



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“The Law of Expectation”

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The “Law of Expectation” means that we get what we expect. Our Lord Jesus Christ said to pray and believe, and it will be given to us (Mk. 11:24). However, we sometimes don’t have enough faith in what we have prayed for. Our prayer must be joined with our faith, as Jesus said in Matt. 9:29, “Let it be done unto you according to your faith.” Therefore, as children of God, we must pray in faith and trust in the Lord for His divine providence.

1. How do we grow our faith in God? Faith comes from hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17), and it is through the Word that we will know God deeply. Moreover, our faith needs to grow and this can be achieved through testing. Testing develops perseverance and we become mature and complete Christians (James 1:3). Moreover, our Christian faith must undergo a series of tests to perfect it. God loves us and He wants us to trust Him. We expect different tests every moment of every day, and each one is an opportunity for our growth. We must strive to succeed in every test that God allows.

2. How does God test and build our faith?

- God tests our faith through difficulties. Our trials in life give praise and honor to Him (1 Pet. 6-7). Furthermore, God will make it beautiful for us according to His time; we should always remember that God is honored with every trial that we overcome.
- God’s tests may come from unexpected sources. God permits our tests; therefore, they are not accidents. Our problems are custom-made for our growth.
- God uses all kinds of things to test our Faith. Our tests come in many forms and situations, and even the feeling of God’s absence is a test of our faith.

3. God’s test is a like a refiner’s fire (1 Pet. 1:6-7). In the eyes of God, we are like gold with impurities. Trials act like a furnace that purifies gold to make it pure. He watches us closely in the process like a cautious goldsmith as the impurities are burned away. God continuously removes our impurities through testing until He sees His image in us and then His glory in us prevails.

4. God’s tests have to be accepted with rejoicing. As Christians, we must rejoice when trials come (Phil. 4:4). Our natural response to trials is to become upset and depressed; but with God’s Word, we know that they are for our good. We must continually praise God because He is watching us. We are not praising specifically the trials; rather, we are grateful for the opportunity to increase our faith in Him.

Conclusion:

Our prayers must be coupled with great faith that God listens to our prayers. We must exercise our faith as much as possible in every situation we face. God built our life of faith not on the easy times but on the difficult times. When we lift our expectations to Him in prayer, they will surely come as long as our faith is placed in God entirely.

Reflection:

1. What is your attitude towards trials?
2. How did you cope with the trials that you faced?
3. Why do you think trials can make us better?

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