

“I Am A Keeper”

Part IV

WHY THIS SERIES....

The aim of this series is to highlight that faith is not only about how we begin,
but *learning to preserve* through every season of life.
Many people have enough faith to start, but struggle to **CONTINUE**.

We *start* praying, *start* believing, *start* serving, *start* giving,
start trusting and *start* walking with God.

BUT when **THE ANSWER** is delayed, **THE OPPOSITION** increases, **THE EXCITEMENT** fades,
or **THE CIRCUMSTANCES** become difficult...
CAN WE KEEP PUSHING AND KEEP BELIEVING

Week One...

Keep Believing Through The Delays

Keep Waiting ~ Keep Watching

Keep Believing Through The Difficult Seasons

Keep Trusting ~ Keep Walking

Keep Believing Despite The Doubters

Week Two...

Keep Pushing Through The Predicament

Keep Pushing Through The Pain

Keep Pushing Until Your Perspective Changes

Last Week....

Principle #1 — Keep Digging Because What God Promised Is Still There

Principle #2 — Keep Digging Despite Who or What Comes Against You

Principle #3 — Keep Digging Until You Receive What God Has Promised

Tonight Keep Expecting

Key Verses

Psalms 62:5 (NKJV)

5 My soul, wait silently for God alone,
For **MY EXPECTATION** is from Him.

1 Kings 18:41-45 (NKJV)

41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is *the sound of abundance of rain.*"
42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, 43 and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "**There is nothing.**" And **seven times he said, "Go again."** 44 *Then it came to pass the seventh time,* that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, '**Prepare your chariot,** and go down before the rain stops you.' "
45 **Now it happened in the meantime** that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and **THERE WAS A HEAVY RAIN.**

Introduction....

Expectation is looking forward to something happening. Christians should always have **an expectation in God**.

Expectation is the **anticipation** that **what God said**, He will bring it to pass.

Expectation is to **ANTICIPATE** what has already been **ASSURED** in the spirit.

As a believer, we should awake... **Expecting God** to open a door, make a way, bring you out, change your situation; deliver you...heal you, turn it around...

I EXPECT GOD TO DO SOMETHING IN MY LIFE....

GOD BUILDS UP OUR EXPECTATIONS THROUGH OUR EXPERIENCES...

Too many bad experiences can be used by the enemy **TO DESTROY AND DIMINISH YOUR EXPECTATION...**

So God has to **STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH through the process**

SO THAT YOU CAN MAINTAIN YOUR EXPECTATION....

In Psalm 62:5, David says.... "My soul, wait silently for God alone, **FOR MY EXPECTATION IS FROM HIM.**"

He establishes where **biblical expectation** comes from.

It Does Not Come From **My Circumstances** or **My Situation**

It Is Not Based On **What I See** Or **What I Feel**

Biblical expectation is **CONFIDENCE THAT RESTS** in the **character**, **Word**, and **faithfulness of God**.

Introduction....

Elijah *Demonstrates* What David *Says* In Psalm 62:5

*For 3 1/2 years there was not any rain in the land... There was a severe drought
This drought affected the righteous and unrighteous*

*But Elijah **MAINTAINED AN EXPECTATION** that Rain Was Coming...
No Rain had fallen for 3 1/2 years **BUT** that did not *hinder his expectation**

*You cannot allow the **FAMINE** in the Land or **FOOLISHNESS** in leadership
to affect your **EXPECTATION IN GOD***

1 Kings 17:1 (NIV)

*1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve,
there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years **EXCEPT AT MY WORD.**"*

*Elijah demonstrates that *expectation does not ELIMINATE difficulties...*
*But expectation helps to ENDURE difficulties...**

The language of someone with expectation...

*Job 23:10 ~ "**When** He has tried me, **I SHALL COME FORTH** as pure gold."*

*THIS LESSON TONIGHT WILL SHOW US THREE PRINCIPLES
TO KEEP EXPECTING:*

Principle #1 ~ The Foundation of My Expectation Must Be Certain

Principle #2 ~ The FAITH of My Expectation Must Be Demonstrated

Principle #3 ~ The Faithfulness of My Expectation Must Be Continuous

The Foundation of My Expectation Must Be Certain

1 Kings 18:1-2 (NKJV)

*1 And it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying,
"Go, present yourself to Ahab, and **I WILL SEND RAIN ON THE EARTH.**"
2 So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; AND there was a severe famine in Samaria.*

*If you do not have a **FOUNDATION FOR YOUR EXPECTATION**;
you are just exercising wishful thinking.*

*You must be certain that your expectations are rooted and grounded in the Word of God
WHICH CONTAINS THE PROMISES OF GOD.*

*If God has promised us something in His Word... We can be Sure He will follow through on it.
Elijah was a man WHO BELIEVED THE PROMISES OF GOD.
He BELIEVED them so much that he was willing to CLAIM them and LIVE in them.
CLAIM THE PROMISE and LIVE WITH PURPOSE*

*People wonder why you walk around so excited about your future...
They see your current condition, they see your existing situation, they see your present predicament
and they don't understand WHY SO MUCH JOY...
OUR JOY IS NOT BASED ON WHAT IS, BUT WHAT SHALL BE...*

When I look at my situation, MY EXPECTATION is not grounded in what I see, but WHAT HE SAID....

