

## EXPECTING THE BEST

50 Days of Faith  
Rick Warren & Tom Holladay

“According to your faith will it be done to you.” Matthew 9:29

“Faith assures us of things we expect.” Hebrews 11:1 (GW)

### EXPECTING THE BEST is the confident assurance that God is:

- \_\_\_\_\_ of the future and that He plans
- \_\_\_\_\_ for my life because He loves me

“I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I'll advise you and watch over you.” Psalm 32:8 (NLT)

### WHY EXPECT THE BEST?

1 Samuel 17:1-52 (David faces Goliath)

1. IT \_\_\_\_\_  
“This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down . . . and the whole world will know that there is a God!” 1 Samuel 17:46 (NIV)

2. IT \_\_\_\_\_  
“David hurled a stone from his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face downward to the ground.”  
1 Samuel 17:49 (NLT)

3. IT \_\_\_\_\_  
“Then the Israelites gave a great shout of triumph and rushed after the Philistines, chasing them as far as Gath.” 1 Samuel 17:52 (NLT)

### HOW TO EXPECT THE BEST WHEN FACING GIANTS

1. TUNE IN \_\_\_\_\_ EVERY MORNING  
DAVID: “In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.” Psalm 5:3 (NIV)

“Worship God if you want the best; worship opens doors to all his goodness.”  
Psalm 34:9 (MSG)

2. THINK ON \_\_\_\_\_ THROUGHOUT THE DAY  
DAVID: “Though the wicked hide along the way to kill me, I will quietly keep my mind upon your promises.” Psalm 119:95 (TLB)

DAVID: “I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart.”  
Psalm 119:11 (MSG)

“You'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly.” Philippians 4:8 (MSG)

“Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps His Word.” Hebrews 10:23 (MSG)

3. TRUST IN \_\_\_\_\_ WHEN THINGS LOOK BAD  
DAVID: “O my soul, don't be discouraged. Don't be upset. Expect God to act! For I know that I shall again have plenty of reason to praise him for all that he will do.” Psalm 42:11 (TLB)

“While we were children, our parents did what seemed best to them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God's holy best.”  
Hebrews 12:10 (MSG)

“I'll get you out of any trouble. I'll give you the best of care if you'll only get to know and trust me.” Psalm 91:14 (MSG)

4. TALK WITH \_\_\_\_\_  
“I'm a friend and companion of those committed to living by your rules.”  
Psalm 119:63 (MSG)

“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together . . . Instead, let us encourage one another.” Hebrews 10:25 (GNT)

“Keep company with God, get in on the best.” Psalm 37:4 (MSG)

### Next Step

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## STRETCHING MY IMAGINATION

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*"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)*

*"With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine." Ephesians 3:20 (NCV)*

### IMAGINE HOW GOD CAN USE YOU

Joshua 1:1-11

#### 1. LET GO

*"Anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea, blown up and down by the wind . . . They should not think they will receive anything from the Lord."*

James 1:6-7 (NCV)

*"Be bold and strong! Banish fear and doubt! For remember, the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 (TLB)*

#### What causes us to doubt?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. LOOK FOR

*"I promised Moses I would give you this land, so I will give you every place you go in the land." Joshua 1:3 (NCV)*

*"Now my time has come to die. Every one of you knows . . . that God has given you all the good things that He promised. Every promise He made has been kept; not one has failed." Joshua 23:14 (GNT)*

#### 3 Promises to Those Who Live for God

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Joshua 1:5)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Joshua 1:7)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (Joshua 1:9)

*"Always remember what is written in this Book . . . Study it day and night to be sure to obey everything that is written there. If you do this, you will be wise and successful in everything." Joshua 1:8 (NCV)*

#### 3. LEAN ON

*"No one will be able to defeat you all your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forget you." Joshua 1:5 (NCV)*

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him. And He will make your paths straight."*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB)

