



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“GREAT EXPECTATIONS”

P.U.S.H. Series – Part 8

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Great expectation refers to the person’s spirit of expectancy in every prayer to God. Jesus tells us to believe what we ask for in prayer and we will receive it (Mk. 11:24). Prayer is the key through faith which unlocks the door (challenges). Also, our expectations drive us to walk through the door. As Christians, we must have a sense of expectancy for God’s answer in every prayer, as it is the breeding ground for miracles.

1. Prayer comes with great expectancy. Our prayers must come with an expectation that God will answer them:

- 1.1 Peter healed a lame beggar who had three important attitudes of prayer: asking, obeying, and expecting (Acts 3).
- 1.2 As Christians, we must ask all our requests to the Father in Jesus’s name (Jn. 14:13-17). Surely, the Holy Spirit will lead us to the right words in prayer.
- 1.3 Faith is the spirit of expectancy. God will provide healing, financial freedom, deliverance, and true happiness as long as we walk in Him.

2. Prayer leads to mighty things unknown to us. When we call on God, He will answer us with great things we can never imagine (Jer. 33:3).

- 2.1 Moses prayed to God, and God spared the nation of Israel from punishment (Exo. 32:11).
- 2.2 Joshua prayed during battle and let the sun stand still (Josh. 10:12).
- 2.3 Hannah prayed for a child and God gave her a Son (1 Sam. 1:20).
- 2.4 Solomon received material things along with the gift of wisdom (2 Chron. 1:10).
- 2.5 King Hezekiah’s life was extended by God through his prayer (2 Kings 30:5-6).

2.6 Elijah’s prayer was heard by God who sent fire to his offerings which amazed the pagan priests (1 Kgs. 8:38).

2.7 Jonah’s life was spared by the whale upon praying to God (Jon. 2:1)

3. Prayer through the community is powerful. A Christian life is not built only for himself but also in a community (Acts 2:42). The Early Church called upon God with great expectancy, and the Church grew strong and expanded.

3.1 Intercessory prayer of the community churches should focus on praying for one another, particularly their leaders. All Christians must kneel before God and should be sensitive to the needs of others.

3.2 Leaders must always pray for the community. They should pray (for their community) in difficult times and should be watchful during their successful times as the enemy will work double time to destroy it.

3.3 The praying community must continue to be watchful to preserve the church because the community can be destroyed from within and without. As long as the devil is permitted/present, the church must always pray and be vigilant.

Conclusion:

Our Christian life is not complete if we are not in communication with God. It should be in the form of personal or communal; it can also come in a set of unique or standard forms of prayer. However, our prayers must be with the spirit of expectancy to receive God’s great blessing and protection according to His will.

Reflection:

1. What is your existing attitude in prayer?
2. Do you need more to improve your prayer?
3. Where do you seek prayers and intercession?

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