

## Our Future Is As Bright As the Promises of God

### A. The confidence to live in faith

Heb 10:35-11:1 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. but My righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul. Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

### B. Right expectations are rooted in God's thoughts, intentions and purposes for your life.

Ps 40:5 Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders which You have done, and Your thoughts toward us; there is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, they would be too numerous to count.

Ps 139:17-18 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand...

Isa 55:7-10 Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout,

Jer 29:11-14 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the Lord,

Amos 4:13 For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind and declares to man what are His thoughts, He who makes dawn into darkness

Mic 4:12 "But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord, and they do not understand His purpose;

1 Cor 2:9-13 but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him." For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

### "The Attitude of Faith" (by Frank Damazio; pgs. 59-60)

God's thoughts are "toward" you. They are thoughts that are in motion, coming your way. God is throwing, hurling, and casting His thoughts in your direction. They are not just one or two thoughts, but too many to count, innumerable, and more than can be numbered. They are thoughts of grace, love, forgiveness, purpose, calling and provision. They are all being hurled toward you. Won't you stop and catch them? Receive them? Capture them?

Have you ever stood outside in a snowstorm and looked up at the big flakes falling toward you? Picture those flakes tumbling down as the thoughts of God coming to you. That is

how many thoughts are coming your way. Thousands! More than thousands! More than seven quintillion, five quadrillion thoughts

### **C. Enemies of expectation:**

#### **1. Anxiety**

Matt 13:22 anxiety chokes out God's Word in our hearts

22 "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Ps 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.

Prov 12:25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down,

Ps 94:19 When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your consolations delight my soul.

1 Peter 5:6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Phil 4:6-8 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

#### **2. Negativity and pessimism**

Ps 106:24-25 negativity expresses itself in grumbling and complaining; a result in not listening and believing God's Word.

Then they despised the pleasant land; they did not believe in His word, but grumbled in their tents; they did not listen to the voice of the LORD.

Ex 15:23-24 Israel grumbled and complained because they could not drink the bitter water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah. So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

Ex 16:2-3 Israel grumbled and complained because they had no meat to eat.

The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The sons of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Ex 17:1-3 Israel grumbled and complained again because they had no water.

Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, "Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

Num 14:1-3 Israel grumbled and complained when they heard the spies evil report.

Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that

night. All the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! "Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"

Jude 16 the secret motivation of fault finders:

These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.

### **3. Apathy**

Matt 11:28-30 we defeat apathy through Jesus

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Gal 6:9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary .

2 Thess 3:13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

Heb 12:12-13 (12:1-2 we run the race set before us fixing our eyes on Jesus)

12-13 Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

### **4. Fear**

Gen 3:9-10 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

Isa 41:10'Do not fear , for I am with you;

Rom 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, " Abba! Father!"

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

2 Ti 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity (fear), but of power and love and discipline.

### **5. Unbelief**

Matt 13:58 And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

Mark 6:5-6 And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He wondered at their unbelief.

Mark 9:22-24 But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" And Jesus said to him, "'If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief."

Mark 16:14 Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.