DISAPPOINTMENT

Hope That Continues



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WOT PUBLISHING

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Published by WOT Publishing, a ministry of Word of Truth Ministries International.

www.wotpublishing.com

Interior formatting: WOT Publishing

First English mini-book edition 2026

Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.

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Introduction

Beloved, your hope has its foundation in the faithfulness of your Father. An expectation may not have been met. A plan may require an honest review. Neither circumstance changes what the Lord Jesus has accomplished or removes you from your place in Him. Begin your response from the truth of the Word.

Disappointment is the sorrow that follows an expectation which has not been fulfilled. The expectation needs to be understood. Was it grounded in a promise of God, an arrangement made with another person, or an assumption you had never examined? Those questions do not weaken faith. They help us direct faith towards what God has actually said and take responsibility for our decisions.

The Scriptures give us room to speak honestly before the Father. They also direct us to believe, to keep our hearts in the Word and to continue doing what is right. We must not make a difficult result the interpreter of everything God has said. His promises are sure in Christ, and His wisdom gives direction to the work before us.

These six chapters follow that progression through the actual passages. We begin with deferred hope, consider the God of hope, distinguish His promises from personal assumptions and examine the response that should follow. Read the principal passages alongside the exposition. Let their meaning govern your understanding, your confession and your next action.

You are a child of God. The Holy Spirit lives in you. The life you have received in Christ can find expression in your response today.

CHAPTER ONE

When an Expectation Is Not Met

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

Proverbs 13:12 (KJV)

Read Proverbs 13:10–14; Psalm 62:5–8

When an expectation matters to you, its fulfilment is not a small matter. You may have prepared for an opportunity, trusted an agreement or looked forward to a particular result. When that result does not come, there is something definite to examine. The Word does not require a vague explanation that prevents you from naming what happened.

Proverbs 13:12 describes hope deferred and desire fulfilled. The first brings distress; the second is pictured as a tree of life. This is the language of wisdom observing human experience. The proverb recognises the effect of a prolonged expectation and the refreshing effect of its fulfilment. It does not tell us to condemn the disappointed person or to conclude that every desire must eventually be granted.

Understand the expectation

The Hebrew noun tocheleth in this verse refers to hope or expectation. It is followed by a form meaning drawn out or deferred. The expression describes an expectation prolonged; it

does not identify every expectation as a promise spoken by God. That distinction matters. We must establish what was expected before deciding what its delay means.

The reference to a sick heart is part of the proverb's contrast. It describes the distress of waiting for a desire that remains unfulfilled. It is not a declaration that disappointment has changed the believer's nature or cancelled his righteousness in Christ. Do not convert an observation about distress into an identity you must now confess over yourself.

There is also no date in the second half of the verse. Fulfilled desire is life-giving, but the proverb does not promise that a particular appointment, relationship or business arrangement must be restored by a time you choose. Its wisdom helps you recognise why a disappointed expectation needs attention. The next question is how to respond from the truth you know in Christ.

Consider the surrounding sayings. They commend wise counsel, patient labour and respect for instruction. The person who has met disappointment is therefore not directed away from understanding. He is invited to examine, to learn and to act wisely. An expectation can be important without being allowed to escape examination.

Pour out your heart before Him

Psalm 62 joins confidence in God with an honest opening of the heart before Him. The psalmist describes God as his rock, salvation and refuge. He then directs the people to trust Him at all times and pour out their hearts before Him. Trust and honest speech belong together in that instruction.

You do not have to conceal a disappointment in order to speak in faith. You can acknowledge that a promise made by another person was not kept, that an application was unsuccessful or that

your own preparation was incomplete. Those statements name events. The conclusion that God has rejected you would be a different claim, and it must be tested by what He has said.

As a believer, you approach the Father through the access given in Christ. You are not attempting to make Him become near by describing your pain with sufficient force. He is your Father, and you can bring the matter before Him with confidence. Thanksgiving for His faithfulness can accompany a truthful account of what needs attention.

Begin there. State the expectation clearly. Identify what actually happened and what remains unknown. Refuse to make one result the full account of your standing before God. You are in Christ, and the truth of that relationship gives you a place from which to examine the matter and receive wisdom.