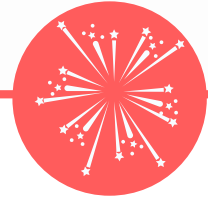


“THE DIFFERENCE EXPECTATION MAKES” SERIES

“THE COST OF NOT EXPECTING”

WEEK 1



SPARKS

- How have past disappointments made you hesitate to try something new, and what did you learn from it?
- Have you ever caught yourself speaking negatively about a situation, even though you wanted a positive outcome?
- Can you think of a time taking a small step of faith led to a good result?



WORD

“2 The officer on whose arm the king was leaning said to the man of God, ‘Look, even if the Lord should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?’

‘You will see it with your own eyes,’ answered Elisha, ‘but you will not eat any of it!’”

2 Kings 7:2

(Read also 2 Kings 7:1-20 for context)

Expectation shapes how we respond to God. When we believe that God can move, we prepare, we step out, and we respond in faith. But when we expect nothing, we often miss what God is already doing. In this series, we will explore how expectation influences our faith,

our decisions, and our experience of God’s promises.

In 2 Kings 7:1–20, the city of Samaria was suffering from a severe famine when God gave an incredible promise: within a day, there would be abundance. While some moved toward the possibility of God’s provision, one official refused to believe it could happen. His lack of expectation kept him from experiencing the very miracle God performed. This passage challenges us to consider the cost of unbelief and reminds us that when we fail to expect God to move, we may miss the blessings He is bringing right in front of us.

This week, we will learn about the cost of not expecting God to move and how unbelief can cause us to miss what He is already doing.

1. WHY IT'S HARD TO EXPECT GOD'S PROMISES.

2 Kings 6:30

*'When the king heard the woman's words, **he tore his robes. As he went along the wall, the people looked, and they saw that, under his robes, he had sackcloth on his body.**'*

Expecting God's promises can be difficult for several reasons. Pain from past disappointments or current suffering can overwhelm us and make it hard to trust that God will act, like the king in 2 Kings 6:30, whose grief over the famine made it hard to trust God's provision. Problems that seem too big can make God's power feel impossible, as seen in 2 Kings 7:2, where the officer doubted God's miraculous provision. Even position, our success, status, or authority can subtly shrink our capacity to believe God for miracles. When pain, problems, or position dominate our thinking, we risk missing the blessings God is ready to provide. What past pain, current problem, or position might be keeping you from fully expecting God to act today?

1

2. HOW UNBELIEF SHOWS UP IN OUR LIVES.

2 Kings 7:2

*'2 The officer on whose arm the king was leaning said to the man of God, **'Look, even if the Lord should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?'** You will see it with your own eyes,' answered Elisha, **'but you will not eat any of it!'**'*

Unbelief doesn't always shout, it often whispers in our hearts through subtle signs. When we limit God's power, we rely on what we can control instead of trusting His plan. When we doubt God's big promises, like the officer in 2 Kings 7:2, we question whether His provision is truly possible. And when we speak against God's provisions, our words reveal the lack of faith we carry inside. These signs show how unbelief can quietly keep us from experiencing God's miracles, even when He is ready to move on our behalf. In what areas of your life might your doubt or words be keeping God's provision from manifesting?

2

3. POSITION YOURSELF TO RECEIVE GOD'S BLESSING.

2 Kings 7:19-20

'The officer had said to the man of God, 'Look, even if the Lord should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?' The man of God had replied, 'You will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of it!' And that is exactly what happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died.'

To experience God's blessings, we must position ourselves to receive them. Expect from God beyond your pain, trust that He is bigger than your problems, and lay down your position of pride. Like the officer in 2 Kings 7:19–20, unbelief and refusal to align with God's Word can cost us the blessings God is ready to provide. By agreeing with God's Word, speaking life over your situation, and prophesying His promises, you step into the blessings He has prepared. When we believe in God's goodness and mercy and act in faith, we position ourselves to experience His provision fully. What step of faith or word of agreement can you take today to position yourself to receive God's blessing?

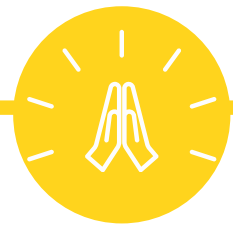
LIVE IT!

- Examine how position, status, or pride may be affecting your ability to expect God's miracles.
- Notice moments when you question God's promises and practice replacing doubt with declarations of faith.
- Speak life over your situation and declare God's promises and goodness out loud.



PRAYER

- Confess any doubts, fears, or discouragement that have kept you from fully trusting Him.
- Ask God to strengthen your faith so your words, thoughts, and actions align with Him.
- Declare that His blessings, goodness, and mercy will follow you all the days of your life.



“THE DIFFERENCE EXPECTATION MAKES” **SERIES**