

YOUR ATTITUDE DETERMINES YOUR ALTITUDE

Napolean Hill in his book Think and Grow Rich says, "Whatever the **mind can conceive and believe**, it can achieve."

The story below illustrates this quite clearly.

Nick was a big, strong, tough man who worked in the railroad yards for many years. He was one of his company's best employees: always there on time, a reliable, hard worker who got along well with the other employees. But Nick had one major problem. He had a negative attitude. He was known around the railroad yards as the most pessimistic man on the job. He perpetually feared the worst and constantly worried, fretting that something bad might happen.

One summer's day, the crew were told that they could go home an hour early in order to celebrate the birthday of one of the foremen. All the workman left, but somehow Nick accidentally locked himself in a refrigerated boxcar that had been brought into the yard for maintenance.

When Nick realized that he was locked inside the refrigerated box car, he panicked. Nick began beating on the doors so hard that his arms and fists became bloody. He screamed and screamed, but his coworkers had already gone home to get ready for the party. Nobody could hear Nick's desperate calls for help. Again and again he called out, until finally his voice was a raspy whisper.

Aware that he was in a refrigerated boxcar, Nick guessed that the temperature in the unit was well below freezing, maybe as low as five or ten degrees Fahrenheit. Nick feared the worst. He thought, *What am I going to do? If I don't get out of here, I'm going to freeze to death. There's no way I can stay in here all night.* The more he thought about his circumstances, the colder he became. With the door shut tightly, and no apparent way of escape, he sat down to await his inevitable death by freezing or suffocation, whichever came first.

To pass the time, he decided to chronicle his demise. He found a pen in his shirt pocket and noticed an old piece of cardboard in the corner of the car. Shivering almost uncontrollably, he scribbled a message to his family. In it Nick noted his dire prospects: "*Getting so cold, Body numb. If I don't get out soon, these will probably be my last words.*" And they were.

The next morning, when the crew came to work, they opened the boxcar and found Nick's body crumpled over in the corner. When the autopsy was completed, it revealed that Nick had indeed frozen to death.

However, the investigators discovered that the refrigeration unit for the car in which Nick had been trapped was not even on! In fact, it had been out of order for some time and was not functioning at the time of the man's death. The temperature in the car that night, the night Nick froze to death, was sixty-one degrees Fahrenheit. Nick froze to death in slightly less than normal room temperatures because he believed that he was in a freezing boxcar. He expected to die! He was convinced that he didn't have a chance. He expected the worst. He saw himself as doomed with no way out. He lost the battle in his own mind.

For Nick, the thing he feared and expected to happen came to pass.

When it comes to money, many people today are similar to Nick. They're always expecting the worst. They expect to be in poverty. They expect to drown in debt. They expect mediocrity. They believe that they were born to be average and always struggling to make ends meet. And they usually get what they expect; they become what they believe. They remain poor. They are always drowning in debt. They let the blessings that are coming their way just fly past because their minds are so blocked by the negative thoughts that they harbor.

Becoming financially independent and wealthy is a choice. Often people tell themselves that wealth is for the fortunate. Wealth is for those that were left with large inheritances. They believe that they are born to be in debt and live in poverty.

Friends I'd like to tell you that nobody was born to be poor. Nobody was born to always be struggling financially. Nobody was born to be in overwhelming debt. Everybody was born to be successful. Everybody was born to be financially independent. However the poor choices that they make lead them to poverty. You just have to look lotto winners on the internet to see how many of these winners blow away their fortunes simply because of poor decisions.

Make a decision today to have a positive mind set towards becoming wealthy. Believe that you were born to be financially independent. Believe that you were born to live happy and prosperous lives. Choose the blessings that are being poured your way and enjoy the life that you are meant to lead.

Remember you get what you believe in, whether it's good or bad.

Your attitude *will* determine your altitude.