

What if I Believe?

What if I believe? As a Christian the idea of belief is central to the way in which I live my life. I believe on Jesus as my savior. I believe in a loving and all powerful God. I believe I have a calling to be light in a weary world.

I imagine that you feel and believe in much the same ways. Belief is one of the hallmarks of the Christian community. In fact, without the fundamental belief in Christ we simply could not, and would not, choose to call ourselves Christian. But what if there is more to belief than, well, believing? What if I...BELIEVE?

This summer my daughter went to church camp. The youth staff at our church began preparing for camp by praying with a focus on Ephesians 3:20, "to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." Conversations began to revolve around the concept of what immeasurably more might look like, what camp could be if those preparing to work with our kids believed in the promise of a God who can do immeasurably more.

Soon the summer began to wane, and the new academic year at PLNU grew closer. Traditionally at this time of year the campus community gathers to worship together, to renew our purpose as people of faith, and to contemplate the theme for the coming semesters. And there it was—Ephesians 3:20, the words "immeasurably more" presenting themselves again. In addition, our chaplain asked us to contemplate a simple question: What if I believe?

Consider for a moment the power of this equation: What if I believe + He who is able to do

immeasurably more. What possibilities lie in the convergence of those phrases? What would I do differently if I moved through the world with that equation foremost in my mind?

Perhaps I can illustrate the point with a simple example. At a yard sale stands an antique chair. It is beautiful in its slender fragility. Will it support the weight of a person? "Yes," you might say, "I believe it will hold me." That is one level of belief. But to walk over and sit on the chair, resting full weight on its slim, graceful legs. That is BELIEF—putting action to thought in a way that demonstrates trust.

What an amazing challenge! What if I believe that God has the best for me? What if I put my full self into His hands in a way that shows I understand he will not collapse beneath the weight of my worries, problems, hopes, desires? What if I act upon those convictions that are foundational to my life in a bold new way? What if I walk in the belief that there is immeasurably more through Christ?

I am challenged this year to BELIEVE. Not just believe, as I have always done, but to walk through my world, through my life and vocation in ways that demonstrate the conviction that I am loved, am part of something beautifully ordained by God, am supported in my work. I am ready for God to do immeasurably more!

--Anne-Elizabeth Powell

Anne-Elizabeth Powell serves as Head of Technical Services and Systems at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, CA.