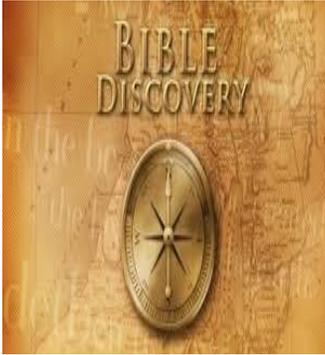


Silent Expectations



Whether we're children, parents or grandparents, each of us has known expectations of which are so secret we hesitate to share them with those even close to us. As a child we begin with big hopes and dreams. Reality begins fairly early to set in and often by the time we're parents we've settled for less than our dreams of youth. As grandparents we may look back wondering what happened focusing often on disappointment rather than the volume of joy we've experience. Yes, our expectations throughout life, and our reactions to them, affect us daily whether we're aware

of it or not. At many junctions in our lives we feel as though our lives are on hold – we're waiting, and waiting, but for what?

In this day and age, if you've Jesus in your heart and you're seeking to live life complete in the will of God – and I hope you are – you'll also feel the winds of spiritual warfare swirling around – when your faith is being tested to the extreme. Perhaps it's for the welfare of your children or your children's children. The Lord knows our society today is nothing like what we grew up in. Our grandchildren are facing challenges we never imagined. And so many are under severe attack! What can we do? First we must never neglect the power of prayer – we must pursue this ministry of prayer which counts so much more than you may realize – prayer counts in the raising of families here on earth – but also, where it really counts...prayer matters in heaven! I remember the line of a comedian years ago who after receiving Christ following years of resistance, told the congregation, *"If you have a grandmother praying for you, give up – you've already lost!"*

Again, author Mark Wheeler writes, *"The waiting room, a land where time seemingly stands still. It is a place where life is put on hold. In my doctor's office, it feels like hours have passed, and yet when I look at my watch, it's been only 20 minutes. When we are in the waiting room, it seems as if progress has come to a screeching halt."* Do you feel your life's being spent in a waiting room? An important exhortation of the Bible is to *"wait on the Lord."* God promises a special blessing for waiting, yet waiting is one of the most difficult exhortations of Scripture. Why's it so hard? As a part of fallen humanity, we're so prone to taking matters into our own hands; we're so committed to following our own schemes. We want it our way – now! We don't want to consider the consequences or the cost. Yet, over and over again we're told in Scripture *"wait on the Lord."* *Waiting and Expectation* are each wound together like the strands of a rope bringing strength and assurance. It's like tiedowns on cargo which by being woven together for strength also bring security. The Psalmist, David, knew what it was to wait on the Lord. This is the same man who was anointed to be Israel's King only to be left waiting for God through many years and many trials to make it happen. Ever been there? Ever found yourself waiting for the Lord to bring about your



"If you have a grandmother praying for you, give up – you've already lost!"

Ever found yourself waiting for the Lord to bring about your expectations?

expectations? We begin with expectation of God because we believe in Him. Expectation is the foundation of faith, meaning that in Him we look to the Lord alone so our expectation is all from Him. The vain expectations of worldly men come not; they promise, but there is no performance yet truly happy is the man who feels that all he has, all he wants, and all he expects are to be found in his God, who is our Lord Jesus. Matthew Henry wrote, *"If God will save my soul; I may well leave everything else to His disposal, knowing all shall turn to my salvation."* If we would spend time waiting for the Lord, it is more than scanning magazines in the waiting room – we must seek God; we must long for Him. We must dive into His Word seeking answers to our situation and we must readily plead with Him being ready to respond to His direction.

In a science fiction novel entitled *Ender's Shadow* by Orson Scott Card, the main character, Bean reflects of an older boy Nikolai, *"I want to be the kind of boy you are. But I don't want to go through what you've been through to get there."* I think that's the source of many discouragements in life – don't you? We want what others have achieved but don't want to go through what they've had to experience. Rather than seeking God's direction and pursuing a holy life, we've turned our heavenly Father into a sugar daddy and despair at his lack of a quick response to our order.

