

Expect To
Receive
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Something

By

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Expect To Receive Something

Acts 3:1-5

1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *being* the ninth *hour*.

2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple,

3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

4 And Peter fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

5 And he gave heed unto them expecting to receive something of them.

How many of you prayed last night? Did any if you pray this morning? Do you believe in the power of prayer? Do know what it takes to get a prayer through?

In our Scripture for today we find a beggar at the temple gate called beautiful doing what was his custom all of his life, begging for alms (money). When he saw Peter and John approaching the temple he recognized them as religious men

and got their attention. "Sirs can you spare some alms? "Can you hook a brother up"? Peter Look at him and said look on us. This is where the story gets interesting, the scripture records "And he gave heed unto them expecting to receive something of them." Normally when someone is stopped and asked for money the answer comes very quick. They will say no or ignore and walk away or they will say yes and reach into their pocket or purse. Well, because they didn't say no or ignore him, but responded by saying "Look on us", the beggar knew from years of being in the begging business, that anything short of a cold shoulder or an outright no was a positive response. And a positive response meant that he had no choice but to **Expect To Receive Something!**

While we as Christians are not in the begging business, we should be in the praying business. And whenever we kneel to pray, that is our temple gate Beautiful. Our father is their saying to us look ever to Jesus. **Expect To Receive Something!** Years of being in the prayer business has taught me that when you pray the prayer of faith, **Expect To Receive Something!** Obviously the operative phrase is prayer of faith. If you don't pray with faith what can you expect? Well that's easy for you preacher to talk about prayer and faith

that's your business. That's where you are wrong. It's not just my business its every believer's business. The prayer of faith discerns God's will and perseveres until it is accomplished. You cannot perceive the will of God if you do not have faith in God. You must have faith in God! You cannot have Faith in God if you do not have a relationship with Him. Relationships do not just happen. Relationships are nurtured over time. When David said "I have been young and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread" what we learn from this word is that faith in God is a living experience. David recounts his life experiences from his youth up to that moment. What he has learned through careful, experiential observation is that God will take care of his children. David had learned that God doesn't do it because we are so good but simply because He loves us so much. David could look back over his life and see the hand of God working on his behalf from his humble beginnings as a shepherd boy to the King of the Jews and a man after Gods own heart. David had experienced God's power to deliver, first hand, on many occasions. The sum total of those experiences had taught him that when he could go

nowhere else he could go to God and **Expect To Receive Something!**

Faith in God demands expectation. When you have developed over time a relationship with God, You not only become familiar with how God communicates with you, but you began to look and listen every wear to hear his voice when he calls and somehow God fixes it so that you are really in tune with Him and you know through His will who to pray for, what to pray for and how to pray for it and brothers and sisters, when you have developed that kind of relationship with God you have no choice but to **Expect To Receive Something!**

Now I know that some of you who have been sincerely listening to me are truly searching yourselves questioning the integrity of your faith. That's not a bad thing. There are a lot of folks who think they are getting prayers through and aren't. Remember the Pharisee who went up to pray next to the publican (Luke 18:9-14) **Two me went up to the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week I**

give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican standing afar off would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: For every one that exalteth himself shall be abased, and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. When you humble yourself before God, **Expect To Receive Something!**

I have told you that the scripture recorded that the beggar expected to receive something from Peter and John. Now, as the late Paul Harvey would say: let me tell you the rest of the story: When the beggar looked on the two disciples, Peter said to him Silver and Gold Have I none. Oh I can imagine the beggar's heart began to drop. How could he have read these guys so wrong? Years of begging had taught him how to size up the people and he had learned overtime just what to say how to say it and most importantly who to say it to and he was sure that these guys were going to give him something and now they tell him they ain't got no money, but wait Mr. Beggar man Peter hasn't finished yet listen to what else he is saying: Silver and Gold have I none but such as I have give I thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and

walk. When you **Expect To Receive Something, don't** be surprised if what you get is more than you were looking for. All the beggar wanted was some alms and what he got was legs, all he wanted was some spare changes, but what he got was strength to mount up with the wings of eagles, legs to run and not be weary, feet to walk and not faint. When you have faith In God **Expect To Receive Something! Eyes have not seen, Ears have heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love him and Expect To Receive Something!**