

5. Encourage EACH OTHER

“But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit,²¹ and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life.

In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God’s love.

²² And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering.”

Jude 1:20-22 (NLT)



“Expecting the Best”

6. Remember your FUTURE

*“No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
and no mind has imagined
what God has prepared
for those who love him.”*

I Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)

“Now 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,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever! Amen.”

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

Then he touched their eyes and said, “Because of your faith, it will happen.” Matthew 9:29 (NLT)

I. TWO APPROACHES TO LIFE

1. The pessimist

*“What I always feared has happened to me.
What I dreaded has come true.”*

Job 3:25 (NLT)

2. The optimist

*“I came naked from my mother’s womb,
and I will be naked when I leave.
The LORD gave me what I had,
and the LORD has taken it away.
Praise the name of the LORD!”*

Job 1: 21 (NLT)

“For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die.”
Philippians 1:20 (NLT)

II. How to stay faithfully optimistic

1. Start your day with FAITH

*“Listen to my voice in the morning, LORD.
Each morning I bring my requests to you
and wait expectantly.”*
Psalm 5:3 (NLT)

*“This is the day the LORD has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.”*
Psalm 118:24 (NLT)

2. Look for something GOOD in your situation

*“If you search for good, you will find favor;
but if you search for evil, it will find you!”*
Proverbs 11:27 (NLT)

3. Give your problems TO GOD

“We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it.⁹ In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead.¹⁰ And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us.¹¹ And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety.”
2 Corinthians 1:8-11 (NLT)

4. Eliminate the NEGATIVE

“Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”
Ephesians 4:29 (NLT)

“So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”
Matthew 6:34 (NLT)