The Foundation of My Expectation Must Be Certain

1 Kings 18:1-2 (NKJV)

*1 And it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying,
"Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."
2 So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria.*

*My Foundation is **STRENGTHENED** By God's PAST PERFORMANCES*

*Often, in order to **move forward** with EXPECTATION, you must **look back** on past experiences.
Let your **HISTORY** with God fuel your **DESTINY**.... In chapter 17 Elijah **follows** God's command...
he **finds favor** in a **famine**... {In my mind, I see people asking Elijah why is he so **confident**}*

God commands the Ravens to feed him by a brook

God commands a Widow Woman to feed him at Zarephath

God would not allow her jug of oil to run dry nor her jar of flour to run out

God used Elijah to raise up her dead son

On Mt. Carmel, Elijah prays, and God sends down fire from heaven

and he destroys the 450 Prophets of Baal

*He has some **experiences** that strengthened his **EXPECTATION**... There are some people who look at you crazy
when you are **expecting** something from God... They don't know your **experiences** therefore they can't understand
your **Expectations**.... Why do you think he will bring rain, because I have been in **similar situations** and the
results have **always been the same**...*

GOD MADE A WAY!!!

*If he did it before, he can do it again... **Rear View Mirror Motivation***

The FAITH of My Expectation Must Be Demonstrated

1 Kings 18:41 (NKJV)

41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain."

*The Ear of Faith hears what the eye of the flesh cannot see!
With the "Ear of Faith" he KNEW rain was on its way, even though
there were no visible clouds, no thunder, and no lightening.*

Elijah KNEW that it was coming. I don't see it with my eyes, but I HEAR IT IN MY SPIRIT...

His knowledge of GOD'S WILL enabled him to "HEAR" things others couldn't hear.

FAITH comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Rom 10:17)

FAITH is the substance of things HOPED FOR and the EVIDENCE OF THINGS UNSEEN (Heb 11:1)

In Habakkuk 3, the Prophet operates with the Ears of Faith... "Write the vision make it plain, it will come...

*"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails, and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, YET I WILL REJOICE....."*

THERE WAS NO VISIBLE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT HIS EXPECTATION

EXPECTATION IS REQUIRED...

WHEN THERE IS A GAP BETWEEN THE PROMISE AND THE MANIFESTATION

The FAITH of My Expectation Must Be Demonstrated

1 Kings 18:41 (NKJV)

41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is *the sound of abundance of rain.*"

SIZE OF MY FAITH

1 Kings 18:41 (NIV)

41 And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the SOUND OF A *HEAVY RAIN.*"

Not only was he *EXPECTING* something... He was *EXPECTING* something BIG...
An *ABUNDANCE*... a *DOWNPOUR*... We need to start *EXPECTING BIG THINGS* from a *BIG GOD*...

In Matthew 8 ~ Disciples on the boat in the storm

Didn't expect to make it through the storm ~ "Master do you not care if we perish"

Jesus' Response ~ O ye of *little faith* ~

In Matthew 14 ~ Peter is walking on water and began to sink

Didn't expect to make it all the way to Jesus ~ "*Lord Save Me*"

Jesus' Response ~ O ye of *little faith*, why did you doubt

In Matthew 8 ~ Centurion comes to Jesus on behalf of his dying servant

He *expected a powerful miracle* ~ You don't have to come to the house, just speak the WORD

Jesus' Response ~ I have not found so *GREAT FAITH*, no, not in all Israel.

In Matthew 15 ~ Syrophonecian woman comes to Jesus on behalf of her sick daughter

She *expected a powerful miracle* ~ Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the table

Jesus' Response ~ O woman, *GREAT* is thy faith...

The FAITH of My Expectation Must Be Demonstrated

1 Kings 18:41-43 (NKJV)

41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain."

42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel;

then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees,

43 and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."

Faith Is Fueled By Prayer

Elijah is praying in the famine, while expecting Rain

He Prays and Expects ~ Prayer Kept His Faith Engaged

He Expects Prayer To Produce Evidence

Prayer and Expectation Are Connected...But They Are Not Automatic

The Early Church In Acts 12 prayed sincerely for Peter while he was in prison...

But When The Answer Arrived.... They Struggled To Believe It Had Happened

Acts 12:12-15 (NLT)

12 When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, *where many were gathered for prayer.* 13 He knocked at the door in the gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to open it.

14 *When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the door,* she ran back inside and told everyone, "Peter is standing at the door!"

15 "You're out of your mind!" they said. When she insisted, they decided, "It must be his angel."

The Faithfulness of My Expectation Must Be Continuous

1 Kings 18:43 (NKJV)

43 and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "GO AGAIN."

Elijah instructed the servant to **KEEP LOOKING** even though there was not any visible evidence that victory was coming. He kept saying I don't see **NOTHING**... Yet Elijah kept pushing until something happened.

Don't quit on the **PRESCRIPTION** even when you are not experiencing any **PROGRESS**....

Keep doing what God said despite not seeing **IMMEDIATE RESULTS**...

He did not allow the outward appearance to affect his inward assurance that the answer was on the way... When the answer is **DELAYED**, **KEEP LOOKING**; for Elijah the question was not if but "**WHEN**"

THE ASSURANCE OF WHEN

Luke 22:31-32 (NIV)

31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

Do You Operate With An **IF EXPECTATION** or **WHEN EXPECTATION**

Psalms 126:5-6 (NLT)

5 Those who plant in tears **WILL** harvest with shouts of joy.

6 They weep as they go to plant their seed, **BUT** they sing as they return with the harvest.

In Conclusion

Principle #1 ~ The Foundation of My Expectation Must Be Certain

Principle #2 ~ The FAITH of My Expectation Must Be Clear

Principle #3 ~ The Faithfulness of My Expectation Must Be Continuous