



Highpoints Podcast is a conversational style mentoring for small church pastors and leaders who desire personal growth and ministry development

Try to Have Realistic Expectations

You cannot get a \$1000 bargain for 25 cents. Remember the phrase if it is too good to be true it probably is not true. Oftentimes, expectations are unmet and unfounded and lead into a tailspin of discouragement. Let us look at tomorrow through a realistic lens and project our thinking positively and accurately.

How can I be positive and realistic at the same time? It may be difficult but not impossible.

In being realistic we do not always have to be pessimistic. Christ never blinked his eyes at bad things. But he never became so obsessed with human evil that he lost faith in man.

- Author: Ralph Washington Sockman

Three realistic but positive questions I can ask

It was _____ how can I make it good?

It was _____ how can I make it better?

It was _____ how can I make it the best?

The pendulum does not have to swing from perfect to horrible. Perfection is not the normal course of life. Life is full of “in between.”

Mistakes happen

Delays happen

Blemishes happen

Shortages happen

Tardiness happens

To maintain a decent level of joy there must be an acceptance of _____ error. *No one is perfect that's why pencils have erasers – anonymous.*

Unrealistic thinking forgets men are made of mud. When a person stumbles it is a reminder to watch our own steps. When a person demands perfection, relationships are frayed, and polarization occurs. Divergence of attention from the goal to the player causes everyone to lose the game. No matter how good the quarter back is not every throw reaches the intended running back.

POSITIVE REALISM

Responses are rarely _____ Focus on who showed up not who missed.

Overestimating brings heartache Disappointment occurs when we are looking for 100 responses from a mailout of 10 invitations.

Positives most likely outweigh _____ Do not let one problem become THE problem. Magnify the positives. People who give 100% are the ones a leader should listen to.

Set reachable goals The 10% rule: it will usually cost 10% more, it will usually take 10% more time and it will usually have an error factor of 10%.

Allow for mistakes Problems happen when we least expect them; why not write it down, a potential problem with _____ may occur.

Ask for _____ It will not always be what you would like to hear but creates buffers on potential problems that might arise.

If it is a blind corner, prepare for something to be around the corner
you _____
_____.

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Answers: *mediocre, good, better, human, 100%, negatives, input, were not expecting to see*