

The Believer's Choice

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF TODD BAILEY MINISTRIES

Great Expectations Part Two

Now I would like to share with you four kinds of expectation that a person can have in their lives. Also, I would like to show how Sarah, Abraham's wife, experienced all four expectations.

The first kind of expectations is: Neutral Expectation.

Neutral Expectation isn't a bad kind of expectation to have, but still isn't the kind of expectation you want to maintain throughout your life. Many times when I pray for people and I can tell they are having some wavering or doubts if God will heal them or answer their prayers. I will ask them if they can just stay in neutral. Everyone, to my knowledge, has said "yes." The reason I ask them if they can stay in neutral is I know I have enough faith to 'push' them into faith and enable them to receive their prayer request. The reason I use the term 'push' is because it is reminds me it is much easier to 'push' a car in neutral rather than in drive or park.

Usually, people who have "neutral" expectation have what is called the "turnip philosophy." These are individuals who have been disappointed in life over and over again. And quite frankly, they don't deal with much or expect anything different until something "turns up." Then they deal with it and go on with life, not trying to expect better circumstances or anything to change.

Sarah had neutral expectation. She and Abraham had been husband and wife for decades and never had a child. After so many years, she didn't expect anything to change or probably didn't even bother about getting "her hopes up" to have a child.

Genesis 16:1 (AMP) confirms that she had no children. **"Now, Sarai, Abram's wife had borne him no children."**

At this point, their names weren't Sarah and Abraham, because God hadn't yet changed their names. God had to change their names so they would see themselves as God saw them.

Genesis 17:5, 6, 15, 16,
5 **Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham;**
for a father of many nations have I made thee.

6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. 15 And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. 16 And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

The second kind of expectation is: Negative Expectation.

Have you ever heard someone say, "That always happens to me." or "Its flu season, and I will probably be the first one to get it." How does someone develop a negative expectation? When enough bad things happen to a person they might develop a lifestyle of negative expectation. When you see someone that has a negative expectation, they usually attract: negative relationships, negative talking and negative results. Sarah (Sarai in this situation) had a negative expectation in Genesis 18:9-16 (AMP).

9 And they said to him, Where is Sarah your wife? And he said, [She is here] in the tent. 10[The Lord] said, I will surely return to you when the season comes round, and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son. And Sarah was listening and heard it at the tent door which was behind Him. [Rom 9:9-12.] 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in years; it had ceased to be with Sarah as with [young] women. [She was past the age of childbearing]. 12 Therefore Sarah laughed to herself, saying, After I have become aged shall I have pleasure and delight, my lord (husband), being old also? [1 Peter 3:6.] 13 And the Lord asked Abraham, Why did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I really bear a child when I am so old? 14 Is anything too hard or too wonderful for the Lord? At the appointed time, when the season [for her delivery] comes around, I will return to you and Sarah shall have borne a son. [Matt 19:26.] 15 Then Sarah denied it, saying, I did not laugh; for she was afraid. And He said, No, but you did laugh. 16 The men rose up from there and faced toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

The third kind of expectation is: Misguided Expectation.

Now this kind of expectation, I believe, causes more problems than the other two combined. All of us have



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at one time or another become mad at someone because we had placed on them some unrealistic expectation. When they didn't meet what we expected out of them we got mad and disappointed at them. The funny thing is that they didn't even know what they did and why we were upset at them. And the person it hurts the most is the one who placed the unrealistic expectation on them. It is like unforgiveness; it usually doesn't hurt the one you are holding unforgiveness against. It is you that it hurts the most.

Another example of misguided expectation is when we do something for a person or give them something to bless them. And if they don't respond how we like or let us know in some way that they will return the favor, we get upset. I have heard of individuals giving money to a ministry and have gotten upset because of how the ministry used it or didn't use it. My thoughts are, if the Lord told them to give it, then why are they mad? They did what they were supposed to do and God will deal with the ministry in His way and time, if they did anything inappropriate.

