

HOPE
DEFERRED

DAVID C. HAIRABEDIAN

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Hope deferred makes the heart sick

The Old Testament Book of Wisdom says,

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

Proverbs 13:12 KJV

Other translations read:

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life” (NIV).

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when dreams come true, there is life and joy” (NLT).

Recently, the Holy Spirit illuminated the above Proverb during a prayer time with a saintly woman in the course of a phone conversation. I was going through an increasingly difficult time spiritually, emotionally, and physically, though I hadn't voiced it to anyone. On this day, I had simply asked for prayer for pain throughout the left side of my back.

As she began to pray, she suddenly stopped in mid-sentence and said, “Oh my, you're suffering from deferred hope.”

I thought, “What is deferred hope?”

Then calmly, yet with noticeable authority, she spoke directly to the problem, “Deferred hope, in the Name of Jesus Christ, I break you off my Brother’s life right now and order you not to return to him again.”

Instantly, I was delivered! The pain in my back left simultaneously. It was miraculous. The only way I can describe what occurred is to say that all the chronic pain in my back, neck, and shoulders that had been increasing in intensity for the last six to eight months snapped off me like a tightly stretched rubber band being cut with a knife. I was free! Then in the same gentle voice of authority she said, “I now replace these areas in your life with God’s desire fulfilled, which the Bible says is a tree of life.”

When she spoke these words my mind, which had been saturated with frustration and tormented with stress and chronic disappointment, was suddenly purged with the in-flooding mind of Christ. My faith level spiked instantaneously. My spiritual vision was renewed like an eagle. Said another way, it was as if my viewpoint and understanding of my life and its seemingly arduous circumstances suddenly changed. It was as though God showed me Heaven’s perspective – His aerial point of view – on the life issues I had been struggling with. At the same time, my heart was filled with new anticipation and godly optimism of what the Lord was about to do for me, as well as through my life, for others. In a word, hope was restored!

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As I stood amazed and praised God for this mighty deliverance, a renewed vigor and strength to finish the course set before me filled my soul. I then realized God had just supernaturally delivered me from unseen spiritual forces that had been hindering my life, oppressing my mind, and tormenting my body, spiritual forces that had been increasing in effect against me for a period of nearly three years. During this time, I knew something was awry, but couldn't, until being delivered, quite put my finger on it. Yet now, it all crystallized instantly.

These forces of darkness had been subtle. Somehow, through my ignorance, they had increasingly hindered and oppressed my mind and body, and had begun to vex my spirit. After hanging up the phone from this prayer encounter, the Holy Spirit began to reveal to me how subtle yet devastating deferred hope can be to a person.

In reality, if it wasn't for the intervening hand of God through that saintly woman, deferred hope could have easily prevailed against me, derailing me in my walk with the Lord. I could have become shipwrecked in my faith as the Bible warns (1 Timothy 1:18-20). I became aware of how I had nearly been destroyed because of my ignorance regarding this overlooked biblical subject of deferred hope.



What exactly is deferred hope?

Deferred hope is one of the spiritual weapons the enemy employs against Christians. This weapon, if not recognized and properly guarded against, can cause our hearts to become sick. *“Hope deferred makes the heart sick”* (Proverbs 13:12). This is why Solomon, God’s wisest Old Testament king admonishes, *“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life”* (Proverbs 4:23).

If our hearts become sick through deferred hope, then other areas of our life will suffer as well. This includes our attitude, spiritual vision, physical and mental health, and our love relationships with Jesus and others. All these things had been severely affected prior to my deliverance, all because I was ignorant of this strategic tool of the enemy. (Keep in mind that I had been saved for 17 years, won souls to Christ, and taught Bible studies to others.) The Old Testament Prophet Hosea said it this way, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6).

Under the New Covenant the Apostle Paul admonished, *“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices”* (2 Corinthians 2:11). I believe it is a safe statement to say that the Devil’s ability to keep us defeated is directly

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related to his ability to keep us ignorant on spiritual matters. This is why I am sharing with you this victory from the Lord against deferred hope.

My heartfelt desire is that by the time you finish reading what the Holy Spirit revealed to me from the Scriptures and my experience, you too will be delivered from any of the negative effects that deferred hope has sent against your life. *“For God is no respecter of persons”* (Acts 10:34).



Let us not be ignorant of the enemy's devices

The first thing the Lord showed me about deferred hope was that it comes against us through three primary elements:

1. Life circumstances bring disappointment when they delay our God-given desires from being fulfilled;
2. Any mindset that is contrary to the Word of God, and finally;
3. An evil spirit that comes to hinder and oppress us, to sicken us in heart, once these first two natural forces are in place.

