

Armando Rodriguez

Divine Expectation

Quick-Read

Human Side of the Divine Task

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Armando Rodriguez

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To my wife Teresa and children for their love and support

PREFACE

In his epistles, the apostle Paul reveals the actions, attitudes and behaviors that become evident in those individuals who surrender to God's working. Divine activity produces a godliness in us that is profitable in all things. Godliness is the fruit that becomes evident in us when we are in the process of being transformed into God's new creation. What does it look like? In this brief article, we focus on the four directions that godliness flows in and through us. As we move through the process of transformation, our actions, attitudes and behaviors will flow upward, inward, outward and downward.

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GOD'S EXPECTATION IN THE EPISTLES OF PAUL

What is God's expectation of me?

Once we understand the salvation made possible by Father-Son-Holy Spirit, the question remains, what actions become should become evident in us after we receive so great a salvation? What behaviors should flow out of us as a result of God's activity? The behaviors produced in us flow in various directions:

Godward Direction

Actions, attitudes and behaviors that should become evident
between the believer and Father-Son-Holy Spirit

Inward Direction

Actions, attitudes and behaviors that should become evident
within the believer

Outward Direction

Actions, attitudes and behaviors that should become evident
between the believer and others

Downward Direction

Actions, attitudes and behaviors that become evident
in relation to God's enemy

The behaviors above will be categorized as either
positive or negative in nature.

The actions, attitudes and behaviors described in this chapter are not intended to be a checklist of things that qualify us for membership in some approved group. Instead, they are examples of those things that will naturally flow from and through us when we maintain a relationship with God. The negative actions, attitudes and behaviors mentioned in this chapter are those things for which we will lose our taste as we begin to enjoy the presence and glory of God.

GODWARD ACTIVITIES

(POSITIVE)

Section One

Father's Expectations

When we come into relationship with Father, there are several actions, attitudes and behaviors that become evident in us? First, we become worshippers who learn to hear, trust and walk in Him. We come to know His will and find what is acceptable to Him. We receive instruction from Him, set our mind on Him and seek those things that are above. We come to believe in our heart that He has raised Jesus from the dead. We make our boast in and bow our knee to Him. We present our bodies a living sacrifice and become built up in Him. We call on His name and press toward the goal for the prize of His upward call. We confess Him with our tongue and glorify Him with one mind and mouth. We behold His glory, and exercise ourselves to godliness. We come to know the exceeding greatness of His power, the hope of His calling and the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

As we come to know Father, we appropriate those things that are freely given to us, retain Him in our knowledge, laud and live for Him. We become lovers of God. We praise Him and pray to Him always, everywhere, without ceasing, earnestly and steadfastly. We diligently present ourselves as approved to Him. In Christ, we rejoice always and reckon ourselves to be alive to Him from the dead. We make our requests known to Father and submit to His righteousness. We become rooted in Him. Our faith is increased by hearing His word. Without distraction, we serve Him as Creator, Lord, living and true God. We stand fast in Him and are strengthened with all might. We thank Him and seek to be well pleasing to Him in all things. We provide all things honorable in His sight. We turn to Him and prove His good, acceptable and perfect will. According to Paul, these are examples of the actions, attitudes and behaviors that will flow from a believer that is in relationship with Father.

Son's Expectations

When we come into relationship with the Son, there are several actions, attitudes and behaviors that become evident in us? We learn to serve, hear, believe in, trust and walk in Him. We are instructed by Him. We set our mind on and seek things above. We bow our knee at the name of Jesus and confess Him with our mouth. With all saints, we comprehend all His vast dimensions. We eat and drink in remembrance of Him and proclaim His death until He comes. We do all things through and are strengthened by Him. We come to the measure of the stature of His fullness. We come to know Him. We come to the knowledge of the Son of God. We allow His word to richly indwell us. We come to know His love and come to love Him. We magnify Him in our body, possess the mind of Christ and become one with him. We put Him on and rejoice in Him. We come to know the fellowship of His suffering, partake of His table and seek those things that are His. We confess that He is Lord and eagerly await His return. According to Paul, these are examples of the actions, attitudes and behaviors that will flow from a believer that is in relationship with Jesus.

