

Why Does Our Father Have Expectations?

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Last week, we discussed the concept of "Seeing Our Father's Expectations." This week, we will discuss the question—why does our Heavenly Father have expectations of us?

Last week, we acknowledged the following facts.

- We are saved by God's grace.
- Since we are saved by God's grace, He has expectations of us.

The Bible is filled with characteristics that the Heavenly Father wants His disciples to exhibit. Last week's article mentioned only 33 sections of scriptures.

Abundant living

Someone could ask: If a disciple is saved by grace, why does the Bible list so many of the Heavenly Father's expectations?

My answer: The loving Father wants His children to have an abundant life.

Old Testament verses

Notice a few Old Testament verses that show God's desire for people to receive His blessings.

Deuteronomy 5:29—"Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!"

Deuteronomy 6:24—"And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day."

Deuteronomy 30:19—"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."

Ezekiel 33:11—"Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?' "

New Testament verses

Notice a few New Testament verses that show God's desire for people to receive His blessings.

Matthew 5:3-12—"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

John 10:10—"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

James 1:25—"But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

1 John 3:1-2—"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."