

Tuesday, May 29, 2007

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**"The Power of Anticipation:  
Looking Forward to Tomorrow"**

Psalm 30:5 (NKJV)  
I Corinthians 2:9(NKJV)

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- As we continue to reflect on the power that is associated with who we are as believers, we will now consider the power of anticipation.
- The word, anticipation, is defined by dictionary.com as:
  1. The act of anticipating
  2. Realization in advance
  3. An expectation or intuition
- The ability to anticipate is perhaps one of the greatest attributes any leader can have.
- In fact, anticipation is often more important than realization.
- Thomas Fuller writes that "prospect is often better than possession".
- There are those who believe that anticipation is the enemy of contentment. I strongly disagree with this assessment, for I believe that anticipation leads to contentment.
- It is not only important for leaders to have the ability to anticipate, it is also very important for all believers to possess the power of anticipation.
- Many equate anticipation with vision, and the Bible tells us, where there is no vision the people will perish.
- Our scriptural text gives us two references concerning the power of anticipation. They involve two of the most prominent individuals in the Bible, King David of the Old Testament and the Apostle Paul of the New Testament.
- Let us examine these two references, and see what they tell to us about the power of anticipation:

## I. Psalm 30:5

- This text was written by David, someone who had his share of struggles.
- However, David writes this Psalm not just to reflect on all of his struggles, but to rejoice over what he anticipates is going to happen.
- John Phillips, the noted biblical scholar, labeled this Psalm “Joy Cometh in the Morning”.
- David began this Psalm by blessing the Lord for not allowing his enemy to rejoice over him. (verse 1)
- In verse 3, he goes on to talk about how God kept him alive, and delivered him from the pit.
- Finally, in verse 5, David tells us that although he had been through some midnight experiences, he looked forward to tomorrow with great expectation. (“Joy in the Morning”)

## II. I Corinthians 2: 9

- Paul writes this epistle to the Christians of Corinth who were struggling with all kinds of issues.
- Paul deals with what appears to be a very bleak situation by sharing a word of encouragement.
- In verse 3, Paul tells them that he is aware of what they are going through. He writes, “I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling”.
- He goes on to tell them that although they may be struggling now, they should expect that things will one day be better.
- In verse 9, Paul quotes the Prophet Isaiah by telling those weary saints that “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for them that love the Lord”.
- The Power of Anticipation!