

Questions and Answers #39

Expectations

A Christmas Message

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LUKE 8:40 ¶ *And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him.* They were all waiting for Him...They were expecting Him...

Expectations, the people were glad to see him because they were expecting Him and Brother Branham said from, **GOD IN SIMPLICITY 63-0317M 6-1 {30}** *When a minister walks into a congregation of people praying in the anointing of the Spirit, you're bound to hear from heaven. That's just all. There's no way to keep from it. But if you walk into confusion, then you're so confused, the Spirit's grieved....*

So let's remain standing as we go to God our Father this morning in prayer, and be expecting to hear from Him this morning.

Dear father, it is my prayer this morning that your people have come expecting to hear from You. Now, if they have come to hear something from me, then they may go away disappointed. But Father, if they came expecting to hear from you then I believe they will receive what they came for and You won't let them down. For if they have come this morning all prayed up as Your Prophet taught us, then they are bound to hear from heaven, and their expectation will be rewarded openly, because we get what we expect. As your prophet taught us that, *"The right mental attitude towards any Divine promise of God will bring it to pass,"* and we have come believing and ready to receive this morning Lord. Grant to us a refreshing from Your presence this morning, Oh God, in the wonderful name of Your Son Jesus Christ we pray, Amen!

You may be seated.

Now, since this is the Sunday before Christmas, I would like to speak on a Christmas subject this morning. Many a child will lay awake tomorrow night for perhaps the entire night, waiting to arise early on Christmas morning to see what awaits them in terms of Christmas gifts, whether it be new toys or new clothing, it doesn't really matter. The excitement is not in what the gift is, but the expectation of receiving something new, something we wanted. It's the expectation that brings the excitement. If we truly believe we are going to receive something positive, then we can hardly wait, and the waiting builds up within us an excitement that brings with it energies that we don't normally have. So the excitement comes because we are looking forward to something new.

But I also remember a few very long days in my life when I had done something bad, and my mother would say, you just wait until your father gets home. She wasn't the type of mother that would ground us to the house, or to the yard. That was what my father would do. No, my mother would ground us from the yard. Don't you come home until your father gets home, and then you're going to get it. Well, I can remember some very long days, hiding in the woods or out in the fields, knowing when dad got home, I was in for it. The worst times of waiting was when he was out of town on a business trip and I had

to wait a few days, knowing when he got home I would get whipped. There wasn't any joy in those waiting moments, there was no excitement about dad coming home at those times. It was sheer terror, thinking about the consequences that lay before me. And so to make a point, our joy and anticipation comes from looking forward to those things which are rewarding.

But if we do not believe we will receive anything, or if we only believe that what we will receive is no good, then we do not get excited, and we do not look forward to that time. And so was it with the First Coming of the Son of God, and so is it today at the great preview Appearing.

Now, this morning I would like to speak on this subject of expectations, and to begin our lesson this morning, I would like to read for our text from the Book of Luke.

LUKE 1:1-18 ¶ *Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, 2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; 3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, 4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed. 5 ¶ There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife [was] of the daughters of Aaron, and her name [was] Elisabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. 7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were [now] well stricken in years.*

6 And they were both righteous. They were both rightly wise, that's what the Greek Word *dikaiois* {dik'-ah-yos} means...1c) it speaks of him *whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God, and who therefore needs no rectification in the heart or life; only Christ truly* 1d) *approved of or acceptable of God* **6 And they were both righteous: before God,** (or in the presence of God) **walking** (They had ordered their life, or conducted their life in such a way) **in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.**

This couple had made a conscious effort to walk, and to talk, and to live a life that honored and placed God's Word and His Commandments above everything else in their life, giving God the preeminence. They had made God's Word and ordinances the highest goal and aspiration of their life.

