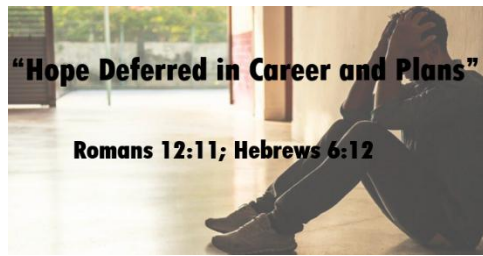


3/8/2026



Joseph in Genesis:

Genesis 37: Sold into slavery – [hope deferred]

Genesis 39: Promotions in Potiphar’s house, falsely accused, prison! [hope deferred again]

Genesis 40: Butler and baker, another chance, but forgotten (for 2 years) [hope deferred again!]

But God did great things in Joseph’s life!

Genesis 50:20 – “But as for you, you thought it evil against me, but God meant it unto good...to save much people alive.

HOPE DEFERRED, DELAYED EXPECTATIONS IN CAREER & PLANS

- How could Joseph make it?
- Job’s trials were not in his plans.
- Ruth didn’t expect staying with her mother-in-law in strange country.
- Esther didn’t count on being queen.
- Elisha didn’t expect a call to serve as he was plowing.
- Gideon was a farmer, not expecting to fight a battle.
- The apostles and Paul did not count on persecution.

Hebrews 11:13: *These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.*

Did God not work in their life? Of course, it’s what the Bible is about...

So, we can say - Hope Deferred, delayed expectations in career & plans is to be expected. Right?

Since we will have it,

What can we learn, or how can we handle this?

What are some practical helps in dealing with this.

Let me give you 3 practical helps:

I. Work diligently (*Romans 12:11*)

A. Don’t be lazy

Romans 12:11: Do not lack diligence (don’t be lazy); be fervent in spirit (work hard); serve the Lord (enthusiastically).

literally: in your zeal, don’t be slothful

fervent – idea is boiling, burning in the spiritual

Used of Apollos in *Acts 18:25* - *This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught the things about Jesus accurately...*

← Over →

Hebrews 6:12: *So that you won’t become lazy but will be imitators of those who inherit the promises through faith and perseverance. v.9: But, beloved, we are convinced of better things regarding you, and things that accompany salvation, even though we are speaking in this way.*

B. Be Faithful

II. TRUST THE LORD

A. When plans get changed

B. *Romans 8:28* – *And we know...*

Philippians 4:6: *Be anxious for nothing...*

Have you been **worrying**? Are you praying?

Verse 7: *And the peace of God...*

III. WAIT ON THE LORD

A. Patience – it’s tough!

B. Scriptures –

Psalm 27:14 – *Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.*

Psalm 37:7 – *Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not get upset because of one who is successful in his way, Because of the person who carries out wicked schemes.*

Psalm 130:5 – *I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in His Word do I hope.*

CONCLUSION:

- How have you been responding to your hope deferred in plans, your career?
- Are you allowing the devil in by your discouragement, frustration at your circumstances?
- Will God leave you, forsake you? / Have you left Him?
- If you lost your job tomorrow...did God make a mistake?
- If you lost a chunk of your retirement or your income, is God failing you?
- Will people one day, look at your life and say, wow he/she was successful in business? Or wow, he/she trusted in the Lord his God!
- Illustration: look at David – what a life, have you learned what he did in his hope deferred? He writes:
- **Psalm 37:25:** *I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous abandoned or his children begging for bread.*