



“GREAT EXPECTATIONS!”

By Mary Mayko

Psalm 89:8, 15-18 NIV “O LORD God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.” “Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD. They rejoice in your name all day long; they exult in your righteousness. For you are their glory and strength, and by your favor you exalt our horn [power].”

What kind of expectations do you have? What would you like to see accomplished in your life? It is God’s nature to make definite plans for everything. If we desire to be like our LORD, are we making plans and expecting great things in our lives? A wise person will certainly do that!

We cannot change our past, be they failures or successes. There are what they are, as the saying goes! We need hope and expectations that are based on the will of God. All through the Bible, we see evidence that He always had and has a plan for everything! Some of those plans were completed long ago, and some lie yet in the future. How do we fit into His plans for today?

Jer.29:11 LB “For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Many people claim this promise, but fail to look at the “If clause” in the following two verses! “In those days when you pray, I will listen. You will find me when you seek me, if you look for me in earnest.” Sometimes we want the “future and the hope” without going through the steps He has provided, the “If clauses”! *If we pray and seek Him with our whole heart!*

Do our *great expectations* include asking God to guide our plans? The verses in Psalm 89 can excite us to action! They inspire us as we look at God’s strength and presence with great joy! He is God Almighty! His power is available to help us do His will! The focus is on our God and we can dwell in pleasure with Him.

God likes things done in an orderly manner! He is never early or late, everything is on time! When we make our plans, do we try to “rush” things? Some of us may be impatient and want to move from “A to Z” without going through the proper steps! Well! That kind of thinking and doing hinders our ability to use all God has provided in an effective way!

1 Cor.14:33 NIV “For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.” Ever notice how stressful we get when things are done in a disorderly manner?

What happens when we have made excellent plans, and a sudden event interrupts them? Could this be a divine direction from God or Satan trying to hinder? We must seek God’s face for the answers! If this is from God, remember He knows everything, and will work it out for our good although sometimes it does not seem that way! (Rom.8:28) Sometimes the difficulty is to strengthen your spiritual muscles! It is His strength that brings us through any testing or trial! If it is from Satan, nothing is stronger than God’s power! 1 John 4:4 NIV “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one (Christ) who is in you is greater than the one (Satan) who is in the world.”

God is always equipping us to accomplish whatever He requires of us!

Titus 3:8 LB “This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that you affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.”

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“JESUS’ MIRACLE AND MAMA”

By Mary Mayko

John 2:1-5 LB “Two days later Jesus’ mother was a guest at a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee, and Jesus and His disciples were invited too. The wine ran out during the festivities, and Jesus’ mother came to Him with the problem. “I can’t help you now,” He said. “It isn’t yet My time for miracles.” But His mother told the servants, “Do whatever He tells you to do.”

In John chapter 2, Jesus is now 30 years old and He is still showing respect to his mother! When He was 12, Mary thought he was lost! Clearly she showed the panic any Mom would feel when she can’t find one of her children! During the next 18 years after Jesus was found discussing deep things in the Temple, He became a man with many responsibilities, especially since Mary was now probably a widow, and He was the eldest son. Jesus’ Mama now had a very interesting challenge for Him!

Those who try to make the Christian life all solemn, without any fun and laughter, should look again at what Mama Mary and Jesus, along with His disciples, were doing in Cana! Sounds like a great wedding party was taking place! Jesus had already been busy with ministry yet isn’t it interesting that Mary is still trying to give Him instructions! Doesn’t she sound like some moms you know?

If you have grown children, do you treat them as grownups or are you still trying to “mother” them and control them? You will find you get along better with them if you treat them according to their age and position in life, not like you did when they were still kids or young teens!

When the wine ran out, Mary was so sure Jesus could “fix the problem” she went right over to Him for the answer! Can’t you just hear him saying, “Mama! It isn’t the right time for doing miracles!” But this mother remembered all the wonderful things told to her through prophecies and knew He was capable of so much more than He had done up to this point!

Notice how she ignored what He said! Do we sometimes do this to our kids when we want to “over ride” their decisions or timing? It is called manipulation by psychologists! Some Moms just can’t let go! Like any mother, Mary was probably very pleased that Jesus had been preaching and teaching, and had developed a following already! She was possibly a great promoter for His ministry! Wouldn’t we be? Do you recognize and encourage your child’s talents without being obnoxious?

Mary turns from Jesus and starts giving instructions to the servants at the wedding! She must have been a real “*take charge*” kind of gal! Some people are just talented in that way. They see a problem and figure out some way to fix it!

Even though Jesus had gently rebuked His mom, He does obey her out of respect. I can just imagine He “*talked to His Father*” before He did the miracle! His Father evidently gave His permission for the miracle, and it became a great blessing to the guests and preventing embarrassment for the young newlyweds! What a gracious act of love!

Matt.7:24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

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“MARVELOUS MAY!”

Rev. J. Kehl Golding

“We henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight [tricks] of men, and cunning craftiness [cleverness] whereby they lie in wait to deceive. But speaking the truth in love, may GROW UP INTO HIM IN ALL THINGS, WHICH IS THE HEAD EVEN CHRIST.” EPHESIANS 4:14-15

Many consider May the most beautiful of all months. This of course, is a matter of opinion. But, an established fact in the world of botany tells us it is a month of great growth in a plants' life.

