

"God is able to do superabundantly far over and above all that we dare ask or think -- infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes or dreams." Ephesians 3:30 (Amp)

"According to your faith it will be done to you." Matthew 9:29

I. TWO APPROACHES TO LIFE:

1. **The pessimist (Job)** *"Everything I fear and dread comes true."* Job 3:25

2. **The optimist (Paul)**

"I live in eager expectation ... while I'm going through these trials." Phil. 1:20 (LB)

It honours God! ... It increases your ability! ... It encourages others! (1 Samuel)

II. HOW TO STAY OPTIMISTIC (in discouraging times):

1. **Start your day with faith.**

"In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice, in the morning I lay my request before you and wait in expectation." Psalm 5:3

"This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!" Psalm 118:24

2. **Look for the good in your situation.**

"For those who love God, who are called according to His plan, everything that happens fits into a pattern for good." Romans 8:28 (Ph)

Things turn out the best for people who make the best out of the way things turn out.

3. **Give your problems to God.**

"We were crushed and overwhelmed ... and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves: but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God ... for He can even raise the dead. And He did help ... and we expect Him to do it again and again." 2 Corinthians 1:8-11 (LB)

4. **Eliminate negative words.**

"Don't use harmful words in talking. Use only helpful words, the kind that build up ..." Ephesians 4:29 (GN)

"The tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do!" James 3:5 (LB)

5. **Remember your future.**

"No mere man has ever seen, heard, or imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who love the Lord." I Corinthians 2:9 (LB)

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What are you expecting God to do in your life this week?

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