



Imagine (John Lennon)

Imagine there's no heaven

It's easy if you try

No hell below us

Above us only sky

Imagine all the people

Living for today... Aha-ah...

**Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion, too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace...You..hoo...**

**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**

Imagine...There's no Heaven

Imagine...There's no Resurrection

(What if this life is all there is?)

1 Corinthians 15

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead,

how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 If there is no resurrection of the dead,

then not even Christ has been raised.

Imagine... There's no Resurrection

1. Then not even Christ has been raised

Revelation 1

17 ... “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last, 18 the Living One.

I was dead, and behold, now I am alive forever and ever!

And I hold the keys of Death and of Hades.

1 Corinthians 15

14 And if Christ has not been
raised,
our preaching is worthless,

Imagine... There's no Resurrection

1. Then not even Christ has been raised
2. The **Apoc** Scriptures are worthless

1 Corinthians 15

14 And if Christ has not been raised,

our preaching is worthless,
and so is your faith.

Imagine... There's no Resurrection

1. Then not even Christ has been raised
2. The **Scriptures are** worthless
3. Our faith is worthless **(We are wasting our time)**

Hebrews 11

35...Others were tortured and refused their release, so that they might gain a better resurrection.

36 Still others endured mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.

Hebrews 11

37 They were stoned,
they were sawed in two,
they were put to death by the sword.
They went around in sheepskins and
goatskins, destitute, oppressed, and
mistreated.

38 The world was not worthy of
them.

1 Corinthians 15

15 In that case, we are also exposed as false witnesses about God.

For we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead,

but He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised.

1 Corinthians 15

15 In that case, **we are also exposed as false witnesses** about God.

For we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead,

but He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised.

Imagine... There's no Resurrection

1. Then not even Christ has been raised
2. The **Scriptures are** worthless
3. Our faith is worthless (We are wasting our time)
4. The Apostles are liars (and fools)

1 Corinthians 15

16 For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised.

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

Imagine... There's no Resurrection

1. Then not even Christ has been raised
2. The **Scriptures are** worthless
3. Our faith is worthless (We are wasting our time)
4. The Apostles are liars (and fools)
5. We are still in our sins (and stand condemned)

Romans 8

33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect?

It is God who justifies.

34 Who is there to condemn us?

For Christ Jesus, who died, and more than that was raised to life, is at the right hand of God—and He is interceding for us.

1 Corinthians 15

18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

Imagine... There's no Resurrection

1. Then not even Christ has been raised
2. The **Scriptures are** worthless
3. Our faith is worthless (We are wasting our time)
4. The Apostles are liars (and fools)
5. We are still in our sins (and stand condemned)
6. Our loved ones who have died are gone forever

1 Corinthians 15

19 If our hope in Christ is for this life alone, we are to be pitied more than all men.

Imagine... There's no Resurrection

1. Then not even Christ has been raised
2. The **Scriptures are** worthless
3. Our faith is worthless (We are wasting our time)
4. The Apostles are liars (and fools)
5. We are still in our sins (and stand condemned)
6. Our loved ones who have died are gone forever
7. We believers are the most pitiful people of all

1 Corinthians 15:30 And why do we endanger ourselves every hour?

31 I face death every day, brothers, as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord.

32 If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for human motives, what did I gain?

If the dead are not raised,

“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

Imagine... There's no Resurrection

1. Then not even Christ has been raised
2. The **Scriptures are** worthless
3. Our faith is worthless (We are wasting our time)
4. The Apostles are liars (and fools)
5. We are still in our sins (and stand condemned)
6. Our loved ones who have died are gone forever
7. We believers are the most pitiful people of all

1 Corinthians 15

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Imagine... There's a Resurrection

1. Then Christ has been raised
2. The **Apostles** are priceless
3. Our faith is priceless (We are using our time wisely)
4. The Apostles **are foundational**
5. We stand uncondemned (Our sins forgiven)
6. We will see our loved ones who have died again
7. We believers are the firstfruits of God's future creation

1 Corinthians 15

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,

the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep.

Romans 8

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until the present time.

23 Not only that, but we ourselves, who have the **firstfruits** of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

James 1

18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we would be a kind of **firstfruits** of His creation.

1 Corinthians 15

21 For since death came through a man,

the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

23 But each in his own turn: Christ the firstfruits; then at His coming, those who belong to Him.

1 Corinthians 15

21 For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead comes also
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22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all
will be made alive.



Adam



Christ

1 Corinthians 15

21 For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead comes also
through a man.

22 For as **in Adam** all die, so **in Christ** all
will be made alive.



Adam



Christ

Galatians 3

26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



Adam



Christ



1 Corinthians 15

22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

23 But each in his own turn: Christ the firstfruits; then at His coming, those who belong to Him.

1 Corinthians 15

24 Then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power.

25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15

1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, and in which you stand firm.

