

Expectations

Some of the meanings from the Chambers English Dictionary.

The act or state of expecting: the prospect of future good: that which is or may fairly be expected: the degree of probability: the value of something expected: prospect of fortune or profit by a will.

Did you know that Expectation Week is the period between Ascension Day and Whit Sunday, commemorating the Apostle's expectation of the Comforter?

Nowadays if families are "expecting" it means there is a new life, a baby on the way.

How precious are your expectations?

All of the above meanings fall into the "good" category, but how many of us during the last year have let circumstances drag us down into the fearful and anxious state of living?

Here are a few of God's promises that lift us up out of despond into our joy in Him.

Moses promised the Israelites that the Lord was the One who went with them. "Be strong and of good courage" "He will not leave you or forsake you" Deut. 31 v6. The Lord promised Joshua "I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you" Josh. 1 v5. Repeated again to the Hebrews "I will never leave you or forsake you" Heb. 13 v5.

With all these assurances in mind we can again turn our expectations into joy!

We can all feast on the promises in Jesus' prayers in the Gospel of John to His Father, when he knows that his time is not long on earth. "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. John 14 v2&3.

Doesn't that warm your heart and increase your expectation of being with Jesus?

We live with Him. John 14 v19 "Because I live, you will live also" "My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." In chapter 16 v33, Jesus tells us "These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD" (emphasis mine)

What a powerful promise this is! Does it enable us to re-evaluate our Expectations?

We learn from the book of Revelation about the city of God. Rev. 21 v4&5

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne said "Behold, I make all things new"

I think of an old hymn of expectation we used to sing, which some of you may remember. This is the first verse.

New every morning is the love,
Our wakening and uprising prove,
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Returned to life and power and thought.

Thank you, Dear Heavenly Father for loving me.

Jill Stewart.