When these three elements of deferred hope arrive in combination they can be *“A three-ply cord that is not easily broken”* (Ecclesiastes 4:12). At this point, we need supernatural deliverance from Heaven to set us free. The ironic part is that once we get to this third stage of bondage we usually don't even realize we've been trapped and brought into captivity by the enemy.

I believe most people will experience hope deferred at some time in their lives. In fact, hope deferred can be a common

experience, more common than most would like to admit, or are aware of. I was uninformed when it happened to me. Once deferred hope has a stronghold in our lives the enemy of our souls will try to capitalize on this weakness in our spiritual armor. Satan will test our spirit by sending a spirit of discouragement to compound the matter.

If we aren't careful (or we are ignorant of the enemy's strategies), this can catapult us into a spiritual tailspin and eventual crash, or as Scripture calls it, "shipwrecked in our faith." I believe this is what may have happened to Hymenaeus and Alexander:

Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

1 Timothy 1:18-20, NIV

Paul was warning Timothy against losing his focus, or taking his eye off the prize. Paul had prophesied over Timothy, but warfare was coming against him to contradict these prophetic words. Evidently, Paul had also spoken words of prophecy over Hymenaeus and Alexander, but something caused them to lose focus.

I believe life's circumstances contradicted the prophecies, which is common to man. This is why Abraham "*hoped against*

hope, and continued to believe in hope,” and then finally received his promise from God and became *“the father of many nations”* (Genesis 17:4-5). Abraham had to stand against deferred hope for 25 years before Isaac was born. If Abraham had yielded to deferred hope, or shrank back from God’s promise he would have missed God’s best for him.

In fact, at one point, Abraham yielded to the very real circumstances of Sarah’s dead womb coupled with her worldly advice to sleep with her maid, Hagar. This fleshly union produced a child named Ishmael, the father of the Arab people. Many within this people group in the Middle East have persecuted Jews and Christians for the last 4,000 years, relentlessly murdering them in the name of Allah. Deferred hope was at the root of this birthing and its negative fruit continues to this very day. If only Abraham had known! God recovered Abraham in time, and Isaac, the child of promise, was born through Sarah’s supernaturally resurrected womb. Christ came through this bloodline and the blessing of Abraham has come upon all who receive Jesus. Hallelujah!

In the case of Hymenaeus and Alexander, the outcome was ugly. When they experienced the spiritual warfare of deferred hope instead of standing on the prophetic word spoken through Paul, they yielded to the trap set for them. The circumstances of life, its accompanying mindset of defeat, and the demonic influence that turned them against the Apostle Paul won that round. Their hearts became sick and they began to

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slander God's anointed leaders. As a result, they were *"handed over to Satan so they might learn not to blaspheme"* (1 Timothy 1:20). Ouch! May we learn from their wretched example and not make the same mistake. May we rather be like the numerous heroes of the faith who stood firm in the face of such trials and emerged victorious in Christ Jesus.



Eleven examples of God's people who experienced deferred hope

Moses

Moses, at age 40 killed an Egyptian in the power of his own flesh, instead of waiting for God's instructions on how to properly fulfill the call of Deliverer on his life. As a result, he was banished from Egypt and the very people he was called to deliver (Exodus 2:11-15). He was stuck on the back side of the mountain for 40 years, waiting on God a second time until he was 80. (Exodus 2:11-15).

Why are you on the backside of the mountain during this season of your life? Do not despair. God still has a plan and if you are patient and don't lose focus again, He will raise you up to fulfill the destiny He has for you.

God eventually called Moses to be the deliverer of 3,000,000 slaves being held in Egypt (Exodus 3:10). Then, in the wilderness, Moses faced 40 more years of hope deferred along with these same 3,000,000 souls, who now were corporately blaming him for bringing them to the desert to die. As a result, Moses

became angry, struck the rock twice, and disqualified himself from entering the Promised Land (Numbers 20:8-12).

Children of Israel

The Children of Israel were frequently Moses' thorn in the flesh.

They experienced hope deferred as slaves to a pagan king in Egypt for 430 years (Exodus 12:40).

They yielded to hope deferred in less than 40 days while waiting for their spiritual leader, Moses, to return from the mountain with instructions from God (Deuteronomy 9:9). Their hearts became sick and they sought out another god of their own making, saying, *"This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt"* (Exodus 32:8). They blasphemed God, attributing the works of God to the devil. As a result, they began worshiping a golden calf and having an orgy (1 Corinthians 10:7-11).

