



IMAGINATION: WHAT IF

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!

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
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IMAGINATION: WHAT IF – NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US!
God has a plan for your life! To find it, requires imagination – transforming your *if only* regrets into *what if* possibilities.

Nov 09, 2023

Scripture: Romans 8:31-39; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Isaiah 52:11, 12; Psalm 84:11, 12; Luke 22:60-62; Ephesians 3:14-19

Music: Leeland ft. Sinach, Mandisa - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73ht4Zu_Ces

Video: Mike Tyson - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McN1B3AILYw>

Cus d'Amato and Mike Tyson - Triumph of character – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubrmjLtQBik>

Resources - Book: IF – Trading Your IF ONLY Regrets for God's WHAT IF Possibilities by Mark Batterson.

Book: IMAGINATION REDEEMED – Glorifying God with a Neglected Part of Your Mind by Gene Veith, Jr.

IMAGINATION: *What If* – Imagination & the Future in Ezekiel.

1. _____ → Spiritually, when we imaginatively what we know by faith will happen—that God's promises will come to fruition, that Christ will never forsake us despite our troubles, that we will enjoy eternal life and, as Ezekiel sees, the resurrection of the dead—we exercise the spiritual virtue of hope (Ezekiel 37:3). Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones and the graveyard is a treasure for our Christian imaginations as much as it was a treasure for the despairing exiles in Babylon.
2. _____ → Remember "garbage in, garbage out." What you put in is what you will get out. What you sow is what you will reap. 3 Suggestions:
 1. _____ → Choose the images that you take in to your mind.
 2. _____ → Meditate on God's Word daily.
 3. _____ → 3) Practice displacing bad input with a better and stronger input. If you really want to put something off, then you will have to put something in its place.

IMAGINATION: *What If* – *Nothing Can Separate Us!* – Romans 8:31-39.

If you're looking for an excuse, you'll always find one. The same is true of opportunity. God-ordained opportunities are all around you, all the time. Of course, many of them come disguised as problems. Despite what the old adage says, opportunity doesn't knock. Sometimes you have to ask for it, seek it, and knock on it. But don't seek opportunity first and foremost. Seek God. If you do, opportunity will seek you.

1. _____ → "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important things about us." – A.W. Tozer. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, in power and glory. He is our Advocate and is interceding for you. The Holy Spirit has your back and is in your corner (Isaiah 52:12). "If you don't hold out on God, God won't hold out on you" (Psalm 84:11). The Enemy in the garden whispered: "perhaps God is holding out on you." Quit begging like a pauper with no power, no plea. Christ himself is pleading your case! Christ is in your corner, on your side. That makes every *what if* possible.
2. _____ → Jesus can't take his eyes off you (Luke 22:61; John 21:12-19). The love of God, like the power of God, is measureless (Ephesians 3:14-19). In Romans 8, in the span of five verses, Paul asks 7 questions. If you're in a tough place, a place where it's hard to even ask, *what if*, take heart. The cross is God's way of saying, "Over my dead body." No matter what trouble, hardship, or persecution you face, this too shall pass. Jesus is WITH YOU and Jesus is FOR YOU! And no matter what has died at the hands of sin or Satan, Jesus can roll away the stone.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. What if you are one decision away from a totally different life? What is your greatest challenge today—what circumstance or relationship is asking the most from you?
2. What if you approached today as if Jesus was really in your corner?
3. What if you fully surrendered your life to Christ, right here, right now?



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SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:31-39 - 31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?**33** Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.**34** Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.**35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?**36** As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”**37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.**38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,**39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ezekiel 37:1-14 - 1 The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.**2** He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry.**3** He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”**4** Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’**5** This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.**6** I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’ ”**7** So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone.**8** I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.**9** Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’ ”**10** So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered

them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.**11** Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ ”**12** Therefore prophecy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.**13** Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them.**14** I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’ ”

Isaiah 52:11, 12 - 11 Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing! Come out from it and be pure, you who carry the articles of the LORD’s house.**12** But you will not leave in haste or go in flight; for the LORD will go before you, the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

Psalms 84:11, 12 - 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.**12** LORD Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

Luke 22:60-62 - 60 Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed.**61** The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.”**62** And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Ephesians 3:14-19 - 14 For this reason I kneel before the Father,**15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.**16** I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,**17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,**18** may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,**19** and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

"Way Maker" By Leeland

<p>You are here, moving in our midst I worship You You are Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who You are You are Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who You are You are here, touching every heart I worship You You are here, healing every heart I worship You You are here, turning lives around I worship You You are here, mending every heart I worship You You are Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who You are</p>	<p>Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who You are You are Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who You are Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who You are That is who You are That is who You are Even when I don't see it, You're working Even when I don't feel it, You're working You never stop, You never stop working You never stop, You never stop working Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who You are Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who You are</p>	<p>That is who You are That is who You are, Jesus Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who You are You are Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who You are That is who You are His Name is above His Name is above depression His Name is above loneliness His Name is above disease His Name is above cancer His Name is above every other name That is who You are That is who You are That is who You are Jesus</p>
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