In fact May, number five in our calendar, according to the dictionary, is so named after the goddess of growth, “Maia” and so named because it is regarded as a month of the greatest growth in a plant's life.

Recently, I walked the edge of my lawn, over by the fence there is a deep dense plot of ivy. I've wanted to plant spring bulbs in it. Last year one of my sons planted all the Easter bulbs in it for me. All winter I waited to see if they would grow. Several weeks ago I saw the first little green shoots coming up in one of the spots. We have had very cold weather, and two snows, but those tiny 'hyacinths' kept growing.

On one of the warmer mornings, the dog and I walked over to inspect them more carefully. Not only the three bulbs, but an increase, there is a fourth! We walked down a row, and discovered another one. Then we moved a large heavy pine branch that had fallen, and there to my surprise under all those needles and weight was a hyacinth in bloom! The lovely bluish-violet against the dark green ivy makes quite a sight! All this time, God was at work making this lovely sight, quite unknown to me!

All I could think of was a Scripture verse I've quoted to you many times, and I will again, because of the truth that lies within it: “And the WORK of righteousness SHALL Be

peace and the EFFECT of righteousness QUIETNESS and ASSURANCE forever.”
Isaiah 32:17

There comes a moment of decision making after we are saved. We realize we have a choice, go on a babe in Christ, or understand if we are to grow in Christ, it will demand our entire consecration!

I recently drove past a church that had the following on its’ marquee. “God wants full custody, not just weekend visits!”

If we are to grow in Christ, there will be time spent in prayer, a time of listening for God’s voice, not just our own. There will be time spent in the Word- far beyond the Psalms, but time actually studying the Word- as a mirror, so we can see our needs and address them.

This will be done, behind the scenes quietly alone with God. So He can work in secret, much like He worked on the hyacinth, and one day the “bloom” will be discovered- one day we’ll see begin to see our growth. When we come from this private time with Him, righteousness is produced, this is “uprightness with God”. We’ll know it as “peace, quietness and assurance.” Those about us will see a different reaction to trials, problems, and difficulties.

I recently talked with a Pastor, this person was a student of mine, many years ago, one that has “kept in touch.” This one, has a real Pastor’s heart, that still preaches holiness of living, conduct and conservation, as well as clothing. But, had this to say: “Today Pastoring is glorified baby sitting- one must bottle and burp his people through every trial and test that comes along. Saints do not seem willing to get a hold of Him and the Word for themselves.”

I believe this to be true for many, because we have become conditioned to calling the doctor for every ache and pain. He will prescribe a pill for me to “Pop.” Never mind prayer, exercise, proper food and rest for the condition. If we have a spiritual test or trial we’ll call the pastor- he’ll have God’s answer for me to “Pop.” Never mind my waiting on God in prayer, or diligently seeking the answer for myself in the Word, after all, “I have so much to do!”

Read again in Ephesians 4:11-13 “And He gave some apostles: and some prophets: and some evangelists: and some pastors and teachers.” The **reason** He gave these people--- “For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying [building up] of the Body of Christ. Till we all come into the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge [appreciation] of the Son of God unto a perfect [MATURE] man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

WHY?

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight [tricks] of man, and cunning craftiness [cleverness] whereby they lie in wait to deceive.”

Paul further challenges us in this fourth chapter of Ephesians to be over comers, no longer babes in Christ with very strong words: “This I say therefore and TESTIFY in the LORD, that ye henceforth WALK NOT as other Gentiles walk in the vanity [emptiness] of their mind.”

Because___ here’s the result!

“Having the understanding darkened, being alienated [turned away] from the Life of GOD through ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness [callous condition] of their heart: Who being past feeling, have given themselves over unto lasciviousness [evil indulgences] to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have NOT so learned Christ: If so be that ye have HEARD HIM, AND HAVE BEEN TAUGHT by Him, as the Truth is in Jesus: that ye put off concerning the former conversation [manner of life] the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts: And be RENEWED in the spirit of your mind: And that ye put on the NEW MAN which after God is created in RIGHTEOUSNESS and TRUE HOLINESS. [Holiness of Truth].”

These Scriptures leave no doubt about what should be taking place in a HEALTHY, born again Christians’ life. There should be Growth after we come to Christ. The OLD [sinful ways of life] must be put away, gone completely from the NEW man’s way of life. These habits must go, if we are to grow in Christ.

Just like the winter must go, and spring come, if the plant is to GROW there must be warm sun, water and elements in the soil, a complete change in the environment, and so it is with us. We must turn our backs on the old, take on a NEW ENVIROMENT. This will include reading the Word, prayer and attending a Bible believing church as well as new Christian friends.

It will also include much of TV and movies, even activities of the world watches and is involved in.

But all this will add to growth that leads to MATURITY.

The growing month of May is a great time for each of us to get started, and watch the marvelous outcome that will glorify His Name!

Happy growing..... as you rest in His Presence!
Rev, J Kehl Golding