

IMPOSSIBLE EXPECTATIONS EXTRAORDINARY PROVISION

WILLIS 5/9/10

Num13:25-33

I feel led to address an issue that I know we are all aware of but while in times of war it is easy to forget. **Life is a war and vigilance is not an option. Life is a war where intentional awareness is the air we breathe.**

- Christianity is a faith like no other. We serve a God who expects the impossible then imparts the extraordinary.

If lived the way we were redeemed to live God's expectations on man are impossible. All too often Man's answer is to reduce the expectation so we can measure up. **God's answer is to empower the expectation so we can be carried through.** Consider these impossibilities:

- Mt5:18 "Be perfect for I am perfect."
- Mk11:23 "Speak to this mountain and it will be cast into the sea."
- 2Thes3:13 "Do not become weary in doing good..."

"Cast out demons, heal the sick, raise the dead..." All of these impossible expectations are overshadowed with the promise "With man this is impossible but with God all things are possible." (Mt 19:26)

- **Christianity is an impossible standard enabled by an extraordinary power.** If all we see is the impossibility of expectation we become like the 10 spies and our confession becomes "Surely we can't...it's too hard...we are too tired..."
- However, if we like Joshua and Caleb are "of a different spirit" we will see the impossibility of the expectation through the grid of extraordinary provision. Consequently our confession will be "Surely we can do it."
- **In light of the promised provision, the expectation ahead of us always pales in comparison to the power within us.**

The 10 spies focused on the impossible expectations; the 2 focused on the extraordinary provision. Consequently the 2 came to opposite conclusions. In spite of their oppositeness, both groups were absolutely convinced of the will of God.

- **When impossible expectations are not seen through the grid of extraordinary provision we will feel God say one thing when in reality He is saying the exact opposite.**
- But when impossible expectations are seen through the grid of extraordinary provision we hear through the ears of faith so all things become possible.

- Neither Joshua nor Caleb denied the impossibility, they never contested the size of the giants or if the land devoured its inhabitants. They simply said, “Their protection has been removed...if the Lord is pleased with us, the giants are ours.”
- **If our focus becomes the impossibility of the expectation then our confession will be “surely we can’t. However if our focus is His extraordinary provision then our confession will be “surely we can.”**

If we want the realities of our life to be different then we must change the focus of our confession. Everybody wants to be different but few want to change. If we change our focus from the impossibility of the expectation to the extraordinariness of the provision, everything will be different.

When our focus becomes extraordinary provision rather than impossible expectations our daily realities change to:

- **Confidence in God rather than insecurity in self**
- **Courage to obey rather than fear to act**
- **Faith to step out rather than the unbelief that shrinks back**
- **Optimism in circumstance rather than the pessimism in the flesh**
- **Resolve to live by the proceeding Word rather than natural reason**

The fire of God’s presence is the exponent that transforms. Holy Spirit fire is the exponent factor that transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary. Holy Spirit fire is the means by which we transform the focus from expectation onto provision.

I want us to look at a few Bible exhortations that have the power to release extraordinary provision anytime we are faced with impossible expectations.

1. **Pr3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart...”** Impossible expectations serve an even deeper purpose than mere provision. Impossible expectations serve to illustrate the new source of the born again life.
 - We weren’t born again to live according to the old source. In being born again we are translated over into the exchanged life. **Holy Spirit keeps us in the impossibility of expectation so we will remain desperate for the exchange.**
 - When natural reason eliminates the impossibility of expectation it also eliminates the need for exchange. Man then reverts back to self source living and becomes a carnal Christian or a Christian empowered by self.
 - Think of all the impossible expectations placed on man: An entire nation needing to cross the Red Sea on dry land, giants killed with a stone, 5000 people needing to be fed with a few fishes and a couple of loaves.
 - **It is the impossibility of expectation that defines it as Christianity. Eliminate impossibility and you relegate it to “Manianity.”**

2. **Ps37:4 “Delight yourself in the Lord...”** Or perhaps the way it should be heard, delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you what your heart should desire. As we make Him our number one pleasure and pursuit, He turns our heart to desire what He desires.

- **An empowered desire from God is one of the ways in which the Lord gives us extraordinary provision for impossible expectations.** When we already desire what He desires it's not like we need supernatural grace to overcome.
- Delight has to do with trust. Delight has to do with being resigned. We delight in God one expectation at a time. **We can't delight in every expectation until we have delighted in one expectation.**
- Those who delight in Him get empowered by Him. We delight through trust. We delight through worship. We delight through surrendering our selves fully to His will and to His way.

3. **Mt11:29 “Take my yoke upon you...for I will give you rest.”** Rest is the evident fruit of extraordinary provision. Rest is a provisional gift. Provisional in that rest is the provision given as we come into the intimacy of being yoked together with Christ.

- **As we come into rest through intimate relationship impossible expectations are overcome by extraordinary provision.** When in the yoke with Christ He does the work but we receive the benefit.
- If the expectations are possible there is no reason for the yoke. **When in the yoke the two become one and we become as strong as the one we are yoked with.**
- As we submit to the expectations of the yoke we receive the provision of the yoke. It is the yoke that removes the struggle.
- The perceived freedom of the yoke is what gives birth to the struggle because it cuts us off from the power. Only in the yoke do we have the extraordinary provision of the Ox.

The way of the Kingdom is expect the impossible then provide the ability. As long as the ability is provided it matters little what the expectation is. As long as the ability is provided then our response, whatever the expectation must be, **“Surely We Can Do It.”**