

RAISE YOUR EXPECTATIONS

INTRODUCTION

During our Monday night prayer meeting this week, we had a real visitation of the Lord. He took our focus off the immediate problems that we are praying about, linked to the virus crises and helped us to raise our expectations. We began praying for a greater expectation of what God can do in our lives.

I believe strongly that there is a risk that we get tunnel vision at this time, and fixate only on the crises rather than the fullness of what God wants us to focus on and expect from Him. Yes we must pray for His help and deliverance at this time, but could it be that we need to lift our eyes to Him, placing them firmly above our problems and trusting Him for a fresh move of the Spirit and a greater faith so that we will be prepared for the times that lay ahead.

I believe that there is a revival that has already begun as individuals and churches have been spending more time focusing on God. With the lockdown and the way we have been forced to move away from our own programs and agendas and look to God with complete trust once again, He once again has our full attention and this will result in a fresh move of God.

This means we need to, raise our expectations, ask the Lord for new vision and lift our faith level and I want to share with you what we can and should be expecting God to do in the weeks, months and even years ahead.

MESSAGE

Jeremiah 32:17 (NKJV) 'Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.

Luke 1:37 (NKJV) "For with God nothing will be impossible."

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE OR TOO DIFFICULT FOR GOD

Our God is the creator of heaven on earth. There is nothing in this earth that is impossible for God to do. He is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent. He cannot be defeated, He knows everything and is everywhere.

In **Job 38** as God answers Job He declares this omnipotence. Here are a few extracts from this chapter:

Verse 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?"

Verse 8 -10 "Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb; 9 When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band; 10 When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors; 11 When I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!'

Verse 31-32 Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion? 32 Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs.

Our God is mighty and powerful, the creator of all and beyond compare. He created everything and controls it. He even directs the course of the universe and knows each star and planet by name. He knows no limits. Do you believe this in your heart?

GOD'S SUPERNATURAL HAND IS AT WORK FOR HIS PEOPLE

God has not held back on using His limitless ability on behalf of His people.

- He formed man out of dust and breathed life into him.
- He sealed Noah and his family with the pairs of creatures of the earth in the ark and kept them alive for around a year as the earth flooded and until the water subsided.
- He supernaturally enabled Abraham and Sarah them to have a child when He was 100 and she 90 years old.

Nothing is impossible for our God!

- He freed Israel from Egypt with many plagues, signs and wonders and then He helped them escape by opening a dry path through the Red Sea.
- He gave Israel victory over Jericho by causing the city's walls to crumble as they blew in their trumpets, yet a small section of wall was left undamaged to save Rahab and her family.
- When Joshua fought the Amorites God caused the sun and the moon to stand still.

Nothing is too difficult for our God!

- For the widow of Zarephath, God caused her flour and oil not to dry up until the famine ended.
- God sent a fish to swallow the prophet Jonah and kept him alive for three days until he was vomited out on the shore.
- God closed the mouths of starving lions when Daniel was thrown into the lions' den.
- God kept Shadrach Meshach and Abednego safe in the fiery furnace, so hot that the men that threw them in died as they did it.

God does impossible things to help His people!

We can name account after account in the old testament where God performed amazing, supernatural feats on behalf of His children.

This same God is our God. Nothing has changed, He remains omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent. He is our God and we are

His children. Are you willing to trust Him to move supernaturally on your behalf today?

GOD'S SUPERNATURAL POWER WAS PRESENT IN HIS SON

The New Testament continues revealing that nothing is impossible for God.

It begins with a divine conception! A virgin fell pregnant. Our Saviour came as a result of what seems impossible to man. Once again God performed the impossible on behalf of mankind.

In the life of Christ one seemingly impossible thing after the other took place.

- Jesus began by turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana.
- Thereafter it was miracle after miracle. The blind saw, the sick were healed, the deaf heard, the dumb spoke and those who had died were raised to life.

Nothing was impossible for the man, Jesus Christ!

- He fed 5000 with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. He repeated this miracle by feeding 4000 people with 7 loaves and 2 fish.
- He stood on a boat and cried out, "Peace be still" and the wind died down and the sea became dead calm.
- One night he came walking on the water to the fearful disciples in the boat. Then, Peter walked on water too!

Philippians 2:5-8 (NKJV) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Jesus did all these things when he was fully man. He had left His deity in heaven. **What seems impossible for man is possible with God.**

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

If nothing was impossible for Jesus over 2000 years ago, surely even more so today as he sits at the right hand of our heavenly Father. Are you willing to trust Him for to do the impossible and difficult things you face today?

GOD MOVED SUPERNATURALLY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

The impossible didn't stop taking place at Christ's ascension.

John 14:12 (NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

Here's another blessing of the Ascension – we will do what Jesus did and even greater things.

Some of the seemingly impossible things were done by people in the New Testament Church:

- The blind saw, the sick were healed, the deaf heard, the dumb spoke and those who had died were raised to life.
- The place was literally shaken when they prayed together in unity.
- **Acts 8:3-40** (NKJV) So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.
 - We see teleportation in the movies but it's really impossible...unless God wants to move you!
- **Acts 19:11** (AMPC) And God did unusual and extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,

It appears that just as nothing is impossible or too hard for God, and neither was anything impossible for the man Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, nothing was impossible for the church and the disciples of the New Testament.

Some years ago Brother Andrew was going through a Romanian checkpoint with a car full of Bibles he was smuggling into the communist country. Instead of hiding them he chose to trust God and put some Bibles on the front passenger seat in plain sight. The guard checked his documents and waved him through even though they were dismantling other cars searching for illegal goods.

Our God can, and still does the impossible today!

- ***Is it possible that He wants to do them through you and me?***
- ***If God moved supernaturally for Paul, Phillip and Brother Andrew, , why can we not expect God to do the same with us?***
- ***Do you believe He can use you as His vessel to carry out that which is impossible, spectacular and only possible in the power of His Holy Spirit?***

CONCLUSION

Many of us have been blessed enough to have experienced God's amazing presence and power and incredible healing, moving and provision in our lives.

But when we compare our experience with the events described in the Bible, we have possibly settled for something less than what God has for us?

Today, it's time for us to raise our expectations. God can, and will do what is impossible for us, in us and through us but... we need to stop limiting ourselves to what we think or conceive is possible.

The challenge came in Monday night's prayer meeting, we are moving in a way we have never done before, already achieving what we previously may have thought impossible.

Yesterday Angus Buchan confirmed what I've been saying since the beginning of this lockdown... we've been born for a time such as this. Revival is at hand! Jesus is coming back to fetch a church that is on fire!

I leave you with this scripture: **Mark 11:23** (NKJV) For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

We serve a God who does the impossible and for Whom nothing is too difficult. He can do the impossible for us and through us. All we need raise our expectations. All glory to God our Creator, Redeemer and King!