The Children of Israel then experienced hope deferred for 40 years in the wilderness (Exodus 16:35). However, God was faithful because they never lacked anything.

For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.

Deuteronomy 2:7, KJV

The Children of Israel lost restraint and demanded meat instead of angel's food because they were tired of manna every day (Numbers Chapter 11). God answered their prayers by giving them an abundance of quail for the next 30 days. It got to the point that they loathed this food and wanted to return to manna again (Numbers 11:20). Many died with the meat still in their mouths, while others suffered a plague (Numbers 11:33).

The Children of Israel spent forty years walking in circles because of their unwillingness to believe the promise of God. When it was their divinely appointed hour to take the Promised Land, they shrank back in fear instead of stepping out in faith.

Then, after God pronounced judgment on them for their disobedience and unbelief, they reacted wrongly to the spirit of hope deferred. They foolishly went up against the Amalekites without God's blessing and were driven back in the process (Numbers 14:24-33; 40-45).

They, like the Pharisees and Sadducees, missed their day of visitation (Luke 19:44). Let's learn from their example. Don't miss your day of visitation when the Lord's anointing is in the house; receive your healing, your day of salvation (being born again), your deliverance from nicotine, drugs, alcohol, sex addiction, masturbation, etc.

The Children of Israel reacted wrongly to hope deferred and their hearts became sick. The Bible says they tempted God

ten times in the wilderness by murmuring against Him. This caused their own destruction by serpents (1 Corinthians 10:9).

Again and again they turned away and tempted God to kill them, and limited the Holy One of Israel from giving them his blessings.

Psalm. 78:41, LVB

Sarah

Sarah was suffering from hope deferred. She had lost the vision of giving her husband a child. She laughed when the angel spoke to her (Genesis 18:12). In her disbelief, she gave her husband bad advice and Ishmael was birthed through an unholy union that still inflicts harm against the people of God 4,000 years later.

Abraham

Abraham, the father of faith, experienced hope deferred for 25 years while waiting for the promise of a child who would make him the “father of many nations.” Finally at age 100, Abraham laughed at (disbelieved) the possibility of having a child when the messenger angel visited him (Genesis 17:17).

Abraham slept with his concubine, Hagar, at the prompting of his wife, Sarah. They both, in effect, tried to help God do the miracle. God called it a work of the flesh. So, an Ishmael was born, costing the lives of hundreds of thousands of Jews and

Christians through wars and Islamic Jihad over the last 4,000 years.

Sometimes, the accusing voice of Satan will speak into our minds in the first person, causing us to think his words are our own thoughts. When this happens, we tend to relax or shrink back in our stance against his lies. He will often begin speaking statements like, “I guess God wants me to help him fulfill the promise myself.” We will then think that his voice is our own and accept these thoughts. He will even quote Scripture to us out of context saying, “The Bible does say, ‘Faith without works is dead.’ However, he will not tell us to wait on God and for his timing in such matters, but rather encourage us to take matters into our own hands. Scripture after scripture warns against such actions apart from God’s timing. Jesus was tempted by the devil to take matters into his own hands during his 40 days in the wilderness and turn stones into bread when he was hungry (see Luke 4:2-4). But Jesus refused to misuse his power. Instead Jesus waited on God, overcame the temptations and then the devil left him for a more opportune time. Jesus passed these tests and then “returned in the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14). Miracles began to accompany Jesus and a great fame spread abroad about him (vs. 14-15). He was now able to fulfill his ministry. He set the captives free, preached the Gospel unto the poor and healing virtue even flowed to those who touched his garment by faith (Mark 6:56).

Jesus is our example. He learned obedience through the things that he suffered (see Hebrews 5:8). Hebrews also tells us that

“we have need of patience, that AFTER we have done the will of God, we might receive the promise (Hebrews 10:35). But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. **Isaiah 40:31, NIV**

Joseph

Joseph effectively stood against hope deferred while in prison on false rape charges. He was called by God to be the deliverer of Egypt, the Egyptians, and his own Israelite family. Even after God’s intervention with a sign for good to show that He was still with Joseph, he still waited in faith for two more years behind bars (Genesis 40:13-14, 41:1). Twenty-two years later, God performed the miracle. God was then able to raise Joseph up to become a deliverer of two nations.

Anna the Prophetess

Anna the Prophetess stood faithfully against hope deferred for 60 years, praying and fasting in the temple of God. She received the promise of the consolation of Israel, the birth of Jesus the Messiah. She kept focused and steadfast on the vision and refused to “cast off restraint” (Luke 2:36-38).