Holy Spirit's Expectations

When we come into relationship with the Holy Spirit, there are several actions, attitudes and behaviors that become evident in us? We receive the Holy Spirit through faith and the hearing of faith. We become perfected by Him and worship God in the Spirit.

GODWARD

(NEGATIVE)

There are also Godward expectations that are negative in nature. They are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Father: | Do not turn away from Him who called you.
Do not provoke the Lord to jealousy. |
| Son: | Do not tempt Christ. |
| Holy Spirit: | Do not quench, grieve, resist, tempt or lie to the Spirit. |

INWARD ACTIVITIES

(POSITIVE)

Section Two

Our New Character

When we come into relationship with God, there are several inward actions, attitudes and behaviors that become evident in us? When we receive a new nature, we are said to become blameless, harmless, brave, complete, and established in the faith. We are of faith. We become holy, immovable, just and kind. As believers we become as babes with respect to malice. The new nature in us empowers us to become patient, self-controlled, sober, steadfast and tenderhearted. We can be fervent in spirit, strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus and temperate in all things. We can now be lovers of what is good, spiritually minded, and mature in understanding. We can be peaceable, separate, and sober-minded. We can be of good comfort, and free from anxiety. Women can be chaste, discreet, and good. They can love their children, be homemakers and honor their husbands.

As a community of faith, we can now bear, believe, endure, and hope all things. Our faith now works through love and we show all fidelity. Now that we have been reconciled to God, fruit such as love, joy, peace, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, goodness, and self-control can flow through us. We can know perfect holiness in the fear of God, suffer long and be kind. We can aspire to lead a quiet life and love without hypocrisy. We can do all things in love and be grounded in love. Now that we have a new nature, our love can abound in all discernment and knowledge. We can do all things decently, in order and in lowliness of mind. The peace of God rules our heart and we can keep ourselves pure. We can stand fast in one mind and spirit. We can stand complete and perfect in the will of God.

Our New Practice

Now that we are in Christ, we possess new abilities. We can practice to be watchful in all things. Whatever we do in word or deed, we can now do in the

name of the Lord Jesus. All our activity is done heartily as to the Lord and not to men. We can now be an example to the believer and make known our gentleness. We can be slaves of righteousness, zealous in good things, and reverent in behavior. We can be filled with the Spirit and permeated with all God's fullness. We can be led by the Spirit and zealous for spiritual gifts. We are now vessels of honor and are being transformed by the renewing of our mind. Our faith now rests in the power of God and can be filled with the knowledge of His will. As believers, we can be thoroughly equipped for, be fruitful in, and rich in every good work. We can be zealous in and careful to maintain good works. We can be sound in faith and teachers of good things. We can be transformed into the image of Christ from glory to glory and be conformed to His death. We can now attend to the hearing of faith and be built on a sure foundation with gold, silver, and precious stones. We can show ourselves to be a pattern of good works and give place to wrath without sinning.

Our New Conduct

Now that we walk in Him, our behavior has changed. Our conduct is worthy of the gospel of Christ. We have new power to abstain from every form of evil and overcome it by doing the good. We now reach forward to those things that are ahead. We no longer parade ourselves, but live in and pursue the things that make for peace. We honor and obey those in authority over us in all things. We obey in sincerity of heart, fearing God. We obey not with eyeservice or as men-pleasers, but with fear and trembling. We pursue love and righteousness, rejoice in hope, and live soberly in the present age. We run well in order to obtain the prize. We seek to excel, give attention to reading Scripture, and sing with grace to the Lord. We sow and reap bountifully. We speak the same thing without fear. We utter words that edify and impart grace to the hearer. Our speech is always seasoned with grace. In spirit, we are now an example of a believer.

