

# pt.3 - Expect Great Things

Sermon Title: **pt.3 - Expect Great Things**

Sermon Number: **7655**

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C. Elijah Bronner: We are to have a happy anticipation of good things to come in our lives.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is a part three of the message titled, "Expect Great Things," by C. Elijah Bronner. This message is number 7655. That's 7655. Listen to over a thousand free messages on brothersoftheword.com.

(Music Playing)

And now for 7655, "Expect Great Things," part three.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word. We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online in brothersoftheword.com. Thank you for tuning in. Stay tune to today's message. I would like to read just a little humor. A woman walked up to a little old man rocking in a rocking chair on his porch. "I couldn't help noticing how happy you look," she said. "What's your secret for a long happy life?" "I smoke three packs of cigarettes a day," he said. "I also drink a case of whiskey a week. I eat fatty acids, fatty foods, and I never exercise." "That's amazing," the woman said. "How old are you?" "Twenty-six," he replied.

Well, I would look like at a scripture over in the book of Psalms chapter 27. Psalms 27. Psalms 27 verse 13. When you get there say, "Amen." Well let's read it there together in unison, Psalms 27:13. I have fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. I have fainted unless I have believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. And so, we're talking from the subject, "Expect Great Things." This is part three, "Expect Great Things."

I just wanted to kick this new season off that we're in with a level of expectancy for wonderful things, for great things, for good things. We are to have a happy anticipation of good things to come in our lives. And so, we are to expect the very best. So, expect the very best year that you've ever had. Expect the very best year you've ever had.

We've said earlier that Psalms 65:11 says that God crowns the year with goodness. He crowns the year with goodness and richness overflows wherever He is. He crowns the year with goodness. And I've been sort of meditating on what David said

that he would have fainted unless he had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. And so, we can expect great things. We can expect good things. I have actually started meditating on goodness scriptures as a part of my prayer time, and so I spend a great deal of time meditating on God's goodness every day, and I jotted down some of the scriptures that I used.

I use Psalms 84:11 which says, in fact, I'm going to have you to turn there. Look at Psalms 84:11. I love this. I love this scripture. What it says is that God is a sun and shield. Psalms 84:11, "For the Lord God is a sun and shield. The Lord will do grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. So, the Lord God is a sun and a shield. The Lord will give grace, that's favor. God will give present, grace and favor and glory, which is honor. That word has to do with honor. He gives grace, he gives favor, he gives honor, and then it goes on to say no good things. Say no good thing, no good thing will He withhold.

He's not holding back any good thing from us, and so this is a part of the reason we can have such a great expectancy for great things, to see wonderful things each and every day. That's one that I meditate on. I also meditate on -- you don't have to turn there, Psalms 34:10, says that they that seek the Lord shall not want or lack any good thing.

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Those who seek the Lord shall not want or lack any good things. James 1:17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above." Psalms 145:9 says, "The Lord is good to all. The Lord is good to all." Psalms 85:12 says, "The Lord shall give that which is good." Just a list of scriptures I meditate on every day. As I think about God's goodness and as I was doing that, I formed this little prayer that I now say every day when I finish meditating on all the scriptures about God's goodness. Would you all like to hear my little prayer?

I'm sharing with you all my little prayer secrets. I spend -- as I mentioned in some of our earlier services, I spend about 45 minutes every day rehearsing God's word, rehearsing the promises of God in my life, rehearsing his covenant in my life and a part of that I rehearse is His goodness. I rehearse His goodness.

I rehearse his love. I spend a great deal of time rehearsing His love. I spend a great deal of time rehearsing our healing covenant. I spend a great deal of time rehearsing God's goodness. I spend a great deal of time rehearsing our inheritance in Christ. And so those are just some of the major categories that I rehearse.

