
A Special Message from the Elders of Middlebury Chapel

Hello, Everyone!!

Welcome to 2017!! We rejoice because we have entered into a new year where we are able to continue to give praise, honor, and glory to our Gracious and Awesome Lord!!

We, the Elders of Middlebury Chapel, would like to expound upon the focus of this year's Middlebury Chapel Corporate Prayer Fast for the first 21 days of January 2017. This year it is our objective to sincerely expect God to do what He promised He would do in every facet of our lives; Ministry – relationships – health – finances – **every** aspect.

With this in mind:

When we come together in worship – because God said He is in our midst – expect something to be different in your life and in the lives of others.

As we go through our daily walk - because God is always with us - expect opportunities to arise that will enable us to honor Him through obedience and to display His Heart and His Kingdom to those we encounter.

As we pray consistent with His Name and His Will - because God said that He will hear and answer us - expect that something will change in those circumstances or in that person's life.

James 1:6-8 says:

*“But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man **ought not to expect that he will receive anything** from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*

Thank Him **in advance** of actually seeing the physical manifestation or outcome of our expectation. This is a good discipline to develop to keep your “spiritual expectation” alive.

Here is a short prayer to pray daily...

“Lord I believe You and I believe Your Promises to be true!! Please help me to increase my ability to believe You in the areas where I may falter!! Please help my unbelief!!”

What a powerful prayer!! Short, sweet, to the point, but **so powerful!!** But why is it so powerful??

As we look at Mark Chapter 9, we find the disciples and the scribes discussing an issue with a crowd of people surrounding them and the following narrative unfolds:

"The father of a young boy has watched helplessly as his son has been mercilessly abused and tormented by an evil spirit. Even more troubling was the revelation that this problem had "history," as the boy had endured the cruelty since he was a child. The father longed to see change come for his son and he had hoped that things would improve when he approached Jesus' disciples. Unfortunately, the disciples were unsuccessful in their attempt to bring freedom to the boy and he remained under the violent and tormenting influence of the evil spirit."

One can only imagine how the father's hopes were dashed and his heart grieved...

"Jesus then arrived on the scene and inquired about the topic of discussion. The father explained his son's history and detailed the boy's plight. He explained how the spirit tried to destroy his son by throwing him into fire to burn him and into water to drown him. In his anguish, the father pled to Jesus - "But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

The father was expecting something from Jesus - perhaps being cautiously optimistic but, more than likely, just outright desperate to save his son as any loving parent would be - thinking if anyone could do what needed to be done to bring freedom to his child, certainly Jesus could.

Jesus states that - *belief is a link to seeing the impossible become a present reality* –

"The father cried out in tears and exclaimed, "I do believe!! Help me {**make up the difference/bridge the gap/come to a place where I fully believe**} and remove the doubt that would prohibit the outcome that true belief would expect and permit."

Mark 9:14-29:

14 And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them.

15 Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him.

16 And He asked the scribes, "What are you discussing with them?"

17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.

18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

19 He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.”

20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

21 So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.

22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes.”

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!”

26 Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” **27** But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”

29 So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”

We, your Elders, are asking you to dust off expectations that have been forgotten. You may find it too painful to choose to believe again...*However,*

Revive the promise that God has given, that once held expectation that has been neglected/unattended and lies dormant. Ask Him to breathe life into those areas that need to be resuscitated and revived, the places where you stood expectantly believing what God

wanted and wants you to believe about who He is and about His Purpose for your life - A purpose that is far greater than the one for which we have settled.

Lastly, let all this be done from and with an attitude that exclaims:

"Lord, Your Kingdom come, Your Will be done, in my life just as in heaven!!"

As always, please let us know if we can be of any assistance to you as you make this claim for your life.

Warmly,

The Elders of Middlebury Chapel

Jim Gørgon Rick Herbert

Dan Henry Iman Taylor