We live in and according to the Spirit. We walk in and sow to the Spirit. We desire spiritual gifts with an end to edifying others. We now test all things including ourselves. We suffer for His sake. We are not ashamed of the testimony of the Lord. We approve the things that are excellent and have regard for good things in the sight of all men. We now look at those eternal things that

are not seen. We redeem the time. We speak, rejoice in and obey the truth. We are no longer tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. We hold and keep the traditions that we have been taught. We keep the unity of the Spirit and possess our body in sanctification and honor. We walk according to the Spirit and live circumspectly in newness of life. We walk properly as in the day and are worthy of His calling. We walk in wisdom. We watch, understand and do the will of God from the heart. We now make known His manifold wisdom. We hear and hold fast to the faithful Word of life. The Word of Christ indwells us richly in all wisdom and we hold fast the pattern of sound words.

Our New Duties

Now that we are His servants, there are duties for which we are responsible. We do our share. We give of our resources and store up for ourselves a good foundation for the time to come that we may lay hold on eternal life. We do not neglect the gift that is in us, but we stir it up. We earnestly desire and use the best spiritual gifts. We labor and are ready to give. We give as we purpose in our heart and do it with liberality. We now do all to the glory of God and live godly in the present age. We share our goods with those of the household of faith. We cling to what is good. We use the law lawfully. We lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and reverence. We bear our own load.

Our New Attitude

We mind our own business and have our faith to ourselves before God. We do not lose heart. We mind the things of the Spirit and present our members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. We press on and lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of us. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God. We wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. We are thankful and serve in newness of Spirit. We think soberly as God has dealt a measure of faith to each of us. We are patient in and glory in tribulation. Having food and clothing, we are content.

Our New Attire

We begin each day by clothing ourselves with humility, kindness, longsuffering, love, meekness, and tender mercies. We put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. Women adorn themselves properly as professing godliness with good works. They adorn themselves with modest apparel with propriety and moderation.

Our New Mind

We have awoken from our sleep. We now bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. We cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. We examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith. We consider the goodness of God. We discern the Lord's body. We know our labor is not in vain.

Our New Ministry

We now keep the commandments of God and compete for an imperishable crown. If we minister holy things, we eat of the things of the temple. When we labor, we consider ourselves worthy of wages. If we preach the gospel, we live from it. If we serve at the altar, we partake of the offerings of the same. We plow and thresh in hope. We give heed to godly edification that is in faith. The sharing of our faith is effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing that is in us in Christ Jesus. We supply the Spirit to others through the hearing of faith. We walk by faith and bring forth fruit. We give ourselves to fasting and prayer. We are instructed out of God's Word and lead others with diligence. We minister to others in proportion to our faith and present every man complete in Christ.

We preach Christ crucified from goodwill and out of love. We present our bodies as instruments of righteousness to God. We do not despise prophecy, instead we desire earnestly to do so. We prophesy according to the measure of faith we have received. We are not ignorant concerning spiritual gifts. We do not forbid the speaking of tongues. If we speak in tongues, we pray to interpret. We are straightforward about the truth of the gospel. We hear, preach and

rightly divide the word of truth. We do the work of ministry and always abound in the Lord's work. We examine our own work and rejoice in it. We maintain good works. In fact, we walk in preordained good works and are established in every good word and work.

Our New Battle

We fight the good fight of faith every day. In order to face the battles that arise, we put on the whole armor of God, also called the armor of light. We put on the breastplate of faith, love and righteousness. We put on the helmet of the hope of salvation. We take up the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit. We gird our waist with truth and stand against the wiles of the devil. We shod our feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. We quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one and endure hardships as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. We withstand in the evil day.

Our New Position

In Christ, we now live by the faith of the Son of God. We stand by faith. We stand fast in the liberty by which Christ has made us free. We walk as children of light. We will attain to the resurrection from the dead and seek to know its power. We seek righteousness by faith. We shine as lights in the world and receive the adoption as sons.

