

IMAGINATION

WHAT

IF ?



IMAGINATION: *WHAT IF – Win the War with Yourself!*

- Faith is an act of the imagination. And a healthy, vibrant imagination is crucial to the Christian life. Imagination is not the opposite of reality or the enemy of truth.
- Our problem is not an overactive imagination. The real threat is a lack of imagination, or an imagination stunted or misshaped by our experience.
- Some of us are stuck in “**if only**” living marked by regret, feelings of guilt, fear, and doubt. But God can turn your “**if only**” mindset into a “**what if**” attitude, where your faith looks forward to the future with holy confidence.
- The Bible calls us to adopt an active imagination that helps us look beyond our experience like those who modeled a fearless faith before us!



A person stands on a dark, rocky cliff, facing away from the camera with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or awe. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with warm orange and yellow light filtering through soft, white clouds. The overall mood is one of inspiration and wonder.

IMAGINATION: *What If* – We are Called to Imagine!

1. **CREATE BEAUTY** → Imagination is a Christian duty. When a person speaks or writes or sings or paints about breathtaking truth in a *boring* way, it is probably a sin. The supremacy of God in the life of the mind is not honored when God and his amazing world are observed truly, analyzed duly, organized clearly, and communicated boringly.
2. **KILL BOREDOM** → Imagination is one key to killing boredom. We must *imagine* ways to say truth for what it really is. And it is not boring. God's world — all of it — rings with wonders. The imagination calls up new words, new images, new analogies, new metaphors, new illustrations, new connections to say old, glorious truth — whether from the world or from the word of God.
3. **SEE WONDER** → Imagination is the faculty of the mind that God has given us to make the communication of his beauty beautiful. Imagination is one key to killing such boredom. We must *imagine* ways to say truth for what it really is. And it is not boring. God's world — all of it — rings with wonders.

IMAGINATION: *What If*

– If only – Win the War with Your Self! – Romans 8:1-4.

1. **BE A LEARNER** → The spiritual disciplines are art forms. The Spirit of the Disciplines places solitude and silence, prayer, simple and sacrificial living, meditation upon God's word and ways, and service to others at the heart of the gospel. The practice of spiritual disciplines for personal spiritual growth includes Bible study, prayer, meditation, and fasting. These are referred to as inward disciplines. Outward practices are service, solitude, submission, and simplicity, while corporate practices are worship, celebration, confession, and guidance. It takes practice (Hebrews 5:11-14).
2. **ASK for the SPIRIT OF WISDOM** → Whatever it is you need more of, you need more of the Holy Spirit. No matter what question you have, the Holy Spirit is the answer. No matter what problem you face, the Holy Spirit is the solution. It's the Holy Spirit who dispels *if only*. It's the Holy Spirit who spells out *what if*. Practice doesn't make perfect. Practice makes permanent.



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3. MAKE DECISIONS AGAINST YOURSELF → What decision do you need to make against yourself? That one decision could save you from a hundred *if onlys*. It could also domino into a thousand *what ifs*!
4. PURSUE GREATNESS → Don't settle for what is permissible—not doing anything wrong (I Cor. 10:23, 24). That's the path of least resistance. Go after greatness, and by greatness that means being great at the Great Commandment. It's giving God everything you've got. It not just choosing what's right; it's choosing what's best. You have to make this defining decision: permissible or beneficial? Whatever goal you're going after, you've got to take it one step at a time, one day at a time!
5. ADVANCE THE KINGDOM → If you want to break a bad habit, you have to build a good one. If you're focused on what you shouldn't do, you probably won't do what you should. It's called a double bind. We are called to advance the kingdom, not hold the fort (Mat. 16:17, 18). Jesus didn't say you will build your church. It's not yours; it's His. Secondly, gates are defensive measures. So by definition, we're called to play offense.





ACTION: Journal This!

1. What if you are one decision away from a totally different life? What decision do you need to make against yourself to accomplish what you want to do?
2. What “if only” regret might have been different if you would practice a “what if?”
3. What would be “greatness” for you?