

*Have a Tremendous
Expectation!*

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

How big is God to you? Do you see Him as the One who inhabits eternity? As the One who holds the universe together by the power of His Word?

If you do not see Him in this way, then God is small to you. Furthermore, your expectations from Him are probably very small as well. God wants us to expect big things, wonderful things, for our lives. He longs to bless us in ways we never thought possible. He wants to revolutionize our lives, our families, our churches, and our nations with His power.

Many Christians, however, just stumble through one day after the other. There is no urgency in their lives because they think things will just keep going along as they are. What a lie they have received!

We have no idea of what tomorrow will bring. Therefore, as this booklet will discuss, we ought to live in the urgency that this moment

may be our last. With that, let's have a tremendous expectation that God will provide great things to His children no matter what may come.

Chapter One

HAVE AN ETERNAL VIEWPOINT

“For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:15-18).

“My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me” (Psalm 31:15).

“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16).

God is no respecter of persons. He lets the rain come upon the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45). When disaster strikes, it affects godly people and ungodly people alike. None of us knows when a storm may interrupt our life.

What causes storms? Sometimes Satan is allowed to do it. Over the Sea of Galilee, the prince of the power of the air was allowed to stir up the weather as Jesus slept in the boat. The disciples woke the Lord, and addressing the demons in the atmosphere, He said, “Be still”—or more accurately interpreted from the original Greek text, “Be muzzled!” Immediately, the storm stopped, which emphasizes the fact that God is always in control (Mark 4:36-41).

Many times, however, God allows storms so that we will draw close to Him. As we do, we realize that we are part of the plan He has had for our lives since eternity past. He gives us just a few short years on earth followed by eternity—the immeasurable, unending ages, when time is no more.

Everyone will live forever either in eternal life or in eternal torment. For this reason, I plead with people to go all the way with God. It is only reasonable and right. God has a perfect plan for each of us. That plan was sealed when

Jesus shed His blood, died on the Cross, was buried, and then rose again.

Boast Not of Tomorrow

We cannot afford to be hasty or proud Christians. A proud Christian will not honor the authority of the Word of God, which is sent from God to protect and to guide us through life.

A proud Christian also does not understand that tomorrow may never come for him. There is a reason why the Bible tells us not to boast of tomorrow. Our lives are like a vapor (James 4:14). Wars, earthquakes, tornadoes, accidents, diseases—any of these things could bring us to eternity in an instant.

A father was at the door of a storm shelter when he saw his three teenage daughters snatched up and killed by a tornado. Their time was up. It didn't matter how much money they had or what status the family held in the community. It was appointed for those girls to die at that moment (Psalm 68:20*b*, Hebrews 9:27). In the same area, there was a couple with two small children. The wife was lifted up but was set down again and not hurt. It was not her appointed time to die.

We must always be prepared to meet God at

any moment. We need to prepare in prayer. We need to prepare by taking up our cross. We need to be prepared with a life that is broken and humble before God.

This is a difficult thing to communicate to people who seem to have so much. It is so important for every Christian to find a church where wisdom (the application of doctrine) is promoted. All of us need a church where the whole counsel of God is communicated. We need pastors who preach and teach, who understand isagogics (the historical frame of reference of the Scriptures) as they communicate the Word of God.

Chapter Two

HUMILITY BRINGS EXPECTATION

“For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off” (Proverbs 23:18).

“So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off” (Proverbs 24:14).

“According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death” (Philippians 1:20).

“When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth” (Proverbs 11:7).

Every one of us needs to live and walk with God in such a way that despite what may happen, we will have a wonderful expectation. God has not promised us tomorrow, but if He does

give it to us, it can be wonderful. How? By numbering our days and allowing God to teach us to know wisdom and to apply it.

God wants us to have a great expectation, so that if cancer comes, we will not surrender. Instead, we will fight with faith and with prayer, believing and living as long as we can. Even if we die, we have the tremendous expectation that to be absent from this earthly body is to be present with God. It is a beautiful thing for a servant of God to find in the Scriptures a guarantee that his expectation will be fulfilled.

John Wesley, the great Methodist preacher, was said to have traveled 250,000 miles on horseback to preach some forty thousand messages. He was motivated by a great expectation for God to move and save souls.

