

A person is seen from behind, looking up at a vast, dark night sky. A brilliant starburst of light dominates the upper center, with rays of light and smaller stars scattered across the deep blue and black expanse. The person's silhouette is visible at the bottom, creating a sense of awe and contemplation.

EMBRACING THE UNEXPECTED

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A Sermon Booklet

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Introduction

Welcome to this sermon booklet on “Embracing the Unexpected.” In our lives, we often find ourselves bound by routines and expectations. However, it is essential to remember that God’s ways are higher than our own. This booklet will explore the theme of expectation and the miraculous nature of God’s interventions in our lives. Each sermon aims to inspire hope, encourage faith, and remind us of the extraordinary possibilities that lie ahead. As Apostolic Pentecostals, we believe in the active presence of God in our lives and the power of the Holy Spirit to work

through us in miraculous ways.

Sermon 1: The Power of Expectation

Scripture Reference: Hebrews 11:1 - “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Key Points:

- Definition of Expectation: Expectation is not passivity; it is an active engagement with our faith.
- Creating a Channel for Miracles: When we expect God to move, we open ourselves to His supernatural power.
- Faith in Action: Expectation transforms our perspective and prepares us to receive God’s blessings.

Reflection:

How can you cultivate an attitude of expectation in your daily life?

Sermon 2: Miracles in the Bible

Scripture Reference: John 14:12 - “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than

these.”

Key Points:

- **Examples of Miracles:** Review stories such as the parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14) and the feeding of the 5,000 (John 6).
- **God’s Faithfulness:** These miracles remind us that God is still at work today.
- **Our Role in Miracles:** We are called to believe and act in faith, expecting God to perform the extraordinary.

Reflection:

What miracles have you witnessed in your life or the lives of others?

Sermon 3: Living in Faith

Scripture Reference: 2 Corinthians 5:7 - “For we live by faith, not by sight.”

Key Points:

- **Faith Beyond Understanding:** Our expectations should not be confined to what we can see or comprehend.
- **The Invitation to Dream Bigger:** Jesus invites us to

believe in His promises of prosperity and abundance.

- Walking in Faith: Embrace the unknown with confidence, trusting that God is orchestrating your path.

Reflection:

In what areas of your life do you need to step out in faith and embrace the unexpected?

Sermon 4: Trusting in God's Timing

Scripture Reference: Ecclesiastes 3:1 - "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

Key Points:

- God's Perfect Timing: Understanding that God's timing is often different from our own.
- Patience in Expectation: Waiting on the Lord can be challenging, but it is essential for spiritual growth.
- The Abundance of God: Trust that He is preparing something extraordinary for you.

Reflection:

How can you practice patience and trust in God's timing in your life?

Sermon 5: The Role of Prayer in

Expectation

Scripture Reference: James 5:16 - “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

Key Points:

- **Prayer as a Foundation:** Prayer is the lifeline that connects us to God and aligns our hearts with His will.
- **Expectation in Prayer:** Approach prayer with the expectation that God will respond and act.
- **Intercession for Others:** Pray not only for yourself but also for the needs of others, expecting God to move in their lives.

Reflection:

How can you enhance your prayer life to expect more from God?

Sermon 6: Community and Miracles

Scripture Reference: Acts 2:44-47 - “All the believers were together and had everything in common.”

Key Points:

- **The Power of Unity:** Miracles often happen in the

context of community and shared faith.

- Encouraging One Another: Share testimonies of God's goodness and encourage each other to expect miracles.
- Collective Prayer: Engage in corporate prayer as a church body, believing for greater works together.

Reflection:

How can you contribute to building a community that expects and celebrates miracles?

Conclusion: A Season of Expectation

As we conclude this journey through the theme of "Embracing the Unexpected," let us remember that our God is a God of miracles. He works in ways that often surprise us, and when we expect the unexpected, we position ourselves to witness His glory. May this season be filled with hope, joy, and the anticipation of the miraculous.

Reflection Questions

1. What does "expect the unexpected" mean to you personally?
2. How can you cultivate a spirit of expectation in your community or church?
3. Reflect on a time when you experienced an

unexpected miracle. What did you learn from that experience?

4. How has prayer influenced your expectations in your spiritual journey?

Prayer Guide

- Prayer for Expectation: Ask God to open your heart and mind to the possibilities He has in store for you.
- Prayer for Faith: Pray for increased faith to believe in His promises and to trust His timing.
- Prayer for Miracles: Seek God's intervention in areas of your life where you desire to see His miraculous hand at work.

Personal Testimonies

Encourage members of your church to share their testimonies of unexpected miracles and answered prayers. This can be a powerful way to build faith and expectation within the community.

Suggested Scripture Readings

- Psalm 77: Reflect on God's mighty deeds and faithfulness.
- Isaiah 43:18-19: God is doing a new thing; perceive it!
- Mark 11:24: Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe

that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Understanding the Concept of Expectation

Understanding the biblical concept of “expectation” can deepen our appreciation for its significance in our faith journey. Below are the Greek and Hebrew words related to “expectation,” along with their meanings and implications:

Greek Word for Expectation

Word: ἡ ἐλπίς (hē elpís)

Meaning: The Greek word “elpís” is commonly translated as “hope” or “expectation.” In the New Testament, it conveys a sense of confident expectation, trust, and anticipation regarding God’s promises. It is more than a wish; it embodies a firm assurance that God will fulfill His word.

Usage in Scripture:

- Romans 5:5: “And hope (elpís) does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”
- Hebrews 11:1: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for (elpís), the conviction of things not seen.”

Hebrew Words for Expectation

1. Word: תִּקְוָה (tiqvah)

Meaning: The Hebrew word “tiqvah” translates to “hope” or “expectation.” It signifies a sense of waiting with anticipation and trust in God’s promises. The root of this word is related to the idea of a cord or a line, suggesting a connection or binding to something that is awaited.

Usage in Scripture:

- Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope (tiqvah) and a future.”

2. Word: נָחַח (chakah)

Meaning: The Hebrew verb “chakah” means “to wait” or “to look for.” It conveys the idea of waiting in expectation, often used in the context of waiting for God’s intervention or help.

Usage in Scripture:

- Psalm 62:5: “Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope (tiqvah) comes from Him. Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken.”

Implications for Expectation in Faith

- Active Engagement: Both the Greek and Hebrew concepts of expectation emphasize an active

engagement in faith. It's not a passive waiting but a confident assurance that God will act according to His promises.

- **Trust in God's Character:** Expectation is rooted in trust in God's character and faithfulness. It acknowledges that, despite current circumstances, God is at work and will fulfill His plans.
- **Community Aspect:** In both the Old and New Testaments, expectation is often shared within a community of believers, reinforcing the importance of collective faith and encouragement.

Conclusion

Incorporating the meanings of “expectation” from the original languages into our understanding enriches our faith. As we embrace the unexpected, let us do so with the confident hope (*elpís*) and anticipation (*tiqvah*) that God is always at work, ready to reveal His miraculous power in our lives. This understanding can deepen our prayers, our community interactions, and our personal faith journeys, reminding us that with God, all things are possible!

May My booklet inspire you to embrace the unexpected and live in the fullness of God's promises. Remember, with God, all things are possible! As you step forward in faith, may you witness the miraculous unfold in your life and the lives of those around you.