I like what Brother Branham said about this couple. From his sermon, **Resurrection of Lazarus 50-0813A** E-20 he said, *"Before God does anything here on earth... I want you to catch this close. Before God does anything on earth, He always sends a witness from heaven to declare it. Now, before Jesus was born, why, God sent a witness of this. Signs and wonders begin to appear of His coming, just as it's appearing today by witnesses of His second coming again. See? Signs and wonders.. There's never been an age through all the church ages that's ever produced what this age is producing right now, for it's the coming of the Lord's drawing near. Don't you believe it? Drawing nigh, rather... And we're nearing the time of the close of this world's history when Jesus shall*

come. Notice, signs begin to appear. ***There was a man by the name of Zacharias and his wife Elisabeth: righteous, holy people, keeping the commandments of God and walking in all the statutes and ordinances of God, blameless. That's the kind of a home we need today. Don't you believe it? Instead of that in the church today, we have everything else but holiness and righteousness. But they were righteous people, godly people, walking in the commandments of the Lord, keeping all the ordinances, blameless.*** Zacharias was a priest at the temple. And his office was to burn incense while prayer was being made. And one day, while he was in the temple burning incense, Gabriel, an Angel from God, came down and stood by the altar of incense, and said, "Zacharias, ***fear not. Your prayers is heard.***" Oh, I love that. They... His wife was barren. She hadn't had any children. She was past the age of bearing. ***But he lived right before God and believed on God.*** And all of his great, dark, long hours of worry finally the Angel come and said, "God has heard your prayer." ***Now, if you want God to hear your prayer, send an Angel to your home, live right, do right, treat everybody right, be right before God, and God will grant that to you.***

We could close our sermon right there on that point and go away blessed. Listen to what he is saying here...Now, remember, this is a vindicated Prophet of God saying this, ***"Now, if you want God to hear your prayer, and send an Angel to your home, then live right, do right, treat everybody right, be right before God, and God will grant that to you."***

And so Zacharias met an angel from the Lord, His name was Gabriel, and He told Zacharias all that would take place concerning he and His Wife and how they would have a child, and this child would go before and prepare the way for the Son of God to come. And so what did Zacharias do? He finished out his duties and then went home to his wife and prepared for that little one to come.

LUKE 1:21-24 *And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless. 23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. 24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,.*

EXPECTATIONS! Could you imagine what went on in the minds of Zacharias and his wife Elisabeth? Here they were very old and well stricken with age. That's what the Scripture tells us, and yet the first thing we hear from God's Word is that he could hardly wait to finish his job and then like a bee to the hive he went straight home to give his wife the good news. And what news it must have been to her. Now, I can just imagine what she must have been thinking, here's my husband, he's been away for about 2 weeks and he comes home with this story about having a baby. A promise from an Angel of all things, and how do we have this baby? There's got to be a preparation made. She must have thought, *"I know what must be on his mind. After all it must be lonely up there at the temple, and all, but really Zacharias, you don't have to tell me an angel told you to do this. I mean after all, I still do love you my husband, and all you have to do is ask and I am yours. But an angel?"*

Now, babies don't just come by spontaneous combustion. Nor do they come by talking about them, nor by wishful thinking. There is something the husband and wife must do in order for that child to come. And to know that God is watching your every action, it would kind of make you uncomfortable if you know what I mean. But notice what the scripture tells us, *23 And it came to pass, that, **as soon as** the days of his ministry were accomplished, he departed to his own house. 24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months,...*

Now, notice that the Lord knew the exact time of conception, **LUKE 1:26-80** *And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?*

Now, Mary's question was not one of unbelief, but rather she just wanted to know how this would happen. She wanted more details. Her question was not like Zacharias question, because his questions came from doubt and for it he was smitten dumb for the period until John was born. But Mary's questions had to do with desiring a better understanding of what was going on. She wanted to know how it was going to take place.

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

And so of course we see that God knew exactly when that baby was conceived also. So don't think that God does not see what takes place in your bed...

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. 39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; 40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. 41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: 42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. 43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord. 46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the

Lord, 47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. 48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. 49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. 51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. 53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. 54 He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; 55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever. 56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house. 57 Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son. 58 And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her. 59 And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. 60 And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John. 61 And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. 62 And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. 63 And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all. 64 And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God. 65 And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea.

66 And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him. 67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, 68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, 69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; 70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: 71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; 73 The oath which he swore to our father Abraham, 74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life. 76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; 77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, 78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, 79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. 80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

So we see the atmosphere of expectation upon Mary and also upon Elisabeth, her cousin. And when you expect something you prepare for that thing which you are expecting to happen. And expectations will produce what you are looking for. And it works both ways. If your expectations are positive, then you will receive that thing you are expecting.

Now, if your expectations are negative, then don't be surprised if things don't go the way you would like them to go, because they will certainly go the way you expect them to go. That is why I keep telling you all the time, don't look at the negative, look only at the positive. Because the things you fear the most will come upon you. Why? Because that is what you are expecting.

