

# IMAGINATION

WHAT

IF ?



# IMAGINATION: *WHAT IF*

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- 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 is seen from behind, standing on a dark, rocky cliff. Their arms are raised high towards a bright, hazy sky with soft clouds. The person is wearing a dark jacket and jeans. The overall mood is one of awe and contemplation.

# IMAGINATION: *What If*–

What If God is moving outside of currently established religious systems?

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Jesus ushered in a radical transformation of the religious order and His followers experienced a genuine spiritual revival recorded in The Gospels and the Book of Acts. With Jesus' first coming came the understanding that the Kingdom of God had also come. In other words, the Kingdom of God would not wait to come until Jesus' second coming because it began with His first coming. And God's Kingdom will continue to increase and grow until it consummates with Jesus' second coming.

# IMAGINATION: *What If* – Something New

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We could be a part of a new movement of God using ordinary, everyday people to reach ordinary, everyday people to advance His Kingdom. The man-created religious model of “formation by information” through the paid spokesperson has been tried and proven largely ineffective. It seems the organized religious systems of our day are being dismantled, making way for the “old way” of discipleship as taught and modeled by Jesus. (Sources: Gallup.com, Christianity Today, Salvomag.com, Relevantmagazine.com, World Magazine)



# IMAGINATION: *What If* – Something New

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Mark 2:22

**"No one puts new wine into old wineskins: otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins: but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."**

- To put fresh wine into an old wineskin is problematic. The old wineskin has assumed a definite shape and is no longer pliable. It is fixed and somewhat brittle. The activity of new wine will stress it beyond its ability to yield. And so, both the wine and the skin are lost.
- You can't put new ideas into old mind-sets. You can't get new results with old behaviors.







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## **ACTION: Journal This!**

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1. Do you think God can do something new and fresh?
2. Do you read about cultural shifts related to church & religion?
3. Is this relevant to your life?