

HOPELESSLY EXPECTANT

WILLIS 9/27/10

Is42:6-9

I have entitled what I want to share today “Hopelessly Expectant.” I chose what seems like a contradicting title because it is quite reflective of my study on the subject of expectations...some hopeless, some expectant. **Some say “Dream Big.” Others would have us believe, “Expect nothing then you will not be disappointed.”**

- Some of the titles I read on the subject were: “Leading With Low Expectations.” It didn’t get far. “Redefining Huge Expectations.” It was a small article. “Lower Your Expectations.” It didn’t amount to much. “No Expectations; No Disappointment.
- **I would suggest expecting nothing is the disappointment. Man’s appointment is inseparably linked to God’s expectation.** To cast off expectation is to live hopeless. To lower the bar in hope of living at a higher standard is a lesson in low living.
- **Webster defines hopelessness as: “No expectation of good.”** To have no expectation of good is to have no expectation of God. Having no expectation of God doesn’t mean you won’t be disappointed; it means you will be hopeless.
- **Though we are not to despise the day of small beginnings; we do despise the day of small expectations.** When we serve a God who is able to do exceedingly abundantly more...to settle for small expectations is to miss the mark.

Our theme has been breaking down the barriers that would prevent the Bride from making herself ready. So far we have dealt with the barriers of fear, familiarity and unbelief. Today we want to look at breaking the barrier of hopelessness or perhaps more importantly...expanding the boundaries of godly expectations.

- **Being that hopelessness is having no expectation of good, the real barrier to be broken is little to no expectation in God.** It is the lack of expectation that leaves one hopeless.
- The best way to break the barrier of hopelessness is to focus on the opposite spirit and speak to the hope that is found in expanding our expectation in God. **A God who doesn’t disappoint is a God we can have expectations in.**

Is42:6-9

Isaiah 42 is a chapter filled with the hope of expectation. “Before the matter springs into being I announce it to you.” **The announcement of God awakens the expectation of man. Expectation quickens faith. Faith secures possession.**

Faith is marginalized when we pray without expectation. Prayer without expectation is talk. Faith without expectation is dead. Genuine faith will always be joined by godly expectation. Where there is no expectation there is no possession.

Ps5:3 “In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.”

Life detached from expectation is life in no need of trust. Expectations are the seed bed in which trust grows. So we must wait expectantly and trust exclusively. Trust in Him exclusively as you wait for Him expectantly.

- Micah1:7 “But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord. I will wait for the God of my salvation.”
- 1Cor9:10 “The plowman ought to plow in expectation...” Farmers plant in expectation of harvest. Planting without expectation of a harvest removes the responsibility of stewarding the seed.
- If there is no expectation of harvest then there is no accountability to water, tend or cultivate the seed. **A hopeless expectation is a demonic barrier that keeps us from apprehending the promises of Christ.**
- Consequently we must declare war on this sentiment of no or low expectations.

Pr23:7 “As a man thinketh in his heart so is he.” More than the power of positive thinking this is the inherent power of godly expectations. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Solomon is telling us, **man is the sum total of what he expects.**

- Thinketh” to split open and act as a doorway.” Instead of the barrier of hopelessness expectant thoughts split open barriers and bring us before a doorway of promise.

How do we split open this barrier of hopelessness and remove all boundaries of godly expectation.

1. **Expect the Best: Ep3:20** Aligning our expectation with the desire and ability of God is one of the primary ways in which we co-labor together with Christ. “Those who watch for the providence of God will never lack the providence of God.”
 - **It is the watchful expectation in God that positions us for the faithful provision of God.** Those who never expect rarely receive.
 - Acts27:18-20 Tells the story of Paul’s shipwreck. All aboard had given up any expectation of being saved, but not one person aboard perished for there was one aboard who believed the best.
 - V.25 says, “Therefore keep up your courage men for I believe God and it will turn out exactly as I have been told.” Paul expected the best and his godly expectation saved the entire crew.

- As we expect the best we get enthused. Enthusiasm comes from the Greek word, En Theos: God inspired. **As we expect the best we get God inspired...we get enthused.**
 - Webster defines enthusiasm as “Belief in special revelation of the Holy Spirit.” As we expect the best we get enthused. As we get enthused we receive special revelation from the Holy Spirit.
 - **A God infused enthusiasm has the inherent power to break the barrier of hopelessness and position us to expand the boundaries of godly expectation.**
2. **Make Arrangements for What is Expected:** Phil 1:19-20 “For I know this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ according to my earnest expectation...
- **Expectations were the delivery system of God’s provision. Being hope is defined as “desire with expectation of obtaining,” where there is expectation there must also be arrangements.**
 - If we are expecting someone to arrive by plane we had better make arrangements to drive to the airport.
 - The primary labor we bring is the labor of expectations. Intercession without expectation is just conversation but when we make arrangements for what we pray, we possess what we prayed.
 - When the sovereignty of God announces a matter the expectations of man must make arrangements for the matter. Next week we will hear God’s announcement about SOAC, upon the announcement we must begin to make arrangements for finances, faculties, facilities and students.
 - Announcements without arrangements frustrate and ultimately produce hopelessness. **Godly expectations produce strategic plans. It’s the plan that dispels the hopelessness.**

Every significant move of God has been preceded by a deep sense of expectation. If a barrier of hopelessness is somehow keeping you out of all Christ has promised, an expectation in God is your doorway through.

- MC’s is your expectation in God big enough to match the transformation He intends to do?
- SPA is your expectation in God worthy of the grace He is giving to create?
- Is your expectation in God big enough to break down the barrier of hopelessness and bring you into the glorious provision of the promises of God?

Be it done to us according to our earnest expectation.

