AN OUTLINE OF LESSON OR STUDY PREPARED AND DELIVERED BY BRO INNOCENT ICHA AT CHURCH OF CHRIST, NO.5, OWERRI STREET, HIGH LEVEL, BOX 1689, MAKURDI, BENUE STATE, NIGERIA, WEST-AFRICA ON THE 22ND OF DECEMBER, 2024

TOPIC: MANAGEMENT OF HIGH EXPECTATIONS

TEXT: MATTHEW 6:25-34

**INTRODUCTION**

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, our hearts are filled with expectations. We desire to make the best of ourselves, to achieve greatness, and to experience joy and fulfillment. But how do we manage these high expectations? How do we balance our desires with the realities of life?

**PRESENTATION**

A. MANAGEMENT OF EMOTIONS (MATTHEW 6:25-32)

Jesus teaches us not to worry about our lives, what we will eat or drink, or what we will wear. He reminds us that our heavenly Father knows our needs and will provide for us. But how do we manage our emotions when faced with uncertainty?

- We must learn to trust in God's providence, knowing that He cares for us.

- We must focus on seeking God's kingdom and righteousness, rather than worrying about our own needs.

- We must cultivate a sense of gratitude, recognizing the blessings we already have.

B. MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES (1 TIMOTHY 6:6-11, 17-19)

The apostle Paul teaches us to be content with what we have and to avoid the love of money. He reminds us that godliness with contentment is great gain. But how do we manage our resources in a way that honors God?

- We must recognize that our resources are not our own, but are entrusted to us by God.

- We must prioritize giving and generosity, using our resources to bless others.

- We must avoid the trap of materialism, recognizing that true wealth is found in our relationship with God.

C. A FOCUSED AND PURPOSEFUL REASONING AND PLANNING (Philippians 4:11-13)

The apostle Paul teaches us to be content in all circumstances, whether we have much or little. He reminds us that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. But how do we cultivate a focused and purposeful mindset?

- We must learn to trust in God's sovereignty, recognizing that He is in control of all things.

- We must prioritize our relationship with God, seeking to know Him and His will.

- We must cultivate a sense of flexibility, being willing to adjust our plans as God leads.

D. **CONCLUSION: APPLICATION**

As we conclude, let us remember that hardship and hard times are a consistent part of life. But we must not let these challenges dictate our attitudes and actions. Instead, we must learn to trust in God's goodness, to seek His kingdom, and to cultivate a sense of contentment and gratitude.

- Let us apply these principles to our lives, seeking to manage our expectations in a way that honors God.

- Let us trust in God's providence, prioritize our relationship with Him, and cultivate a sense of contentment and gratitude.

- Let us remember that true wealth is found in our relationship with God, and that godliness with contentment is great gain.

May God bless us as we seek to manage our high expectations and trust in His goodness. Amen.