The Disciples

The Disciples experienced hope deferred while waiting for Jesus to take over Rome as their King. They expected Him to deliver the Children of Israel from Roman rule and to restore

Jerusalem to its rightful place in history. Judas tried to expedite the process by selling out Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. His plan was to force Him to use His divine authority as Messiah to defeat the Romans and fulfill the Old Testament prophecies of His eternal government. Instead, Judas' heart became sick and he committed suicide. The disciples' hearts became sick when Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27:38). They went back to fishing! (John 21:3).

The Zealots

The Zealots experienced hope deferred while waiting for the Messiah for an undetermined number of years. They yielded to deferred hope and their hearts became sick; they turned to violence to accomplish the prophecy in their own strength and power, killing Romans in the name of God. Consequently, they were arrested and executed. More than 30,000 were crucified by the Roman government during this time.

Gehazi

Gehazi experienced deferred hope while waiting to be commissioned by God as a prophet after Elisha. Gehazi lost vision, cast off restraint, and then stole money from the ministry (two talents or 150 pounds of silver and two high quality garments). This self-realized vision, in his mind, would enable him to leave the ministry and go into private business (2 Kings 5:20-27). Gehazi became leprous as a result (v. 27).

Lot's Daughters

Lot's two daughters suffered from deferred hope. Once fire destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, there were no men left alive. Instead of waiting for proper husbands from the Lord, they yielded to the spirit of deferred hope. Their hearts became sick; they schemed to get their father intoxicated in order to have sex with him. Both daughters became pregnant as a result of these incestuous unions, and then gave birth to two wicked nations; the Ammonites and Moabites, Biblical enemies of God's people.

Herod

Herod reacted wrongly to hope deferred while under Roman rule. He joined the Romans and their wicked Hellenistic ways, bringing destruction on himself and the Jews who were in agreement with him.

Be very careful whom you align yourself with. What has deferred hope tempted you to do recently?



Hope deferred is a common test for every person

Hope deferred is a common test and temptation for every Believer.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man...

1 Corinthians 10:13, KJV

With each temptation, God always makes a way of escape. If we will seek Him, He will always lead us in triumph (2 Corinthians 2:14). As we discussed earlier, hope deferred can also be accompanied by an evil spirit, *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood...”* (Ephesians 6:10-18, NIV).

Job’s wife also suffered from deferred hope when she lost her children and everything they owned. She then told her husband, to “Curse God and die” (Job 2:9).

Satan was attacking Job through Job’s distressed wife with demonically inspired words. The same is true today, for *“there is nothing new under the sun...what has been done will be done again”* (Ecclesiastes 1:9, NIV).

When your miracle is delayed, the devil may also send people to ask you, “Where is the promise of His coming?” They may word it this way, “If your God is with you, where is He today? Give up this silly Christian stuff and try something that really works!”

Peter warned against this demonic strategy, *“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation’”* (2 Peter 3:3-4).

Satan will send scoffers to add insult to the injury that hope deferred inflicted. What he seeks is for you to “curse God to his face.” Don’t yield to this temptation, but press on, hoping against hope, in Jesus’ mighty name. God is able to *“hasten his word to perform it in your life”* (Jeremiah 1:12). When you stand firm in faith, eventually, you will receive the promise, so don’t give up!

Are you tired of waiting for your promotion at work?

- Are you ready to quit before you get your promotion? Don’t let deferred hope steal your day of advancement. Whatever test you fail here, God will require you to repeat at the next job.
- Maybe you are considering compromising your integrity to gain favor with your boss or the company? This

will only leave you empty. It's spiritual fool's gold that won't last. Don't succumb to it. Choose to play the long game with God and receive the prize from Heaven. He will reward you 100-fold in this life and the one to come if you pass the test Mark 10:29-30).

Don't fall prey to these common temptations:

- Maybe you are thinking of giving yourself a supplemental pay raise by:
 - o Using the company car or credit card for personal gain.
 - o Charging personal lunches on the company account.
 - o Adding extra hours to your time card or pay sheet.
 - o Taking credit for work or projects someone else performed.
 - o Using the company equipment for personal projects.
 - o Spending company time for your personal web surfing needs.
 - o Using software licensing agreements for your home computers.
 - o Selling company secrets.

- o Stealing the company data base before you quit and move to another company.
- Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” (Mark 10:29-31 NIV).

Are you tired of waiting for the godly mate of your dreams from the Lord?