Again, perhaps we see our lives mirrored through the little boy who with his brother spent the night with grandma. As the little boy says his evening prayers, he's shouting at the top of his voice, *"Please God send me a bicycle, send me an iPod, send me a flat screen TV..."* His brother whispers, *"Not so loud. For crying out loud, God isn't deaf."* The little boy replied, *"I know, but Grandma is."*

**The source of
our triumph is –
God alone!**

Rather than shouting like this little boy, we've learned to move through life with silent expectations, yet are we so different? Let us instead look as David did at who the source of our triumph is – God alone! Again and again the psalmist recites from his heart that it's God alone who is his rock and salvation, his fortress; it is God alone to whom in silence his expectation looks indicating to us that God is the sole source of our spiritual supply. Our Lord has met our every need in Jesus!

Parenting is never easy! I often wonder why we teach algebra and other difficult subjects which most of us never use after graduation, yet we never teach about parenting – sometimes even as parents we fail to impact our children with the life lessons which prepare them to be parents.

intentions we as are too lax, or we're all; or instruct with wrong way, or at the teaching of God never is perfect. He always balanced to train us

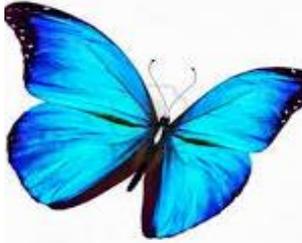
The teaching of God never misses the mark! Its timing is perfect. He always brings strength & love balanced to train us in the way we should go.

Even with the best of parents make mistakes. We too strict; we fail to teach at the wrong motives, in the wrong time. But, the misses the mark! Its timing brings strength and love up in the way we should go.

you with these words from

Let me encourage Abraham Lincoln, *"In the end, it's not the years in your life that counts. It's the life in your years."* It changes the perspective of our lives. With life seen from the world's point of view, we act like we deserve attention from all we interact with; we expect our life to matter to others. For instance, I talk to someone and I want them, no, I expect them to respond. The choice of silence is not an expected choice because our society expects us to be vocal and engage one another. Consider for a moment what happens when someone does fail to respond to your start of a conversation – you immediately think they are rude,

perhaps considering you unworthy and you quickly become miffed. Not so the Lord! Even as He is silent we know He is listening. He's like a mentor I had many years ago who would sit for hours as I reasoned out my problems, guiding me without ever saying a word. I hope you have known a mentor like that! In Christ we can say, *"My Soul finds rest in God alone; and my salvation comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress. I will never be shaken."* [vs. 1 & 2] We can trust in God! That's because God shapes us from an eternal perspective. Pastor David Jeremiah says, *"Just as an earthbound caterpillar has no clue that its destiny is to fly; we have no clue as to precisely how we fit into God's purposes. It's because we see it with caterpillar minds."*



As earthly parents & grandparents we do our best to train our children for life on earth, facing the obstacles our children will encounter. Our Heavenly Father is determined to demonstrate his strength and love to do that too; He gave us His Spirit to sustain us; but even more He prepares us for eternity as *heavenly creatures*. Just as the caterpillar becomes the butterfly, we too will be transformed. If we would trust in the Lord and find rest in God alone,

then we would discover it is because of who God is – *"strong as a mighty tower able to sustain us"*, [vs. 11] and lovingly able to comfort us and to carry us through.

If you have been reading this and you feel like God has been tugging at your heart – don't turn away from His call to you today. Perhaps you too have a grandmother or grandfather who has been praying for you. Talk to your Heavenly Father at this time and let Him know you want to come home! We'd be glad to help you and to discuss this with you. Give us a call at 519-317-8659 or drop a note at office.mbbc@xplornet.com.

God Bless You!

Pastor Dave