EXPECTATIONS AND WHAT LOVE IS 54-0228A *E-57 Now, I want each one of us now in our hearts to dwell on this thought of "Expectations." Whatever you expect is usually what you get. You heard about the lady that prayed for the mountain to be moved and got up the next morning, looked out the window, said, "Just as I expected, still there." Well, that's the reason,... that she expected it. That's right. Now, you want to have an expectation all the way from heart, soul, body, and mind, that God is going to give us a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Now, I feel it, that it's near us. And God is willing and ready to give it to us.*

You know, part of expectation is to prepare for the thing you are expecting. And if you don't really expect it, then you won't prepare for it either. That is what the Scriptures plainly tell us, and that is what Jesus said we should do.

Matthew 24:42-51 *Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. 45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. 47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.* (You see? Be prepared for what you expect to happen. That is what revelation is all about. It gives us understanding, and then our expectation takes over and we begin to make preparations for what we are expecting.)

48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; (So what is he expecting? He's expecting more time to live like the world, but watch what his lack of preparation has in store for him?) 49 And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; 50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, 51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Why? Because he did not expect the Lord to come, so he lived like he didn't expect the Lord to come. It's your expectations that produces the results. If you expect Him to be here, you will conduct yourself as though you are expecting him.

The Apostle Paul said in **1 Corinthians 13: 13** *And now abideth faith, hope, and love, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*

So you see it all begins with Faith which brother Branham taught us is a revelation. Faith is something that has been revealed to you. And then if it a true revelation, then it moves from there into hope which is an earnest expectation.

You earnestly expect what has been revealed to you. Now, you see, if it is not revealed but has actually already manifested itself, then it is not something you will hope for, because you already have it. For hope is something that has not yet become materialized.

Romans 8: 24 For we are saved by hope (Now, what is Paul saying here? He is saying we are saved by our earnest expectation) ***but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.***

So you see, if you truly are hoping for that which has not yet manifested itself to you, then you will have patience to wait for it, if it has truly been revealed to you.

Now if you earnestly expect it, then that creates an atmosphere that moves into preparation for that which has been revealed to materialize. And Hope then moves into Love which is always characterized in Scripture by giving. For God so love that he gave.

Now, love creates an atmosphere, a welcoming atmosphere. An atmosphere that you just love to be around. And that atmosphere is creative. And it generates energy.

Paul said in ***1 Thessalonians 1: 3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;***

Now, the Wuest translation puts it this way. 1 Thessalonians 1: 4 Wuest ***"Remembering unceasingly your works produced and characterized by the Faith which is yours, and your toil which is motivated and characterized by your divine and self sacrificial Love, and your patient endurance under trials which finds it's source in your hope which rests in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of God, even the father."***

So you see your hope or earnest expectation builds up an energy and produces an atmosphere of expectation which results in a preparation for the thing expected to happen.

EXPECTATION 54-0220 E-26 I've asked that God will bless you all. And I want to speak just a moment, and then we'll start praying for the sick. Now, first, we want to think tonight on this text, if I would call it a text, just for a few moments. And I would like to use these words in it: "Expectations." As I mentioned here the other night, you usually get what you expect, don't you? If you come tonight to the meeting, just expecting to see something that you could criticize the meeting about, the devil will show you plenty of it. You'll go back with a lot of criticism just like you expected. But if you come tonight expecting, just say, "Lord, I come to see You. I come for the benefit of... to be healed. I come for the benefit of my soul. Well, I expect You to give it to me, 'cause I'm here in this place that's dedicated to Your glory." And you'll get just what you expect. That's right. You always... And you can never go above your expectations.

What a statement that is. Just think of that. How many people win the gold medal thinking that can't do it. How many people achieve thinking they can't achieve. No way. You don't think you can and it is a cinch that you won't. Your negative thoughts have more power over your life than you think, and so do your positive expectations.

