

LEVELS OF FAITH

Expectant Faith

The Bible is the story of faith. The question that we struggle with is... “What is this thing called faith?” We know from Scripture that God is most pleased with us when we act in faith. Why? Because God can only be known...He can only act when we come to Him with expectancy. Faith is believing that God is WHO He declares Himself to be; He will do WHAT He has promised. Think child-like!

Who is God?

1. He is Almighty
2. He is faithful.
3. He is Just
4. He is full of mercy.
5. He is gracious.

What can we expect from God?

1. His word is truth; He can never lie.
2. His promises will come to pass.
3. He will hear us when we call.
4. He will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask.
5. He has already provided everything that we need.
6. Heaven is being prepared for us.
7. His Grace will always be sufficient.
8. His peace will surpass our understanding.
9. He will direct us into our destiny.
10. He will never fail.

Expectant faith: Faith on “Tiptoes”

¹⁵ Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ *or not*” (Luke 3:15-NKJV).

In my opinion whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has planned for us. The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own. The world of creation cannot as yet see reality, not because it chooses to be blind, but because in God’s purpose it has been so limited—yet it has been given hope. And the hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay, and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God! ²⁻²⁵ It is plain to anyone with eyes to see that at the present time all created life groans in a sort of universal travail. And it is plain, too, that we who have a foretaste of the Spirit are in a state of painful tension, while we wait for that redemption of our bodies which will mean that at last we have realised our full sonship in him. We were saved by this hope, but in our moments of impatience let us remember that hope always means waiting for something that we haven’t yet got. But if we hope for something we cannot see, then we must settle down to wait for it in patience. (Romans 8:18-25-J.B.Phillips)

God has been on a rescue mission from the beginning of time. He is going to set the world right! Paul pictures all of creation anxiously awaiting God’s final victory. J.B. Phillips’ translation of verse nineteen is picturesque: ***“The whole creation is on tiptoe.”***

The Power Of Expectancy:

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for....” (Hebrews 11:1-NKJV).

• Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:6-NIV).

“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, **MOVED** with godly fear, **PREPARED** an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. (Hebrews 11:7-NKJV).

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” ¹⁹**CONCLUDING** that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. (Hebrews 11:17-19-NKJV).

MOVE +PREPARE + CONCLUDE =MIRACULOUS

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*. ²And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ³ask alms from those who entered the temple; ⁴who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. ⁵And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.”

- **Look up!**

⁶So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁷Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

- **Listen up**

⁸And he took him by the right hand and lifted *him* up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

- **Lift up**

⁹So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. ¹⁰And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

- **Leap up**

¹¹Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. (Acts 3:1-11-NKJV).

My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my ¹expectation *is* from Him. (Psalm 62:5-NKJV).

And so, we stand on tiptoe, gazing across the field of the future; let us never forget that God is with us – no matter what and God will never abandon us.