



CELEBRATING FROM A PLACE OF GREAT EXPECTATION(S)

My elementary school years as a student were at Frances Grout. In grades K through 6, I would look out the windows and watch the "big kids" going to McKinstry Junior High. Every June, I would say to myself, "One day, I will be big enough to go there, play in the band, have homework, and play sports!"

Yes, I loved doing research and doing homework.

Another extracurricular activity that I looked forward to was the Spring Productions, put on by the drama and music department.

One of the showstoppers in my 8th grade year was the song "June

is Busting Out All Over!" I never did learn the lyrics, but I enjoyed the melody and the excitement of the music.

That song, along with "You'll Never Walk Alone," is from the play by Rodgers and Hammerstein entitled "Carousel."

"June" in that play was the welcome of the days of summer, its warmth, its expectations of young love, and the rekindling and awakening of seasoned love. Nature was coming fully awake from the hibernation of Winter.

Here are some lyrics.

"March went out like a lion—a whiplin' up the water in the bay. Then April cried and stepped aside, and along came pretty little May. May was full of promises, but she didn't keep them quickly enough for some. And a crowd of doubting Thomases was predicting that the summer had never come! But it's coming by gum. We can feel it come. You can feel it in your heart. You can see it in the ground. You can see it in trees. You can smell it in the breeze. Look around! Look around! June is busting out all over! The feeling is getting so intense!"

The physical senses are involved and stir the desires of the human soul. From this place of celebration, we begin to experience

G R E A T
EXPECTATIONS.

Let's go back in history.

In the book of Exodus, God presents Himself as the



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"Father" of the nation of Israel. (A reference to Father's Day)

At Mount Sinai, there was a manifestation of sight, sound, and feeling as God descended from the heavens to meet Moses and the people to give the Torah. There was the sight and sound of thunder, lightning, a thick cloud, and trumpets. Israel could hear God, but only Moses could "understand" God. When God speaks to Moses, Moses then says to the people.

It sounds like something a good father would do. The father would make his presence, protection, and provision tangible. It would calm the family and create an atmosphere of celebration and anticipation for what is to come.

This year, 2025, Pentecost is also celebrated in June.

Pentecost was originally a celebration of the connection to Heaven. Then, it became a celebration of thankfulness with the giving of the first fruits. Now, June is the celebration from a place of expectation that "the best is yet to come!"

I am Dr. David Rainey, Faith Enthusiast for The Soutltown Magazine. I want to thank God for having SOUL! ☺