Brother Branham continues... *And you can never go above your expectations. You'll always have to do that. And when a man's born of the Spirit of God, filled with the Holy Ghost, everything he has need of in this life's journey, is in him right then. And the only thing he has to do is just drink from the inexhaustible Fountain of Life, which is Christ Jesus, until he pushes out Divine healing, powers of God. He just pushes it out by his drinking from the everlasting inexhaustible Fountain of Life, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Then what about those poor people in Africa and Asia and third world countries around the world. Well, David said in, “**Psalms 37: 25** *I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*” So if God was speaking through David as we believe he was, then I see a problem with people who are hungry and feel they have to beg for bread. There is something wrong some where. I have heard stories all my Christian life of people who needed food, and prayed that food right onto their tables. One of the biggest problems I see in Uganda is that in the Eastern part of the country where the ministry is young and green, they are afraid to preach on what God promised concerning tithes and offerings. And because they fail to teach the people, the people end up begging for food and so do the ministry there. And that ought not to be. And when you will not take God at His word, then you might as well call God a liar to His face. And it shows you do not expect to receive what He promised.

Again brother Branham said from his sermon **Expectations and What Love is 54-0228A E-58** *Now, if you expect, that's what you receive. If you've come to the meeting saying, "Well, I'm going down, I'm going to find some flaws of that meeting. I'll find some flaws of that preacher. I'll bet you I can." Don't worry, you'll get it. The devil will show you plenty of them. Yes, sir. You'll go back, say, "Mm, hmm. Just as I expected. That's just the way it was. Uh-huh." Same group found fault with Jesus when He went through the pool of Bethesda and all those cripples laying there, lame, halt, blind, and withered. Passed by every one of them, never healed any of them, went over and healed a man laying on a pallet, walked away. Them Jews, "Uh-huh, now if He's the healer, let Him heal them." See?*

E-59 *Just as you expect, that's what you get. But you come to the meeting expecting to see the glory of God moving, the power of God, sinners being saved, filled with the Holy Ghost, sickness being healed, then watch what God shows you. Yes, sir. See, you are a creator in yourself. If you're... How many's born-again say, "Amen?" Do you know each one of you is a creator? You are a part of God; you're a son of God, an offspring of God, a daughter of God. Is that right? Then you are a creator. Now, did you ever see people, they were nice people (I ain't saying this for any back now.), nice people but you just couldn't hardly stand to be around them. You know that. Nice people, it's their atmosphere they're in. Then you've seen other people that you just long to be with them, is that right? It's that atmosphere that's around them all the time. Now, my wife setting back here, she don't know this, but... She's supposed to be here somewhere. And you can imagine in our home about what takes place in a run of a day: people coming, going like that. And I go in sometimes, and the poor little fellow in there in the kitchen crying, not even a chance to cook the children anything to eat through the day. And--and there it is. And the little girl about two years old, little Sarah, and Rebekah, and they're in*

there, and they're crying and going on. And my wife crying, she'd look up, she'd say, "Bill, I'm just about to go crazy. I just don't know what I'm going to do." She said, "I..." And gray-headed at thirty-four years old. And so I said, "Well now, that's right, honey."

E-60 **don't fuss at her.** See? No. "That's right, honey." See? "It's very bad, but you see we're serving the Lord, so we..." See, what I'm doing all the time in my heart, **I am trying to create a different atmosphere.** They're all nervous and they're tore up. See? Now, **I was thinking in my heart, "O Lord, now send Your Presence and Your love to my poor little tore up wife."** And I say, "Yes, dear. That's right." I say, "What was this here?" "Oh, we haven't had anything to eat and..." I say, "Well, there probably won't be anybody else in for next couple of hours. Let's get something to eat. And I'll help you." And I'll start getting up my sleeves. She'd say, "Now, look, young man, you might be able to help me wash dishes but you can't cook." I will say, "Who can't cook?" Like that, you know, just going on. "Well, you haven't never seen me fry potatoes yet. I was raised on them," something like that. And I'll see a little bitty smile trickle on one side, you know. And the first thing you know, I come over, and I put my hand on her. She don't know what I'm doing yet. And I say, "Bless your heart, honey. I'll tell you, I'll help you do this." And **then down in my heart I'm saying, "Lord, send Your peace that's in me into her now. O God, quieten my family now. I'm Your servant, Father. Send..."**

E-61 And the first thing you know, she'd say, "Bill, you know a certain thing?" Them little old black eyes are snapping again, you know. "You know?" "Yeah." And I look at the baby, she's in there, got her blocks and the babies are playing together. What is it? It's creating an atmosphere. Hallelujah. Brother, let me tell you brothers. **The atmosphere is what does it.** It's exactly right. Look, **it's not the hen that hatches the egg; it's the atmosphere.** Yes, sir. Is that right?

