

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

Proverbs 13:12

## But When ..

○ Repeated postponement of one's expectations is disheartening; **but when the desire** is at last fulfilled, it is a source of tremendous satisfaction.

Apply this to the coming of the Lord, the blessed hope (Titus 2:13)  
- MacDonald, W., Believer's Bible Commentary : Old and New Testaments

○ **Hope deferred** (lit. "long drawn out" or "delayed in fulfillment") can cause disappointment and depression in body and spirit. The realisation of hope gives encouragement just like a tree that gives life. It brings new vitality to the body and the spirit.

- Woman's study Bible.

○ The word "deferred" is literally "drawn out," i.e., delayed in fulfillment. **God's harvest is slow in maturing** (cf. James 5:7), and sometimes the delay "makes the heart sick." Nevertheless, the harvest or fulfillment of the desire is as satisfying as "the tree of life," a symbol of God's renewal both physically and spiritually.

- New Geneva study Bible.

○ It is good for a person to have **hope**, but if it is not fulfilled for a long time (**deferred** means "put off or long drawn out") then he experiences disappointment (his **heart** becomes **sick**). But when a hope is **fulfilled**, a person is refreshed. The gratification of hope gives encouragement like a tree that gives life (cf. **tree of life** in 3:18; 11:30; 15:4). - Walvoord, J. F., The Bible knowledge commentary

## Therefore We Must Go Forward

William Carey, the "Father of Modern Missions," wanted to translate the Bible into as many Indian languages as possible. He established a large printshop at his mission headquarters in Serampore, India where translation work was continually being done. Carey spent hours each day translating Scripture.

He was away from Serampore on March 11, 1832, when disaster struck. His associate, William Ward, was working late. Suddenly Ward's throat tightened and he smelled smoke. He leaped up to discover clouds belching from the printing room. He screamed for help, and workers passed water from the nearby river until 2 A.M., but everything was destroyed.

The next day, fellow missionary Joshua Marshman traveled to Calcutta and entered the classroom where William was teaching. "I can think of no easy way to break the news," he said. "The printshop burned to the ground last night."

Carey was stunned. Gone were his massive polyglot dictionary, two grammar books, and whole versions of the Bible. Gone were sets of type for fourteen eastern languages, twelve hundred reams of paper, fifty-five thousand printed sheets, and thirty pages of

his Bengal dictionary. Gone was his complete library.

"The work of years—gone in a moment," he whispered.

He took little time to mourn. "The loss is heavy," he wrote, "but as traveling a road the second time is usually done with greater ease and certainty than the first time, so I trust the work will lose nothing of real value. We are not discouraged, indeed the work is already begun again in every language. We are cast down but not in despair."

When news of the fire reached England, it catapulted Carey to instant fame. Thousands of pounds were raised for the work, and volunteers offered to come help. The enterprise was rebuilt and enlarged. By 1832, complete Bibles, New Testaments, or separate books of Scripture had issued from the printing press in forty-four languages and dialects.

**The secret of Carey's success is found in his resiliency.** "There are grave difficulties on every hand," he once wrote, "and more are looming ahead. Therefore we must go forward."

*"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."*

**Galatians 6:9**