

050918  
Jason Henderson  
Akron Vineyard

## Hope: The Expectation of Glory

Last week we talked about faith, hope, and love. We spent a couple months just focusing in on faith – what faith is, and what faith is not. And then last week we touched on hope and love. And what I think I want to do now is look a little deeper into hope.

Every week I always wish that I could spend an hour or so reviewing, and then 40 minutes building on. It seems like that would work better...except that everybody would probably be asleep, and the childcare workers would tar and feather me. So, that being as it is, let me just briefly review.

But, you see, we're not talking about things that you just "learn" and then move on. We're talking about things that you see, and then see more of. And what you're seeing more of is what already is. We're moving, Paul says, from "faith to faith" (Romans 1:17). And I think what that means is that we're moving from a faith of one like Abraham, who saw things from afar, to the faith of the Son of God – who sees things as they now are.

Did that make sense? Prior to the coming of Christ, there were many people that lived by faith. Hebrews 11 is full of them. But all of their faith was a seeing of Christ from afar, without inheriting what that faith saw. Their faith was credited to them as righteousness, but they didn't come to receive the Righteous One Himself.

**Heb 11:39** And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, did not receive the promise, **40** for God had provided something better for us

So now we are of a different sort of faith. We're moving from "faith to faith" in our hearts. We're moving from a faith that saw things from a far, to a faith that sees things as they now are in Christ. Their faith looked towards these things from a far. From the outside – in. Our faith looks at them from being in them. From the inside – out...so to speak. **Their faith saw a finished house from a far. But now we have been placed in that house, and our faith looks around and sees what is NOW IN CHRIST.**

They had the faith of Abraham who saw Jesus' day from afar and rejoiced. Jesus mentions that in John 8. Abraham saw that day and was glad, but he wasn't able to enter that day. We are in that day. We have the faith of the Son of God. His understanding, his spiritual view, his comprehension, worked into our hearts.

And I think that's why Galatians 3 speaks of the coming of faith.

**Gal 3:23** But before faith came, we were kept under Law, having been shut up to the faith about to be revealed.

Ok, so now our faith is different from Abraham's faith. Our faith doesn't see something far away that has not yet come. Our faith sees the one who has come, the one we are in, the one who is our life. And growing in faith is synonymous with the mind of Christ being wrought in your heart.

I won't repeat my cave-man analogy again. I've done it three times. But if you'll recall that analogy, faith sees a finished house. Faith sees the "but now" of God. All that is now true because the old cave has been put away, and you are no longer of that cave.

And so last week we looked a little bit at 1 Corinthians 13 "Now these three remain, faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love".

So, what remains for us who have been totally translated out of a cave and been placed into this finished house, been placed into Christ? What remains for us after the destruction of the old man, the old creation? Well, now it's just really three things. Faith, hope and love.

There is faith, the seeing of, the comprehending, the spiritual viewing of all things finished.

There is hope, our glorious expectation that all that is finished in this house, will be experienced and manifested in and through me.

There is love, which is the actual manifestation of all that faith sees, and all that hope expects. And the greatest of these is the manifestation. The greatest of these is love. In fact love becomes the measure of the Man. Love is the measure of all things.

We're probably not going to spend a whole lot of time on hope, but I wanted to take another crack at it today. And what we're going to see is that in one specific way it is similar to faith.

Remember all of those verses we looked at where the Bible actually reads "we live by the faith of the Son of God", or we "grow in the faith of Christ". And we came to see that faith is a spiritual seeing of spiritual reality. But it wasn't just a seeing, a comprehending, an understanding that was given to us by God. It was God's comprehending, God's understanding, God's view being wrought in our heart. That's why Paul calls it the faith of the Son of God. We are coming to see as He sees. We are coming to know as we are known.

Well hope is similar to this because hope is not just a wish that you have. It doesn't originate from you. Biblical hope is actually God's expectation being wrought in your heart.

Remember last week we talked about how the biblical meaning of hope is actually equivalent to the English word "expectation". When you see the word "hope" in your bible, it does not mean "wish", or "wouldn't it be nice if...". It's not like "I hope I win the lottery. "I hope this sermon makes me famous" That's the way we use that word.

The Greek definition is akin to "expectation". You see a pregnant woman and you say "she is expecting". You don't say "she is hoping". It's a little too late for hoping. There has been a seed planted, and now it's a matter of expectation.

And that's how it is with God. He has planted His Seed in the earth, and now it's simply a matter of expectation. Did you know that God has an all-consuming expectation? A glorious expectation. And that expectation is our expectation. That hope is our hope. But if we don't see His expectation, it will never be found in us.

Here's a question for you this morning. What is your hope? What is your expectation? Is His hope your hope? Is his all-consuming expectation your expectation? Or do you have another hope, another expectation.

I can tell you truthfully that until relatively recently, though I would have argued to the contrary, the expectation of the Father was far from my heart.

