

THE Search FOR

Satisfaction

ecclesiastes

Sometimes Life Seems Unfair

By Dr. David H. McKinley

Five Common Life Views:

- Optimism
- Pessimism
- Cynicism
- Criticism
- Realism

Life Seems Unfair Because of an Unavoidable Outcome

"This too, I carefully explored: Even though the actions of the godly and wise people are in God's hands, no one knows whether or not God will show them favor in this life. The same destiny ultimately awaits everyone, whether they are righteous or wicked, good or bad, ceremonially clean or unclean, religious or irreligious . . . Life leads to death. That is it."

Ecclesiastes 9:1-2, 4b

"I am not afraid to die; I just don't want to be there when it happens." —Woody Allen

Solomon's suggestion: "Seize life! Eat bread with gusto, drink your drink with a robust heart. O yes—God takes pleasure in your pleasure! Dress festively every morning. Don't skimp on colors and scarves. Relish life with the spouse of your love, each and every day of your precarious life. Each day is God's gift."

Life Seems Unfair Because of Unpredictable Challenges

"I took another walk around the neighborhood and realized that on this earth as it is—the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor satisfaction to the wise, nor riches to the smart, nor grace to the learned. Sooner or later 'bad luck' hits us all."

Ecclesiastes 9:11

"People can never predict when hard times might come. Like a fish in a net or birds in a snare, people are often caught by sudden tragedy."

Ecclesiastes 9:12

Three categories:

- 1) "in trouble"
- 2) "coming out of trouble"
- 3) "going into trouble"

- My **ability** does not provide automatic access to satisfaction or success.

- My **opportunity** will not provide access to satisfaction or success.

- My **adversity** cannot withhold my access to satisfaction or success.

While Life Seems Unfair, There are Often Unexpected Surprises

Charlotte Elliot spent many years of her life in frustration. She wanted her life to count in a significant way, but a childhood illness left her an invalid. She often wished her life could have the impact of her brother who was a preacher. She became bitter and despondent until her pastor, Dr. Cesar Milan, encouraged her to stop focusing on her limitations and give herself, just as she was, to God. After this conversation, alone and writing in a journal, she penned the words, later put to music, entitled "Just As I Am." That song was chosen by the Billy Graham team and has been sung at the time of decision at every Graham crusade around the world. It is amazing what can happen when we give our limitations to God.