

The Believer's Choice

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF TODD BAILEY MINISTRIES

Great Expectations

Part One

In just a few days, the New Year will be arriving as well as New Year's resolutions and expectations of new beginnings. When January 1st comes around it signifies a new and fresh start: the beginning of something wonderful and another chance to do better or be better than the year before. At least that is how I perceive January 1st.

A lot of people have different opinions or expectations of what the beginning of a new year represents to them. And it probably looks the total opposite of what I just described to you.

However, as I grow in my Christian faith, I realize that no matter the circumstance or how impossible the situation may seem *we can expect something better in life*. I also realize that some individuals may have everything they have ever desired in life and feel they have no need for anything else. But when life becomes dull and empty, or there is just an accumulation of "stuff" in their lives with no fulfillment attached to it, people will begin to think, "Is this it?" "Is this as good as it going to get?"

I am not down playing efforts and ambitions of people who have made it successful in life. I am simply asking, "If you gain the whole world and lose your soul, what does it profit a man?" To me, there is no truth to the term "making a living" if you don't have Christ involved in your everyday life. You might still be "making a living," but are you living? Don't just live to work or feel you have to work to live. I know we all have to make a wage to support our families and ourselves, but isn't life more than just having a routine day after day after day? Sure, you might have a job that requires you to work 40-50 hours a week and you are expected to show up at 8am and leave (or try to) at 6pm. Beware that you don't let your routine become a rut. The Bible states that, **"This is the day that the Lord hath made and I rejoice and be glad in it."** (Ps 118:24) Every morning that you and I wake up, whether we live in a penthouse apartment in New York City overlooking Central Park or on a park bench in the middle

of winter miles from where our friends and families are, we can still make a choice to rejoice and be glad in it! I

believe if we can make that choice to expect something better and every morning as we awaken, our lives will begin to be change and become more fulfilling. Instead of living in the normal rut of life, we'll awake to the adventure of what God is going to do in our lives that day. We shall get closer in His will, minister His grace to those who need it and be conformed into what a Christian should be - Christ like.

I believe this all begins when we allow hope to grow and abide in our hearts. But what is hope? How do I allow it to grow? What does it mean? For every question we ask ourselves, God has an answer waiting to be revealed.

This past year, I have reacquainted myself with the word hope. I found out that the synonym of hope is 'expect.' The definition of expect is as follows:

- (1) To look forward to.
- (2) To look for as likely to occur or appear. Anticipate. (An inward belief expressed by an outward action.)
- (3) Implies a considerable degree of confidence that an event will happen.
- (4) Suggests a readiness to receive.

Hebrews 11:1 shows us that, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (KJV)

or

Hebrews 11:1 in the Message Bible reads this way, "The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundations under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see."

This reminds me of what someone once said. "Faith is our grip on God, but Grace is God's grip on us." Now, we know the word 'expect' is the synonym of hope. And we have just read two scriptures of how hope has a part to play in our daily faith.

When I studied the word, 'Substance' it means, "foundation which stands under; confident, assurance." In turn, we can say hope is our confident expectation!

Now let's take a closer look at expectation.

If you believe, then you have faith.

If you are in faith, then you are expecting.

If you are expecting, then you are excited!



Todd Bailey

Let's go a little further with our terms, hope and expectation.
Faith means you're being persuaded of something.
If you're persuaded, then, you're trusting in something.
Trusting, in turn, gives you hope.
This means, if you have hope, then you have a *joyful confident expectation!*

With this in mind, let's read a few different translations of **Mark 9:23**.

“Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” (KJV)

“And Jesus said, [You say to Me], If You can do anything? [Why,] all things can be (are possible) to him who believes! (Amplified)

Jesus said, “If? There are no 'ifs' among believers. Anything can happen.” (The Message)

I like that... “Anything can happen!” When you and I get all the 'ifs' out of our lives and become persuaded that what is **“impossible with man, is possible with God.” (Matthew 19:26)**, while **“trusting God with all our heart and leaning not to our understanding and acknowledging him in all our ways, He will direct our lives.” (Proverbs 3:4-6)**

We will then begin to experience the true hope that will cause us to manifest a joyful confident expectation! When the Apostle Paul, penned his letter to the Hebrews, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he encouraged us not to cast away our confidence and to endure.

Hebrews 10:35-39

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

As believers, that is the lifestyle we are to live, consistently holding **“fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised).** Remember, **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).** (Notice it doesn't say faith cometh by *having heard*). To live a lifestyle of expectancy and joyful, confident expectation, we need to continue in our development of our hope and expectation. Let me explain what I mean by 'continuing' development.

Look at James chapter one verse 25:

“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” And in John 8:31-32, scripture says, **“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** Both of these scriptures show us that if we 'continue' in His words then we are going to be blessed and free! The Bible goes on to tell us that God is not a man that He should lie in Numbers 23:19. His Word is Truth.

Therefore, we have all the right in the world to expect and believe God for the best in our lives, **if** we 'continue' in His Word and learn to observe and to do what he tells us (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).

God wants us to expect the best from Him. He gave humanity the best thing that He and Heaven had to offer, Jesus, and He sent Jesus from heaven to earth, to die on a cross, hanging between Heaven and earth so you and I could live a life described in John 10:10 (AMP), **“...in abundance--to the full, till it overflows.”** To receive this life Jesus described in John 10:10, we need to live an obedient lifestyle and walk uprightly before Him. In Psalms 84:11 it states, “No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.”

