

## Live Your Life with Optimism

I want to tell you about **The Man Who Sold Hot Dogs**. See below.  
I want to encourage you to live your life with optimism.

**We all need optimism.** We all live in a world of challenges, negativity, and pessimism. People today face economic uncertainty and the constant threat of terrorism. In addition, many people struggle with personal finances, health, family problems, and interpersonal conflicts. Our attitude toward life challenges determines our ability to deal with them. That's why we need to live our life with optimism. Some people just give up without trying. Many only give a half-hearted effort thinking what's the use. Others get discouraged and never try again. But an optimist looks for the best in every situation. An optimist believes everything will turn out ok. An optimist thinks that things will improve. An optimist keeps on trying. My personal favorite is that an optimist is a bald-headed man who thinks his condition is only temporary! Even when I die, I hope people will say "Here lies an eternal optimist."

**Optimism is a cheerful frame of mind that enables a tea kettle to sing though in hot water up to its neck.** This reminds me of Paul and Silas in the jail at Philippi singing songs at midnight. Acts 16:25.

Read the **Optimist Creed**. See below. We need to apply this way of thinking to our personal lives and the church. Think about what you can do, not what you cannot do! The story of the **Two Frogs** should teach us an important lesson. See below.

The **Bible** is full of **examples** of people who lived their lives with optimism (faith). Let's look at a few.

**Joseph** was sold into slavery by his brothers, falsely accused, and put into prison in a foreign country. He remained optimistic, found opportunity in adversity, and became 2nd in command in Egypt under the Pharaoh. As a result he saved his family during the famine.

**Moses** was so optimistic that Pharaoh would let the Hebrews go that he kept going back to demand "Let my people go!" even though Pharaoh changed his mind every time.

**Daniel** was optimistic that the lions would not eat him when he was thrown into the lion's den for worshipping God.

**Jesus** was optimistic when He turned over responsibility to the apostles to carry on His work of establishing the church and evangelizing the world. Matthew 28:18-20.

The apostle **Paul** suffered pain and rejection. 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. In spite of everything, he led the evangelism of the Gentile world and wrote half the books in the New Testament. He wrote some of the most optimistic words of all time in Phil. 3:13-14; 4:13 and 2 Tim. 4:6-8. These Bible examples were also **effective leaders**. One of the reasons is that they were able to paint an optimistic and attainable view of the future for their followers. Optimistic leadership inspires a sense of hope and confidence in people to meet their challenges.

**Jesus and His apostles** accomplished what seemed impossible. Anyone would have said that it couldn't be done but they did it. They remind us of the poem, **It Couldn't Be Done**. We need to remember the words of this poem and the Bible examples when people say negative things to us, criticize us for doing good work, or discourage us about church situations.

Let's be inspired by a few **more examples** of how optimistic people lived their lives. When **George Washington** was the officer in charge of Fort Necessity during the French Indian War, he surrendered to the enemy. Yet, we remember him as a great General and the father of our country, and the first president of the United States.

He didn't let one defeat destroy him.

**Marconi**, the inventor of the radio, was scolded by his father for wasting time when he first began to experiment with radio.

When **Thomas Edison**, the great inventor, was in school, he was always at the bottom of his class. He couldn't even remember his 3 Rs. His teachers called him stupid.

Doctors thought he had brain trouble.

**Albert Einstein's** teacher classified him as a dunce because he was slow in math.

His parents thought he was backward because he did not walk until he was 4 years old.

His brilliant mind later developed the theory of relativity.

**Cy Young**, baseball's greatest pitcher, won 508 games. Yet he lost more than any other pitcher - 313.

When **George Gershwin** first played the piano on stage, he was laughed out of the theater by both the audience and his fellow actors.

When **Zane Grey** was still an unknown author trying to sell his book manuscripts, a publisher told him he had no ability for writing fiction.

**Walt Disney** took samples of his cartoons to several publishing companies when he was beginning his career. They told him he had no talent. They did not even like Mickey Mouse at first.

These people did not let anyone discourage them because they had optimism.

An optimist is a person who takes the cold water thrown on their ideas, heats it up with enthusiasm, and uses the steam to push ahead.

So how can we be an optimist?

Listen to the difference between **The Pessimist and the Optimist**. See Below.

**Sir Winston Churchill** said that, "**A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity.**

**An optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.**"

We have 2 kinds of people in the world and in the church - pessimists and optimists.

It is up to you to **decide** whether you want to be a pessimist or an optimist.

We have to make that **choice** every morning when we get out of bed and face a new day.

We have to make that **choice** every time someone tries to discourage us.

We have to make that **choice** every time we face any life challenge.

Yes, optimism is a choice. As for me, I choose to follow my Bible heroes and be an optimist and live by faith and hope.

Let me share with you where it all begins.

**It's All in Your State of Mind.** See below.

Finally, we can be optimistic as a Christian because "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. . . .

If God is for us, who can be against us? . . . Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Romans 8:28,31,37.

## The Man Who Sold Hot Dogs

There was a man who lived by the side of the road and sold hot dogs.  
He was hard of hearing so he had no radio.  
He had trouble with his eyes so he read no newspapers.  
But he sold good hot dogs.

He put up signs on the highway telling how good they were.  
He stood on the side of the road and cried, "Buy a hot dog, Mister!"  
And people bought.