Charles Finney was another great man of God who had a tremendous expectation. He was a successful yet unsaved lawyer when he watched several people die as a factory went up in flames. Though he didn't know God, he cried out to heaven, "I do not know why this happened, but I have to find You, God. If it takes studying day and night, I believe You are up there, and I have to know You." Then he found Jesus Christ and received Him as his Savior.

Finney developed an amazing prayer life with Jesus Christ. His faith saw great works accomplished in people's hearts. In his biography, there are accounts of how he would enter into a factory and people who did not know God would literally shake from the conviction of the Holy Spirit. He was often granted permission to preach in factories, where scores of men and women were gloriously saved by the grace of God.

He was still preaching at the age of 84 when he became very ill. In the last months before his death, people would gather around the little piazza at his old farmhouse. They would wait to see if he would come out to preach—and preach he did! He would go out at 7 o'clock in the morning and deliver a twenty-five minute sermon to the people who were there. Then, he would go out again at 9 o'clock and preach for another twenty-five minutes. At 10:30, he would preach again for twenty-five minutes. He gave three sermons a morning when it was all he could do to walk through the door, open his mouth, and preach about Jesus.

"My expectation will never be cut off," he would say, speaking from Proverbs 23:18 and 24:14, "and yours will not be cut off either. When

you are a child of God, your expectation will never be cut off."

What was Charles Finney's secret? What kept John Wesley traveling thousands of miles on horseback to preach the Gospel? They both had a tremendous expectation of what God would do. These men of God said, "I do not know if I have tomorrow, but I do know whom I love and whom I am going to serve today. I will live for Him every day of my life."

The Greatest Grace

"But he giveth *more grace*. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble" (James 4:6).

The Greek words for "more grace"—*meizona charin* (literally, "greater grace")—in this context reflect the superlative degree of the word, so "greater" really means "greatest." In other words, the Holy Spirit is saying that the greatest grace in the world is given to the humble.

How can we define what it means to be humble? An unsaved man can never be humble. He can be kind, he can be good, and he can live in self-effacement. But he cannot be humble. Neither can a carnal Christian.

Humility is something we acquire as we

agree with God and prepare to meet Him (Amos 3:3 and Amos 4:12). A humble Christian does not boast himself of tomorrow. For him, to live is truly Christ alone. Filled with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, he is able to receive the greatest promises imaginable through humility.

Humility means that I find a promise from God and I embrace it, knowing it will never fall to the ground (see 1 Kings 8:56). Humility means that I go to the Cross without rationalization, understanding that in me dwells no good thing (see Romans 7:18). Humility means that I receive the provisions God has for me while I concentrate with academic discipline in church services. Without exception, I will be able to hear something that will make a difference in my life forever.

Reception, Retention, Recall

By faith, I can enter into biblical and spiritual reception of God's thoughts. First I receive the Word of God in the perceptive area of the brain (channel A*) and I become aware of a truth. But as I mix what I hear with faith in the living God, the truth that I perceive is transferred through my human spirit (channel B) into my soul (channel C), including my mind, emotions, con-

science, self-consciousness, and volition.

It is vital that God executes this transfer through *energeia*, the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, which only operates in people who have been regenerated by the saving grace of God. The Word is effectually worked into my life as I submit to God. Having submitted, the Holy Spirit can establish God's words in my memory where they are retained and ready to be recalled in a moment's notice.

So, first comes reception, then retention, and then "recall" or recollection. At this point, the precious Word of God is dwelling richly in my memory, and it is expressed in my vocabulary and in the consciousness of my soul. At last, this Word of God takes on so much meaning to me, often breaking me, because it is eternal and forever settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89).

When storms come and destroy property and lives, the Word of God lives on forever and ever (Isaiah 40:8). It is always there, and it will not change. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but this precious Book, which is the mind of Christ, shall never pass away (Matthew 24:35).

Expect to Be Uplifted

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord,

and he shall lift you up" (James 4:10).

To be in the presence of God, "in the sight of the Lord," indicates a dynamic relationship between God and us. Aware of the angelic contest that is going on unseen around us, we redeem the moments by our humility in the sight of God. When humility comes in and we begin to understand it, we draw near to God and He draws near to us. If we fail and we become broken, we simply need to humble ourselves in the sight of God, and then God can promote us.

