

Expectation and Confidence!

Last time we met, we looked at the profound differences in the meaning of the word “HOPE.” You’ll recall that the Greek word for hope means “to project an opinion into the future, in a positive sense.” Hope, is used 13 times in the Greek text, although 81 references appear in a Bible Gateway search of the KJV, NIV, NASB and YLT.

Amazingly, the same Greek word for hope also means “to be apprehensive.” The Greek text contains Apprehensiveness or Apprehension 5 times.

In every version other than the CLNT, apprehensive or apprehension does not appear at all. Terms such as “waited a long time,” or “constantly watching,” are used, but none of those convey the meaning of apprehensiveness. The word for hope is just as misused, translated often as “expectation,” which we’ll look at shortly. At the same time, the word Expect or expectation is misused as “hope!” It’s a confused mess.

Some might accuse me here of being altogether too picky over a couple of words. So be it. For me, knowing what the language actually says, and understanding its real meaning makes all the difference between being solidly rooted in God’s inspired word and having a less than firm foundation for my faith!

Even God is incorrectly associated with the word hope, which ultimately has a far too tenuous quality to it for me. Try this on and see what you think:

Romans 15:13

- **NIV, KJV, and NASB all read similarly**

May the **God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now look at the CLNT:

13 Now may the God of **[the] expectation** be filling you with all joy and peace in believing, for you to be super-abounding in **[the] expectation**, in the power of holy spirit.

Expectation, you may recall from our study last week, means to “*have or rely on a present person or thing [whereas...] (Hope has degenerated into a desire for something which we have no real reason to expect.)*”

So, which would you rather have: the God of hope, or the God of THE expectation. And would you rather be “overflowed with hope” (that is with no real reason to expect), or “superabounding in THE expectation,” for which we are having or relying on Him? AND, notice how the expectation is joyfully and peacefully believed superaboundingly:

in the power of holy spirit.

It is no small matter that what Paul terms “the expectation” is tied to God’s character. He is the God of THIS SPECIFIC EXPECTATION...so it’s tied to His name and His promise! And how many times have we reviewed that He has magnified His name, His promise above all else, according to Psalm 138:2!

We looked at this scripture last week, but let’s review it here:

Romans 8:20

20 For to vanity was the creation subjected, not voluntarily, but because of Him Who subjects it, in **expectation**

21 that the creation itself, also, shall be freed from the slavery of corruption into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Recall that it is God Himself Who is doing the expecting here. If He were “the God of hope,” Romans 8:20 would read “in hope.” That IS, in fact, how the NIV reads. But even my study Bible shows the word here is Elpis, which is expectation, and yet the lexicon makes expectation and hope look as if they mean the same thing! No wonder there is such confusion! It’s every bit like making AION – or “eon” in our English pronunciation – mean eternal. Pretty soon, you don’t know what the scripture really says because it seems to disagree with itself...and of course, the resulting interpretations have created centuries of dissent, division, contention, and confusion.

22 For we are aware that the entire creation is groaning and travailing together until now.

23 Yet not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruit of the spirit, we ourselves also, are groaning in ourselves, awaiting the sonship, the deliverance of our body.

24 For to **[the] expectation** were we saved.

“Expectation” contains 41 references in a word search of the CLNT online. 6 references appear in a Bible Gateway search of 4 versions, and all are incorrectly translated.

Let’s remember that the Scriptures – the writings inspired by God – were written with specific words and word orders. This is God’s word we are dealing with...not some man’s interpretation of it. That goes for all of us – myself included.

I’m declaring here, that hope, to me is weak and ineffective – powerless. Hope is like shifting sand, and we all know the story Jesus told about the man who built his house

on sand. THE Expectation, on the other hand contains specific certainty and confidence that I can stand on, like the man who built his house on the rock.

So, let's consider God's word as solid as rock and not as shifting sand.

Colossians 1:5

3 We are thanking the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, always praying concerning you,
4 on hearing of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints,
5 because of **the expectation** reserved for you in the heavens, which you hear before in the word of truth of the evangel,

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is an assumption of what is being **expected**, a conviction concerning matters which are not being observed;

Titus 1:2

1 Paul, a slave of God, yet an apostle of Jesus Christ, in accord with the faith of God's chosen, and a realization of the truth, which accords with devoutness,
2 in **expectation** of life eonian, which God, Who does not lie, promises before times eonian,
3 yet manifests His word in its own eras by heralding, with which I was entrusted, according to the injunction of God, our Saviour,

Titus 3:7

3 For we also were once foolish, stubborn, deceived, slaves of various desires and gratifications, leading a life in malice and envy, detestable, hating one another.
4 Yet when the kindness and fondness for humanity of our Saviour, God, made its advent,
5 not for works which are wrought in righteousness which we do, but according to His mercy, He saves us, through the bath of renascence and renewal of holy spirit,
6 which He pours out on us richly through Jesus Christ, our Saviour,
7 that, being justified in that One's grace, we may be becoming enjoyers, in **expectation**, of the allotment of life eonian.

1 John 3:3, start on v.1

1 Perceive what manner of love the Father has given us, that we may be called children of God! And we are! Therefore the world does not know us, for it did not know Him.
2 Beloved, now are we children of God, and it was not as yet manifested what we shall

be. We are aware that, if He should be manifested, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him according as He is.

