



Just My Imagination...

“Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”

The Apostle Paul | Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

Deep into a sweaty ride on a stationary bike, the lyrics of *“It’s Just My Imagination (Runnin’ Away with Me)”* by the Temptations captivated me. Imagining life with the girl of his dreams, the singer visualizes a house in the country, kids, the whole nine yards... beautiful! Suddenly doubt enters. He prays, “Don’t ever let another take her love from me or I would surely die.” We’re left hanging, was his dream shattered?

Our imaginations are prone to become dream destroyers. Having first crafted a beautiful vision, an unchecked imagination runs amuck and

thrusts fear through the very vision it created. How many dreams have fallen to unwarranted fear?

Reflect: **Which of my dreams have been shattered by imagined consequences?**

In high school, the teacher handed us two coat hanger wires bent into identical “L’s”. He instructed, “Hold the wires by the short sides with the long sides pointed outward and parallel. Then, while holding your hands perfectly still, imagine the tips crossing.” Within seconds, though resisting physically, they crossed. Our imaginations are incredibly powerful! Could we move forward without them? But what would happen if left unopposed?

Think of the crazy ideas you’ve had that you’re glad you never pursued. Imagined fear keeps us from making stupid mistakes. We definitely need this “not really so negative” side, but what happens when, overzealous, our imagination pierces the heart of a good idea?

Consider: **Envisioning my future without God in it will harm my Mission.**

Like a sharp knife can be used to slice vegetables or our finger, we need to respect both sides of our imaginations. The Bible provides prudent advice.

"But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?" Jesus Christ (Luke 14:28)

Flushing out details before plunging ahead is protective. If you're prone to dive in too quickly, create a team of advisors, godly people who are complementary to you, to ground your thinking.

"So don't go to war without wise guidance; victory depends on having many advisers." (Proverbs 24:6)

Yet far more often, people's God sized ideas die waiting for all risk to be eliminated. "What if I don't have what it takes? What if I don't have enough money? What if I can't meet my obligations? I have too many responsibilities..."

*"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done."
King Solomon (Ecclesiastes 13:4)*

Like the song says, "It's just my imagination, runnin' away with me." Your "What ifs?" can quickly get out of control to the detriment of advancing your Mission. Perhaps you've imagined your future without God in it?

*Imagine: Replacing your "What ifs...?" with "**But** what ifs...?"*

When your What ifs? are attempting to spear your vision, immediately replace them with “But what if that was not the case, then what would it look like?” Allow your vision to mature unobstructed, while praying for creativity and possibility. If it blossoms with potential, begin to to poke around – learning, exploring, making connections. As you start walking in the direction of your vision those piercing What ifs will morph into “Can do’s.” What had seemed impossible will now look much more possible. Remember how God has worked in your life until now... why would he abandon you going forward? He’s known to accomplish infinitely more than we ask or think...

Who’s to say what God may do?

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach’s Questions

- How is my imagination undermining my vision? How does this shut God out of my future?
- Ask, “But what if...?” How does my vision for advancing my Mission open up? How can I begin to explore its possibilities?
- Who will I bring alongside as my advisor(s)?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

But what if God...?

Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, 'Can an old woman like me have a baby?' Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

The LORD | Genesis 18:13-14 (NLT)



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