



TODD LEVIN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

A monthly teaching publication to our partners and friends

THE HEART OF EXPECTANCY

Dear Partners and Friends,

It has been said that “the atmosphere of expectancy is the birthplace for miracles.” How true I have found this to be through nearly a decade of crusade evangelism. People have often asked me, “*Why do you think you see more miracles overseas than here in the United States of America?*” What I have noticed time and time again in miracle services abroad is the power of God that comes through the **simplicity** of the Gospel and the **expectant hearts** of the people. Though it is true that many churches are praying for and desiring to see God move in their midst, the fact still remains that not much is happening. Of course there could be many reasons for this “drought,” such as: *sin in the camp, unbelief, traditions of man*, yet one ingredient that makes a world of difference is **expectation**. Desiring alone will not bring the results Christians are looking for. It will take a heart filled with faith and expectancy. Faith we know comes from hearing the Word of God and expectancy comes from actually believing the Word of God. Translated this means: God is who He said He is; God will do what He said He will do; and we can do what God said we could do.

Notice what the Apostle Paul said to the Corinthian church:

*“I know very well how foolish it sounds to those who are lost, when they hear that Jesus died to save them. But we who are saved recognize this message as the very **power of God**... For God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never find God through human brilliance, and then he stepped in and saved all those who believed his message, which the world calls foolish and silly.”*

1 Cor 1:18, 21 (Living)

It is the simplicity of the Gospel that baffles the mind of the intellect sending them into a state of utter confusion and denial, leaving them to either exercise simple childlike faith and believe the message or reject it because their clever minds were not able to process this information. Remember this, you can never know God with your head, but only with your heart.

The simplicity of the Gospel... how difficult some have made it to know Christ and become a follower of Him. Traditions, world religions, works, denials, Latin, Greek, Hebrew and one label after another. No wonder people are often confused when you tell them, “God loves you.” What has been programmed into their minds? Who is God? What is God? If God loves me,

then why...? In my own crusades I've noticed that the simpler I kept the message and the more focused I was on Jesus, the more results we saw every time.

It never ceased to amaze me at the childlike faith of the listeners in my crusades in Eastern Europe. It seemed at times as though they were hearing the Gospel for the first time in their lives, and I'm sure for some that was true. Whatever I would tell them they **simply believed**. Untainted, clean, uncontaminated, undoctrinated minds **simply hungry for the truth**. Fed up with the lies of communism and tired of being deceived, having no hesitation, question, reasoning, or debate. When I stood up and announced to the crowd that, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever! He is here now to minister life to your families, healing in your bodies, and deliverance to those who are bound," the people just **simply believed!** No matter what I told them, they just believed. This definitely puts a tremendous amount of responsibility on the minister, because what you are preaching better be chapter and verse from the Word of God in order for God to back you up and confirm His word.

When ministering to a large body of people who are intently listening to every word that is coming from your mouth and who **believe** you have the "Words from God," **is it any wonder why their level of expectancy was so great?** They expected for people to be healed right there and then, on the spot. They expected to see people delivered from various bondages now. The only surprise the people had was if nothing happened. "Why were they not healed?" Many today are shocked if something does happen!

A lack of expectancy

I remember praying for a woman in England who had come forward because she had been suffering with pain in her mouth and gums that was causing her great discomfort even to eat or drink. After I had laid hands on her and prayed, by the time my eyes were open, she was already half way up the aisle and back to her seat. I shouted out, "*Hold on, where are you going?*" She turned around and looked at me with surprise as if to say, "what do you mean?" I said to her, "I have prayed for you, now check yourself and see what has happened." To her **amazement**, she found that she had been healed. At the end of the service she was enjoying the British tradition of tea and scones (English biscuits) with the rest of the people that day, smiling and thankful for what the Lord had done.

