

Expectations, Desires & Goals Disrupted

An expectation can be defined as a **strong belief** that something will happen or be the case in the future.

A desire: A **strong feeling** of wanting to have something or wishing something to happen.

Goal: A **desired result** that a person or a group of people envision, plan and commit to achieve.

➤ **Key Words** are strong belief, feeling and desired result. These are not passive or whimsical, rather convey a strong resilient response.

1. Questions for thought? Since our goals, expectations, desires can be so strong, have you considered what they are?

- a) What are your expectations/goals for your life?
- b) What are your expectations/goals for your spouse or significant other?
- c) What are your expectations/goals for your child/children?
- d) What are your expectations/goals for your job?
- e) What are your expectations/goals for your friends?
- f) What are your expectations/goals for your church, its leaders and its people?
- g) What are your expectations for your parents?
- h) What are your expectations of God? How should He lead your life? What role does he play?

2. Now that you have determined your goals and expectations for each area of our lives, what happens when they get disrupted or blocked? How do you respond? What types of emotions do you feel or thoughts that you have? What do you feel physically, emotionally or mentally? What is the outcome?

- a. **How about anger.** Heart is racing, adrenaline is pumping, and you lash out at your spouse or kids in a fit of rage. You are out of control, because you're not able to control. You expected them to have things in a certain order, not to bother you, to show you respect. You pursue and they retreat.
- b. **What about stress:** The pressure builds up, your expectations aren't met (no one is listening, not meeting your deadlines, can't just kick back and relax) you become anxious, irritable, experience headaches, blood pressure rises and you are overwhelmed. The cycle of this pressure is too-much, and anxiety starts to consume you.
- c. **Despair or Hopelessness:** You worked all your life to get this job, to be married, to have kids, to build your reputation, to gain approval...You lose your job, your finances are ruined, your marriage is in shambles, your kids don't listen or follow your example, and the people you esteem so highly become callous, unfaithful or reject you.
- d. **Loss, grief, trauma:** You always expected to be with your spouse, to see your son/daughter get married, to have your parents at your wedding, to have your best friend by your side. For your family member to protect you Then an unexpected illness takes their life, a tragedy occurs, abuse happens, and your life is forever changed. It's not what you expected.

Proverbs 13:12a says: "Hope deferred makes the heart sick..."

Biblical Examples of Expectations, Desires, Goals Disrupted: The Tale of two different responses.

1. **Joseph: Genesis 37-50.** Right expectations of God led Joseph to God's goals, not his own.
 - Joseph did not expect to be thrown into a pit, sold into slavery by his own family and under the rule of Pharaohs. (Gen 37)
 - Then given favor by God, successful in all he does; did not then expect Potiphar's wife to make repeated passes at him, be falsely accused and thrown into prison for two plus years. (Gen 39-41)
 - If Joseph's goals for his life were revenge, money, power, status, sex, etc., his desires and expectations would have been blocked. This could have led to bitterness, anger, depression and a complete rejection of God.
 - Instead Joseph sought the Lord, believed He was still with Him and expected God to use His life. This happened with the dream interpretation of the cupbearer, that led the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream, which led to him becoming governor over all the land.
 - God's favor and Joseph's obedience led to a preservation of God's people when a great famine swept over the land. Joseph forgave seeing God's plan and was restored to His family.
 - Gen 50:20: "As for you, you meant evil against me, ***but God meant it for good*** to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

The Story of Jonah:

- Jonah's desire nor his expectation was to preach to the people of Nineveh. When God called him to do something he nor desired or expected, he had a choice to make.

- Jonah chose to run away (1:3) His choice not only affected him, but the people on the boat when the storm came. The threw him into the water, great fish swallows him, storms over.
- Jonah seeks the Lord in his distress, cries out to the Lord with humility and hope, and God rescues him from the fish. (Jonah 2)
- Jonah preaches repentance, turn to God. The King repents with all his people and 3:10 says God relented and did not bring them to destruction. End of the story...
- Chapter 4: Jonah became angry at God for his grace. He said I knew you were a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from calamity. "**NOW LORD, TAKE AWAY MY LIFE**, for it is better for me to DIE than to live. (4:2-3)

❖ **Jonah's desire was for the wicked to be destroyed, but God's desire was for them to repent and worship Him. Jonah's expectations and desires were not God's, and this led Him to despair.**

So What? What should our expectations, desires and goals be as Christians? What does this practically look like?

