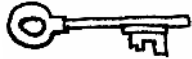


Success and Significance in Life and Ministry

Fourth Master Key



LIVING WITH GREAT EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUR LIFE

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14 NKJV

“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, {14} I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

GOD’S Word Translation

“Brothers and sisters, I can’t consider myself a winner yet. This is what I do: I don’t look back, I lengthen my stride, and {14} I run straight toward the goal to win the prize that God’s heavenly call offers in Christ Jesus.”

Paul had great expectations for the future! He expected a great prize that came from his willingness to answer the great call of the great God on his life. Abram had the same expectation!

GENESIS 12:1-3 NKJV

“Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. {2} I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. {3} I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.””

To succeed, you have to disturb the present.

1. **Too many of us try to abide in the present.**
 - a. We often make ourselves content with whatever comforts or discomforts we have. We resist change.
 - b. If you enrolled in an MBA course, they would teach you that most business failures can directly be attributed to people who refuse to move from their comfort (or discomfort) zones (It’s called the principle of omission). Life for us is the same. **Reluctance to change is deadly.**
 - c. Without a future, today becomes a six-sided box with no tomorrow. **To succeed, you have to disturb the present.**

2. **The present can only give you what you already have.**
 - a. God wants to give you so much more.
 - b. So if you try to be content with the present, you quickly find yourself passed by - and missing the blessings.
3. **You cannot capture the present. It quickly fades into the past.**
 - a. Only God lives in the present. For Him, everything is one big eternal now.
 - b. The qualities of the present are **disqualified** when it comes to judging whether we ought to move on to the future. "It could be good, bad or ugly today... but tomorrow is another day.

You need to abide in the expectation that God is moving you to His very best!
It is God's will for you.

What does the word "abide" mean?

To abide means, "To endure without yielding, to continue, to be at rest comfortably, and to make a permanent residence with contentment.

We **are** not to abide in the situation... the circumstance... the trouble... not even the times when everything is all right, though it is natural to do so. God wants us to go beyond the natural what we would naturally do!

We are to abide in the expectation that God has prepared a journey for us... The Bible says,

HEBREWS 11:8-10 NKJV

"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

The present is not your abiding place. It quickly becomes your hiding place. **Growth is fully a function of the future.** You need to abide in the expectation that...

- God has begun a good work in you. He will complete it until the day He comes back for you.
- God has a plan for you. It is a plan for good and not for evil. It is a plan that you cannot afford to reject.
- It is a plan so rich with His presence that it would be foolish to bury yourself in the present... by burying your expectations for the future. God's plan for you is a good plan. Expect it!

FOUR GREAT EXPECTATIONS TO ABIDE IN

Paraphrase of GENESIS 12:1-3

“...Leave everything that is yours, all that is familiar, safe and gives you comfort. Go to the place I will show you - a place that contains all that is mine. I want to give it to you. {2} I will cause you to **increase** and your greatness will fill a nation. You will have an excellent reputation. It will be known to all. In addition, your **excellence** will influence others so they may know my goodness. {3} **I will intervene supernaturally** in all your affairs to reward those who bless you. And those who try to bring evil upon you will know the curse of my hand of judgment. They will feel my wrath! And you shall have **a truly significant life**. From you will spring forth a Blessing for all mankind, whose name is Christ the Lord.”

FIRST - THE EXPECTATION OF GREAT INCREASE

(Genesis 22a NKJV) *“I will make you a great nation.”*

Paraphrase: “I will bring you great increase and your greatness will birth a nation.”

- **Increase** means, “To enlarge; to grow stronger; to become progressively greater in size, amount, number and intensity.”
- To enlarge means, “To expand and to make room for greater capacity; to add to what is already well grown.”
- Notice that **increase** is defined as “progressive.” In other words, **increase occurs as we progress along the path God invites us to walk.**

Increase:
See Daniel
1:14-17, 20

God came to Abram and He said something like this:

“Abram, I know you have a nice comfortable life here. I know it is secure being in your father’s shadow, but I want to take you to something bigger. It is a bigger place that will make you a bigger man. I want to increase, to enlarge, and to strengthen you progressively, until you become a giant of faith. It can only happen if you will abide in the expectation, embrace the future and put feet to your faith. **Abram, expect a great increase!**”



SECOND: THE EXPECTATION OF EXCELLENCE

“I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.” (Genesis 12:2b)

Paraphrase: “You will have an excellent reputation. It will be known to all. And your excellence will influence others so they may know my goodness.”

