

DEFANG FEAR

EXPECTING GOD'S BEST

RENÉ SCHLAEPFER | JANUARY 19 & 20

THREE APPROACHES TO LIFE:

- _____

Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt? Numbers 14:3 NIV

- _____

...they lead my people astray, saying, 'Peace,' when there is no peace... when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash. Ezekiel 13:10 NIV

- _____

I live in **eager expectation** and hope that I will always be ready to speak out boldly for Christ **while I'm going through these trials here...** for to me, living means opportunities for Christ, and dying—well, that's better yet! Philippians 1:20a,21 LB

- **It** _____

- **It** _____

- **It** _____

FIVE STRATEGIES FOR BIBLICAL OPTIMISM

1. Initiate

In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in **expectation**. Psalm 5:3 NIV84

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

2. Meditate

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to **prosper** you and not to harm you, plans to give you **hope** and a **future**.” Jeremiah 29:11

And we know that in **all things** God works for the **good** of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

3. Eliminate

Do not let any **unwholesome talk** come out of your mouths, but **only what is helpful** for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29 NIV

By our **speech** we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

James 3:6 (Message)

4. Participate

...as we have opportunity, let us **do good** to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:10 NIV

5. Concentrate

We were really **crushed** and **overwhelmed**, and **feared** we would never live through it. We felt we were **doomed** to die and saw how **powerless** we were to help ourselves; **but that was good**, for then **we put everything into the hands of God**, who alone could save us, for **he can even raise the dead**. And He did help us... yes, and we **expect** him to do it again and again. 2 Corinthians 1:8b-10 LB

QUESTION:

What am I expecting God to do in _____ in the next _____?

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41.10 ESV

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38-39 ESV

And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8.28 NIV

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8.1 ESV

He tends his flock like a shepherd; he gathers the lambs in his arms; he carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Isaiah 40.11 NIV

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”

Isaiah 43.2 ESV

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

Isaiah 43.19 ESV

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

Psalms 46.10 ESV

It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

Deuteronomy 31.8 ESV

I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalms 18.1-2 ESV

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Psalms 19.1 ESV

I can do all things through him who strengthens me... And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4.13,19 ESV