Goal for the Christian:

- ❖ Glorify God and make much of Him in what you say, think and do. Be his ambassador and representative in all aspects of life. (Colossians 3:17, Matthew 28:16-20, 2 Cor 5:20)
- ❖ Love God with everything you have and love others (Matthew 22:36-40)

Motivation:

- ❖ Before salvation, we were dead in our sins, blind to God, blind to our sin, and left with no hope. God in His mercy sent Jesus to live a perfect sinless life, to take our place, so all God's wrath from our sin was poured on Jesus. In love, he was crucified and died on our behalf. He rose 3 days later, conquering sin, death and Satan. In faith, we become adopted into his family, sealed with His spirit, which guarantees us an eternal home in heaven with Him, and His constant presence in our lives. (Ephesians 2:1-8 & 1:13-14)

General Biblical Expectations:

- ❖ Life as a Christian is difficult and has many sorrows, pains, and unexpected outcomes, but God is with you in all of them. (Psalms 23, John 16:33)
- ❖ Life is not about us. It's not about what I can get, or my status, career, wealth, kids; it's about Christ. (Matthew 16:24-26, take up our cross and follow him)
- ❖ The Christian life is one of which you will experience God's triumph, grace, presence, love and victory over our sin. (2 Corinthians 12:9, Hebrews 13:5, Romans 6:6-7)
- ❖ Men are to love their wives as Christ loves the church and lay his life down. The wife is to respect her husband and we work as a team to meet the goal of making much of Christ. (Ephesians 5:22-33)
- ❖ As parents, we are expected to train our kids up in the fear and discipline of the Lord. To teach and remind them of God's Word, to shepherd and care for their lives and souls. And the child is to obey their parents that it may go well with them. (Ephesians 6:1-4)
- ❖ In our jobs, we are called Biblically to submit to our superiors, and work with all of hearts, and supply for our families because we are working for Him and represent Him to our colleagues and boss. (Ecclesiastes 9:10, 1 Timothy 5:8, Colossians 3:23-24, 2 Peter 1:18-19)

- ❖ Church: We are to be unified, to serve each other, to bear each other's burdens, to forgive one another, not look down upon, use our gifts and encourage each other in our faith. (Ephesians 4:2, 15-16, 32, John 15:12, Romans 15:1-2, Philippians 2:4, Colossians 3:12-14, Galatians 6:2 1 Corinthians 12)

Final Thoughts

1. We all have expectations, desires and goals for our lives. This is how God created and wired us in His image, just as He does.
 2. The first question is What are God's desires, expectations and goals for the Christian?
 3. Secondly, what are my current expectations, desires and goals for my life and the various people and roles God has given me?
 4. Do my expectations, desires and goals line up with God's?
 5. When these expectations, desires and goals don't happen the way I planned or wanted; how do I respond? (Faith, trust, seeking, prayer, His word, his people, forgiveness; or is anger, fear, anxiety or despair dominating you?)
 6. What or who do I run too first? (The Lord, His promises or alcohol/drug abuse, bitterness, entertainment, porn, anger, revenge, another person that is not your spouse?)
- ❖ Your life and my life will constantly get disrupted. The plans we have, the expectations we want will consistently be challenged. There has been pain and suffering as a result whether from our own choices or the choices of others. The question is, how do we respond? Where do we go? Who do we turn too? Do we forgive? Do we seek counsel? There is much GRACE. You are not a slave to your sin or your situation! You're a SON or a DAUGHTER of the Almighty God. He loves and forgives, and restores, and has goals for your life. Let's seek to line our goals, desires and expectations up with Him.