



The Power of Expectations

The Power of Expectations refers to the ability or capacity to direct or influence the course of events in our lives or others

- Expectations can either bring us into God's presence or if they are negative, then we may find ourselves in a holding pattern and not going forward
- The term expectation and hope are used often and are closely related but different.
 - * In Philippians 1:19-21, Paul uses both expectation and hope in the same verse.
 - * What is Biblical Hope?
 - ◇ It is always forward - future in time
 - ◇ It is invisible - cannot see hope as a reality now because it is future.
 - ◇ Hope gives pleasure or joy
 - ◇ Hope relies on the Word of God and the Promises of God for its fulfillment. It is a promise from God and thus it will happen.
 - ◇ Not sure exactly when it will happen only that it will.
 - * What are Expectations
 - ◇ Expectations look forward in time and may be good or bad.
 - ◇ Expectations are more immediate - focus more on now
- Scriptural examples:
 - * Mark 5:24-34 - Woman with issue of blood
 - ◇ Woman was desperate
 - ◇ She expected to be healed the moment that she touched His clothing - "if I could just touch Him."
 - ◇ Believe that she knew that Jesus was her Messiah based on wanting to touch the fringe of His garment.
 - ◇ Jesus told her that "her faith made her whole."

FAITH IS NOT THE POWER THAT MAKES THE PROMISE COME TRUE. RATHER, FAITH IN GOD "ACCESSES" HIS POWER, WHICH IS WHAT MAKES HIS PROMISES COME TRUE.

- * John 5:1-9 - Infirm man at pool of Bethesda
 - ◇ Had infirmity for 38 years. Came to pool to be healed of infirmity.
 - ◇ Jesus asked him - "Do you want to be made well?"
 - ◇ Man had hope but no real expectations that anything would happen.
 - ◇ Jesus' words created faith to expect a miracle and he got up.
- * Acts 3:1-8 - Lame man at temple gate
 - ◇ Peter saw the man healed and walking. Peter expected the man to walk.

- ◇ Peter believed for this man and Peter's expectation brought healing to this lame man.
- * John 11:1-44 - Lazarus died
 - ◇ Martha expected Jesus to come and heal her brother so he wouldn't die.
 - ◇ Jesus waited until Lazarus was dead before coming to Bethany.
 - ◇ Jesus tells Martha that Lazarus will rise again and Martha says, "yes in the resurrection at the last day."
 - ◇ Jesus tells Martha that He is the "resurrection and the life."
 - ◇ When Jesus goes to Lazarus' tomb, Martha says that Lazarus has begun to decay = yet Jesus tells her that if she would believe she would see the glory of God.
 - ◇ Martha was to believe in Jesus and that belief - that faith - that expectation would bring the glory of God into the situation.
 - ◇ Jesus exceeded Martha's expectation by raising Lazarus from the dead.
 - ◇ Jesus wants to do "... exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think . . ." (Ephesians 3:20)
- What are we expecting to happen - right now?
- When are we supposed to be saved? Is it today or tomorrow?
 - * The Apostle Paul said in II Corinthians 6:2 - Now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
 - * If we are supposed to be saved today, then we should expect to be healed today too!
- What do we expect to happen when we come to church?
- What are we expecting when we go forward and ask for prayer?
- What are we expecting when we pray for someone else and lay hands on them?
- Are we expecting anything or are we just going through the motions remembering back to when God moved years ago?

**I believe that our earnest expectations open
up the possibility for God's power
being released in the earth
RIGHT NOW!**