My point is that she was not expecting God to do anything so soon, so quickly, at least not right now. Had I not stopped her and encouraged her to actually examine herself and see what God had done, I'm persuaded she would have left with the same pain and discomfort that she came with. Too often people don't expect God to move and answer prayer so quickly. Even ministers fall into this category. When praying for the sick, do we really expect to see results right now? If so, why are ministers afraid to stay long enough with the one they prayed for and allow the individuals to examine themselves? Maybe that's why some keep their eyes closed the whole time they are ministering because they don't want to be disappointed. They desire to see God move, but don't expect Him to show up on the spot!

Take for example the church in the book of Acts who were gathered together to pray for Peter who had just been imprisoned. God sent an angel to get him out. But when Peter came home to his own people, they **could not believe it**. Read for yourself – **Acts 12:5-9, 12-16**.

*“And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, arise up quickly. And his chains from his hands. And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and allow me. And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision...he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. But Peter **continued knocking**: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they **were astonished**.”*

When someone is surprised, amazed, or astonished, then really, how much were they expecting to begin with. Faith is not surprised, amazed, or astonished when something does happen, but rather when something doesn't happen!

When I minister to people in a prayer line, I often come across a lack of expectancy on their part when talking with them. Sometimes they are looking at their friends almost with a smirk on their face as if to say, “Well, let's see if this is for real or not.” Others are so emotionally unstable that they have come forward out of sheer desperation; this is the end of the line for them. They have tried everything else. If this doesn't work, they have nowhere else to turn. Yes, they may have a genuine need, but have they really come expecting God to move? Then there are those who have hands laid on them so many times for the same problem that I wonder if they are attempting to achieve a new record for the Guinness Book of World Records.

In **Mark chapter 4:39-41**, Jesus rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, “**Peace, be still**” and the wind ceased and there was a great calm. He then went on to ask the disciples, “Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?” The Bible tells us, “*And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, what manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*”

They no more expected the wind and the sea to obey Jesus than anything. They were **surprised, shocked, amazed, astonished and afraid**.

In **Mark chapter 11:14,20-22**, Jesus cursed the fig tree and said, “*No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it. And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master,*

behold, the fig tree which thou cursed is withered away. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.”

Once again, the disciples were **surprised** to see the fig tree withered away. They were not actually expecting anything to happen, at least not so soon!

In Mark chapter 16:1-8, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint Jesus at his tomb, but were met by an angel who announced to them that Jesus had risen from the dead. They quickly left to go tell the disciples and fled from the sepulcher; *“for they trembled and were **amazed**: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.”* Not only were these ladies surprised but also notice the response they received when they told the disciples. **In verse 10,11** –

*“And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, **believed not.**” **Luke 24:11** says, “And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.”*

Jesus’ own disciples that he had groomed for 3 ½ years of ministerial training could not even comprehend the idea of Jesus being alive and risen from the dead. Now you would have thought if any group had believed in the dead being raised, surely it would have been this bunch. But no, they were not expecting to ever see him again. That’s why it was so hard for them to swallow it when Mary announced that Jesus is alive and had risen from the dead. They were not expecting.

Even under Jesus’ ministry the dead had been raised. There was Jairus’ twelve-year-old daughter who the Lord had brought back to life again. **(Mark 5:41,42)** Of course the people were *“astonished with a great astonishment.”* They had no expectancy. Then there was the widow who had lost her only son whom Jesus raised from the dead right in the middle of the funeral service. **(Luke 7:15)** Fear came upon all the people, as you would imagine as they just had the shock of their lifetime seeing the dead boy sit right up in the coffin. Let’s not forget about Lazarus. **(John 11:39,40)** When Jesus commanded that the stone be taken away at Lazarus’ tomb, Martha was embarrassed and said, *“Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.”* Jesus saith unto her, *“Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?”* Of course! What was Martha thinking? Probably what most people were thinking, *“Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?”* *“If only Jesus would have been here sooner, my brother would not have died.”*

When the angel Gabriel announced to Zachariah’s that his wife Elizabeth was going to have a baby, he did not believe and was therefore struck dumb and unable to speak until his son was born. **(Luke 1:20)** The message translation puts it this way in **Luke 1:18**,

*“Zachariah said to the angel, do you **expect** me to believe this? I’m an old man and my wife is an old woman.”*

When people are not in faith, it is pretty hard for them to be expecting. But when the heart is filled with faith that comes only from God's word, then the expectation is there to see God do what He has promised.