Our New Salvation

We have laid hold of eternal life. We preach Christ, not ourselves. We do not veil the gospel. We are saved through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. We keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. We look for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. We work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. We are sincere and without offense until the day of Christ.

Attention to Doctrine

In doctrine we show incorruptibility, integrity and reverence. We speak the things that are proper for sound doctrine. We give attention to exhortation and take heed to ourselves and to the doctrine. We exhort and teach in proportion to our faith with all longsuffering. We hope to come to the unity of the faith and understand His mystery. We adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

INWARD ACTIVITIES

(NEGATIVE)

Section Two

Besides the positive things to which we are called, Paul also provides us with those actions, attitudes and behaviors that we must put away.

As believers, we who name the name of Christ should depart from and abhor evil. We are to forget those things that are behind. We are to deny ungodly lust, renounce the hidden things of shame as well as cast off the works of darkness. We now abstain from every form of evil and overcome evil by doing the good. Now that we have a new nature, we have the power to shun the works of the flesh, and flee from youthful lusts. We consider ourselves dead to sin and expose the unfruitful works of darkness. When seeking to restore others, we consider ourselves lest we be tempted. We keep in mind the severity of God.

As those who walk with God, there are a number of things that we put away in order to grow in grace. We put away those things that are contrary to God's standard such as lying, anger, blasphemy, malice, contentions, dissensions, drunkenness, envy, hatred, heresies, idolatry, jealousy, lewdness, murder, outburst of wrath, revelries, sorcery, uncleanness, immorality, adultery, fornication and filthy language.

As people of faith, we are not driven by selfish ambition. We do all things without complaining. We put to death the deeds of the body and cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and the spirit. We deny ungodliness, worldly lusts and put off our former conduct which belongs to the old nature with its deeds. We avoid profane, idle babblings and contradictions of those things falsely called knowledge. We shun words that increase ungodliness. We reject old wives' fables, genealogies, and words that are foolish, unprofitable and useless. When restoring others, we take heed lest we fall. We are ready to punish all disobedience when our obedience is fulfilled. In regard to Scripture, we avoid handling the Word of God deceitfully. In reference to giving, we remind ourselves that if we sow sparingly, we will reap sparingly. We do not grow weary in doing the good. We do not give grudgingly or of necessity. We do not pilfer. We do not muzzle the ox while it treads out the grain. When

dealing with trials, we are not shaken by afflictions. In regard to good works, we do not lag in diligence.

Bad Influences

As believers, we do not allow others to bring us into bondage nor give heed to the commandments of men. We do not allow evil company to corrupt our good habits or allow our mind to be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. We do not deceive ourselves or let other do so. We do not become entangled with a yoke of bondage nor are we overcome by evil. We do not give heed to those things that cause disputes. We are not hindered from obedience to the truth nor do we turn back to weak and beggarly elements of our former life. We refuse to turn to a different gospel or have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.

Personal Behavior

As individuals, we do not use our authority for destruction nor are we children in understanding. We do not operate out of conceit. As believers, we do not complain, covet, walk in craftiness or deceive ourselves by thinking we are something. We do not defile the temple of God (our body) or allow corrupt words to proceed out of our mouth. We do not allow the sun to go down upon our wrath nor do we become drunk with wine. We do not lust after evil things or think evil of others. We are not estranged from Christ. We do not bear false witness or fulfill the lust of the flesh. We do not sow to the flesh to reap corruption. We do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, nor do we have confidence in or make provision for the flesh.

We do not set aside the grace of God or fall from it. We do not judge anything before the time or walk in lewdness. We do not commit murder or present our bodies as instruments of unrighteousness to sin. As believers, we do not set our mind on high things nor do we consider ourselves wise in our own opinion. We do not walk by sight. We do not focus on the temporary things that are seen or set our mind on things of the earth. We are not provoked nor do we quarrel. We are not quick-tempered. We do not rejoice in iniquity or walk in

revelry. We do not trust in uncertain riches or behave rudely. We do not seek our own nor are we self-willed. Sin does not reign in our mortal body nor do we obey its lusts. We are not slanderers, nor do we steal or walk in strife. We do not touch what is unclean. We are not unfruitful, violent or greedy for money.

