

CCC WHAT DO YOU EXPECT Part 4

Achieving Through Believing - Part 4

Matthew 9:29

"According to your faith it will be done unto you."

We are in part 4 of Achieving Through Believing. We've been talking about faith. Actually we have been having a faith seminar for last 4 Sundays.

WHAT IS FAITH?

First: What it is not.

1. It's not desire. It's not wishing and hoping and wanting. That can lead to faith. But faith isn't desire.
2. It's not pretending. Faith is not psyching yourself up with a con job saying, "I'm well! I'm well!" when you're really sick.
3. It's not a feeling. Sometimes feelings are the exact opposite of faith.

See, Faith is an attitude of confidence. It is positive expectations.

Last year I did a message and the theme was on how we defeat ourselves and in that message I talked about how I had found over the years of being a pastor and working with a lot of people with hurts, habits and hang-up's that most people set themselves up for failure. You give them a project and they say, "I don't think I can do it" and then they fail and they say, "See, I knew I couldn't do it!" They have a self-fulfilling prophecy that sets themselves up not to accomplish what they could in the first place. So what I am trying to say here: We become victims of our own expectations.

Just as God has established other laws in place to live by for example the law of gravity so God has established the law of expectation. The law expectation says we tend to get, what we expect out of life. We see what we expect to see. We feel what we expect to feel. For

the most part, we act what we expect to act. We achieve what we expect to achieve. Our expectations influence all of our lives. It influences our happiness, our health, our marriage, our careers, our relationships, our abilities.

This is what God is talking about in Matthew 9:29 where Jesus touched their eyes and says, *"According to your faith it will be done unto you."* You get to choose how much God blesses you. You get to choose how much you experience in this life with and for God. You get to choose what limits you set on yourself. Why, because God says *"According to your faith it will be done unto you."*

There are two basic philosophies of life. You can live by fear. You can live by faith. Another way to say it would be, You can live by optimism. You can live by pessimism. Job was a pessimist and he set himself up. He said, "That which I have feared in my life has come upon

me." He said, "I feared it and that's what happened." The problem with Job in the Bible is that he focused on what he didn't want instead of what he wanted.

A lot of you are doing that. You focus on what you don't want -- "I don't want to have a divorce.... I don't want to get sick... I don't want to go bankrupt... I don't want to follow my budget. I don't want to whatever. I don't want to lose my child..." "You're focusing on what you don't want instead of what you do want. Paul said, *"I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."* He said, "I am confident that what I expect will happen!"

The key question is, What are you expecting? What are you expecting from life? Everybody is expecting. You're expecting something this week either good or bad.

Turn to the book of I Samuel 17. We're going to look at a story that shows an example of positive expectation. Then I'm going to give you some practical steps on how to develop and increase that power of expectation in your life.

Bob Goslee to read 1 Samuel 17:1-52

I Samuel 17 is the story of David and Goliath. It's a familiar story. Goliath was a giant from the enemy nation. He was over nine feet tall and wore a couple hundred pounds of silver and metal. He was kind of the Mr. T of Palestine -- a real hunk! He had immobilized the Israeli armies. They were afraid of him. Everyday he would walk out on the battlefield and say, "Send out your best man and I'll fight him and whoever wins, wins the battle. Everybody was frightened to death and the Bible says in v.

11, *"On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and were terrified."*

Along comes this little teenager who's been tending sheep, named David. He says, "I'm not afraid. God's helped me fight lions and bears." David is super confident. He has a great level of expectation.

v. 32 *"David said to Saul, 'Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine. Your servant will go and fight.'"* He's audacious. He says, "I'll do it. I've got a slingshot and I'll take this guy on." v. 37 *"The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of the Philistine."* David expected the best. It's all a matter of perspective. While everybody else was saying, "That guy's too big! We'll never be able to kill him. What will we do" David was thinking and said, "That guys too big to miss, I can't miss

him!" The difference here is perspective. Same situation different perspective, one thinks too big to kill – another says, too big to miss. David takes him on in a one-on-one battle. He goes out on the field and this story shows us three things, that expecting does in our lives.

