

HOPE DEFERRED

Rev. Michael Wiseman | Proverbs 13:12

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

1. EXPECTATIONS - THE DREAM

Almost everyone has expectations: dreams and ideas of how grand things will be one day. Expectations are not necessarily wrong; they are often the motivation behind every dream.

Child School, summer vacation, learning an instrument	Teenager Learning to drive
18 Years Old Leaving home through military or college; believing life will be easier away from home	21 Years Old / Adult Family, career, marriage, church, hobbies and passions
Senior Years Retirement, more time, and the freedom to do what we want	The Question What happens when what we expected does not satisfy?

2. WHEN EXPECTATION BECOMES DISAPPOINTMENT

We can expect **money, positions, people, hobbies, passions, marriage, careers - even church experiences** - to satisfy us. Yet the thrill often fades, circumstances become harder than expected, and disappointment sets in.

- The teenager gets the license, then begins looking for the next thrill.
- Military service, college, or a first job may prove harder than imagined.
- Drinking, partying, and thrill-seeking can become attempts to satisfy or numb pain, often bringing severe consequences, regret, and addiction.
- Jobs, marriage, and other pursuits can lose their excitement, tempting us to look elsewhere for fulfillment.
- In later years, physical limitations, limited resources, sickness, loss, and the passing of time can frustrate long-held expectations.

3. THE D'S - WHAT DISAPPOINTMENT CAN PRODUCE

Like Solomon in Ecclesiastes, we can discover that life pursued apart from lasting satisfaction in God is **vanity**. When we seek our deepest satisfaction in people or things, the result can be:

DISAPPOINTMENT	DISCOURAGEMENT	DEPRESSION	DISCONTENTMENT
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Song emphasis: "All That Thrills My Soul Is Jesus" and "I'm Satisfied With..." - redirecting satisfaction from temporary things to Christ.

4. BIBLICAL EXPECTATIONS - WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?

Ephesians 3:20 - God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.

Romans 8:28 - We know that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:19-25 - The believer lives with eager expectation, waiting for the redemption God has promised.

THE SHIFT: Our hope is not that every earthly expectation will be fulfilled. Our hope is that God is faithful, God is working, and our redemption is drawing near.

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