

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

“There is hope for your future,” declares the LORD - Jeremiah 31:17



My “tütü (grandmother) was a very talented woman. Amongst many things, she was a weaver in making the *papale pahu* (hat plaited on a wooden block) from *lauhala* (pandanus leaves). She made beautiful hats, especially, for the women of the church to purchase and wear on the second Sunday of every month of what was called, “Papale Sunday” (a tradition that continues to be practiced today in our church). For months, I would observe her wonderful work and tireless, creative hands. Under the dim lights of the house, she would selectively take strips of *lauhala* and weave them together. As she began the foundation of her *papale*, she utilized a few strands, then, added more strands one at a time.

Through my eyes, it looked like strands of *lauhala* pointing in multiple directions with no purpose, but, in my *tütü’s* eyes, it was the foundation of a “start-up” piece that would emerge into a beautiful hat. In my observation, I saw the loose, frayed ends, but, in the visionary eyes of my *tütü*, she saw a pattern.

Sometimes, the way we look at life can be the same way. It’s a matter of PERSPECTIVE! We can look at life as “strands” of hopelessness going into multiple directions or a “pattern” for great expectations because no matter who you are, you get out of life what you expect from it. Simply put, our expectations become our achievements. That is why I want to encourage someone reading this devotional, to have hope for great expectations in your life. There is hope in every situation for every person. “Hope” is a word we need to have in our lives everyday of the year, especially, right now. No matter how your year is going in your family, on your job, in your finances, in your personal health or ministry, I want to encourage you today to believe God and His promises, then, expect a blessing!

I am thankful to God for all that He has done and continue to live with great expectations to make a difference in the lives of others. You should do the same! Every year, we need to “hope” and not rest on the burdens or laurels of the past year. The desire of our heart and our attitude should be to know that God is trustworthy and that we can place all of our expectations on Him with confidence that our future is secure in His hands. I want to let you know that there’s hope for children and families who otherwise believe that they have little or no expectation for a better future. There’s hope for “crippled futures”; hope for the

“outcast” and hope for the “spiritually wounded”. There’s hope for children who fall asleep to domestic violence and wake up to the smell of pot in the home.

There’s hope for the parentless child; the poverty stricken family, the sick and the lame. Don’t allow difficult days to turn into difficult lives. You don’t have to live in hopeless situations and weak faith. Move on to something better! Change your expectations! Expect great things from God!

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven”. Sometimes, you’ll experience different phases and seasons. There’ll be times that you will run out of “gas”. Times, you feel like you can’t continue; times where your dreams are crushed, but, I want to encourage you today, to trust God to see you through. Pray, “Lord, sometimes, I want to give up, but, I’m not going to allow false expectations steal my hope for a blessed future, so, I’m just going to believe you to see me through”. Why? Because if you expect nothing, you receive nothing! Don’t let your low expectations rob your hope for an amazing future. When you go through tough times and trials, draw closer to God. Don’t let your circumstances separate you from Him.

In the “ups” and “downs” of life, God has given His people a choice.

We can either look at our circumstances, wring our hands and say, ...*“My God, how am I ever going to get through this”*... **OR...WE CAN LOOK UP AND SAY TO THE HEAVENS IN PRAYER...** *“My God, I believe in you to get me through this”*.

Don’t settle for the worst in your situation! Make up your mind that you will not rationalize your situation to hopelessness. When the enemy tries to make you quit, don’t pay any attention! Stay focused on God because He can do anything, at any time, to change your life. Expect a victory! Expect a blessing! Believe God for a better job, a physical healing, a financial victory; a restored family, whatever it is, do it with great expectation! God is always faithful.....**YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME.** Don’t back off on your faith! You see, many of us live by faith every day in all kinds of ways...it’s just not always faith in God, but, **HE NEVER DISAPPOINTS THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM. START TODAY!**