2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

I offered my services to the government and was appointed an officer in General Mannerheim's army. It was a terrible time! We had besieged a town that had been taken by the Red Army, and we overtook it. A number of Red prisoners were under my guard and seven of them were to be shot at dawn on Monday. I will never forget the preceding day.

The seven men were kept in the basement of the Town Hall, and in the passage, my men stood at attention with their rifles.

The atmosphere was filled with hatred. My soldiers were drunk with success and taunted their prisoners. Some swore and beat on the walls with their bleeding fists.

Others called for their wives and children who were far away, because they knew at dawn they were all to die.

We had the victory, that was true enough, but the value of it seemed to diminish as the night advanced.

Then something strange happened. One of the men doomed to death began to sing.

‘He is mad’ was everyone’s first thought, but I had noticed that this man, whose name was Koskinen, had not raved and cursed.

Quietly, he sat on his bench. Nobody said anything to him; each was carrying his burden in his own way.

Koskinen sang, rather waveringly at first; and then his voice grew stronger and became natural and free, and all the prisoners turned and looked at him as he sang these words:

‘Safe in the arms of Jesus/Safe on His gentle breast/There by His love o’er-shaded/Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Hark it’s the voice of angels/Borne in a song to me/Over the fields of jasper/Over the crystal sea.’

Over and over again, he sang that verse, and when he had finished, everyone was quiet for a few minutes, and then a wild-looking man broke out and said, 'Where did you get that, you fool? Are you trying to make us religious?'

Koskinen looked at his comrades with tear-filled eyes, as quietly he said, 'Comrades, will you listen to me for minute?

You asked me where I got this song; it was from the Salvation Army. I heard it three weeks ago.

My mother sang Jesus and prayed to Him often.'

He stopped a little while, as if to gather strength, and then he rose to his feet, being the soldier that he was and looked straight in front of him and said, 'It's cowardly to hide your beliefs.

The God my mother believed in is now my God.

I can't tell how it happened, but last night, as I lay awake, I suddenly saw mother's face before me. It reminded me of the song I had heard.

I felt I had to find the Savior and hide in Him.

I prayed that Christ would forgive me and cleanse my sinful soul and make me ready to stand before Him.

It was a strange night.

There were times when everything seemed to shine around me. Verses from the Bible and the song book came to mind.

It was God's answer to my prayer. I couldn't keep it to myself. Within a few hours, I shall be with the Lord, but saved by His grace!'

Koskinen's face shone as if by an inward light. His comrades sat quietly. He himself stood transfixed.

My soldiers were listening to what this Red Revolutionary had to say. 'You're right, Koskinen,' said one of his comrades at last. 'If only I knew there was mercy for me, too; but these hands of mine have shed blood, and now I have reviled God and trampled on all that is holy. And I realize there is a hell, and that's the proper place for me!'

And he sank to the ground in despair. 'Pray for me, Koskinen,' and he groaned, 'Tomorrow I shall die, and my soul will be in the hands of the Devil!'

These two Red soldiers went down to their knees and prayed for each other. It was no long prayer, but it reached heaven, and we who listened to it forgot our hatred.

It melted in the light of heaven, for here were two men who were soon to die, seeking reconciliation with their God.

The change in the atmosphere was indescribable. Some of the men sat on the floor, some on the benches; some wept quietly, and others talked of spiritual things. None of us had a Bible, but the Spirit of God was speaking to all of us.

The night was almost gone, and the day was dawning. No one had slept a moment.

‘Sing the song once more for us, Koskinen, said one of them,’ and you should have heard them sing – not only that song, but verses and choruses long forgotten.

The soldiers on guard united with them, for the power of God had touched everyone.

Everything changed, and the venerable Town Hall basement resounded in the early morning hour with the songs of the blood of the Lamb.

The clock struck six, and how I wished I could beg mercy for these men, but knew it was impossible.

Between two rows of soldiers, they marched out to the place of execution.

One of the asked to be allowed to sing Koskinen's song once again, and permission was granted. And then they asked to be allowed to die with uncovered faces.

And so, with hands lifted to heaven, they sang with might and main, 'Safe in the arms of Jesus.'

And when the last line had died out, the lieutenant gave the word 'Fire' and we clenched our heads in silent prayer.

What happened in the hearts of the others I don't know, but as far as I was concerned, I saw a new man – I was a new man from that hour.

I had met Christ in one of his loveliest and youngest disciples, and I had seen enough to realize that I, too, could be His!”

