

Discussion Questions

1. Are you generally an optimist or a pessimist?
2. Does it resonate with you that positive people are more successful? Can you think of any specific examples of positive people who are successful?
3. How do you feel about progress and human history? Is the world improving or declining?
4. Why do you believe anxiety and pessimism are rising in America despite the fact that standard of living is improving?

If you are doing the 5-week study, jump to video 2. You can do this section later.

1 John 4:11-21

11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Fear has no place in the life of a Christian. The closer we are to God, the less power fear has over us, because we feel God's continual presence-his strength, his comfort, and his guidance. When God, the creator of the world, lives in us, we can be confident of our eternal destination, and this world can ultimately do nothing to harm us in any lasting way.

Going Deeper

5. What do you think it means that "perfect love drives out fear"?
6. What role does the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians play in helping them to be more positive?
7. How can love help Christians to take advantage of the benefits of positivity, and how does fear hinder Christians?