

So it was, forgotten by all except the prince, who every morning and evening stole away from his retinue to look upon it. Each time he did so something seemed to go out of the statue and into him. Days, months, years passed, then strange reports went around the land that the prince's back was no longer crooked. Then one day he stood next to the statue and before his people - quite straight - his head noble, in fact the physical specimen his likeness had proclaimed him to be. You see, through the statue, the prince had spent this period in imagineering, looking backward, as it were, on his goal of healing, believing it was already done - then, one day it was.

CONCLUSION We stand on the threshold of a new season. Summer is almost over and Fall beckons. Energies have been refreshed. One needs to have a goal. Where do you want to get to? What do you want to do?

Some present may feel confused about simply "letting God's will be done". Thus, it is suggested that we follow the poetic advice, "Serene I fold my hands and wait; for I know my own will come to me".

However, friend, unless you know what "your own" implies, your life may end up being one of static indifference and inaction with nothing accomplished. The will of God is the ceaseless longing of the spirit to perfect that which He has created. God's will for you is to fulfill your life, your potential. God is not "pre-planning" where you should go and what you should achieve. His plan is for the awakening of your divine potential and your mind power, so that you can "magnify the Lord" in what you imagine and realize.

It is the better part of faith in God to develop faith in your self. Know where you want to go. See yourself as already there. In this way, you make

you wanted to believe, but if at the same time you were fearful, anxious, or in any way worried about it, you were hoping for change while believing in the very worst.

negative

More than this, worry itself is effective imagineering. It is visualizing the crisis, the problem and as Job discovered, "That which I feared has come upon me". The expression of force is always reversible - this is a law of physics. For us, the significance of the law of reversibility is that whatever experience we have may produce a picture in mind because we think in pictures, and if that picture can be reproduced in the absence of the experience, it will tend to bring the experience back again in fact and expression.

AN ILLUSTRATION In one of Edgar Rice Burroughs Martian stories, he tells of a great walled city that had outlived its usefulness and was inhabited by only a few old men.

But, every time an invading army appeared before the city, it would be driven back by hordes of archers that manned every bit of the tops of those walls and turrets and even swarmed out of the gates to meet the enemy in the open. When the antagonist fled, those archers would disappear. Where did the archers come from? According to this story, they came entirely from the minds of the old men who still inhabited that nearly deserted city. They remembered the huge, powerful forces that had once garrisoned their city in its heyday and they recalled former attempts at invasion when every assault had been successfully repelled by the soldiers who thereupon had dashed out of the gates and swept the enemy into the sea.

By gathering together and visualizing those mighty armies as once again existent, they brought them into actual being so that even their enemies could see them and be driven into fearful flight by them.

Does it sound a bit "far-fetched" to you? Go to your Bible and read again that chapter in second Kings - Chapter Six - that Leanne read earlier in the service. Read how the King of Assyria sent his horses and chariots and a great armed host to capture the Prophet Elijah and how in the night they surrounded him.

"And when the servant of the man of God was risen early and gone forth, behold an host encompassed the city, both with horses and chariots, and his servant said unto him, 'Alas my master, what shall we do?' and he answered, 'Fear not, for they that be with us are more than they that be with them!'" And Elijah prayed and said, 'Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes that he may see'. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man and he saw and beheld the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire around Elijah".

The prophet's prayer, you see, was that his servant would join him in visualizing the protective forces, and when he did, when they caught the vision so strongly that it was done, and they could actually look backward upon it and see that they had all those wonderful, supportive protectors to help repel the invader, then it indeed became a reality. "Imagineering"

Said Jesus: "Pray...believing ye have received".

## "LOOK BACKWARD ON YOUR GOAL"

### INTRODUCTION

I bumped into a new word recently that has stayed with me. It's the word "imagineering", and it provides a spring board for today's message on this Sunday of last Summer as we prepare ourselves for a new Season.

"Imagineering". The word refers to the use of an intelligently guided and well-developed imagination to create a plan for successful action. It points to the ability to see in actuality and in mental imagery the completed plan, and it implies using that imagery as motivation to carry it forward to actuality.

An executive of a large corporation was heard to say that the important thing is not where you were, but rather where you want to get. In other words, he was talking about the importance of having a goal. Last Spring I was offering some guidance to a young man in his quest for employment. To my question of what kind of a job he was looking for, he replied, "Well...that's just it....I really don't know what I want to do". This is a common problem - not only about work, but also about every area of life.

But if I, for instance, went up to an airline ticket counter and asked for a ticket and was asked, "Where do you want to go?" to which I replied, "Well, I really don't know" - there would be very little they could do in making the arrangements for my getting there. This is fundamental and needs to be given thoughtful and prayerful consideration in our approach to life's experience.

### DEVELOPMENT OF IDEA

"Imagineering". I like the sound of the word, as well as what it suggests. When we refer to the art of visualization, we're talking about a very simple yet meaningful technique by which you can indeed do something about conditions in the world - about people, about your work, about your personal relations, about your health of mind and body.

Our Lord referred to this technique when He said,

"All things whasover ye pray and ask for, believe ye receive them and ye shall have them".

There may be those who hold that this is a bit of "fantasizing" - to believe that you have something before you have really received it, but the principle is that until you believe you have received, you do not really hold the image of where you want to go and without that image there can be no progress. In other words, if you cannot look backward on your goal and see it as a finished thing, then you are not really reaching for anything.

"Imagineering". I think we practice it at various points in our lives. It helps me in playing golf. Whether I'm standing on the tee preparing to drive a golf ball two hundred yards, or standing on the putting green getting ready to make a twenty foot putt, it helps to visualize the flight of the ball down the fairway or the line of the ball across the putting green into the cup. It's helpful to visualize the completed shot. It doesn't always work out that way....

Often someone will say that they just can't understand...they have prayed often about something, but it just has not cleared up. We ask, "But did you really believe that it would be?" If your response is "yes, of course" no doubt