#### 4. LAUNCH OUT

*"Then Joshua issued instructions to the leaders to tell the people to get ready to cross the Jordan River." Joshua 1:10-11 (TLB)*

*"If you wait for perfect conditions, you'll never get anything done!"*

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (TLB)

*"God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, His Spirit deeply and gently within us."*

Ephesians 3:20 (MSG)

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## TAKING THE INITIATIVE

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“God gives a fresh start to those ready to quit.” Psalm 145:14 (MSG)

### HOW TO MAKE A FRESH START WITH FAITH

Mark 10:46-52

#### 1. SEIZE

“As Jesus . . . left town, a great crowd was following. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus was sitting beside the road as Jesus was going by. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was nearby, he began to shout, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Mark 10:46-47 (NLT)

“Jesus said, ‘No procrastination! No backward looks. You can’t put off God’s kingdom till tomorrow. Seize the day!’” Luke 9:62 (MSG)

#### 2. TAME

“Many of the people scolded him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even more loudly, ‘Have mercy on me!’” Mark 10:48 (GNT)

“The fear of human opinion disables you: trusting in God protects you from that.” Proverbs 29:25 (MSG)

#### 3. ANNOUNCE

“Jesus asked him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ The blind man answered, ‘Teacher, I want to see.’” Mark 10:51 (NCV)

“You ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’” James 4:15 (NIV)

“Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe—Christ’s life, the fulfillment of God’s original promise.” Galatians 3:27 (MSG)

#### 4. RECEIVE

“Jesus said to him, ‘Go your way: your faith has made you well.’ And immediately he regained his sight.” Mark 10:52 (NASB)

“From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another.” John 1:16 (NIV)

“That’s why faith is the key! God’s promise is given to us as a free gift.” Romans 4:16 (NLT)

#### 5. TAKE

“He regained his sight and began following Jesus on the road.” Mark 10:52 (NASB)

“If people say they have faith, but do nothing, their faith is worth nothing.” James 2:14 (NCV)

“Everything that we have—right thinking, right living, a clean slate, and a fresh start—comes from God by way of Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 1:30 (MSG)

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## PERSISTING IN FAITH

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*"We have around us many people whose lives tell us what faith means. So let us run the race that is before us and never give up." Hebrews 12:1 (NCV)*

### HOW TO FINISH WHAT YOUR START

. . . when you feel like giving up

#### 1. REMOVE \_\_\_\_\_

*"Let us run the race that is before us and never give up. We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way and the sin that so easily holds us back." Hebrews 12:1 (NCV)*

*"Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race." Philipians 3:13-14 (TLB)*

#### 2. REMEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

*"To win the contest you must deny yourselves many things that would keep you from doing your best . . . but we do it for a heavenly reward that never disappears. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step."*

1 Corinthians 9:25-26 (TLB)

*"Don't drag your feet. Be like those who stay the course with committed faith and then get everything promised to them." Hebrews 6:12 (MSG)*

#### 3. RESIST \_\_\_\_\_

*"Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up." Galatians 6:9 (TLB)*

*"Lord, when doubts fill my mind, when my heart is in turmoil, quiet me and give me renewed hope and cheer." Psalm 94:19 (TLB)*

*"God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in His grace until His task within you is finally finished." Philipians 1:6 (TLB)*

### WHERE DO YOU NEED TO BE MORE PERSISTENT?

- Daily Time with God
- Praying for family / marriage / small group
- Sharing my faith with friends who don't know Jesus
- Tithing / BFL commitment
- Exercise / Diet
- Controlling my anger/ words/ thought life
- Trusting God with my pain / problems

#### 4. RENEW \_\_\_\_\_

*"God wants His loved ones to get their proper rest." Psalm 127:2 (TLB)*

*"This why we never give up . . . our spirits are being renewed every day." 2 Corinthians 4:16 (NLT)*

*"Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross!" Hebrews 12:2 (GNT)*

