

## **Transformation**

**(Part 3)**

### **Expectation about Walking By Faith**

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# Expectations about the Walk of Faith

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## Introduction

What you will find as your walk by faith is that, you will have expectations about what it should look like. We will have realistic and unrealistic expectations. We are going to look at seven of the most common unrealistic expectations that I run into. I will contrast unrealistic expectations with the truth. I will then finish by sharing some final truths about the walk of faith.

### Expectation #1

*You Will Consistently Make the Choice to Walk By Faith in God.*

Unrealistic expectation: You will consistently choose to walk by faith in God.

The Truth: Early on in your walk of faith, you will choose many times to go back to yourself (the flesh) as the source to try to deal with your problems, to find solutions, and to make your life work. However, as you continue to walk by faith, you will find yourself going back to the flesh less and less.

### **REMEMBER:**

*The truth is that you will turn back to self (the flesh) as the source  
MANY times.*

*But remember that in the NEXT MOMENT you can repent of your  
flesh and **turn back to God as your Source.***

### Engaging God:

If you have been seeking God to transform an area of your life, have you discovered how easy it is to turn away from God and turn back to the flesh? If so, ask God to continue give you a willingness to walk by faith.

### Expectation #2

*Failure Is NOT An Option!*

“Therefore there is now **no condemnation** for those who are **in Christ Jesus**” *Romans 8:1*

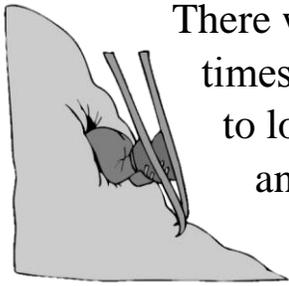
Unrealistic expectation:

I cannot afford to fail in my walk of faith. If I do, I will condemn myself for failing and believe that I am a failure.

The Truth: (Realistic expectation):

You will fail many times in your walk of faith. However, this does not make you a failure or give you permission to condemn yourself. You are no longer under condemnation. (Romans 8:1)

**The Truth:**  
God Expects you to fail!



There were many great saints in the Bible who failed many times, but God used them in mighty ways. We don't have to look any further than David to understand that we can and will fail many times along the way. However, what did God say about David? He was a man after God's own heart. Therefore, expect to fail often. (I simply define failure as turning back to self as the source.) You see, God expects you to fail because He is well aware of your unbelief, the strength of your flesh, the power of sin, and the power of Satan in your life.

Another key point to remember is that God does not see what you call a failure as a failure. He sees you turning back to the flesh as an “opportunity” to show you the death of your flesh and your need to come back to Him. I hope that when you fail, you will hear the Lord's voice saying:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” *Matthew 11:28*

***Key Truth:***

*It does not matter how many times that you fail. It will happen.  
However, God will use your failures as an OPPORTUNITY to show  
you the death OF your flesh and your NEED to depend on Him  
moment by moment.*

**Remember**

Failure is not falling or sinning. Failure is the refusal to get up

**Meditate:** on the truth that God does not see you as a failure when you turn back to the flesh.

**Engaging God:** If you struggle with feeling like a failure in your walk of faith, seek God to persuade you that it is not a failure. Rather it is an opportunity to see the death of your flesh and to turn back to God.

**Expectation #3**

You Will Feel Or Experience Transformation

“**For we walk by faith not by sight.**” 2 Corinthians 5:7

**Unrealistic expectation:** As you take steps of faith or walk in faith, you will **feel** or **experience** God working in your life.

The Truth (Realistic expectation): For the most part in your walk of faith, you will NOT feel or experience God’s process of transforming your life until you experience the results of that process (i.e. freedom, victory, healing, etc.). You will be “faithing” it more than you will experience or feel it.

I know that we talked about this earlier, but because this expectation is such a major struggle in the walk of faith, I want to discuss it a little further. It is a stumbling block because we feel or experience life every moment through our human senses. However, when it comes to living by faith, we may not feel or experience God working in our lives.

As human beings we feel and experience all of life. However, when it comes to faith, we may NOT feel or experience God's transforming work.

**Engaging God:** When you are feeling doubt or discouragement in your faith walk, seek God to remind you that it is a process. Ask Him to move you to a place of greater belief that He is working even though you may not feel or experience His work.

