

## **IMAGINE**



### **A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH, PART 2**

#### **IN SEARCH OF "THE PEACE OF GOD THAT PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING"**

**Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication  
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.  
And the peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

*Scripture:*

**Luke 24**

13. That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,
14. and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.
15. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.
16. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.
17. And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad.
18. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"
19. And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,
20. and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.
21. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened.
22. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning
23. and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.
24. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see."
25. And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!
26. Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"
27. And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.
28. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further,

29. but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them.
30. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them.
31. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight.
32. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?"



## IMAGINE LYRICS

Imagine no possessions  
 I wonder if you can  
 No need for greed or hunger  
 A brotherhood of man

Imagine all the people  
 Sharing for the world.

You may say I'm a dreamer  
 But I'm not the only one  
 I hope someday you'll join us  
 And the world will be as one.

You may say I'm a dreamer  
 But I'm not the only one  
 Take my hand and join us  
 And the world will live, will live as one

**Envision, dream, and create.  
 It is not too late at any age.  
 But unless we envision where we are  
 going, we will never get there.**

Imagine all the people living life in peace.

Imagine all the people sharing all the world and its resources

Easter celebrates the imagination of Jesus, not his death.

One has died so that many shall live.

Examples of heroism are everywhere: when a person risks life to save a swimmer in the ocean or in battle when a person risks life to save another.

Imagination of this just world beyond our own imagination fills our lives with hope.

We see the world through the eyes of our own ego. Groups see the world with collective ego. But Jesus calls to peace that passes all understanding, the peace that surpasses your ego and mine. Imagine that world beyond understanding.

**You may say I'm a dreamer  
 But I'm not the only one  
 Take my hand and join us  
 And the world will live, will live as one.**

There are many accounts of people who experienced that emerging new dimension of consciousness as a result of tragic loss at some point in their lives. Some lost all of their possessions, others their children or spouse, their social position, reputation, or physical abilities. In some cases, through disaster or war, they lost all of these simultaneously and found themselves with "nothing." Whatever they had identified with, whatever gave them their sense of self had been taken away.

Then suddenly and inexplicably, the anguish or intense fear they initially felt gave way to a sacred sense of presence, a deep peace and serenity and complete freedom from fear. This phenomenon must have been familiar to St. Paul, who used the expression "the peace of God which passeth all understanding." It is indeed a peace that doesn't seem to make sense, and the people who experienced it asked themselves: In the face of *this*, how can it be that I feel such peace?

The answer is simple once you realize what the ego is and how it works. When forms that you had identified with, that gave you your sense of self, collapse or are taken away, it can lead to a collapse of the ego, since ego *is* identification with form.

But our sense of Beingness, of I Am, is freed from its entanglement with form: Spirit is released from its imprisonment in matter. You realize your essential identity as formless, as an all-pervasive Presence, of Being prior to all forms, all identifications.

You realize your true identity as consciousness itself, rather than what consciousness had identified with. That's the peace of God. The ultimate truth of who you are is not I am this or I am that, but I Am.

Not everybody who experiences great loss also experiences this awakening. But the best example of imagination is the cross itself.

But you see before you a cross that is probably more powerful in its humility than standing tall.

The crown is gone. It is no longer needed.

The nails are gone, they were ugly and frightening.

The robe is our symbol of authority, but it is not the symbol of Jesus.

The spices are taken away, the body is not there.

**The cross itself is bowed.  
It is no longer a symbol of death,  
but it has fallen because it could  
not do what people built it to do.  
It could not conquer  
imagination with fear.**

Take down that cross.

Tear down that wall.

Imagine. Imagine whatever you want. No one can tell you what to imagine. Because only you can imagine what you imagine. Your dreams are neither true nor false; they are merely your dreams.

**Imagine peace.** I can see only war.

**Imagine brotherhood.** I can see only groups of similar people.

**Imagine a new heaven and a new earth.**

I can only imagine what I can see and what I have experienced. That is not imagination; imagination is something new.

Imagine a place of love and healing. Can you describe it? Not very well, but I can imagine it.

**You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one.  
Take my hand and join us  
And the world will live, will live as one.**

Easter celebrates the imagination of Jesus, not the end of Jesus.

Imagination is the work of our Lord within you. Creating the place of love and healing is your work within God.

- Imagine peace.
- Imagine institutions of healing.
- Imagine places of learning.
- Imagine the enjoyment of richness of other cultures.
- Imagine communication without barriers to understanding.

- Imagine beating swords into the machinery of agriculture, and the laboratories of science, and the exploration of the cosmos.
- Imagine those whom you love most, in the eternal presence of peace with God.
- Imagine reconciliation.
- Imagine a new heaven and a new earth.

And for a moment on Easter, rest for a moment in the peace and inner stillness that we imagine as the peace of God that passes all understanding.

This is the work of God's people.

This is the message of Easter.



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