But here's my little prayer since you all want to hear my little prayer that I pray about God's goodness, and it's simply this. The Holy Spirit sort of prompted this prayer in me and he's been refining the prayer. This is what I begin praying every day after I go through all of the goodness scriptures. I just remind God how good He is. I remind God and I'm also reminding myself; you know, the Bible says in the book of Isaiah, He says put me in remembrance. God, he actually says, put me in remembrance of my word. Put me in remembrance of my promise. Put me in remembrance. He doesn't need us to do it for His sake, but he wants us to do it for our sake. And so I remind God but I'm actually reminding myself about God's goodness every day. And so, if I go through all of these Scriptures every morning then God, he withholds no good thing from me and I lack no good thing.

I eventually get to a point where I pray this little prayer. It is simply this, Father, thank you that you are extraordinarily good to me today. And extraordinarily good things will happen to me today and I will be extraordinarily good to others today. Now, that's my little goodness prayer. I pray that and you have permission to use that. You can borrow that. You can use it. Let me read it again. Father, thank you that you are extraordinarily good to me today. And extraordinarily good things will happen to me today and I will be extraordinarily good to others today.

And so, I set my heart, I set my mind, and so I'm on the lookout every day for God's goodness. I'm on the lookout every day for God's goodness. I'm also on the lookout every day to find ways where I can be extraordinarily good to others. I'm doing both. I'm on the lookout because here is my mindset, as God's goodness pours into my life, I don't want to be a reservoir, I want to be a conduit. So, I'm a conduit of God's goodness to flow it to me, to feel me, and then flow through me. His goodness is so good you can't keep it to yourself. You have to share it with others. You have to share it with others.

And so, God always gives us more than enough to fill us so that we can then share with others. Share it with others. So, He

always gives us everything in abundance so that we can be a blessing. Remember, I said our covenant with God is to be blessed and to be a blessing. That's our covenant. It took me a long time to figure out what our covenant was when I finally found it. I said God, I found it, I see the covenant. This is the covenant you made with us through Abraham and that is that we would be blessed and then be a blessing. That's the covenant. That's the covenant God made.

He wants us blessed and then he wants to make us a blessing. That's what he did for Abraham and that's the covenant that we have with our God. And so that's the little prayer. So, I'm always on the lookout every day for God's goodness coming into my life and I'm also looking out for ways to be extraordinarily good to other people. So, I'm always on the lookout for two different things there. Looking for a coming and I'm also looking for going. Coming and going. Goodness coming and going. Goodness coming and going.

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I was at a grocery store the other day and one of the managers of the store, he asked me, "Sir, would you like me to carry your groceries out to the car for you?" I said, "Certainly. I certainly would." And so, he brought them out to my car and he noticed where I was parked. Well I was parked in the first spot right in front of the store. He said, "How did you get such a good spot?" He said, "You must know somebody." I winked my eyes, I do. See, I'm always on the lookout. God, He's being good to me. I pray that every day that His extraordinary goodness. Lord, You are extraordinarily good to me, extraordinarily good things will happen to me today and I'll be extraordinarily good to others. That's constantly on my radar, constantly on my mind.

Now, how is that we can pray that God is extraordinarily good to us today? How is that we can pray that? Well the answer to that is in Psalms 52:1, it says, "The goodness of God endureth continually." It never stops. The goodness of God endureth continually. The first time I read that, the Holy Spirit whispered to me, he said, 24/7. The goodness of God is in continual operation. It never ceases. Never ceases operation. The goodness of God endureth continually.

So, that's how I can wake up in the morning and I can say, Father, thank you because you are good to me today and I know it because your goodness endures continually. It never stops. While you are asleep, His goodness is still in operation. When you wake up, His goodness is in operation. When you go to work, His goodness is in operation. When you come home, His goodness is in operation. When you go on vacation, His goodness is still in operation. It never takes a vacation. It endures continually. It never stops. God's goodness endures continually.

Now, here's another little confession that I'll give, and the reason I'm giving you all this is because we're talking about expecting great things. One of the premises that I set forth is that as you expect a great year, and as you expect great things, one of the premises that I use is that you should focus on God's promises over your life. You should confess God's promises over your life. You should meditate on God's promises over your life. You should establish your heart. Get them down in your heart God's promises over your life.

