

PROUDLY INTRODUCING

Norman
Vincent Peale

Lectures



LAW OF ATTRACTION HAVEN

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Contents

Lecture 1: Master Your Problems

Lecture 2: The Power of Faith and Belief

Lecture 3: Faith That Moves Mountains

Lecture 4: Expect Miracles in Your Life

Lecture 5: The Key to a Thrilling Life

Lecture 6: Unshakable Self-Confidence

Lecture 7: Make the Impossible, Possible

Lecture 8: Never Ever Give Up

These lectures have been transcribed exactly as spoken by Dr Peale, with only minor adjustments for grammatical accuracy. You may notice some instances of informal or unconventional grammar, which reflect his natural speaking style. However, the essence and meaning of his message remain completely intact.



FAITH CAN

move

M O U N T A I N S

Lecture 1: Master Your Problems

Lecture presented on 13th June 1982

What to do about problems is one of the continuing facts of human existence. Everybody here has had a problem. Perhaps you have one now or will have one in the sweet by and by.

So, it behooves us to know what to do about problems. This being the case, a talk on the subject, *How to Handle Your Problems*, seems to be entirely appropriate.

Now, I realize that the minute you mention the word "problem," the general assumption is that you're going to deal with something that, by its very nature, is inherently bad and ought to be gotten rid of as fast as possible. But nothing could be

further from the truth. A problem can be—and usually is—inherently good.

When the Good Lord wants to give you the greatest value in this life, how does He go about doing it? Does He wrap it up in a sophisticated package and hand it to you on a silver platter? Well, hardly. He is too subtle for that. The Lord's method is to take this great big value and insert it at the center of a big, tough problem. And how He must watch with delight to see whether you've got what it takes to break that problem apart and find, at its center, if you please, the pearl of great price.

But even so, wherever I go, it seems that people do not like problems. Now, I don't like them myself. That's why I'm making this speech on the subject—to talk myself into liking them! But either by direct

statement or by implication, people seem to say to me, "Wouldn't life be simply wonderful if either we had fewer problems, or easier problems, or, better still, no problems whatsoever?"

Now, I should like to raise with you the philosophical and practical question: Would you actually be better off if you had fewer problems, easier problems, or no problems whatsoever? Now, *there's* a question to roll around in consciousness. I think I should like to answer that question by telling you about an incident.

I was walking down Fifth Avenue here in New York one day when I saw a friend of mine, by the name of George, approaching me. It was evident from George's melancholy and disconsolate demeanor that he wasn't, what you might say, filled or

overflowing with the ecstasy and happiness of human experience—which is a high-class way of saying that George was dragging bottom. He was really low. Well, this reached my human sympathy, so I said to him, "How are you, George?"

Now, brothers and sisters, that was really a routine inquiry, but it represented an enormous mistake on my part, for George took me seriously, and for fifteen minutes, he enlightened me meticulously on how he felt. And the more he talked, the worse I felt.

So, finally, I said, "Well, George, I'd like to help you if I can."

"Well," he said, "why do you think I'm hanging around here wasting fifteen

minutes talking to you?" (Congregation laughs).

I said, "What can I do for you?"

"Why," he said, "get me rid of these problems!"

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