Maybe you are considering compromising by dating God's second best. Don't make the same mistake Abraham did with his concubine Hagar, or Samson's mistake with the hairdresser named Delilah. You could end up with an Ishmael to rear for the next 21 years, or worse yet, like Samson, your eyes could be plucked out and you could go to prison. God will forgive you, but its better not to have to go through such problems in the first place.

Don't compromise yourself emotionally or sexually. If you desire God's best, give God your best. A Proverbs 31 man like King Lemuel will receive a Proverbs 31 woman who is more precious than rubies or diamonds. On the other hand, lukewarm Ray Ray will be drawn to Seducing Shaneka and all the baggage she brings with her. Therefore, allow God to change

your name spiritually, from Jacob (deceiver) to Israel (Soldier of God). Allow God to first develop you into the man or woman of God and you will receive the companion of your dreams from God. Stand firm, and do not compromise what you know is God's highest standard! Your perfect puzzle piece match from the Lord is truly worth the wait.

Are you tired of waiting for promotion in ministry at Church?

- Maybe you have been tempted to speak against the person who is already in that position, or even the pastor or chaplain in charge because they failed to recognize you and your spectacular gifting.
- Maybe you are tempted to change churches. Maybe they will recognize your gifting, while being blind to your undeveloped character. Korah rebelled against Moses because he wanted his position. Korah, along with his 250 rebellious followers, was subsequently swallowed up in an earthquake sent by God (Numbers 16:23-35). Don't make their mistake. Repent today, and be free from deferred hope.

Remember, King David didn't speak against Saul during the time God was growing character in David. This was an extended season, lasting nine long years while David was on the run from the Lord's ex-anointed. David inherited the kingdom when God promoted him and is recorded as “a

man after God's own heart" (Acts 13:22). Saul, on the other hand, died an early death by his own hand (I Chronicles 10:4). Make the right decision today by obeying God's way and not deferred hope's ways.

Are you tired of waiting to hear a fresh word from the Lord?

- Maybe you didn't do what God told you to do last time. Jonah ran from his calling (Jonah 1:1-3), and ended up in the belly of the big fish. After he repented, God commanded the giant fish to vomit Jonah onto the beach. The word of the Lord then came to Jonah a second time. It was the same word God told him the first time (Jonah 3:1-2). If this is your situation, then go back to the first word, and do it, asking the Lord to redeem the time, or give you a second opportunity to obey Him.
- Or maybe you, like King Saul, went to a witch for advice from the spirit realm (I Samuel 28:6-21). Maybe you did it by phone with a 1-(900) Psychic Line at \$3.99 a minute. Or was it a Tarot Card Reader at a fair? Maybe it was a prophet or prophetess for hire through whom you are seeking the supernatural for advice. If so, repent and return to God right now. Then He will forgive your sin and begin speaking to you clearly once again.

The spirit of Herod is also a spirit of worldliness. This spirit offers a variety of false comforters to administer to our needs

while we suffer from deferred hope. Of course, these false comforters also stand between us and God. Let's identify some of the false comforters this spirit tempts us with while suffering from deferred hope.



False comforters

What are some of your false comforters? What do you spend your time doing? How have you compromised with the world to feel better (or more comfortable) while you wait for the fulfillment of His promise? Are you like Herod, who waited in his man-made temple of religion, satisfying himself with all kinds of food and drink while sleeping with his brother's wife (Mark 6:18)? Remember, self-righteous Herod chopped off righteous John the Baptist's head after watching Herod's daughter perform a seducing dance (Matthew 14:6-11)?

What are you watching on TV? The Internet? Social media? Are you more interested in posting your latest picture, selfie, or video for virtual "likes" to help your self-esteem while waiting on God to promote you? What has caught your attention recently? What, who or how have you been distracted from the course set before you? Are you on the narrow road that leads to everlasting life, or the wide road that leads to destruction? Have you lost spiritual vision? Have you cast off restraint? Or are you like righteous Joseph who would rather be falsely accused of a rape charge and suffer years in prison unfairly than risk compromising or sinning against God (Genesis 39:7-23)?

Remember the faithful example of Anna the Prophetess who waited 60 years in the temple with prayer and fasting (Luke 2:36-38)? Stand firm against the spirit of deferred hope and the many false comforters it offers, and you will be rewarded.

The Spirit of Religion is also a false comforter from Satan. Religion can be defined as *“having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof”* (2 Timothy 3:5). Examine the lives of the Pharisees and Sadducees. This spirit of religion displaces a personal relationship with God with a set of man-made religious rules and standards. It produces only two extremes, condemnation for failing to comply with these standards or self-righteousness based on performance.

