

# EXPECTANCY

When speaking to people concerning the New Year, there is a great sense of expectancy. I've heard people say, "Pastor, I'm expecting great things to happen this year!" Amen to that! Because whatever your expectations are for 2014, they will have a profound effect, not only on you but also on the people around you. What you confidently expect for this year, from both people and situations, will determine your attitude toward them more than any other factor. In Psalm 62:5 the psalmist said this, ***"My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. He is my rock and my salvation; He is my defence; I shall not be moved."*** Notice, if your expectations are from God you will remain steadfast. However, there is something else you must be aware of. That is, whatever you expect (with confidence), becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. And this also applies to your relationship with God. What you expect from God will determine your attitude toward Him. If you confidently expect God to be doing great things on your behalf, great things will always happen to you. However, if you expect negative things to happen, you are usually not disappointed. What you expect acts like a mirror in your life.

Therefore, your expectations concerning your loved ones, your friends, work-mates and even your own future, all tend to come true. Your confident expectations exert a powerful influence on people and future events - for good or for ill. But why is this? How come our expectations exert such great power? The Oxford English Dictionary defines an expectation as simply, "looking forward with hope or fear," and it is positioned in the future. From this we can see clearly that expectation, when positive, is directly related to hope. But when operating in the negative, it is connected to fear - fear of the future. Therefore, your expectations can either create faith, or establish fear. Hebrews 11:1 says, ***"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*** But this could also read, "Faith is the substance of things confidently expected." Likewise, faith materialises our favourable expectations. Therefore, "faith" in order to produce must have hope, and hope in the Greek means "favourable and confident expectation." Quite simply, "faith" relies on a confident expectation that something good is about to happen, and "fear" relies on a confident expectation that something bad is about to happen! So if you want your expectations for 2014 to be positive and productive, make sure your attitude is right.

Here are some suggestions:

1. **Always expect the best from God.** Assume that the very best will transpire because God is in control of your future.
2. **Expect the best from those around you.** Tell your family and friends that you believe in them, that you think they are wonderful, that you trust and love them.
3. **Expect the very best of yourself.** See yourself as God sees you. Imagine that you have unlimited potential because He has equipped you with great abilities.