I'm just sharing so many of the promises that my heart is established in and that I confess every day. Some of you gave this other little confession. Believe when I tell you, it takes me a full 45 minutes just to go through my full confession, and I don't use any notes, no paper. This comes out of my heart because I've been doing it every day for years, and so it's in my heart. It's ingrained. But I go through all of my covenant, I go through all of my healing, I go through all of God's goodness. I go through all of God's love.

And here's another that I add on, this is something I kind of pieced together. Holy Spirit just let me to piece it together. Turn to your neighbors and say, he pieces it together. I piece it together but it's good, it's good, it's good, it's good armor to put on. It's good armor to put on. I heard Charles Cap say, "When you do this, you're putting up the shield of faith." This is the shield of faith in your life. You literally, when you take God's word, when you meditate on it, get it on your heart and confess it over your life, that is the shield of faith. You're putting up the shield of faith in your life.

Here's another good confession I use every day. It goes like this; Father, thank you for crowning me with love and kindness and tender mercies and favors. That comes from Psalms 103. And then I say, Lord, I thank you for surrounding me with favor as a

shield. That comes from Psalms 5 Verse 12. Then I say, Lord, I thank you that goodness and mercy chase me everywhere I go. That comes from Psalms 23. And then I say, Lord, I thank you that all these blessings come on me and overtake me. That comes from Deuteronomy 28 Verse 2. And then I say, Father, I thank you that the angel of the Lord encamps roundabout me to deliver me, that's actually Psalms 34 Verse 7. But the angel of the Lord encamps roundabout us two-fold, not only to deliver us but he's there also to enforce every word of this covenant and to bring you the pass in your life. He's there as a covenant enforcing agent. How do I know that? Psalms 103 says, "Bless the Lord Ye angels of His who harken to the voice of His words.

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When you give God's word voice, angels listen to it and they go into operation to bring it to pass. Bless the Lord, Ye ministers of His who do His pleasure. And so, angels are actively involved in carrying out God's word and fulfilling it to come into pass. And so, the Bible actually talks about how this covenant was ordained in the hands of angel. It was ordained and immediate in the hands of angels, so they're actively involved in carrying out God's covenant. And so, I always say the angel of the Lord encamps roundabout me to deliver me and to bring the pass into my life all the promises, all the blessing of this covenant that I'm giving voice to out of my life. Praise God, how many know how to keep your angels busy? That will keep your angels busy.

And then finally, the last thing that I say in my prayer time is I thank you that I'm the head and not the tail. Above and not beneath. A lender and not a borrower. All of those are from Deuteronomy Chapter 28 Verse 12 and Verse 13. And so that's my prayer time. Turn to your neighbor and say, that's his prayer time. That's my prayer time. That's my prayer time. Me and God, we have a good time every morning, it's the greatest thing. I'm thinking about a commercial, Folgers, I think. The best thing about waking up is Folgers in your cup. Not true, not true. The best part of waking up is God's word, God's word. Establishing yourself in God's word. Establishing yourself in God's word. That's the best part of waking up.

Praise god. I want to give you some things also since we're expecting great things. I want to give you some things to help you to have a great year, and I have some question I want you to ask

yourself. These are some things to help you to analyze your life. Help you to take inventory of your life. Socrates said that an unexamined life is not worth living, and so we take time around this time of the year to examine our lives. So, here are some questions I want to ask you to ask yourself during this new season. What is it I need to stop doing? What is it I need to stop doing? What is it I need to stop doing?

Well, in case you don't know what you need to stop doing. Our brother, list with me and I'd be happy to share some things. I'd be happy to share some things you need to stop doing. I'm going to read a quick list. Stop making excuses. Stop complaining. Stop talking negatively about other people. Stop losing your temper. Stop worrying. Stop sulking over past hurts. Stop procrastinating. Stop wallowing in guilt. Will Durant said, "Forget past mistakes, forget failures, forget everything except what you're going to do now and do it." Here is question number two. What is it I need to start doing?

