



THEME:

Be Expectant > Proverbs 27:1 and James 4:13-16

CONVERSATION:

1. Name a time you were so excited for something that the days passed by too slowly.
2. Have you ever prayed/hoped for something for a long time that didn't work out? Or still hasn't?
 - a. Do we lose hope? Lose faith? Get angry with God?
3. Part of being expectant means being CONTENT with the present. Paul said in Philippians 4:11-13 and he "has learned the secret to contentment". What do you think that secret is?
4. Discuss what it means to "trust in the Lord with ALL our heart." It's a term we throw around, but do we know what it means and how to practically apply it? (trusting him while waiting for prayers to be answered or that he knows best)
 - a. What are the characteristics of a faith that deep?
5. Look at **Proverbs 27:1**>>

DO NOT BOAST ABOUT TOMORROW,

FOR YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT A DAY MAY BRING

- A. How do you approach a "day at a time" mentality when it comes to expectations and planning for the future?
- B. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future?
 - a. Why do you feel that way?
 - b. Do your past experiences affect future hopes?
- C. Is it hard for you to, as we discussed previously to, "forget the past and press on to what lies ahead?"
 - a. What needs to happen for us to be those kinds of followers of Jesus?
- D. **Pray for each other** about (1) Being able to see the future with hopeful expectancy and joyful anticipation (2) being content where we are currently at & (3) living a life focused on what matters most.

TO DO ON YOUR OWN:

- Can you identify an area(s) of life that keep you weighed down (not excited to face the day)?
 - ◆ Figure out if these are caused by your decisions and outlook or external circumstances
 - ◆ Read the story of Abraham (Gen 15:1-6, Gen 21:1-7).
 - He waited 25 YEARS for God's promise to be fulfilled.
 - Determine how he was able to be expectant that God was still going to fulfill His promise even though old age, nature, and his circumstances would tell him otherwise.