

Unexpected Things

by

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First Edition

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Life Is Full Of Unexpected Things. It Is How We Deal With Them That Is Key.

This writing describes unexpected things and how to deal with them properly, so that we may bring glory to God and bear a positive Christian testimony to other people.

All Scripture references in this writing are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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Unexpected Things

Life is full of unexpected things. They may be good or bad, but the common denominator is that we must be prepared to receive them and deal with them, otherwise we must be prepared to face the consequences of our inaction or unpreparedness when these things hit.

Life is a set of choices that we make. Even the act of not making choices is our choice and our decision. We are ultimately responsible for our own choices and actions. The choices we make lay up seeds for things to happen in the future.

If a farmer were to choose to not plant proper seeds for his desired crop harvest, then when weeds or the wrong crop came up at the time of the harvest, who is to blame but the farmer himself? If he were your neighbor and came crying to you because he had nothing to eat, and wanted a share of your properly planted crops, are you required to give him food to eat, and take away from your family's food and harvest? Does his self imposed hardship need to place you in a position of hardship also?

“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.” 2 Thessalonians 3:10.

A phrase that I used to see posted in some businesses was: “The failure to plan on your part does not constitute an emergency on my/our part.” This is so true, as people like to pawn off their problems and emergencies onto others.

The “poor me” and “lack of responsibility for one's actions” attitudes are now at epidemic proportions in this country. We are raising and teaching a society of people who are “dumbed down,” and who have problems thinking for themselves or taking responsibility for their actions. Planning is far from the thoughts of many of them. Many live day to day and week to week.

Missed Instructions

God is always speaking. Are you properly and adequately hearing His Voice?

There are unexpected things that come our way that could be easily avoided if we listened to God. He sends us warnings, and wants to guide us to avoid snares and traps that have been set for us.

God gives us instructions. If we choose to ignore or disobey instructions from God, we reap the consequences of our choices. Therefore choose wisely whom you will serve.

“...choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15.

Lack Of Planning

We are clearly told to plan in the Holy Bible. It is both our right and responsibility to plan. We are to prepare, as the ant does, for the winter and lean times. We are to be wise, and not squander the time that is before us and the talents we have been given by God. That is wise stewardship.

“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.” Proverbs 6:6-11.

Yes, for all the cautions about wise stewardship and planning, I am amazed at how few people actually plan for their future financially, spiritually and otherwise.

Our country is full of people who are living the fruits of their poor planning. Some dropped out of High School. Others failed to realize their dreams of going to College. How many futures have been aborted by the lack of planning, poor planning, and not heeding good advice?

Ask God for His discernment and help to properly plan out your life, and heed His instructions and His assignment(s) for your life.

Bailing Others Out

“But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?” 1 John 3:17.

The above verse is often used by people to put guilt on others when they have financial lack and need a person to give them money. A Christian should give only as directed by the Holy Spirit. Sensitivity to hear the Spirit Of God is essential to live the well balanced life that is also pleasing to God. There are many reasons why people suffer lack, including disobedience, trials and training.

If someone is being disobedient to God's instructions, and is reaping the seeds of their disobedience, who are we to help them when that would violate the consequences of their actions (or inaction). Helping someone without God's direction can serve to enable an unhealthy behavior.

Remember, if a person doesn't work he shouldn't eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10). The failure to plan on their part (by not working) is not your responsibility. A welfare mentality can be established if people feel they are entitled to have their bills paid by others consistently. This also applies to street beggars and panhandlers.

Always use discernment before you give to anyone! Never let someone use an emotional appeal to get you to give! When you are emotional, you will likely make impulsive decisions which very well may be wrong. Con artists prey on people when they are prone to make emotional decisions.

Have you ever felt like “a sucker” after you have given money to a person who was begging/asking for help, just to see them later go in and buy cigarettes or alcohol at a convenience store (with the money you gave)?

There are people who think nothing of playing games with the emotions of others to get what they want. Stay away from them at all costs.

I know of people who give to nearly everyone who asks of them. They have grown weary in their attempt at well doing, gotten burned out, and have lost all of their money and many of their possessions. If it were not for their attempt to serve God by giving to people, they would have likely retained their health, their sanity and their possessions. That is why you must hear from God about your giving. Either giving too little or too much can be very detrimental to your spiritual and physical well being. I find that a well balanced Christian life is essential.

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:9-10.

There are times when a genuine need is presented to us, and we know that God would have us give some of His money (remember everything belongs to Him) to help the person. If you know this to be true, don't even ask what the money is for, just quickly give out of obedience to God! Delayed obedience is disobedience.