3 And everyone who has this **[the] expectation** in Him is purifying himself, according as He is pure.

1 Thess. 5:8

Yet we, being of the day, may be sober, putting on the cuirass of faith and love, and the helmet, **the expectation** of salvation,

2 Thess. 2:16

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, our Father, Who loves us, and is giving us an eonian consolation and a good **expectation** in grace,

17 be consoling your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.

1 Timothy 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, according to the injunction of God, our Saviour, and the Lord Jesus Christ, our **[the] Expectation**,

Acts 23:6

6 Now Paul, knowing that the one party is of Sadducees, yet the other of Pharisees, cries in the Sanhedrin, "Men! Brethren! A Pharisee, son of Pharisees am I. Concerning **the expectation** and resurrection of the dead am I being judged."

24:15

15 having an **expectation** in God, which these themselves also are anticipating, that there shall be a resurrection which is impending for both the just and the unjust.

Acts 28:

20 For this cause, then, I call for you, to see and speak to you. For on account of **the expectation** of Israel this chain is lying about me."

Hebrews 7:19

for the law perfects nothing, yet it is the superinduction of a better **expectation**, through which we are drawing near to God.

Romans 4:

16 Therefore it is of faith that it may accord with grace, for the promise to be confirmed to the entire seed, not to those of the law only, but to those also of the faith of Abraham, who is father of us all,

17 according as it is written that, A father of many nations have I appointed you -- facing which, he believes it of the God Who is vivifying the dead and calling what is not as if it were --

18 who, being beyond **expectation**, believes in **expectation**, for him to become the father of many nations, according to that which has been declared, "Thus shall be your

seed."

19 And, not being infirm in faith, he considers his body, already deadened (being inherently somewhere about a hundred years) and the deadening of the matrix of Sarah,

20 yet the promise of God was not doubted in unbelief, but he was invigorated by faith, giving glory to God,

21 being fully assured also, that, what He has promised, He is able to do also.

Expectation yields confidence:

Genesis 22

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸ Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

Abraham had no scriptures to read, no precedent to follow, no example, no pattern – rather, he became the pattern, the example and precedent for faith in God. He Believed God, and it was counted to Him for righteousness.

Abraham was confident in his expectation that God could and would do what He promised, and that confidence extended even into the direction from God to sacrifice the son God had promised.

Philippians 1:6

6 having this same **confidence**, that He Who undertakes a good work among you, will be performing it until the day of Jesus Christ

Ephesians 3:12

12 in Whom we have boldness and access with **confidence**, through His faith.

Hebrews 6:

11 Now we are yearning for each one of you to be displaying the same diligence toward the assurance of **the expectation** until the consummation,

12 that you may not be becoming dull. Now be imitators of those who through faith and patience are enjoying the allotment of the promises.

13 For God, promising Abraham, since He had no one greater to swear by, swears by Himself,

14 saying, "If, in sooth, it is blessing, I shall be blessing you, and multiplying, I shall be multiplying" you!

15 And thus, being patient, he happened on the promise.

16 For men are swearing by a greater, and to them an oath for confirmation is an end of all contradiction,

17 in which God, intending more superabundantly to exhibit to the enjoyers of the allotment of the promise the immutability of His counsel, interposes with an oath,

18 that by two immutable matters, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have a strong consolation, who are fleeing for refuge to lay hold of **the expectation** lying before us,

19 which we have as an anchor of the soul, both secure and confirmed, and entering into the interior beyond the curtain,

20 where the Forerunner, Jesus, entered for our sakes,

In Greek, "Confidence" is actually the word "Persuading!" It means, "trust, or reliance." Also, the Greek word for Persuade means to have confidence...move to mental compliance. One of its meanings is "to listen to, obey, yield to, comply with."

Romans 8:38

38 For I am **persuaded** that neither death nor life, nor messengers, nor sovereignties, nor the present, nor what is impending, nor powers,

39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Philippians 1:6

3 for we are the circumcision who are offering divine service in the spirit of God, and are glorying in Christ Jesus, and have no **confidence** in flesh.

4 And am I having **confidence** in flesh, also? If any other one is presuming to have confidence in flesh, I rather:

5 in circumcision the eighth day, of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews, in relation to law, a Pharisee,

6 in relation to zeal, persecuting the ecclesia, in relation to the righteousness which is in law, becoming blameless.

7 But things which were gain to me, these I have deemed a forfeit because of Christ.

8 But, to be sure, I am also deeming all to be a forfeit because of the superiority

of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord, because of Whom I forfeited all, and am deeming it to be refuse, that I should be gaining Christ,
9 and may be found in Him, not having my righteousness, which is of law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is from God for faith:

10 to know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, conforming to His death,

11 if somehow I should be attaining to the resurrection that is out from among the dead.

12 Not that I already obtained, or am already perfected. Yet I am pursuing, if I may be grasping also that for which I was grasped also by Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, not as yet am I reckoning myself to have grasped, yet one thing -- forgetting, indeed, those things which are behind, yet stretching out to those in front --

14 toward the goal am I pursuing for the prize of God's calling above in Christ Jesus.