

- I. ONE THING—The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

II. MEDITATION

- A. Review your class notes from Tuesday.

- Take some time to think about the main ideas of the lesson. Find the audio message on our website under the Resources tab. (www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com).
- Which of the scriptures referenced were particularly meaningful to you? Write out those verses below and spend some time studying them this week.

- B. Rewrite your One Thing into a prayer, expressing your heart's desire for God to make this truth become your experience.

III. SING

Singing is helpful in connecting emotionally to the truth.

Listen to the songs from this week's playlist to aid you in taking today's principles from your head to your heart.

This playlist and our master playlist for the Expectations series can be found on our Divine Design Discipleship YouTube channel. (Be sure to subscribe to our channel!) Our 2020 playlist is also available on Spotify. See the handout provided with your notebook for instructions on how to access these resources.

IV. PRINCIPLES

These principles will help you recognize and develop biblical expectations:

A. CONFLICT

- As human beings and as believers, we hold a variety of expectations on any given topic – some are biblical and some of them are not.
- Having expectations (beliefs and convictions) that are in conflict with one another explains why we are often of two minds. This causes mental and emotional stress.
- The goal of this series is to help us identify our expectations and to bring them into agreement with the expectations God sets based on:
 1. His Word, John 17:17-- Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
 2. His Nature, John 1:14-- The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Conflict and disappointment will expose faulty expectations that are hidden beneath the surface. Here's an example:

Luke 9:20ff NLT—(Jesus) asked them, “Who do you say I am?” Peter replied, “You are the Messiah sent from God!”²¹ Jesus warned his disciples not to tell anyone who he was.²² “The Son of Man must suffer many terrible things,” he said. “He will be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead.”²³ Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.²⁴ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.²⁵ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?²⁶ If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels.²⁷ I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Kingdom of God.”

²⁸ About eight days later Jesus took Peter, John, and James up on a mountain to pray.²⁹ And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white.³⁰ Suddenly, two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared and began talking with Jesus.³¹ They were glorious to see. And they were speaking about his exodus from this world, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem.³² Peter and the others had fallen asleep. When they woke up, they saw Jesus' glory and the two men standing with him.³³ As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave, Peter, not even knowing what he was saying, blurted out, “Master, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”³⁴ But even as he was saying this, a cloud overshadowed them, and terror gripped them as the cloud covered them.³⁵ Then a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him.”³⁶ When the voice finished, Jesus was there alone. They didn't tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

- Peter openly expressed his conflicting expectations in both episodes in our text.
- He wasn't in sync with the call to suffering. His inner conflict was so intense that he blurted out a reprimand and tried to dissuade Jesus from God's will: Mt 16:22 NLT-- Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!”
- Peter's loyalty was at odds with the expectation of pain and shame that was set before them. He had conflict within himself as well as in his relationship with Jesus.

- Jesus confronted and corrected Peter’s erroneous expectations: Mt 16:23 NLT-- Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”
- The Lord was focused on Peter’s Internal and Relational thinking – two of the foundational mindsets necessary for biblical expectations.
- It seems that tension hung in the air for days, as the Gospels record no activity for about a week (9:28). They all must have felt lonely and uncertain during this time.
- This conflict produced relational and emotional strain. When we aren’t aligned with the Lord, questions begin to replace biblical expectations:
 1. *Why does it have to be this way?*
 2. *Isn’t there an easier path?*
 3. *What about what I want?*
 4. *Doesn’t He see I’m not okay with this?*
 5. *What’s going to happen in my future?*
 6. *Why is God allowing this?*
- LISTENING EXERCISE: *Lord, please show me any issue or expectation in me that has allowed questions, conflict or tension to come between us?*
- Insights:

