

Welcoming

2021

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

LOOKING AHEAD

TESTIMONIES & WORSHIP



PROGRESS CHURCH

*Theme: 2021, The Year Of
Expectation*

Scripture: Romans 15:13

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WELCOME

As we say goodbye to 2020, we realize the losses we have grieved and the victories we have won.

God's divine plan for us has not changed. In all the world's confusion, we have never lose faith, shrunk back, or remain stagnant.

Throughout the year we have persevered with all diligence and steadfastness. You are God's chosen people, a holy priesthood and warriors standing on the front lines of spiritual battles.

We never give up hope. We remain faithful because we trust in an everlasting God who is sovereign in all His ways.

As we look towards the future, our hope is strong. On the eve of this New Year, we give thanks to Almighty God, for His constant watch over us during this year.

The fact that we are alive, would suggest that there is hope. This hope, is a firm assurance, based on promises that God himself has decreed for all who will put their trust in Him.



I call upon all of us to go into the New Year with great trust in the Lord.

May God grant you the riches of his fullness this Year and beyond.

May you discover and enjoy His peace even in the mist of the storms.

The storms will come and will past, God did not promise to stop the storms. What He did promise is that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

We can be assured of His promise, for whatsoever He has promised He is well able to perform.

Be blessed in His presence as we go forward together in 2021

Happy New Year!



Romans 15:13

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (NKJV).”

Introduction

Expectation

- Expectation is to have a strong desire and be filled with anticipation and confidence in obtaining what is hoped for and expected.
- This present moment is our time to renew our heart of expectation concerning our future.
- I ask you to remove all reasons not to expect "now" in 2021 great things from God.
- **"Now!"** *"Now may the God of hope... (Romans 15:13)."*
 - ❖ At this present time or moment
 - ❖ Under these present circumstances
 - ❖ Immediately - without delay



Introduction

Expectation

- In 2021 new horizons will be there for you
- Lift your expectations today, decide to go after what God has for you. Make the decision
- Fix your eyes on the promised blessing with an eager anticipation of its arrival
- This crossover present us with opportunities to shape our own destiny, to influence history, to move into something greater; change lives around us, influence businesses, institutions, nations
- This moment is a favourable juncture of circumstances, a good chance for advancement or progress



Introduction

- Our expectations are based on the God of hope
- Our confidence is not in chance or good fortune but in the true and living God.
- If you have been disappointed by placing your expectations on a fallible person, as good as that person might be, you may be discouraged and hopeless or angry
- I'm calling you forward to lift your heart and eyes and place your expectation in the God of hope
- He never leaves you nor forsakes you.
- He loves you at all times and His word abides forever. He is trustworthy

I. The Mindset Of Expectation Is Joy And Peace

- It's that strong desire that God has placed in our hearts to be fulfilled
- We have great anticipation and confidence in obtaining what is hoped for

Joy And Peace:

- Joy and peace relates to our life of expectations as stated in Romans 15:13
- Joy relates to the delights of anticipation in seeing our hope fulfilled.
- Joy is the emotion of expectation
- Joy is the emotion evoked by the prospect of possessing what you desire and has high expectations for receiving
- Everyone who have expectations experience the **joy of beginning, the joy of the journey and the joy of fulfillment**



Joy And Peace:

- Joy is both the source of expectation and the result of expectation
- Joy and expectation are merged together at several pivotal points in the expectation journey
- There is the joy that is evident when you first begin to have real and deep expectation for the future
- Your heart is laughing; your mouth is filled with laughter
- There's an expectation, of possessing what you desire
- You have a high expectation for receiving

The Joy Of Beginning

- **Job 8:7;** *“Though your beginning was small, Yet your latter end would increase abundantly.”*
- The joy of beginning is a true joy, but it does not guarantee the expectation will be fulfilled or that the joy felt at the beginning will be sustained
- The rising of the sun
- The awakening of the dawn
- In the beginning God
- The end can be seen in the beginning
- The seed is there



The Joy Of Beginning

- Vision helps us spot present opportunities when others might not see them, but also points us toward the future and inspires us to ask, "What do I expect for my life?"
- Dreams are extremely important. You can't do it unless you can imagine it.
- In the long run, people hit only what they aim at. The dreams that seem impossible will become inevitable.