*"I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)*

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## GOD'S WAY OF MEETING MY NEEDS

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2 Corinthians 9:6-13

*"My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus."* Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

**I. WHEN YOU HAVE A NEED,** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."* 2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

God: *"My ways are not your ways"*. Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)

**MAN'S WAY: Borrow! Work more! Beg or steal!**

**GOD'S WAY:** \_\_\_\_\_ !

*"Give to others, and God will give to you . . . The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you."* Luke 6:38 (GNT)

**II. GIVE WITH THE** \_\_\_\_\_

*"You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully."*  
2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

### HOW WE ARE TO GIVE:

- \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Make up your own mind."*
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Not reluctantly."*
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Not in response to pressure."*
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*"God loves the person who gives cheerfully."*
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*"On every Lord's Day put aside some from what you have earned during the week, and use it for the offering."* 1 Corinthians 16:2 (TLB)

## HOW CAN I GIVE CHEERFULLY?

**1. REMEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"God gives seed to the farmer and food to those who need to eat. God will also give you seed and multiply it."* 2 Corinthians 9:10 (GW)

**2. REMEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"You will be enriched so that you can give even more generously!"*  
2 Corinthians 9:11 (NLT)

**3. REMEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Use your worldly resources to benefit others . . . In this way, your generosity stores up a reward for you in heaven."* Luke 16:9 (NLT)

**III. EXPECT GOD TO MEET** \_\_\_\_\_

*"God is able to make ALL grace abound to you, so that in ALL things at ALL times, having ALL that you need, you will abound in EVERY good work."*  
2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)

## WHY IS MY GIVING SO IMPORTANT TO GOD?

*"It is a proof of your faith! People will praise God because you obey the gospel you say you believe and because you freely share with them and others."*  
2 Corinthians 9:13 (NCV)

*"Bring your whole tithe into the storehouse . . . Test me in this, says the Lord, and see if I will not throw open floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have enough room for it!"* Malachi 3:8-11 (NIV)

*"Remember the generosity of Jesus Christ."* 2 Corinthians 8:9 (PHILLIPS)

*"We are saved because Jesus amazingly and out of sheer generosity moved to save us."* Acts 15:11 (MSG)

*"We all live off his generous bounty, gift after gift after gift."* John 1:16 (MSG)

*"Offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him . . . When you think of what He's done for you, is this too much to ask?"* Romans 12:1 (NCV/TLB)

## FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTIONS

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"Follow all the directions the Lord has given you. Then life will go well for you."  
Deuteronomy 5:33 (GW)

### WHAT GOD PROMISES IF WE OBEY HIM

"God blesses those who obey Him." Proverbs 16:20 (TLB)

"God saves those who obey Him." Psalm 7:10 (GNT)

"The Lord watches over those who obey Him." Psalm 33:18 (GNT)

"The Lord takes care of those who obey him." Psalm 37:18 (GNT)

"You help all those who obey You." Psalm 7:9 (NLT)

"God gives us what we ask for because we obey His commands."  
1 John 3:22 (NCV)

"Always obey the Lord and you will be happy." Proverbs 28:14 (GNT)

"Keep God's laws and you will live longer." Proverbs 19:16 (GNT)

"Those who obey the Lord lack nothing good." Psalm 34:10 (GNT)

"Those who obey Him have all they need." Psalm 34:9 (GNT)

### YOU WILL . . .

"Live in perfect freedom." Psalm 119:45 (GNT)

"Have greater wisdom." Psalm 119:100 (GNT)

"Dwell in security and peace." Proverbs 1:33 (NAB)

"Be prosperous and successful." Joshua 1:8 (GNT)

"Be great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:19 (NCV)

"Be rewarded." Proverbs 13:13 (NCV)

### OTHER PROMISES

Proverbs 19:23 (GNT); Proverbs 10:27 (GNT); Psalm 25:14 (GNT); Psalm 128:1 (GNT); Psalm 106:3 (GNT); Luke 11:28 (NIV); Psalm 111:10 (NLT); John 15:7 (TLB)