God said, “Abram, I want to take what is good and make it even better - even excellent!”

Here is what God is saying to you:

- “You need to abide in the expectation that I am about to bring forth excellence in you.”
- “As you journey through life, and it seems that there is nothing for you to abide in, you can live comfortably, permanently and with a peace that surpasses all understanding - that I am at work all around you.”
- “I want to give you an excellent spirit. I want you to have my character. I want you to be a reflection of me.”
- “If you will allow me, I will shape you into a vessel of honor, fit for your Master’s use.”

None of us has arrived at the end of our journey on the potter’s wheel. There is no end to the potter’s wheel. That can be good news or bad. It depends on our attitudes! (Jeremiah 18:1-4)

Will you hang onto God as He molds and shapes your life? Will you expect excellence as *your* portion, *your* future and *your* testimony?

Expect:
1. Increase
2. Excellence

THIRD: EXPECT THE SUPERNATURAL INTERVENTION OF GOD

“I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you;” (Genesis 12:3a)

Paraphrase: “I will intervene supernaturally in all your affairs to reward those who bless you. Those who try to bring evil upon you will know the curse of my hand of judgment. They will feel my wrath!”

God said, “Abram, I want you to know that whatever you walk through; whatever walls and barriers you face; whatever threats and attacks you are confronted with... I will be there with you. You can abide in the expectation that I will stand between you and the attacker.” “I will carry you through when it seems to be over your head and too great for you to walk through. **I AM that I AM. And I am faithful to my Word.**”

PSALM 91:14-16 NKJV

“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. {15} He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. {16} With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.”

FOURTH: THE EXPECTATION OF THE ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE OF YOUR LIFE

“And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3b)

Paraphrase: “And you shall have a truly significant life.”

Pray for more than success. Pray for significance. Success is self-directed. Significance is other-directed. Both bless you, but only a life of significance has eternal impact and influence.

God said something like this to Abram (and to you), “The final expectation I want you to abide in is the most important to me. I want you to expect that as you walk through life with all its uncertainties, as you experience the great increase... and true

Expect:
 1. increase
 2. excellence
 3. The supernatura
 |
 intervention

The true tragedy of the end of a Christian’s life gone is when it never has touched others to significantly alter their lives.

God-given excellence... and the supernatural intervention of My hand... **you can expect a life of eternal significance**. I have designed you (and every one of your seed that follows) to be a person of significance.

Your life will count, if you let it. Your life can leave a lasting impact on the families of the earth. One day, when your journey is finished, when you finally reach that city whose builder and maker is God, you can join the great cloud of witnesses above... and you can listen to the testimonies of your life, that you achieved the impossible. For with God all things are possible.””

You can settle for the ordinary. You can even settle for some measure of extraordinary natural success. Why not press toward something higher?

Abide in the expectation of great significance!

A Final Word of Encouragement

When Abraham had gone part of the way down the road of his life’s journey, he was faced with a great obstacle, an enormous test, a great mountain to climb.

GENESIS 22:1-5 NKJV

“Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” {2} Then He said, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” {3} So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. {4} Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. {5} And Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”” (An uphill journey!)



Do not stay with the donkeys! To succeed you have to disturb the present. Abide in the expectation that your life will make an

eternal difference. Make your journey an act of worship. Take up your faith. Walk in His grace. Trust God as you go. You are a winner and a champion!

David said it best in Psalm 62:5. *“My soul, wait silently for my God alone, **for my expectation is from Him.**”*

Abide in the expectation of:

- 1. Increase**
- 2. Excellence**
- 3. The supernatural intervention of God**
- 4. Significance from your life**

1 PETER 1:3 New Living Translation

“All honor to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is by his boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again. Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead.”

“Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead.”

He is faithful!

1 PETER 2:4-5 NKJV

“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Living with great expectation is our fourth Master Key. Turn it and unlock your destiny!