Remember, God is our source and we shouldn't be looking to people as our source. Now, God might use a person (a resource) to bless you with rent money or meet another need, but don't kneel next to someone at the altar who has a lot of finances and pray loud enough so they can hear you ask God for \$200 for the rent that is due in three days. If you're doing that then you're looking to people and not God, and if you don't watch it you might be getting mad at both. Here is a scripture that may help: Ephesians 6:8 (AMP), **"Knowing that for whatever good anyone does, he will receive his reward from the Lord, whether he is slave or free."**

One of the best examples of misguided expectation is found in Second Kings 5:1-15 (NASB), **1 Now Naaman, captain of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man with his master, and highly respected, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man was also a valiant warrior, but he was a leper. 2 Now the Arameans had gone out in bands, and had taken captive a little girl from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife. 3 And she said to her mistress, "I wish that my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy." 4 And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus spoke the girl who is from the land of Israel." 5 Then the king of Aram said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." And he departed and took with him ten talents of silver and six thousand shekels of gold and ten changes of clothes. 6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, "And now as this letter comes to you, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy." 7 And it came about when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man is sending word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? But consider now, and see how he is seeking a quarrel against me."**

8 And it happened when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent word to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Now let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." 9 So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots, and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha. 10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you and you shall be clean." 11 But Naaman was furious and

went away and said, "Behold, I thought, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper.' 12 'Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. 13 Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, "My father, had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'" 14 So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

15 When he returned to the man of God with all his company, and came and stood before him, he said, "Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; so please take a present from your servant now."

Notice in verse 11, there are two key words that signify why Naaman, and most people, have misguided expectations. They are **"I thought."** Here is a man who was a valiant warrior and who had hundreds, if not, thousands of men under his authority. But he was a leper. A man of God tells him of a simple way to get healed but because it wasn't the way or place "he thought" he should have gotten healed, Naaman went away in a rage and was angry at the man who could help him the most. But when Naaman changed his misguided expectation into obedience, he received his healing.

Now Sarah's name is changed, and God told her "she shall be a mother of nations." But in Genesis 16:1-4 (NASB) shows how she makes her misguided expectations come to manifestation. Genesis 16:1-4, **16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife had borne him no children, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar. 2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. 3 And after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife. 4 And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight.**

The fourth kind of expectation is: Positive Expectation.

I really like what someone once said about positive expectation, "The atmosphere of expectancy is the breeding ground for miracles." When a person has a positive expectation good things began to happen and happen a lot!

No matter how dire your life might be it can turn around just like Joseph's did. He went from the prison to the palace from one day's sunrise to sunset. Consider the woman with the issue of blood, (Mark 5:25-34), who was hopeless in at least five areas. But one day she heard of Jesus. One word from God can bring expectation to a broken and hopeless heart as it did to this woman. Think about it, she had no reason to have any expectation to get better, because she had five reasons not to.

1. Spiritually. She was considered unclean and was not allowed to go to the temple at the hour of prayer to hear the Word of God read.
2. Socially. She was considered unclean by society and not

- allowed to go out in public.
3. Maternally. She was unable to bear children because of this condition.
 4. Financially. She spent all she had.
 5. Medically. No new cure or treatment was offered to her and she grew worse.

In verse 27, **“When she had heard of Jesus [remember faith comes by hearing and faith is the substance of things hoped (expected) for ...] came in the press behind and touched his garment.”** Why did she come in the press being so ill? Because the garment was in the press and that was her “expected end.” Verse 28, **“For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.”** She spoke her expectation and added action to it and when she touched Jesus' clothes, he knew it and she knew it. But look at what he said to her in Verse 34, **“Daughter, thy faith (AMP: 'that is, your trust and confidence in Me.') hath made thee whole; go in peace and be whole of thy plague.”**

There are other occurrences in the Bible where Jesus would tell people, “According to *your* faith be it unto you.”

Sarah developed a positive expectation as well. Hebrews 11:11 shows us how: **“Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.”**

I want to bring out a very important point of how Sarah obtained a positive expectation. In the beginning, when she was told she would be having a son, she kept trying to figure out *how* God was going to make it happen. But when Sarah realized that He was *able* to make it happen, that was the moment that she experienced a positive expectation.

In this article, we covered four kinds of expectation: neutral, negative, misguided and positive. I trust you will accept the challenge to allow yourself to expect more from yourself and God than you ever have before. Expect the best and don't settle for less. At the end of our lives, together, let's realize that we didn't just go through life, but we lived it to the fullest!

Finally, I would like to share these scriptures from the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:17-21 (NASB), **17 the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice. 19 For I know that this shall turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**

Partners

and Ministry Update

Dear Friends, Family and Partners,

Wendy and I are so glad that Spring is here! Fort Collins had about 50 inches of snow this year, and just an hour drive south of here they had approximately 100 inches. We had snow in our front yard from December 20 to March 10!

The arrival of Spring brings many changes. A new season always seems to do that. Wendy and I are experiencing a new 'season' in our lives. On December 6, 2006, our son, Evan Christian, was born. He has brought Wendy and I great joy and we have made many new adjustments in our daily lives. Since his birth, I am mainly traveling and ministering on weekends and plan to do so for several months to come. Wendy has worked a full time job for the past 13 years, and has now accepted a position to work part time at her same place of employment. This arrangement will allow us to be with Evan every day of the week. Evan is happy to have mommy and daddy with him all the time.

