

TED stands for Technology Entertainment Design. The tag line is: Ideas Worth Spreading. I want to add to that: ~~Many of the ideas are worth IMPLEMENTING~~*implementing*, not just spreading! But don't just look to the TED speakers for ideas worth spreading or implementing. And don't be discouraged by the challenges you will inevitably encounter on your journey of ~~idea implementation~~*to implement your own idea*.

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Commented [CDP1]: I know you are speaking this presentation, but in writing an exclamation mark means shouting. I strongly recommend you do not shout when simply emphasis will do the job of encouraging your audience without frightening them. =0)

For several years I have greatly benefited from the TED videos on YouTube and from the TED Radio Hour podcast. When I ~~realized~~*learned* there was a TEDx conference near me a few years ago, I really wanted to go. My budget was tight so it wasn't prudent of me to buy a ticket. However, I did have some available time, so I contacted the organizers and asked if I could volunteer to help with my local TEDx conference. In exchange for volunteering on the conference committee, I got to attend for free.

Commented [CDP2]: I'm not sure this bit about money adds to your message. It's very nice that you were resourceful enough to figure out a way to get there, but it doesn't contribute to your message. You could simplify.

"I've benefitted from the videos and podcast, and a few years ago I was fortunate enough to attend my first conference."

That first year, I heard an eloquent man ~~saying many things~~*talk* about the limitless value of humans. He ~~presented a diverse group of people~~*talked about a variety of people*: homeless people in LA, privileged university students, and ~~street dependent~~*on the streets* teen parents in Washington. ~~Although he presented a diverse group of people, all~~*All* those types of people felt worthless at some point. While telling us, "Each of us carries within the gift of infinite worth," he showed us amazing photos of differing people. I wondered, "Do those people in your photos *know* they have infinite worth? Did *you* tell them? Did the photographer tell them their value is beyond measure?" He didn't answer those questions in his TED talk. ~~My, but my~~*My* simplistic brain heard two simple phrases during his presentation: "Everyone has infinite worth," and "You have infinite worth."

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~~That~~*The* great idea that everyone has infinite worth spread to me at the TEDx conference. ~~But so what if I sit sat at this that~~*at this TEDx conference* looking at amazing photos of valuable people and ~~think thought~~*thought* to myself as each slide goes by, "She has infinite worth, ~~he~~*He* has infinite worth" ~~and so on~~. The speaker gave no call to action and that really bothered me. These people need to *know* they have infinite worth. Someone needs to tell them. Someone needs to take action. Someone needs to spread this idea. Someone needs to *implement* this idea. I think you know where this is going. ~~I~~*I* needed to be the one to implement the idea of telling everyone they have infinite worth. Beginning that very day, ~~I DID NOTHING!~~*I did nothing*. For the next 365 days I ~~DID NOTHING~~*did nothing*! No spreading, no implementing.

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One year after my first TEDx conference, I volunteered again at my local TEDx event. This time, the ideas worth implementing came from another TEDx volunteer. During a long lunch break I confessed to this acquaintance that I was inspired at the last TEDx event one year earlier but that I hadn't taken any action. I wanted to tell everyone they have infinite worth but I didn't know how to get started. He dumped a boat load of excellent ideas worth implementing all over me! ~~and~~*and* I was so grateful! ~~I~~*I*'m proud to say I have ~~implemented and~~*implemented* taken action on most of his ideas!

~~At stores, parks, festivals, anywhere I can,~~*At stores, parks, festivals, anywhere I can,* I've been giving away pens, pencils, and silicone bands that say, "You have infinite worth" ~~at stores, parks, festivals, anywhere I can~~. I actually

hand the recipient 2 items and ask them to give one away to a friend. The response has been ~~really~~ overwhelmingly positive. People seem to truly appreciate that their infinite worth is recognized and that they can in turn ~~pass~~ remind another person of their endless value. By giving away 2 items, I'm ~~reaching more people~~ doubling my reach with the infinite worth message ~~than just my single contact~~.

Commented [CDP3]: Weasel word, adds no depth or meaning. Even in talking, you can be stronger or simpler. "The response has been positive" or "The response has been overwhelmingly/consistently positive."

Since I began implementing the infinite worth ideas, this infinite worth project has been all unicorns and rainbows.

Not so much.

I expected challenges, as with any new venture, but I was blindsided by the people who didn't want ~~ME~~ me to spread the message or who didn't like *how* I was spreading it. I naively thought that everyone would rally around this positive message.