## HOW TO RECEIVE GOD'S PROMISES

### 1. OBEY GOD

"I will quickly obey Your commands." Psalm 119:32 (NCV)

"Without delay I hurry to obey Your commands." Psalm 119:60 (GNT)

### 2. OBEY GOD

"Lord, You gave Your orders to be obeyed completely." Psalm 119:4 (NCV)

"Your job is not to decide whether God's law is right or wrong, but to obey it."  
James 4:11 (TLB)

"Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own." Proverbs 3:5 (MSG)

### 3. OBEY GOD

"Obey Him gladly." Psalm 100:2 (TLB)

"I enjoy obeying Your commands." Psalm 119:16 (NCV)

"I find pleasure in obeying Your commands." Psalm 119:47 (GNT)

"Loving God means doing what He tells us to do." 1 John 5:3 (TLB)

### 4. OBEY GOD

"I am determined to obey You until I die." Psalm 119:112 (TLB)

"Just tell me what to do and I will do it, Lord. As long as I live I'll wholeheartedly obey." Psalm 119:33 (TLB)

"We must be sure to obey the truth we have learned already."  
Philippians 3:16 (NLT)

"Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to me as 'Lord,' but they still won't enter heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey My Father." Matthew 7:21 (NLT)

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## HOW TO KEEP ON BELIEVING

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*“God does everything just right and on time, but people can never completely understand what He is doing.” Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NCV)*

### HOW TO KEEP ON BELIEVING WHILE YOU'RE WAITING ON GOD

Romans 4:17-20

#### 1. UNDERSTAND THE SIX PHASES OF FAITH

**PHASE 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Age 75)  
*(God) “I will make you into a great nation.” Genesis 12:1-3*

**PHASE 2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*“So Abraham left as the Lord had told him to.” Genesis 12:4*

**PHASE 3:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Age 86)  
*“But Sarah still had not borne any children.” Genesis 16:1*

**PHASE 4:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Age 99)  
*“How can a son be born to a man my age?” Genesis 17-18*

**PHASE 5:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*“Take your only son, whom you love, and sacrifice him.”  
Genesis 21:1-6, 22:1-12*

**PHASE 6:** \_\_\_\_\_ !  
*(God) “Don't hurt the boy . . . I've provided a lamb.” Genesis 22:12-14*

**2. REMEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_ !  
*“Abraham believed in God who gives life to the dead and who creates something out of nothing.” Romans 4:17 (NCV)*

*“What is impossible with men is possible with God.” Luke 18:27 (NIV)*

**3. RELY ON** \_\_\_\_\_  
*“When hope was dead within him, Abraham went on hoping in faith . . . He relied on the word of God.” Romans 4:18 (PHILLIPS)*

*“While God was testing him, Abraham still trusted in God and his promises, so he offered his son Isaac.” Hebrews 11:17 (TLB)*

*“Though it seemed Abraham's hope could not be fulfilled . . . he did become the father of many nations, exactly as God had promised.” Romans 4:18 (JB)*

**4. RECOGNIZE** \_\_\_\_\_  
*“Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead . . . and Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he didn't waver with unbelief.”  
Romans 4:19-20 (NIV)*

*“Through faith he regarded the facts.” Romans 4:19 (GW)*

**5. REJOICE** \_\_\_\_\_  
*“Abraham never doubted. He believed God, for his faith and trust grew ever stronger, and he praised God for this blessing even before it happened. He was completely sure that God was well able to do anything He promised.”  
Romans 4:20-21 (TLB)*

*“Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.”  
Romans 12:12 (GNT)*

### 3 KINDS OF DELIVERANCE

(1) Circumstantial (2) Personal (3) Ultimate (Heaven)

*“We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:2 (NIV)*

*“I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith.” Philemon 1:6 (NIV)*

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