And how do you walk uprightly? By keeping His commandments. Look at John 15:10-11, **“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”**

So how do all these things I have been sharing with you tie together? We know that **“faith worketh by love” (Galatians 5:6).** And, **“without faith it is impossible to please Him” (Hebrews 11:6).** But what is faith? We just mentioned what it was earlier in this article; In Hebrews 11:1, **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped (expected) for, the evidence of things not seen...”**

Also, earlier we explained how this hope can be described as a “joyful confident expectation.” And God is faithful to make sure our expectation isn't “cut off.”

Proverbs 23:18 “For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.”

Proverbs 24:14, “So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.”

The scriptures demonstrate how God desires for us to live a life full of joy and expectation.

Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

Ephesians 2:11-13, “Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”

(to be continued)

ATTENTION PASTORS:

If you would like to schedule Todd and Wendy for your services, please call toll free 1.888.600.7855

If you have been blessed in one of our meetings and want to share it, please write us or visit us at our website:

www.toddbailey.org

Partners and Ministry Update



Dear Friends, Family, and Partners,

Wendy and I have exciting news! On December 6, 2006, our son, Evan Christian Bailey was born! He looks like his mother and is so precious. We already see the hand of God in our learning to become parents. Evan is a good eater and likes to stay warm.

Wendy's parents, Will and Diane Franklin from the St. Louis, Missouri area, have been here and have been a big help to all three of us. Wendy is taking off work for the next three months. I have scheduled meetings close by or on weekends only for the next several months.

We want to say a BIG **thank you** to everyone who has helped us, prayed for us, and helped us financially! We really have enjoyed all the cards, flowers, and emails that we have received. Wendy and I were talking about how blessed we are to have so many friends in so many places around this world. We see ourselves as being part of one big family.

Again, thank you, and may God richly bless you.

Todd, Wendy and Evan Bailey

Evan Christian Bailey

December 6, 2006

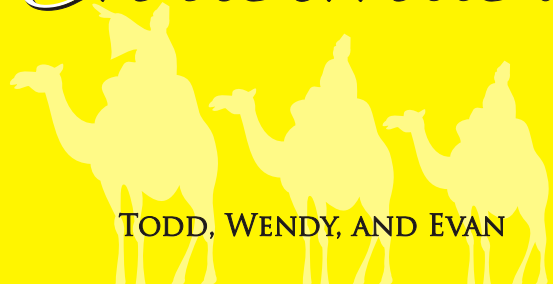
3:36 p.m.

19 3/4" Long

7 Lbs. 13 1/2 Ounces



Merry Christmas!



TODD, WENDY, AND EVAN

Itinerary

NOTE: Dates are subject to change. Please confirm times and locations before traveling long distance.

Check our website: www.toddbailey.org

November 11 (5:00 PM)
Victory Faith Center
Santa Cruz, California
Pastors Dennis and Wendy Cowell

November 12 (1:00 PM), 16
The Triumphant Church
Union City, California
Pastors Mark and Teresa Gonzales

November 14
Friendship Christian Church
Oakland, California
Pastors Gerald and Alesia Agee

November 15
Christian Life Church
San Leandro, California
Pastors David and Sherry Calcagno

November 18 (PM)
New Song Worship & Ministry Center
Flagstaff, Arizona
Pastors Steve and Julie Dohse

November 19 (AM)
Grace Fellowship
Flagstaff, Arizona
Pastors Joe and Becky Weidinger

November 26 (AM)
Word of Faith Family Church
Lander, Wyoming
Pastors Danny and Nancy Bauer

December 3 (AM)
Harvest Time Tabernacle
Cheyenne, Wyoming
Pastors Dan and Kelly Irish

December 6 (3:36PM MST)
Baby Bailey is born!
EVAN CHRISTIAN BAILEY
7 POUNDS 13 ½ OUNCES
19 ¾ INCHES LONG

December 17 (AM)
A Heart of Grace
Loveland, Colorado
Pastors Dee and Cindy Highland

December 25
Merry Christmas 

December 30 (PM)
Laporte Outreach Ministries
Laporte, Colorado
Pastors Dee and Cindy Highland

2007
January 7 (AM)
Victory Christian Fellowship
Rock Springs, Wyoming
Pastors Brian and Delaina Poad

January 10 (Youth Meeting)
First Congregational Church
Eaton, Colorado
Pastors Jerry and Kathy Stark

January 21 (SS 9:30AM/10:30AM)
Christian Faith Outreach
Imperial, Nebraska
Pastors J.R. and Charlesa Kline

January 28 (AM)
Light of the World Family Church
Aurora, Colorado
Pastor Steven and Leslie Pierson

February 4 (AM)
Victory Christian Fellowship
Greeley, Colorado
Pastors Brian and Joslyn Severin

February 11 (SS 10AM/ 11AM)
New Life Christian Center
Eckley, Colorado
Pastors Glen and Tracy Kline

February 18 (AM)
Rocky Mountain Christian Center
Green Mountain Falls, Colorado
Pastors Jerry and Susie Meston

March 18 (AM/PM) *Tentative*
Word of Life Christian Center
Farmington, New Mexico
Pastors George and Barbara Ford

April 1 (AM) *Tentative*
Friendship Christian Church
Oakland, California
Pastors Gerald and Alesia Agee

April 8 (AM)
Joint Easter Service
A Heart of Grace &
Laporte Outreach Center
Loveland, Colorado
Pastors Dee and Cindy Highland

April 15 (AM/PM)
Giving Life Ministries
Henderson, Nevada
Pastors David and Joie Delaria

April 29 (AM/PM)
Elm Grove Assembly of God
Chester, Oklahoma
Pastors Orville and Sherry White

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Editor
Todd & Wendy Bailey
Design &
Production
Lithaprint, Inc., Tulsa

The Believer's Choice does not have a subscription or news stand price and is supported through contributions from readers worldwide.

All gifts to this ministry are tax-deductible.



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Broken Arrow, OK

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