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~~There have been a few people who hold a certain worldview that have told me that they believe only people of their worldview can believe that everyone has infinite worth. It's illogical for me or others not with this same perspective to tell you that you have infinite worth. Some people say that only those who share their beliefs are qualified to determine who has worth and who does not, but this seems illogical to me.~~ When I heard that everyone has infinite worth at a TEDx conference, I thought it applied to ~~everyone and it seemed logical to me~~.

Commented [CDP4]: I get what you're trying to say, but the wording is complicated and confusing.

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One man asked ~~was belligerent from the moment I answered his~~ "What does it mean to have infinite worth?" ~~question~~. Like I did for everyone who stopped by the Infinite Worth booth at a festival, I smiled and answered, "It means all humans have worth and value. The worth of a person can't be measured. Human value is infinite, immeasurably immeasurable, and exceedingly great, unlimited, unbounded, endless. We are here to spread a message of love and kindness." ~~After He became belligerent as he told telling me his viewpoint (although I didn't ask him, or anyone else that weekend at the festival), h~~ He got really leaned close to my face, toe to toe, ready for a battle I wasn't interested in fighting. He was incredulous that I would believe and say to people, "Everyone has infinite worth," unless it was stemming from his background. We went round and round about this for a while, as his anger ~~was~~ mounting mounted. I kept my smile and calm demeanor in spite of his harsh talking to words. The summary of his message seemed to be, "How dare you proclaim this infinite worth message apart from my perspective?" Instead of his hate converting me, I eventually suggested we agree to disagree. The funny thing is I've had numerous people from various worldviews tell me they love seeing the infinite worth message proclaimed because it is something they believe too. They share the infinite worth message with others because they choose to embrace their beliefs and the infinite worth of others.

Commented [CDP5]: This could potentially sound snarky to some people. Stick to the high ground.

When I was sharing with a close friend about my infinite worth implementation plan, she retorted that I was starting a cult. ~~I was trying to be a cult leader. Just because I said, "Everyone has infinite worth" doesn't make it true.~~ Let me reassure you right now, I'm not a cult leader. I don't want to start a cult. I don't have time to start a cult. I'm like you. I have to get my kids to soccer, dance, and driver's ed classes, get the dog to the vet again, plus do laundry, dishes, and get to Costco before it closes. However, if people want to live like they have infinite worth, treat others

as if they have infinite worth, and tell people they have infinite worth, I'll be the first to support those efforts.

The person who surprised me the most in wanting to shut down my idea implementation plans was the speaker I heard the infinite worth message from. I reached out to him, a year and a half after his TEDx talk, to thank him for the inspiring message.

Your TED Talk inspired me. TED Talks state they are "ideas worth spreading." But as I sat in the audience at TEDx, I realized your ideas were worth far more than spreading. They were worth implementing! You inspired me to take action. I created a website to promote the message and a conversation around "Everyone has infinite worth." I would love to shake your hand and personally thank you for the infinite worth message and inspiration.

After many weeks of silence, he eventually replied to my email, with a less than enthusiastic **Everyone has infinite worth™** ~~response~~response. See this speck that says ™. It was "troubling" him that I trademarked the phrases, "Everyone has infinite worth" and "You have infinite worth." He didn't want anyone to trademark anything having to do with infinite worth. Also, he objected to me forming a company around this infinite worth project. -To this day, I still haven't gotten to shake his hand or personally thank him for his message or inspiration. In spite of these challenges, I continue to tell as many people as possible that they have infinite worth because I was inspired to implement ideas I heard at a TEDx conference.

I leave you with this warning: You may hear ideas today that are worth ~~YOU~~you implementing. And those ideas may not come from a TEDx speaker. Put your antenna up! The ideas may come from someone else in the TEDx community, such as the people you came with, someone at lunch, a person sitting near you now, a TEDx committee member or volunteer. There will be obstacles and challenges but those ideas are still worth spreading and implementing.

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Your words are good, but I recommend swaying the balance. Your speech is 1454 words long and 675 of them are about the opposition to your message—nearly half your speech. This makes your speech sort of a downer. You could shorten the opposition section so that each example is only a sentence or two. This way, you give less credit to your enemies and have more time for your positive message.

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Explain a little more about the Infinite Worth message. Rather than a simple "Everyone has infinite worth," give an example or two. Yes, a stay-at-home mom spends most of her time reading preschool books and cutting up chicken nuggets into tiny pieces. But by spending time training her children to be kind, literate people, she is raising future doctors, politicians, teachers, coaches, athletes who could become role models for future generations.

Encourage people more on implementation. Do you have a great idea how to help others? (Insert ideas here) Then figure out a way to make that idea happen. You could insert some examples of people implementing their great ideas and then encourage your audience to action.