

## II. Function of the Imperative Mood

The imperative mood is the mood of volition. In ordinary communication the appeal is from one intellect to another but in the imperative one persons will address another. The imperative expresses neither probability nor possibility, but only intention.

The action expressed is to be realized by the exercise of the will of one person upon that of another. As a result, the imperative is the furthest removed of all the moods from reality.

The imperative mood appears in the New Testament in the present and aorist tenses. The present imperative denotes a command or entreaty to continue to do an action, or to do it repeatedly. Continuous action may be expressed by a line: (\_\_\_\_\_), and repeated action by a series of dots: (.....).

An example of continuous action can be seen from our study of *katergazomai* in Philippians 2:12, which we translated, “*continue the willing cultivation of your streams of consciousness.*” The aorist imperative has to do with action which has not yet started. An example of this construct will be seen in Romans 13:7 which opens with the command, “*Render to all what is due them.*”