

by **Ralston Ripp**

Now, seemingly more than ever before, opinions differ. For instance, there is your neighbor who sees the worst and worries about the future. Maybe you, too, are anxious. But, maybe you agree with the man down the road — the one who believes each day is what we make of it. This man believes we hold the chance to make an impact and cultivate change.

I am the latter — an optimist. I love to see the good, find the positive side and always hope for the best in everyone. I struggle with reality at times and could probably be a bit more realistic. But, that is what being a dreamer is all about: having hope, taking in the small moments and risking it all for the next great adventure.



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Stargazing

My days of studying in a college classroom on campus are slimming. Looking back, I realize I entered my college career with enormous aspirations. I went into the university planning to get involved in organizations and make a difference, study abroad and see the world, and even figure out what I wanted to spend the rest of my life doing. At that time, I didn't think those goals were too overwhelming; however, now I reflect on these goals and the many times I told myself, "I will get to it tomorrow," or, "I still have another year to figure it out." Now, three years later, I realize I still haven't gotten all my to-do boxes checked. Some of them were achieved, while others still stand as a tomorrow issue.

I may not be full of wisdom or have tons of life experience, but I am full of heart and courage. So, I say, see the good, dream it, share it and don't wait. Excuses can easily be made, but the courageous action of getting started matters more. Taking a chance in the midst of negativity is hard, scary and every fearful word in the book. There is always a "but" and a hopeful chance. Honestly, the worst someone can ever say is, "No." Be a stargazer and chase your wildest dreams; you keep hope and inspiration alive. You are in charge of sharing what is possible with the world.

"I'm-possible"

"Possible" is simply defined as the ability to be done, with the power or capacity of someone or something. Lately it seems that "not possible" or the word "impossible" are more commonly used in society's vocabulary. Being a positive person, I think anything can really happen and be possible



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with a little elbow grease and faith. We have all heard the saying, "When pigs fly." Well, a pot belly pig fits in a pet carrier as a carry-on. This proves anyone can hop on a plane and soar — including pigs.

Hopefully that thought makes you chuckle, but the point is that life is about seizing the moment and appreciating the joy in the simple things. If you really analyze the word, "impossible," you see, "I'm possible." Where there is a will, there is a way. Your motives capture perspective; your perspective sees the good and the opportunity.

Conquer the world

You can truly make a difference. You can choose to listen to the cranky neighbor or join in the joy of the optimist at the end of the block. The choice is yours. Life can be uncontrollable and full of unknown events, choices and opportunities. Time goes too fast, mistakes happen and challenges occur, but you can see the good and take the chance. Choosing optimism might be your best adventure yet.

It is yours to take, and the world is waiting at your fingertips. **HW**