Don't frustrate the plan of God, by your lack of proper giving in due season. Become an expert at proper stewardship. Don't ever fail to give, when you know that God is directing you to give. It is Wisdom to know the difference of when to give and when not to give.

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7.

If you ever feel that someone is taking advantage of you by asking you to give, consider carefully before giving to them. Make sure it is of God. Never give grudgingly or out of obligation. Just because someone has a need does not mean you have to give to them.

But give with all joy, out of your love for God. Giving should be an essential part of a balanced Christian life. The key is knowing when to give and who to give to. Only the Holy Spirit can guide true giving that is pleasing to God.

“But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” 2 Corinthians 9:6.

These principles concerning bailing others out apply not only to giving financially, but also with your talents, time and resources. Don't waste time helping people or situations that God is not directing you to be involved with. Stewardship applies to every aspect of your life and to all resources that God has entrusted you with.

You are not likely assigned to help all people, everywhere. Find your place of assignment and labor in the harvest field that the Lord has directed you to be involved in. Don't try and do the job of the Holy Spirit! You are not responsible for all problems that go on in the world! The weight of the world is not intended for your shoulders. But rather, do your job as assigned by God, and be happy to fulfill His instructions in your designated assignment.

Never Borrow

“The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower *is* servant to the lender.” Proverbs 22:7.

“The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do *them*: And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, *to* the right hand, or *to* the left, to go after other gods to serve them.” Deuteronomy 28:12-14.

A borrower is declared by God to be a servant to the lender. You take out a mortgage or a car loan, and you immediately should feel a noose around your neck. You have just obligated yourself and sold off a portion of your allotted time on this earth to work for someone to repay the loan.

Unexpected problems often come when you are unable to pay a mortgage or other debt payment. Avoid all debts, if at all possible. Pay cash, and save money for unexpected major expenses. Being in debt is like gambling with your future. You never know when your job situation will change, or if you will get injured or sick.

What if your house value drops, and you are forced to sell it for a loss when the market is down? A debt is like a monkey on your back, that is always weighing you down and keeping you from spending your time, talents and energy in more productive areas.

If you find yourself already in debt, do whatever you can to speed up payments to get out from under the debt and get debt free. Don't ever put yourself back under the control of the shackles of debt. Never co-sign for anyone.

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36.

The Poor

“He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.” Proverbs 28:27.

When you are able to bless the poor (in the Name Of The Lord), do so. Read the above section in this writing titled “Bailing Others Out” to make sure that your giving doesn't put a strain on your own finances and also that it is what God desires that you do.

Never miss out on an opportunity to be a blessing to someone. It doesn't always take money. A kind or encouraging word often goes a long way to help.

Be led by the Holy Spirit to show compassion on others as He leads. Remember that you don't know fully what is going on in a person's life, and that only God does. He has a plan for each person, and it is our job

not to interfere with God's plans. There are times to show compassion, and times to withhold it, as directed by the Lord. Only God knows what is in the best interest of an individual. His timing is always perfect.

“For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” Romans 9:15.

Oh, if we could have a people who would hear from God! What manner of problems and tragedies would be avoided.

Expectations

People often put expectations on themselves and on others. False expectations lead to many types of problems.

When you encounter man-made expectations or judgmental attitudes, you need to shake them off you so as not to become trapped or affected by them. When these are unexpected, and you encounter them, it makes them even more painful. Do not let the wrong expectations of others influence or control you. Do not let the problems of others weigh you down!

The same goes for liars and those who try and make you feel guilty when you have done nothing wrong. Have nothing to do with them. Don't get caught up with lies, as lies will always ruin you and cause much pain and grief. Be a seeker of Truth in every area of your life.

“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” Isaiah 5:20.

“And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.” Mark 6:11.

Death

An unprepared for death can upset the lives of many people. Just as one plans for living, so also everyone should prepare for their death. This is wise stewardship.

Too many people are like the ostrich burying its head in the ground when it comes to planning for what happens upon their death.

A person will be remembered for the problems they solve or the ones they create. Don't be remembered for leaving a hornets nest of messy paperwork and legal affairs that need to be resolved by others. Many people take the attitude: “I'll be dead. What do I care what happens?” This is wrong, as it shows evidence of unwise stewardship. Remember that everything belongs to God. Why would you want His treasures scattered around the Earth and placed in the wrong people's hands upon your death?

The Rewards Of Life

Avoid the snares of life, and reap life's rewards. God has so much waiting for you.

Don't let unexpected things catch you off-guard and shipwreck your life. Plan, use prudence, and be led by the Holy Spirit in all things.