

June 22, 2018



EXPECT TO WIN

Have you ever heard these: “Bad things always happen to me.” “Sorrow, pain and heartache are the norm for me.” “No one ever looks out for me, so I have to look out for myself.” “Why expect something good to happen? You will just be disappointed.” “Things never go well for me. I am used to it.”

Now for the spiritual ones: “Don’t get your hopes up, you never know what God is going to do. His ways are mysterious.” “I’ve tried to believe for good things in my life, and it did not happen. It must not be God’s will.” “Those faith preachers are selfish, arrogant and clueless. God can’t be controlled by people. They are wrong and need to stop.” “If someone is doing well, I know that they broke some rule somewhere, are in secret sin or have an evil motive. That is the only way that this could happen for them.” “People won’t help you in the work of God. Expect disappointment and heartache. That is life.”

What is all of this? Some would say, “You just described my day with these words.” This is pessimism. You must be able to recognize it because it is a great danger to the Church of God. Many have forfeited their purpose due to it. It is time to get beyond pessimism and **expect to win**.

Judges 6:11-16 ESV Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. (12) And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." (13) And Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." (14) And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" (15) And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." (16) And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man."

God appeared to Gideon and had to be patient with him because he was inundated with pessimism. Like many of you and countless others you know, a negative attitude about life and God so captivated Gideon that he could not believe that God would use him to change anything. It is true that in the natural world things are not looking good. There are a multitude of problems you face that don’t seem to have a solution. You do have a past of defeat and oppression. That is not the whole story, however.

Don’t you see? You are encountering impossibilities. It is true. Understand, beloved, that it is because of these things that God shows up as He did for Gideon. Let Him pull you out of despair and negativity. He is ready and willing. He sees you as a mighty warrior. You are able to prevail against whatever you are facing no matter how dark. He is depositing strength in you now. You did know that your struggles are the perfect place for the Lord to come and demonstrate His power.

Let hope drown out every ounce of pessimism. God is telling you what He wants to do through you. Everything is going to turn around. Embrace it. See yourself triumphant. See yourself making history. He will use you mightily. His hand will guide you through each step. **Expect to win and you will.**

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