

## EXPECTING PROMOTION

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**Acts 1:15-26**

We are living in some interesting, difficult, and uncertain times. You read the newspapers and turn on the television to see America is in chaos. The unemployment rate is up to 10% and its future outlook isn't better. The foreclosure percentage is also increasing. In Georgia, the school drop out rate is one the largest while the graduation rate is one the lowest. President Barack Obama is not pleasing everyone. You can't please everyone. He is the President of the United States and that is one thing that is certain. Is it really that bad in this country? Some people in Haiti would love to trade places with us considering just how much time and money it will cost to rebuild their nation. Iraq and Afghanistan are still war torn. Think again, is it really that bad here? Why would we talk about expecting promotion in a time like this?

We only know what the Word of God says; and it is becoming true even in these times. **Matthew 24** The Bible says there will be nations against nations, wars, and earthquakes. The Word of God will forever stand. No matter the crisis the Word of God is true. You can find comfort in the Word of God. **Genesis 26** Promotion is not dependent on some circumstance or situation because God is not boxed in. He doesn't need the perfect circumstance or situation to make things happen for you. You don't serve an irrelevant God. He is omnipotent. Promotion can happen because God is God. It can only happen by God.

In the text, the first church finds itself in disillusion. Peter became its leader, and had the first bible study of the church where he began to interpret the Scriptures. Afterwards, Matthias was chosen to receive the promotion to the rank of Apostle. Promotion is always a possibility as long as God is God. You have to prove yourself to get a promotion. Your work must show that you have been faithful over a few things because God wants to make you ruler over many things. You have to show that you will put in the work.

When God exalts you and lifts you up for His glory you have to become a witness. What kind of witness are you? A witness means one who can shed light on something from first hand experience and knowledge. A witness is not a spectator. **Romans 16:7** You may not have seen Jesus rise from the dead but you are still a witness. You have first hand knowledge of who God is in your life. You have a testimony. You've felt the Holy Spirit come to you in your time of need. You have a personal experience and a first hand knowledge of who God is. As an eyewitness to the gospel, you know Him. If you know Him, tell somebody. Let somebody know what God has done for you. The fact of the matter is Matthias was chosen for a specific office. That was his purpose. Your witness will function in your purpose. Your witness becomes easier when you don't question why you are you.

There are times when your purpose is not your profession. Seek God until you find it. When you know you are in your purpose you know what to say yes to and what to cast aside. What is it that moves you to compassion to where you have to do something and you cannot sit idle? What is it that you have passion to do no matter the situation or circumstance? Your purpose is in that mix somewhere. Your witness is elevated by your purpose.

You have to be holy if you want to be a witness. In the text, the God's people were holy and set apart. They were in the world but not of it. Right now there is too much hypocrisy in the church which confuses people. You can't be holy only on Sunday. God is looking for consistency. He is calling for all of us to be Holy. You can't live any kind of way and be a witness for God because then it appears suspect. Where's the credibility in that? God gave you self control but you have to activate it. You have to be holy. No one shall see God without holiness. If you aren't holy, you lose credibility. Why would anyone want to believe what's coming out of your mouth when you are telling them about God but they can't see it? Yes, we are all sinners saved by grace. However, you have premeditated sins that you know are wrong before you commit them. You willingly walk into your sin. God disciplines His sons and daughters like children.

**Proverbs 16:33** Matthias was watching God work before His eyes. God had been watching Matthias even before he was chosen. At the God ordained time, God put Him on the mind of Peter because he faithfully and selflessly worked hard. You don't have to chase anything if you do the work and seek God. You too can watch God work if you stay faithful. When God offers you the promotion, accept it. Promotion is an invitation for more responsibility. It stretches you. You may think you weren't made for that position. As God expands your territory you will begin to see just what you are made of. He expands your faith. He doesn't want you to stay in the same place all the time. There are some places in your life where you have told God no. He wants you to get to the place where you will say yes because He wants to promote you. There is only one response; and it is "yes."

Peace.

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