

Tired of Deferring Hope & Faith?

Are you exhausted, burnt out, or wrestling with bitterness because you've been waiting a long time for a breakthrough?

- **Faith is not a performance metric.** You do not need to sweat, strain, or "muster up" a perfect emotional feeling to get God to move. Faith isn't about the size of your willpower; it's about the reliability of the God you are leaning on.
- **Stop trying to generate the power.** If you are a believer, God's supernatural strength (*dunamis*) is already inside you through the Holy Spirit. An appliance doesn't stress getting electricity; it just stays plugged into the wall outlet. Your job isn't to manufacture the miracle - it's simply to stay connected to Jesus.
- **It is okay to be weak.** Admitting you are tired or close to giving up isn't a lack of faith; it's honesty. In God's kingdom, your empty tank creates the exact vacuum that His strength loves to fill. He says His power is made perfect right in the middle of our weakness.
- **You don't have to believe alone.** When your hope is deferred and you don't even have the words to pray, step out of isolation. Let the church body stand on the line with you.
- **The Bottom Line:** We connect to Jesus' power not by trying harder, but by surrendering smarter. You can stop trying to force the miracle, and just rest in the One who loves you.

Faith is about God's reliability, not your willpower.

- **The Verse:** *"Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised."* Heb 11:11
- **The Truth:** Sarah didn't look at her own dead womb or her own weak emotions; the breakthrough happened because she locked onto the absolute faithfulness and reliability of God.

The power is already resident; you just stay connected.

- **The Verse:** *"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us..."* Ephesians 3:20 (KJV)
- **The Truth:** The miracle-working *dunamis* isn't stuck in heaven waiting for you to beg it. It is already actively working inside you through the Holy Spirit. You don't manufacture it; you yield to it.

Your weakness is the ultimate conductor for His strength.

- **The Verse:** *"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."* 2 Corinthians 12:9 (KJV)
- **The Truth:** Bringing an empty tank to God isn't a failure. Jesus explicitly states that His raw power (*dunamis*) operates at **peak performance** right when we admit we are at our weakest point.

You are designed to borrow faith when your hope is deferred.

- **The Verse:** *"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."* James 5:16 (KJV)
- **The Truth:** God built the body of Christ so that when your individual hope is lagging, the righteous prayers of your community step in to bridge the gap and trigger the healing.

What about Hope Deferred?

When in a deep trial, focusing only on miracles can create a transactional faith: "If I just have enough faith, the miracle happens today." When the miracle is delayed, that is exactly where the heart-sickness of Proverbs 13:12 sets in. It helps to anchor to know the Bible balance of faith and hope.

1. The Reality: Hope Deferred

Proverbs 13:12 "Hope deferred makes the heart sick: but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life."

"Deferred" means dragged out or prolonged. Solomon validates a raw human truth: waiting on a breakthrough can physically and emotionally exhaust a person. Notice the verse doesn't say hope is denied, just deferred.

2. Balancing Faith and Hope

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

- Hope is the Blueprint (the future): Hope is the joyful, confident expectation of future good. It looks at God's character and says, "I know how this story ends. God wins, and He loves me."
- Faith is the Substance (the present): Faith takes that future hope and turns it into concrete reality today. Faith is what allows a person to pray, wake up, serve their family, and trust God while the circumstance is still broken.
- The Balance: Hope keeps our eyes on the horizon so we don't give up. Faith gives our feet the strength to take the next step through the mud today.

When going through prolonged hardships, the greatest way to keep believing is to spot *interim* miracles. If you only define a miracle as the *ultimate*, final breakthrough (e.g., the cancer vanishing, the debt disappearing), they will experience heart-sickness every single day it doesn't happen. Instead, look at Daniel in the fiery furnace:

Daniel 3:17-18 "...our God whom we serve is able to deliver us... *But if not*, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods..."

The *ultimate* miracle was surviving the fire. But the *interim* miracle was the "*But if not*" faith - the supernatural peace and resolve given to them before they even knew if they would survive. Sustaining grace in the middle of a trial is just as much of a miracle as a sudden deliverance.

A Framework for Encouragement:

- 1. Validate the Pain:** Proverbs 13:12 *Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.* It is okay that you are tired of waiting. God acknowledges long delays sicken the heart.
- 2. Anchor the Object:** Faith isn't demanding a specific outcome; it's relying on a specific Person.
- 3. Celebrate the Manna:** Just as Israel had to rely on daily manna while waiting 40 years for the Promised Land, encourage yourself to look for God's daily, small mercies right now to sustain you.