### Expectation #4

#### God's Timetable Versus Your Timetable

“There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1



#### Unrealistic expectation:

When I begin the walk of faith God will meet my timetable for the changes I desire in life.

#### The Truth:

God has a perfect timetable for His will to be accomplished in your life (and He is not telling you what that timetable is).

### The Key Truth is

#### **Remember**

*Even though you have not experienced the change, God is working every moment you are walking by faith.*

#### Some Reasons Why Change May Come More Slowly In Some Areas Than Others

- Your lying beliefs are deep-rooted because of the years of believing those lies.

- **Your strongholds**, addictions, etc. have a strong grip on you because of the length of time that they have held you in bondage.
- **The depth of your wounds** and the length of time that you have lived with your wounds **may result in a slower healing process**.
- Some areas of your flesh are stronger and more resistant to God's work than others are.
- Your **unbelief, doubt, and fears** can cause you to resist and delay God's transforming work in your life.

**I believe when it comes to faith that the key question is this:**

*“How long can you continue to trust God WITHOUT experiencing change in your life?”*

### Remember

Faith is believing that God is working even though there is no visible or experiential evidence of that work in our lives.

Faith is the key thing that God is teaching you as you wait on Him.

### Expectation #5

There Will Be No Pain Or Suffering.

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the **painful trial you are suffering**, as though something strange were happening to you. But **rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ**, so that you may be **overjoyed when his glory is revealed.**” **1 Peter 4:12, 13**

### Unrealistic expectation:

If I do my part in walking by faith, God will prevent pain, suffering, and conflict in my life.



### The Truth:

There will be pain, suffering, or conflict, **BUT God will supply your needs** when those **times arise** in your life and

will reveal to you in His timing the “divine good” that He is working through your suffering.

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

### “DIVINE GOOD”

God will use every bit of your pain and suffering to draw you into a GREATER DEPENDENCE on Him, to TRANSFORM your life, and to REVEAL to you what His grace and mercy looks like during your times of suffering.

#### Expectation #6

You Will Figure Out What God Is Doing In The Transformation Process

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways. And My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8, 9

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11



#### Unrealistic Expectation:

I will understand WHY and WHAT God is doing in my life.

#### The Truth:

Many times you will not understand why God is doing what He is doing in your life. Ultimately, what God is about is to fulfill our spiritual destiny of being transformed into Christ-likeness. God will determine if you need to know why or what He is doing or not doing in your life. He always has a purpose in telling you OR not telling you what He is doing.

We see that Paul was perplexed about why and what God was doing:  
“**Afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed but not despairing.**” 2 Corinthians 4:8

*You can REST in your perplexity because  
God knows exactly why and what He is doing and He IS in control.*

### **Expectation #7**

*We Will Arrive At A Place Where The INTERNAL Struggle Will Be Over.*

Unrealistic expectation:

I will arrive at a point in my walk of faith where there will be no more internal struggles.

The Truth:



There will be an ongoing internal struggle until you come face to face with Jesus. However, Christ in you has overcome all the internal and external struggles that you will ever face. As you walk by faith in God, you will experience more victory, more freedom, and more transformation through your internal and external struggles.

*God will bring you to several places along the way where you will experience an INEXPRESSIBLE JOY (1 Peter 1:8) and a PEACE that passes ALL understanding. (Philippians 4:7)*

## **TRUTHS CONCERNING THE WALK OF FAITH**

### **Truth #1**

*God Is In The Process of PERSUADING You.*

“**And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform.**” Romans 4:21

During your walk of faith God is in a life-long process of persuading you of:

- His eternal desire to transform your life and to have an intimate relationship with you. (Ephesians 1:5)
- His ability to transform your life. (Ephesians 3:20)
- His willingness to change the way you think, choose, believe, and behave.
- (Philippians 1:6)
- The truth that He is in control. He knows what He is doing, He is for you, and His plans will be accomplished. (Job 42:2)
- All things will work together for your good. (Romans 8:28)
- His love for you is unfailing. (Psalm 36:5)

If you take enough steps of faith, God WILL persuade you that He is Who He says He is and that He will do what He promises to do in your life.

**Truth #2 -**

**Your Transformation Is A Lifelong SURGICAL Procedure.**

“For we who **live** are constantly being **delivered** over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the **life of Jesus** also may be **manifested** in our mortal flesh.” 2 Corinthians 4:11

God’s divine surgery is OFTEN without anesthesia.  
However, STAY on the surgical table and let God work.



