

"In A Pit With A Lion"

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Notes by Dave Kraft

God always uses past experiences to prepare us for future opportunities (14) You can do nothing wrong and still do nothing right (15) Spiritual maturity is *seeing and seizing* God-ordained opportunities. Being good stewards of our imagination (17) Too often our prayers revolve around asking God to reduce the odds in our lives. We want everything in our favor. But maybe God wants to stack the odds against us so we can experience a miracle of divine proportions (24) According to AW Tozer, the most important thing about you is what comes to mind when you think about God (27) How you think about God will determine who you become. You are a byproduct of your God-picture. Most of our problems are not circumstantial but perceptual (28) Nothing brings God greater joy than when one of His children defies the odds (37) Don't accumulate possessions; accumulate experiences (43) We're born with only two fears; the fear of falling and the fear of loud noises; every other fear is learned (47)

Most of us are shaped, for better or worse, by a handful of experiences (48) We'd be amazed at the percentage of prayers aimed at *problem reduction* (62) Don't let what's wrong with you keep you from worshipping what's right with God (67) Your focus determines your reality (70) Faith has less to do with *gaining knowledge* and more to do with *causing wonder* (85) Some of the best things in life are totally unplanned and unscripted (89) There are lots of different explanations for every experience. And while you can't control your experiences, you can control your explanations (93) Obedience is a willingness to do whatever, whenever, wherever God calls us (109) All of us have action regrets, but I think our deepest regrets are missed opportunities (115)

Isn't it ironic that some people who have so little do so much and those who have so much do so little (131) The **reticular activating system** (RAS). When we pray for someone or something, it creates a category in our RAS. Prayer is important for the same reason goals are important. We need to create categories so we will notice anything and everything that helps us achieve those goals or answer those prayers (135) If you wait for perfect

conditions before you seize an opportunity, you'll be waiting till the day you die (140) Willingness to fail is a prerequisite of success (142)

A study found that 98% of children between the ages of three and five scored in the genius category for divergent thinking

8-10 32%

13-18-10%

25-2%

We need to tap into our natural weirdness (150)

Normality is overrated. Maturity doesn't equal conformity (151) Schools can be involved in the suppression of creative genius. From the cradle, the pressure is on: Be normal (152) One of my favorite words is *neoteny* from the greek word *neos* which means new, fresh or youthful (154) To become like Christ is to become less self-conscious and more God-conscious (158) Part of spiritual maturity is caring less and less about what people think about you and more and more about what God thinks (160)