

12/28/2025



Abraham a man of great faith.

- The Abrahamic covenant, promise...
- Abraham heard this and believed God!
- But yet as he lived everyday...
- Not getting any younger,
- Saying, “Lord I believe, why aren’t you...
- But over and over the hope got delayed.
- “Lord, I have no children!”
- God says, “Your seed will be through Sarai.”
- Then Abraham & Sarai decided that God needed some help...
- Insert Hagar and Ishmael.
- “Here Lord, the hope is still there!”
- God says, “No!, not through Hagar, nor through Ishmael!”
- Now what did Abraham & Sarai do? (**17:17; 18:12**)
- **Genesis 18:14** “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

Our Text: Proverbs 13:12: “Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.”

Abraham & Sarai’s hope -

- It was God’s promise!
- But God delayed it.
- It made their hearts sick.
- And who among us has not experienced that sickness of heart.
- Our hopes, our expectations that are delayed, or don’t come to pass for whatever reason. = Disappointment

Let me ask you:

- What has God promised you?
- The Psalmist, David said: (**37:4**) “*Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.*”
- But what if that’s delayed? Or seems to be?
- What do you do? *Illustration: Job*

Job 17:15: “And where is now my hope (expectation) as for my hope, who shall see it?”

Job had delayed, deferred hope:

Job 7:6: My days pass more swiftly than a weaver’s shuttle; they come to an end without *hope*.

Job 7:17: What is man, that You think so highly of him and pay so much attention to him?

Job 13:15: Though He slay me, I will trust, hope in Him. Nevertheless, I will argue my ways before Him.

Over

You see: *Extended waiting* makes the heart sick; That is, causes heart woe! But, a *wish fulfilled*, is a tree of life - Like that tree of paradise – which was destined to renew and extend the life of man! - **Rev 22**

So, what should our hopes be?

How do we become Biblical when it comes to our hopes, our dreams, our visions of the future?

Let me give you 3 facts about these hopes, and about their postponement: Let’s talk about...

3 FACTS ABOUT HOPE:

I. Hope that we have in life

- A. Hope from youth, from birth (**Psalm 22:9**)
- B. Hope of this world
- C. The hope of heaven – as a Christian, and it is *deferred*, delayed!

1 John 3:1-3 – Emp: appear what we shall be, we know, we shall be like Him, this hope

- D. The hope of God – as you walk with Him, this hope is NEVER deferred unless **you** defer it!!

II. Hope that is deferred - How? Some reasons:

See: a person derives strength to work when he/she possesses hope of enjoying some good thing in the future. It’s kind of a spiritual food which renews their energy everyday! BUT, the constant postponement of its realization renders the hope less and less... *Let me illustrate:*

- A. Where reality is missing
- unrealistic expectations
- B. By change of circumstances
- C. Where sin complicates
- D. Where God providentially intervenes

III. When hope is deferred – a few things to do:

- A. We must submit to it
- B. Learn from it
- C. It teaches patience – *Lord how long?*

We would do well to learn – a great relief to know, that when we do right, that we are submitting to God’s will for our life. Hope deferred is God’s will! What we need to do is live one day at a time – obediently.

CONCLUSION:

- Disappointment is tough – But when it comes from:
 - Vague anticipations
 - Unrealistic anticipations
 - Uncertainties
- It is far more distressing and often.
- *Then what do we do?*
- Look to the Lord, His goodness,
- Understand those times will come.
- Put our trust and hopes in Him; who’s promised so much. (**1 Corinthians 15:58**)