

MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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Building Anticipation

Dear Friend,

Today is the day before Christmas 2018. I would imagine many people are out doing their last minute shopping. Trees are trimmed and ready for the big day. Excitement has been building for weeks in anticipation of what might be under the Christmas tree in the morning.

I remember as a child I could hardly wait for Christmas morning to come. My mom did a great job hiding all our gifts so that everything would be a surprise. Once the gifts were under the tree I would shake the boxes and try to figure out what was inside. Looking back as an adult, it seems to me that the anticipation was just as much a part of Christmas as the presents themselves.

If you will allow me a few precious minutes of your time this Christmas Eve, I would like to focus on the idea of building anticipation. I promise to be brief.

Our heavenly Father is the originator of building anticipation for future events. Consider this, He planted the seeds of His Word throughout the generations building anticipation for the One who was to come, Jesus.

God began building anticipation for Jesus before Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden. After the fall, God announced to the serpent his future demise. God declared that a woman would carry a Seed, the virgin birth, and that Seed would bruise his head and the enemy would bruise His heel. (Genesis 3:15) Keep in mind; God was speaking about something that wouldn't take place for thousands of years. Satan had no idea that the one God spoke of would be His only Son, nor did he know when this would take place.

The evidence of satan's obvious ignorance to when this future event would take place was demonstrated in Cain's murder of his brother Abel. Clearly, satan had a hand in orchestrating this murder, most likely in an effort to thwart God's ultimate plan. The devil's short sightedness is clearly evident in the fact that he thought this murder would stop God. For anyone who would ever think the devil is any match for God, this should be evidence enough that the devil isn't even

close. The devil apparently thought that all he had to do to stop God was to convince one man to kill another. Imagine thinking so small as to believe one act of jealousy resulting in one brother killing another would be enough to stop God.

Because God is God, Abel's murder did not keep God's ultimate plan from being fulfilled. Patiently God waited throughout the generations, occasionally planting the seed of His Word into the earth until the time came for His Seed to manifest in the person of Jesus. The point I want to drive home today is this, the process of God releasing His Word into the earth, building anticipation for the one who was to come, was not an overnight process. All too often we expect to pray about something and have the manifestation the next day. Then, when the manifestation doesn't happen overnight we think God has forsaken us.

God is not waving a magic wand in heaven causing things to happen on earth. This idea that He is just waiting for us to pray so He can waive His hand and cause things to happen is a product of Hollywood. That is not at all the way God operates. God abides by His Word. Nothing happens without God's Word being released. But, when His Word is released into this earth and acted on in faith believing, then the answer will come 100% of the time.

There was absolutely no doubt from the moment God released His Word in the Garden that Jesus would eventually walk the face of the earth and bruise satan's head. Think of all those generations that passed as anticipation was building of the One who was to come. In all of the devil's efforts to keep the Seed of God's Word from manifesting, he failed. Think of the dread the devil had to have felt knowing that one day the Seed of God's Word was going to manifest and crush him.

As we prepare to celebrate the greatest gift God has ever given to mankind I hope we can appreciate the methodical way our heavenly Father built anticipation through releasing His Word into the earth for the One who was to come.

I want to encourage you today to speak His Word out of your mouth and allow His Word to paint a picture of your victory on the canvas of your heart. Build anticipation in your heart of the answer through reading and meditating (think on, mutter) the Word, worship and fellowship with God. And know just as surely as Jesus came into this world the manifestation of God's Word, you too will see God's Word manifest in your life. Merry Christmas!

~ Jesus Loves You!

Mark Jenkins