1. Expecting the best honors God.

It gives God the honor He deserves. That's the first reason you ought to increase your level of expectation. It honors God. v. 46 David says to Goliath. *"This day the Lord will hand you over to me and I'll strike you down and cut off your head and today I'll give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth."*

He's picturing this for Goliath. He's not planting a negative thought in his mind. He's visualizing it for him. "Goliath, this is what I'm going to do to you. *"The whole world will know that there's a God in Israel and those who gather*

here will know that it's not by sword or spear that the Lord saves, but the battle is the Lord's and He will give all of you into our hands." What a testimony of faith! A teenager says this to this giant before it's happened. He expects the best and in that... It honors God.

Nothing pleases God more than your great expectations. It pleases God when you expect a lot from Him. When you say, "My God can do anything!" that is pleasing, that is honoring to God. The Bible says, *"Without faith it is impossible to please God."*

We're in a 34 days of prayer campaign expecting God to provide for us.... the plans, the unity, the financing for our church. That is pleasing to God. It is an honor to God. It glorifies God for the people of our church to have faith and say in advance, "Lord, thank You that You're going to provide. We expect You to work it out." That honors God.

2. Expecting the best increases ability.

It increases your ability. When we act in faith, we receive additional strength. There is supernatural power made available.

v. 48 *"As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly to the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone he slung it in his slingshot and struck the Philistine on the forehead."* That was the only part of his body that was uncovered by metal. David's ability was tremendous. He had the expectation -- I expect this guy to be killed. He was setting himself up and his faith in God said, "God will provide."

David had five stones and doesn't that show a lack of faith you may ask? Maybe he thought he'd miss the first four times. But in 1 Samuel 21 tells us that Goliath had four brothers. David is super confident. I'm not just going

to knock one sucker off I'm going to get the whole family if they come after us. One stone for each brother." He was super confident and expecting the best increases your ability.

But the real question is, what does this teach us? I think it tells us we can't ever use a lack of ability as an excuse.

"Never use, I can't do it. "Never use" I'm too old/ I'm too young or I don't have the ability/ the education." God can compensate for that if you have the level of expectation. Never let an impossible situation intimidate you. Let it motivate you. Today's impossibilities are tomorrow's miracles for God. If you ever use the word "impossible" again, listen for a laugh from heaven. That word is not in God's vocabulary. God increases our ability when we expect Him to work in our lives.

3. **Expecting the best encourages other people.**

Optimism and enthusiasm and faith are contagious. They are catching. v. 51 *"David ran and he stood over Goliath after he had killed him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard and after he had killed him he cut his head off with the sword. [This would make a great movie!] "When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran."*

Look at the attitude change in the Israeli army. *"Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron."* All of a sudden everybody got their confidence back, they were motivated, inspired. They take after the enemy. Expecting the best encourages others. Enthusiasm. Optimism is contagious.

Let me say this to you. How do you develop a positive personality? One way it is hard work. You just have to work harder. If you're a naturally negative person you have to work harder at building your faith and increasing your optimism and your enthusiasm.

God has given us Five principles from His word, the Bible, that will help you. Five ways to develop a positive personality. How do you raise that level of expectation in your life? How do you increase your faith. The fact is, we are all different personalities. Some of you are firecrackers and some of you are sparklers. Some of you are up and down and up and down... and others are even keel. You're going to have your basic personality for life. That won't change much. But listen, optimism is a choice. You can choose how much you want to believe God. So how do you develop a more positive personality? If optimism is a

choice then the good news is it can be developed, and the Bible teaches that it can.

How do you get that attitude of expectancy like David had.

We'll listen it is available to us all?

1. Psalm 5:3. Written by David, the same man who slew Goliath. In 5:3 is one of the keys that built David's faith, that gave him that positive expectation level so that he said,

"I can handle anything." *"Morning by morning O Lord,*

You hear my voice. Morning by morning I lay my requests

before you and I [circle this] wait in expectation." David

said, "Every morning I get up and I meet with God and I

lay my requests before Him and I wait in expectation."

Principle One if you want to be a more positive person:

Start your day with faith, not doubt.

Every morning it's either, "Good morning, Lord!" or

"Good Lord! It's morning!" -- one of two attitudes.]

How do you respond? How do you react? Are you naturally pessimistic? The fact is, God says start your day with faith, not doubt. Start it with great expectations. "This is going to be a great day! This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad." Start with positive input into your life and that sets the tone of the rest of your day.

