



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

- The Bible says that God is good. This is one of the most fundamental truths about God. God is good all the time.
- How do you hold on to the reality of the goodness of God in the face of life's most difficult moments? (Job)
- Job, 'Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble.'
- John the Baptist, "Are you the one?"

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

- 1 John 1:5, "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light and in him there is no darkness at all."
- God is good, all the time.
- Jesus told his disciples they would face opposition, and persecution, and he wanted them to be prepared.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

- “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. . . Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside of your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” (Matthew 10:28-31)
- God is good . . . All the time.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

- Psalm 100:1-5, “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

- First, to hold on to the goodness of God PRAISE Him. Psalm 100:1-2, “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.”
- Praise him with exuberance. Shouts of joy. Gladness. Joyful songs. The harder life gets, the more intense our praise needs to be.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

- First, to hold on to the goodness of God PRAISE Him. Psalm 100:1-2
- Praise re-centers us. Gets us back into the presence of God. God inhabits the praises of his people. (2 services)
- Praise reminds me of who God is. It is even more critical to praise God in hard times. (e.g., darkest days; these days; iPod)

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

- Second, to hold on to the goodness of God REMEMBER who God is, and who we are in relation to him. Psalm 100:3, "Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture."
- Who God is. The Lord is God. There is no other. There is no one like God.
- Who we are in relation to him. (made us; knit us together; the cross; remember the enemy)

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

- Third, to hold on to the goodness of God THANK Him continuously. Psalm 100:4-5, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Count your blessings (spiritual; material; relational)

G R E A T E X P E C T A T I O N S

- Third, to hold on to the goodness of God
THANK Him continuously. Psalm 100:4-5
- When we stop believing God is good, we
wander. Our hearts grow hard. We stop
trusting. Stop following. Stop loving.
- God is good . . . All the time. My
circumstances do not change the character of
God. God is good when times are good, and
when times are bad.
