

# Father is Never Disappointed with Us

The following quote was read in our sharing time on Sunday by one of our members to encourage us to see Kingdom relationships from a Hebrew perspective rather than a Greek perspective. Greek thinking is based on form and structure, and uses nouns and analysis. Hebrew thinking is based on function and relationship, and uses verbs and actions.

Our Greek-based theology in the the church has taught us many erroneous concepts, including a misconception in our understanding of Father's expectations of us. William Young exposes it like this:

*"Let's use the example of friendship and how removing the element of life from a noun can drastically alter a relationship. Mack, if you and I are friends, there is an expectancy that exists within our relationship. When we see each other or are apart, there is an expectancy of being together, of laughing and talking. That expectancy has no concrete definition; it is alive and dynamic and everything that emerges from our being together is a unique gift shared by no one else. But what happens if I change that expectancy to an expectation—spoken or unspoken? Suddenly, law has entered into our relationship. You are now expected to perform in a way that meets my expectations. Our living friendship rapidly deteriorates into a dead thing with rules and requirements. It is no longer about you and me, but about what friends are supposed to do, or the responsibilities of a good friend."*

*"Or," noted Mack, "the responsibilities of a husband, or a father, or an employee, or whatever. I get the picture. I would much rather live in expectancy."*

*"As I do," mused Sarayu.*

*"But," argued Mack, "if you didn't have expectations and responsibilities, wouldn't everything just fall apart?"*

*"Only if you are of the world, apart from me, and under the law. Responsibilities and expectations are the basis of guilt and shame and judgment, and they provide the essential framework that promotes performance as the basis for identity and value. You know well what it is like not to live up to someone's expectations."*

*"Boy, do I!" Mack mumbled. "It's not my idea of a good time." He paused briefly, a new thought flashing through his mind. "Are you saying you have no expectations of me?"*

*Papa now spoke up. "Honey, I've never placed an expectation on you or anyone else. The idea behind expectations requires that someone does not know the future or outcome and is trying to control behavior to get the desired result. Humans try to control behavior largely through expectations. I know you and everything about you. Why would I have an expectation other than what I already know? That would be foolish. And beyond that, because I have no expectations, you never disappoint me."*

*"What? You've never been disappointed in me?" Mack was trying hard to digest this.*

*"Never!" Papa stated emphatically. "What I do have is a constant and living expectancy in our relationship, and I give you an ability to respond to any situation and circumstance in which you find yourself. To the degree that you resort to expectations and responsibilities, to that degree you neither know me nor trust me."<sup>1</sup>*

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