



LESSON 3 // INCREASE YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Big Idea: A vital part of your thinking involves your expectations—what you expect from your relationship with God, yourself, others and life in general. Far more than we often realize, our spiritual life is affected and determined by our expectations.

You need to stop living with low expectations (or no expectations). Instead, live with a mindset of faith that God wants to fill you with *inspiration*, *anticipation* of His promises being fulfilled in your life and *motivation* to live as the healed, victorious, overcoming person He created you to be.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Start Talking:

What are some positive expectations you have for your future? What gives you confidence to believe these expectations can become a reality in your life?

Start Thinking:

Read Judges 6:11-14. How did God change Gideon's thinking and expectations? In what ways does this speak to you about how the Lord can change your expectations?

Read Psalm 119:49. Why is it so important that "God-given inspiration" becomes "personal anticipation" in your life? What role do God's promises play in this process?

Read Judges 6:22-29. Notice that Gideon acted on his faith in God's Word, even though he was still afraid. How does this encourage you to step out in faith and obey God in the face of any fears you may have?

Read John 5:6-9 and James 2:26. What happens when you don't take action based on your faith-based expectations? How can you avoid this problem in your walk with the Lord?

Start Praying:

Pray for courage to act on God's promises to you with faith, expectation and anticipation.

Start Doing:

Identify an expectation or hope you have in your relationship with God, yourself or others that you can turn from anticipation to action.

Take one practical step toward this and believe God to help you move forward in the days ahead.