

ENCOUNTERING GOD

Imagination (greek Dianoia)

1. The faculty of *imagining*, or of **forming mental images** or **concepts** of what is not actually present to the senses.
2. The action or process of forming such images or concepts.
3. The faculty of producing ideal creations consistent with reality, as in literature, as distinct from the power of creating illustrative or decorative imagery.

Dianoia (Greek: δίανοια) is a term used by Plato for a type of thinking, specifically about mathematical and technical subjects. It is the capacity for, process of, or result of discursive thinking, in contrast with the immediate apprehension that is characteristic of noesis (intellect/intelligence).

IMAGINATION

Matthew 22:35-40 - ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’^[c] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.

Mind (‘Dianoia’ gr.) – The word translated “**imagination**” is the Greek noun #1271 “dianoia” and refers to the present exercise of the mind, or the minds ongoing thought process.

“Dianoia” refers to the action of the mind, the act of meditating and thinking through a matter until a determination is reached.

IMAGINATION

Psalm 27:4 – One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to **gaze (behold)** on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

Concordance

Orig: a primitive root; to gaze at; mentally, to perceive, contemplate (with pleasure); specifically, to have a vision of:--behold, look, prophesy, provide, see.

Grk Strong:

- 1) to see, perceive, look, behold, prophesy, provide
- 2) to see, behold
- 3) to see as a seer in the ecstatic state
- 4) to see, perceive
- 5) to see (by experience)

IMAGINATION

I John 5:20 - *“And we know that the Son of God has come, and hath given us an understanding (#1271 “dianoia” - an imagination), that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ...”*

God gave you an imagination so that you could know Him, recognize His presence, and understand divine revelation. Your imagination was not designed to be the devil’s playground, a repository of wicked and evil thoughts that titillate the flesh and inflate the soul with pride. It was created to meditate on Divine truth, to understand and comprehend the depths of His love, and to cultivate an intimate fellowship with His presence.

Man’s imagination is the workshop where we come to know and understand God.

(Perry Gaspard - lifetv.org)

The Eyes of Your Understanding

Ephesians 1:18 says that God gives us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him so that, *"The eyes of your understanding (#1271 "dianoia" - imagination) being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."*

God speaks to your heart through the eyes of your imagination.

Knowledge is a good thing, only if it is interpreted correctly. The imagination is the processing center that provides understanding and comprehension to the knowledge that we receive from God. It is the faculty through which we make sense of God's wisdom and enlightenment.

Albert Einstein made several comments about man's imagination and how it interprets knowledge, **"To know is nothing at all; to imagine is everything. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand. Your imagination is the preview of your life's coming attractions."**

The Eyes of Your Understanding

In Hebrews 8:7-9 the Lord says that the first covenant was faulty because the children of Israel could never fully grasp Divine truth in the depths of their heart. They had a difficult time receiving revelation knowledge and walking in it. So, in the new covenant, Hebrews 8:10 says that God, “...will put my laws into their mind (#1271 “*dianoia*” - *imagination*), and write them in their hearts...” First He “puts” His truth into our imagination, so it can be “written” upon the tables of our heart.

It’s as though your imagination is the pen that writes on the paper of your heart. In other words, what you give your imagination to meditate upon will be what is written upon the tables of your heart. Your imagination is the gateway to your heart.

Paul repeats this same concept in Hebrews 10:15,16, where he says that in the New Covenant the Holy Spirit is constantly witnessing His spiritual truth to us. But this time he writes, “*I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds (#1271 “*dianoia*” - *imagination*) will I write them.*” In this verse, spiritual truth is initially put in the heart, and then written in the mind’s imagination.

In other words, revelation flows both ways. Sometimes God enlightens our imagination first, which in turn communicates divine truth to our heart; and at other times He initially speaks to our heart, which gives our imagination something to ponder.

Either way, the Bible teaches that the eyes of the imagination and the powers of the heart are vitally connected, and both are used to interpret spiritual truth.