



**Promise (Commit) yourself:
To think only of the best, to work only for the best
and to expect only the best.**

The stars come alive one by one each night, rains still get us wet, winds blow or don't blow in gentle breeze or heavy gale, heat and humidity are unwelcome visitors, and the Coronavirus takes its toll. Consider all that happens in a lifetime and we'll realize not much changes in God's creation.

All of this upheaval and we remain grateful for consistency in life on Earth, the good, and the bad. Christian D. Larson is the consummate optimist, and much of his work is based on this "promise yourself" declaration. Think only of the best, work only for the best, and expect only the best, and I believe God was focused on words like these to set the universe in motion.

A blessing it is to ride the earth seventy-one spins around the sun. On each revolution I, and we, have witnessed some highly distressing events. Mine include personal loss of friends in war, and my eleven-year-old tears after a five-month-old sorrel colt lost to a hunter's stray bullets. On the other hand, there are a multitude of experiences that bring absolute bliss and energy.

There is pride and joy standing atop summits of thirteen 14,000 foot peaks, or riding a two year old colt in a fast race across the West Texas plains. I consider both a joy knowing I'm an integral part of God's creation...moral or unscrupulous.

In the face of failure, focus on the desire to succeed. Think about the outcome you want to happen in your life. The more feeling applied to your thoughts, the greater the possibility.

Larson encourages "to think only of the best." To think any other way is counter to being able to achieve goals and move forward in the face of natural disaster, and human made calamity.

Maybe you have heard friends, peers, or total strangers say words that imply there is nothing good in the world. Do you find it all the time on social and news media—people criticize groups that do not believe the way they do?

Dwelling on what are perceived wrongs robs from time and opportunity to think about the good the other side offers. When good thinking is active in all minds, good and

loving actions happen in the world. That is especially true when we also expect only the best.

I am troubled when I hear groups, political, religious, or otherwise talk about the “other side.” I am convinced they are so busy talking past each other, and believing if they criticize enough, change will occur. I believe when “both sides” begin to talk to each other and not past each other...only then will positive change transpire.

Are you guilty of failing to look for the best in others? I have to answer my own question with a resounding “yes” simply based on my own actions. I regret it because when I really look, I find something positive in the speaker that could generate powerful conversation between the two of us.

God forgive me when I don’t look for the Best in All.

I will readily admit that I will always be in conflict over the equality of God’s people, mostly because of Thomas Jefferson’s words in the US Declaration of Independence. They read simply:

We hold these truths to be self -evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with Certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

With exception of “all men”... I believe God intended similar words for ALL created life. And, I believe if we shouted Jefferson’s words across a canyon, the returning echo would clearly say...

“Love God with all you heart, soul, mind and spirit, and Love Your Neighbor as Yourself”

Sometimes I wonder what part of the word “all” is not understood. So, think of, work for, and expect only THE BEST.

Peace always.

Ted