B. CROSS

- Clearly, Peter and the others never expected the pathway to abundant life to include a cross. They did not want to hear that Jesus must suffer and that they must, too.
- Jesus was willing to submit to God and to suffer *many things*. He is the model for another fundamental of biblical expectations, a Surrendered mindset:
 1. Jn 5:30 NLT-- I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.
 2. Lk 22:42 NLT--"Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."
- The Surrendered mindset is radically opposed to our human nature! Only the Holy Spirit can produce it in us: 1 Cor 2:12, 14 NLT-- We have received God’s Spirit (not the world’s spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us...¹⁴ But people who aren’t spiritual can’t receive these truths from God’s Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can’t understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand
- Whenever we invite the Spirit of God into any situation, we are asking Him to come and be the Lord, yielding our control to His.
- Surrender includes repentance, turning away from our own thoughts and opinions and saying “yes” to God. We are refreshed internally and relationally: Acts 3:19 AMP-- So repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins] and return [to God—seek His purpose for your life], so that your sins may be wiped away [blotted out, completely erased], so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord

- The mandate of surrender comes with the exciting expectation and hope of a transformed life: Rom 12:1-2 NIV-- Brothers and sisters, God has shown you his mercy. So I am asking you to offer up your bodies to him while you are still alive. Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God. When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping him in the right way. ² Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.
- Insights:

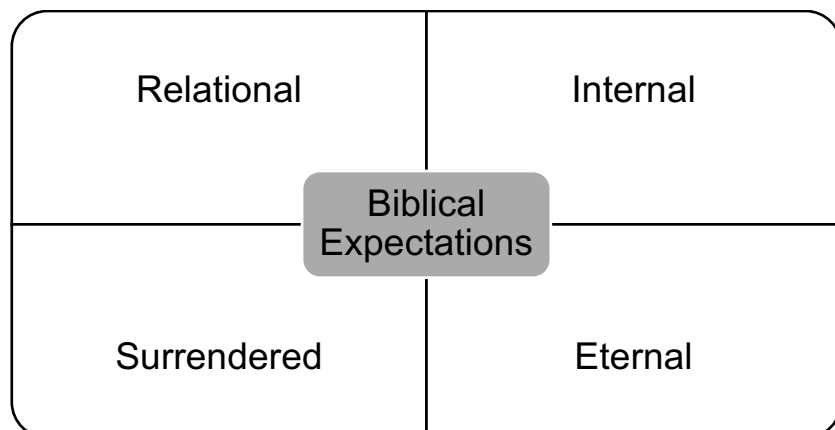
c. CROWN

- Jesus had promised that some of them would soon see the kingdom of God (9:27). Most scholars agree that He was referring to the transfiguration that was to follow.
- The Lord was cultivating in them an Eternal Mindset. This perspective is crucial whenever we deal with expectations that are held in tension (e.g. cross and crown).
- An Eternal mindset isn't time-bound. It instills hope by looking beyond circumstances to things that transcend time -- faith, hope love, God, His Word and men's souls.
- He wanted the disciples to glimpse the future that awaited them beyond the suffering of this world. He allowed them to see His glory: Heb 2:9 EXB--See Jesus, who for a short time was made lower than the angels. This was so that, by God's grace, he could die [taste death] for everyone. Now, because he suffered and died, he is wearing a crown of glory and honor. [Jesus fulfills humanity's destiny: to be crowned with glory and honor]
- Not only was Jesus to be glorified, but the presence of Moses and Elijah was evidence that mere human beings would share that glory: 2 Thes 2:14 AMP--It was to this end that He called you through our gospel [the good news of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection], so that you may obtain *and* share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- If we learn to renew our minds with this great truth when we face difficult circumstances, it will help us rise above them: 2 Cor 4:16-17 JBP-- We wish you could see how all this is working out for your benefit, and how the more grace God gives, the more thanksgiving will redound to his glory. This is the reason why we never collapse. The outward man does indeed suffer wear and tear, but every day the inward man receives fresh strength. These little troubles (which are really so transitory) are winning for us a permanent, glorious and solid reward out of all proportion to our pain. For we are looking all the time not at the visible things but at the invisible. The visible things are transitory: it is the invisible things that are really permanent.
- This principle was modeled by Vietnam POW Admiral James Stockdale: "You must maintain unwavering faith that you can and will prevail in the end, regardless of the difficulties, and at the same time, have the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be."(Jim Collins)
- In this brief encounter with eternity, Peter's blurring and continued efforts to keep things pleasant show that he did not take the truth deeply.

