

WHEN YOU EXPECT NOTHING, YOU GET NOTHING.

In the Christian fold, many do complain how they prayed but no answers, fasted, retreated, yet nothing. They attend services by highly anointed servants of God yet nothing. The reason is simple. Many a time we are so used to going to church that we do see it as a routine for us and nothing more. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (Mat 18:20)

What in the world do you think He is there for, to listen to our eloquent speeches? To laugh at our shortcomings? To just sit there and look at us? None of the above. He said, "I came so that they shall have life, and they shall have [it] abundantly!" John 10:10b His presence in our midst in any gathering is to meet our needs. How many times have we come to a gathering in the Name of Jesus the Christ and go back the same? Do you know why? It may be that you never expected anything from Him if your life was clean in His sight. Sin also can hinder us from receiving from God but that is not our point of interest here. Whenever you get into God's presence, as a child of God, the first thing is to make yourself right with Him if you have the Holy Spirit on your heels for an unconfessed sin. Why after making everything right with God, we still don't receive from His presence? That is the question and our point of interest.

Do you know there are times we ask from our Heavenly Father with an "if He will answer me or not attitude" in other words with doubt. At this level, what do you expect- "For positively, I say to you*, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and be cast into the sea' and does NOT DOUBT in his heart, but believes [or, has faith] that what he says is going to happen, it will be [granted] to him whatever he says. (Mar 11:23) This shows we were not expecting anything from Him.

When we expect something, we have no doubt to receive that thing but this is not our story most at times. Brethren, be honest to yourself and God, think of that day you went to church expecting from God, did He fail you? You can only get it when you expect to get it not when you doubt whether you will get it or not.

When we read the different miracles of our Lord in the Holy Book, before performing most of the healings, He asked what the individual wanted. Why do you think He had to ask? If you say it is to know the person's expectations then you got it right. He had to make sure that the individual expected to receive of Him and they all received. In a case, a father for his child (Mark 9:24) "And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." This father realized that his expectations to receive had to be strong, for fear of not meeting the required level, he asked for additional help. What an example for us! Beloved, stop as from this moment to do any service for God as a habit, expect a reward and you will get it. No service to our God goes free of charge, read Duet. 28. Our God has as agenda to complete our joy (John 16:24) hence we must expect that of Him then we can get it.

Let us examine an account of this principle in the Book of Acts 3: 1-8 (KJV) ¶Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and anklebones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

From these verses, we are going to see some truths from the highlighted portions. The first point to note is the fact that this lame man sat there not because it was the temple entrance but "to ask alms of them that entered into the temple." He was not there because it was his habit of being there. Others might have seen it as the leper's habit but it was not so for him. So also our going to any Christian gathering should not be as a habit to us. We should go there for what we would receive from there. Only then can the factors of receiving from God be put in place.

The next thing to see is the leper's ability to see potential givers, "Who seeing Peter and John." This man saw the people who carried what he was looking for, alms. The fact that he saw the people, from whom he expected alms, propped up in him that ability to receive. To receive from a gathering, you also must be able to see the carrier (the Man of God) of what you need. ¶... Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.2 Chronicles 20:20 (KJV) this man believed the men he saw and received more than he expected because he expected something (we'll get back to this later). He did not only see them, he saw them, recognized what he can get from them, expected to get from them then, asked an alms.

You don't only need to see the men but you have to believe God to give you what you want through them. Let the Word in 2 Chronicles 20:20 ¶... **believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper,**" come alive in you. When this Word comes alive in you, a giant bell will be rang in Heaven that will call God back to His Word, (Num 23:19 GW) "God is not like people. He tells no lies. He is not like humans. He doesn't change his mind. When he says something, he does it. When he makes a promise, he keeps it." Beloved, our darling God is very happy when we apply His Word and what can a happy father not do for the child who makes Him happy!

Beloved, the Apostle Peter knew this secret we are sharing right now. He knew that only the undivided attention of the leper could trigger what he was about to give to him. With this in mind, he gave the command, "Look on us." In other words; do not doubt in any way; let your expectation not fail; add faith to your expectation; do not doubt your prophet for it will break the contact line. Peter never said look on God but "Look on us." Brethren, when the Lord establishes you, you then need but your prophet to prosper. Peter knew that very well so he gave his command. When in a Christian gathering, look on the Man of God, trusting God to get to you through him. Our leper simply obeyed the command and then...

"And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them." This command obeyed, increased the leper's level of expectancy. He now knew without any doubt that he was going to receive of these men and he did receive. He believed the words of the men in front of him. Do you believe the words of your prophet/pastor? Remember that when he speaks, it is not in his name but in the name of the Lord implying God Himself speaking through him. When this man's expectancy level reached the right level, Peter then gave unto him what he needed most (rise up and walk), his healing. When you have an expectant heart then God will "do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us," Ephesians 3:20 Beloved, when you are having the right attitude, every assembling of the saints will be a wonderful blessing to you. God will do more than even that which you expected of Him because you expected something. Let your attending meetings not be for formality but for blessings from the Lord through his servants and the All-powerful Holy Spirit.

Lastly, this man knew how to receive, with thanksgiving. **"And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God."** He obeyed the Man of God, received his healing and did not just silently go away. He instead followed them into the Temple shouting praises unto the God of his salvation. **"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians 4:6. He gladly accepted his miracle with thanksgiving and it was established. You see that as he put all the requirements in place, he received of God. You can also receive from God during every sitting with God if and only if your heart will be expecting to receive.

To end up, I wish to address all my friends reading this issue who are still making up their mind for Christ. Please, there is no time to waste; there is no pleasure in this world that can be compared with the blessings in Christ. **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.** Matthew 6:33 all what you need in this life and the life after are found in Jesus Christ. Above all, **"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"** Mark 8:36. Giving your life to Jesus is securing your soul from the pains of a total and complete separation from God, which is worse than anything you can think of. Why not trust Jesus with your life this moment and receive the joy of salvation.

Just bow down your head and ask God for forgiveness for all your sins; call on Jesus to come into your heart and to make you the person He wants you to be; confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior; then thank Him for answering your prayer. Ask God to lead you to the right church where you will receive the right food to enable you to grow. Any church that comes to your heart, just obey and move there even if it violates all of your principles. Know that only God is to be in control of your life as from this day. Remain blessed as you walk with Him.