



Of Eeyore and Eagles

A.A. Milne wrote a series of children's books that you may be familiar with. The main character in these stories was a tiny little bear we have come to know as Winnie the Pooh. As the stories developed and grew so did Pooh's list of friends. One of these friends was a donkey with an exceptionally gloomy disposition named Eeyore.

Eeyore didn't get excited about much of anything. He was hopelessly despondent no matter what his state of affairs seeing only the negative side of the situation. He was a real 'the glass is half empty' kind of character whose internal dialogue must have served as a dismal reminder of little or no hope in any circumstance.

What is your internal dialogue like? Do you wake up in the morning with little to look forward to or is there joy at the dawn of a new day filled with new opportunities? A popular pastor from Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, Texas asked the same question in this way, "Do you arise and say joyfully, 'Good morning Lord!' or does it sound more like, 'Good Lord It's morning!'"

Maybe part of Eeyore's problem was where he placed his hope. I too have placed my hope in the wrong things and even in the wrong people. If you are married and place all of your hope solely in that relationship it could lead to some bitter disappointments. Life may seem great if things are well in the relationship but if a hint of trouble or discord arises ~ you're likely to find yourself overwhelmed in many of the other areas of your life. If all of your hope is based on the financial security your present career offers ~ what happens if your job situation changes due to circumstances beyond your control? You would likely find yourself engulfed in a sea of despair.

Maybe another facet to Eeyore's gloomy demeanor was his internal dialogue. As I look back over the years I can recall times when my internal dialogue set the tone for my day. If I awoke with good cheer and a positive attitude there was nothing that could stop me and if I awoke feeling discouraged and dejected you can probably guess how those days went.

"Whether you believe you can ~ or you believe you can't... you're right." - Henry Ford

Before I was saved I decided to return to school so I enrolled in a local college as an adult 'non-traditional' student. While I was a bit apprehensive about returning to classes after so many years had passed since I had graduated from high school I made up my

mind that if I was going to be successful I would have to gird myself up and tear into the work with a fever and passion that would make the younger folks look like they were standing still. And as you may have guessed ~ because of my positive attitude and internal dialogue ~ that is precisely what happened.

In fact, that same positive internal dialogue carried me straight from school into management with one of the world's largest companies. I was successful (from a worldly view) because I believed in myself and the organization I worked for. The positive and energetic culture of that organization made those successes all the much sweeter. It was as if a sign was hung somewhere that said, "No Eeyores Allowed" and I fed off that energy. I was surrounded by people who wanted to succeed and believed that they could.

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." – Proverbs 23:7

So where are you today? Are you in a positive and energetic environment or are you surrounded by Eeyores? Are you believing God's promises or are you stuck in a rut? Where do you put your hope and what is your internal dialogue like?

When I believed in myself (we'll talk about pride in a later devotional) and ignored the 'nay-sayers' I was able to lead a team of like minded people and we achieved goals beyond our expectations.

Now let me ask you these questions. If I was able to think positively to overcome obstacles and achieve goals I never thought possible when my hope was in myself and those around me ~ how much greater would my reward have been if I had placed all of my hope and faith in God and not myself? What would my internal dialogue have sounded like if I based it solely on the promises of God trusting Him in all circumstances?

I think the answer is worth learning and that is the journey the Lord is guiding me through even this day. Friends I want to encourage you today to soar like an eagle with the gifts you have been given. Don't listen to the lies of the enemy and don't surround yourself with people and co-workers who speak words of death, doom and destruction. Don't settle for mediocrity. You are the adopted sons and daughters of the most high God! Use whatever gifts He has given you and strive toward the goals He has set before you with the full knowledge that while you may stumble along that path ~ He will lift you up and give you the strength to continue.

You are because He says you are.

You can because He says you can.

Trust that all things are truly possible through Christ and He will help you to soar to new heights.

Prayer – "Forgive me Father for being so prideful. Father You have delivered my soul and my family from the very jaws of death through the sacrifice of Your most precious

Son Jesus. We exalt Your name Lord. Let all our faith and hope rest in You. Father as we face into the wind and ready ourselves to soar according to Your will help us to take this time to know You better so that our course will be true. Amen."