E-62 You put that same egg under a pup, it would--it'd hatch the chicken just the same. Put it in the incubator; it'll bring the chicken just the same. **It's the atmosphere.** Hallelujah. **What we need is a Holy Ghost atmosphere (That's right.), an atmosphere where the power of God's a moving, one accord, one place, gathered together under that atmosphere of expecting God to move down** and do signs and wonders. Amen. Let's move ourself up into that bracket. Step up in faith. Move out of these three dimensions up into the next one.

E-63 Say, "Lord, I'm just believe that You're going to pour Your blessings. **I'm expecting it now.** All things are moving right in. And **I'm expecting to see the exceedingly, abundantly now. I'm expecting it.**" And when you go... You come down and say, "Well, I don't know about it." Well, see, you hurt the other person. Now, you're setting by one of them, you say, "O Lord, just tear him down now. I'm just... I'm expecting great things." See? And **that expectancy will get that unity among the people.** That's what happened on the day of Pentecost, what brought the Holy Ghost in the first place. They went up there and stayed ten days and nights, until they were all in one place, and **with one accord,** blessing God for something that they did not have. Is that right?

E-64 **They was thanking God for the Holy Ghost; the Holy Ghost had never come yet. But they had It in the seed form.** Like if I'd say, "Wonder if an acorn tree would grow down here?" You'd say, "Well, I guess it would." And I'd give you an acorn. I'd say, "I'll give you a acorn tree." And you say, "All right, Brother Branham, we'd like to try,

see if an acorn would grow down here in my backyard." And I'd give you the... You'd say, "I'm going to put it in the right kind of soil, just like you got up in the north and I'm going to see if it'll grow." All right. Now, if you put this acorn I give you... You say, "Well, Brother Branham, you said you'd give me an acorn tree." I said, "I did." "Well, how do... You give me an acorn." "You've got the tree already. It's in the seed form." Is that right? You've got the tree already; it's in the seed form.

E-65 And **that's the way we have to get: in the seed form**, all in one accord, one place. They was blessing God for the Holy Ghost which had never come yet. But **they believed that it was, because God was going to keep His promise**. And when **they kept blessing God until that atmosphere got just right**, then there came a sound from heaven like a rushing mighty wind and filled all the house where they were setting. See? **The atmosphere got right**. Oh, couldn't we get an atmosphere here that every crippled, every blind, every sick person, everything, all with one accord, believing until the sick... I seen it last week in Wood River, where there wasn't a person left... They just piled up the crutches, and wheelchairs, and cots. I was standing at the platform, preaching like this, and they just begin to raise up, throw them to the corners. **The atmosphere got right**.

E-66 Oh, brother, God send us an atmosphere that'll make it of one accord, one place. Let the power of God surge down through... That atmosphere gets right, it opens up every--moves back every clog, everything. The law of God will move. Here not long ago, we had a man... For instance, these electric lights. Thomas Edison was the founder of it. The world has been full of electricity since the world began, all around. Well now, listen, I just want to ask you something. Now, there was a man God was fixing to give electricity to the world. I believe when God's program is ready, everything will work right to its place, don't you? Has to, foreordained to do so.

E-67 Now, so Benjamin Franklin went fishing with a kite. Well, lightning run down the string and he caught it, and he begin to run and holler, "I got it. I got it. I got it. I got it." **He had it, but he didn't know what he had**. Well, that's what's the matter with our Pentecostal church. You've got it, but you don't know what you got. That's it. That's right. Yeah, you've got power enough to open the eyes of the blind, unstop the ears of the deaf, to do all things. But **you come in with a twisted up atmosphere**. Let's get it in one accord, so the Holy Spirit can pour out the gushers down upon the people: one place, in one accord. Along come Thomas Edison, he said, "Listen, it'll light up." He tried ten thousand wires. He said... He wasn't tireless. He'd set with a cup of coffee and a sandwich all night long. He'd try this one. If the electric wouldn't follow that wire, he'd lay it aside and get him another one. He'd try that, until finally, he found it. And he gave the world electricity.