The Joy Of The Journey

- Achievement is largely the product of steadily raising one's level of aspiration and expectation
- **1 Kings 19:7**; *“And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, “Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you.”*
- The joy of living out your expectations is built upon the lifestyle you choose and stay with
- The lifestyle you live is a choice and that choice has favourable blessings from God or unwanted consequences



The Joy Of The Journey

- Convert your adversity into fuel
- Let every setback, every obstacle become a source to power your life forward
- Quitters are those who give up at the first sign of pressure, adversity, or setback. They blame the hardship in life. They never achieve their expectations because they always quit too soon



The Joy Of The Journey

- The joy of the successful journey is the joy that is evident as you get into fulfilling your expectations
- This joy is not based on emotion but on disciplines and achievements
- **Proverbs 10:28**; *"The hope of the righteous will be gladness, but the expectation of the wicked will perish."*
- "The hope of the righteous brings joy."
- "The hope of God's people leads to joy but the wicked can look forward to nothing."
- I believe that you will be lifted to a higher level of faith, believing God has a great future for you and desires you to expect great things

The Joy Of Finishing

- The joy of finishing. This is the joy of finishing, expectation over a lifetime
- The joy of knowing we gave it all we had
- The joy of knowing we handled adversity right
- The joy of knowing we never quit

The story of the Prophet Elisha's Servant – Gehazi:

- **One who Diminishes**
- His Journey – Servant of Elisha
- His Final chapter in Life – A jester in the court of Joram

Peace

- **Isaiah 26:3**; *“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.”*
- Peace relates to a life of expectation as we have great assurance that God will fulfill all our hopes in spite of unseen obstacles, setbacks, disappointments and storms of life
- It is peace in the middle of the crisis, peace that calms the spirit and gives strength to the soul
- Don't live in the past; Don't waste time and energy fighting conditions you cannot change

Peace

- Stay involved with the living Word
- Resist the temptation to withdraw and become reclusive during difficult times
- Refuse to indulge in self-pity when life hands you a raw deal
- **John 14:27**; *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23**; *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

II. The Blessing Of Expectation Is Overflow

➤ Abound And Overflow

- **Abound** = to have more than enough; to be filled and well-supplied; to have considerably more than what would be expected; surplus; more than enough with plenty left over
- **Overflow** = to flow over the brim, to fill a space with capacity and spread beyond its limits; a flowing over the top, a surplus, to be full; to exceed the capacity or limit
- **Psalm 23:5**; *“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.”*
- **Psalm 45:1**; *“My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.”*

III. The God Of Hope

- The prayer given to us in Romans 15:13 is addressed to the God of hope
- There can be no true well founded, far reaching hope which is not fixed on the God of hope. On His providential power and rule, on His gracious purposes, on His trustworthiness, never changing, never failing promises
- Our God inspires our expectations, He rewards expectations. He is the God who supplies our heart and life with an overflow of expectations
- Today, now, is your time to put your hope in the God who can fulfill your expectations

Our God:

- ❖ Inspires our expectations
- ❖ Rewards our expectations
- **Acts 3:5**; *“So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.”*
- **Psalm 123:1**; *“Unto You I lift up my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens.”*

God Never Fails

A. God fulfills the promises He makes to us

- **The Promiser** - One who pledges to another to do or not do something specified
- **Numbers 23:19**; *"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"*
- **Psalm 37:4**; *"Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart."*

God Never Fails

B. God guards the promises He gives to us

- **The Promise** - a pledge, a word of honor, a vow, an oath, warranty, guarantee, a covenant. It is the ground for hope, expectation, assurance or eventual success
- **1 Kings 8:56**; *"Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses."*
- **Jeremiah 1:12**; "Then the Lord said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word."



God Never Fails

C. God secures the promise with His character

- **Hebrews 6:18**; *“that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.”*
- **Psalms 143:8**; *“Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You.”*



God Never Fails

D. God accomplishes the promised purposes for us

- **Isaiah 55:10-11**; *“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”*
- **Psalms 1:3**; “He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”

God Never Fails

E. God supplies whatever is needed for the promise

- **Genesis 17:4**; *"As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations."*
- **Genesis 17:1**; *"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; [The El Shaddai, The All-Sufficient One]; walk before Me and be blameless."*
- **Psalm 33:18**; *"Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy,"*
- **Psalm 34:15**; *"The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry."*



God Never Fails

E. God supplies whatever is needed for the promise

- He cares. He watches over
- He prepares our future. He guides our steps. Nothing is left to chance or fate.
- He is in absolute control. Nothing that happens in my life catches God by surprise
- Our God is a personal God, infinite in wisdom, goodness and power
- He loves us at all times. He is involved with us. He works on our behalf

God Never Fails

- Our God is not a disconnected, impersonal being
- Our God is in control of our everything
- **Romans 8:28**; “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”
 - ❖ ***“And we know”*** - Knowing that I am not the one in control gives great encouragement; knowing the One Who is in control of everything
 - ❖ ***“That all things”*** - God's plan is inclusive. God is interested in every detail of life. Everything is permitted and designed by Him for His will and purpose. This means there are no limits to whom God uses
 - ❖ ***“For Good”*** - God's plan is for "good." The good promises of God in His love and with long-term vision may not always seem good and acceptable to us in the moment



God Never Fails

- His providence sometimes appears disastrous when viewed from a materialistic or temporal viewpoint
 - The good is spiritual rather than temporal
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