2. **Look for something good in everyone and everything.**

The famous verse, Romans 8:28 *"And we know all things work together for good [they're not all good but they all work together] for those who love God, for those who are called according to His purpose."* All things don't work together for good for everybody. All things do work together for the good of those who love God and who are trying to live in His purpose. God specializes in taking the

bad and bringing good out of it. You look for something good in everything and everyone. You emphasize the positive. That will raise your expectation level. Somebody said, "Things turn out best for those who make the best of the way things turn out."

Am I asking you to not be realistic, to ignore your problems? No. You can be realistic and optimistic at the same time. You recognize problems without rehearsing them over and over. You don't pretend like nothing is wrong. You don't pretend like everything is perfect. You don't ignore your problems. You just realize that they can be solved with God's help and you expect Him to help. When it comes to problems, you don't deny them, you defy them. That's what David did. He didn't say, "Let's pretend that guy doesn't exist out there on the battlefield." He didn't deny it. He recognized it was a legitimate problem.

But he defied it in the name of God and he says, *"I come to you in the strength of the Lord!"*

3. Watch your words.

Ephesians 4:29 is a verse everyone of you ought to see over and over. *"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful for building up others, [not tearing up others but building them up] according to their needs [not according to your needs] that it may benefit those who listen [not that it may benefit you]."* He says, "Don't let any negative language come out of your mouth, only that which builds up and encourages and lifts up and meets the needs of others". Words are a powerful force in our lives and they have tremendous influence in your day to day living. If you are ever going to learn to live by faith, the way God wants you to learn to live by faith, you've got to learn to watch the way you talk.

Three statements, you should try to eliminate from your vocabulary as much as possible.

1. "What if
2. "I can't".
3. "Yes, but..."

4. Associate with positive people and avoid

complainers. 1 Corinthians 15:33 *"Bad company corrupts good character."* Over and over again in scriptures we're taught to watch our relationships and friendships because they have such a profound influence on our lives. People around us who are constantly negative, constantly putting us down, being critical, nagging, complaining, always looking at the wrong things, saying what's wrong... the Bible says stay away from them.

If you are naturally a negative person, the best thing in the world you could do is get around optimist people. It rubs off. It really does... That's one of the benefits of church. Get around positive people. Negative people don't stay long here at Calvary. Gossipers don't either. They either change or they go somewhere else. If you want to choose to be negative, you don't like to be around positive people. It bugs you! It irritates you to be around positive people.

Hebrews 13:7 says that one of the marks of a real leader is that they have a faith worth imitating. If you want to be a leader in life, you have to become a positive person. God says that one of the marks is that you will have a faith that other people will want to imitate. You will have a level of expectation, a positive attitude -- "It can be done!" -- and that will make you a leader.

1 Timothy 6:4-5 talks about people who have an unhealthy interest in controversy and criticism and they're argumentative. The Bible says they lack understanding and are to be avoided.

What I am saying is never participate in group griping. Criticism is contagious. It's like cancer. It spreads very quickly. It's contagious. If somebody starts griping, everybody else joins in.

You cannot be critical and creative at the same time. It is impossible.

Where does that kind of negativism come from?

The root of all negativism is fear. It started way back in the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve sinned and he says, "*I was afraid and I hid.*" When you see somebody who is constantly negative, they are not just a negative person, they are a fearful person.

So if you want to get rid of your negative tendencies you have to work on the root -- fear. When you develop the kind of confidence and security and self-esteem that comes from knowing Christ and knowing that He will care for all of your needs and knowing that no problem is too significant for Him to handle -- when you feel that way about yourself, you will find your negative tendencies dropping off. Ask God to help you with your fear.

5. When you pray, thank God in advance.

There is a dynamic principle in Mark 11 that says we must expect an answer and if we don't expect it then we might as well not pray. We must believe in advance. There is the principle that is taught in this verse and in other verses throughout scripture that you must believe and then you will receive. You must believe in advance. You say, "You

mean I've got to believe that it's already here before I get it?" Yes. If you believe after you've got it, is that faith?

No, that's gratitude.

