Lifelines

Dr. Ed Jordan © 2026
Pastor, Gwynn's Island Baptist Church, Gwynn, VA
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Topic: Expectation-Hope

The Importance of Expectation
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The world has suddenly submerged itself into darkness and despair, and yet for those who know God, there is always God, faith, and hope. Discontentment is epidemic… or is it? It depends upon whom you are turning to as your source of truth and reality. Those who expect today will be a bad day, usually get one. Those who aim at or expect nothing, should not be surprised when they receive nothing. Pessimists say the glass is half-empty; optimists say the glass is half-full. Those who expect the glass to be full by the end of the day, often find it overflowing by day's end.

As the old saying goes, "Those who expect nothing, are never disappointed." They receive nothing since they believed they had nothing to gain and therefore didn't notice the gains that came and quickly slipped away. Living without daily expectations for good, better and best, leads to a life that is declining, and perennially expecting a life of bad, worse and worse has one living in a shrinking, sinking, quagmire.

America is one of the greatest countries that has ever existed. As a Christian, I believe that occurred because our nation was birthed by Christianity, and was built up as people embraced a God who loves us, and who continually challenges us to become better, and to reach our ever-expanding potential. God's love for us creates value in us. He sent Jesus to give all who will receive Him the hope of a bright future, as His indwelling power challenges us each day to live that day for Him. This awareness that as believers we live as partners with God our Creator, Savior, and Lord, fills us with love, optimism, and transformative power. Daily living in collaboration with God, fills our days and lives with love, hope, possibilities, and opportunities.

How about you? Do you have some expectations of what you desire to experience or accomplish through your life? Without a God-given dream or vision, the people perish (Prov. 29:18). We all need to have something we are aiming to hit, or expecting to accomplish. What are some attitudes that you expect to consistently demonstrate in yourself? What do you expect to accomplish in the next three months? Do you face each new day, expecting to encounter God? Are you expecting God to do something eye-opening tomorrow?

William Temple once said: "We block Christ's advance in our lives by our failure of expectation." If we don't expect God to manifest Himself in the daily events of our lives, we are missing out on His living involvement in our life, and blocking reception of new expectations God has to reveal to us. He wants us to live expecting Him to be present in our life. Consider expecting that each day, God will do something or bring someone into your path, that He wants you to experience, to accomplish, or to assist. God is alive! Expect Him to show up in some element of every day of your life!

Carol Grosse once said: "I believe we rarely achieve more than we expect." If you don't expect to accomplish anything, then you aren't even traveling the road where that expectation could be fulfilled. If you are not expecting God to pop into your day, you'll miss Him when He does! If you don't challenge yourself to become more than you are today, or to accomplish something specific and beyond your normal functioning, your life will plateau and become boring. As Samuel Johnson said:

"We ought to raise expectations which are not in our power to satisfy…" If we never raise expectations which are beyond our current personal capability, we will never develop new capabilities. Sam Walton, the founder of Walmart stated: "High expectations are the key to everything."

Expect to become your best, expect to exceed your best, and expect to be surprised by some unexpected new challenges given to you by God. Rise to meet the expectation, and by the grace of God to exceed that expectation.

Give some thought and prayer to discovering what God wants to accomplish through or with you in the days or years ahead. For the next month, consider praying William Carey's famous challenge to Christians and missionaries: "Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God." Set your mindset that God wants to accomplish great things through your life, and ask Him to reveal to you what the next thing is that He wants to accomplish through you. As He reveals the "what," then partner with God and expect God to be the "how" and "whatever" is needed to make it happen!

Award-winning columnist Dr. Ed Jordan is pastor of Gwynn's Island Baptist Church, Gwynn, VA. He can be reached at szent.edward@gmail.com. Dr. Jordan's new book: *"Doing Love! It can change your life!"* can be purchased on Barnes&Noble.com or Amazon.com.