

RESET 4 – Reset Expectations (Haggai 2:10-19)

The STORYLINE: The people had responded to God's CHALLENGE and gone back to WORK, but outwardly nothing much had CHANGED ... There was little visible EVIDENCE that God's BLESSING had RETURNED.

The ROOT CAUSE: Your SIN has affected EVERYTHING.

The 'BUT' (v19): The blessing had been DECLARED before the blessing could be SEEN.

Now their expectation had to CHANGE: No longer LIMITED by what they could SEE, but RESET by what God had SAID.

What had caused their expectation to shrink? (Think the last 100 years, as well as the last few months)

Why do you think God declared, 'From this day on I will bless you,' before they could see any evidence of the blessing?

What is the stronger influence on your personal level of expectation: What you can see or what God has said ... and why?

What SETS your EXPECTATIONS?

i) EXPERIENCE: I expect it to be like it was LAST TIME.

ii) PREFERENCE: I expect it to happen the way I NATURALLY LIKE it.

iii) FAMILIARITY: I expect it to stay the way it's ALWAYS BEEN.

iv) WORLDVIEW: I expect only what I BELIEVE is POSSIBLE.

v) GOD'S PROMISES: I expect God to do what He HAS SAID He will do (Matt 16:18, 28:20, John 14:12,13, Acts 1:8)

Which of these do you think most influences your expectations of God?

Who or what, in reality, is currently 'disciplining' your expectations?

Can you think of a practical example for each of cases i)–iv) that might threaten or reduce one's expectation?

What have you STOPPED expecting God to do?

1. What have you stopped expecting God to do IN YOU?

Many Christians have quietly SETTLED.

- * Have you stopped expecting VICTORY over that habitual sin?
- * Have you stopped expecting God to MATURE that feisty character flaw?
- * Have you stopped expecting to HEAR His voice?
- * In essence, have you accepted as PERMANENT what God is STILL working on?

Don't allow FAILURE, DISAPPOINTMENT, UNBELIEF to LIMIT your expectations of what God can do IN YOU.

Where are you most tempted to settle spiritually: Growing in Christlikeness, victory over a recurring sin, hearing God's voice, becoming more courageous in faith or, indeed, something else?

Why do failure, disappointment or unbelief potentially limit your expectations of what God can do in your life?

2. What have you stopped expecting God to do THROUGH YOU?

- * Haggai's prophecy wasn't addressed to the ELITE. God loves to use ORDINARY people to do EXTRAORDINARY things.
- * The expectation shift: Not, 'Lord just get me THROUGH the day,' but, Lord, USE me today.'
- * Our expectations will never rise above our VIEW of God.
- * The Danger: We make our God TOO SMALL.
- * We forget what God has DONE ... We forget what God has SAID ... We forget what God has PROMISED.

How do you practically expect God to use you on a day-to-day basis?

What limits have your learnt expectations set on God using you?

How do you normally begin your day? Is it more like: 'Lord, just get me through today.' Or is it, 'Lord, use me today.'

What practical difference might that change in mindset make this week?

3. What have you stopped expecting God to do AMONG US?

- * What do we actually EXPECT to HAPPEN when we gather or have we quietly become content with 'ANOTHER SUNDAY?'
- * The Danger: We fall into a RUT, which can lead to MAINTENANCE, DECLINE, IRRELEVANCE.
- * The Biblical Expectation (Ps 127:1, Matt 16:18, Eph 3:20-21)
- * Building the church is GOD'S job and we want it built IN HIS IMAGE.
- * The Danger: In our unbelief, limited thinking, fear of change, we allow our expectation of God to diminish until church becomes 'the best WE CAN DO' & ceases to be 'ALL HE CAN DO.'

The warning is against allowing church to become merely 'the best we can do,' instead of 'all God can do.' As a church, what do you believe God wants us to keep expecting?

Where do you sense God may be stretching our expectations as we prepare for the next season together?

PRAYER TIME: Spend time praying for one another, asking God to renew your faith in His promises ... increase your expectation of what He can do in you, through you & among us ... help you trust His Word, even when 'the seed is still in the barn.'