

OPTIMISM

On to a much more positive word, “optimism” is an inclination to expect the best possible outcome. Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister of England, described an optimist as one who *sees the opportunity in every difficulty*.

Given his relentless fight against the onslaught of the Nazi offensive, Winston Churchill should know.

“A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”

- Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

Colon Powell, former US General and Secretary of State, described perpetual or continual optimism as a *force multiplier*; which, if I understand it correctly, the attitude of “best case scenario” can be significant to a military engagement.

Whether in combat or any other challenge, attitude seems to make a big difference – *a good or positive attitude goes a long way*...but is obviously not everything.

Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.

- Colin Powell, US general (1937 -)

Where does optimism come from; what is the source of optimism; is optimism and hope one in the same? Well, I am not sure about any of these questions but would still like to try...let’s just say that I’m optimistic about my chances of saying something of interest and application.

Let’s just say that the two are similar: hope and optimism deal with the future and presume that something positive or beneficial is going to occur. This sense of the future is not be without a basis or reason; in other words, optimism or hope cannot be arbitrary or whimsical – it must be founded on something!

I believe that the “something” is a belief or faith. **To be hopeful or optimistic is to have faith in something or someone, or to believe in something or someone.** If you believe that the Sun is going to rise tomorrow, you may be optimistic that the sky will be sunny and free of rain clouds. If you have faith that the one who created the Sun will supply your needs (including ultraviolet light), you have hope beyond tomorrow.

Digging a little deeper, the belief or faith must be further under girded by something else; after all, you don’t believe something just because you read it, heard it, or even saw it. You may believe the Sun will rise tomorrow because it has risen every day of your presence on Earth; but to have faith that God will supply your needs requires trust. You actually trust that the Sun will rise tomorrow – but to whom do you place your trust in, who holds the Sun? From the book of Psalm: *For the Lord God is a Sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.*

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