



Forward, Part 4

Pastor Brenda Thomas | 1-21-2024

Key Scriptures:

Psalm 62:5 (NKJV)

“My soul, wait silently for God alone, **For my expectation is from Him.**”

Anticipate

Our anticipation has to do with the way we approach life. We can anticipate both good and bad to come to pass. What are you expecting to come in 2024? We as the children of God do not need to look at the future fearing things to come. God has good in store for His people, and we can look towards the future with great anticipation of God’s blessing and favor!

What Are You Expecting?

1. Negative Anticipation

- a. Negative anticipation is accompanied by fear.
 - i. Fear opens the door to the enemy.
 - ii. Job said the thing he always feared happened to him (Job 3:25).
- b. When negative anticipation comes, we don’t fear it, we “faith it.”
- c. There is no “prayer of fear” in the Bible, only “prayers of faith.”

2. Positive Expectation

- a. We stay positive when we anticipate God’s ability, not our own.
 - i. This gives us hope, no matter the situation (Psalm 130:5 AMPC).
 - ii. Hope is a confident, favorable, expectation of good.
 - iii. Our souls can rest when our expectation is from Him (Psalm 62:5).
- b. Expect: to look forward to with excitement.
 - i. Examples: Great meal, upcoming vacation, visiting family you love, etc.

3. Pregnant With Promise

- a. When a woman is pregnant is often referred to as “expecting.”
- b. Pregnant women prepare, and when we stand on God’s promise we do too.
- c. Sometimes promises take a while to see.
 - i. Chinese Bamboo Tree: Nothing is seen for 5yrs then it grows 90ft in 6 days!
 - ii. The passing of time can test our faith, but we should have lasting faith like the bamboo tree!
- d. We are exhorted by God to not cling to the past but to expect His goodness in our future (Isaiah 43:18-19 GNT).
 - i. God is always doing new things when we come to Him; He made us new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- e. “If you will expect the uncommon... and embrace the unusual... you will encounter the unimaginable.”—Jeremy Pearson.

Supportive Scriptures

- **Job 3:25** (What Job greatly feared came upon him.)
- **Job 1:4-5** (Job feared his kids cursing God so he gave sacrifices to God for them.)
- **Psalms 130:5** (Wait expectantly for the Lord and hope in His Word.)
- **Psalms 62:5** (David encourages his soul to be at rest as he expects God's help.)
- **Psalms 27:14** (An admonition to hope in the Lord and be strong.)
- **Proverbs 23:18** (There is a future reward, and your hope will not be cut off.)
- **Isaiah 43:18-19** (Do not cling to the past, God is doing a new thing.)
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** (If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.)