The Pharisees were self-righteous while the common people of the day felt condemned. Jesus came to set the captives free. The Pharisees’ and Sadducees’ spirit of religiosity helped orchestrate the murder of Jesus, directly and indirectly through its manipulation.

Cain was religious in the way he served God on his own terms. Are you serving God on your own terms or His? When God tried to correct Cain in the book of Genesis, Cain responded by murdering his brother Abel (Genesis 4:2-8). This spirit of religion is still alive and well today. Is there someone in your Church or workplace who you are currently murdering with your tongue? If so, repent. Don’t yield to deferred hope and its influence through the fine sounding arguments of false religion (form without power). Instead, choose to take the higher

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road that Jesus role-modeled for us. Jesus is the intercessor, who “forever lives to make intercession for the saints of God (Hebrews 7:24-25). The devil is called “the accuser of the brethren” (Revelation 12:10-11). Has Hope Deferred caused you to inadvertently switch ministries? If so, get back to interceding. Whatever, or whatever spirit has filled you will burst forth out of you during challenging times. Jesus said, “Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45). When you squeeze and orange what do you get out of it? You might say, “Orange juice.” But this may not be the case every time. You might get a worm! It depends on what is inside the orange. People tell me, “He made me say it, or she made say it, or the pressure got to me and the pressure got to me and made me do it. I say, “When people, situations, life’s circumstances or the enemy of your soul squeezes you, whatever is in you is what comes out of you.” Don’t blame the squeezer for what is on the inside of you. Accept responsibility, ask God to forgive you, fill you with His Spirit afresh and move forward in your walk with the Lord.

“A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of” (Matthew 12:34 NIV).



Correct responses to Hope Deferred

Joseph was tried by the word of the Lord and found faithful. He properly stood against the spirit of hope deferred and emerged victorious to fulfill God's call on his life.

And he sent a man before them – Joseph, sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with shackles; his neck was put in irons, till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the LORD proved him true. The king sent and released him; the ruler of peoples set him free. He made him master of his household, ruler over all he possessed, to instruct his princes as he pleased and teach his elders wisdom.

Psalms 105:17-22, NIV

Joseph stood against deferred hope and reaped a harvest of leadership as prime minister over Egypt. God used him to save hundreds of thousands of lives. He remembered God's promise to him and after 22 years, the dreams came to pass. God will do the same for you!

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Galatians 6:9, NIV

Elisha waited faithfully upon the Prophet Elijah for 15 years. He rejected the spirit of deferred hope and received a double portion of the Holy Spirit (see 2 Kings 2:9, 13-14). Scripture records Elisha performing twice as many miracles as Elijah. God will do the same for you if you faithfully serve the person in ministerial authority over you until your day of promotion comes.

Don't be like Gehazi, who fell prey to deferred hope and ended up leprous and disqualified for the ministry (2 Kings 5:20-27). The mantle assigned to you will be passed to you at the proper time, if you wait for it. If not, God may give it to someone else. Choose to pass the test, you are a champion.

Hebrews 10:35=36 NKJV: “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”

Anna the prophetess waited faithfully on the consolation of Israel (Jesus) in the temple with prayer and fasting (Luke 2:25-38). She received her promised Messiah, Jesus Christ. Such

examples should encourage us to “*...be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises*” (Hebrews 6:12, KJV).

Joseph battled deferred hope from age 17 to 30 before the promises God gave him by dreams in Genesis 37:1-11 finally came to pass.

- His own brothers sold him into slavery to the Ishmaelites for twenty *pieces* of silver (Genesis 37:28)
- He was placed into Potiphar’s house for life (Genesis 39:1)
- Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce Joseph to compromise him morally and sexually (Genesis 39:7-14).
- When he refused, she falsely accused him of rape (Genesis 39:15-18)
- He was thrown into prison on a false rape charge (Genesis 39:19-23) where he served God faithfully for the next decade standing against deferred hope and believing the promises of God.
- God used Joseph to interpret the dreams of two of his fellow inmates, the cupbearer and baker (Genesis 40:6-22).
- When the cupbearer was released from prison in accordance with Joseph’s interpretation and restored to

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Pharaoh's court, instead of helping Joseph get released, he forgot about him.

(Genesis 40:23).