- Like Jesus and Commander Stockdale, we can embrace the paradox of God’s call to suffer and to have great expectations for our future: Jm 1:12--Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.
- Insights:

D. CALIBRATE

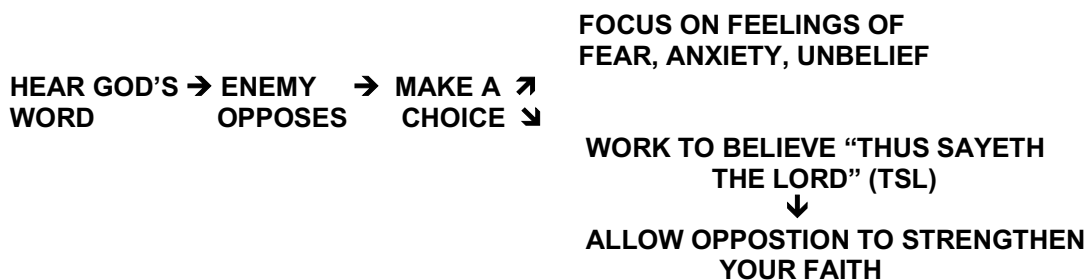
- Calibrate means: “to standardize something by determining the deviation from a standard so as to ascertain the proper correction factors (Merriam-Webster)
- The example of Peter is helpful as we seek to reset our expectations to match God’s. Let’s invite Him to identify and correct those mindsets that deviate from His.
- Whenever we find ourselves in doubt or in conflict with the Word of God, we must commit to recalibrate our thoughts and expectations:
 1. Search the Scripture for the principles, promises and expectations that apply: Is 45:19 NLT--I publicly proclaim bold promises. I do not whisper obscurities in some dark corner. I would not have told the people of Israel to seek me if I could not be found. I, the LORD, speak only what is true and declare only what is right.
 2. Make it a non-negotiable to cast aside any truth revealed in Scripture: Ps 119:30 NLT--I have chosen to be faithful; I have determined to live by your regulations.
 3. Continue focusing on what God says until faith is birthed: Rom 14:5 AMP--Let everyone be fully convinced (assured, satisfied) in his own mind.
 4. Commit to holding in tension biblical truths that seem contrary to one another: 2 Tim 3:16 JBP--All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the faith and correcting error, for re-setting the direction of a man’s life and training him in good living. The scriptures are the comprehensive equipment of the man of God and fit him fully for all branches of his work.
- The whole truth about any topic or situation is multifaceted. We must ask the Holy Spirit to bring understanding about all the elements and to aid us in balancing them:



- The process of wholeheartedly accepting what the Lord says is true takes time and your attention. When you reach a place of calibration, you will enjoy new freedom!: Jn 8:31-32--Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
- Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- Use the handout “Tools & Techniques: Be Renewed” to calibrate your expectations. Choose one particular area of doubt, struggle or conflict and repeat the exercise several times this week. Notice what bubbles up and shifts as you “abide in the truth.”
- Write down your processing. Come next week ready to share what you experienced.
- Refer to “Tools & Techniques: Listening to God” to help you grow in intimacy in your relationship with the Lord and find biblical guidance for this important practice.
- Pay attention to what God *is doing* while you are waiting on Him to do the thing you want most. Praise Him for the promises He has given and don’t forget to ask for patience!
- Take personal time with God for Meditation then Practice the Presence during your day.
- When we feel empty and unsatisfied, it’s time to check in on our deepest core needs. *What other source are we expecting to fill those needs? Where are we relationally with the Lord?*
- Get in touch with your feelings by being honest with God. Journal about your issue using the handout “Tools & Techniques: I Feel But God Says.” Take time in the coming days to search out Scriptures that offer you accurate expectations instead.
- If you need shoring up on your right-standing with God based on Jesus’ finished work at the Cross, study the handout “Tools & Techniques: God Reconciles Us.”
- Refer to this continuum to help you make a choice whenever storms threaten your peace:



- Use the handout “Tools & Techniques: Spiritual Blessings” to help you connect to the wonderful things you can expect from God as He does His internal work in you.
- Each step of our journey with God is intended to teach us to know and trust Him relationally. Developing a relational mindset could be depicted this way:

