

**What is your
expectations?**

Book – Charles Dickens – Great Expectations

Young boy – difficult circumstances

poor, parents died, lived with sister

less than average household

Pip had Great Expectations

Instead of poor country boy – wanted to be gentleman

wanted to be a somebody

Expectation – state of anticipation

act of looking forward to something

Great – something large in size, huge, elaborate, grand

Basis for any expectation is assurance

Assurance – being certain of something

being confident of mind and manner

Excessive self-confidence

Expectations can be seen as a tree

Branches, leaves – expectations

Fruit – rewards

Trunk, root system – assurance

Bigger the tree – bigger the fruit

Cannot have big branches and teeny tint trunk – tree not strong and stable, fruit small and bitter

What does your tree look like?

Base [trunk, root system] large strong or small weak

Will it stand firm when storms come or bend and break

Many people have faith but not expectations

Expectations come by trusting God's word – by having assurance

Heb 11:1 NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see {and} the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

Assurance – to be absolutely certain that you will receive

True assurance – people think you are going crazy

believe without doubt expectation will be realized

excessively self-confident God will come through

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence (the assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: [we are sure] that if we ask anything (make any request) according to His will (in agreement with His own plan), He listens to {and} hears us. And if (since) we [positively] know that He listens to us in whatever we ask, we also know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted us as our present possessions] the requests made of Him.

leaves, branches of tree – expectations – form canopy

What does your tree's canopy look like – grand, big, lots of shade

bare looking, nothing impressive

What does your expectations look like?

What are they based on –

what God wants for you

what you [flesh] want for you

what other people or enemy wants for you

Prov 23:18 For surely there is a latter end [a future and a reward], and your hope {and} expectation shall not be cut off.

God promises expectation within His will – will be met, wont be cut off.

Act 3:4-8 [tpt] Peter and John, looking straight into the eyes of the crippled man, said, “Look at us!” Expecting a gift, he readily gave them his attention. Then Peter said, “I don’t have money, but I’ll give you this—by the power of the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk!” Peter held out his right hand to the crippled man. As he pulled the man to his feet, suddenly power surged into his crippled feet and ankles. The man jumped up, stood *there for a moment stunned*, and then began to walk around! As he went into the temple courts with Peter and John, he leapt for joy and shouted praises to God

Cripple man at entrance of temple had expectation

Sometimes we expect something in a certain way but we receive it in a different manner

Expectations – 3 groups

Short term – what we need now

Medium term – need in longer run

Eternal – death / rapture

Previously expected something's and were let down – why?

Was expectation placed in someone else or in God?

Place expectation in God He wont ever let us down.

- **Psa 62:5-7 [tpt] I am standing in absolute stillness, silent before the one I love, waiting as long as it takes for him to rescue me. Only God is my Savior, and he will not fail me. For he alone is my safe place. His wrap-around presence always protects me as my champion defender. There's no risk of failure with God! So why would I let worry paralyze me, even when troubles multiply around me? God's glory is all around me! His wrap-around presence is all I need, for the Lord is my Savior, my hero, and my life-giving strength.**

God also has expectations for us

He does not expect us to be perfect – not possible

We are sinners – He is perfect – creates a great big gap.

Jesus fills the gap – we can meet God's expectations

What does God expect of us?

1. Fear Him – not be afraid but respect

Prov 9:10 The reverent {and} worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning (the chief and choice part) of Wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight {and} understanding.

2. Love Him

1 John 4:8 He who does not love has not become acquainted with God [does not and never did know Him], for God is love.

3. Serve Him with all our heart

Ps 100:2 Serve the Lord with gladness! Come before His presence with singing!

1 Cor 7:35 Now I say this for your own welfare {and} profit, not to put [a halter of] restraint upon you, but to promote what is seemly {and} in good order and to secure your undistracted {and} undivided devotion to the Lord.

4. Keep His commandments

Rom 13:9 [tpt] For the commandments, “Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not covet,” and every other commandment can be summed up in these words: “Love and value others the same way you love and value yourself.”

God has expectations / dreams for us

Jer 29:11 For I know the thoughts {and} plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts {and} plans for welfare {and} peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.

Eph 1:11 Through our union with Christ we too have been claimed by God as his own inheritance. Before we were even born, he gave us our destiny; that we would fulfill the plan of God who always accomplishes every purpose and plan in his heart.

Ps 139:15 -18 My frame was not hidden from You when I was being formed in secret [and] intricately {and} curiously wrought [as if embroidered with various colours] in the depths of the earth [a region of darkness and mystery]. Your eyes saw my unformed substance, and in Your book all the days [of my life] were written before ever they took shape, when as yet there was none of them. How precious {and} weighty also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I could count them, they would be more in number than the sand. When I awoke, [could I count to the end] I would still be with You.

God's expectations for us is big – our expectations need to be huge

Don't serve a limitless God

Take expectations – combined with assurance [excessive self-confidence]
God will meet all our expectations.

Eph 3:20 Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over {and} above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]—

Ps 147:5 Great is our Lord and of great power; His understanding is inexhaustible {and} boundless.

2Co 9:8 Yes, God is more than ready to overwhelm you with every form of grace, so that you will have more than enough of everything—every moment and in every way. He will make you overflow with abundance in every good thing you do.

Mat 19:26]Gnb] Jesus looked straight at them and answered, "This is impossible for human beings, but for God everything is possible."

Develop your expectations

Sit down, become quiet – block out distractions

Make a list of expectations

Get assurance for each expectation [scripture]

Develop expectations into Great Expectations.

Don't limit your expectations

healing, provision, protection, miracles

Have you reached the point where you are excessively self-confident that your expectations will be met?

What are your expectations? – great expectations or small, underwhelming