Well what is the expectation of the Father? What is this predestined hope? Simply this: that God would have an increased manifestation of His planted Seed. That God would have a harvest of Christ. That is the expectation of God. That is the ultimate purpose, the only hope that He has.

Well, why does He want you then? He wants you because you are His predestined means to that end. He wants you because He has a predetermined plan to have a people in His Son. (Eph 1) But not just a people in His Son, but that Son formed in a people. He wants you because your individual soul is the ground for the planting of this Seed.

Why does a farmer get excited about buying more land? So that the land can bring forth the Seed that he will plant in it. You are the land, Christ is the seed. Yes, he loves the land...but it is unto a greater expectation than just possessing more property. It is unto a greater hope.

The purpose of the farmer is not just cleaning up the new land. The purpose of the Father is not just cleaning up the sinner. The purpose of the farmer is purchasing that land so that there can be a planting. **But not just a planting.** How disappointing would it be for the farmer if there was a planting and no harvest? No increase? The land would not be serving its purpose.

Do you see what I'm getting at? The farmer purchases the ground, not just because he loves ground, but because He loves harvest. He doesn't just love planting. Planting is always unto an expectation.

Sometimes I'm afraid we've made the church into a big planting machine. Planting is good. But it is unto an expectation. What's the expectation. The increase of that which was planted. That's the expectation. Wouldn't it be sad if the farmer planted his seed, and the land refused to yield the increase?

**Mat 21:33** Jesus said "Hear another parable. There was a certain housemaster who planted a vineyard and hedged it round about, and dug a winepress in it, and built a tower, and rented it to vinedressers, and went into a far country. And when the season of the harvest of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers to receive its fruits..." But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and get hold of his inheritance.

I know you can apply that parable to the Jews of Jesus' day, but it seems to fit quite nicely in the church. We've missed the expectation of the Father, and we've sought an inheritance of our own. We've said thanks for the Seed, now I'll just live my own life for you and enjoy being forgiven. I'm not terribly interested in the farmer's expectation.

One time I wanted to take Ezra, my three-year-old, to the Home Depot with me. So I went to the back door and called him to come in. But when I saw him, I saw that he had gotten himself into a little predicament. He had fallen in a huge mud puddle and was covered head to toe with dirt. There was no way that I could take him to the store with me like this.

So I brought him inside and took off his messy clothes, drew a bath for him, and started cleaning him up. Well, he was quite happy to get out of those dirty clothes and into that warm bathtub. After a few minutes he started playing with the bubbles and all of the nice bath toys. And it wasn't very long before he looked up at me and said "Daddy, I don't really want to go to the store anymore, I just want to sit here and play in the bathtub."

Now that's not a true story. Actually, it's a modified version of a story I got from Devern Fromke. But I told it to illustrate my point. I...the father in this story...had a purpose for calling Ezra inside. I had an expectation in my heart for taking off his dirty clothes and cleaning him up. I had purposed in my heart to take my clean son with me to Home Depot. But Ezra got so carried away in the bathtub, that the only thing on his mind, the only expectation he had, was another 30 minutes with rubber ducky. He had totally set-aside his father's expectation.

God has an intention. An expectation. And it is far more than cleaning up the field. It is the harvest of the planted Seed.

And God began to talk about that expectation way back in Genesis 3. In fact, the first person that hears about this expectation was the Serpent. He tells the serpent that a Seed is coming that will crush your head. A Seed is coming out of the woman, the Eve, the bride, the church. There is a Seed coming. The woman isn't going to crush your head, it's the Seed that comes forth from the woman.

The church can't crush anything unless the Seed is coming forth from her. Satan doesn't like the woman. Genesis 3 says that there is enmity between the woman and Satan. But it's the increase of the Seed that Satan's afraid of.

Satan says "that woman keeps telling me that I'm a defeated. That's pretty annoying, but I don't really mind her that much as long as I don't see that Seed coming out of her. She keeps calling me names, but I'd rather have her call me a few names than have the Seed's shoe on my head. She keeps telling me I'm a liar, but I don't think she's come to realize that the Seed of truth is in her. I don't think she realizes that the Father has an expectation that the Seed is what increases and crush my head"

And as we've seen several times before, God starts dealing with Abraham about this Seed.

He says Abraham get out of your country, get away from your kindred, get away from your father's house. Why? Cause I'm going to show you a new country, a new kindred, a new father, and a new house – and it is all coming in your Seed. Put your map away, Abraham. I'm not just talking about real-estate here. The land is only a type and shadow. Get off the phone with your travel agent, I'm not talking about a beach house on the Mediterranean Sea.