In **Luke chapter 5**, Simon had been out fishing all night and had caught nothing, but in the morning Jesus came by. When Jesus told Simon to launch out into the deep and let down the nets, Simon was **surprised and somewhat reluctant** to do so. *“And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.”* **After his obedience,**

*“He was **astonished**, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken.”*

Luke 5:9 (KJV)

Expectation is the product of a heart filled with faith

When Peter and John went into the temple to pray in **Acts chapter 3**, you recall they came across a certain man who was lame from his mother's womb and who was daily laid at the gate of the temple asking for alms. Notice what happened.

*“Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, **EXPECTING TO RECEIVE** something of them.”*

Acts 3:3-5 (KJV)

This man was actually **expecting to receive** something. He was not undecided. He had an attitude of **expectancy**. Peter had given this man hope when he said...Look on us!

When Paul and Barnabas went down to Lystra to preach the Gospel, they came across a crippled man who had never walked. Notice what **Acts 14:8-10** says:

*“And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who **steadfastly beholding** him, and perceiving that he **had faith to be healed**, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.”*

Paul knew by the Holy Ghost that this man had faith to be healed. There was an **expectancy** that you could see in the man's eyes that translated to Paul by the Holy Ghost, *“Hey I'm ready, what are you waiting for? Give the command.”* And when Paul did, God did, and the man leaped and walked. **Paul saw the man's faith.** He was **expecting** to receive.

In **Luke chapter 5**, Jesus was teaching indoors and crowds came to hear him. The power of the Lord was present to heal. There were some men who had brought along a friend that was paralyzed. The only way into the meeting was through the roof. They were determined and so lowered their friend down through the roof in the midst of the meeting. When **Jesus saw their faith**, he said... *“Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. And immediately he rose*

up before them.” **Faith** is what prompted these men to bring their friend along and do what they did. **Faith is why they came with expecting hearts.**

In Psalms **119:81**, David said, “*I hope in thy word.*” It is the Word of God that gives a person hope today and causes him to expect results. Take for example Abraham.

*“Who **against hope believed in hope**, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, so shall thy seed be.¹⁹ And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”*

Romans 4:19-21 (KJV)

When God told Abraham that he would give him a son who would have many descendants and become a great nation, Abraham believed God even though such a promise just couldn't come to pass in the natural! He was “***up against hope***” which meant in the natural this is impossible. But yet Abraham “***believed in hope***” that he would become the father of many nations. He embraced the Word of God. It was God's Word that caused Abraham to **expect** what God had promised him, he would do.” Abraham was fully persuaded. Is your heart fully persuaded?

When your heart becomes fully persuaded that God will do what He said He would do for you, then you will act like Abraham by – “giving glory to God,” even long before the actual manifestation of it. He was not undecided. He knew that he knew that he knew, it shall come to pass. This hope, which was produced from the Word that God had given him, is **what caused him to expect!**

The Word of God you have in your heart is what causes you to expect. The stronger your faith is, the greater your expectancy is. If you have found yourself wavering lately, then get into the Word and let the Word get into you – (**Jn 15:7**). Your faith will grow stronger and your expectancy will surely increase. And when this happens, it won't be long, because God always rewards faith! (**Hebrews 11:6**)

Expect to see results. Expect changes. Expect your healing. Expect increase. Expect favor. The next time you're in church, make sure you've come expecting to receive all that God has for your life. The next time you pray, expect an answer. The next time you lay hands on the sick, expect to see God's healing power. When you speak the Word, pray the Word, believe the Word, sow the Word, then expect a harvest. For remember, God is watching over His Word and bringing it to pass in your life, in your family and in your situations.

Your Friends and Partners,

Todd + Eva

