

No U.S. Constitution

By Doug Trenary

Can any American imagine that? For that matter, no Declaration of Independence, no Revolutionary War, and no Constitutional Convention with its resulting timeless document guaranteeing our freedoms?

Yes, you would have to imagine that outcome without one powerful character trait: Optimism. Our forefathers and framers were very optimistic people. Keep in mind, in the 1770's, they had only seen dictatorial kings and non-free societies. Our Representative Republic and its freedoms did not exist in their world at the time. The framers also had many, many skeptics and enemies. This culture would be a social experiment based on the best men and women could generate within an environment of freedom. But, there were certainly no guarantees of our republic's success---only a positive belief that if given a chance, we would flourish---flourish through optimism.

I write most when I'm really moved to write. Right now in this new year, I see so many circumstances in our daily world where optimism's enemy, negativism---or destructive negative thinking and emotion--- is allowed to flourish and grow in our media, our government, our voting electorate, our schools, our neighborhoods, our families, and within our business relationships. This bombardment of negative news and cautious limitation---and even success guilt--- is pervasive today. And it can certainly move one to forget all they have to be grateful for. Anybody who has ever really dealt with and understands negative thinking knows how poisonous to the mind and spirit it can be.

With so many messages influencing us to think negative about our world---that can affect one's mind in the wrong way---I have never felt more compelled than to pen some perspective on such a valuable and daily state of mind, optimism. As a matter of fact, many in your life are counting on it:

- **Your Spouse wants your optimism**---because they have to live with you, love you, and grow old with you. How awful and stressful it is when each day is full of household negativism, unlit by the hope of a better tomorrow.
- **Your Kids want your optimism**---because they have to not only face you each day when they are young and in the house, but they also have to face peer groups and the future. They are checking your every attitude, articulation, and action to see if facing their own fears is worth it.
- **Your Parents want your optimism**---because they have faced hurdles and know the power of hope to overcome the odds. Most importantly, they have made a life-long investment in you---and hope and pray you will live a life with passion and dedication to a bright future---an answer to those prayers.

- **Your Neighbors want your optimism**---because they know your optimism shows up not only in pleasant relationships that foster friendliness and teamwork, but also that optimism shows up in a nicely groomed lawn and a freshly painted house. They know this adds to their own property value---a big part of their future.
- **Your Vendors want your optimism**---because they know if your leadership and your sales team are optimistic, the whole company team will be pursuing higher sales and business growth. Then they can sell you even more stuff.
- **Your Banker and Creditors want your optimism**---because they know that excited, glass half-full people go out and make their business happen so that they can pay their bills on time and borrow more money.
- **Your Landlord or Mortgage Company wants your optimism**---because they know that this will add to a more stable home life and growing income---conditions that keep you paid up and a good, responsible tenant and homeowner...who might want an even bigger home.
- **Your Customers want your optimism**---because they know that with your forward thinking, opportunity-pursuing ideas and contributions of value, they too can better serve their own employees and customers to make a profit. They don't want Negative Nellies being their business partner.
- **Your Mentors want your optimism**---because Norman Vincent Peale's classic book would never have influenced millions if it was titled, "The Power of *Negative Thinking*."
- **Your Past wants your optimism**---because if you've ever failed or had bad things happen you couldn't control---and everybody has---your thinking about a pleasant tomorrow will overlay and dim the pain of the past.
- **Your Present wants your optimism**---because to get up and hit the ground running, you have to have the mindset of "Good morning, Lord" instead of "Good Lord, it's morning!"
- **Your Future wants your optimism**---because every day it has an opportunity to look back at your failures but it would rather look forward to your victories.
- **A Soldier in Iraq wants your optimism**---because why else is he fighting?
- **Your God wants your optimism**---because He gave you the grace and gift of life to enjoy, not to be joyless.

Everybody wants you to be optimistic, because when you are, you are the best possible *you* to them. Do you want this as bad as they do? I believe you do! So today, right where you are, believe the best is yet to come!

Doug Trenary is an award winning author and speaker who has been influencing tens of thousands of people in all walks of life professionally for over 20 years. To comment on this article or to learn more about how you can live and bring optimism to others in your personal or business life, visit www.dougtrenary.com or contact him at info@dougtrenary.com .