Wendy and I pray that the blessings of God come unto you and settle like the snow that covered the Colorado Mountains for months.

May God Richly Bless you,
Todd Bailey



Offering of Thanks

As I tithe and give offerings I am believing the Lord for:

Jobs or Better Jobs
Raises and Bonuses
Benefits
Sales and Commissions
Settlements
Estates and inheritances
Interest and Income
Rebates and Returns
Checks in the Mail
Gifts and Surprises
Finding Money
Bills Paid Off
Debts Demolished
Royalties Received

Thank You, Lord, for meeting all my financial needs that I may have more than enough to give into the kingdom of God and promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

10 Benefits of God's Favor

1. Supernatural increase & promotion. (Genesis 39:21)
2. Restoration of all the enemy has stolen. (Exodus 3:21)
3. Honor in the midst of adversaries. (Exodus 11:3)
4. Increased assets, especially real estate. (Deuteronomy 33:23)
5. Greater victories in the midst of greater odds or impossibilities. (Joshua 11:20)
6. Recognition even when I seem to be the least likely to receive it. (1 Samuel 16:22)
7. Prominence & preferential treatment. (Esther 2:17)
8. Petitions granted even by ungodly civil authorities. (Esther 5:8)
9. Policies, rules, regulations, laws changed to my advantage. (Esther 8:5)
10. Battles won I won't have to fight because God fights for me. (Psalm 44:3)

Itinerary

NOTE: Dates are subject to change. Please confirm times and locations before traveling long distance.

Check our website: www.toddbailey.org

November 11 (5:00 PM)
Victory Faith Center
Santa Cruz, California
Pastors Dennis and Wendy Cowell

November 12 (1:00 PM), 16
The Triumphant Church
Union City, California
Pastors Mark and Teresa Gonzales

November 14
Friendship Christian Church
Oakland, California
Pastors Gerald and Alesia Agee

November 15
Christian Life Church
San Leandro, California
Pastors David and Sherry Calcagno

November 18 (PM)
New Song Worship & Ministry Center
Flagstaff, Arizona
Pastors Steve and Julie Dohse

November 19 (AM)
Grace Fellowship
Flagstaff, Arizona
Pastors Joe and Becky Weidinger

November 26 (AM)
Word of Faith Family Church
Lander, Wyoming
Pastors Danny and Nancy Bauer

December 3 (AM)
Harvest Time Tabernacle
Cheyenne, Wyoming
Pastors Dan and Kelly Irish

December 6 (3:36PM MST)
Baby Bailey is born!
EVAN CHRISTIAN BAILEY
7 POUNDS 13 ½ OUNCES
19 ¾ INCHES LONG

December 17 (AM)
A Heart of Grace
Loveland, Colorado
Pastors Dee and Cindy Highland

December 25
Merry Christmas 

December 30 (PM)
Laporte Outreach Ministries
Laporte, Colorado
Pastors Dee and Cindy Highland

2007
January 7 (AM)
Victory Christian Fellowship
Rock Springs, Wyoming
Pastors Brian and Delaina Poad

January 10 (Youth Meeting)
First Congregational Church
Eaton, Colorado
Pastors Jerry and Kathy Stark

January 21 (SS 9:30AM/10:30AM)
Christian Faith Outreach
Imperial, Nebraska
Pastors J.R. and Charlesa Kline

January 28 (AM)
Light of the World Family Church
Aurora, Colorado
Pastor Steven and Leslie Pierson

February 4 (AM)
Victory Christian Fellowship
Greeley, Colorado
Pastors Brian and Joslyn Severin

February 11 (SS 10AM/ 11AM)
New Life Christian Center
Eckley, Colorado
Pastors Glen and Tracy Kline

February 18 (AM)
Rocky Mountain Christian Center
Green Mountain Falls, Colorado
Pastors Jerry and Susie Meston

March 18 (AM/PM) *Tentative*
Word of Life Christian Center
Farmington, New Mexico
Pastors George and Barbara Ford

April 1 (AM) *Tentative*
Friendship Christian Church
Oakland, California
Pastors Gerald and Alesia Agee

April 8 (AM)
Joint Easter Service
A Heart of Grace &
Laporte Outreach Center
Loveland, Colorado
Pastors Dee and Cindy Highland

April 15 (AM/PM)
Giving Life Ministries
Henderson, Nevada
Pastors David and Joie Delaria

April 29 (AM/PM)
Elm Grove Assembly of God
Chester, Oklahoma
Pastors Orville and Sherry White

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