

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?

Expectancy is a vital and healthy heart attitude. It is those who are pregnant that truly expect that new life is going to be birthed into their situation. Let's look at the issue of an expectant heart and what the Bible has to tell us about it.

¹⁵ Now while the people were in a state of expectation and all were wondering in their hearts about John, as to whether he was the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **Luke 3:15-16 NASB**

- John the Baptist's followers were filled with expectation based on a promise from God's Word. (**Luke 3:15**)
 - They were in a 'state of expectation'...not a passing fancy.
 - They were 'on the tip toe of expectation' – **New English Bible**
 - They were 'waiting in expectation' – **NT Transline**

² And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he *began* asking to receive alms. ⁴ But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" ⁵ And he *began* to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!" ⁷ And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. ⁸ With a leap he stood upright and *began* to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God; ¹⁰ and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to *beg* alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. **Acts 3:2-10 NASB**

- The beggar in **Acts 3:5** had expectancy in his heart based on a need.
 - God's answer exceeded his expectations.

⁹ On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. ¹⁰ But he became hungry and was desiring

to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; ¹¹ and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, ¹² and there were in it all *kinds of* four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. ¹³ A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!" ¹⁴ But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." ¹⁵ Again a voice *came* to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no *longer* consider unholy." ¹⁶ This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky. ¹⁷ Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate; ¹⁸ and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹ While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself." ²¹ Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?" ²² They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was *divinely* directed by a holy angel to send for you *to come* to his house and hear a message from you." ²³ So he invited them in and gave them lodging. **Acts 10:9-23 NASB**

³⁰ Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments, ³¹ and he said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. ³² Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon *the* tanner by the sea.' ³³ So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord." **Acts 10:30-33 NASB**

³⁴ Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him. **Acts 10:34-35 NASB**

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in

peace, spotless and blameless, ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you. **2 Peter 3:10-15 NASB**

- Every believer is to be filled with expectation based on an eternal perspective gained from Scripture...(2 Peter 3:10-15)
 - The coming of Jesus to die on the cross is history to us.
 - The coming of Jesus to His church in purity and power is our present day expectation.
 - The coming of Jesus for His church is our future expectation.
 - We need all three elements to have a healthy world view and a true eternal perspective.

²⁵ And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, ²⁸ then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, ²⁹ "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, according to Your word; ³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation, ³¹ which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, and the glory of Your people Israel." ³³ And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this *Child* is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed— ³⁵ and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." **Luke 2:25-35 NASB**

- Simeon and Anna in **Luke 25-38** were filled with expectancy based on a revelation of God's Spirit to their hearts.
 - Simeon was looking expectantly for what God had revealed to him. (**v25-26**)

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with *her* husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. ³⁸ At that very moment she came up and *began* giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. **Luke 2:36-38 NASB**

- Anna prophesied to everyone who was looking for God’s provision for redemption. (v36-38)

⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar *named* Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸ Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹ And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him *here*.” So they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you.” ⁵⁰ Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ And answering him, Jesus said, “What do you want Me to do for you?” And the blind man said to Him, “Rabboni, *I want* to regain my sight!” ⁵² And Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and *began* following Him on the road. **Mark 10:46-52 NASB**

- Bartimaeus in **Mark 10:46-52** was filled with expectation based on the goodness of God.
 - He hears that Jesus is around and he cried out for mercy. (v46-498)
 - Jesus meets the cry of his heart – and expectant cry with a question and an expectant Bartimaeus had an answer. (v50-52)
- God is pleased with an expectant heart.
 - Some of us are filled with expectancy concerning God’s activity among us. Terrific! Be encouraged.
 - Some of us have been filled with expectancy about God’s moving in our life, but we lost our edge.
 - What are you looking for? What do you long for God to do for you, for us, for others?
- We found several reasons for an expectant heart in Scripture today.
 - Based on a promise from God’s Word.
 - Based on a need.
 - Based on a prophetic encounter.
 - Based on a well-developed eternal perspective.
 - Based on a revelation from God.
 - Based on being stirred up by the way of reminder. (2 Peter 1:12-13)
- NOTE: In every instance we viewed in Scripture, expectancy always resulted in the same thing...remarkable change!

So, who has an expectation or an anticipation of being healed, or empowered, or of seeing ‘breakthrough?’ God loves that expectancy in your heart and prayers...and He delights in bringing fulfillment!