In reference to worship, we do not eat and drink in an unworthy manner or drink judgment to ourselves. We do not despise the riches of God's forbearance, goodness and longsuffering. We do not glory in His presence or provoke the Lord to jealousy. We do not seek justification apart from faith in Christ nor do we grieve the Holy Spirit.

OUTWARD ACTIVITIES

(POSITIVE)

Section Three

Our Relationships

Paul also provides the reader with those actions, attitudes and behaviors that should be emulated when it comes to our relationship to others. We are to be of one accord, bear one another and commend ourselves to every man's conscience. If we become angry, it is not to the point of sin. We should esteem others better than ourselves and willingly forgive when offended. We should show all humility to all men and not allow anyone to cheat us of our divine reward.

Our Relationship to Outsiders

As believers, we build on a firm foundation. We render to all their due. If our enemy is hungry, we feed him. If he is thirsty, we give him a drink. We bless those who persecute us and seek the profit of many that they may be saved. We owe no one anything except love. If possible, we live peaceably with all men. We are subject to governing authorities for the sake of our conscience. We pay taxes. If we employ others, we give them what is just and fair. We make supplication and intercede for all. We are instructors of the foolish, and guides to the blind. We fulfill the law by loving our neighbors as we love ourselves. We are a light to those in darkness. We teach every man in all wisdom. We exhort and convict those who contradict the gospel and restore them in a spirit of gentleness. We teach patiently and in humility those who are in opposition. In reference to evil, we have come out from among them and walk properly toward those who are outside.

Our Relationships within the Church

As members of the church, we are kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love. By loving all saints, we fulfill the law. We are like-minded and perfectly joined together in the same judgment. We use our authority for edification. If wronged, we choose to be wronged or cheated instead of going to court before the unrighteous unbeliever. If we have a matter against another believer, we go before the saints. We bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. We comfort the faint-hearted and those who are in trouble. We model appropriate conduct to others. We are being fitted together with the community of faith.

We greet each other with a holy kiss and through love serve one another. When we gather with the saints, we bring a psalm, hymn, spiritual song, a teaching, a tongue, a revelation or an interpretation. We edify and equip one another. We exhort older men as fathers, older women as mothers, younger woman as sisters and younger men as brothers. We honor widows. When a member is honored, we also rejoice. We suffer with those that suffer. We weep with those that weep. We are imitators of the churches of God and pursue peace with those who call on the Lord.

We seek one another's well-being by looking out for the interests of others. We please our neighbor for his good and give preference to one another. We associate with the humble and exhort bondservants to be obedient. We are examples to the believers in purity. We recognize those that labor among us and share in all good things with him who teaches. We esteem our instructors very highly in love. We count elders who rule well worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. We distribute our resources to the urgent needs of the saints, submit to one another and strive together for the faith of the gospel.

We teach and admonish in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. We uphold the weak and bear with their scruples. We receive those weak in faith and seek to restore those taken in trespasses. We charge others not to strive about words.

Our Relationships – Marriage and Family

As husbands, we love our wife. As wives, we submit to our husband. As husband and wife, we render affection to each other. We do not deprive one

another except with consent for a time. We submit to one another. As wives, we do not depart from our husband and as husbands we do not put away our wife. We bring up our children in the training and admonition of the Lord. We ensure not to provoke our children to wrath. As women, we learn in silence with all submission.

Our Relationships – Personal

As individuals, we pursue those things that edify. We are examples in faith and love. We pursue faith and love with those who call on the Lord. We share our faith and grow up in all things. We speak the truth in love and are given to hospitality. We are of one mind and show mercy with cheerfulness. We receive one another and are willing to share. We give thanks in everything and for all men. We do not allow anyone to despise our youth. We are built up and do not allow anyone to cheat us through philosophy and empty deceit.

