

# Zechariah

Reflections to Share,  
Journal and Ponder

# Elizabeth

## Chapter 2: Great Expectations

Often when we set our expectations, we also set the stage for our disappointments. Life seldom turns out like we thought or hoped it would. Thus we need to be people who hold our hopes and dreams loosely, not clutching them as if there is only one way they can be.

God is faithful, yet very unpredictable. As a result, we can comprehend only a small portion of what God is really doing in and with our lives. Thus we need to be people who are fostering a sense of expectancy, while at the same time avoiding rigid expectations of how and when God should be doing things in and with our lives.

- Has a parent, teacher or a friend ever projected (very) high hopes upon you? Expectations so high that you felt you couldn't possibly ever measure up? That you would never be good enough? How did that affect you? How is that still affecting you?
- Have you ever had situations and experiences in which, by the very process of defining your expectations you also planted the seeds of your disappointments?
- How can we best live with a continual sense of expectancy, totally trusting in God's providence and timing, without slipping into any sense of rigid expectations of how and when He should do things for us?
- Does it seem to you that you started out on a life journey where the early stages seemed to unfold in pleasant, even satisfying ways? But then you slowly drifted into a detour, then a cul de sac, or maybe even a dead end? What did that realization do to you as you experienced these changes in your life's hoped-for plan? How did that affect your time with God, your view of God and your desire to be faithful?

### Ponder

In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation. *Psalms 5:3*

In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. *Proverbs 16:9*