The minute that you trusted Christ, God began a lifelong surgical procedure of transforming your life. He is in the process of moving you away from living from your flesh, your lying beliefs, and your fleshly behaviors. However, there is no anesthesia for the pain associated with this process. At different points along this surgery you will want to (and you will) jump off the surgical table and go back to the flesh. However, God loves you enough that He will constantly be drawing you back to Himself for continued surgery.

The Holy Spirit knows the exact path of your surgical process. As the divine surgeon, He understands what needs to occur next in your transformation process. As you continue your walk of faith, you will find yourself more and more staying on the table because you are experiencing the freedom, victory, and healing that He promises. You will also be persuaded more and more that God knows what He is doing and that all of what He is doing is driven by His love for you.

**Engaging God:** What spiritual surgery are you going through today that would cause you to jump off the surgical table? Ask God to give you the willingness to stay on the table so that He can complete the surgery in this area.

### **Truth #3**

**The Tendency Will Be To MEASURE Your Progress. Don't!**

I am afraid that we don't know what an ingrained "performance" mindset we all have. By that I mean that in many areas of our lives we tend to measure or compare ourselves against some standard or someone else. In your walk of faith, you will be tempted to measure your progress and to compare your spiritual walk with that of others. Please don't do that. The reason is twofold:

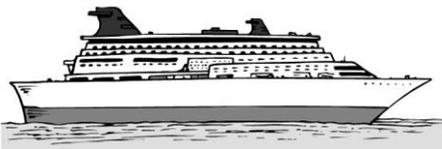
1. You can't really measure your spiritual progress. Only God can.

2. Each person's journey is unique to them. Therefore, you have no basis for comparing your journey with theirs.

Unfortunately, early on you most likely will give in to the temptation to start measuring and comparing your faith walk. The result will be that you will either go into self-condemnation if you are not progressing according to your timetable or else you will experience self-commendation

(i.e. pride) if you think that you are progressing faster than others. You will soon figure out that measuring and comparing will only take you back to the fleshly pigpens of condemnation or pride. Therefore, put down your "spiritual" tape measure and enjoy the journey.

Even though you will not be able to measure your progress, think about your spiritual journey like being on a cruise ship. If you are on a cruise ship that is leaving the dock, and you are at the front of the ship, you cannot tell how far that you have traveled. However, if you get at the back of the ship, you will see clearly how far away from the dock you have come. Therefore, as you walk by faith, look back to where you started, and you will begin to see how far you have traveled down the path of transformation. You will be amazed how quickly God moves you away from the dock.



#### **Truth #4 –**

**As You Continue To Walk By Faith Then You Will Have SPIRITUAL Eyes To See What God Is About In Your Life**

“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.” Colossians 3:2

“because we are not looking at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen. For what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:18



As you continue to walk by faith you will have spiritual eyes to see that:

- God truly is sovereign and really is in control of your situation.
- God has known about the problem that you are facing for an eternity and has a solution.
- There is a divine good purpose that God is about in the midst of pain and suffering.
- God will never leave you nor forsake you in the midst of your struggle. He is always there comforting you, encouraging you and exhorting you to keep walking by faith.
- God really is for you and that you will understand that all that God allows or causes is out of His love for you.

God will give you EYES to see what the natural EYES is blinded to

**Truth #5 –**

*You Can't Connect A Step of Faith To Experiencing Transformation Tomorrow*

We live in a CAUSE and EFFECT world but when it comes to spiritual transformation we will, for the most part, not experience transformation the moment we take a step of faith. We take steps of faith today and will experience transformation sometime in the future.

**Truth #6 -**

*God Is Building Christ-Confidence As We Walk By Faith.*

“And such confidence we have through Christ toward God.” 2  
Corinthians 3:4

### **THE CHALLENGE:**

To take enough steps of faith to experience SUPERNATURAL changes in order to build your CHRIST-CONFIDENCE in God’s ability and His desire to transform your life.

#### **Truth #7 –**

*As You Walk By Faith You Will Be Tempted To:*

- Doubt God’s ability and willingness to transform your life.
- Get frustrated and angry with God because He is not moving fast enough.
- Condemn yourself because of your failures in your walk of faith.
- Give up on God.