E-68 Now, for instance, if you was up here back behind some of these big dark mountains tonight, it was so black dark down there till you couldn't see where you were going. You might fall over a rock or step into a snake, or you didn't know what was going to happen, or one of these big Gila monsters or something laying up there, and you know electricity is all around you. You could scream till you got hoarse, "Oh, electricity, electricity, light up. Show me how to get out of here. Oh, I know you're here. I know you're here, electricity. It's scientifically proven that you're here. I know you're here, so you light up." You could scream till you got hoarse and it'd never light up. Why?

Electricity will light if you'll follow the law of electricity. But you've got to follow the laws of electricity.

E-69 If you had a fountain over on this side, a artesian well gushing up, and a crop over on this side burning up, now, you can say, "Oh, water, go over here and irrigate my crop." It wouldn't do it. No. But ***if you'll follow the laws of gravitation***, you can make it do it. Is that right? Well now, look. God is here this afternoon. Now, ***we got to follow the law of God. The law of God is one accord, love one for the other: "He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God. Believeth, hopeth all things, trust all things, to do with all..."*** Oh, my. There you are: one accord, ***everybody under expectations that God's going to pour down His power***. Listen, not... You know it's here. Scientifically, you know it's here. Looky here. How could Mrs. Waldorf be setting here after dying with a cancer? How many across the world, of the thousands times thousands of cases?

E-70 How could you a drunkard a few weeks ago, or a few months ago, and a gentleman this afternoon? How could you a street harlot a few weeks ago, and a lady this afternoon? ***By the transforming power of God being transmitted by the Holy Ghost into your heart changed your nature and changed your making***. It made you another person. That's right. You might not have felt... I don't know about that. But It's here's anyhow, whether you feel It or not. Let's give God thanks for It, for It's here anyhow. I can prove to you right now there's a radio coming right through you. Radio... You don't feel it. But you know it's there. There's television pictures coming right through you now. But you don't feel it, but it's there anyhow. Oh, my. Now, if our body was magnetized to that, like that big word, say, "Yes," stretched out from the window to this window. It's sweeping through this building, "Yes" going right through you. Somebody saying, "Yes" on the radio. Well, it comes right through you as it goes through them powers, electronics and so forth, as it goes through your body. Now, when it hits against that crystal in the set, it just catches like that and you hear, "Yes."

E-71 Now, if God up there said, "By His stripes ye were healed," the Holy Ghost entwines... brings that down by the power of God. Your heart is set on that...?... it says, "Yes, by His stripes we are healed. God you said in **Mark 11:24, 'Whatsoever things you desire, when you pray, believe you receive it.'** Lord, we prayed for a meeting; we've been fasting for a meeting; we've been crying for a meeting. Yes, Lord. I believe the meeting's on the road." Then stand there like, oh, till the power of God comes down, when It hits, It says, "Yes." Next man says, "Yes." Look it, you got double power yes, "Yes," triple power yes, four times power yes. First thing you know, it becomes thousands powers of yes; then the Holy Spirit moves in and confirms the Word of God with signs and wonders following. That's it. ***That's what we need: an expectation.***

E-72 During the time of the birth of Jesus, it was in a day something like this when the people had wandered away from God. There was not many ways to send messages, radio, telegram, and so forth like they got now, and television. The only way they had to send messages then was from lip to ear. Quickly, listen to Him now. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea. We're taught in the Bible that wise man saw a star when they was over in the East, followed it all the way to Palestine. Is that right? Well, they had kept time by the stars them days. Every city had a little observatory on top of it. And they kept the watchman set up there, and told time by the stars. In the daytime, they told time by the

sundial. You know, "What time is it, watchman on the tower?" And they asked for the time.

E-73 Now, they kept time and yet that... Here it is. I want you to get it. That star passed over every one of those cities and not one of those men saw it. But our Bible declares that it done it. And I believe it did. "We have saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." Is that right? And they moved, led by this star moving them. And this greatest star of all the stars, the greatest of all, moved right by the scientific world and they never saw it. Why? **They wasn't expecting it.** But there was some wise men, who heard Balaam's prophecies, there'd be a star of Jacob rise. **They was expecting it. They were looking for it. They found it.** They followed it. **They were looking for it.** I'm looking for something, aren't you? My soul is stimulated to the highest just before the coming of the Lord Jesus, to see something happen that's going to shake the Gentile world before God leaves it. Yes. I'm expecting it in Phoenix. I'm looking for it. **I want you to agree with me and expect it.**