Mark 11:22, Jesus says, *"Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea' and does not doubt in his heart but believes what he says will happen, then it will be done for him. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer believe that you have received it [notice: past tense] and it will be yours."* The Moffett translation of this verse says, *"When you pray, believe you've got it and then you'll get it."*

Faith is believing a thing is so even though it isn't so, so that it might be so! Faith is thanking God in advance. If we had time we could do an entire message just of the examples of this in scripture, over and over again --

thanking God in advance. John 11:41 is the example of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus walks up to the tomb where Lazarus had been buried and He does not ask God to raise Lazarus from the dead. He does not beg God to raise Lazarus from the dead. He does not make any type of request. He simply says, *"Father, I thank You that You've already heard me."* That's faith! In the next verse He says, And I'm just saying this for the people around Me. That's faith! That's expecting the best. Thanking God in advance.

"Praying in faith is thanking God in advance." That's the highest form of prayer. Thank God that He will provide the financing we need for our expansion program. Thank God that He will guide use through the plans and permits. Thank God that He will give your pastor added strength and wisdom as I lead our church. Thank God that your

faith will grow and our church will be unified during this project. Remember *"According to your faith it will be done."* That's faith. Thanking God in advance.

What I am saying this morning is... the power of expectation, the power of positive faith can change your life. We don't always get what we deserve in life but in the long run we get what we expect.

Which of these two philosophies are you living by -- fear or faith? Pessimism or optimism? A pessimistic Christian is a contradiction in terms.

What are you expecting this next week? Some of you are expecting a lab report from your doctor. What do you do?

Expect the best. Worrying is not going to change it anyway. Worrying about it won't make any difference.

Expect the best. Some of you are going to have a conference at your work. Expect God to help you. Some of

you need to make a sale this week or close a bid. Expect the best. Some of you have a major decision to make in your marriage. Expect God to take it and work it all out.

"According to your faith it will be done unto you." Nothing is more pleasing to God than your great expectations.

Prayer:

There's someone here this morning, I believe, who is really tired of being afraid. You're just so tired of running scared.

That's why you have the tendency to be defensive and negative. You're afraid that people aren't going to accept you. You're afraid that you're not going to measure up.

You're afraid that nobody is going to like you. You're afraid that your marriage is going to split up. You're afraid that you're going to go bankrupt. You're afraid that the doctor will find something that's really wrong. You're tired

of being afraid. Expecting the worst has drained all of your energy.

My word to you from God this morning is this, "Relax. Relax and put your trust in Jesus Christ." Say, "Lord, I want to expect the best. Help me to expect the best. I will expect the best. I do expect the best." Then maybe take some of these practical steps. Say, "Lord, I want to begin each day this week with faith not doubt. Lord, help me to look for the good in things and the good in people. Help me not to deny my problems, but to defy my problems and to face them confident with Your power." Some of you need to say, "Lord, help me to watch my words. Would you do surgery on my vocabulary? and eliminate the complaints about my life or my health or my future or anything else I have a

tendency to complain about?" Some of you maybe need to say, "Lord, help me to get around some optimists and quit hanging out with those complainers, cynics, negative thinkers." Maybe you need to get involved in a Sunday School class where you can get around some positive people. Then start praying with thanksgiving. Say this in your heart, "Lord, thank You that this is going to be a great week! Thank You that my faith going to provide the financing for our land for our church. Thank You that You're going to help me this week."

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your word and we thank You that You will apply it in our lives this week as we trust You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Message Notes
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT
Achieving Through Believing - Part 4
Matthew 9:29

1. WHAT IS FAITH?

* It's not _____

* It's not _____

* It's not _____

* It is _____

God has established "The Law of Expectations"

Two Life Philosophies

Job - Job 3:25 -

Paul - 2 Timothy 1:12 -

II. AN EXAMPLE OF THE POWER OF EXPECTING THE BEST

1 Samuel 17:1-52 (David & Goliath)

1. Expecting the Best _____
vs. 46- 47

2. Expecting the Best _____
vs. 48- 49

3. Expecting the Best _____
vs. 51- 52

III. HOW TO DEVELOP A MORE POSITIVE PERSONALITY

1. Start your day with _____, not _____.
Psalms 5:3

2. Look for _____ in everyone and
everything. Romans 8:28

3. Watch your _____. Ephesians 4:29

4 Associate with _____ people and avoid
_____. 1 Corinthians 15:33

5. When you pray, _____ God in
_____. Mark 11:22- 24