



## ON HOPES AND GOALS AND THE FUTURE

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People fear the unknown, and the future has always been the biggest unknown there is. We are able to make concrete concepts on what we see here and now, but the ability to look into the future is a talent that's a rarity in these parts. Sure, visionary people have abounded, but studies have shown that they possess a certain, well, something, that makes them exceptionally gifted. We can only envy them for their skills, perhaps try to emulate them in our own little ways. We may succeed at certain points, and that's wonderful, right? Small successes are surely steps to even bigger ones.

The future always holds promise for those who persevere enough and are optimistic enough to grab today's opportunities. It's not always easy, but taking the journey is a genuine learning experience to ultimate self-discovery. We need not fear all there is about the future. We might feel discouraged at certain points, but let's not allow those points to rule our lives. We learn lessons from our mistakes in the past so we should be able to face today with renewed vigor, and tomorrow with endless hope. Hope, after all, translates to "esperar" in Spanish, and also means "to expect". We have much to look forward to, to expect and to hope for in the future. The future that we get has been designed just for us, just as what we have received in the past and the present remain ours.

Alfred Adler said: "We cannot think, feel, will, or act without the perception of a goal." We need to move forward to the future with clear goals in mind. Wandering aimlessly is not the thing to do. Time waits for no man, and the future is our destiny. It is our ultimate personal duty to approach life with all the fullness of hope and compassion for our fellowmen. We must face the future with renewed hope, no matter how bleak it may be. We don't let go of the dark by electing to remain in the dark. We need to look for that light, not at the end of a tunnel like dead souls do, but the light that'll take us out of the uncertainty we may be entrenched in. Be mindful of the past, love today, embrace tomorrow. Welcome the future with guns blazing. If we don't, the world might pass us by before we even know it.

Though it is true that the future is filled with uncertainty, facing it requires a whole lot of courage and strength. Pray for strength and guidance, and the world will be yours now and in the future. The promise of a brighter tomorrow is not something made to only a few. It is a gift we need to give to ourselves and those who matter in our lives.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What do you see in the future for yourself? For the ones you love?
2. How have you personally prepared for the future?
3. What is your opinion on predictions of the world ending soon?
4. Do you patronize or believe in fortune tellers? Why or why not?
5. What is it about the future that scares you the most? Elaborate on your answer.