E-74 These wise men, they said, "Someday, my father said... Here it is written in the Bible." His father said, his father said, there'd be a star of Jacob rise. When they saw that star when it appeared **They were looking for it. They saw it. The rest of them didn't see it.** Somebody said, "Don't you think them people who cry and shout are all emotional, worked up?" No, sir. No, sir. They're not. "Brother Branham, don't you think it's psychology speaking?" No, sir. I do not. **They're expecting something. They're expecting manna from heaven to feed their souls. While they're setting there under expectations, God is under obligation to give them the manna from heaven, 'cause they're expecting it. You're expecting a meeting, God's under obligation to give it to you.**

E-75 Now, here they come. Then we see the shepherds come out and sing on the hills of Judaea. 'Cause they was always singing at the birth of a king. Eight days later, we find Jesus going to the temple in His mother's arms, mother packing Him. There was an old man up there, an old sage, or we'd call him a preacher, long beard, and hair. And he had a fine reputation among the people. He was a renowned man. And he had a fine reputation. And one day when he was out, the Holy Ghost told him, said, "**Simeon, you're not going to die until you see the Lord's Christ.**" And **he believed it. And he was expecting it.** He went around... He didn't care what the rest of the churches said; he didn't care what all his prestige. He said, "I'm believe... I ain't going to die till I see the Lord's Christ." I can hear some of them saying, "You know the old fellow is kind of getting old just a little bit, you know, something wrong with him up there." They usually say that, you know. "There's something wrong up here with them people." See?

E-76 Well, what was the matter? **He was expecting God to keep His Word.** Had a good reason, didn't he? "Well, how you know you're going to see it? David looked for it, even Adam, all the way back has looked for it. Four thousand years has passed and there has been no sign of it yet." **"I don't care what's passed; the Holy Ghost told me I was going to see it and I believe it."** That settles it. That's a good reason, isn't it? "You mean you're here eighty years old and one foot in the grave?" "I don't care how old I am, but I'm going to see the Christ before I die, 'cause the Holy Ghost said so. I'm going right

*around expecting it, thanking God for His promise, because I'm going to see Him." Oh, my. There you are. **He was expecting to see the Christ.***

I hope this morning that we can see what brother Branham was talking about. I hope also this morning that if you are a negative person who is always looking for something to go wrong, that you will die to that doubt, as brother Bosworth said, if you want to doubt something, then doubt your doubts. Oh if this Christmas can bring you one thing and that is to shed yourself of all your doubts, and start quoting the promises of God, and start expecting to receive what God has promised you.

Again from his sermon **EXPECTATIONS 53-0507 E-30** brother Branham said, ***"You usually get what you expect. You come to criticize the meeting, you... The devil will show you something to criticize. You coming to get healed, God will see that you get it. You usually get what you expect. Yes, say, "I was expecting this, and I was expecting that." What you expect, God will see that you get, you'll usually get it."***

*And from **LEADING OF THE SPIRIT 55-0807E E-21** he said, **"Expectations: If you're expecting it, you will receive it. You usually get what you expect to get. If you come to the meeting tonight, expecting to find something to criticize the meeting, the devil will show you. He will see that you get satisfied. You get what you expect. If you come to get a blessing, God will see that you get it. If you come to get saved, God will see you get it. If you come to get healed, be expecting to get healed. God will see that you do it. It's what ever you expect Him."***

And again from **EXPECTATIONS 50-0405 E-13** he said, ***"We always get what we expect. When people expect anything, well then they usually get what you look for. It's the mental attitude that you have. Remember this, and never forget it. The right mental attitude towards any promise of God will bring it to pass, the right mental attitude towards any promise of God. It doesn't take gifts of healing to heal sick people, any person in here has a right to meet Satan anywhere, if you're a Christian, and defeat him on any grounds that he could stand on."***

And in closing, from his sermon **GOD REVEALING HIMSELF TO HIS PEOPLE 50-0813E E-39** he said, ***The right mental attitude towards any promise of God will bring it to pass. Do you believe that? The Word is a Seed (Is that right?) that a Sower sowed in the ground. And every Seed will bring forth of its kind. If you need salvation, the Seed's here. If you need healing, here's the Seed in the Word. The Word of God is a Seed. Put it in your heart. Don't dig it up every morning to see if it's sprouted, put it in there and leave it there. It's God's business to bring forth the harvest. You just leave it there; water it by faith and praise every day thanking God for it. All right.***

Let us pray...