- Finally, at the time appointed by God--after God had completed the maturity process in Joseph--God gave Pharaoh a dream and caused the cupbearer to remember Joseph the interpreter of dreams (Genesis 41:1-9).
- Joseph was called out of prison by Pharaoh (Genesis 41:14).
- Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream by the Spirit of God (Genesis 41:28-37).
- God caused Pharaoh, to promote Joseph, who was a Jew in a Pagan nation, to Prime Minister over all of Egypt, all for God's greater purposes; the ultimate saving of two nations from famine in the land.
- Joseph was supernaturally able to forgive his brothers, and with his new position as prime minister over grain and finance, also able to save his family member's lives. Because Joseph overcame the test of hope deferred he was able to say these words to his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Genesis 50:20)!



“When a desire cometh it is a tree of life” (Proverbs 13:12).

When a desire is fulfilled, it is like a tree of life being planted in our lives. This tree from the Lord bears fruit unto all around us; even non-believers know that God has done something great for us. For example, when God delivered the children of Israel this is what they sang as a song of praise:

When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing; then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

Psalms 126:1-3, KJV

Your desired day is coming! Stand firm and don't lose hope.

Do you need release from some sort of captivity? Do you need a sign from heaven that God is still with you? John the Baptist, while in prison, asked for one.

When the men came to Jesus, they said, ‘John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?”’

Luke 7:20, NIV

Jesus responded by showing John a sign for good, saying, *“Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me”* (Luke 7:22-23, NIV). With this sign for good, John was strengthened in his faith and able to finish the course that was set before him.

John was then able to confidently give his own head for his faith. *“So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, and brought back his head on a platter”* (Mark 6:27-28, NIV). Jesus then said this about John, *“I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John”* (Luke 7:28, NIV). Today, we know John the Baptist is in Heaven, but where is Herod? What about his wife and seductively dancing daughter? How are you going to finish the course? Stand firm, do not compromise, do not lose hope, do not give in, do not give up! You are a finisher!



We could all use an injection of fresh hope from the Lord

A desire fulfilled is like a tree of life (Proverbs 13:12). Do you need God to fulfill your desire? To stand against deferred hope and all its false comforters, we need a fresh injection of hope from the Lord. But, is it appropriate to ask God for an injection of hope while combating this spirit? Can we ask God for a sign for good to encourage us and to silence our enemies? Let's look at three different translations of Psalms 86:17:

“Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen (helped) me, and comforted me” (KJV).

“Give me a sign of your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me” (NIV)

“Show me a sign of thy favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame because thou, LORD, hast helped me and comforted me” (RSV).

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The answer in the above verse is a resounding yes. A supernatural injection of hope is something the Lord desires to give us. It strengthens us in our faith and provides us with fresh vision and patience so that we might then *“inherit the promises of God”* (Hebrews 6:12). Remember, *“We have not because we ask not”* (James 4:2). Are you in need of an injection of fresh hope from the Lord to cast off and dispossess the spirit of deferred hope? If so, get ready because we are about to do a brief recap and then, together, ask God for His power to come upon us in the Mighty Name of Jesus!



Brief recap

Deferred hope is both a mindset, real life circumstances, and a demonic spirit. Our battle is not against flesh and blood (see Ephesians. 6:12). The spirit of deferred hope is subtle and can be a powerful deterrent against the realization and manifestation of God's promises for our lives. We choose not to be derailed in our faith. Today we have been educated on the tactics of the enemy. We are no longer ignorant. Satan and his tactics have been exposed! Let's deal with this spirit right now through the authority God gave through His Word, the blood of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.



Prayer for deliverance

Lord, I recognize my need for deliverance from deferred hope. I ask you now in the Name of Jesus to set me free from every stronghold of the enemy in my life. I humbly yet boldly ask for complete deliverance from the enemy's mindset, spiritual forces, and words that have been spoken into my life. I believe your promises concerning my life and will accept no compromise. I want all you have for me. Father, I ask for a sign for good as the Psalmist asked. Show me your faithfulness in some way today and in the days ahead so that I might know you are with me. I thank you for a fresh injection of hope right now, in Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen.

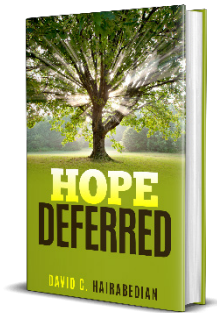
Now, let me pray for you like that dear saintly woman calmly prayed for me.

Deferred hope, I name you and break you off of this life right now in Jesus' Name. I command you to both depart from them and never return. In its place, I release a desire fulfilled from the Lord right now over your life, which the Bible says is like a tree of life. I speak the shed blood of Jesus Christ between you and the adversary of your soul and I release a

David C. Hairabedian

blessing of perseverance upon you right now. By the authority of Jesus' Name, I release renewed vision and the mind of Christ to fill your mind now. I speak full restoration of hope to your soul from this point forward. Amen.