OUTWARD ACTIVITIES

(NEGATIVE)

Section Three

Paul also provides us with those actions, attitudes and behaviors that are to be avoided by a believer.

Our Relationship – To Non-believers

As believers, we do not conform ourselves to this world nor keep company with anyone who calls himself a believer and practices any of the following sins: covetousness, drunkenness, extortion, or idolatry. We have no part with the unbeliever nor eat with so called believers who practice sin. We do not keep company with revilers, those who practice sexual immorality or those that walk disorderly. We are not equally yoked together with unbelievers.

Our Relationships - To the Church

As believers, we do not despise the church of God. We do not consume one another or show contempt for our brothers. We avoid divisions, yet note and reject those who cause them. We do not bite, envy, devour, or provoke one another. We do not shame those who have nothing. As saints, we avoid judging each other, yet warn those who are unruly and rebuke them in the presence of all that others may fear. We command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty. We are not terrified by our adversaries. As believers, we do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. We refuse to boast in men. We avoid foolish, ignorant, unprofitable and useless contentions and disputes that generate strife. We do not speak evil of anyone.

Our Relationships – Our Personal Practice

As individuals, we avoid self-deception. We do not think of ourselves more highly than we ought. We do not avenge ourselves, nor do we repay evil for evil. We do not curse those who persecute us. We avoid foolish,

unprofitable and useless striving about the law. We do not lie to one another nor do we have fellowship with lawlessness. We do not commit adultery. We do not obey our master with eye service.

Our Relationships – Our Witness

As believers, we do not regard anyone according to the flesh. We do not cause our brothers to fall. We do not destroy a believer for whom Christ died or destroy the work of God for the sake of food. We do not allow our good to be evil spoken of. We do not allow our liberty to become a stumbling block to the weak. We do not give offense to any nor do we put a stumbling block in our brother's way or do anything that will cause a weak brother to stumble or be offended.

DOWNWARD ACTIVITIES

(POSITIVE)

Section Four

There are no positive expectations regarding the devil
made in the epistles of Paul.

DOWNWARD OUTCOMES

(NEGATIVE)

Paul provide us with those actions, attitudes and behaviors that we are to avoid in relation to God's enemy. As believers, we are to have no accord with Belial or communion with darkness. We should have no agreement with idols. We should not drink from the cup of demons, nor should we have fellowship with them. We should not partake of their table. We should not give place to the devil, nor should we let Satan tempt us due to our lack of self-control.

Again, I would like to emphasize that the actions, attitudes and behaviors described in this article are not intended to be a checklist of things that qualify us for membership in some approved group. Instead, they are examples of those things that will naturally flow from and through us when we maintain a relationship with God. The negative actions, attitudes and behaviors mentioned are those things for which we will lose our taste as we begin to enjoy the presence and glory of God.

Conclusion

Father has conceived a wonderful plan, His Son has accomplished it and the Holy Spirit is now applying it to our lives. God has good intentions toward us. He desires to transition us into His BEST. His activity will transform us into a new creation. Because of His work in us, we can now become channels of His life, power and blessing to the world. The actions, attitudes and behaviors

discussed in this study summarize the fruit that will flow from a life that is surrendered to the wonder working power of God.

OTHER BOOKS AND QUICK READS

BOOKS

The Narratives of Christ (Gospel)
Is God Speaking? (Minor Prophets)
God's Life-Changing Curriculum (An Agent of Change)
Worship (In the New Testament)

QUICK-READS

The Authority of the Believer
Transforming Power
Redeemed from the Curse (Entitled to the Blessing)
Emotional Intelligence (Models: A Brief Review)
Why He Came
The Kingdom (13 Parables)
Divine Transition
Divine Expectation
Unclaimed Wealth
Times of Refreshing
Unlocking God's Diary
The House of James
The Will of God (In James)
The Pure Gospel (Galatians)
Paul's Vision of God (Ephesians)
The Journey

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