Question three, what is it I need to continue doing? Question four, what is it I need to improve that I'm doing. Let me give you quickly, these are five high-quality things to do every day. Five high-quality things to do every day. Number one, spend time with God. This renews you. This fills you with joy, wisdom. Number one, spend time with God. Put God first. Put God first in your life. Number one, put God first in your life. John Maxwell said, he says, "Give God the first part of everyday." He said, "Give God the first day of every week." He said, "Give God the first part of your income and give God the first consideration in every decision." So, put God first in your life. So, number one, spend time with God.

Number two, these are five high-quality things to do every day. Number two, read 20-30 minutes every day. Someone said that life remains the same except for the books you read, the people you meet, the experiences that you have. Life remains the same. Your life will be the same in five years as it is now except for the books you read, the people you meet, the experiences that you have. So, read, make a point to read 20-30 minutes every day. Read some great books, visit some great places, attend some great events. meet some great people. And so, these are some high-quality things to do every day. Also, listen to good audio. You know, most of us have to commute every day, 30 minutes to an hour in your car. Listen to good audio program. Listen to

audiobooks or listen to good inspirational CD. Something that would be positive for you mind and your spirit.

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You can go to Brothers of the Word, Online Word. You can listen to all of our messages. Play something that will be positive. Something that will feed your faith, something that will add value to you. Listen to good audio. There are lots of good podcast, even on YouTube, there are lots of free, absolutely free seminars, self-development seminars, personal development seminars, absolutely hours and hours. I've listened to several hundreds of hours of just free seminars. You can find some of the greats right on YouTube, Brian Tracy, or many of the great minds of our time. Free seminars right on YouTube. Jim Ron and so many others absolutely free of charge. You want to put good input in your life every day. That's a high-quality use of your time every day.

Here's another high-quality use of your time. Number three is to do something toward your dream every day. Do something toward your dream every day. Revive your dream. What is it you're working on this year? What are you working on this year? What you going toward? The German philosopher Goethe, he said, "Whatever you can do or dream, begin it. Boldness has genius power and magic in it. Begin it now." So, do something every day towards your dream. Lou Holtz said, he said, if you're bored with life, if you don't have a burning desire to get up in the morning to do things, your problem is you don't have goals. You don't have a dream. You don't have goals in your life. So, if you're sort of unmotivated and there's nothing exciting. There's nothing that brings you out of bed in the morning. You need to work on your dreams. Work on your goals and so do something every day towards your dream every day, every day.

Here's number four. Five high-quality things to do every day. Number four is make good health choices as far as your diet is concerned. Healthy choices for your diet and exercise. So, you want to make some good health choices every day. As far as your diet and your exercise every day, every day. Make some good choices. Psalms 103 says that he satisfies our mouth with good things. He satisfies our mouth with good things so that our youth is renewed as the eagles.

Now, there are a lot of different interpretations to this scripture. It could be the words that we speak. Of course, that has a part to play. Could it be he satisfies our desires. That has a part to play but I also believe that it refers to literally what goes in your mouth. Which we're eating. He satisfies our mouth. God wants you to put proper fuel, good food, proper nutrition, healthy items in your mouth.

Every time you eat, you either taking in life or you're taking in death, and so you have that decision. Am I going to put life in my body or am I going to put death in my body? And so, He satisfies our mouth with good things. He has been good again. See? We can expect great things because He is even satisfying your mouth with good things. Satisfying your mouth with good things so that your youth is renewed as the eagles. God doesn't want you to wear out and die before your time. He doesn't want you to be sick, broken down, burned out, worn out. He doesn't want you looking old before you get old. And so, he renews our youth as the eagles. He renews our youth as the eagles. So, you want to exercise, do some exercise, some form of exercise every day, make healthy choices for your diet every day.

And number five, these are high-quality value, uses of your time every day. Something to do every day. Number five is invest in vital relationships. Invest in vital relationships. So, invest quality time in vital relationships in your life beginning at home with your close loved ones. Invest vital time, invest value time, show love and appreciation every day for the people in your life. Show love and appreciation. Strengthen the relationships in your life. So those are just five quick tips I wanted to give you to help you to have a great, great year.

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