

# Faith Must Include Expectation

Faith and expectation, though alike, are **not** identical.

True faith is never found alone, it is always accompanied with expectation.

Any person who believes the promises of God expects them to be fulfilled.

Where there is **no** expectation there is **no** true faith.

It is, however, quite possible for expectation to be present where there is no faith.

**The human mind is quite capable of mistaking strong desire for faith.**

Real faith is **not** the stuff dreams are made of, rather, it is practical and realistic.

Faith sees the invisible but this doesn't make what it sees non-existent.

God's promises conform with reality for God is the One Great Reality.

Whoever trusts in God's promises enters into a world of fact **not** fiction.

The normal human being arrives at truth by observation.

Whatever can be verified by experiment is accepted as truth, for humans naturally believe what their senses report to them.

This is a valid way to deal with our physical environment.

**Faith introduces us to another radically different environment of far higher level than the physical, through faith we enter into the spiritual world.**

The spiritual world does **not** respond to physical scientific tests, so it cannot be proved by them.

A Christian knows that things are true **not** because they have verified it in experience but because God Who cannot lie [Titus 1:2], has said it in His Word, the Christian Bible.

**Luke 1:38, 45** [NIV] *“I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. ‘May it be to me as you have said.’ Then the angel left her.” ... “Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!”*

Mary the mother of Jesus Christ the Son of Man had this faith and expectation.

Every great advance of the Christian Church in history, every revival has been preceded by a sense of great anticipation.

Expectation must accompany the operation of the Holy Spirit in the Church and our personal lives.

What the Holy Spirit does should **not** surprise God's people because they were gazing expectantly towards the risen Jesus Christ on God's throne, expecting His Word to be fulfilled. His blessings to come to them according to His promises and their great faith and expectations.

Sadly one characteristic that marks the average church fellowship today is a lack of anticipation.

Christians when they meet do **not** expect anything unusual to happen, so consequently only the usual happens.

Hoping to arouse expectation, future social events are outlined enthusiastically.

These activities are made more acceptable to the pious-minded by the use of words such as "*fellowship*" and a few words of "*devotion*" being tagged on at the beginning or end of the activity.

Christian expectation in the average church follows the programme, **not** the promises found in God's Word, the Christian Bible.

Only when we declare war on this mood of non-expectation and come together with a childlike faith and expectation, can we ever know again the wonder of the presence of our Lord and Saviour.