

What Do You Expect In Life?

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Some people go through life expecting bad things to happen to them. They see a dark cloud behind every silver lining. When they see a light at the end of the tunnel they assume it is a train.

The story goes that a man was awakened one night to a noise in his dining room. He crept down the stairs and surprised a thief just as he was emptying the silverware into a bag. "Stay where you are," the man ordered. "I want to get my wife. She has been expecting you for twenty years."

People who expect bad things to happen to them are usually eventually right. Bad things eventually happen to everyone. But then again, so do a lot of good things.

We have a choice. We can spend our time anticipating the bad things and thus miss the good things, or we can accept whatever life has to offer with a positive attitude. What happens to us may not be our own choice. How we react to what happens to us is our own choice.

People who expect the worst in life often develop such a sour attitude that they get just what they anticipated.

It's a little like the fellow who went to his doctor and complained that he had a rare fatal liver disease. "Nonsense," said his doctor. "You could never know if you had that disease. With that disease there is no discomfort of any kind."

"I know," gasped the patient. "My symptoms exactly."

People who think they are sick often eventually become sick. Likewise, people who are paranoid often eventually find sadness and disaster. Unfortunately, these same people often infect their families with the same negative spirit. They talk about their children's problems, make sure all the family knows when a sibling is suffering through a marriage tension, and are quick to complain if they feel the rest of the family has been unfair to them.

Many failed marriages could have been saved if mother or father had kept their lips sealed concerning their children's problems.

Some parents who hear that their son or daughter is have a marriage difficulty automatically side with their child and then let other family and friends know so that they can also "sympathize" with them. Later, when the marriage does fall apart, they let everyone know that they always knew it was doomed from the start.

People who expect bad things to happen pass on gossip because they see it as normal. But people who expect good things to happen pass on encouragement because they expect the best in others.

Most people see what they are looking for in life. For Christians, the glory of Christ ought to be so bright that even the most difficult problems of life are just potholes in the road to heaven.