Humility allows God to promote the Christian in business, giving him blessings he never had. God promotes his health, his marriage, his heart, and his soul, which includes promoting his memory. Blessings are given to the believer who humbles himself in the sight of God, receives the authority of the Word, and honors the office of his pastor-teacher in the church services. Along with the authority of God's Word, the authority of grace and love are established in the one who receives the protection and provision of the indwelling Christ.

**Refer to The Hearing Heart, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 1996.*

Chapter Three

BLESSED AND QUICKENED FOR THESE DAYS

“For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones” (Isaiah 57:15).

“Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word” (Psalm 119:154).

The high and lofty One who inhabits eternity also inhabits the believer with a contrite and humble heart. According to the living Word of God, He is there to quicken and to revive the heart of the humble.

In these last days, it is very crucial for every Christian to concentrate upon the Word of God, which some do so well. Others, however, do not have that capacity. Humility brings capacity. When I am humble and broken, living as if I

might meet Jesus Christ today, He quickens me in His lovingkindness. He quickens me in the way of righteousness. He quickens me so I will not feel threatened, so I will not become subjective, and so I will not experience some form of paranoia. When I do not exalt myself against others, God quickens me so that I am revived in a moment, having an expectation from Him. He then can promote me in every area of life.

*The Higher the Promotion,
the More Humble the Man*

“Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge” (James 4: 11).

“Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

“Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats” (Proverbs 23:5-6).

A Christian who is promoted is one who never speaks evil. According to Zechariah 3, when Satan came to Jesus Christ to report accurate details of the high priest’s sins, the Lord re-

fused to listen because it was a family affair. The Father and the Son had taken the high priest into the family of God and they would not let a neighbor or an enemy accuse him (see Zechariah 3:1-10). God had taken care of his problems and had given him clean new garments. He would quicken him and give him another opportunity to experience the loving grace of God in the covenant of compassion.

Redeemed for Revival

“And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth” (Exodus 34:6).

Wasted time and wasted hours don't need to be part of our lives. Time is short. Christ's return is nearer than it has ever been. These are days when we must be more serious than we have ever been. I pray for the families who have lost loved ones in recent disasters. I pray for those caught in the midst of wars, whatever the reason. I pray for the refugees especially. I pray for the condition of our nation.

Most of all, I pray that born-again believers will be quickened in a revival of the Word of God and quickened according to God's grace.

Let's prepare to meet our God in prayer. Let's prepare to meet God in meditation. Let's prepare to meet God in study. Let's prepare to meet God today.

Expect the Blessings

"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land" (Isaiah 1:19).

God is not one to withhold good things from His people (Psalm 84:11). It is time we have an expectation from God. We must expect our prayers to be answered. It is time we realize that humility means submitting to God, resisting the devil with the whole armor the Lord gives us, and seeing Satan flee.

Don't entertain Satan with subjectivity. Don't entertain him by confessing frailty and weakness with presumptuous remarks from the basement of the unconscious mind. Develop a tremendous expectation by grace through faith, and confess the truth according to the character and nature of God. Trust God to take care of all the details in every situation; He is a God who wants to bless us and to give us grace (Isaiah 30:18).

When are we going to realize that God is the Blessor? Everything about Him from eternity

past was done to find a way to bless the Christian. He is out to bless you. In life or in death, God is out to bless you. In death, angels stand ready to escort you to heaven before you even taste death's pain. God has a way to protect every Christian who trusts and believes His intimate Word.

CONCLUSION

When a Christian becomes broken and humble in the sight of God, he is promoted in his relationship with Christ and in his rank in the Kingdom of God. God provides him with opportunities to redeem the time. Let's enjoy the great gifts and truth the Lord has given us. Let's avoid withdrawing into the negative patterns of our personalities. We need to go before God on our knees and on our faces in praise and thanksgiving. We cannot afford to be satisfied until our souls are filled with truth, which makes us willing and obedient to follow God.

First I am willing, then I become obedient, and God is able to guide me by the skillfulness of His hands (Psalm 78:72). He quickens me, giving me everything I need even in my worst moments. Ultimately, I have Christ, and He is all in all. I love Him and expect Him to bless me.

Cling to the expectation of God's blessing. He will bless and honor us—not because we are

worthy of blessing and honor, but because we are His children, redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb and the grace of God.

Lord, bless each of us with a new expectation and a new urgency in this late hour of human history. Help us to be quickened according to Your Truth. Quicken us moment by moment through the grace and mercy and love of Jesus Christ. Amen.