I'm talking about the Seed of promise. The promise of increase. About the Seed increasing like the sand on the seashore, like the stars in the sky. **About the increase of the one in the many. God wasn't just talking about the many. He was talking about the one increasing in the many.**

He was talking about:

**Gal 3:16** And to Abraham and to his Seed the promises were spoken. It does not say, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, "And to your Seed," which is Christ.

He was talking about:

**Isa 9:7** There is no end of the increase of *His* government

And so I was reading Genesis 15 this week. And here we have God making all these promises to Abraham about inheritance and making his name great and defeating his enemies. And Abraham just cries out in Genesis 15 and says "Lord, what good is all of this if I have no Seed!"

What's the point of the land, what's the point of the blessings, what's the point of anything if there is no Seed!"

And, just as Abraham portrays the heart of the Father in other ways, this just seemed to me to echo the Father's expectation. And I have come to a similar place in my life. And I know that many of you sitting here today feel like Abraham that day.

Here you are. You're living hard for God. You're doing good things. You're preaching like crazy. Or your praying hard, reading your bible. But what is missing? What is this emptiness? What is this deadness? And then something in your heart begins to cry "what good is any of this IF I HAVE NO SEED?"

What is this ministry? What is this worship song, this worship leading. What good is this blessing, even this healing UNLESS THE SEED IS COMING FORTH FROM ME. UNLESS THE SEED IS BEING FORMED IN ME.

And you stop and you have to ask yourself – what is my hope? What is my expectation? It's not enough to have this, do that, be a part of this, teach this, preach that, heal this, dance that, sing this, give that. EXCEPT THE SEED BE FORMED IN ME, I DON'T WANT ANY OF IT.

You're like Abraham. Lord, I don't want one acre of this land unless there is a seed. You're like Rachel, Jacob's wife. "Jacob, give me a Seed or I die".

But see now the expectation of the Father is beginning to come forth in your heart. Now his expectation is being wrought in your heart. Its no longer just a mansion in the sky. Its no longer a platform ministry. Its all come down to the Seed of promise, the Seed of expectation.

You see Paul went through this. I believe there was a time when it was enough for Paul to be knocked off his horse by the audible voice of God. It was enough for him to be prayed for and filled with the Spirit when Ananias laid hands on him while he stayed at Straight Street. But sooner or later, Paul heads out to Arabia for three years and cries out "FATHER REVEAL YOUR SEED IN ME". Unless there is an appearing of this Seed in me, then I am like a land without a harvest. Unless the Seed come forth I am as religious as the Pharisee I once was.

And then Paul tells the Galatians....I remember when "it pleased the Father to reveal His Son in me".

And that's what I'm saying. **True faith, unfeigned faith always gives birth to the expectation of God.** Soulsh religion or heady Bible-knowledge gives birth to a whole host of other expectations. But true seeing begets expectation begets manifestation. Faith begets hope begets love.

Now please don't misunderstand what I'm about to say. But there was a time in my life when all that I sought was a greater relationship with the Holy Spirit. And, of course you can't divide the trinity, they are One in substance. I'm not trying to get funny here. But try to hear what I'm saying. There was a time when the pinnacle of Christian experience was what the Holy Spirit would do to me, with me, for me – and most of this related to gifts, outward manifestations, and spiritual experiences.

And for a while, it was just more of these experiences I was seeking. But then there was the day, not too long ago, when I began to realize that, alongside everything I was trying to get the Holy Spirit to do in my life, He was really trying to bring an increase of Christ according to the expectation of the Father. As Jesus says "He will not testify of Himself, He will glorify Me".

The Holy Spirit will do a lot to bless the dirt. But sooner or later, if you let Him, he begins revealing to you that this whole plan was about the Seed coming forth from the dirt. The Spirit begins to reveal the expectation of the Father. The Spirit begins to groan within you for the manifestation of that expectation. Romans 8 talks about that. The manifestation of the sons of God. The body of Christ. Not just a people in Christ. But Christ formed in a people.

And that is why I said last week that your inheritance and the Father's inheritance are two sides to the same coin. They are both the increase of Christ. Your expectation and the Father's expectation are found in one Seed.

In Him, you find the fullness of your inheritance, which is His fullness. In you He finds the fullness of His inheritance...which is the harvest of Christ. You, the land, are what brings forth the fullness of the crop.

Your inheritance, the inheritance of the land, **is** his fullness. His inheritance is the land which shall manifest his fullness.

**Eph 1:17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in *the* knowledge of Him, **18** the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know **what is the hope of His calling**, and what is the riches of the glory of **His inheritance in the saints**,

So, in a word...what is our hope? What is our expectation? It is the glory of God. It is the manifestation of Christ. It is that this vessel will express a surpassing weight of glory. It is just this "Christ in you, the hope of glory". It is Christ in you, the expectation of Harvest.

As Peter says "we have been born again into a living expectation"

As Paul says "we can boast on the expectation of the glory of God"

As John says "And everyone having this expectation on Him purifies himself even as that *One* is pure."