*For a free video teaching on this subject go to
 www.HopeDeferredVideo.com*



Contact Information

If you are interested in reading more of David Hairabedian or Jeff Gay's teachings, or for speaking/preaching engagements, please contact us.

Info@virtualchurchmedia.com

Website: www.virtualchurchmedia.com

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Final Prayer over you from David Hairabedian

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to speak to us 2,000 years ago. Jesus, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to guide us personally, into all truth so that we might be changed into the image and likeness of the Son of God. Holy Spirit tune the ears of my spirit to hear you when you speak whatever you hear from Jesus. I ask you to make it so clear that not even a fool can misunderstand. I thank you for telling and showing me the things to come, as Jesus promises you will. Today, I ask you to teach me personally, by the School of the Holy Spirit that I may learn to hear and obey the voice of God. I ask this in Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen.

God Bless you richly as you become more and more sensitive to His voice!

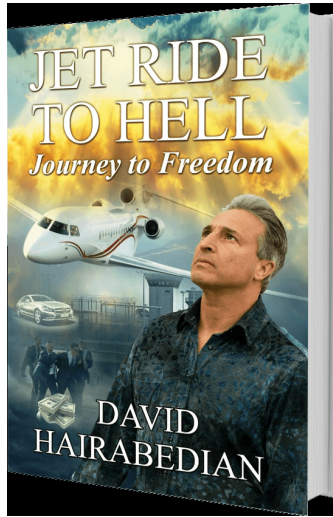
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May God change you, and then change the world around you
by the Power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' Mighty Name!

Author, David C. Hairabedian

Editor: Jeff L. Gay





Arrested with a Stolen Jet - David is a critically acclaimed author, speaker, and lead pastor. His autobiography “Jet Ride to Hell, Journey to Freedom” tells of his incredible transformation story – one that exemplifies God’s beautiful plan of redemption and grace. David was a convicted felon, where he spent 20 years in federal prison for stealing multi-million-dollar jet aircraft for the Colombian drug cartel. However, a life’s path that seemed to have stamped a one-way ticket to hell was dramatically changed by a mother’s prayer and a faithful God. A riveting storyline that includes a sting operation carried out by 20-armed federal agents on the tarmac of a South Florida runway, and the tales of a prisoner living inside America’s maximum-security prison, Leavenworth Penitentiary – this autobiography will captivate you from start to finish!

To purchase a copy of David’s autobiography, Jet Ride to Hell, Journey To Freedom, visit VirtualChurchMedia.com or Amazon.com



David and his wife Joanna Hairabedian are co-founders of VirtualChurchTV.com.

*They live in Southern, California. David is an author, teacher and conference speaker. Joanna is a writer, singer, a Prophetic Psalmist. Together, they host a weekly TV Broadcast called, *In His Presence, Where ALL Things are Possible*. David teaches and Joanna plays piano and sings. People report receiving encouragement, deliverance, healing and a tangible Presence of the Lord while watching these programs.*

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Contact Information

Virtual Church Media Inc

1835 Newport Blvd

Building A-109, #333

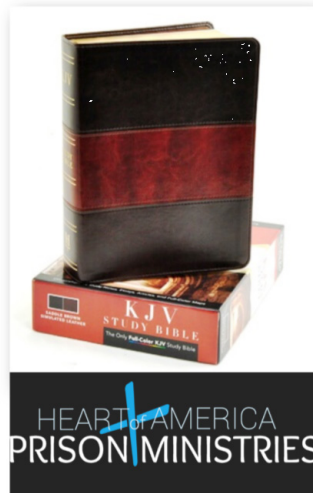
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

(949) 648-1699

Info@VirtualChurchMedia.com

Prayer@VirtualChurchMedia.com





Through the generous donations and prayers of people like you, our Sister ministry, HEART of America Prison Ministries helps provide leather-bound study Bibles to inmates on our waiting of more than 2,000 prisoners.

HEART Ministries was originally received through a vision from the Lord while David Hairabedian was sitting in a prison cell in 1990 awaiting sentencing. During David's incarceration God answered his mother's prayers and Jesus visited him. David's life was forever changed. Shortly thereafter, David received the gift of a Leather-bound study Bible in the mail from a former prisoner. For the next twenty years David spent 3-5 hours a day in this Bible learning more about God's love for the world. His heart's desire now is to see others arrested and transformed by the same irresistible love and power of the Holy Spirit that transformed his life.

To learn more about how you can Help change lives, one Bible at a Time, or to donate for Bibles for prisoners, visit HeartPrisonMinistries.org.

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