



Expecting A Miracle | Doug Wekenman | 01.19.2025

Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

- **Share a high, a low, and something interesting from this week.**
- **Share a time when you experienced a miracle. What was the period like between when you first prayed or expected the miracle and when it actually happened?**

GROW

Are we truly expecting God to move in our lives this year? In his powerful message, *Expecting A Miracle*, Doug challenges us to examine our faith and readiness for God's miracles. Drawing from Joshua 1, we're reminded that God acts as we step forward in faith. Just as the Israelites prepared to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land, we too are called to 'get ready' for what God has in store.

When we truly expect God to move, it should be evident in our actions and lifestyle. Many people share a longing for breakthrough—freedom from addiction, clarity for a dream, or meeting their future spouse. So why do some experience miracles while others don't? The

difference isn't in the expectancy itself; it's in how that expectancy shapes who we are becoming.

Instead of simply hoping for change, what if our lives demonstrated that we're becoming the kind of person who sees that change? Take three people with messy rooms as an example. The first person wants a clean room but takes no action. The second cleans up but doesn't change the habits that created the mess, so the clutter returns. The third doesn't just clean the room—they choose to become a tidy person, turning what they once hoped for into the byproduct of who they've become.

This year, let's not just watch what God is doing—let's be part of it. Are you willing to step into the 'Jordan River' of your life—the challenges God is calling you to confront? As you do, you'll find His presence with you, empowering you to live out your purpose and make an impact.

Read Joshua 1:1-6, Romans 5:3-5

- **What spoke to you about this week's message?**
- **What sticks out to you from the verses above?**

Doug mentioned that “real expectation should lead to preparation and action.” From the beginning of Joshua, God emphasizes the importance of trusting Him and “getting ready” for what's ahead, but the Israelites failed in this task. They were promised “every place where you set your foot” (Joshua 3), which added up to tens of thousands of square miles of land, but they only ever laid claim to about one-tenth of what God promised them. Their only expectation really was to be freed from Egypt, and God not only did that but promised them more land than they could possibly imagine, but their lack of preparation and action prevented them from experiencing these miracles.

- **"In what areas of your life are you expecting God to move or bring change, but perhaps failing to take the steps of preparation and action that align with that expectation?"**

- **How can you begin to trust God more fully and step into the 'promises' He has for you, not just in what you're hoping for but also in what He's calling you to do?"**

M O V E

In John 5:6, Jesus asks a man lying on a mat, "Do you want to get well?" On the surface, it seems like an obvious question—of course, the man wants to be healed. But upon deeper reflection, we realize that "getting well" requires more than physical healing. The man may desire to walk again, but he likely hasn't considered that healing would mean more than just the ability to move—it would mean a complete transformation of his life. His identity is tied to his current condition, and to be genuinely healed means every aspect of his life must change. He must become the kind of person who walks in the power given to him.

Jesus didn't ask, "Do you want your situation to change?" He asked, "Do you want YOU to change?" You might wonder, "What's the difference?" Think of two smokers offered a cigarette. The first person says, "No thanks. I'm trying to quit." This sounds reasonable, but it shows that the person still sees themselves as a smoker—holding on to the habits and routines tied to smoking. The second person says, "No thanks. I'm not a smoker." This response signals a shift in identity. Smoking was part of their past, not their present. They no longer identify as someone who smokes.

This subtle difference in mindset is what separates those who experience only a fraction of God's promises from those who embrace the fullness of what He offers. We often fix our eyes on the miracles of others without seeing the pain, the perseverance, and the process that was taken that led to the miracle. This week, will you fall more in love with the process than the product?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, John 5:6

- **If God was going to do a miracle in your life this week, would you be ready for it?**
- **Think about what you want. Are you more focused on the product (what you can see) than the process (what you can't see)? What does that say about your faith?**

Nothing humbles the ego of an adult who thinks they know something like a child who asks a simple question, then continues with "why?" over and over until you realize you know nothing about the topic. For the next 10 minutes, put on some worship music and take time alone to reflect on what you really want or need—and why. Write down what God reveals to you. Afterward, we'll come together as a group to share what you discovered.

1. Imagine you're sitting at a table with Jesus, and He asks you, "What do you want?" Write your answer.
2. Now, imagine a younger version of you (any age that comes to mind) joins the table and asks, "Why?" Write your response to this younger version of you.
3. The younger version of you asks again, "Why?" Write your response and note any emotions that come up.
4. One more time, the younger version asks, "Why?" What is your response this time? What is being revealed to you?
5. Which younger version of you (which age) did you choose? Why did you think you chose that version of yourself?
6. What do you think that version of you thinks about who you are today? Are they proud, disappointed, or feeling something else? Reflect on the emotions that arise when you think about how far you've come since that childhood version of yourself.
7. Imagine Jesus watching this interaction between your present self and your younger self. What do you think He thinks about it? What does this reveal about how you treat yourself and the person you are becoming?
8. Final question: Imagine yourself doing this activity twenty years from now with the current version of yourself. What expectations do you hold for that future version of you? How can you prepare yourself now to become that person you want to be twenty years from now?

P R A Y

Spend some time praying over the group and the things that people need as we move forward this year, preparing to step into the promises that God has set before us.