He increased his meat and bun orders.  
He bought a bigger stove to take care of his trade.  
He finally got his son home from college to help him out.  
But then something happened.

His son said, "Father, haven't you been listening to the radio?  
Haven't you been reading the newspapers?  
There's a big depression.  
The European situation is terrible.  
The domestic situation is even worse."

Whereupon the father thought, Well, my son's been to college.  
He reads the papers and he listens to the radio.  
He ought to know.

So the father cut down on his meat and bun orders.  
He took down his advertising signs.  
No longer did he stand on the side of the road to sell his hot dogs.  
And his hot dog sales fell almost overnight.

"You're right, son," the father said to his boy,  
"We certainly are in the middle of a great depression."

**Are your judgments based on what you know or what you hear?  
Don't let other people or your fears of the unknown feed your pessimism and destroy  
your optimism.**



## The Optimist Creed



### Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.  
To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.  
To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.  
To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.  
To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.  
To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.  
To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.  
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.  
To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.  
To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

- The Optimist Creed was authored in 1912 by Christian D. Larson, an advocate of positive thought. It was adopted as the Optimist International's creed in 1922 to give volunteer members of the Optimist Clubs a focus for personal improvement as they work to better the world around them.

### Two Frogs

Two frogs fell into a deep cream bowl; one was an optimistic soul.  
But the other took the gloomy view. "We'll drown," he cried, without more ado.  
And with a last despairing cry, he flung up his legs and said, "Good-bye."

Said the other frog with a steadfast grin, "I can't get out, but I won't give in.  
I'll swim around til my strength is spent, then I'll die the more content."  
Bravely he swam to work his scheme, and his struggles began to churn the cream.

The more he swam, his legs aflutter, the more the cream turned into butter.  
On top of the butter at last he stopped, and out of the bowl he cheerfully hopped.  
What is the moral? It's easily found. If you can't hop out, keep swimming around!



## It Couldn't Be Done

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,  
But he with a chuckle replied,  
That maybe it couldn't, but he would be one  
Who wouldn't say so till he tried.

So he buckled right in with a trace of a grin  
On his face, if he worried he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed, "Oh you'll never do that,  
At least no one has ever done it."  
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,  
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.

With the lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,  
Without any doubting or quitting it,  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,  
There are thousands to prophesy failure.  
There are thousands to point out to you one by one  
The dangers that wait to assail you.

But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
Just take off your coat and go to it.  
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing  
That cannot be done and you'll do it. - Edgar A. Guest



## The Pessimist and the Optimist

The pessimist majors in mistakes, misfortunes, and misery;  
The optimist accentuates assets, abundance, and advantages.

The pessimist preaches limitations, liabilities, and losses;  
The optimist promotes progress, prosperity, and plenty.

The pessimist peers into the distance and fears a problem;  
The optimist looks at the horizon and sees opportunity.

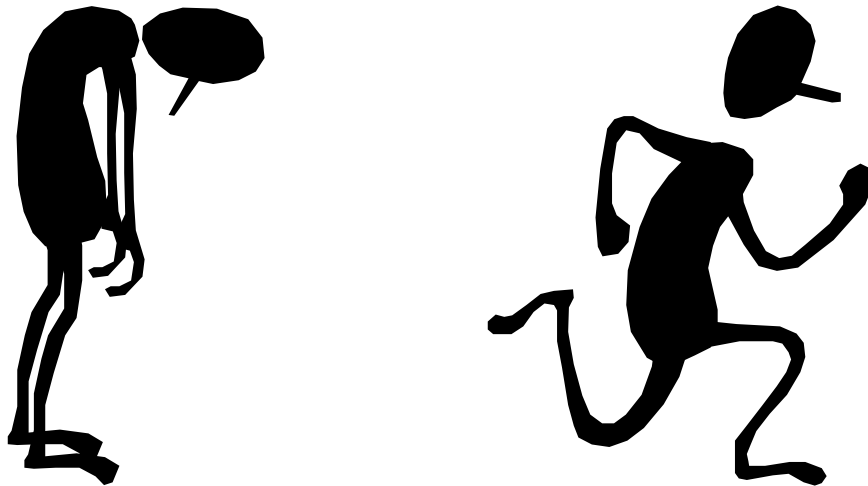
The pessimist woefully wonders how soon his kite will fall;  
The optimist pleasantly ponders how high his kite will fly.

The pessimist sees all doors with latches and locks;  
The optimist sees doors with handles and hinges.

The pessimist turns the possible into the impossible;  
The optimist turns the impossible into the possible.

The pessimist sees the glass half empty;  
The optimist sees the glass half full.

The pessimist has an excuse for every failure;  
The optimist has a reason for every success.



## It's All in Your State of Mind

Underline what you think is the key word throughout this poem.

If you think you are beaten, you are.  
If you think you dare not, you don't.  
If you like to win, but you think you can't,  
It's almost certain you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you're lost.  
For out in the world we find,  
Success begins with a person's will.  
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you're out classed, you are.  
You've got to think high to rise.  
You've got to be sure of yourself  
Before you can even win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go  
To the stronger or faster one.  
But sooner or later the one who wins  
Is the one who **thinks** he can.

- Author unknown

